THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON NHS TRUST CHARITY

England & Wales · Charity number 1059467

Details

Other names	THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON HOSPITALS NHS TRUST CHARITY, Your RWTC
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1996-11-27
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

Objects: FOR ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE OR PURPOSES RELATING TO THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE WHOLLY OR MAINLY FOR THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON NHS TRUST

Activities: The main pupose of the Charitable Funds held on Trust is to apply income for any charitable purpose relating to the NHS wholly or mainly for the services provided by the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

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Classification

- **How:** Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Staffordshire
- Wolverhampton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£855,954	£1,038,068	£2,656,133	0
2024-03-31	£816,906	£841,430	£2,821,803	0
2023-03-31	£861,808	£925,762	£2,724,978	0
2022-03-31	£885,170	£748,668	£3,031,773	0
2021-03-31	£1,164,037	£865,610	£2,919,305	0

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON NHS TRUST		2009-09-01

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Linked charities

- THE LEVI JOHNSON CHARITABLE FUND (1059467-1)
- OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY DIRECTORATE GENERAL CHARITY (1059467-10)
- PAEDIATRIC DIRECTORATE GENERAL CHARITY (1059467-11)
- RADIOLOGY GENERAL CHARITY (1059467-12)
- DAY SURGERY DIRECTORATE GENERAL CHARITY (1059467-13)
- ANASTHETICS DIRECTORATE GENERAL CHARITY (1059467-14)
- ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY DIRECTORATE GENERAL CHARITY (1059467-15)
- GLAUCOMA SERVICE CHARITY (1059467-16)
- THE W H FOWLER TRUST (ROYAL HOSPITAL) (1059467-17)
- THE NELL PHOENIX FUND (1059467-18)
- THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON NHS TRUST (CAPITAL FUNDS) COMMON INVESTMENT FUND (1059467-19)
- ENT DIRECTORATE GENERAL CHARITY (1059467-2)
- THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON NHS TRUST (EXPENDABLE FUNDS) COMMON INVESTMENT FUND (1059467-20)
- THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON NHS TRUST PHYSIOTHERAPY DEPARTMENT GENERAL FUND (1059467-21)
- MAXILLO FACIAL / ORAL SURGERY GENERAL CHARITY (1059467-3)
- MEDICAL DIRECTORATE GENERAL CHARITY (1059467-4)
- OPTHALMOLOGY DIRECTORATE GENERAL CHARITY (1059467-5)
- SURGICAL DIRECTORATE CHARITY (1059467-6)
- ORTHOPAEDIC DIRECTORATE GENERAL CHARITY (1059467-7)
- RENAL UNIT GENERAL CHARITY (1059467-8)
- THEATRE DIRECTORATE GENERAL CHARITY (1059467-9)

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THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON NHS TRUST CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1059467

Accounts

Your RWTC
going above and beyond

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

The King's Award for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups

Charity Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25



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The King's Award for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups

Your RWTC
going above and beyond

Message from our Chair Prof Martin Levermore DL



As the Chair of what is now Your RWTC – as chosen by our patients, staff and local communities - I am proud to share our Annual Report 2024/25.

It gives us a moment to stop and reflect on what has been achieved over the last 12 months before igniting our plans to make 2025/26 even bigger and better!

In my statement last year, I mentioned that "the numbers of volunteers were falling relentlessly downhill reaching an historic low," so I am delighted that we were chosen to receive the prestigious King's Award for Voluntary Service (KAVS).

This national accolade recognises the extraordinary contributions of our volunteers, whose hard work and commitment embody our mission. It serves not only as a testament to their exemplary efforts but also as a powerful endorsement of the vital role that volunteering plays in our community.

In addition to the above honour, we celebrated another accolade – a Health Service Journal (HSJ) Award for digital innovation.

Teams in our Digital Innovation Unit developed the Proactive Risk-Based Data-Driven Assessment of Patients at End of Life initiative (PRADA) to address the critical inefficiencies in this type of care, particularly the inconsistent registration of patients on to the Gold Standard Framework, an evidence-based service improvement programme.

The digital tool aimed to drive earlier intervention, avoid disjointed multiple sources of information and house all vital patient details in one place, while ensuring patients can access the most appropriate services.

It was co-designed and created by the Digital Innovation Unit, Specialist Palliative Care Team, Adult Community Service Group and GP representation. This has ensured all potential aspects of a patient's journey have been looked at to assure inclusion and integrated ways of working. And it was given a £126,420 funding boost thanks to Your RWTC.

This work has been published in the Lancet and BMJ and illustrates how working in partnership with our Charity can deliver significant benefits.

Another tremendous boost has come from Your RWTC being one of the Mayor of Wolverhampton's chosen charities for his term and I know Councillor Craig Collingswood, Mayoress Abby Collingswood and our Charity team have had some really positive discussions about the opportunities this affords us.

Like all organisations, we must look ahead and recognise the vital need to adapt and evolve. We are currently developing a bold, five-year Fundraising Strategy, which is underpinned by the importance of continued engagement and promotion with our patients, staff, communities and businesses. At the core of this strategy will be alignment with the government's 10 Year Health Plan as Your RWTC can be a key driver in the transformational aims detailed in this document.

Our strategy will not only refine our focus but also build on our foundations to foster deeper collaborations with our donors and stakeholders.

Finally, I'd like to thank our volunteers, staff, donors, and community partners for their unwavering support. I know we will continue to work together to strive for excellence, drive meaningful change, and champion the health needs of our communities.

Mlevermore

Martin Levermore
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee

About The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity (working as Your RWTC)

At Your RWTC, we are dedicated to improving the experience and outcomes for our staff, patients, and our local community. The people and patients of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust are at the heart of what we do.

Our Charity mission is that...

Every patient deserves the best care possible. We are here to make a real difference to over half a million patients treated at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, along with their families and the staff who deliver their care.

We will go 'above and beyond', that provided by the NHS enhancing the experience through additional facilities and an improved environment, additional equipment that can make a real difference to patient care, opportunities for staff training and to further medical knowledge through research.

Whether people come to hospital for routine procedures, medical investigations, or for lifesaving, cutting edge treatment we understand that needing NHS care can be a worrying time. Every day the fundraising of Your RWTC helps to ensure that visits to our hospitals and our services are as comfortable, reassuring, friendly and positive as possible

Trust Overview

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is one of the largest acute and community providers in the West Midlands – providing care at New Cross, West Park, and Cannock Chase hospitals – as well as at over 20 community sites.

As the largest employer in Wolverhampton, our workforce is made up of more than 11,000 staff, who cover a range of clinical and non-clinical roles and reflect the vibrancy and diversity of the communities we serve.

We provide services from the following locations:

- **New Cross Hospital** – Our main acute hospital site is located near Wednesfield on the eastern side of Wolverhampton. Here, we deliver a wide range of planned or elective care, urgent and emergency care, maternity services, outpatient services, and highly specialist treatments
- **West Park Hospital –** Our rehabilitation hospital located just outside the city centre, provides inpatient and day care services, therapy services, and outpatient services
- **Cannock Chase Hospital** – Located in the centre of Cannock, this hospital delivers general surgery, orthopaedics, breast surgery, urology, dermatology/plastic surgery, and medical day case investigations and treatment (including endoscopy, rheumatology, and dermatology)
- More than 20 community sites delivering services closer to home for children and adults, walk-in centres, and therapy and rehabilitation services
- **Primary care** – Nine GP practices are part of the Trust, which offer extended opening hours to patients and are located across the Wolverhampton area

The Trust also successfully host Black Country Pathology Services (BCPS) and the West Midlands Local Clinical Research Network (WMCRN) and have done since its establishment in April 2014.

Our Trust strategy and vision for the future was launched alongside Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust in 2022 and will run until 2027.

We have agreed four strategic aims, referred to as the 'four Cs'. Everything we do across both organisations should contribute towards achieving goals within at least one of these priority areas:

Excel in the delivery of Care

We will deliver exceptional care by putting patients at the heart of everything we do, embedding a culture of learning and continuous improvement.

Support our Colleagues

We will be inclusive employers of choice in the Black Country that attract, engage and retain the best colleagues reflecting diversity of our populations.

Care Colleagues
Collaboration Communities

Improve the health of our Communities

We will positively contribute to the health and wellbeing of the communities we serve.

Effective Collaboration

We will provide sustainable healthcare services that maximise efficiency by effective collaboration with our partners.

They are also aligned to our overall vision which is: 'To deliver exceptional care together to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities'.

A vision is more than a few words – it reflects our aspirations, helps to guide our planning, supports our decision-making, prioritises our resources, and attracts new colleagues.

The four Cs and joint vision reflect the closer working relationship between the two Trusts under the leadership of Group Chair, Sir David Nicholson KBC CBE, and Group Chief Executive, Joe Chadwick-Bell.

The Trustees' Mission

The mission of the Charity is to make a real difference to the patients of RWT, their families and the staff that treat them, above and beyond what is provided by the NHS. We support the Trust to realise its vision to be an NHS organisation that continually strives to improve the outcomes and experiences for the communities it serves.

Public Benefit

In planning the Charity's activities, careful consideration is given to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. We must also comply with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011. We support the work of the Trust, however there is a clear distinction between what the Trust is required to provide as an NHS organisation and what is additional public benefit. The application of charitable funds leads to the enhancement of patient care and experience – regardless of our patients' background or personal circumstances.

Charity funds are used to provide the following:

- Additional facilities to enhance the healing environment
- Additional equipment to enhance patient care and experiences
- Opportunities for additional staff training, above and beyond mandatory training
- Opportunities for further medical knowledge through research.

Getting involved and supporting your local hospital and patients of the Trust couldn't be easier. Simply call the Fundraising Team on 01902 447293 or contact us on social media:

The RWT Charity

@therwtcharity

The RWT Charity

Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities can be found below as at 31 March 2025 with comparatives to the previous year. The complete set of Accounts can be found on pages 86-101.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups

Income

£856k

Total Incoming Resources	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000
Donations and Legacies - £461k	351	110
Grants - £187k	0	187
Fundraising - £103k	97	6
Investment income - £105k	68	37
Total - £856k	**516**	**340**

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Endowment £000	2024/25 £000	2023/24 £000
Total incoming resources	516	340	0	**856**	817
Total expenditure	(677)	(361)	0	**(1,038)**	(841)
Net gains/(losses) on investment	11	5	0	**16**	121
Net income/ (expenditure)	**(151)**	**(15)**	**0**	**(166)**	**97**
Transfer between funds	(3)	3	0	0	0
Total brought forward	1,950	790	82	2,822	2,725
Total at 31 March 2025	**1,796**	**778**	**82**	**2,656**	2,822

Expenditure

£1,038k

	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000
Raising funds - (£211k)	(204)	(7)
Charitable activities - (£825k)	(471)	(354)
Other expenditure - (£2k)	(2)	(0)
Total - (£1,038k)	**(677)**	**(361)**

Did you know you can also increase your donation without having to pay more?

Included in the Donations and Legacies and Fundraising income above, is an additional £11k which has been raised through the Gift Aid scheme in 2024/25.

giftaid it
Make donations go further

How does Gift Aid work?

Gift Aid is a scheme run by the government that enables charities to increase the value of donations made by reclaiming basic rate tax that has been paid on the gift. At the moment, we can claim 25p per £1 donated, so on a gift of £100, we will actually receive an extra £25, at no cost to the donor.

The Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025 can be found below with the comparatives to the previous year.

Balance Sheet

	2024/25 £000	2023/24 £000
Fixed Asset Investments	**2,587**	2,571
Debtors & Prepayments	**148**	50
Cash	**218**	372
Creditors	**(298)**	(171)
Net Assets	**2,656**	**2,822**

	2024/25 £000	2023/24 £000
Endowment funds	**82**	82
Restricted funds	**778**	790
Unrestricted funds - Designated	**1,796**	1,604
- Non-designated	**295**	346
Total Funds	**2,656**	2,822



A few helpful definitions:

Throughout this report you may see some terminology you aren't familiar with. Hopefully these next few paragraphs will help you understand the Charity's financial position.

