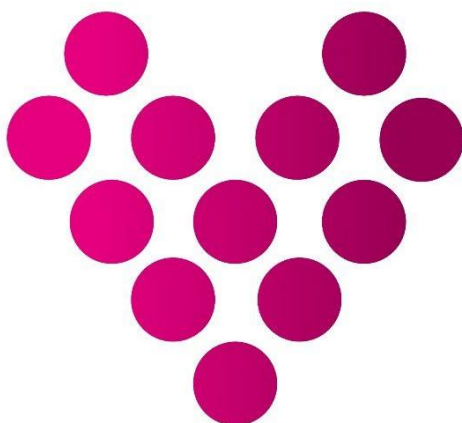




Dartford and Gravesham  
NHS Trust

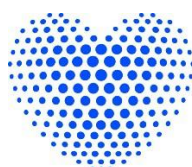


# VALLEY

## HOSPITAL CHARITY

### SUPPORTING HEALTHCARE

**Annual Report & Accounts**  
**2024/25**



MEMBER OF  
**NHS**  
**CHARITIES**  
**TOGETHER**



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING**  
**REGULATOR**

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## Valley Hospital Charity - Annual Report 2024/25

### 1. Background to Valley Hospital Charity

Valley Hospital Charity (VHC) is the working title of the *Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Charitable Fund* which has been registered with the Charity Commission since November 1995 - Charity number: 1050861. Its corporate trustee, Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust (DGT), with its headquarters based at Darent Valley Hospital (DVH) in Dartford Kent, employs approximately 4500 staff, and offers a comprehensive range of acute services, with a bed-base of c550, to around 400,000 people in North Kent and South East London. The hospital building is run as part of a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) which means the building is owned by a private sector company, in our case, The Hospital Company (Dartford) Limited, and DGT leases the building. DVH has inpatient beds and specialties that include day-care surgery, general surgery, trauma and orthopaedics, cardiology, maternity and general medicine.

DGT launched its 'Next Chapter' strategy in April 2024 to take us to 2030 with the four strategic pillars:

1. Journey to Outstanding
2. Joy at Work
3. Smart and Sustainable Care
4. Healthy Local People

With clear operational objectives; *One Team for the best care and health of our communities:*

- provide high quality, safe patient services
- deliver financial sustainability and efficiency
- strengthen operational efficiency and effectiveness
- promote excellent education and personal development
- proactive partner engagement

For over a decade, DGT has provided a number of services at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, and Radiology at Erith and District Hospital. The services provided by the Trust at Queen Mary's Hospital (QMH) include elective inpatient and day surgery and outpatient services in general surgery, urology, orthopaedics, gynaecology, medicine and paediatrics, in addition to diagnostics and therapies. Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust is responsible for the buildings at Queen Mary's and Erith and District hospitals and DGT works closely with them and the other provider organisations operating from these sites.

DGT also provides services in Gravesham Community Hospital in Gravesend and a number of community locations across our population. This has also been further extended with the addition of the Community Diagnostic Centre on the Livingstone Hospital site and more recently, the transfer of the Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) at Gravesend Hospital in the latter part of the year. Both of which will help us to support the increase in demand as a result of the exceptional growth of our population which is set to grow by 35,000 within 5 years and by 55,000 within 10 years.

DGT are part of the Kent and Medway Integrated Care System (ICS) which brings together health and social care partners across Kent. Its vision is to be a leader in health, working with partners, of which we are one, to make Kent and Medway a great place to live, and where people lead longer, healthier and happier lives.

VHC actively fundraises and produces its Annual Report as a dual-purpose document, to meet the requirements of the SORP FRS 102, but also to be used as a fundraising document. This means that the Trustee's Annual Report can be distributed with the accounts or as a free-standing document. Therefore, the Charity includes summary financial statements in its annual report.

## **2. Who we are: our objectives and activities**

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Charitable Fund (Registration No. 1050861) with the working title of *Valley Hospital Charity* (VHC) has the following charitable objects:

*FOR ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE OR PURPOSES RELATING TO THE  
NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE*

With the generosity of our donors and supporters we fundraise to:

- Buy the latest medical equipment to offer the best available care to our community in their locality;
- Enhance the Hospital environment for our patients, making it welcoming and comfortable;
- Provide the little extras that can mean so much to a patient's stay in hospital.

In addition, charitable funds have been used to:

- Fund innovative research;
- Support staff training, development and wellbeing.

The Charity is funded by donations and/or legacies received from patients, their relatives, and fundraising from the general public, businesses, staff and grant making organisations.

Individuals, companies and grant-giving organisations that make donations and fundraise in support of VHC do so in the knowledge that their gift is received and managed in accordance with best practice and charity law. In making grants, we follow our *Grants Policy* and direct funds towards particular thematic designated funds in line with the wishes of patients and staff, and make grants where they tell us they are most needed.

### **Our Mission**

To enhance patient care at Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust by engaging the community, patients, their families and staff to support their Hospitals through fundraising and volunteering.

**VISION: *To offer world class patient care at Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust.***

**OUR VALUES:**

As a corporate trustee model NHS Charity, we share the values of our NHS Trust:



- **Care with compassion** - care of patients is our first concern
- **Respect and dignity** - treating everyone fairly with respect and dignity
- **Striving to excel** - providing the highest quality of service
- **Professional standards** - accountable for the highest standard of care
- **Working together** - to deliver the best possible outcomes for our patients.

The Charity is managed day to day by the Fundraising and Voluntary Services Team with oversight from a volunteer Charity Management Board (CMB) and a Charitable Funds Committee (CFC) attended by Trust Directors (including Finance) and chaired by a Non-Executive.

The 3 Year Charity Strategy was adopted in February 2023 and is working towards achieving five goals to ensure a successful and respected charity. We continue to:

- Raise charitable income to enhance patient care and staff wellbeing; priorities of Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust.
- Build new relationships with corporate bodies, community groups, trusts and foundations, educational institutions and individuals which are diverse and inclusive and representative of the patients the Trust serves.
- Develop new and attractive fundraising events and initiatives that appeal to our existing supporter base and engage new supporters to take part and fundraise for us.
- Provide a high level of customer service that celebrates our donors, demonstrates charity best practice and encourages repeat giving to create lifetime supporters.
- Build the Charity brand online, externally and internally with Trust staff.

We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our patients and their families and the wider local community, groups, companies and our dedicated NHS staff who fundraise and donate to enhance patient care given by Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust through our charity.

### Donor Case Study: Paul Davis



*Caption: Champagne Afternoon Tea held in memory of Diane Davis, hosted by her husband, Paul Davis at Crocken Hill Village Hall.*

We were honoured to be asked to attend a charity fundraiser at Crockenhill Village Hall by Paul Davis in September 2024.

Paul's wife Diane was one of our amazing Meet & Greet Volunteers and every Wednesday would stand in the main entrance of the hospital offering a cheery smile and assistance to the patients and relatives arriving at Darent Valley Hospital (DVH).

Diane was always bright, bubbly and full of energy, and continued to Volunteer for as long as she could but sadly lost her battle with Cancer earlier this year. She is greatly missed by us all.

Paul was very keen to honour Diane's memory and decided he wanted to host a charity fundraiser in aid of our Cancer Fighting Fund. The event encompassed an afternoon tea, raffle & auction and raised a fantastic £1.5k to help other Cancer patients across Dartford & Gravesham NHS Trust.

We cannot thank Paul, Diane's family, friends and the residents of Crockenhill enough for their amazing kindness and generosity.

### **3. What we have achieved: highlights from the activities undertaken in the year**

- We received our largest number and total gifted amount of Legacies in 2024/25. This totalled £445k over 5 gifts-in-Will, including from the Late Daphne Figg, the Late Geoffrey Jewiss, the Late Vera Bargery and the Late Jean Compton.
- Our Little Buds Fund, that benefits the special care of babies, was chosen by Cllr Andy Lloyd as one of his Mayors' Charities during his tenure as Mayor of Dartford 2024 – 25.

