



Impact Newsletter

Summer 2026



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Foreword

Over the past 12 months, we've hit some monumental milestones in our charity's history, which I'm delighted to share with you in this latest issue of our Impact Newsletter.

2025/26 was a huge year for us. For the first time in our charity's history we raised over £12m, a sum which will allow us to make even more impact across our hospitals. We launched two appeals at our Children's Hospital, one of which – our MediCinema Appeal – closed in just four months and I was delighted to stand beside the iconic Mickey and Minnie Mouse to officially open our brand-new cinema, located in our hospital's lecture theatre, in March. This unbelievable space is the epitome of our 'why' – to transform the experiences of our patients and families during their time at our hospital, offering them a place of respite, somewhere to make memories and add some normality to an otherwise anxious time.

We were also catapulted onto the global stage thanks to Black Sabbath's seminal Back to the Beginning gig which took place in July last year. As one of the beneficiaries of the event, over an incredible £1million was donated to us to support projects across our Children's Hospital. We're beyond grateful to the Osbourne family and look forward to working with them to ensure we create a lasting legacy for the late Ozzy Osbourne who allowed us to showcase our brilliant hospital to the world.

Furthermore, we were incredibly honoured to welcome not one, but two new charity Patrons to our team; the much-loved TV presenter, Emma Willis and Olympic gold-winning heptathlete, Dame Denise Lewis. Having both grown up in our brilliant region, they know how special our city is and how much of an impact our hospitals have on the communities they serve. Along with Ben Francis, who became our first charity Patron five years ago, having them all stand as representatives for us and spreading the word of our important work is completely invaluable and we look forward to working closely with them both over the coming years.

On a personal note, this year marks my fifth leading this incredible charity. During this time, we've achieved some exceptional things – including the launch of our Changemaker community which has now raised over £2m in just three years – which I am immensely proud of and hugely grateful to our supporters for making a possibility. Most importantly, we've deployed over a

phenomenal £30m across our hospitals, helping improve and equip them to better care for the patients of today as well as those who will need us in the future.

We've launched five capital appeals and witnessed the footprint of our hospitals grow with the addition of our Loveday Street building – home to our intraoperative MRI theatre – and our brand-new front entrance and Emergency Department at our Children's Hospital; works for both are currently underway. Over at our Women's Hospital, the last couple of years has seen the much-needed pregnancy and baby loss centre, Woodland House, open following our £3.5million appeal, as well as our £1m state-of-the art Simulation Lab funded by The George Davies Charitable Trust. We've also recently launched our latest exciting appeal to improve care for over 1,300 patients every year with our £1.5m MRI Appeal, which you can read more about in this issue.

I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our incredible charity teams who work so hard to raise and spend the money to make such transformational impact, but we'd be nothing without our brilliant supporters who allow us to do what we do. Here's to the last five years and the monumental milestones we've achieved, the incredible support we've received and the impact we've been able to deliver. And also to the next five; I cannot wait to see what's to come with you by our side.



Mark Brider
CEO of Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital Charity

Four Priority Areas | Our Areas of Impact

Our hospital sites are recognised as world-class specialist centres and we're committed to ensuring they continue to deliver exceptional care. To support this, our charitable investment is focused across four key priority areas.





Patient and Family Experience

Everything we do within our hospitals is centred around patients and their families and we're committed to making their time with us as positive as possible. That's why we fund essential distractions and activities which help patients feel calm and comforted during treatment and procedures, alongside meaningful opportunities beyond the hospital environment, where young people can connect with others facing similar conditions.





Developing Hospital Environments

We want every patient and family entering our hospitals to feel supported, reassured and at ease from the moment they arrive. Charitable funding helps transform hospital spaces, from improving waiting areas to supporting the development of dedicated new facilities, ensuring our environments match the world-class care delivered by our teams.





Enabling Technology and Equipment Advances

Providing the very best care means ensuring our hospitals have access to cutting-edge equipment and treatments. As technology continues to evolve, charitable support plays a vital role in helping our hospitals remain at the forefront of innovation. With some of the country's leading clinicians working across our sites, it's essential they are equipped with the highest quality tools and technology.





Research, Learning and Innovation

We are passionate about supporting the ideas and innovations which could shape the future of healthcare. Through charitable funding, we help drive research which aims to improve patient outcomes, discover kinder treatments and contribute towards eliminating diseases. This work benefits not only the patients we care for today, but also future generations who may need our hospitals.

2025/26 In Numbers

The difference we're making every day is transformational and this is all thanks to you and your unwavering dedication and generosity.

Last year, we raised over **£12m** for the first time in our charity's history – something which was only made possible thanks to our incredible supporters and donors; people like you. This transformational amount of money is already making a huge impact across our four priority areas.

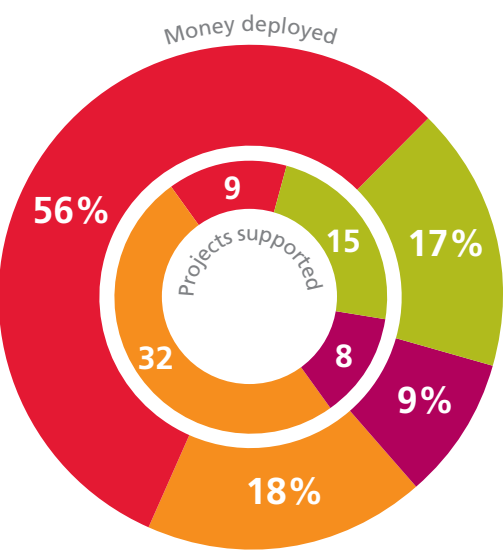
We proudly deployed over **£7,009,600** to support **64** much-needed projects across our Trust.



Impact in 2025/26:

Patient and Family Experience	£1,202,600
Enabling Technology and Equipment Advances	£617,500
Developing Hospital Environments	£3,905,600
Research, Learning and Innovation	£1,283,900

Impact Split:



Figures may vary from final published accounts.

Patient and Family Experience

We strive to ensure our patients and families have the best experience while they're with us. This allows them to make memories at the bedside, support their emotional and physical wellbeing and enhance their recovery.



Cleft Appointments Passport

Thanks to a charitable grant, we've been able to put young patients with a cleft lip and palate at ease, providing them with special toys and passports to help them feel calmer during lengthy hospital appointments.

A cleft lip and palate is a birth defect where a baby's lip and roof of their mouth don't fuse correctly. Corrective surgery usually takes place as newborns, but patients will require regular hospital appointments throughout their childhood.

Children with a cleft lip and palate sadly face increased health risks, such as tooth decay, speech delay and hearing loss. To help spot and tackle health issues at a young age, five-year-old patients with the condition recently attended our hospital as part of a national audit scheme, receiving check-ups from multidisciplinary clinicians, including an audiologist, ear nose and throat specialist, cleft surgeon, psychologist, speech and language therapist, orthodontist and a dentist.

To ease the long waiting times between these appointments, we funded a goody bag for families to help keep kids distracted and calm, including sensory toys and creative activities. Patients also had access to a 'passport' where, after each appointment, they earned a reward sticker with the chance to pick a prize if they attended all their appointments.

These interactive toys and activities helped the children feel less anxious and stressed while spending a long time in our hospital. Patients and families will get to know their clinicians throughout their lives, so starting off their check-ups with distraction and reward sets these children on a positive path to treatment.

Thanks to the success of the passports, the department plans to make even greater use of them, with an improved version containing more condition-specific activities which patients will be able to take with them throughout their childhood.

Stoma Summer Camp

Charitable support helped fund a special residential summer camp for children and young people living with bladder, bowel and stoma conditions. Organised by the bowel and bladder team at our Children's Hospital, the two-night trip aimed to help patients build confidence and independence, while giving them the opportunity to connect with other young people facing similar experiences.