Fixed asset investments - investments held in Shorter (low risk) or Longer (higher risk) Term Investment Portfolios.

Current assets - cash held plus debtors. Debtors is money owed to the Charity at the end of the year. It is made up of accrued income, whereby money is due in for activities taken place in year as well as prepayments. These are payments made in year relating to the next year and so have been removed from the Statement of Financial Activities expenditure.

Current liabilities - creditors falling due within one year for money owed to others for expenses chargeable in the year.

Liabilities - creditors falling due after more than one year for money owed to others for expenses chargeable for previous years.

Net assets - Total assets minus total liabilities.

Endowment funds - represent funds that are held as capital in perpetuity so that only the income is available for distribution.

Restricted income funds - represent money which is held by the Trustees which can only be used for specified purposes. These funds are supervised either by the Fund Advisors within the ward, department or specialty concerned or the Group Chief Executive and Group Chief Financial Officer for more generic purposes.

Unrestricted income funds - are funds available to be spent within the objects of the Charity which can legally be spent wholly at the discretion of the Trustees. In practice, respecting the non-binding preferences expressed by donors, the Trustees have sub categorised the unrestricted income funds under two headings.

- **Designated (earmarked) funds -** represent separate funds which the Trustees have created to accord with sections 90 and 91 of the National Health Service Act 1977 which require that the Trustees respect, as far as practicable, the specific intentions of the gifts received through wards, departments and specialties. By designating funds the Trustees ensure that those gifts are channelled towards charitable purposes in those areas. These funds are supervised by Fund Advisors from the wards, departments and specialties concerned
- **Non-designated funds (general/reserves) -** represent those funds available for distribution by the Trustees at their discretion which have not been restricted or earmarked and can be used as reserves should the need arise. These funds are supervised by the Group Chief Executive and Group Chief Financial Officer

Annual summary

Our Impact

The King's Award for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups

Our Charity mission is that every patient deserves the best care possible. We are here to make a real difference to more than half a million patients treated at RWT, along with their families and the staff who care for them. We aim to go 'above and beyond' what is provided by the NHS enhancing experience through additional facilities and an improved environment, additional equipment that can make a real difference to patient care, opportunities for staff training and to further medical knowledge through research.

The last 12 months have once again been very different to the previous year for various reasons, with the main one being the continuing cost-of-living crisis. Fundraisers have been able to participate in events again which is great news, but sadly people have also found times physically, emotionally, and financially tough. Not only has this impacted our fundraisers but our patients and staff.

In 2024/25 the Charity raised £855,954 in voluntary income, which, including investment income earned from the careful stewardship of our Trust Funds, saw it spend £1,038,068 this year.

Below is a small snapshot of the many ways donations have allowed us to make a significant impact.

For patient comfort and welfare, we provided:

- Comfortline therapy chairs for the Deanesly Unit
- Garden refurbishment for patients on the Neuro Rehab Unit at West Park Hospital
- Giraffe Incubator covers for the Neonatal Unit
- Croyde sleeper chairs
- Garden Transformation for Children's Ward A21

We bought lifesaving and state of the art equipment:

- Surgical Loupes for cardiac surgery
- Accuvein Machine for Paediatrics
- Tracheostomy Mannequin
- Trolleys for Neonatal Unit – patient education

We supported staff training and welfare through:

- Staff Wellbeing Hub and Foodbank.
- The RWT choir, which not only improves staff morale but provides patients and visitors with pleasurable participatory performances

We have been able to support patients and staff over the last 12 months with the following:

- Patients and staff Christmas presents to help bring some joy to those in hospital over the festive period, whether being cared for or providing the care
- Activity packs for patients with dementia
- Toys for Paediatric patients across the Trust
- Arts and crafts activities for patients on the Neuro Rehab Unit
- Chemotherapy packs for patients starting treatment in the Deanesly Unit
- Art murals welcoming our youngest patients and putting them at ease
- Knitted items distributed across our Neonatal Unit, elderly care wards and wards supporting patients with dementia

Aim

The Charity actively supports projects that enhance the delivery and experience of care for all patients and their families. This includes the provision of additional equipment or equipment that is of a higher specification than NHS funding can provide, supporting projects that enhance the healing environment, provide additional training and any other resources that will help make a real difference.

We are grateful for all the support we receive; however, we have further aspirations to enhance patient care and experiences that require us to be ambitious in our income generation activities. We will strive to increase the value of monetary and non-monetary donations we receive year upon year.

We will support our NHS colleagues' commitment to ensuring everyone has equal access to our services, saving lives and improving health outcomes for our diverse community with a key focus on:

- Staff wellbeing
- Improving the patient experience
- Opportunities to further medical knowledge through research
- Engaging with our local community
- Developing partnerships
- Tackling health inequalities

Our Work

Corporate and External Donations

The King's Award for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups

Mayoral boost for our Charity

Your RWTC was thrilled to announce that it is one of the Mayor of Wolverhampton's chosen causes for his year-long term.

Councillor Craig Collingswood was officially appointed the city's 166th Mayor at an inauguration during May's Annual Council Meeting.

His daughter Abby, a Cardiothoracic Nurse at New Cross Hospital's Heart and Lung Centre, is Mayoress.

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "We were over the moon to have been chosen and thank the Mayor and Mayoress for doing so.

"Your RWTC is working hard to raise its profile and promote itself among our communities and those who use healthcare services in our New Cross, West Park and Cannock Chase Hospitals and this invaluable partnership will really boost our efforts to do so. We are looking forward to a busy fundraising year with the Mayor and Mayoress and can't wait to start planning our activities!"

Councillor Collingswood, who has served the Park Ward since 2012 said: "I am immensely proud and deeply grateful to become the First Citizen of our great city.

"Wolverhampton has a rich and proud history. It has witnessed remarkable changes and transformations and has long been a place where innovation and industry have thrived – and today it continues to be a city which embraces diversity, progress and opportunity.

"Our city's motto, out of darkness cometh light, serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration. It reminds us that, even in the face of adversity, we have the power to advance, innovate and shine brightly, and this resonates today more than ever as we continue to work together to bring light to every corner of our city."

He added: "Abby will be a wonderful Mayoress and, together, we promise to act with integrity and put the interests of our city and Wulfrunians first and foremost. Let us work together to make Wolverhampton an even better place for future generations, guided by the light that our motto so brilliantly embodies."

Councillor Collingswood's other charities during his Mayoral year are:

SAFFA, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association

Compton Care, which provides specialist palliative care to adults with life-limiting illnesses

Acorns Children's Hospice, which provides specialist care for children and young people with life-threatening conditions, along with support for their families



Fab four's pride at running total

Wolverhampton NHS colleagues have raised more than £3000 to improve patients' experience after taking on a half marathon.



Brothers Deepak and Pardeep Chand, Suzanne Giles and Michelle Wilding took part in the London Landmarks Half Marathon (LLHM) after securing places via Your RWTC.

Along with almost 19,000 other runners, they set off on the 13.1-mile (21km) course, which took in sightseer favourites including Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral and Trafalgar Square.

The fab four took on the challenge in April 2024 and were all thrilled to have completed the course.

Deepak Chand, Directorate Manager Cardiology said: "It was an amazing experience and very fulfilling after so much training. I enjoyed the crowds and atmosphere. I would say the most difficult thing about the marathon was running whilst feeling unwell, I was struggling from mile one. I feel happy to have raised money for Your RWTC and that it will support those most in need and improve our services."

Pardeep Chand said: "Completing a half marathon for the first ever time has given me confidence to try for another knowing I'm capable of doing anything if I put my mind to it. I enjoyed seeing my older brother pushing me to go faster and the mile long crowds cheering was a massive confidence booster. The most difficult thing about the marathon was knowing I had another 10 miles to go after completing three. I feel great knowing that the money I raised will help and change someone's life somewhere along the line."

For Suzanne Giles, Staff Nurse (Adult), this was her first half marathon. She said: "It was very emotional as I had trained very hard and didn't quite know what to expect. I felt exhilarated at the end. There was plenty to see around London; each landmark was another mile and there were plenty of choir's drums to keep me energised. The crowds and the marshals were there to shout your name if I were flagging and plenty of water and jelly babies provided throughout. It was such an honour to raise monies for Your RWTC to support patients, relatives and staff who need it."

Michelle Wilding, Senior Sister, said: "Running the LLHM was an amazing experience! At the start, I remember feeling so nervous as it was my first half marathon experience and I did not know what to expect. But once I started running, the support of the crowds and all the entertainment along the way made it so enjoyable. The last three miles were the toughest as I felt so tired at this point, but the supporters gave me the incentive to carry on. The sense of achievement I felt when I crossed that finish line was amazing and made it all worth it. The money we have raised for Your RWTC is an unbelievable amount and knowing it is going to such a special charity makes it all worth the hard work and I can't wait to take part in future events to raise even more."

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, said: "Our colleagues did so well – we're proud of their achievement. The money raised will us create the best experience possible for patients and their families."

Triathlon challenge to raise money for exceptional unit

A father will have taken on four gruelling triathlons to raise funds for an 'exceptional' Wolverhampton Neonatal department.

Anthony Baker, a senior recruitment consultant, said his twin daughters, Lucy and Olivia, had fantastic care during their time on New Cross Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).



They were born on August 21 2020 weighing about 4 pounds.

Anthony said: "We were told the girls were Monochorionic Monoamniotic twins (MCMA) which is a rare type of identical twins who not only share a placenta but also share the same amniotic sac (pocket of fluid).

"They carry a higher risk of complications so were born at 32 weeks and spent close to a month on NICU.

"The care and dedication of the team who looked after them was exceptional.

"They were born in the middle of the pandemic so things were very different in the hospital but still staff were amazing. They supported my wife Rachel and answered all her questions. They let us have our own room so we could stay with the twins before they were discharged home and they really looked after us and the girls."

Anthony completed his first triathlon in April in Wombourne. This consisted of a 400m swim, 20k cycle and 5k run.

He said: "I always like to challenge myself so I thought I would take part in some triathlons and raise some money for the Neonatal Unit to say thank you for the amazing care they provided.

"I am training while I can and my biggest challenge will take place on 8 September where I will be doing a half ironman distance triathlon.

"I have never really done anything like this before so I am pushing myself."

Anthony also took on:

Ellesmere Olympic Triathlon – 30 June (1500m swim, 40k cycle, 10k run)

The Big Welsh swim, Llyn Padarn – 6 July (6k swim)

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, said: "We are very grateful for Anthony's support and wish him all the best with his fundraising adventures. We know our Neonatal teams offer incredible support to our families and are always touched when people want to give something back in this way."

Bereaved couple's special cot donation

A bereaved couple have donated a specialised cot that allows parents to spend time with their stillborn babies to New Cross Hospital's Neonatal Unit.



Satveer Kaur Binning, and her husband Shanghara Singh Binning, lost their baby daughter Siaan Kaur Binning on 16 October 2023.

Siaan was stillborn and the couple were able to spend two nights and three days with her thanks to the provision of a cold cot at University of Coventry Hospital.

Despite their grief, Satveer and Shanghara decided to raise money for cold cots in four other local hospitals so other people could be close to their stillborn babies.

A gofundme page they set up raised more than £10,000 – allowing them to buy four of the £2,500 cots. They also plan to set up a registered charity, called the Siaan Kaur Foundation.

"The thought of parents having to rush their time with their babies hurts our hearts," they said.

"When Siaan was born, the conversation soon turned to her funeral and sending her to the hospital morgue.

"We want to be a light in each parent's journey who sadly have to say goodbye to their babies."

Each cold cot will have a plaque with Siaan Kaur's name on so she can be remembered for helping others.

"This did not sit right with us as we had spent nine months dreaming of our first moments with our baby, her funeral not being one of them.