The Mayor and Mayoress visited the hospital and Walnut Ward to help promote our work and hosted a number of fundraising events during the year, including an Afternoon Tea, Curry Night and Cabaret, with his main fundraiser; Dinner and Dance, still to take place. The culmination of all his efforts will be via a cheque presentation at the Council Chamber in May 2025.

- We realised the dedicated charity space in the main entrance of DVH, to encourage patients, staff and visitors to find out more about the work of our charity, and how to get involved and donate, including the introduction of a contactless donation device.
- We purchased an Echo Simulator to help staff in our Echocardiography Team practice echocardiography; an ultrasound test to look at the structure and function of the heart. The simulator allows the trainee to perform the procedure risk free and thus decreases risk when performed on a patient.
- We refurbished two side rooms on the Special Care Baby Unit; Sky and Woodland, as Rooming in Rooms, to encourage parents to bond and build confidence whilst staying overnight with their baby around the clock, after possibly months in hospital care.
- We held our third Charity Golf Day; this time at Bearsted Golf Club on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024. We had 8 teams of 4, and held a raffle and an auction and again our event saw a glorious sunny day. The event raised over £3.4k for our Friends Fund.
- In line with the Trust's Year 1 Plan the Charity was able to set up a new Research Fund with £100k to support research into health inequalities.
- In November 2024 we were invited to attend NHS Charities Together's high value donor thank you event at The Royal Society of Medicine. Grace Bolaji, Volunteer Sick Cell Parent Support Group Lead, Alero Omaghomi, Lead Paediatric Haemoglobinopathy Clinical Nurse Specialist, and patient families Favour, Victory and David, Annabelle and her mum had previously been filmed talking about their experience of Sick Cell and the support gained through the group and the laptops, funded by NHSCT, which ensured they could continue their education online during long period of absence from school, due to their condition.
- We have funded for a number of projects to support our patients in the community and outside our hospital walls. This includes the Cardiac Risk in the Young event (£8.5k) which also allowed us to promote our newly opened Clinical Diagnostic Centre, and supporting the Wellbeing4You programme which provides post-cancer holistic support led by our Psychosocial Lead at Eastgate Community Centre in Ebbsfleet. The Charity has also agreed funding to support our Cancer Services with the Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT) Outreach project, delivering chemotherapy to low risk patients, offsite at the Manor Hotel in Gravesham.

#### **4. NHS Charities Together Grants**

We received no new NHS Charities Together grants in 2024/25 but are applying to the Innovation Challenge competitive grant round which launched 6 March, with a closing date of 6 May 2025, for submission of the Expression of Interest. We have been working up a collaborative project with Cyclopark Charity to benefit young patients of our Complications of Excess Weight Service (CEW). The DGT CEW regional service is the sole Tier 3 provider for young people in Kent and Medway, with strict eligibility criteria requiring a BMI at the 99.6th percentile or above and at least one additional complication of excess weight, such as fatty liver, diabetes, or sleep apnoea. We are looking to support this cohort with a tailored programme of movement delivered in the community at Cyclopark in Gravesend, Kent.



## Community Case Study: Dartford Lions



*Caption: Dartford Lions visit the Stroke Team in May 2024 to view the Tilt Table and previously purchased Thera Trainer to aid Stoke rehabilitation.*

The Tilt Table (£1.8k) allows patients who haven't been able to stand, weight bear, or need strengthening to slowly and gently take weight on their legs and/or work on upper body mobility through physio activities whilst safely strapped on the tilt table. The table can move the patient from horizontal to upright, with staff slowly and carefully monitoring progress and gradient.

Dartford Lion's President Avtar Sandu said: *"The Bike and the Tilt machine are fantastic pieces of equipment that we know will be very well used and will make such a difference to the patients and their ability to come back to some sort of normality in their lives. We, The Dartford Lions Club, are very proud of all the support that is given to us by all the residents in raising these very needy funds and being able to help our local communities."*

Thank you to the Lions and all who support them. Sally George, Head of Fundraising and Voluntary Service said: *"We are extremely touched by all the support we have received from the Dartford Lions Club for our different departments and patient needs at Darent Valley Hospital. These latest purchases for our Stroke Unit will support our Stroke Physiotherapists in their work to improve the speed of recovery of our Stroke patients."*

## 5. How we funded our work, our achievements and performance

The following figures are taken from the Independent Examination of our accounts as at 31 March 2025, if more details are required please refer to the full accounts. This part of the trustee's annual report comments on key features of those accounts. In this section, we firstly explain how we raised the money and then how we spent it.

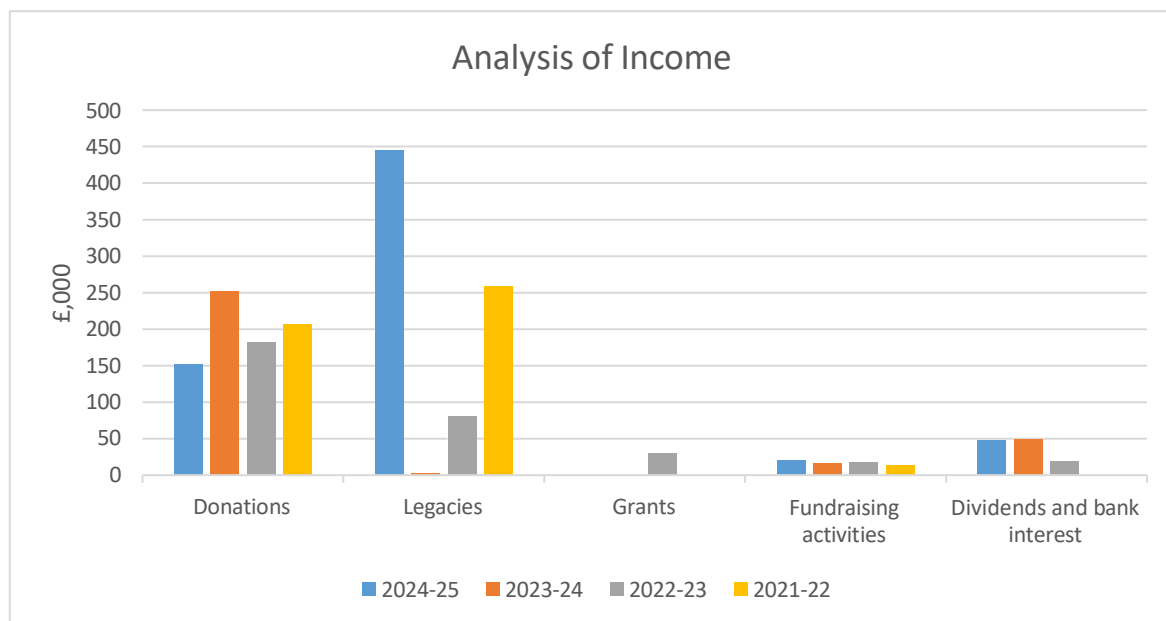


### Money received £664k – Money spent - £364k

Our significantly increased income was due to a number of large legacies being received in year. Our expenditure level remained consistent on previous years as we continue to support DGT with charitable grants to purchase new equipment, and support a number of projects and services to benefit patients care.

### Money received: sources of funds

The chart below shows our main sources of income over the past four years. Our largest source of income in 2024/25 was from Legacies of £445k, followed by donations from the community, which includes corporate donations and unrestricted grant income totalling £152k.



Legacies and gifts-in-wills (£445k) – made up of five gifts; £175k, £173.3k, £95k, £1k and £0.3k. We are delighted to see an increase in our legacy income in year, with the hospital, through the charity, being recognised for the care that it provides and for the benefit of future patients. We are due a final instalment from one of the estates, which has yet to be finalised, but have no other pending legacies that we are aware of, and therefore expect Legacy income to be significantly down in 2024/25. We are however, encouraged with the number of legacy enquiries we have had, and are aware of a number of legacies that have been pledged to us.