The residential camp, held in Shropshire, included a range of outdoor activities such as paddle boarding, archery, laser tag and climbing, alongside dedicated wellbeing and peer support sessions facilitated by youth organisation, Thr5ve. Ahead of the trip, meet-and-greet sessions also helped families and patients build relationships with each other as well as the clinical team.

Following the success of the inaugural event, plans are already underway for the next summer camp to help even more children and young people gain confidence, independence and lasting friendships.



Cooking Lessons And Parties For PKU Patients

For patients with phenylketonuria (PKU), a rare inherited metabolic disorder where the body cannot process the amino acid, phenylalanine, it can be difficult for them to socialise with other children in a normal setting. Their strict, low-protein diets mean they must be incredibly careful with what they eat, often making them feel left out at parties and other childhood experiences.

To support these patients, we've funded a number of PKU-friendly events to offer them the chance to socialise with other children living with the same condition in a food-safe environment. We funded a special event, for children aged

between one and three, full of Easter activities, Mother's Day crafts and an Easter egg hunt with suitable treats, allowing them to enjoy these seasonal celebrations. Activities such as decorating biscuits and cakes helped build a positive relationship with food and demonstrated the variety possible within a low-protein diet, helping to educate parents on managing PKU in their child's early years.

For older patients in school, we also funded two 'PKU School' sessions, working with a professional chef to introduce patients to a variety of cooking activities including decorating cupcakes, preparing pizzas and making chocolates, to

demonstrate how lots of 'normal' foods can be adapted to suit a low-protein diet.

Across these days, the social environment allowed children to build confidence and connect with others who had the same condition, creating a valuable and supportive community. Patients and parents also had time to talk, share experiences and ask questions in an informal setting.

These conversations provided our clinical teams with valuable insights into the challenges these families face, ensuring they can continue to improve the care and guidance they provide.

EnjoyArt Programme

Our annual funding of the EnjoyArt programme means we were able to continue bringing creativity, comfort and connection to patients, families and staff across both of our hospitals this year. Through music, visual arts, performances and co-created projects, the programme supports emotional wellbeing, reduces anxiety and helps create positive experiences during difficult hospital stays. The impact of these creative health initiatives has continued to grow, with feedback from families and clinicians highlighting the important role the arts play in supporting recovery, development and mental wellbeing.

Highlights from the EnjoyArt programme have included a visit from poet Liz Berry on National Poetry Day and sessions from Gemma Foy at Let's Animate, a stop-motion animation artist. These creative activities not only encourage self-expression and engagement, but also help young patients feel seen and heard during their time in hospital.

As the EnjoyArt programme continues to expand, the charity remains committed to increasing access to creative opportunities across the Trust, particularly for groups who may be less engaged with traditional arts activities including teenagers, and patients at our Women's Hospital. By continuing to work with artists, performers and creative organisations, the programme is helping to ensure arts and wellbeing remain an integral part of patient care.



Festivities Supported By Our Celebration Toy Fund

For any child, spending time in hospital can be difficult, but this becomes even more heightened when their stay coincides with big celebrations such as Christmas or Eid. To ensure these occasions remain special and our patients can still make precious memories, we set up our Celebration Toy Fund.

The fund has been created in collaboration with our Play team to purchase toys and games, so children staying in hospital during these holidays will still receive a present, as they would do at home. Our Play team uses the fund to place orders from a specially-curated list of gifts, chosen using their expertise, to ensure our patients get an age-appropriate gift – and one they'll enjoy – to celebrate the day.

Since we launched our Celebration Toy Fund in 2023, we've gifted over 7,500 hand-picked presents to inpatients, outpatients and children visiting our Emergency Department during special holidays, and have raised over £66,600 to purchase these presents, thanks to our incredible supporters.



Bashir and Khalda with their daughter, Jawaher

Supporting Families' Financial Wellbeing

Kind donations have helped us support families facing upheaval and financial strain by funding Citizens Advice on site at both our hospitals for two days a week each.

One of the families who have benefited from this support is Bashir and Khalda. Their daughter, Jawaher, was born prematurely with multiple forms of congenital heart disease, as well as other health complications with her intestines.

At first, her prognosis was very uncertain due to her weight and prematurity. Given her significant health problems, Jawaher had a very difficult time recovering from her heart surgery.

She spent over a year in hospital due to the complexity of her illnesses meaning her father had to give up work to help care for her. As the family were living in private rented accommodation, this put pressure on their finances and added extra worry for the couple. They were referred to Citizens Advice at our hospital, who were able help them apply for universal credit. Having this support meant they were able to focus all their attention on Jawaher.

Thanks to Citizens Advice, we've helped over 1,000 people like Bashir and Khalda over the past year. We know health is much more than the care we provide, which is why we have supported this invaluable initiative.

Find out more about Khalda and Bashir's story here



One of our patients receiving a gift for Eid

Enhancing Palliative Care

This year, we continued our support of the Paediatric Palliative Care team by funding a part-time, dedicated locum consultant for a two-year period as part of the successful Paediatric Palliative Care Fellowship Programme. The additional role has helped provide vital capacity within a growing service supporting children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, as well as their families.

Demand for paediatric palliative care continues to significantly rise, with the team supporting more than 200 new referrals in the last year alone, alongside an existing caseload of over 500 patients. The service works closely with numerous specialties, including oncology, neurology, fetal medicine and metabolic medicine, helping children and families access compassionate, holistic care both in hospital and within the community.

Funding from the charity and long-standing friends of our Children's Hospital, Molly Ollys, has played a transformational role in strengthening the service. An initial donation of more than £300,000 enabled the launch of the Fellowship Programme in 2023, which has already helped develop specialist expertise and increase clinical capacity within the team. Building on the programme's success, the charity has now supported the continuation of this work through funding for the locum consultant post, helping ensure more children and families can access timely symptom management, emotional support and end-of-life care in the place most appropriate for them.

The Fellowship Programme has created a lasting legacy for the future of paediatric palliative medicine. The successful candidate appointed to the locum role is the same consultant who recently completed the programme, demonstrating how charitable funding is nurturing specialist talent within an area of healthcare where expertise remains extremely limited nationally.



Transplant Games

Fifty patients who've received life-saving transplants were able to attend the British Transplant Games, thanks to charity funding, proudly representing our Children's Hospital as Team BCH.

For the past 40 years, the British Transplant Games has brought together hundreds of children and young people who have received organ donations for a four-day national sporting event. It's an incredible way for our patients to stay active and enjoy some healthy competition with their peers. But it's more than just about sport – these games offer friendship, fun and valuable respite away from the wards, helping some of our sickest

patients spend time with their families and feel 'normal' again.

One family commented: "To watch our daughter being able to take part in this event each year, socialise and make lifetime friendships with children who understand what she has been through, as well as improve her health and fitness, is incredible and emotional. These games mean a lot to us as a family and we are extremely grateful."



Our Brilliant Hospital Volunteers

Volunteers have been at the beating heart of our hospitals since they first opened over 160 years ago. The role of a volunteer is to help guide, entertain and support patients and families during their time with us, allowing our clinicians to focus on delivering the very best care and treatments.

Thanks to grants from our charity, volunteers respond to service needs across our sites, providing invaluable support from delivering refreshments and reassurance to families waiting in our Children's Hospital's Emergency Department to assisting in fertility clinics and providing much-needed

support to our community midwives at our Women's Hospital. Last year, nearly 250 brilliant volunteers gifted over 8,200 hours of their time to help provide our patients with the best possible experience during their time in our hospitals' care.

With continued support from our charity, our Patient Experience team has expanded its volunteer programme to increase the number of volunteers from our partner agencies. These include the likes of Radio Lollipop, which provides live radio to our Children's Hospital, Pets as Therapy visits and luxuries our patients often miss out on

during longer hospital stays, such as a professional haircut, giving patients the opportunity to feel more themselves and boost their morale while receiving treatment.

Charitable support provides volunteers across our Trust with minimal expenses, such as travel and the purchase of uniform, and allows our Patient Experience team to recognise and thank them for their generous work.