While no time is enough, having access to a cold cot gives bereaved parents the opportunity to spend more time with their baby.

Kate Horton, Family Support/Bereavement Nurse at RWT, said: "This donation is going to make a massive difference – it means parents can spend time with their babies after they pass away rather than having to go to the chapel of rest. We have one on the Neonatal Unit already but this means if the parents want to go home, they can borrow one and take it with them."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "We are so thankful to Satveer and Shanghara for providing a cold cot to support other bereaved families at such a difficult time for them.



"Having the cold cot will support families at their most difficult time and help with the grieving process."

Football stadiums walk raises £4,000 for garden appeal

West Midlands football fans – and ex-players – put their rivalries aside and their best feet forward to raise £4,000 to fund the revamp of a garden used by young Wolverhampton patients.

Jude Aston, an Aston Villa fanatic, joined Wolves diehard Jason Guy and his friend Gav Ingles – a supporter of arch rivals West Bromwich Albion – on the 21.6-mile Rivalries Aside walk. Their efforts were to raise money for the Children's Ward garden at New Cross Hospital.

Starting at Birmingham City's St Andrew's @ Knighthead Park at 8am, 14 people walked to Villa Park, then on to Albion's The Hawthorns and Walsall's Poundland Stadium before finishing at Molineux, home of Wolves, some eight and a half hours later.

They were all joined by former Birmingham and Wolves full back Kevin Ashley, who walked 13 miles from St. Andrew's to Walsall before succumbing to an old knee injury.



Former Birmingham forward Paul Devlin cheered the walkers off at the start, and at Poundland Stadium they were greeted by Martin O'Connor – ex-skipper of Birmingham and Walsall – former Walsall player Mark Taylor, and one-time British light-welterweight Walsall boxing champion Martin Gethin.

To promote the walk, Jason and Gav even swapped shirts to wear the jerseys of their arch rivals as they neared the finish.

Jude, who has cerebral palsy, spent a lot of time in the Children's Ward with Complex Regional Pain Syndrome where his right leg was doubled up after he suffered a reaction to treatment.

"It felt to finish the walk – it was a great challenge and I enjoyed being in the company of great people," said Jude. There were lots of football fans who came together for this great cause – to create the best garden we can for the Children's Ward at New Cross Hospital. It was a long, tough day and everyone was tired at the end, but it was all worth it."

Since taking the brave decision to have his lower leg amputated, Jude now has a prosthetic limb which means he can walk unaided.

A blister meant Jude had to use his wheelchair on the walk, but he managed to hop the final 100 yards with physio Andre King to the Billy Wright statue outside Molineux.

The walkers braved early showers in Birmingham to finish in bright sunshine. Gav's wife Sarah kept

everyone hydrated with drinks and snacks en route, and Wolves fan Manny Singh Kang, who has raised more than £260,000 for Dementia UK, surprised everyone by handing out samosas.

Shortly after the walk, Jude had raised £2,057.99, Jason and Gav added £1,414.38 and another walker, schoolteacher Robbie Meakin, had contributed £460.

Jason and wife Aimee previously raised £14,171.08 from fundraising runs and Jason and former footballer Neil 'Razor' Ruddock having tattoos.

Their daughter Olivia spent six weeks in the Neonatal Unit at New Cross and has 1pc36, an intellectual disorder.

Kirsty Lewis, Senior Matron for Acute Children's Services at RWT, said: "Well done and thank you to everyone who took part."

Thousands raised for Stroke appeal

A team of dedicated staff cycled more than 1,000 miles to raise money for specialist equipment to be used in New Cross Hospital's Stroke Department.

Staff from C21 (Stroke Ward) clocked up 1,416 miles in May to mark one mile for every inpatient they treated last year.



The money raised for Your RWTC will fund a piece of advanced heart monitoring software.

The money will go towards a piece of equipment the team will use to monitor stroke patients with more intensity and precision. This will reduce life-threatening complications as well as increasing the opportunity to identify Atrial Fibrillation (AF). This is the biggest cause of ischeamic strokes, leading to better interventions and treatments for patients.

The inpatient ward area (C21) currently treats about 1,200 patients per year and the clinicians see around 1,000 more in the Emergency Department (ED) that prove to be non-strokes.

They provide a 24/7 thrombolysis service and have direct access to the thrombectomy service at University Hospitals of North Midlands in Stoke. All stroke patients are seen in ED by a specialist stroke team which provides 24/7 cover.

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, said: "We are so proud of colleagues' commitment to making a difference for our patients. "

Donation from dedicated supporter

A dedicated charity supporter raised another £4,000 to help Wolverhampton cancer patients have a more comfortable stay in hospital.



Carol Beddow was treated for lung cancer at New Cross Hospital after being diagnosed in 2020 and wanted to raise money for the Snowdrop Unit as a thank you for the care she received.

She has since held three fundraising events for Your RWTC – raising more than £5,000 in total.

The latest event she held was a family charity fun day in March at The Grapes Bar and Grill in Bilston. Helped again by grandsons Trent and Myles Beddow,

Carol put on the fun day with a bouncy castle, bingo, a raffle and competitions which raised £4,000.

This paid for 34 iPads for cancer patients to use while they are having chemotherapy.

She said: "My plan is to keep on fundraising until all 52 beds across both Snowdrop Unit and Durnall Unit at The Deanesly Centre have a device. Having chemotherapy can be so long, lonely and boring so having access to an IPad or Kindle will help take their mind off things. I hope the devises help lift their spirits. When I was having my treatment, I was sat there for six hours and this time went very slowly as I didn't have any access to entertainment so knowing I can make a difference and help others going through the same process really inspires me."

Carol said she had received a lot of support from her grandsons and the community. She said: "Everyone has been so generous and I am so proud of how much we have raised. My boys are my rocks and I'm very proud of them – they've even sold raffle tickets to their friends. I also want to thank my friends Deborah Jackson and Barry Jones for helping on the fun day and helping me raise the funds. Without their help I couldn't have raised the amount I did."

Lindsey Wagstaff, Community and Events Fundraising Officer, said: "It's amazing what Carol and her grandsons have done and we thank them for once again raising such a fantastic amount of money. This will really benefit our cancer patients while they are receiving their treatment."

Nephew's £2,000 Ironman cancer fundraiser for ward

A former footballing prodigy raised more than £2,000 to support Wolverhampton cancer patients in their recovery by completing a gruelling endurance event.

Joe Hartshorne, 25, tackled the Ironman 70.3 Bolton – a 1.9km swim, a 90km bike ride and a half marathon (13.1-mile) run.

The ex-England schoolboy international crossed the finish line in seven and a half hours, including transitions.

Joe raised £2,070 for Ward C35 Acute Chemotherapy at New Cross Hospital – part of RWT – where his aunt, Lorraine Haynes, received treatment.

Lorraine,– known as Ray by her family – was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) in January 2024.



Joe wanted to improve the balcony/courtyard area off the ward where patients relax and exercise between their treatments.

Joe, who was on the books of Wolves, West Bromwich Albion and Walsall as a youngster, said: "Patients can't leave the area because of the infection risk and it could do with improving, so it would be good to pay for some nicer garden furniture and some plants."

Joe, who works as a bathroom salesman, achieved splits of 43 minutes, 35 seconds for the swim, 3.57 for the cycling and 2.33 for the run to place 1,362nd out of 1,435 finishers after 1,900 started.

"It was the best day of my life and there were quite a few tears at the end," said Joe. With 10k to go, all my family were there and I was really struggling, but I tried to show them I wasn't tearful knowing there was one more loop.



Aunty Ray had been tracking me on the Ironman app and she shed a tear."

Joe trained by swimming, cycling and running three or four times a week of distances of around 1.5km, 45km and 10km respectively.

Lorraine said: "I'm very proud of Joe. While receiving chemo I spent a lot of time in the garden area. The fresh air helped me remain positive. I'm sure the new furniture will help patients and their visitors enjoy the area as much as I did."

Kayleigh Morgan, Guest Acting Ward Manager for C35 Chemotherapy Ward, said: "Joe's fundraising is fantastic. All the staff are very grateful for his hard work.

"Lots of our patients have extended stays, so they'll all appreciate the garden being revamped. Thank you for your efforts."

Staff in Wolf Run to raise £2,500 for Children's Ward

Big-hearted hospital staff got down and dirty for a good cause and raised £2,500 for equipment for a new facility in Wolverhampton.

Twenty-two colleagues from the Children's Ward at New Cross Hospital completed the Wolf Run, a mud event in rural Leicestershire involving wading through water and negotiating 15 obstacles.



Staff Nurses, Sisters, Senior Sisters, a Matron, Doctors in training and Consultants waded through chest-high water and thick mud to raise £2,550.

The money will go towards funding extra equipment on the Children's Ward.



Sarah Lewis, Matron, Children's Specialities and Outpatients, took part and said: "We were all at different levels of ability but on average completed the course in around two to two and half hours.

"There were 15 obstacles as well as river swims and mud pits – it was so slippy we had to pull each other out of the mud and swim through water. If any of us were struggling the others pulled them through it, so we helped each other and it was really good for teamwork and morale. At the end, those who finished earlier were all waiting at the finish line cheering us on. I didn't think I would enjoy it but it was really good fun and we said we're going to do it again next year."

Amanda Winwood, RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "This was a really big effort by so many colleagues and the money will make a huge difference ."



Teacher gets top marks in fundraising

A kind-hearted teacher completed a fun run and raised money to put smiles on children's faces while they're being treated at New Cross Hospital.

Theo Price took part in the Great Midlands Fun Run which saw runners set off on an 8.5-mile course in Sutton Coldfield.

He raised £490 for Your RWTC's Singing Medicine appeal which sees group – Ex Cathedra Singing Medicine – bring songs and games to poorly youngsters in hospital to improve their health and wellbeing.



The Hallmoor School teacher said: "I did this fundraiser because my work colleague wanted to raise awareness of Singing Medicine as they have provided a lot of smiles to his daughter while in hospital. I wanted to help out in any way I could.

"What I enjoyed most about the run was seeing the whole community out to support the 6000 participants. Especially, those individuals who had their garden hoses out to cool you down as you passed. People were electric. Everyone was in positive spirits with lots of support for all the participants. At times they were motivating everyone throughout the run by sharing positive thoughts or giving a high five. The most difficult part was the heat! It was a blistering hot day and the sun was relentless. I was so thankful for the volunteers who were handing out water at checkpoints."

The father-of-one added: "I felt delighted to finish a run of that nature and to beat the personal time target I set myself. It felt amazing to sprint the last 100metres in front of a packed high street and to do it under 57 minutes. I was lost for words as I expected to complete the run around the hour mark. And not to mention raising £562 – a number I never expected to achieve. I appreciate all those who donated."

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, said: "Watching the joy on children's faces when Singing Medicine has visited has been priceless. We would like to thank Theo for supporting us and helping to raise awareness."

Half a million reasons to be grateful to ex Goodyear workers

Kind-hearted former Goodyear factory workers, whose donations to support patients at Wolverhampton's New Cross and West Park Hospitals total almost £500,000, ended an impressive run with their final handover.

Thanks to the efforts of members of the 5/344 Branch of the Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Fund, anaesthetic machines have been bought for RWT's Theatres, wheelchair accessible exercise bikes are being used by those undergoing rehabilitation and rooms have been transformed for young cancer patients.

The fund also donated £50,150 for machines to help skin cancer patients in the Black Country.

And these are just a few examples of members' generosity over the last seven years – with them visiting New Cross Hospital in July 2024 to make their final donation before the fund is wound down. The fund's total spend – including across Birmingham – is more than £3.4 million.



Chair and Trustee Cyril Barrett joined supporters to see an ECG machine for paediatric patients handed over on the Children's Ward.



Motivated by a passion for the NHS and a desire to leave a meaningful legacy to bring benefits to both patients and the staff who treat them, Cyril said he was proud of everything the fund had achieved.