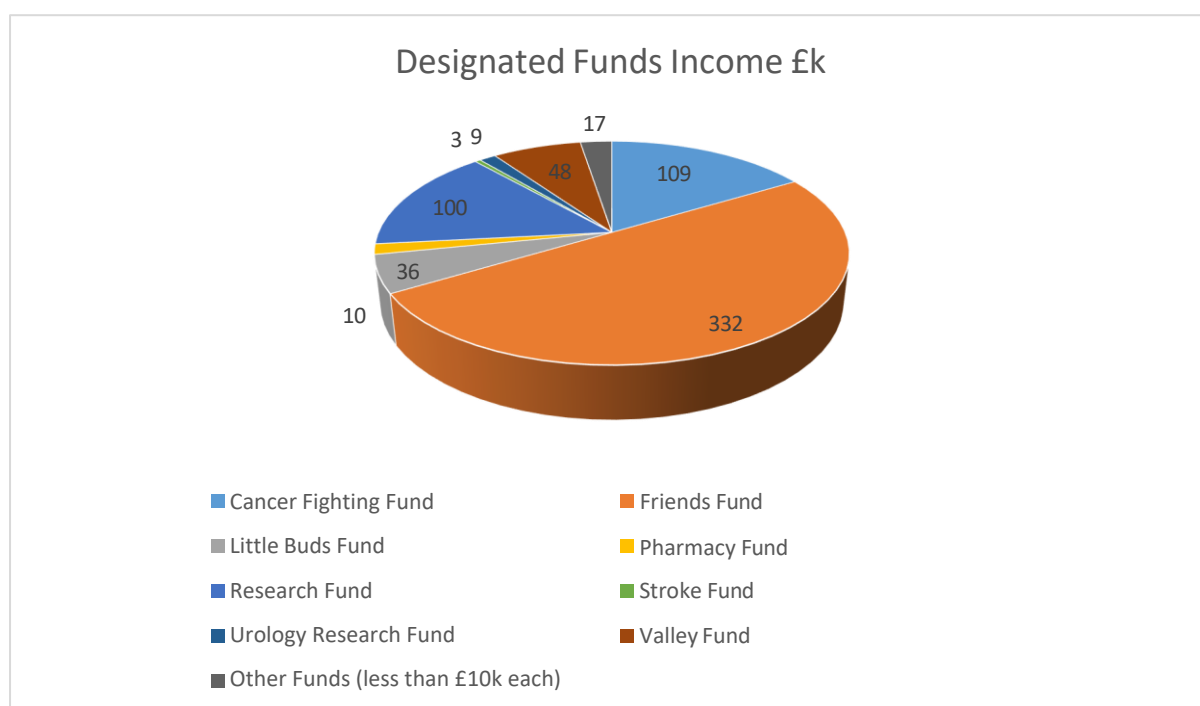
Donations from the public (£152k) – voluntary donations from patients, the public, community groups, corporate supporters and unrestricted grants continues to provide a significant proportion of our income in 2024/25. Many donations come through via our website, and is fundraised by our challenge event participants. This income was down compared to 2023/24. This is due to receiving a number of large donations from community groups last year that were key to some specific projects we were delivering (launch of Hyper Acute Stroke Unit (HASU) and new MRI installation), which boosted our income. The Head of Fundraising and Voluntary Services was seconded for 0.3 WTE to support neighbouring Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT) and this left reduced time to support both fundraising and volunteering.

## Money received: our designated/restricted funds

We do not currently have any restricted funds.

A number of our designated funds are classed as '*special funds*' and are public facing for donors who wish to give thematically. Our most popular funds are:

- **Cancer Fighting Fund** - to benefit the diagnosis and treatment of cancer at Darent Valley Hospital
- **Friends Fund** - money held for wards, stroke or any other small appeals.
- **Heart Beat Fund** - to benefit the Heart Centre.
- **Little Buds Fund** - for the special care of babies from conception to birth.
- **Lollipop Fund** - to benefit the treatment and care of babies and young children.
- **Silver Birch Fund** - to benefit all elderly patients who attend DVH and all staff working in that area.
- **Staff wellbeing Fund** - to benefit staff wellbeing
- **Valley Hospital Fund** - to benefit all areas where there is no specific fund.



Our public facing '*special funds*' are overseen by the Head of Fundraising and Voluntary Services and the Charity Management Board. The remaining funds, also known as '*Directorate*' or '*Separate funds*,' are allocated a Fund Manager from their department or division who knows the service, and can best advise on how charitable funds can be used meaningfully, and in line with the charity's objects, within their department.

## Gifts-in-Kind

The equivalent monetary value of our gifts-in-kind in year 2024/25 was £17.3k. These kind gestures are extremely appreciated in support of our fundraising efforts such as raffles, and to ensure the patients in our care, particularly over national holidays and special occasions, get to enjoy the festivities whilst in hospital, making the time more comfortable for our patient and less stressful for their families. These included from Matt Bignell, Primark Gravesend, Primark Bluewater, Haberdashers Crayford, Charlton Athletics, Puregym Crayford, Junior

Reds FC, George Joannou, Corinthians FC, Kent Fire and Rescue, Brands Hatch, Silverhand Estate, Jeremy Ward, Eagle Heights Bird Of Prey Centre, Dartford Funeral Care, Bonniebabi Ltd and the Bluewater Giving Tree amongst many others.

### **Future Income**

We have submitted a Business Case to request some investment into the Charity Team to help us raise more money. 2024/25 saw a large proportion of legacy income, which was expected due to our awareness of a number of estates going through probate. We are particularly concentrating on grant income in the coming year, which will be a focus of the new fundraising resource.

Donations were down on last year, which although we can account for due to a few significant donations in 2023/24, we don't want this to become a trend so will be working to increase this through raising further awareness with new audiences.

## Community Case Study: Rooming in Rooms



*Caption: The Mayor of Dartford and Mayoress of Dartford, Cllr Andy Lloyd and his wife Diane, cut the ribbon on the 2 newly refurbished Rooming in Rooms on SCBU.*

The Rooming in Rooms refurbishment project (£38.6k) led by Rebecca Law, Neonatal Sister, helped transform two side rooms, newly named Sky and Woodland, on SCBU to support families as they prepare to take baby home. With clinical staff just on the other side of the door, parents can spend a night or two in the homely environment, caring for their baby around the clock before they leave the Unit and get to ring the Little Buds bell!

Annette Pope, Neonatal Matron at Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, hosted the official opening event on the Unit:

*“Having a baby on the neonatal unit can be extremely stressful. In addition to all the health concerns, parents can spend potentially months of nights away from their baby. Rooming in prior to discharge is a chance to gain confidence and ask any questions before the big step out of the door. We aim to create an environment that does not feel clinical, yet the nurses are just outside the door for any questions.*

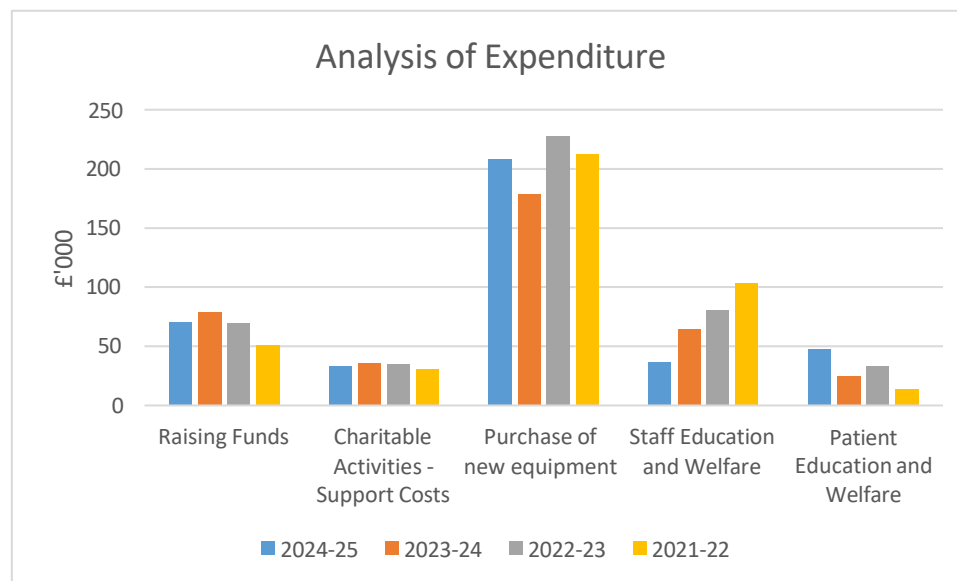
*As a unit we would like to extend our thanks to our families for their feedback which has guided the refurbishment, and the team around us who supported this project. We would particularly like to thank the kindness and generosity of our Little Bud Fund donors as without them this would not have been possible.”*