Pharmacy Locker

We have made it simpler and easier for patients and families to pick up vital prescriptions by funding a brand-new pharmacy locker in our Children's Hospital's outpatient pharmacy, Medicine Chest.

We know our patients may need to visit our hospital at any time of day or night, including weekends. Styled like an Amazon locker, the new pharmacy locker means they can collect prescriptions quickly and safely outside of normal pharmacy working hours. When their prescription is ready, they'll receive a unique code by text, allowing them to collect their medication without delay.



Multi-Lingual Books For NICU

Charitable funding has helped provide a collection of children's books in multiple languages for families on our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) to support bonding, comfort and early development for babies receiving specialist care.

The books, available in languages including Urdu, Bengali, Arabic and Polish, were introduced to help families read and talk to their babies in the language most familiar to them.

For many premature and critically ill babies cared for on NICU, physical contact can sometimes be limited while they remain in incubators or receive intensive treatment. In these moments, a parent's voice becomes an incredibly important source of comfort and connection. Reading stories aloud helps babies hear familiar voices and rhythms, supporting early brain and language development while helping families feel close to their baby during an often overwhelming and emotional time.

The introduction of books in different languages also helps celebrate the diverse communities cared for at our Women's Hospital, ensuring families can share stories, language and culture with their baby from the very beginning. By making these resources available on the unit, our charity is helping reinforce an important message to families – every language, every story and every tiny voice matters.

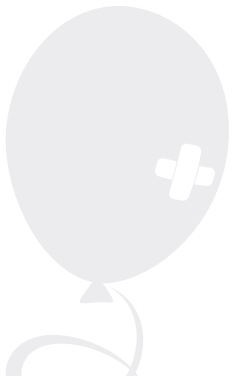
Improving Aftercare For Cleft Lip And Palate Patients

A quality improvement project supported by a small charitable grant has vastly improved aftercare and experiences for cleft lip and palate patients at our Children's Hospital.

These patients require a routine bone graft, often taken from their hip, to fill in a gap under the jaw to encourage their teeth to grow correctly. Afterwards, a wound catheter to deliver local anaesthetic is fitted at the hip to numb the pain and needs to remain in place for between 12 and 14 hours. While the surgery is straightforward, patients are required to stay in hospital overnight for pain relief and monitoring, meaning a bed needs to be available before they're taken to theatre. Sometimes, surgeries have been cancelled due to a lack of bed availability, causing frustration and longer delays.

The grant, given by our charity, enabled the team to create a video and leaflet to show parents and carers how to remove the wound catheter themselves, meaning patients can go home within four to eight hours after their operation instead, negating the need for an overnight stay and ensuring they can recover safely within their own comforts. Our clinical team then follow up with the families on day three to check in and ensure everything is as expected.

Findings from the initial testing period found 98% of patients felt more comfortable and 90% found it to be a positive experience. It is expected this project will enable between 40 to 96 cleft patients a year to get home sooner.



Impact In Action

Offering Psychological Support With Ward Buddies

We're the first hospital in the country to introduce Ward Buddies, an innovative new initiative designed to support the emotional wellbeing of children and families during long hospital stays.

Delivered by our Children's Hospital's Health in Mind team in partnership with the Superhero Foundation, the project provides psychologically informed support to patients most at risk of isolation, anxiety and hospital-related trauma.

The programme was introduced across three pilot wards – Neonatal Surgical Ward, Cardiac and Complex Care – where many children spend extended periods in hospital away from normal routines, socialisation and family life. Through regular ward visits, wellbeing activities and bedside support, Ward Buddies help children feel connected, safe and supported during what can often be frightening and overwhelming times.

Since launching in July 2025, the project has already supported approximately 115 patients, parents and siblings, including more than 40 occasions where children were alone in hospital without family present. Early feedback from patients and families suggests spending time with a Ward Buddy has helped reduce feelings of loneliness, improved coping during hospital stays and increased feelings of connection and happiness.

A dedicated team including an assistant psychologist, peer support worker and trained volunteers now work closely with ward staff and play facilitators to identify families who may benefit most from support. The project also places a strong focus on embedding trauma-informed care across the hospital, helping staff better understand the emotional impact hospitalisation can have on children and families.

Alongside direct patient support, the programme is helping develop the next generation of mental health professionals through volunteer opportunities for local university students studying psychology. Volunteers receive specialist training,

supervision and reflective practice support, ensuring they're equipped to provide meaningful companionship and emotional support to patients and families.

Following an initial 12-month trial period, we're pleased to have extended the project for another year, helping even more children.

As the project continues to grow, the team hopes to build a long-term evidence base demonstrating how psychologically informed care can improve patient experience, reduce trauma and create a more compassionate, 'home from home' environment for children during their time in hospital.



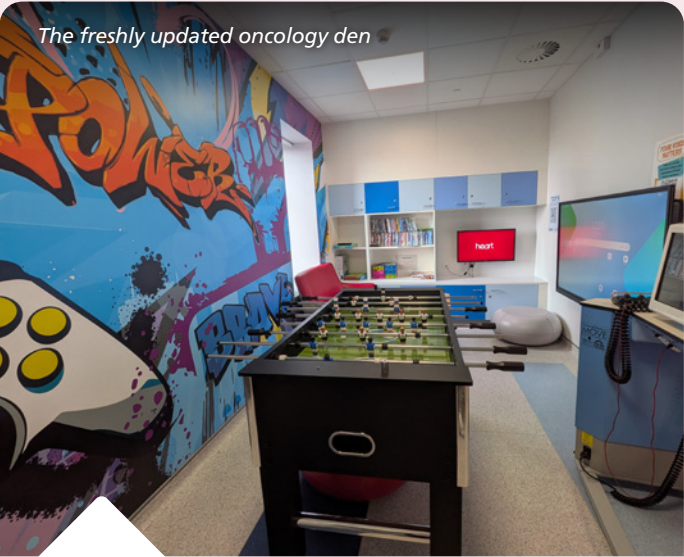
Our Ward Buddies



Jamie McDonald, founder of the Superhero Foundation and Ward Buddies project, with one of our patients

Enhancing Hospital Environments

The spaces our patients and families spend time in can impact their experience. This is why it's important our environments match the world-class care delivered across our hospitals.



Oncology Den Refurbishment

Funding from our charity supported much-needed improvements to our oncology den for eight to 12-year-old cancer patients.

For our patients, cancer treatment can be extremely challenging. Our oncology den creates a safe space where children who've come out of isolation can rest and relax with others experiencing the same treatment.

The previous space was small and cramped, with a lack of storage for toys and games. Thanks to charity support, the den has been revitalised, adding a new, interactive TV which allows patients to play together and socialise, along with fun and child-friendly artwork. Improved storage for toys and games will also be added so patients can play together, hang out and feel like young people again.



Further Improvements To Parent Accommodation

The parent accommodation onsite at our Children's Hospital provides free-of-charge stays for parents and carers whose children are very sick or who have had to travel long distances to get their child the care they need.

Three years ago, thanks to a gift in a Will and a generous donation of furniture and accessories from Ikea, we were able to completely transform the bedrooms and relaxation area to make them much more welcoming, comfortable and accessible, helping the accommodation feel more like a home away from home at a time when families need a space to rest and decompress the most.

However, the laundry facilities were out of action and the kitchen area was in need of new appliances, so parents could cook homemade meals instead of having to purchase food from the hospital's restaurants or local shops.

Thanks to a grant of over £27,000, the laundry room has had a full refit to ensure it's fully-functioning and in keeping with the remainder of the refurbishment. This includes a brand-new washing machine and dryer, which has been installed for parents who are staying over long periods, or who may have arrived at hospital unexpectedly with little clothing, to use at their will.

The kitchen has also been transformed using this money, with brand-new appliances including a microwave, freezer and additional storage, as well as new flooring, artwork and accessories to ensure the space is calming and functional.

These important updates will support around 200 to 300 families every year, offering them moments of normality during some of the hardest times of their lives.