"Over the years we've been able to see for ourselves just how vital equipment donations are or how much of a difference our fundraising efforts have made to patients of all ages," he said.

"We have raised just shy of £650,000 for worthy causes across the Black Country since 2016 and the lion's share has come here to Wolverhampton's hospitals. We believe passionately in the NHS and are proud to have supported Wolverhampton to the tune of almost £500,000.

"We have been part of a special presentation today to mark our final donation as the fund is wound down and it has been fantastic to get people together and reflect on everything we've been able to achieve."

Gwen Nuttall, who was Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive at RWT at that time, said: "To hear that almost £500,000 in total has been so kindly donated to our hospitals and services is phenomenal, although there don't seem adequate words to describe just how fantastic this gesture is.

"Cyril has spoken a lot about a love for the NHS and the desire of members to leave a legacy now the fund is coming to an end. Rest assured – what you have done over the years has absolutely provided a legacy. A legacy that shows the very best of our communities and gives us all an example of what true dedication looks like.

"On behalf of everyone whose care and treatment has been improved as a direct result of your thoughtfulness, thank you."

The final donation of the ECG machine means children and young people won't have to leave the Paediatric Unit and go to the Heart and Lung Centre at New Cross Hospital as this equipment will be on hand."

Cyril added his thanks to trustees Mark Jenkins, Paul Baugh , Roy Dudley and Barrie Malia for their help and support over the years.

New training aid donated to breast care team

Breast Care Nurses in Wolverhampton can now use a new training aid to help educate women on how to do self-checks thanks to a cancer support group.

Stafford-based Terrible Titties and Other Bitties donated the new training aid, called Bertha, to the Breast Care Team at RWT.

Debbie Dickson, Clinical Nurse Specialist – Breast Care, said the demonstration model will be used for staff training as well as patient education.



She said: "New members within the team will be able to use the model as a training aid so it will be multi-use. We will also use it for patient education on how to self-examine when we do awareness roadshows and events. This is the first time we have had a training aid like this, and it is going to be so useful. It

can be tricky to know how exactly to examine yourself and know what feels normal so this training aid will be so helpful. We are so grateful to Terrible Titties and really appreciate the support from them. They are a fantastic group."

The group also donates comfort boxes for patients having chemotherapy. The boxes contain lip balm, a stress ball, notepad, water bottle and other self-care goodies.

Rachel Millar, a committee member of Terrible Titties, said the breast care team asked for the crucial training aid as one of its wish list items.

She said: "Supporting our local hospitals and making a real difference in our community has always been at the heart of our mission.

"Bertha is no ordinary training aid. She's designed to be taken out into the community to educate women on how to do breast self-checks, raise awareness, and shatter the stigma around getting those all-important breast exams from medical professionals. With Bertha, we hope to break down barriers and encourage more women to take charge of their health. We have also bought one ourselves for when we do community awareness events.

"Thanks to the incredible fundraising efforts of our supporters, we are extremely proud to support our local hospitals with essential projects like this. It's moments like these that remind us of the power of community and the amazing things we can achieve together."

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, added: "This kind donation will help support the importance of education to women around breast self-checks and raising awareness. Their generous donation will help the Breast Care team support our local community even further."

Simon's £3,000 fundraiser after "lifesaving" care

A grateful patient whose life was saved by intensive care staff has scaled three of Britain's most dangerous climbs to raise £3,000 for Wolverhampton's Integrated Critical Care Unit.

Father-of-two Simon Burke was placed in a coma for 10 days with sepsis group A streptococcal invasive tropical toxic syndrome. He spent two weeks on a ventilator, 39 days in New Cross Hospital and lost nearly three stone.

Group A streptococcus, also called group A strep, is a bacterium that can cause many different infections, including sepsis, a life-threatening emergency.

Simon managed to climb the notorious 3,000-feet ascent "knife-edged" Crib Goch, the 3,494-feet Garnedd Ugain – the second highest-peak in Wales – followed by the tallest, Snowdon (3,558-feet).

He raised the money for the ICCU, through Your RWTC, after a fight to save his life.

Wife Lucie, 46 who is Supervisor at the café in the Heart and Lung Centre at New Cross Hospital, mounted a daily bedside vigil, prepared for the worst.

"I was at death's door," said Simon. "There were a few days when I wasn't expected to pull through. A couple of times my wife was told to come into hospital to put my affairs in order."



In hospital he had the idea of giving back. "I kept dreaming about walking," he said. "So I thought about doing a fundraising walk because the ICCU staff saved my life. I didn't think walking up Snowdon was enough, so I thought I needed to make it more dangerous, so I decided to do Crib Gogh. They call it Razor Edge – there are sheer drops on either side."

Simon undertook the daredevil walk with close friend Morgan Taylor.

"The ICCU staff were fantastic. One Nurse always phoned Lucie when she wasn't at my bedside," he added.

Gerardine Hardisty, Matron, ICCU, said: "Well done and a huge thank you to Simon. What an outstanding effort from Simon after all he has been through."

Neighbours bring triple boost to cancer patients

Generous neighbours – all of whom have some experience of cancer –held a fundraising get-together to benefit patients being treated at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.



Organised by Wayne Edwards and Ray Quinn, people of all ages living in the same street in Codsall, created a party atmosphere where everyone was encouraged to seek each other out for a chat, a drink and cake. And their efforts raised £650 for RWT with a further £110 for Cancer Research UK.

Through early detection of cancer cells, Wayne elected to have preventative surgery to avoid possible further health problems.

He admits it wasn't until he opened up more about his own story that he realised how many others within the community are either going through a similar experience or know family members or friends who are.

"Ray and I wanted to recapture the support for the NHS that we'd all seen during the COVID-19 pandemic when everyone would come out on their doorsteps and clap for our NHS workers," said Wayne, a father of one. "When you go through a cancer diagnosis it really brings home to you just how amazing our NHS is. My surgeon at New Cross and all the Nursing staff who supported and cared for me after my operation have been fantastic. I can't thank them enough."

Wayne had ignored a couple of bowel screening tests that came through the post – something he describes as "a typical male response."

"Men are generally uncomfortable talking about health issues," he said. "But I did the third test when it came, and I was contacted for a follow up which then led to my diagnosis. I was lucky to be offered robotic resection surgery. It just goes to show how important early diagnosis is and also that we do talk about these things. I have since had conversations with people who have also put things off, and some for whom a diagnosis came too late which is a very sobering thought.

"Striking up conversations in our street and wider community you realise just how many of us are affected by cancer, either personally, or through someone we know and love."

Wayne, who works for ADT Fire & Security, added the neighbourly get together brought different generations closer and recreated a real community spirit whilst also raising money for a worthy cause.

"To see some our elderly neighbours out and about and enjoying a chat and a laugh was great, and I think it's something we'll do again. The most important thing is we all wanted to say thank you to everyone who came along and supported the day."

A total of £650 was raised which will be split three ways with £220 going to both Bowel Cancer and Breast Cancer teams at the Trust and £210 going towards childhood leukaemia.

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, added: "It was a pleasure to meet Wayne and hear all about what turned out to be not only a popular fundraiser but also a lovely community gesture. We'd like to thank him, Ray, and all the kind-hearted neighbours who raised this money to help other cancer patients in our care."

Appeal launched to help chemotherapy patients

A £40,000 fundraising appeal has been launched for a new set of scalp cooling caps to help more cancer patients reduce hair loss while undergoing chemotherapy at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.

Scalp cooling caps have been shown to reduce hair loss, with 50 per cent of patients retaining at least half of their hair.



The Deanesly Centre at the hospital launched the fundraising campaign, supported by Your RWTC.

The campaign kicked off with a fun day held in the Deanesly Centre which included a tombola, raffle, cake sale, name the bear game and guess the number of sweets.

An impressive £1,383.29 was raised and got the appeal off to a good start.

Helen Boyce, Group Manager, for Haematology, Oncology and Specialist Palliative Care, said the event was a huge success.

She said: "We were overwhelmed with how well our launch event went. It was really well supported by staff, patients and our Charity Team. We had lots of fantastic prizes which were donated by local businesses such as the Grand Theatre, Monmore Green Stadium and M.G Timber Products. It has been a fantastic start and we are planning more activities to raise the money for the cooling caps.

"Hair loss can be one of the most upsetting side effects of chemotherapy. It is the most visible sign a person is having treatment for cancer and can affect self-confidence and sense of identity. The caps work by narrowing the blood vessels beneath the skin of the scalp, reducing the amount of chemotherapy medicine that reaches the hair follicles. With less chemotherapy medicine in the follicles, the hair is less likely to fall out."



Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, said: "We are very proud of the Deanesly team for making such an amazing effort to kickstart their fundraising appeal. The cooling caps will provide much-needed support for our patients. It's wonderful to see such dedication to fundraising and improving patient care. Best of luck to everyone involved in reaching that target."

Widow's heart care donation

A generous widow has made a donation from the heart to Wolverhampton's Cardiology Unit after the "exemplary" care her late husband received.

Kim Bradburn visited Your RWTC with a donation of £1055.04 as a thank you after her husband Paul died.



Paul had been under the care of Dr Sanjiv Petkar (Consultant Cardiologist/Lead for Electrophysiology and Devices) and Lydia Bradley (Cardiac Rhythm Management Service Lead Physiologist), at New Cross Hospital for the past 18 years.

He had a lifesaving defibrillator fitted in 2013 and an additional wire added in 2014.

He had some challenging times with his health and started to receive palliative care at one stage – before managing to pull through.

Paul had received several procedures whilst being a patient including cauterisation on three occasions.

Kim said: "Paul changed over the years with his illness, and he was frustrated that he could no longer work as a roofer.

"However, no one ever gave up on him at the hospital. Even the day he died on the Respiratory Ward, he had a hole in two chambers of his heart and pneumonia. The team told him they would do everything to get him through and close the hole in his heart; the care was exemplary."

Dr Petkar said: "It was a privilege looking after Paul. He was such a lovely gentleman who had a great personality and would brighten up your day even when he was so poorly. He always had a joke to share. I have a lot of admiration for Kim also for supporting him through the difficult times she's faced."

Lydia added: "It has been a privilege to look after Paul. I will miss him in clinic, he always made me laugh and I can remember being part of the team undertaking his first implant 18 years ago, a lovely man".

More than 200 people attended Paul's funeral which included family, friends and colleagues he had worked with over the years.

The collections raised from the funeral were donated to the Cardiology Unit as a 'thank you' from the family.

A donation of post it notes for nurses to use was also made by Paul's niece Kelly who owns Rainbow Office Supplies in Wolverhampton with her husband. Kelly also wrote a poem which was included at the funeral.

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager said: "Thank you to Kim for this donation. It was so lovely to hear how loved Paul was and that he received great care at our Trust."

Poem: 'My Uncle Polla' by Niece Kelly

Your bright white hair that shone like silver,
With laughter, jokes, and tales you'd weave,
A life so full, it's hard to believe.

A master of roofs, your hands so skilled,
Each tile in place, your passion fulfilled,
A job well-loved, a trade you knew,
In every roof, your legacy grew.

I'll miss our chats, and those calls so dear,
The sound of your voice, your presence is near,
You'd joke, you'd laugh, the way you'd tease,
In these memories, I will find some ease.

Reunited now, with Nan, Grandad and Mick
Pinching grandads egg custards, memories so thick
I now picture you with a cigar in hand,
In eternal joy, where you all now stand.
My dear Uncle Paul, forever in my heart,
Your presence lingers, strong and true,
Until we meet again, I'll never forget you xx

Fundraising in memory of a special baby boy

A bereaved couple whose first baby sadly died, after being born prematurely and extremely poorly, are determined to help other families who need the support of the Neonatal Unit at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.

Spencer and Kelly Cree lost their son Freddie when he was three days old in May 2016. He was born just under 24 weeks and weighed 1.2 pounds.

Freddie was born at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital but was transferred to New Cross for the Neonatal Intensive Care he needed.