Temitope Sholanke, Kent, Surrey and Sussex Neonatal Operational Delivery Network Care Co-ordinator, was present at the official opening:

*Each room is thoughtfully equipped with amenities that enable families to share meals together, reinforcing the sense of unity and togetherness. This initiative reflects a significant commitment to family-integrated care (FICare), which is established on Walnut Ward, and aims to enhance the overall experience for families during their journey through neonatal care.”*

## 6. Money spent: what we spent our money on

As the chart below shows, our largest area of spend was on the purchase of new equipment.



During the year, the Charity supported over 57 projects through charity grants, examples include:

### **Purchase of new equipment (£208k)**

- Portable Ultrasound (£3.8k) to support the Physio led Spasticity Service; it is gold standard to use an ultrasound when injecting Botulinum Toxin, to avoid blood vessels, nerves and improves accuracy on injecting into the correct muscles.
- Reminiscence Software, licences and tablets (£8.3k) to engage older adult patients, particularly those with Dementia, with nostalgic sights, sounds and activities.
- Chromebooks (£0.6k) for our young sickle cell patients to access online learning to ensure they are not unfairly academically disadvantaged due to their condition as they often miss school due to hospital admissions or being at home in pain crisis.
- 6 Recliner Chairs for Infusions (£8.1k) to enhance patients experience at our infusion clinics on Evergreen Ward.
- Tilt Table (£1.8k) to support Stroke rehabilitation services. This provides support, weight bearing for the patient, up to fully standing as they build up their strength.
- Portable Defibrillator (£3.9k) to support safe transfer between cardiac monitoring in the Heart Centre and the day ward.
- Safety Pods (£2.1k) to reduce violence and aggression directed at staff, patients and visitors, the pods have calming effect on patients, reducing stress and anxiety, as they create a hugging effect which feels safe and secure.

### **Patient Education and Welfare (£48k)**

- Emergency clothing for adults (£1k) who have no clothing for dignified discharged.
- Cardiac Risk in the Young event (£8.5k) to carry out echocardiograms, preventative screening in 14 – 35 year olds, at the new Clinical Diagnostic Centre on the site of Livingstone Hospital. 100 young people were screened to detect any underlying cardiac conditions, to identify anyone at risk and prevent sudden cardiac death.

- Sleep Kits (£2k) to enhance the night-time experience of adult in-patients. We have been promoting the Goodnight Charter to both staff and patients and have seen very positive results.
- Keepsake Boxes (£0.4k) gifted to families where a loved one has passed away on ICU with unique and lovingly presented personal items.
- Daily Sparkle Activity Resources (£0.8k) provides good mental stimulation, reality orientation and reminiscence therapy, and is a good communication tool and supports varied pre occupation for Dementia patients.

### **Staff Education and Welfare (£37k)**

- VR Immersive Safeguarding Training (£12k) gives the required staff an insight into domestic abuse during pregnancy and the potential effects that this has on the unborn child and helping them have a better understanding of the criteria that is met for a social care referral.
- Sophrology Session for Staff (£2.9k) to manage the challenges of work through focussing, breathing and relaxation methods.
- Bereavement Training Course (£1.5k) for our Chaplain to assist the Maternity Bereavement midwives with caring for the families of miscarriage and baby loss.
- New Born Anne Doll Manikin (£2.6k) to support life-saving training on the Special Care Baby Unit.

Support costs include an Independent Examination fee of £1k and monthly cross charges from Finance for managing the accounts during the financial year.

**Raising Funds (£71k)** – this includes our membership subscriptions: Run for Charity (where we access a number of our challenge events), and other fees associated with putting on events in 2024/25 such as skydives and zip lines. Our charity's promotional costs, such as our charity website and CRM system licence, Lottery Licence, Fundraising Regulator membership and our fundraising materials. In addition, a proportion of the Head of Fundraising post is funded by the Charity.

## **7. Performance against objectives**

We spent £364k on our charitable objectives in 2024/25.

We adhere to the NHS Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) using the NHS Trust procurement process which focuses on value for money and using trusted suppliers; where necessary obtaining three quotes when we are spending over £15k.

We ensure that we provide a VAT Exemption certificate when spending in line with our charitable objects so we do not pay VAT on charitable purchases where possible to ensure our donated income goes further.

Through our internal grant application process we ask a number of questions to ensure the money is well spent; project objectives, expected impact, cost savings and scope of the proposed project. Successful grant applicants are asked to provide feedback on the benefits that have been realised from the grant by presenting back to the Charity Management Board and providing images and a write up to include in Charity/Trust communications.

We ask Fund Managers who have more than £5k in their fund to submit a spending plan before each Charitable Funds Committee meeting so these can be reviewed and ensure



funds raised do not sit there but are being used as per the charity's objects; to enhance patient care.

### **Volunteer Case Study: Trevor Williams, Meet & Greet Volunteer**



*Caption: Trevor Williams with Deputy Chief Nurse, Di Gambrell, Senior Sister Victoria Gerard, Nicola Keena, Lead Chemotherapy Nurse with a chemotherapy patient sitting in the wheelchair dedicated for Pine Therapy's use in January 2025.*

Our fantastic Meet and Greet Volunteer, Trevor Williams, who many in DVH recognise from his warm and friendly welcome at the main entrance, or his memorable tea trolley rounds in the Emergency department, has been on a crusade to try and get to the root cause of the lack of wheelchair availability in the main entrance of the hospital.

Trevor made a generous donation to our charity to purchase two dedicated wheelchairs, one labelled as 'The Children's Chariot' for the Paediatric Assessment Unit, and another as a dedicated wheelchair for transporting chemotherapy patients to Pine Therapy.

Staff on both units expressed their appreciation to Trevor for his hardwork and dedication to the patients in these wards. Deputy Chief Nurse Di Gambrell also added her own thanks to Trevor for his amazing donation. These dazzling bright wheelchairs have been dedicated to these wards and in different upholstery.

A huge heartfelt thank you to Trevor for going over and above for our patients!!

## **8. Our fundraising practices**

The Head of Fundraising and Voluntary Services is a Certified Full Member of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising (MCIOF(Cert)). Membership confirms abidance to the Chartered Institute of Fundraising Code of Conduct, certification confirms completion of the CIOF

accredited Certificate in Fundraising Management qualification, and full membership confirms over 5 years of experience in fundraising.

Charity staff organise fundraising events and co-ordinate, recognise and celebrate the activities of our supporters both internally and externally. The Charity does not use professional fundraisers or involve commercial participators.

There have been no complaints about fundraising this year.

VHC is registered with the Fundraising Regulator, the independent regulator who owns and upholds the Code of Fundraising Practice. The Charity uses the Fundraising Badge on its website and fundraising materials to ensure donor confidence and demonstrate its commitment to fundraising best practice. The Charity has a Complaints Procedure that signposts to the Fundraising Regulator should it not be able to resolve a complaint internally.