Making Our GTT Clinic More Comfortable

The Glucose Tolerance Test (GTT) clinic at our Women's Hospital has been updated for the first time in a decade thanks to a recent charity grant.

Around 175 pregnant women visit our GTT clinic every week to be screened for gestational diabetes. Prior to their appointment, they must fast for 12 hours before having their bloods taken, after which they're given a glucose drink and asked to sit in the waiting room for another two to three hours before having their bloods taken again. The women who visit the clinic are between 16 and 39 weeks pregnant.

Prior to the refurbishment, the waiting room chairs were low backed and had no arm rests, making them uncomfortable for patients to sit on for long periods of time. Feedback from our patients confirmed this, with many quoting how unwelcoming the room was and how restless they felt. What's more, as patients are required to drink such a heavy drink after fasting, some can become unwell and the layout of the old room didn't lend itself well to staff being able to adequately treat them if needed.

Now, the clinic has 35 brand-new, high-backed armchairs to provide extra comfort and ergonomic support. Fresh and bright nature-inspired artwork has also been installed to the back wall to enhance the room and a new TV has been added to keep patients entertained and informed with pregnancy and diabetes advice while they wait.



It's anticipated the new refurbishment will benefit over 10,000 patients and partners – who have the option to attend the appointment too – a year.

Sensory Room Updates For Ward 9

Ward 9 at our Children’s Hospital is an 18-bed general surgical ward which cares for patients who often have additional needs such as autism, global development delay, cerebral palsy and anxiety. Being on a hospital ward can be tough for any child, even more so for those with extra needs, owing to the additional sensory challenges including loud noises from other patients or machinery, smaller spaces and increased temperatures.

Thanks to funding provided by our brilliant charity partner, Birmingham Airport, the ward will soon have a brand-new sensory play area offering a safe space for all patients to visit when they need some respite. Having a room like this for children to go to before surgery is also proven to help significantly reduce their anxiety, supporting an easier transition to theatre and aiding their recovery afterwards.

The new area will be kitted out with a number of features including sensory lights, sensory toys, soft play flooring, an interactive TV and a special section for babies on the ward. The new room will benefit over 1,000 patients and families who spend time on the ward every year.

A huge thank you to Birmingham Airport for transforming the experience for our patients on Ward 9.



The new gardens at Woodland House

Woodland House Gardens

We have transformed the gardens at Woodland House – our charitably-funded bereavement support facility – providing comfort and privacy for families experiencing pregnancy and baby loss at our Women’s Hospital.

While the centre itself has had a hugely positive impact, caring for over 900 families since it opened, essential remediation work was needed to the outdoor space before it could be transformed into peaceful therapeutic gardens, complete with flowers and plants designed to create moments of reflection and calm for bereaved families.

Supporting around 15 families every week, the gardens are an important

extension of the compassionate care provided at Woodland House.

Families have consistently commented on the quality and tranquillity of the outdoor areas, which are regularly used not only by parents, but also by extended family members. The gardens provide additional peaceful spaces where families can spend meaningful time together.

The project has brought together supporters, volunteers and donors to help create a beautiful and lasting environment which reflects the warmth, dignity and compassion at the heart of the centre.

Neonatal Surgical Ward Parents’ Room

Thanks to a generous charitable donation, we’ve been able to refurbish the parents’ room on our Neonatal Surgical Ward, creating a more comfortable space for families to take a break.

Faced with the unthinkable news their baby needs surgery, parents on the ward will naturally feel very anxious and worried. Often, this news is completely unexpected and many families arrive without everything they need for a longer stay.

The new parents’ room has been designed to give these families a small moment of calm and respite during an emotional and difficult time. Families now have access to a modern shower room and improved toilet facilities, so mothers who have recently given birth can shower and use the toilet more comfortably.

Other upgraded facilities include a kitchenette and dining area where parents can refuel, unwind and reflect. Parents will also have access to an upgraded TV, calming artwork and a selection of books, as well as useful resources to help them better understand their child’s condition.

Another charitable donation is also funding the revitalisation of our Ward 5 parents’ room, making it a friendlier and more welcoming space for families with calming wall art.

The clinical team in the simulation lab



Simulation Lab Training Future Healthcare Experts

We unveiled the NHS’s first simulation suite dedicated to maternal and neonatal health at the end of 2024, thanks to a phenomenal £1million donation from high street fashion entrepreneur George Davies via the George Davies Charitable Trust. The suite has now been selected as one of two Midlands training grounds for medical and midwifery students.

Our Trust is part of the NHS England-led IPEX (Interprofessional Experience) project which provides undergraduates with opportunities to work together in a realistic setting during their training.

The simulation suite at our Women’s Hospital, along with a specialist facility at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB) is being used to upskill future professionals.

Training promotes how they work in a realistic, scenario-based simulation to build confidence while improving awareness around patient safety.

Emma Sang, Simulation Lead at our Women’s Hospital, said: “We’re pleased to be one of the first sites in the Midlands to be selected as a national initiative to deliver important training like this.

“This is a fantastic way to ensure our future healthcare professionals have the right knowledge, skills, confidence and expertise to deliver outstanding care to patients and families. This has been a collaborative

approach with the team at UHB, allowing wider expertise to be shared and developed.

“The simulation suite is proving a very effective tool in training undergraduate and postgraduate staff in certain scenarios which could easily arise in real life.

“The training days for students involve workshops which explore the interplay of human factors in healthcare, promoting situational awareness, management of risk, teamworking and leadership under pressure.”

The state-of-the-art simulation lab has revolutionised the training of our maternity and neonatal teams, as well as other teams from across the region, offering the opportunity to learn and train in a risk-free environment.

Thanks to projector technology, colleagues can now live-simulate various environments, including a home birth scenario, the arrival at delivery suite in the back of an ambulance and a typical delivery suite and ward environment.

As the space offers more than one room, multiple teams can be trained at the same time, for example a baby being born in car park, then being moved with the mother to the delivery suite, followed by the baby being moved to the hospital’s Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.



One of the updated wall murals on the department

Neurophysiology Department Transformation

A grant from our charity has supported the transformation of our Children's Hospital's Neurophysiology Department, creating a more supportive and restful environment for children and families facing diagnostic procedures for complex and life-changing conditions.

The department performs brain and nerve tests to diagnose conditions such as epilepsy, multiple sclerosis and congenital diseases, as well as brain infections and tumours. Our patients described the previous space as cramped and unfriendly, increasing their stress and anxiety.

The grant has helped transform the area into a child-friendly and welcoming space. Improvements include nature-themed artwork on the walls, chosen by patients who regularly attend the department, an updated waiting room and better storage for equipment. The calmer environment helps patients and families feel more at ease, supporting their overall experience within the department.



Updates to one of the neurophysiology rooms

Preadmission Clinic Expansion

A generous donation of £28,000 from British housebuilder, Redrow, has supported the expansion of our preadmission clinic for children needing a short-stay operation.

Our clinical team sees 70 children a week before they're admitted for surgery with numbers continuing to grow. This generous charitable donation has funded the creation of more consultation rooms, allowing children to be seen on the ward where they will have their operation, rather than travelling to our busy Outpatients Department.

Waiting to have surgery can be a very scary time for children and so allowing clinicians to assess them directly on the ward can make the experience less frightening and stressful. Children who are really worried about their surgery can also spend time with one of our play workers, helping them instantly feel more relaxed and distracted from what's ahead.



One of the newly decorated expression rooms

Improvements To Expression Rooms

Four infant feeding and expression rooms across our Children's Hospital have been refurbished.

Located on our Neonatal Surgical Ward, Ward 11, Outpatients Department and Waterfall House, £20,000 of charitable funds has been spent on the refresh, with each room now boasting its own unique design to help create a more relaxing space for mothers to express or feed their infants while in hospital. The furniture and privacy curtains have also been updated to provide a more comfortable and dignified experience.