Kelly said: "He was cared for by wonderful Doctors and Nurses – they didn't just look after him, they looked after us too.

"New Cross staff were absolutely amazing, we could not fault any second they looked after our boy and they also provided us with a room to sleep in, showers and three meals a day without question.

"Lindsey was our main Nurse who was so friendly and supportive. Our little boy fought on but we were told Freddie was not improving and there was nothing more that could be done. He was suffering and we had to make the decision for Freddie to be taken off his machines. He passed away on 22 May which destroyed us mentally and emotionally."

Kelly and Spencer requested donations at their son's funeral and raised £500 in his memory.

They raised £3,000 back in 2018 after Spencer and two friends Phil Coleman and Rob Salter walked up Mount Snowdon in Wales and the couple held a charity night at Dudley Ex-servicemen's Club.

Spencer, a van driver for Mitie, where Kelly is an account manager, said: "We were going to do more events to mark Freddie's 10th birthday but we have the attitude of "Why wait?" so we are carrying on now."



They raised £1700 from a charity darts match, supported by West Midlands Air Ambulance and their daughter Ruby-Mae sold bracelets and keyrings she made.

The couple also want to thank Nicci Sutton from Dudley Ex-Servicemen's Club for all her support with their fundraising.



"We just want to do what we can to help other families – whether that's money for extra milk warmers or more equipment for Neonatal," added Kelly.

"This was the worst time of our lives and we couldn't have got through it without the care and compassion shown to us."

Amanda Winwood, RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "I can't believe how dedicated this family is to helping others after going through such tragedy themselves.

"Their selflessness will help so many other families and our Neonatal Team is so grateful for their generosity."

'Spooky' Surinder makes donation to children

A self-styled 'Halloween Queen' got into the spirit of the season to raise more than £1,000 for poorly children in Wolverhampton.



Civil servant Surinder Mann raises money every year for charity and this time chose the Children's Ward at New Cross Hospital.

The mum of two has so far raised £1,095 – her biggest amount and more than double last year's total – following a Halloween event she held at her workplace.

She organised several Halloween-themed activities such as Bhangra dancing, a bake off, and origami activity.

Local businesses generously donated a driving experience in a Porsche, go-karting, a Merrythought Bear, a trip to West Midlands Safari Park, and a spa day, among the highlights.

The money has been used to buy pens, colouring books, games, puzzles and toys for sick children in hospital.

Surinder has spent much of her spare time over many weeks organising the event and is grateful for the help she has had from her work colleagues, and her husband Suky Mann.

"I just like to give back to the community and do my bit," said Surinder.

"It will be great to see the children's faces.

"I've had a lot of support from work colleagues, so special thanks to Sarah Johnson and Amie Fewtrell for their tireless work and fantastic support promoting and selling raffle tickets, and Amie for helping with obtaining the prizes.

"I could not have done it without these wonderful colleagues. A huge shoutout too to our local Indian food suppliers who supplied more than 300 samosas, onion bhajis, and eggless cakes which added a boost to our fundraising success."

Suky contributed towards food supplies, as well as collecting and delivering them.

"It was hard work, but it paid off as we had a lot more prizes this year – and people have said they are the best prizes they have seen," added Surinder.

Sarah Lewis, Matron, Acute Paediatrics at RWT, said: "It's a lovely way to celebrate Halloween and bring some joy, so we're very grateful to Surinder."

Piano players prove the best medicine

Piano-playing Nurses are hitting the right notes for staff and patients alike at Wolverhampton's Heart and Lung Centre.



Two Staff Nurses at New Cross Hospital have been entertaining people by playing a baby grand piano in the foyer of the Heart and Lung Centre, where they both work.

Nikko Phodaca, who is based in the Integrated Critical Care Unit (ICCU), and Daniel Aboyeji, who works on B15 Catheter Suite, tinkle the ivories before or after their shifts, or during breaks.

The piano was donated by the family of Cecil Billing, the father of Dr Stephen Billing, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at RWT.

And its arrival is the start of a vision of Your RWTC to improve the health and wellbeing of patients, staff and visitors.

Amanda Winwood Charity Development Manager, said:

"We wanted to enhance the environment for our patients and staff by creating a soothing atmosphere. We have found staff enjoy playing the piano during their breaks to entertain patients, visitors and colleagues – we also have two Porters interested, one of whom has done his piano grades.



"But we also want it to be a magnet for musicians of the future. We want to have a rota of students from universities and musical groups to coming in to play it to continue the positive effect of health and wellbeing on everyone who comes into the Heart and Lung Centre."

The piano has some history in healthcare too as Cecil, who died aged 87 last November, used to entertain residents at Compton Care, where he volunteered as a driver after retiring.

Nikko arrived in the UK from The Philippines at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020.

Growing up in a musical household, he has played the violin for 28 years and is self-taught with the piano.

"When we were growing up, we didn't have a TV and were only allowed to play on our computer for as long as we had practised on our instruments,"

recalled Nikko. "Our house was filled with music.

"I can play 60 or 70 songs. I like to cover pop songs – I love Lionel Richie, Born For You by Daniel Pomeranz, Shallow by Lady GaGa, a couple from Adele and Sam Smith, plus Coldplay, Bruno Mars and songs from Disney.

"But I also like to play old love ballads from The Philippines – they remind me of home.

"The first time I played in the Heart and Lung lobby, my line manager videoed me and put it on the ICCU Facebook page.

"When I play the piano, I get totally immersed in the music and I'm lost in what I'm doing and the melody of the piano.

"Sometimes I get goosebumps from playing, and when I hear people clapping on the stairs I get shy!"

After posting his violin playing on Facebook during lockdown, Nikko was asked to perform for colleagues during staff handover at shift change, and he played an emotional version of Queen's 'We Are The Champions'.

Daniel has been playing piano for a decade after teaching himself on YouTube at home in Nigeria.

He prefers classical music but loves 'Let Her Go' by Passenger and Oceans' 'Where Feet May Fail' and also plays at the Dominion City Church in Wolverhampton City Centre.

"I saw the piano in the lobby for a while before playing it, and when I did start, it was the first time I'd played since I was in Nigeria," he said.

"I listen to a lot of music and play whatever inspires me – I just love playing.

"I've received a lot of positive comments and hearing them makes me want to play."

Mr Billing said: "My dad loved playing the piano and to donate it just seemed like a nice thing to do, just like they have pianos in railway stations.

"It raises spirits when people play it – the music spreads through the Heart and Lung Centre and you can hear it down the corridors. I think it makes the atrium a less aseptic place."

The Charity supported with costs for the piano to be dismantled and removed from Mr Billing senior's house and re-assembled, along with a donation plaque.

Diabetes Centre is £1,000 prize winner

Wolverhampton's Diabetes Centre received a £1,000 boost after an IT team generously donated its national award prize money.



The Software Development Team at RWT won the Evolve Project of the Year Award in NDL's Community Awards for developing a diabetes podiatry system tool.

Diabetes can reduce the blood supply to feet and cause a loss of feeling. These problems can lead to ulcers and infections.

The replacement tool screens data from some 100,000 patients across Wolverhampton, Walsall and South Staffordshire from GPs and Pathology as well as retinas so the condition can be identified quicker in those who might be more susceptible to it.

It also provides a full summary care record to manage all identified Diabetes and Podiatry patients on an ongoing basis.

This includes referrals, test requests recording medications, observations (BMI etc) and diagnoses (e.g. Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes) data. It integrates with Pathology retinal and regional data sets to provide users with the care record. This is also able to show key data visually, using historical trend graphs for each metric, such as height, weight and cholesterol.

Both the Software Development Team and the Diabetes Centre – which recently celebrated its 30th anniversary – are based at New Cross Hospital.



And it was a real example of cross-team working over two years, with the Software Development Team liaising closely with Professor Baldev Singh, Consultant in Diabetes and Endocrinology at RWT.

Richard Hough, who leads the 10-strong team as Software Development Manager at RWT, said: "We were delighted to win this award, and it only seemed fair and right to donate it to our own Diabetes Centre, so diabetes patients can benefit.

"Prof. Singh was very involved in helping to design the tool, and through close dealings with him over time we have become aware of how big a problem diabetes is in this region.

"A lot of people don't know they have diabetes and this tool should identify patients with the condition quicker."

Based in Wetherby, West Yorkshire, NDL is a national company which enables digital transformation across the public sector.

Declan Grogan, Chief Executive Officer of NDL, said: "To create something that is so helpful to patient research is both very impressive and very rewarding.

"Congratulations and well done on this fantastic achievement."

All aboard the Santa Express!

Poorly children from Wolverhampton and Walsall enjoyed a magical trip on board the Santa Express thanks to the generosity of a volunteer-run railway.



The trip, organised by Your RWTC and Walsall Healthcare's Well Wishers charity, whisked youngsters on a festive train trip around Chasewater Country Park in Burntwood.

Sophia was one of the special VIPs onboard.

She said:

"I love Christmas – it is my favourite time of year. It was so exciting to meet Santa."

Her mum Michelle Bowdler said it was fantastic to go on the train together as a family with her husband Tom and daughter Paige.

She said:

"Due to Sophia's treatment it is really hard to get together and do something as a family. It is a really special start to Christmas."

Thanks to Chasewater Railway, families who use the hospital services at RWT and Walsall Healthcare were able to ride on the train for free.

Those on board were able to take in the beautiful scenery whilst also meeting Santa and his elves.

Another special passenger was Olivia and her younger brother Jonas. Olivia has 1p36 deletion syndrome, a disorder that typically causes severe intellectual disability and spent last Christmas day in hospital.

Her mum Aimee said:

"It is such a lovely event to be part of, thank you. Olivia really loves all the festive lights and tinsel, so it has been a magical ride."

Verity was on the train with her twin sisters Sienna and Sofia, and brother Joseph. Verity has CDKL5 deficiency which is a rare neurodevelopmental condition.



Her mum Sarah said:

" It is really lovely and nice to come out and celebrate Christmas as a family."



Andy Mould, Director of Chasewater Railway, said:

"We wanted to put on these special NHS Santa Express Trains free of charge to give something back to the community.

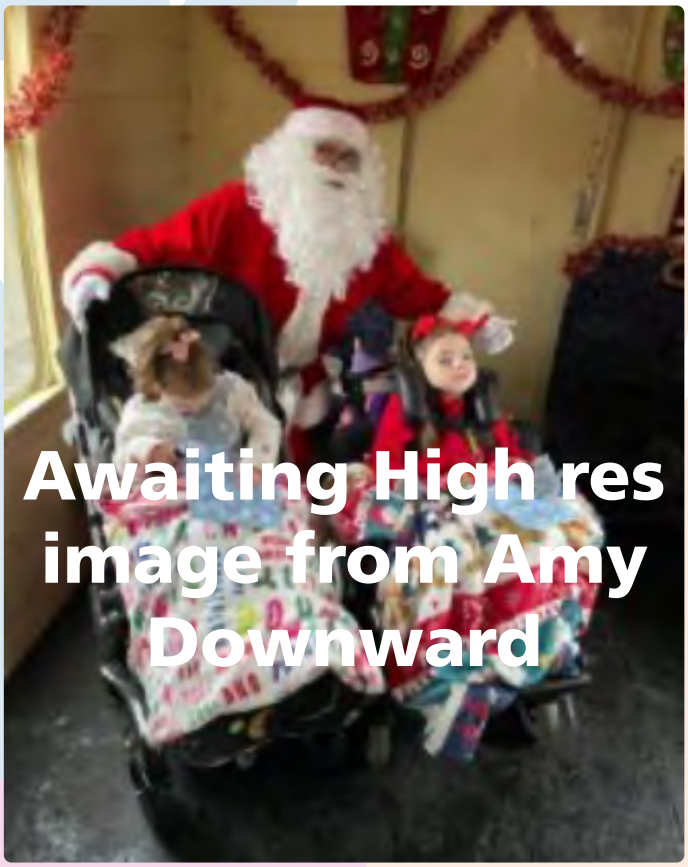
"It is important to us to support the local communities, and it was a privilege to welcome the families abroad the Santa Express and see all the children's smiling faces.