## **9. Our fundraising performance**

Our total donations, grants, legacies and income from fundraising (shown as trading activities in the accounts) came to £664k. We were very pleased to realise a number of legacies in year. Legacies aren't something you can predict, but you can have a level of insight if you have a well-established Gift-in-Wills programme, and a list of legacy pledgers. We were pleased to note, not only the generous size of the legacies, which were residual, leaving us a percentage of a whole estate, involving the sale of properties, but mostly that these were the decisions of 5 different people. Legacy fundraising is difficult in a hospital setting as people come in to hospital to get better, and we don't want the approach them about dying, but we are glad that our subtle and sensitive approach, through our newsletter, website and branding around the hospital seems to have had an impact. We have also been contacted during the year and have a record of at least 4 legacy pledgers who have notified us that VHC is named in their Will.

We were disappointed to see our donations down in year but recognise this as a lack of resource and have been working on a business case to seek further funding. The Head of Fundraising and Voluntary Services finished her support for the neighbouring Trust, and the current Fundraising and Voluntary Services Assistant completed a Level 3 Fundraising Apprenticeship, so this added knowledge and skill will be vital to support income generation.

The Head of Fundraising continues in her role as Co-Chair for the South East Regional Group of NHS Charities together and we continue to consult and share best practice and learning with our peers regional and nationally, including annual benchmarking and comparative success of campaigns and overall fundraising cost to income ratios.

## **10. What we plan to do with your donations: our future plans**

We continue to follow the direction laid out by our 3 Year Charity Strategic Plan with a focus for the coming financial year on:

1. Invest in new technologies and services so patients can access clinical expertise and treatment within our hospitals, without needing to join long specialist waiting lists and travel to London and beyond.
  - Virtual Reality headsets and software as a tool to aid Stroke patient rehabilitation.
  - IT system to help record and learn from Robotic Surgery operations.
  - Pilot a new system of less invasive guide markers for locating breast cancer tumours ahead of surgery.

2. Improve the environment in our hospitals to make them welcoming for outpatients and comfortable for inpatients and their visitors.
  - Cot side recliner chairs to support parents visiting their babies on SCBU and further recliner chairs on Pine Therapy for the comfort of patient undergoing long infusions.
  - Seek a wheelchair solution, to ensure wheelchairs are readily available at the hospital entrance for those who need them to ensure they get to their appointments.
  - New wall mounted durable play equipment in the waiting room to engage children whilst waiting for outpatient appointments.
3. Support staff wellbeing projects to ensure our employees and volunteers are in the best health, physically and mentally, to provide care to our patients.
  - Improve staff accessible green spaces through an internal Green Grants scheme.
  - Support a calendar of Health and Wellness activities throughout the year.
  - Improve staff rest room spaces by providing appliances to store and cook own food.

## **11. How we manage the money**

Grant requests are submitted to the Charity via an online form on our charity website. Applications are invited from any member of staff at any time with sign off from their line manager. They are asked to answer a series of questions that relate to the grant criteria, defined by the Charity's objects and the public benefit test. These are collated and applicants are invited to present at the next bi-monthly Charity Management Board meeting. Here the grant requests are discussed and assessed, looking at quality, public benefit and value for money, and where appropriate are approved in principle. The recommendations are shared with the Charitable Funds Committee for ultimate approval.

The Charity has a Grants Policy to reflect this process.

## **12. Our reserves policy**

The Charity does not currently enter into future commitments and so has not created any formal reserves; however, it does have enough within its funds to continue to pay a proportion of the costs of the Head of Fundraising and Voluntary Services. There is enough money held on account within the funds to ensure that other costs, such as audit fees, are covered. Other spending activities are only authorised when full funding is available.

### School Case Study: Haberdashers' Crayford Academy



*Caption: Representatives of Haberdashers' Crayford Academy bringing in Easter gifts and meeting with Sarah Buchan-Tigere, Matron Children & Young Peoples Services.*

We were delighted to welcome students from the wonderful Haberdashers' Crayford Academy to Darent Valley Hospital on Thursday 28 March 2025.

The school continue to amaze and astound us with their generosity, this time delivering 70 Easter eggs for distribution between the Children's Resource Centre and Willow Ward!

Sarah Buchan-Tigere, Matron Children & Young Peoples Services, thanked the students personally for this fantastic donation and also for their incredible ongoing support of our Lollipop Fund which benefits sick children from babies to teens.

### 13. Trustee arrangements

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust is the sole Corporate Trustee of the Charity. However, its Board of Directors acts as the agent of the Trust. Board membership as at year-end 2024-25 is shown below, with in-year changes are detailed below.

Name	Role
Jonathan Wade (v)	Chief Executive
Steve Fenlon (v)	Deputy Chief Executive
Siobhan Callanan (v)	Chief Nurse
Tom Clark (v)	Chief Medical Officer
Guy Dentith (v)	Chief Finance Officer
Alexandra Bode-Tunji	Chief Strategy and Transformation Officer (until 31 August 2024)
Sheridan Flavin (v)	Chief People Officer (until 22 September 2024)
Andrea Ashman (v)	Chief People Officer (appointed 2 September 2024)
Tori Harrison (v)	Chief Operating Officer (until 15 July 2024 – maternity leave)
Graham Wilde (v)	Interim Chief Operating Officer (appointed 3 July 2024)
Jackie Craissati (v)	Trust Chair
Steve Wilmshurst (v)	Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Quality and Safety Committee and the Remuneration Committee
Lynn Gladwell (v)	Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee
Suzanne O'Brien (v)	Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Finance Committee
David Ahmad (v)	Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Audit Committee
Julia Wendon (v)	Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Quality and Safety Committee and the Remuneration Committee
Chris Gonde	Associate Non-Executive Director
Stephen Cornes	Associate Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Remuneration Committee

(v) – donates a voting member of the Board

All Directors and Non-Executive Directors signed a self-Declaration of Interest. The NHS Code of Accountability requires that all Board members declare any personal or business interest which may influence, or may be perceived to influence, their judgement. The declarations made also encompass any such interests held by any person connected to him/her, such as spouses/partners. These have been made available to the auditors.

In 2010, the Board of Directors of Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust established and authorised a committee, the Charitable Funds Committee, to oversee the management of the Charitable Fund on its behalf. The Charitable Funds Committee met three times during 2024-25 (25 June 2024, 22 October 2024 and 25 February 2025). The Chairman of the Charitable Funds Committee reports the minutes of each Charitable Funds Committee meeting to the Trust Board, highlighting any matters that require Board attention or action.

NHS England (NHSE) appoints Non-Executive Directors of the Trust Board. Executive Directors of the Board are appointed via the Trust's recruitment procedures. Members of the Trust Board and the Charitable Funds Committee are not individual trustees under Charity Law but act as agents on behalf of the Corporate Trustee. As part of their induction programme, new Executive and Non-Executive Directors of Dartford and Gravesham NHS

Trust are made aware of their responsibilities as Board members of the corporate trustee of Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Charitable Fund.

The Charitable Funds Committee members as at year-end 2024-25 were:

Lynn Gladwell	Non-Executive Director (Chair)
David Ahmad	Non-Executive Director
Chris Gonde	Non-Executive Director
Jackie Craissati	Trust Chair, Non-Executive Director
Jonathan Wade	Chief Executive
Guy Dentith	Chief Finance Officer
Tom Clark	Medical Director
Djafer Erdogan	Assistant Director of Finance
Sally George	Head of Fundraising and Voluntary Services
Jane Burr	Trust Secretary

In addition, the Charity Management Board, a sub-committee of the Charitable Funds Committee, met every two months during the year. The minutes of the Charity Management Board are received by the Charitable Funds Committee (and vice versa).



## Staff Case Study: Maternity Team



*Caption: The Maternity team, having scaled Skarfell Pike in September 2024.*

In September 2024, the Maternity Team wanted to purchase Transcutaneous Billirubinometer (TCB) to enhance the screening of new born babies in the community to detect Jaundice, and with limited funding available they took matters into their own hands.