Up to 40 mothers at any one time will be using these rooms, meaning these updates will benefit thousands of families every year. Feedback from users has already been overwhelmingly positive, with several women sharing how the new, calm settings have made them feel happier and the new chairs and footstools have allowed them to relax.



Impact In Action

Bringing The Magic Of Cinema To Our Patients

Thanks to our incredible supporters, including our visionary network of Changemakers, patients can now watch screenings of the latest film releases in our 84-seat, accessible MediCinema, the largest of its kind in the UK.

Opened in March at our Children's Hospital, the new MediCinema creates a space within our hospital where patients and families, who sometimes spend weeks and months on the wards, can spend quality time together, providing meaningful respite and some normality during what can be challenging times.

In its first three months since opening, our MediCinema has held over 60 screenings, bringing joy and delight to over 1,200 attendees, including patients, their family and friends and staff.

Housed in the hospital's lecture theatre, it's designed to accommodate wheelchairs, hospital beds and medical equipment, ensuring as many patients as possible can access the screenings. It's expected to provide around 260 screenings annually and put smiles on the faces of around 5,000 attendees every year – at no cost to them or the NHS.

One patient commented: "Going to the MediCinema has meant a lot to me because it was an escape from hospital life. I've been on flat bed rest for two months and I'm going to be a patient at the hospital for a lot longer, so being able to participate in the same activities someone could normally means so much to me."

Daljit Athwal, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, said: "To see the excitement on the faces of the children at the opening screening was pure magic. The MediCinema is already making a massive difference.

"We know lengthy stays in hospital can impact an entire family's physical and mental health, with patients often feeling isolated from their parents, siblings and friends. Our MediCinema is helping change that and we feel so privileged to be able to provide this opportunity for our children. We're so very grateful to all our donors who gave so generously to make it a reality."

Scan to see
the magic of our
MediCinema
for yourself



Chief Nurse, Daljit Athwal (L) and patient, Ella Lowton-Smith (R) with Mickey and Minnie Mouse at the official opening of our MediCinema



Families at the first screening at the new MediCinema

Enabling Technology and Equipment Advances

Providing our hospitals with the latest, innovative equipment ensures our staff can deliver the most effective and efficient treatments to our patients, giving them the best care possible.



ROTEM Machine

Our Women's Hospital has purchased a new ROTEM blood analysis machine to help clinical teams respond more quickly and effectively to severe bleeding during childbirth and surgery. This rapid point-of-care testing is designed to support safer management of postpartum haemorrhage, one of the leading causes of maternal mortality.

Previously, clinicians often had to make urgent decisions around blood transfusions while waiting for laboratory results, which could take more than an hour. ROTEM technology can provide critical clotting information in as little as 10 minutes, enabling teams to make faster, more informed decisions about treatment and blood product use.

The introduction of the machine forms part of the wider OBS Cymru care package pathway already being implemented across the hospital to improve outcomes for women experiencing major blood loss during and after birth.



Maternity staff using the ROTEM machine

Alongside supporting improved patient safety, the technology has the potential to reduce unnecessary transfusions, shorten hospital stays and improve recovery experiences for women and families.

We'd like to say a huge thank you to the Lusty family whose donation enabled the purchase of this important piece of kit.

Bladder Scanners

A new advanced bladder scanner for the urodynamics service at our Children's Hospital, paid for by charitable funding, is supporting children with increasingly complex bladder and bowel conditions. The specialist equipment allows clinicians to carry out more detailed bladder assessments using a single scan, reducing the need for repeated procedures which can often feel invasive and distressing for young patients.

Around 2,000 children are expected to benefit from the scanner every year, many of whom live with complex medical, social and psychological needs. By improving the accuracy and reliability of assessments, the equipment is helping clinical teams develop more effective treatment plans while making the experience less stressful for patients and families.

The scanner will also support clinicians caring for children with long-term bladder and bowel conditions by helping reduce repeat scans, minimising discomfort and improving the overall patient experience during hospital visits.



Lung Function Monitor

Thanks to funding from our generous supporter, Colemans, our Children's Hospital has expanded its overnight lung function and sleep monitoring service through the introduction of additional transcutaneous CO₂ monitors. These specialist devices allow children with complex respiratory conditions to safely receive overnight monitoring from the comfort of their own homes, rather than requiring admission to hospital.

The monitors support children with conditions including long-term ventilation needs, tracheostomies and sleep-disordered breathing, helping clinicians detect dangerous carbon dioxide retention while reducing disruption for families. Home monitoring is particularly beneficial for children with neurodivergent conditions or

complex medical needs, who may find overnight hospital stays distressing or difficult.

By increasing the number of devices available, the project is helping reduce waiting times, free up inpatient sleep study spaces for the most unwell patients and give families greater flexibility and choice around care. In the first five months of having the new devices, the teams have been able to increase home sleep studies by a huge 142%.

The expanded service also helps minimise unnecessary hospital visits and reduces the burden of travel for families already managing complex healthcare needs.

Portable Rad-G Monitor

The complex care ward at our Children's Hospital, Ocean Ward, has used a charity grant to purchase portable Rad-G monitors, allowing patients who need ongoing monitoring for cardio-respiratory conditions to safely monitor their oxygen levels and heart rate at home, without the need for repeat hospital visits.

One family whose child uses the device said: "We are now able to enjoy family days out, take part in activities, visit loved ones and create special memories together with the peace of mind our child is safe and well."

"The portable Rad-G monitor hasn't just supported our child's health, it has given our family freedom and reassurance when we need it most."



Accurately Finding Veins

A charitable grant has funded Accuvein equipment for our Children's Hospital's Medical Day Care Unit.

As one of the first hospitals to use the equipment in the country, this non-invasive device makes it much easier for our clinicians to quickly and easily detect less prominent veins in children, helping make blood tests and cannulation easier and less stressful for our patients.



Amadeo Rehabilitation Tool

An innovative robot-assisted device which helps ‘gamify’ rehabilitation is aiding the recovery of patients with hand and upper limb conditions.

engaged and motivated to continue with their rehabilitation therapy. We’re the first hospital in the West Midlands to introduce this device. It will revolutionise the therapy we can offer to at least 520 patients a year.

Traditional rehabilitation activities can feel boring and repetitive and many patients find them difficult to maintain. The Amadeo Rehabilitation Tool, which has been generously funded by charity partner MV Kelly, turns these exercises into a game where patients can see their progress in real time with just the right level of challenge to keep them motivated. The device also provides key data to our Occupational Therapy team so they can see how a patient is progressing and accurately set treatment goals.

By turning functional movements into fun, our patients feel more

Scan to see the machine in action



The Amadeo Rehab Tool in action



Monitoring Screens For Ward 10

The neurosurgical ward at our Children’s Hospital, Ward 10, can now better evaluate patients thanks to a suite of new monitors.

Our Children’s Hospital is one of four paediatric epilepsy surgery service centres in the UK. Prior to treatment, patients require close, inpatient monitoring across five days to help clinicians understand their seizures and ensure the success of their upcoming surgery. The previous monitors used on the ward were mains powered and susceptible to interference from other electrical sources, causing data blackouts during crucial times.

This led to families needing to return for overnight monitoring, creating undue delays to their treatment as well as distress. It also meant families were asked to keep their curtains open overnight so nurses could easily keep an eye on the monitor, taking away much-needed privacy for these families during an already vulnerable time.

To change this, the charity has purchased a new suite of monitors. The improved reliability of these new monitors means they provide more accurate data, especially overnight. They also feed into a central monitoring system which allows nurses to keep an eye on the recordings from their station, therefore giving patients and families the privacy they deserve.