"We hope that everyone had a magical experience which will stay with them for years to come."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, added:

"Christmas can be a difficult time of year when you have a poorly child, so we are grateful to Chasewater Railway for gifting such an amazing experience.

"We have loved organising this magical trip for all our young patients and their families who are dealing with complex medical conditions.



"Each child has also been given a Christmas story book from Santa, so they can read that in the run-up to Christmas which we hope will bring some more magic and festive cheer."

To find out more about the railway visit **Chasewater Railway**

School donates £1,700 for garden appeal

Children and young people in hospital will benefit from a generous £1,700 donation from a school which boosted a garden appeal.



The Friends of Birchfield School in Albrighton chose Your RWTC as its cause to support from the proceeds of a raffle at its annual summer ball, with the theme masquerade.

The Friends is a group of parents which raises funds for the school and charities to enhance children's time at school by delivering fun experiences and complement their learning.

Money raised went towards the £30,000 appeal to transform the Children's Ward garden at New Cross Hospital into a bright and beautiful space.

Rebecca Hewitt, Transition Clinical Nurse Specialist at RWT, whose son attends Birchfield School, said: "The Friends decided to choose this charity as being in hospital can be a scary place for anyone, but being a child it can be especially hard."

The proceeds from the raffle at the summer ball were donated by Penny Simkin, The Friends of Birchfield chair.

Penny said: "We are so pleased to support the development of the garden at New Cross which will hopefully provide an outside sanctuary for children to play and also a place of reflection for parents."

Kirsty Lewis, Senior Matron for Acute Children's Services, said: "We're very grateful to Birchfield School. This will really help in our quest to give children a place to play and relax at an otherwise stressful time for them."

Winter wonderland at New Cross Hospital

Patients, visitors and staff at New Cross Hospital were able to have themsELVES a Merry Little Christmas when broadcaster and journalist Suzi Perry switched on the festive lights after a fun Friday of seasonal treats.



Members of the Your RWTC had been busy swapping texts and emails with Santa Claus to ask him to support the annual Christmas Fayre and lights switch-on in the marquee outside the Emergency Department.

And the jolly gent proved a popular crowd pleaser for visitors prior to the big magical moment.

A host of stalls ran through the day offering gift ideas for all ages and interests and Arts and Heritage Group volunteers gave people an opportunity to create a piece of artwork using their thumbprints.

Prior to the magical moment Motorsports presenter Suzi switched on the lights, the RWT Singers delighted everyone with carols including Mary's Boy Child and O Little Town of Bethlehem.

Following a prayer by Joe Fielder, Chaplaincy Team Leader, and before she did the honours, Suzi reminded the crowd that "togetherness" was important at Christmas.

"It's lovely to be here, which is a funny thing to say about being at a hospital! I'm happy to be turning on the Christmas lights but Christmas can be a very difficult time of year for many people, and this is where being together to share love and memories is important. Togetherness is important. I wish all of you a wonderful Christmas."



Mandy Bains, Healthcare Assistant, was among visitors.

She said: "This is a lovely event, and it does get you feeling all Christmassy. Thank you to our Charity for organising it all."

Richard Woodhouse, Estates Officer, and Neil Arrowsmith, Supervisor, are part of the Trust's Estates Management Team which arranged for the lights to be installed so the winter wonderland could be created.

"We had donations from William Gough, Eyre and Ellison and Brykol for the lights and the displays we have on our Children's Ward," explained Richard. "As soon as Suzi switched on the Christmas tree lights we went round the site to switch on all the others."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "We thank Suzi for supporting the event – along with our stall holders and our colleagues from Estates who worked so hard getting the site ready for us."

Kind donation from talented pupils

Talented pupils donated crocheted items for premature babies on a Wolverhampton Neonatal Unit to help keep them warm and offer comfort.



Inspired by their Head of Year Ella Underhill and Associate Assistant Principal Hardeep Toor-Hamrahi, who had her son Hector Singh Toor-Hamrahi at 32 weeks, students from St Edmund's Catholic Academy have made hats, blankets and mittens for New Cross Hospital's youngest patients.

Hector was born in October 2016 and weighed just 1lb 7 oz. He spent six weeks on New Cross Hospital's Neonatal Unit.

His mum Hardeep, Associate Assistant Principal, said: "The care we received at New Cross Hospital was second to none. He was my first born and it was a really daunting time for us. I spent the first three days of his life on ICU and my husband and staff helped with collecting my colostrum and tube fed Hector.

"Staff were so friendly, helpful and caring I couldn't have done it without them.

"They gave us so much support with skin to skin, breastfeeding and how to care for Hector.

"I was given a blanket to take home that smelt of Hector when I wasn't with him and this offered so much comfort. Hector also had one that smelt like me so we didn't feel like we were apart.

"I am so glad we could come and thank staff as well as give them our donations.

"I really hope they help like they helped me."

The students crocheted the items in their spare time and during study breaks.

Stelle was one of the pupils.

She said: "It has been really lovely to come here and give staff our donations.

"Crochet can be very therapeutic and also help during the stress of the exam period.

"To go out into the community and help is really important and it is great we can provide these knitted items for the babies."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "These items will be welcomed by families who often are not prepared with items when their little one decides to make an early appearance."

The Grinch who brings Christmas cheer

Grumpy Grinch showed he really does have a heart by spending time laughing and joking with children at a Wolverhampton hospital.



There were lots of very bad jokes and a few grumpy insults along the way, with nobody safe from the cheeky character when he visited New Cross Hospital's Children Ward.

Played by Bernard Moseley, The Grinch said: "I love seeing people smile, especially the kids and the staff.

"I really enjoy coming back every year, especially in these hard times."

Hema Mistry's son Viraaj was one of the 'unlucky' children to meet to Grinch. She said he wasn't sure to start with but the jokes made them both laugh.

She said: "The Grinch was really funny and even though he wasn't here for a long time, he brightened up our day and made things fun for us."

Sarah Lewis, Matron for Acute Paediatrics, said: "It's been great to see the children, parents and staff have a laugh on the ward. It's nice to give the children a distraction from being in hospital and enjoy some Christmas festivities."



Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, added: "Being in hospital can be difficult for adult patients but being a child in hospital at Christmas can be even more daunting.

"We wanted to try and bring some festive cheer and what better way than with the Grinch! There were lots of giggles and insults from him and children and staff loved it."



Delivering joy to patients

More than 500 gifts were donated for New Cross Hospital patients to receive over the festive period thanks to the generosity of customers and staff at Dunelm Wolverhampton.



The presents were given to Your RWTC as part of the store's 'Deliver Joy this Christmas' appeal which saw customers taking tags from a Christmas tree and buying a present that suited the description.

Lily Page, Store Manager, at the Bilston Road store, said it was the best response the store had had.

She said: "We run the campaign every year and each year we are overwhelmed by the generosity of our community. This year we have exceeded our target again which we are so pleased about.

"Everyone has been so kind."

The gifts were donated to Your RWTC for distribution and taken to Paediatrics, Gem Centre, C18/C19, Cannock Hospital, West Park Hospital, Fracture Clinic, Dermatology, Urgent Care and Phoenix Centre.

Amanda Winwood Charity Development Manager, said: "We were able to support so many more areas with this year's donations."



Michelle's gift donation after childcare

A grateful mum went on the run to raise more than £500 to buy toys and equipment for a Children Ward.



Michelle Bridgwater raised £525 by running the Stafford 10k and used the money to donate items for the younger patients at New Cross Hospital to give children a happier Christmas.

Michelle, who runs 2 Step Dance Academy which has classes around the area and two local schools, was inspired by the treatment her children received at RWT but noticed some of the toys had seen better days.

Her son had cellulitis of the arm, spending a week in hospital and was put on intravenous drugs.

Her daughter had two stays in New Cross – on oxygen for a week after having RSV, then suffering facial cellulitis. Both have fully recovered.

"The last time I went I'd noticed that the toys were broken, and the outdoor space was tired, so I decided to do the 10k race to raise money for it," said Michelle.

She dances six days a week and hosts evening classes but started running from scratch.

"Working so much and with a family, I don't have time to run when I'm at home, so I did most of the training on holiday every day before breakfast, and

I went from nothing to 10k in four weeks," added Michelle.

Despite her lack of previous experience, she completed the race in one hour three minutes.

Among the items she bought or the ward were a giant Jenga, a scooter, trikes, ride-in toy cars and inter-active books, but she still has £35 left and plans on buying more.

"It's a tough time for children and their loved ones when they're in hospital, so for them to have things to do and play with is important because they need to be stimulated," she said.

"The children I teach are all of the same age as those on the ward and the same could happen to them, and I'd want them to have good toys and equipment to play with.

"My experience from seeing my kids in hospital has made me want to do more, and if I can do that, I will."

Kirsty Lewis, Senior Matron for Children's Services, said: "The items Michelle has bought will make a massive difference to our younger patients, so we thank her very much."

Donation of equipment is cut above

A Wolverhampton hairdresser proved she is a cut above by dressing as Edward Scissorhands to raise money for equipment that will benefit up to 900 patients with prosthetics.



Mum of three Anita Platt dressed for a week as the 1990 film character Edward – or Edwina as she called herself – at Nic Russell's Hair Studio in Pendeford, raising £250.

The money has bought equipment for The Maltings Mobility Centre in Wolverhampton, including two agility ladders and hurdles, an adjustable height workout step, dumbbells, footprint markers and resistance bands.

The equipment will help patients improve their mobility by enabling them to take part in exercises to strengthen their limbs.

Anita's partner Matthew Miller, a double amputee, noticed when he completed in agility events that some equipment wasn't available to patients at The Maltings.

So the Wolverhampton couple decided to raise money to buy it.

"I had some strange looks when I went to buy lunch at the local shops, but it was good fun and we're very thankful to our clients who gave generously," said Anita. "I wanted to help because it's a cause close to my heart.

"We see these as essential items but the NHS can only so much, so we decided to do something to support people."



Lou Tisdale, Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist in Amputee Rehabilitation at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, said: "Some of these items were missing in our toolbox when the patient and I did a running training course earlier this year – items the trainer had but we didn't.

"All the items will be useful to support people to gain confidence in the use of their prosthetic limbs through improving balance and control of the leg.

"We are really grateful to Anita and Matthew for thinking of our service in their fundraising.

"Matthew wanted to ensure we could support others in their rehab and Anita wanted to support that wish."



Father of five Matthew lost both legs below the knee due to sepsis in 2018 after contracting septic pneumonia (blood poisoning).

The former Grenadier Guard had to go on an Extra Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) machine which removes blood from the body, cleans it and restores it to the body.

In a coma for three weeks, he had his heart restarted three times and was in hospital for three months.

Matthew, who wears his prosthetic limbs all the time outdoors, is so thankful to Anita.

He said: "She's great – she even drove to work in costume and she takes me to all my appointments. The equipment is a real boost."

Inco Contracts smashes fundraising target



More than 1100 'chemo comfort bags' and 1000 radiotherapy water bottles have been provided for patients having cancer treatment after Inco Contracts smashed its fundraising target for 2024.

The principal contractor, which has its headquarters in Cannock, pledged to support cancer patients in the Midlands as its charity of the year.

It has successfully generated more than £20,000 through a series of golf days, a 'Miles in March' competition and a one-off £4000 donation from integrated healthcare specialist Phoenix Medical Supplies.

Staff busily filled the hypoallergenic bags with contents to assist patients while undergoing chemotherapy, including wet wipes, lavender oil, tissues, activity books, a handheld fan, lip balm, colouring pencils and, following a local campaign, different coloured knitted hearts made by craft groups in the area.

Inco Contracts also handed over more than 1000 radiotherapy water bottles as part of its campaign, doubling the number it initially pledged when starting the drive.