With a price tag of £5k, the TCB machine enables community midwives to increase timely surveillance of babies to detect serious jaundice requiring treatment, which can lead to brain damage if undetected. Timely use of the machine is of particular benefit to darker skinned babies, who are at higher risk of missed diagnosis.

The Team of 13, led by Lorraine Heather, Bexley Community Midwife Team Leader & NIPE Practitioners, choose to climb Skarfell Pike, a mountain in the Lake District region of Cumbria, with an elevation of 978 metres above sea level, to raise sponsorship for the charity to afford the kit.

Following the challenge Lorraine reflected on the challenge they had set themselves:

*"Wow what a weekend!!! Feeling in a whole world of pain at present but WE DID IT!! We accomplished our goal!! All 13 of us managed to get to the summit! There was a whole host of emotions, we all found it incredibly hard, especially me! There were tears and laughter along the route but massive sense of accomplishment and camaraderie. We were able to support each other past our brick walls as we battled against our own mental and physical abilities."*

#### **14. Our staff and advisors**

The Chief Finance Officer has particular responsibility to:

- ensure that spending is in accordance with the objects and priorities agreed by the Charitable Funds Committee and the Board
- that the criteria for spending charitable monies are fully met; that full accounting records are maintained
- that devolved decision-making or delegated arrangements are in accordance with the policies and procedures set out by the Board on behalf of the Corporate Trustee.

Fundraising for the charity is supported by the Head of Fundraising and Voluntary Services, a proportion of their costs are charged to the Charity.

The Board of Directors, on behalf of the sole Corporate Trustee, employed the following professional advisers during the year:

##### **Independent Examiner:**

Louise Hallsworth FCA  
Affinia (Orpington)  
Chartered Accountants  
Lynwood House, Crofton Road  
Orpington  
BR6 8QE

##### **Bankers:**

Co-operative Bank plc  
London and South East Business Centre PO Box 2790  
80 Cornhill  
London  
EC3V 3RD

NatWest Bank plc  
3rd Floor  
280 Bishopsgate  
London  
EC2M 4RB

##### **Fraud advisor:**

TIAA Ltd  
Artillery House  
Fort Fareham  
Newgate Lane  
Fareham  
PO14 1AH

**How to contact us** - The charity office and principle address of Valley Hospital Charity is:

Darent Valley Hospital  
Darenth Wood Road  
Dartford

Kent  
DA2 8DA

For fundraising queries please contact:

Sally George – Head of Fundraising and Voluntary Services  
dgn-tr.fundraising@nhs.net  
01322 428256

## **15. Key management personnel remuneration**

The Board of the Corporate Trustee and the Head of Fundraising and Voluntary Services comprise the key management personnel of the charity as they are in charge of:

- directing and controlling the charity
- running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust's (DGT) board members are either executive members who are employees of DGT or non-executive members who are remunerated in accordance with the DGT constitution. None of the board members are specifically paid in relation to the Charity, they give of their time freely. The Charity pays a proportion of the Head of Fundraising post and a cross charge from a proportion of the Charity Finance Manager role.

## **16. Risk analysis**

The Charity has its own Risk Register which is aligned with the Trust's own risk management procedures. All areas of spend and commitments are reviewed regularly. There are procedures in place to ensure that both spending and firm financial commitments remain in line with income.

Guidance is provided to Fund Managers to support reporting on their funds to the Charitable Funds Committee (which includes a declaration of compliance with the guidance).

## **17. Future levels of income**

The Charity is reliant on voluntary donations to allow it to make charitable grants to benefit patient care at Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust. If income falls, then the charity will not be able to provide the same level of support, and make many grants or deliver any large scale projects.

We are in the final year of delivering our 3 Year Charity Strategic Plan that aimed to increase income by developing the Charity's visibility, and building our supporter base to provide sustainable growth. We will continue this focus, still aiming for a more prominent location in the main entrance of the hospital, and look at other ways to raise the profile, including via a healthcare magazine.

We are looking at Grant income as a focus in the coming year, and although any income will most likely be restricted to a specific project, this will help free up other income to support our cause more flexibly.

## **18. Wider networks**

The Charity is an active member of NHS Charities Together (NHSCT), which hosts membership of NHS charities across Great Britain and Northern Ireland. NHSCT is a membership organisation providing peer support, as well as an independent registered charity, and grant funder. We currently attend two NHSCT groups; as Co-Chair of the South East Region and the Chairs' Meeting for all regional and special interest group Chairs. Here we hear news first, help advise and feed into and co-design programmes and membership benefits, and to disseminate information from NHSCT back to our groups.

### **Related parties**

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust is the corporate trustee of the Charity and the grants the Charity administers benefit the patients and staff of the NHS Trust – they are therefore related parties.

Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust makes a number of clerical and transaction services available to the charity. The services provided by Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust are administrative and financial services.

None of the members of the Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust board or parties related to them has undertaken any transactions with the charity or received any benefit from the charity in payment or kind.

## **19. Our relationship with the wider community**

Throughout the year the Fundraising and Voluntary Services Team have attended a number of schools, colleges and universities in the promotion of the Charity and volunteering opportunities at the Trust, and invited them in to visit and perform. We remain well supported as Charity of the Year by local dignitaries, Golf Clubs, Lions Clubs, Rotary and Freemasons, and local business.

We strive to attract and engage with a diverse range of charity supporters and volunteers to reflect the community we serve. We want to ensure their voices are heard, and to encourage colleagues to take part in fundraising activities, and actively identify and apply for grants to benefit their areas, their teams and patients they serve.

Our local community continues to amaze us with their generosity, whether it be our patients and their families, local companies or community groups, we are grateful for any donation, large or small, or gifts-in-kind. With the support from our community and our dedicated NHS staff, we will continue to strive to enhance patient care through these challenging economic times.

## **20. Volunteers**

We have a variety of volunteer roles available at the hospital to anyone over the age of 17. We encourage young volunteers to apply who are looking to gain experience in a diverse, fast paced environment, where they can learn valuable skills and build confidence for further learning or a career in healthcare or another sector. We also offer a friendly sociable setting for anyone looking to give something back, to create a routine and make new friends. You can apply via our website for all our roles [www.dgt.nhs.uk/volunteer](http://www.dgt.nhs.uk/volunteer) including;

- Meet and Greeters – located at the main entrance or in other departments. These volunteers give patients and visitors directions and escort them through the hospital.
- Dementia Buddies – support patients with Dementia and other cognitive impairments.

- Chaplaincy Volunteers – offer spiritual, religious, pastoral and practical support to patients of all beliefs.
- Caring Companions – support unaccompanied older adults in the emergency department.
- Patient Voice Partners - advocate for our patients, and share their views, opinions and lived experiences to help in the design and delivery of our services.
- Research Champions – encourage and advocate engagement from diverse communities to ensure they are represented, to benefit all patients
- Pets as Therapy (PAT) Volunteers – provide comfort to patients on wards/departments with their dogs, and support staff wellbeing.
- Valley Park Radio Volunteers – present and help produce live and pre-recorded radio shows to patients through the hospital radio station.

We are extremely grateful to our team of volunteers who generously give their free time to support our patients and our staff. 2024/25 has been the first year of the national volunteer data collection by NHS England. We are proud to have reported 189 active volunteers in the period, who carried out 11,368 hours of volunteering (equivalent to £137,000 of HCA time, given for free).

***“I wanted to thank you for this volunteering experience here, it definitely shaped my decision to study medicine. I really appreciated this opportunity and it will not be forgotten. I hope to come back to DVH in the future as all the staff were so kind and welcoming!” – Ex-Volunteer Quote***

During Volunteers’ Week (the first week of June), we hold our Annual Volunteers’ Get Together; a social occasion and an opportunity for us to feedback on the Volunteers Survey, and recognise long service milestones. We recognise and thank our volunteers at other points in the year. Following feedback in the survey, we now hold regular informal coffee mornings to listen to our volunteers’ experience, enabling us to make improvements throughout the year. Our volunteers can meet colleagues and learn about other roles in the Trust that may interest them. This year, at the Staff Awards in January, we were delighted to celebrate the impact our Dementia Buddies have on patient experience, and our welcoming Meet and Greet volunteers recognised again in the Volunteering/Charity Champion category.