Demonstration of the OCT2 machine



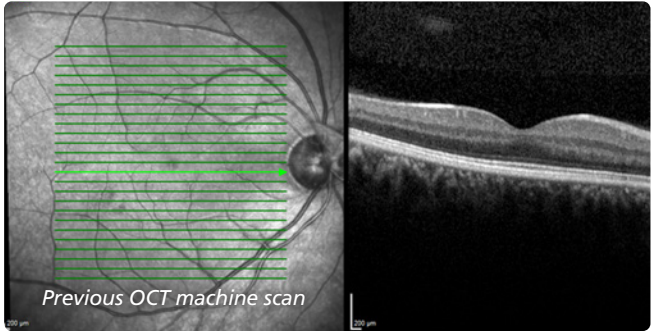
New Retinal Imaging System

Thanks to a grant of £105,000 provided by our charity, including a generous £20,000 gift from kind-hearted philanthropist Win Hutchinson, young patients visiting our Children’s Hospital’s Eye Department now have access to a state-of-the-art retinal imaging system called OCT2 or Optical Coherence Tomography. This specialist laser camera allows optometrists to look inside children’s eyes at a microscopic level, catching signs of problems before they get worse.

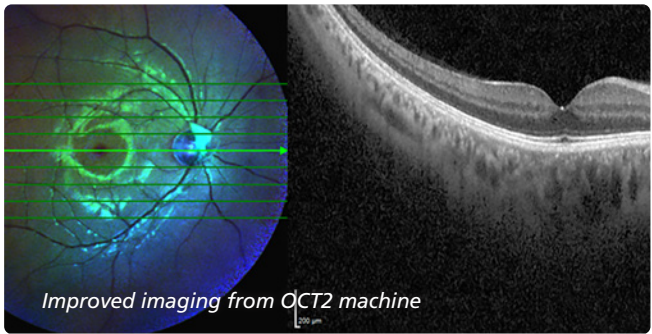
Our hospital’s previous OCT machine was outdated and young patients often faced long waiting times during busy clinics. Thanks to the upgraded OCT2, our Eye Department can take much faster scans, speeding up the process and reducing anxiety.

The machine also limits pain and stress during scans, reducing the need for general anaesthetic. Previously, patients needed to take pills or have an injection with dye so our optometrists could spot any early signs of bleeding on the retina. Thanks to the upgraded technology, the OCT2 scans the patient’s vascular network without any pre-treatments, making the experience much less scary for patients and their families.

Crucially, the OCT2 also helps our specialists pick up signs of eye problems earlier. Using a special multicolour module with three laser beams, the machine captures more detailed images of the eye, which our optometrists use to diagnose potential issues.



Previous OCT machine scan



Improved imaging from OCT2 machine

OCT2 is already changing patient experiences. For a six-year-old with suspected bleeding behind the eye, the machine provided quick reassurance there was no bleeding and the child could continue to be monitored in the clinic.

It was also able to scan the eyes of a very anxious three-year-old patient who was afraid of clinicians and refused anyone to get close to his eyes. The machine captured the required images in less than two seconds, showing a never-seen-before view. His next visit is likely to be less traumatic as a result.

Impact In Action

Liver Transplant Machine Brings Life-Changing Hope

A donation of £89,300 from one of our generous supporters has brought real hope to children waiting for life-enhancing liver transplants.

Waiting lists for liver transplants are getting longer due to a lack of viable donors. To address this issue, our charity purchased the VitaSmart HOPE Perfusion Machine, thanks to a private donor. This specialist piece of equipment helps transform livers, which previously were not useable for transplant, into a healthy organ.

The machine works by preserving donor livers at hypothermic temperatures (around 12°C) while circulating a cold, oxygenated acellular fluid through the organ. This process helps protect the liver from damage which occurs when it's deprived of oxygen and suddenly re-oxygenated during transplantation.

This equipment has already been used for adult transplants for several

years, but our Children's Hospital was the first in the country to introduce it in a paediatric setting. To date, the machine has enabled 26 additional transplants which otherwise would not have been possible.

The machine has proven life-changing for 15-year-old Harry, who has had three liver transplants at our hospital.

Born with a blockage in his bile ducts, Harry received his first liver transplant two days before his first birthday. The transplant was a success, but he became unwell again a few years later and his dad became his next donor.

When he was 13, and after repeated infections, Harry's family were told he would need a third full-liver transplant.

After a lot of worry and anxiety, the family were overjoyed to receive the news a liver had become available, thanks to the HOPE machine.

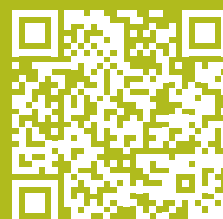
Harry himself couldn't be happier. He said: *"Finding out about the third transplant was incredible. It was the best news ever!"*

Harry and his family are incredibly thankful for the impact the equipment has had on their lives and the hope it will bring to families like theirs. *"This machine is going to make a massive difference,"* says Harry's dad, Simon. *"Because our wait time for a transplant was cut down, Harry could get better quicker. We're so incredibly grateful."*



Harry before his transplant

Hear more about
the VitaSmart HOPE
machine here



Harry after his transplant

Research, Learning and Innovation

Research allows our hospitals to pioneer life-changing and life-saving care and treatments. To champion our Trust's research ambitions, we dedicate £1m every year to support high-quality research into women's and children's health and diseases, as well as mental health.

Improving After-Death Care Experiences For Muslim Families

Thanks to our charity, quality improvement research has taken place to continue a series of projects conducted by our Trust to better the after-death care experiences for our Muslim families.

In our last newsletter, you may have read about charitable funding which allowed our Chaplaincy team, led by our brilliant chaplain, Zamir Hussain, to create a collection of resources, including a book and a journal, which included quotes from the scriptures and practical activities to aid memory-making and self-healing to support and comfort Muslim families on their grief journey.

To further improve these experiences, we funded a data collection project between our hospital, Acorns Children's Hospice and the University of Nottingham. A review of current after-death care data was collected from both our Children's Hospital and Acorns, followed by engagement and collaboration sessions with Muslim families to gain a better understanding of current practices. The aim of these meetings was to gauge whether these practices were meaningful or not and what barriers there were to providing sensitive and appropriate after-death care.

It was found these families may experience unacceptable delays in the release of their child's body, a factor which can cause severe stress due to the important practice in the Islamic faith of burying their loved ones within 24 hours of them passing. Importantly, bereaved families and faith leaders provided a rich narrative around necessary death processes, giving insights into how our hospital can improve support during all stages of the grieving process.

Outcomes from this project have informed several new initiatives at our Children's Hospital, including organising a Muslim mothers' support group led by a female Imam, educating staff on necessary practices and a continuation of data collection to carry on improving culturally-appropriate care. It's expected these results will be used to benchmark after-death care for Muslim families regionally and nationally.

International Roll Out For Monitoring Of Children With Bronchiectasis

Back in 2023, charitable funding enabled a research study at our Children's Hospital into the correlation between quality of life and outcomes for patients with the rare, long-term chronic lung condition, bronchiectasis.

Children with bronchiectasis suffer from significant morbidity due to frequent chest infections which can result in a decline in lung function, as well as the need for regular hospital visits and daily treatments to keep them well.

The study, conducted by our regionally-and-nationally-recognised team for providing quality clinical care and research, formulated a quality-of-life questionnaire based on one which already exists for patients with primary ciliary dyskinesia (PCD), a closely related condition. The questionnaire helped measure the impact bronchiectasis has on both social and clinical domains in a valid, reliable, age-appropriate and informative manner.

This project found and addressed a major unmet need in paediatric bronchiectasis care and provided solid insights into age-appropriate, clinically relevant and validated treatments which have proven successful when used to treat other similar diseases.

The next stage of the research, which is still funded by our charity and recently received buy in from an international drugs company, is to validate and test its reliability in children and young people with bronchiectasis in the UK, with the goal of making it a trusted measure in both clinical practice and research settings. Following this, it's expected this research will be rolled out on an international basis to support children suffering with this condition across the world.

Neighbourhood Outreach

Our charity is supporting pioneering research exploring how neighbourhood health services can better support children and young people living in deprivation. Carried out by Dr Chris Bird, a consultant in paediatric emergency medicine, the work focuses on bringing healthcare, preventative support and community services closer to families who need them most.