West Midlands Contracts Manager Tim Lewis, who has had cancer himself, said: "There has been a fantastic response to this year's charity drive, with every single member of staff and many companies in our supply chain getting behind it. After all, nearly every person in the UK will know someone who has experienced a battle with cancer.

"Having successfully gone through chemotherapy myself, I know how important the 'chemo comfort bags' are to you – it's the little things that make a big difference and we have raised enough money to ensure 1100 people get one!"



He added: "A massive thank you to everyone who gave money and their time, especially to Phoenix Medical Supplies, which has given us £4000. That is the single largest donation this year.

"The 'knit a heart' campaign also proved what a fantastic group of local crafters we have. Albrighton Craft Group, Brewood Women's Institute and Wednesfield in Bloom played a huge role, with the latter knitting 200 hearts on her own!"

Nigel Swift, Phoenix UK's Deputy Chief Executive, added his support.

"This is a cause very close to my own heart and fits perfectly with the company's desire to support the good causes and local communities we operate in.

"We were delighted to have made our contribution and helped Inco Contracts smash its targets on chemo comfort bags and radiotherapy water bottles. The difference these will make is huge."

Inco Contracts also added its name to the refurbishment of the children's garden at New Cross Hospital.

Tim said: "Working with our supply chain partners, we've agreed to provide all the painting and electrics for the lights and cinema for free. Families are going through a very difficult time and this outdoor space can provide some welcome relief and distraction – it was a no brainer for us to take part."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "Local businesses play such a big role in helping us improve the experience of patients we are looking after, and this is another fantastic example of that in action.

"Inco Contracts set out an ambitious target at the start of 2024 and not only hit it but actually surpassed it. The 'chemo comfort bags and water bottles are really appreciated by individuals going through some tough times and we can't wait to start handing them out next year.



"Tim and the company have not stopped there, throwing their weight behind the children's garden DIY SOS, which will start in earnest in February."

For further information, please visit **www.incocontracts.co.uk** or follow @incocontracts on Twitter.

Children benefit from £1,000 donation and toys

A generous mum and daughter have helped raised £1,000 for Wolverhampton's Children's Ward and donated a host of toys and equipment to give young patients a happy Christmas.

Debbie Stanesby and Hayley Parsons, who own the Dress Store Boutique in Claregate, decided to devote their annual charity collection to poorly children through Your RWTC.

They appealed on social media to fellow local businesses in Claregate, Codsall and Tettenhall for raffle prizes, held a bake sale and invited customers to donate items, and were overwhelmed by people's generosity.



People also bought bed socks and blankets, to ensure teenage patients can receive a gift too.

"Mum said she wanted to take Christmas back to what it's about, which is being kind, considerate and giving," said mum of two Hayley.

"We spoke to hundreds of people and we were blown away by how much people donated.

"Not just that, but also by how much people say New Cross Hospital is a credit to the city.

"The feedback about the Trust was constantly positive – no one had a bad word to say about it."

Hayley's sons were both born at New Cross, while Debbie had to attend the Heart and Lung Centre for investigations, another reason for giving back.

"We held a bake sale in the store and it was a lovely day. It brought up a lot of people's experiences of being in hospital," added Hayley.

"I've got a friend with a son who has leukaemia and she said the children get bored in hospital so we asked people to collect toys.

"As part of that we wanted to raise some money, with a target of £500 to begin with.

"My mum has worked so hard on this, working into the evenings and ringing loads of people."

Kirsty Lewis, Senior Matron for Children's Services, said: "Thanks so much to Hayley, Debbie and everyone who has donated."

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, said: "Hayley and Debbie have really pushed the boat out with their amazing donations of money and toys – we're extremely grateful."

Praise for volunteers' vital support to vulnerable

Valued volunteers who were involved in a project to support vulnerable residents across Wolverhampton have been thanked for "the big difference" they have made to people's lives.



The Holistic Opportunities Preventing Exclusion (HOPE) Project was a partnership between Your RWTC and Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action (WVCA).

The Charity was awarded £220,000 from NHS Charities Together to addresses issues around the support needs of people of Wolverhampton affected by mental health due to social isolation or other factors as a long-term consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included patients, their carers and their other family and friends.

Volunteers were invited to an event to share their personal experiences of supporting people, gain an insight into the progress of the project and enjoy lunch with others.

Alison Dowling, Associate Director of Patient Relations at RWT, said this initiative was the first time the Trust had partnered with a voluntary organisation in this way.

"We wanted to take a moment to really thank you for everything you've done so far," she told the volunteers. "We really do appreciate the impact of what you do."

Geoff Griffin, HOPE Project Volunteer Co-ordinator, said: "We get feedback from our clients who tell us they look forward to your visits and what a big difference it makes to their lives.

"We have supported around 100 vulnerable people in Wolverhampton and who knows where they would be if you hadn't provided that support."

Volunteer Adesuwa Sandra Usonegbu supported a widow who was struggling with loneliness.

"We talk and we watch TV together and we learn from and support each other. She looks forward to my visits and I look forward to spending time with her."

Paul Edmonds supported a woman whose husband has dementia.

"We have built up a good trust now and it is so lovely that she can take some time for herself when I visit to sit with her husband and have some respite as she is her husband's main carer," he said. "We had to build up gradually to this but now it is working well."

Idris Azeez, like many HOPE volunteers, felt he was "giving something back" to his community through his role.

"My son Abdul has cerebral palsy and over the years he has needed healthcare which has always been there for us – now I can return that kindness," he said.

Idris supported a wheelchair user and has been able to accompany him outdoors as well as spend time visiting him."

The HOPE project worked alongside the city's Social Prescribing Service, run by WVCA, to help tackle loneliness, isolation, depression and anxiety.

Sarah Harris, WVCA link worker, attended the celebration event and said: "We couldn't do what we do without you, thank you so much."

Capital gains for young cancer patients

Christmas came early for young cancer patients in Wolverhampton, thanks to a generous donation from a kind-hearted company.



Capital Group of Kingswinford supplied an individual sack of toys and goodies to each of the children who were receiving treatment for the disease when staff visited New Cross Hospital.

Each sack of goodies contained a Capital-branded teddy bear and sweets but the rest of the presents were age appropriate for the patients.

Dean Bell, Head of Utilities at Capital, which employs around 150 people across the sectors of utilities, shopfitting, warehousing and road sweeping, said: "As a father, it truly hit home to hear about these children and their ages.

"We decided to do what we could to bring a little joy to their day and remind them that even strangers in their community are thinking of them during this festive period.

"Our hope is this small gesture brings a smile to their faces and helps them feel the warmth and care of the wider community this Christmas season.

"Christmas is a time of joy and giving, and we firmly believe it should be special for everyone, especially for children who are facing such challenging circumstances.

"If we have the opportunity to bring even a small amount of happiness and support to these children during this festive season, we are truly honoured and grateful to do so."

Duncan Evans, Capital's managing director, said: "It's truly lovely to be in a position to help bring even a small bit of happiness during these tough times.

"With two young children of my own, it really brings things home and highlights how meaningful it is to make a positive difference."



Kirsty Lewis, Senior Matron for Children's Services at RWT, said: "It's so thoughtful of Capital to recognise the needs of each patient at what is a difficult time for them, so we thank them very much."

Amanda Winwood, RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "Capital has been really generous with its donation and the children's faces lit up when they received their presents."

Cheers to generous fundraisers

Generous pub customers raised a glass to cancer patients and their families by organising a huge haul of gifts to be given out at Christmas time.



Regulars at the Broadway pub in Lichfield Road, Wednesfield, rallied round to show the community's support for patients having chemotherapy treatment at the Snowdrop Suite at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.

Broadway staff members came up with the idea and spread the word amongst colleagues and customers. A Christmas tree was put up and tags added with gift ideas to be bought. They were overwhelmed at the support their appeal received.

Steph Friedl, CNS Oncology at RWT's Hospital at Home service, said "It's not nice for children being in hospital over Christmas. For their families having extra gifts is lovely as a lot of families can't work due to their child having chemo so will help them at such a magical time.

"Patients will be overwhelmed that the community has such a big heart. Patients will be in up to the 24th of December receiving treatment."

Joanne O'Sullivan, Living with and Beyond Cancer Support Manager with Macmillan at the hospital, added: "I want to thank all of the customers and staff for their generosity and for including all patients on their cancer journey".

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, said: "We have such a generous community who always pull together and make a difference for our patients and – at such a magical time of year – lets our patients know that they are not alone".

All Hands on Deck – Mark's events raise over £4,500

A triple fundraiser which attracted two reality TV stars helped raise more than £4,500 to help young hospital patients in Wolverhampton.



Andy Pearce and his daughter Issy – who featured in the popular ITV show My Mum, Your Dad – were among the guests at a charity quiz night at The Rainbow pub in Coven.

Their presence helped smash the fundraisers' target of £2,500, and the celebrity theme continued as winners took home prizes such as Olly Murs VIP tickets.

Fundraisers Mark Hands and Stephen Cooper hosted darts and pool competitions alongside the quiz, attended by Andy and Issy.

Mark was diagnosed with a rare blood condition in 2022 and is monitored at Cannock Chase Hospital.

A friend's child was a patient on the RWT Children's Ward, so the duo decided to raise money to help young patients at the Trust that has been supporting Mark.

Stephen said: "When young people are in hospital there is a limit to how much there is to do to keep occupied.

"We wanted to be able to do something that helped to ensure the children were able to have some fun."

In the darts, Stephen was pipped by a regular player, while Mark played the part of quiz host.

The quiz was won by a team from Mr Fish, a new mobile fish van owned by Jenson Shore and George Hague, who made a large donation.

Mark said: "There was a right buzz on the night. It was just great fun to do something for a good cause.

"We had a great turnout – even people who aren't pub goers dropped by to help their local hospital, which is really heartwarming."

"I'm excited to see what the Charity can do with the money – it's nice just knowing you're able to make a difference."

Stephen added: "A big thank you to the Rainbow Inn for hosting us – it's a real community pub and we were welcomed with open arms."

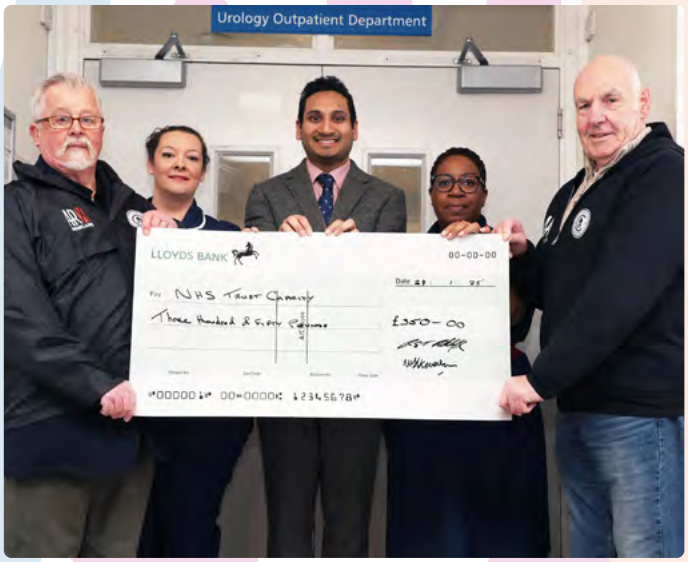
Sarah Lewis, Matron on the Children's Ward, said: "We're so grateful for any donation and we know the hard work that goes into the events.

"The money will go towards two TV/DVD combinations and refurbishing a parent room on the ward, as well as the kitchen space, to support families to have somewhere to go and take a break and have some quiet time, should they need it."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "We are overwhelmed at this donation. It is lovely to see the community spirit and everyone coming together to make a difference."

Walking football group scores with donation

A walking football club boasting the UK's oldest striker scored for charity by raising hundreds of pounds as one of its players was treated for cancer.