*Photograph: Shannon Charles getting her 5 Year Long Service Award, presented by Julia Walsh, Assistant Chief Nurse.*

In June 2024, in collaboration with Kent and Medway NHS Social Care Partnership Trust (KMPT), we welcomed Steven Wibberley, the new Pets as Therapy (PAT) Dog CEO, to meet a number of our PAT Volunteers and their furry friends. Steven joined them on their ward visits and saw first-hand the joy and comfort they bring to our patients and staff, before visiting PAT volunteers at KMPT in their mental health setting.

***“So thank you to the volunteers, furry and human and a big thank you to Karen, Toffee and Dixie [PAT Dogs] for all you do. I hope I'm lucky enough to bump into them again one day.” – Patient Quote***



**DARTFORD AND GRAVESHAM NHS TRUST CHARITABLE FUND**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2025**

## **Contents**

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**Statement of trustee's responsibilities in respect of the trustee's annual report and the financial statements**

Under charity law, the trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The trustees are required to prepare the financial statements in accordance with UK Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources for that period.


In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice requires that the trustees':

- selects suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- makes judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- states whether the financial statements comply with the trust deed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- assesses the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern; and
- uses the going concern basis of accounting unless they either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative to do so.

The trustees are required to act in accordance with the trust deed of the charity, within the framework of trust law. They are responsible for keeping accounting records which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time, and to enable the trustees to ensure that, where any statements of accounts are prepared by them under sections 132(1) of the Charities Act 2011, those statements of accounts comply with the requirements of regulations under that provision. They are responsible for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the financial and other information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the UK governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

By Order of the Trustees

Chair..........Date..... 28th January 2026

Trustee..........Date..... 28th January 2026

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Charitable Fund (the "Charity")**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 29 to 37.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

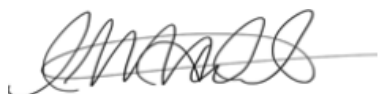
**Independent examiner's statement**

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Signed.....Date .....28th January 2026

Louise Hallsworth FCA  
Affinia (Orpington)  
Chartered Accountants  
Lynwood House, Crofton Road  
Orpington  
BR6 8QE

The accounts of the Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Charitable Fund.

**FOREWORD**


These Charitable Fund accounts have been prepared by the trustees under the Charities Act 2011.

The NHS Trust is the corporate trustee of the Charitable Fund under paragraph 16c of Schedule 2 of the NHS and Community Care Act 1990.

The Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust Charitable Fund is registered with the Charity Commission and includes funds in respect of Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust's Hospital.

**MAIN PURPOSE OF THE FUNDS HELD ON TRUST**

The main purpose of the Charitable Fund held on trust is to apply income for any charitable purpose relating to the National Health Service wholly or mainly for the services provided by the Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust.

Chair..........Date .....28th January 2026

Trustee..........Date .....28th January 2026

**Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	2024-25 Total Funds £000	2023-24 Total Funds £000
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	597	0	597	253
Other trading activities	4	20	0	20	16
Bank interest		47	0	47	49
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>664</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>318</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Raising funds		69	2	71	79
Charitable activities:					
Purchase of new equipment	6	208	0	208	203
Staff education and welfare	6	37	0	37	74
Patient education and welfare	6	48	0	48	28
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>362</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>384</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>302</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>(66)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		850	2	852	918
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>1,152</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>852</b>

There have been no transfers and no gains/losses on investment assets.

One restricted development grant was awarded in March 2023 for £30k with total expended resources up to 31 March 2025 of £30k. All other incoming resources and resources expended are derived from continuing operations and are unrestricted.

The accompanying notes on pages 33 to 37 form part of these financial statements.





## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	2024-25 Total Funds £000	2023-24 Total Funds £000
<b>Current assets</b>					
Receivables	9	11	0	11	12
Prepayments	9	52	0	52	16
Cash and cash equivalents	9	1,164	0	1,164	906
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>1,227</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,227</b>	<b>934</b>
<b>Current liabilities</b>					
Payables: amounts falling due within one year	10.1	75	0	75	82
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>1,152</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>852</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<b>1,152</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>852</b>
<b>Total net assets or liabilities</b>		<b>1,152</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>852</b>
<b>Funds of the charity</b>					
Income funds:					
Funds	11	1,152	0	1,152	852
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>1,152</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>852</b>

The accompanying notes on pages 33 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 29 to 37 were approved by the Trustee on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026 and signed by:

Chair..........Date.....28th January 2026

Trustee..........Date.....28th January 2026

**Statement of Cashflow for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	<b>2024-25 Total Funds £000</b>	<b>2023-24 Total Funds £000</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net movement in funds	<b>300</b>	(66)
(Increase)/Decrease in trade and other receivables	<b>(35)</b>	(4)
(Decrease)/Increase in trade and other payables	<b>(7)</b>	6
<b>Net cash (used in) by operating activities</b>	<b>258</b>	(64)
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>	<b>258</b>	(64)
<b>NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>	<b>258</b>	(64)
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period</b>	<b>906</b>	970
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the period</b>	<b>1,164</b>	906

The accompanying notes on pages 33 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

**Notes to the Accounts****1 Principal Accounting Policies****(a) Basis of preparation**

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) Accounting and Reporting by Charities: applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), issued in October 2019 and effective 1 January 2019; the Charities Act 2011 and the UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP).

The Trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined in FRS 102.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared to give a true and fair view and have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued in October 2019 rather than the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice effective from 1 April 2005 which has since been withdrawn.

The trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared on a going concern basis which the trustees consider to be appropriate for the following reasons:

- The business model of the charity is such that its charitable activities are limited to those which it has sufficient funds to support from the excess of funding received over the costs of administering the charity.
- The charity therefore has no specific commitments and no committed costs beyond its fixed costs of operation which are detailed in note 6.
- The trustees have reviewed the cash flow forecasts for a period of 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements which indicate that the charity will have sufficient funds to meet its liabilities as they fall due for that period.
- Consequently, the trustees are confident that the charity will have sufficient funds to continue to meet its liabilities as they fall due for at least 12 months from the date of approval of the financial statements.

**(b) Structure of funds**

Unrestricted funds comprise those funds which the trustee is free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds, where the donor has made known their non binding wishes or where the trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund for a specific purpose. Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor.

**(c) Income**

All Income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations, are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is highly probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period. Gifts in kind are valued at estimated fair market value at the time of receipt.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the granting of probate when the administrator/executor for the estate has communicated in writing both the amount and settlement date. In the event that the gift is in the form of an asset other than cash or a financial asset traded on a recognisable stock exchange, recognition is subject to the value of the gift being reliably measureable with a degree of reasonable accuracy and the title to the asset having been transferred to the charity.

Grants are recognised as income where the grant money has been received and the performance-related conditions have been met.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank.

**(d) Resources expended**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

The charity accounts are prepared in accordance with the accruals concept. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. For more information on this attribution refer to notes 6 to 8.

**(e) Irrecoverable VAT**

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

**(f) Allocation of support and governance costs**

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These include costs related to statutory audit, independent examination and legal fees.

Governance costs and support costs relating to charitable activities have been apportioned based on percentage of total expenditure for each category for the year.

**(g) Expenditure on raising funds**

Expenditure on raising funds are those costs attributable to generating income for the charity, other than those costs incurred in undertaking charitable activities or the costs incurred in undertaking trading activities in furtherance of the charity's objects. The costs of generating funds represent fundraising costs together with investment management fees and certain legal fees. Fundraising costs include expenses for fundraising activities and costs from the related party, Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, to pay the salary of the hospital's fundraising lead.