Building on the success of the Sparkbrook Children's Zone – an integrated neighbourhood health service in one of Birmingham's most deprived communities – the research aims to develop a practical toolkit to help evaluate similar services nationally. The project has already secured a prestigious £112,000 National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) 'Research for Patient Benefit' grant, helping lay the foundations

for future large-scale studies into how neighbourhood healthcare can improve outcomes for children while reducing pressure on hospitals and emergency departments.

Alongside this, the research team is also exploring innovative approaches to diagnosing Vitamin D deficiency in children and young people through community-based testing. Studies carried out at our Children's Hospital found more than 60% of children tested in the Emergency Department had either Vitamin D deficiency or insufficient levels. The team is now investigating point-of-care testing technology – and even the potential development of a new testing device – which could allow quicker, less invasive diagnosis within community settings rather than hospital environments.





Physiotherapy Research

Physiotherapy is a key part of the recovery journey for many of our patients. Charitable grants are supporting three research projects into physiotherapy to improve outcomes for children and families.

Critically ill children may need to use an Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) machine to support their lungs and heart. But for some of these patients, the treatment can create ongoing issues, contributing to developmental delays such as key motor skills. Physiotherapy after ECMO can help these patients return to being active, but access can be a postcode lottery.

A charity-funded study aims to examine the benefits of physiotherapy and how the NHS’s new pathway, which recommends telephone screening before offering treatment, may impact patients facing health inequalities. For example, for families who do not speak English as a first

language, telephone screening may not identify their child’s developmental delay.

A second charity-funded study is researching a new method for identifying sarcopenia, or muscle loss, in children with chronic liver disease. The study will test a simple, non-invasive ultrasound method to measure muscle loss, as well as the impact on their health through physical assessments. The findings will help the physiotherapy service tailor their intervention for patients, supporting long-term recovery and wellbeing.

Finally, another study is investigating how staff and patients engage with an early intervention programme for children and young people admitted to intensive care, called MOVE4WARD, which aims to improve children’s long-term recovery and movement. The study will look at barriers faced when accessing this support and how these could be overcome to ensure better outcomes for patients.

Understanding Rare Genetic Joint Conditions In Children

Camptodactyly-arthropathy-coxa vara-pericarditis (CACP) is a rare genetic condition where children develop progressive stiffness in their joints as the tissues around them tighten and scar.

Children with CACP face ongoing pain, reduced mobility and long-term disability. The condition can seriously affect quality of life and there is currently no cure or specific treatment.

Thanks to a charitable grant of £81,000, a pioneering study is investigating the role of a key protein called lubricin in CACP. Found in healthy joints, lubricin is believed to protect joints and help them keep moving smoothly. For children with CACP, the gene which makes lubricin doesn’t work properly. However, the exact role of lubricin in keeping joints healthy and moving well isn’t fully understood.

Using cell samples from the joints of patients with CACP, this study is investigating the role of lubricin in creating healthy joints and what goes wrong when it isn’t present. By studying the role of the protein and how it functions in cells, the study’s outcomes could potentially lead to future treatments and cures for these patients.



Congenital Heart Disease Research

We have supported the work of Nigel Drury, a consultant in paediatric cardiac surgery, with several ongoing projects focused on improving outcomes for children and adults living with congenital heart disease. Building on previous research, charitable funding has enabled continued development of national collaborations and multi-centre studies designed to improve long-term patient care.

A key area of focus was the continued development of the Congenital Heart Research Network, bringing together clinicians, researchers, charities and patients from across the UK and Ireland to support collaborative research into congenital heart disease. Alongside this, work progressed on research exploring pulmonary valve replacement and how different valve types may impact long-term outcomes and the need for future reoperations.

The funding also supported the continuation and completion of several existing research projects, publications and supervision of emerging clinical researchers, helping strengthen both of our hospitals’ roles in driving innovation and evidence-based care within paediatric cardiac surgery.

Moving Chemotherapy To Outpatients

Charity funding has supported research exploring whether chemotherapy treatment for children with Ewing’s Sarcoma – a rare form of bone cancer – could safely move from inpatient care to an outpatient setting. Funded through a £5,000 clinical team bursary, the desk-based project compared the costs, resource pressures and patient experience associated with both treatment pathways.

The research found outpatient treatment could significantly reduce time spent in hospital, freeing up valuable bed space and helping minimise delays caused by bed shortages. It also demonstrated a potential saving of almost £10,000 per patient compared to inpatient care, even when accounting for additional support costs for families travelling longer distances.

Alongside the financial benefits, the study highlighted the positive impact outpatient treatment could have on children and families. Spending more time at home during treatment could provide a more comfortable and familiar environment for patients, while giving families greater certainty and flexibility around day-to-day life. The findings are now helping inform future discussions around developing more patient-centred chemotherapy care pathways.



Impact In Action

Handa Margaret Leonard-Brown's Incredible Gift To Respiratory Patients

We were incredibly honoured to receive a gift in the Will of Handa Margaret Leonard-Brown to fund two research projects into lung conditions and illnesses in children, after she had experienced first-hand life as a patient at our Children's Hospital.

At the age of seven, Handa suffered a collapsed lung due to a congenital condition. She visited our hospital for regular treatment and eventually received life-saving surgery to remove two-thirds of one of her lungs. During the 1950s, this kind of operation was pioneering and allowed Handa to go on to live a very full, active and happy life.

Her brother, John, said she wanted to make the most of the gift of life her treatment at our hospital had given her. Handa was passionate about animals, classical music and travelling. She travelled the world extensively and often mixed her passions, visiting Antarctica several times to sit with the penguins there.

Despite her active life she was always aware of an underlying frailty and took good care of herself, however during the last ten years of her life, her condition began catching up with her. In her final years, she had problems with breathing and chest infections,

but she refused to slow down, enjoying a last trip to the Caribbean for Christmas 2024.

Handa was admitted to hospital in late January 2025 with lung and breathing problems from which she was unable to recover. She died on 6 February 2025 leaving an extremely generous gift to our hospital as a thank you for the treatment she received as a child.

Handa's gift will be used to support one research project to improve asthma diagnosis in children and another to determine whether allergy and/or blood tests can inform treatments for the condition of preschool wheeze.

Both projects will look at the best methods to support with a diagnosis of childhood asthma, something which can often be misdiagnosed at such a young age, and determine the best and safest treatments for these patients.

A huge thank you to Handa and her family for their invaluable support of our hospital. If you're interested in finding out more about leaving a gift in your Will, please visit bwh.org.uk/wills or bch.org.uk/wills.



Our Latest Appeals and Campaigns



The new waiting area officially opened in June

Update On Our Emergency Appeal

We're proud to have opened the first stage in the transformation of our Children's Hospital's Emergency Department (ED), with an expanded and enhanced waiting room, supported by our £2m Emergency Department Appeal which launched in January.

Our ED is the only major trauma centre for children and young people in the Midlands. Originally designed to care for a maximum of 40,000 patients a year, our hard-working staff currently work around the clock treating over 67,000 sick kids annually – 67% more than intended when the department was last updated in 2012.

The new and expanded waiting room offers a more welcoming environment for our brave patients, with child-friendly features such as artwork on the walls and ceilings to offer much-needed distraction and entertainment. But there's still much to do. Opening the waiting room means the next part of our improvement scheme can start.

This will include the creation of three new, larger Resus areas, which will offer greater privacy and feature the very latest life-saving technology. Plus, dedicated areas for some of our families in need, such as a Changing Places toilet, a baby change/feeding room, a sensory room, a dedicated safe space for mental health patients and a family room where doctors can speak with family members in a calm and supportive area.

With Trust and NHS funding already secured, we are raising £2m to accelerate and enhance the project. Thanks to support from businesses, the Morrisons Foundation and our Changemakers, there's just £1m left to raise with the help of the public.

Find out more about the appeal: bch.org.uk/emergency-department.