**(h) Expenditure on charitable activities**

Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs incurred in the pursuit of the charitable objects of the charity. These costs comprise direct costs and an apportionment of overhead and support costs as shown in notes 6 to 8.

**(i) Donated services and gifts in kind**

The value of donated services and gifts in kind provided to the charity is recognised in the statement of financial activities at their value to the charity as determined by the trustee, in the period in which they are receivable, and where the benefit is both quantifiable and material.

**2 Related party transactions**

The charity has made revenue payments of £85k and capital payments of £208k to Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, which is the Corporate Trustee of the charity, the Directors of the NHS Trust are responsible for managing the charitable funds and the names of the directors are listed on page 17 of the Annual Report.

Neither the Corporate Trustee nor any member of the NHS Trust Board has received honoraria, emoluments or expenses in the year and the Corporate Trustee has not purchased trustee indemnity insurance.

At the 31st March 2025 Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust was a creditor with a balance owed of £48k.

**3 Donations and legacies**

	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Donations	152	252
Legacies	445	1
	<b>597</b>	<b>253</b>

In 2024-25 five legacy donations were received: £175k, 173.3k, 95k, £1k and £0.3k. (2023-24: two legacy donations were received: £1k and £0.5k).

**4 Other trading activities**

	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>2023-24</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
Stride4Life	4	4
Training course income	6	2
Xmas draw	4	4
Golf day income	5	4
Market event income	0	2
Sponsor a brick	1	0
	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>

In 2024-25 education support was received for the training workshop: £2k and £1.5k (2023-24: £0k)

**5 Transfers between funds**

In 2024-25 £1.7k of in-active designated fund balances were transferred to an appropriate similar active designated fund or into general funds and closed. A Further £3.7k was reimbursed from Silver Birch (designated fund) to Friends (general fund) to support a large grant application. (2023-24: £14.8k was transferred from a Friends (general fund) to Stroke a new designated fund). All transfers were unrestricted funds.

**6 Analysis of charitable expenditure**

The charity undertook direct charitable activities and made available grant support to Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust in support of a range of charitable activities.

	<b>Grant funded activity</b>	<b>Support costs</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
			<b>£000</b>
Purchase of new equipment	185	23	208
Staff education and welfare	33	4	37
Patient education and welfare	42	6	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>293</b>

The support costs have been apportioned by calculating the percentages of total spend over the various expenditure headings.

**7 Analysis of grants**

Grants are made to Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trusts and the Corporate Trustee operates a scheme of delegation, through which all funded activity is managed by fund managers responsible for the day to day disbursements of their funds, in accordance with the directions set out by the trustees in the charity standing orders and financial instructions. The total cost of making grants is disclosed in the charitable activities analysis on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities. The grants awarded to the beneficiaries for each category of charitable activity are disclosed in note 6.

**8 Independent Examiner's remuneration**

The 2024-25 Independent Examiner's remuneration of £1k exclusive of VAT, related solely to an independent examination with no other additional work being undertaken. (2023-24: £5.3k for a full audit).

**9 Analysis of current assets**

	<b>2024-25 Total £000</b>	<b>2023-24 Total £000</b>
Receivables	11	12
Prepayments	52	16
Cash and cash equivalents	1,164	906
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,227</b>	<b>934</b>

Receivables represents income owed at the year end which the charity had been notified in writing, of both the amount and the settlement date.

**10 Liabilities****10.1 Analysis of current liabilities**

	<b>2024-25 Total £000</b>	<b>2023-24 Total £000</b>
Accruals	5	6
Payables	65	76
Deferred Income	5	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>82</b>

Of the £75k, £48k is payable to the Corporate Trustee (Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust).



## 11 Analysis of charitable funds

The Trust has analysed material designated fund balances as set out below:

Fund Name	Fund Balance brought forward £	Incoming Resources £	Outgoing Resources £	Transfer Resources £	Fund Balances carried forward £
Breast Care Library Trust Fund	15,701	0	(876)		14,825
Cancer Fighting Fund	166,877	108,641	(24,116)	365	251,767
Cardiology Training Fund	19,320	0	(9,011)		10,309
Friends Fund	132,585	327,070	(107,226)	4,741	357,170
Heartbeat Fund	213,845	994	(91,194)		123,645
Little Buds Fund	36,870	36,154	(50,104)	327	23,246
Lollipop Fund	31,263	8,822	(19,187)		20,898
Lottery Fund	17,885	4,799	(8,630)		14,053
Pharmacy Fund	8,262	9,592	(3,163)		14,691
Research Fund	0	100,000	(4,629)		95,371
Staff Wellbeing Fund	38,282	476	(8,037)		30,721
Stroke Fund	16,291	2,579	(2,430)		16,440
Urology Research Fund	33,990	9,465	(5,439)		38,016
Valley Fund	61,000	48,372	(7,576)		101,796
Other Funds - all less than £10k	57,788	7,192	(20,426)	(5,433)	39,121
<b>Total designated Funds</b>	<b>849,958</b>	<b>664,155</b>	<b>(362,044)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,152,069</b>
Development Grant - RESTRICTED	2,037	0	(2,037)	0	0
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>2,037</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2,037)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>851,995</b>	<b>664,155</b>	<b>(364,081)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,152,069</b>

- **Accident & Emergency unit** - to benefit staff and patient in Accident and Emergency
- **Adult Medicine Fund** - to benefit both staff and patients through staff education, resources and equipment
- **Breast Care Library Trust Fund** - to benefit staff in the Breast Care department
- **Cancer Fighting Fund** - to benefit the diagnosis and treatment of cancer at Darent Valley Hospital (DVH)
- **Cardiology Training Fund** - to benefit both staff and patients through staff education, training and research
- **Development Grant Fund** - to empower the NHS charity sector to be high performing, effective and impactful
- **Diabetes Centre Education Fund** - to benefit staff and patients through purchase of literature and equipment and staff training
- **Diagnostic Fund** - to benefit staff in Pathology department
- **Friends Fund** - money held for wards or any other small appeals
- **Gynaecology Fund** - to benefit staff and patients within Obstetrics and Gynaecology departments
- **Haematology Study Fund** - to benefit both staff and patients through staff development, resources and equipment
- **Heart Beat Fund** - to benefit the Heart Centre.
- **Intensive Therapy Unit Education & Training Fund** - to benefit staff through training and education and to benefit both staff and patients in ITU through the purchase of equipment
- **Little Buds Fund** - for the special care of babies from conception to birth
- **Lollipop Fund** - to benefit the treatment and care of babies and young children
- **Lottery Fund** - to benefit all staff and patients of DVH
- **Maternity Fund** - to benefit all staff and patients from pregnancy to birth
- **Neonatal Fund** - to benefit both staff and patients through staff development, resources and equipment
- **Neurology Trust Fund** - to benefit staff through education and support in Neurology
- **Outpatients** - to benefit outpatients department
- **Pharmacy Fund** - to enable staff members to attend seminars and courses and to provide equipment for the pharmacy department
- **Research Fund** - supporting research linked to our greatest population health needs
- **Resuscitation Fund** - to support staff training and the purchase of training equipment
- **Silver Birch Fund** - to benefit all elderly patients who attend Darent Valley Hospital (DVH) and all staff working in that area
- **Sponsor a Brick Fund** - to benefit staff and patients through the purchase of bricks
- **Staff Wellbeing Fund** - to benefit staff wellbeing
- **Stroke Fund** - to benefit staff through training and purchase of equipment
- **Surgery Fund** - to benefit staff through training and purchase of equipment
- **Training & Income for Dieticians Fund** - to benefit staff through training and courses
- **Urology and Nephrology Education Fund** - to benefit staff through training and purchase of equipment
- **Urology Research Fund** - to benefit staff and patients through research and development
- **Valley Hospital Fund** - to benefit all areas where there is no specific fund