Our Front Entrance Is Taking Shape

Our It Starts Here Appeal has continued to gather momentum, bringing our Children's Hospital closer to creating a welcoming new front entrance designed to reduce fear and anxiety for the thousands of patients and families who visit every year.

Thanks to the incredible support of donors, businesses and individual givers, work is now well underway to transform the space into a bright, child-friendly environment which reflects the world-class care provided inside the hospital, with completion of the project expected by the end of the year.



The glulam beams being installed

As the project has progressed, exciting new plans for the entrance have emerged, including a brand-new performance stage dedicated to rock icon Ozzy Osbourne, celebrating his long-standing support of the hospital. The stage creates a dedicated space for live entertainment, performances and special events for patients and families. The addition recognises Ozzy's incredible legacy within the city and his commitment to helping create brighter experiences for sick children.



Artist impression of the Hope Aquarium

Another major milestone was the announcement of the Hope Aquarium, which will become the centrepiece of the transformed entrance space. The impressive living-reef aquarium – the only one of its kind in a hospital setting anywhere in the world – is being designed to create moments of calm, wonder and distraction for children ahead of treatment and appointments. Patients were invited to play an active role in shaping the aquarium through our

It Starts
HERE

Hope Aquarium Ambassador programme, helping to choose our aquatic friends and contribute ideas to make the experience educational, engaging and inspiring for future visitors.

Together, these features will help turn the hospital entrance into far more than a welcome area – creating a community space filled with creativity, imagination and moments of joy for everyone who visits.

New MRI Appeal At Our Women's Hospital

In June, we were delighted to officially launch our Women's Hospital's latest £1.5m appeal – the first appeal we've announced since Woodland House in 2019 – to bring MRI technology to the hospital for the first time.

The need for an MRI scanner on site is huge. As a centre of excellence in women's health, our specialist teams care for women experiencing difficulties with their pregnancy, those with gynaecological conditions such as endometriosis or cancers and poorly babies, often who have been born prematurely.

Every year, over 1,300 of these patients require a scan as part of their diagnosis and treatment. Around 60% of these patients currently wait longer than six weeks for an appointment and have to

travel to the next closest site with MRI availability. The additional time and travel can cause stress, have a financial impact for patients and add an additional strain on resources, as babies on our Neonatal Intensive Care Unit require multiple specialists to travel with them in an ambulance. Bringing an MRI on site will significantly improve the experience and outcomes of the hospital's patients.

The £1.5m appeal will build a dedicated MRI suite alongside the antenatal clinic to house the new, high-tech scanner.

Thanks to an incredible founding gift of £500,000 from The Lounge Foundation, we were able to launch the appeal with just £1m left to raise. An additional £500,000 will be raised via a new and exciting initiative called HerHealth Collective, which brings together female philanthropists and entrepreneurs from across our region to support pioneering work into women's health conducted at our Women's Hospital.

To find out more about our MRI Appeal, please visit bwh.org.uk/mri.



Artist impressions of the new MRI suite. Credit Pinnegar Hayward Design Architects



Utilising The Therapeutic Power Of Art In Mental Health Recovery

Through our Inspiring Spaces Appeal we have been able to transform the clinical environment for our mental health patients at Parkview Clinic, helping to improve wellbeing and aid recovery.

Art and creativity play a key role for young people recovering at Parkview, who may spend many months on its wards. Parkview's three main inpatient wards – Heathlands, a general ward for adolescents requiring assessment and treatment; Ashfield, for those who present with a higher level of risk to themselves or others; and Irwin, a dedicated ward for young people with eating disorders – as well as other areas have been totally revitalised by the project.

Previously, the areas within Parkview reflected a typical hospital environment, exposing patients to uninspiring, stark and sterile white walls. We partnered with Hospital Rooms, who craft innovative artwork and creative programmes, to transform the spaces into places of hope, dignity and recovery.

To ensure patient voices were heard during the transformation, Hospital Rooms commissioned 12 artists to host a series of workshops with our patients to develop the art installations, ensuring the environment reflected their opinions, tastes, thoughts and

feelings, while staying true to the artists' style. These workshops gave patients a safe space to open up and express themselves, as well as the opportunity to connect and collaborate with other patients.

One of the artists involved in the project is Xavier Laurent Leopold, a multidisciplinary artist, author and lecturer from South London, who has exhibited in London and internationally. The themes for his artwork were explored in three workshops with young Black and Asian men accessing early psychosis intervention services.

The resulting piece, titled Balancing Acts, reflects the delicate balance we all maintain in daily life, navigating identity, emotion and resilience. It features an array of sculptural, abstracted figures in dynamic balancing poses and has been installed in the central staircase at Parkview.

Xavier comments: "The workshops and young people helped inspire me and were referenced in my work. One of the areas that came out in the workshops was the importance of making sure the artwork wasn't just enjoyable to look at, but was also sensory, with patients able to touch and feel the art.

"I called it Balancing Acts, as it reflects how they've fallen, lost their

balance, but have gotten back up and shown their resilience."

Dan O'Mara, Associate Director of Nursing Inpatient CAMHS at Parkview, said: "Our young people are often here for many months, so we wanted the ward spaces to feel more homely and welcoming, while maintaining a safe and secure environment for them. Art plays an important role in that, as the more comfortable and relaxed a young person is, the better it is for their recovery.

"Overall, this has been an incredible process. The end result – seeing the artwork installed and how young people are interacting with it – is brilliant, but what we've come to realise is the process – the collaboration between the artists, patients and clinic staff – has been just as important as the outcome. We're so thrilled with the final result and we're already witnessing the positive impact it's having on patients. We look forward to many future patients benefitting from the wonderful installations."

This project marks our charity's last at Parkview, as the clinic becomes part of Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust, bringing the city's adolescent and adult mental health services together.

Continue Making A Difference

We're forever grateful for your support and there's a million and one ways you can help us continue making a difference to our hospitals. Here's just a few examples of how you can go the extra mile for our women, babies, children and families.

Leave A Gift In Your Will

Help us write the story for future generations by leaving us a gift in your Will. You'll be joining visionary supporters who've been writing our hospitals into their Wills for almost 160 years. To help us better the care for generations to come, visit bwh.org.uk/wills or bch.org.uk/wills.

Make A Donation

Whether you're able to give £5, £500 or £5,000, a single donation or a monthly gift allows us to support our patients and families where it's needed the most. Find out more at bwh.org.uk/donate or bch.org.uk/donate.

Sign Up To An Event

Whether you fancy taking on a 100-mile bike ride, running a marathon or climbing a mountain, we have an event for you. We offer a number of charity places for some of the best events across the UK, or you can sign up to one of your own. Find the perfect challenge for you at bwh.org.uk/events or bch.org.uk/events.

Register For Payroll Giving

Payroll Giving is a smart, simple and tax-effective way to give straight from your pay cheque every month. By signing up to Payroll Giving, you can make every payday even better by knowing your payslip is helping support our fantastic hospitals. Get in touch to find out more.

Whether you're an individual looking to raise money for us, a business who has chosen our Women's Hospital as its charity of the year, or a trust who wants to support a specific project at our Children's Hospital, we're just a phone call or an email away from beginning your charitable journey. See the back page for our contact details.



Our Donors and Supporters

We've only been able to achieve everything we have in the last year thanks to you, our incredible donors, supporters and fundraisers. These names recognise those of you who've gone above and beyond raising over an amazing £7,000 for our charity, alongside the wonderful Trusts and Foundations who continue to support us. We also extend an enormous amount of gratitude to everyone who donated anything at all to support our fantastic hospitals.

Thank you

- 24 Stories
- Abid Chhitra
- adi Group
- AFH Wealth Management
- Alderford Lake
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- Westhill Endowment
- Whanau
- William Adlington Cadbury Charitable Trust
- Williams' Warriors



We would like to thank the following visionary supporters who left us a gift in their Will in 2025/26

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**Birmingham Women's
Hospital Charity**

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🌐 bwh.org.uk

**Birmingham Children's
Hospital Charity**

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