Mike Stevenson, received treatment for bladder cancer at New Cross Hospital.

He organised a raffle through his team Old Corinthians Walking Football Club which raised £350 for Your RWTC to thank staff for his treatment.

Nicola Turuel, Urology Clinical Nurse Specialist, said: "The fact we're able to offer treatment that can prevent the cancer from returning offers patients hope. It's been a pleasure to offer this to Mike.

"I was delighted to learn he'd like to donate the money to the Urology department.

"It would be great if this could be used for equipment to enhance patient experience, but also that will improve efficiency for staff."

Mike said: "When you're told you've got cancer, it's devastating but everyone I've dealt with at New Cross have been absolutely fabulous, so we decided to raise some money. The Trust is very lucky to have such great staff.

Throughout Mike's treatment, he played walking football three or four times a week.

Old Corinthians, based at Rushall Olympic FC, plays in the Birmingham League and faced Aston Villa legend and European Cup winner Des Bremner, now in his seventies and playing for Shard End.

It also boasts 90-year-old Mike 'Ninja' Fisher, who made national headlines for being the oldest striker in the UK.

"Walking football is generally for over 50s and at that age people get ailments," added grandfather Mike, a West Bromwich Albion supporter who also plays walking football for Central England.

"We lost a player to heart disease and held a charity match recently, raising £2,000. We have players with pacemakers and those who have had prostate cancer.

"We feel we're doing the NHS a good turn by keeping people out of hospital."

Amanda Winwood, RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "We're delighted with Old Corinthians' donation. This will help with care for our cancer patients."

McKala's boost for young cancer patients

A champion fundraiser who has handed thousands of pounds to Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital over the years has added another £4,320 to her impressive tally.



McKala Harrold runs Celebrity Random Raffles on her Facebook page and has persuaded some of TV's best loved soap characters to support her including former Emmerdale actor Danny Miller, Jamie Lomas from Hollyoaks, Samia Longchambon from Coronation Street, and Eastenders' Scott Maslen, to make celebrity appearances.

Her Celebrity Random Raffle initiative sees her host a twice-weekly raffle with people paying 20p or a £1 a go and every year she raises money for causes that are important to her. She has previously supported Wolverhampton's Diabetes Centre as her dad Keith has diabetes, the Neonatal Unit and Integrated Critical Care Unit.

And the grandmother's latest fundraiser saw her host an event at Willenhall's Gilbert's Bar just before Christmas, once again with star-studded support from Mikey North and Sam Aston who play Gary and Chesney in Coronation Street.

McKala explained: "I was originally going to buy Christmas presents for children in hospital over the festive period, but we couldn't quite make this work out, so I decided to donate the cash to Paediatric Oncology for the staff to use in any way that makes things better for children having treatment.

"The raffles have grown over time and over the six years we've been doing this New Cross Hospital has thousands of pounds from our events which does

make me feel proud. My friend Janine Oakley needs a mention as she has been a fantastic help with it all and I don't think I could have done it without her. We've been able to hand over £4,320 this time and it was great to see how pleased staff were."

Dr Julie Brent, Consultant Paediatrician at RWT, said McKala's donation would help improve "bland" cubicles for children having chemotherapy and other treatment.

"We'd like to brighten the spaces up with artwork as children can spend considerable periods of time here having treatment and the cubicles are bland at the moment," she said. "And this donation means we can also look at other distractions for them so thank you to McKala and all who have helped raise this money."

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, added: "The many thousands Mykala has raised over the years are incredible and this latest donation will clearly make a big difference to the children we care for."

Patient donates equipment to Mobility Centre

A grateful patient who lost both legs has donated a vital piece of equipment to say thank you to Wolverhampton NHS staff for helping him learn to walk again, and to help others.



Stuart Horobin lost his left leg just above the knee and his right leg from the middle of his calf in a motorbike accident.

The former lorry driver has bought a £240 sewing machine to show his gratitude to staff at The Maltings Mobility Centre in Wolverhampton after learning to walk again with prosthetic limbs following surgery and intensive physiotherapy.

The machine is used to adjust materials for the manufacture and fitting of prosthetic legs and rehabilitation after lower-limb amputation.

Stuart was rushed to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital but unfortunately his lower legs could not be saved.

Through his determination and the support of staff such as Lou Tisdale, Clinical Specialist Physiotherapist, Amputee Rehabilitation at RWT, and Dawn Crofts, Clinical Lead, he has learned to walk again, with sticks and prosthetics.

Stuart has been in the gym several times each week with Lou and Dawn, plus swimming and walking.

He passed a driving test to drive an automatic car and hopes to drive a lorry again one day.

"I decided to make a donation because I wanted to thank the staff and show my appreciation for their support," said Stuart.

"The staff and patients of The Maltings will benefit as the machine is an essential piece of equipment used on a regular basis.

"I have been attending appointments at The Maltings for the last 22 months, receiving support from Physiotherapists, Prosthetists and other support staff.

"I dread to think where I'd be without them and I couldn't wish for better support.

"So I wanted to gift them an item needed to support people in similar situations to myself.

"It's a privilege to give a little back to a deserving team, with the added bonus of knowing it will help others."

Lou said: "The limb absence and prosthetic rehabilitation service would like to thank Stuart, his family and friends for raising money and then gifting our service with a sewing machine.

"It will be put to good use in the prosthetic workshop preparing materials for when individuals have a prosthetic socket made, sewing straps to adjust them to individual needs and making off-the-shelf items fit better."

Lindsey Wagstaff, Community and Events Fundraising Officer, said: "Stuart's donation will ensure patients will have comfortable prosthetics to wear.

"We're also bowled over by his determination to get back to leading a normal life again. Well done!"

Arts and Heritage

Over the past 18months, the Arts and Heritage Group (A&HG) has delivered upon its aims to **enhance the healing environment, develop community connections, and explore and exhibit the history of healthcare in Wolverhampton**. The A&HG has brought about real change by engaging with patients, visitors, and the wider community through a range of projects and activities.

Care, Create, Conserve

A museum charting the history of Wolverhampton's healthcare with fascinating exhibitions and creative community opportunities was developed in the city centre, thanks to a grant of almost £140,000 awarded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.



The 'Care, Create, Conserve' programme was pioneered by the A&HG, beginning in 2023 during the 75th year of the NHS. At the heart of the project was the creation of Wolverhampton's first healthcare museum and co-creation centre.

The Healthcare Heritage Centre featured an exhibition of medical artefacts, photographs, and memorabilia from RWT's collection while healthcare stories of today have been showcased through community co-creation projects and a vibrant programme of talks and events.

Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator, said: "We were thrilled to have been successful in our bid and grateful to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for seeing the value in our vision.

"Health is universal and something we can all relate to, no matter our age, identity, belief, or circumstances, but it can also be uniquely personal. Care, Create, Conserve seeks to tell a story which acknowledges many different experiences and perspectives – a story from our history, but also from our present day."

The programme has also created opportunities for Arts and Heritage Volunteers to help manage the Healthcare Heritage Centre, as well as gaining unique opportunities for training in collections care and curation.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups

The collection is now housed within Wolverhampton City Archives, Molineux Hotel Building, Whitmore Hill, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SF.

Classroom creativity inspires arts and heritage project

Enthusiastic schoolchildren brought the iconic façade of Wolverhampton's Royal Hospital to life in a colourful collage and 3D sculpture.

The artistic interpretations have shaped part of a creative showcase, focusing on language and identity in healthcare settings, with a spotlight on disability and deafness.



This forms part of the Care, Create, Conserve project being led by the A&HG, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The project has seen schoolchildren and local community groups embark on an artistic collaboration with Real Arts Workshops, led by Alex Vann, graphic designer, artist and musician and Gary O'Dowd, profoundly deaf crafter, and British Sign Language (BSL) tutor, who provide high-quality, tailor-made creative arts workshops.

The artistic duo explored the theme of language in healthcare, through working with community groups to co-create a final artwork.

This creative process began with sessions with pupils from years 7, 8 and 11 at Penn Fields School. They were asked 'What does the NHS mean to you?' generating answers including "friendly and hard working", "helps me when I'm poorly" and "support and protection."

Thrilled with the artistic flair coming from the classroom, Shelley Cooper, Arts Lead at Penn Fields School said: "Feedback from children and staff has been very positive and many have expressed how much they have enjoyed it. The model looks amazing."

The 3D sculpture features the recognisable columns that still stand at the entrance of the Royal Hospital. The triangular roof can be lifted off to view hospital scenes, recreated by the students using plastic figurines.

Gary also delivered some BSL teaching as part of this project.

Doctors' rest area brightened up

High school students have helped to brighten up a rest area for doctors at RWT.



Year 9 students from Thomas Telford University Technical College (UTC) in Wolverhampton were tasked with creating artwork to be displayed in the doctors' mess at New Cross Hospital.

The doctors' mess is a rest area which provides facilities and refreshments for staff who work round the clock.

The project was proposed by Kate Yardley, Design Teacher at Thomas Telford UTC, and supported by the A&HG.

The project was given the theme of 'anatomy', and students were challenged to create artworks inspired by the human form which were also decorative and eye-catching.

Many of the students chose to use laser cutting technology to capture the intricacy of anatomy, while others paired detailed drawings with natural imagery such as flowers and vines.

Kate said: "Our students at the UTC have really engaged with the brief set by the hospital.

"Developing real projects for a client with a real need has encouraged students to not only realise their personal intentions but also develop an insight of how they can apply their knowledge in a context that exists.

"I am certain that our students have taken pride that their work is on display and that others can appreciate their endeavours."



Nick Grew, maxillo-facial surgeon at RWT, also helped to shape the brief, and gave a talk to the students to fire their imaginations.

The artworks chosen for display in the doctors' mess were created by Stefania Timcea, Reejh Kooner, Zaineb Hussian and Lily Corbishley.

Stefania said: "I felt very challenged by the brief but it gave me more drive to develop my work to the best of my ability and I am really pleased with the end result."

Lily added: "I wanted to catch people's eye with larger scale works that still retain a quality of detail."

Fotoula Kotsi, Doctors Mess President, said: "The art pieces in our Doctor's Mess are just incredible!

"They add a lovely burst of colour and brighten up the space.

"We're especially grateful for them during those long on-call shifts when we need something to lift our spirits.

"As doctors, we sometimes forget the beauty in the human form and anatomy, and these artworks provide such a refreshing perspective.

"It's really touching to know that the artists thought of us when they made these. We feel truly appreciated."

Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator at RWT, said: "We are really impressed by how accomplished these artworks are. The students all approached the brief in unique ways, and the resulting pieces are striking and highly detailed.

"The doctors will be able to enjoy these artworks while they take a well-deserved break from providing care."



Memoir reflects on 40 years of Nursing



A heart-warming memoir written by a former Wolverhampton Nurse has been published to inspire others and highlight changes in the profession over the years.

The memoir, written by Jo Collins, who died in 2020 aged 85, details a reflection of her 40-year career in Nursing, through stories she recalled from her time at the Royal Hospital, New Cross Hospital, and work across the city as an agency Nurse.

It forms part of the A&HG's 'Care, Create, Conserve' project.

Packed with empathy and humour, the account details Jo's experience between 1953 and 1996 as she reflects on memorable moments.

Jo Collins pictured during her retirement and in 1979

Documenting her journey from Trainee Nurse to Sister, Jo reminisces about friendships, happy memories, drama, and excitement, and how her passion for Nursing was sparked from a young age.

Jo's daughter, Nicky Gale, said: "My mum would be so thrilled to see the published memoir. She would have loved this project and would have been fully involved in it.

"The memoir documents her unique personal account but is also a fascinating example of healthcare history."

"It's also interesting to understand how Nursing has changed over time, through technology, bureaucracy, academia and opportunities for progression.



"But I imagine the core motivation remains the same for the vast majority of people going into the profession – that is to care for others."

Through shining a spotlight on the reality of the Nursing profession over the past 40 years, Jo recalls the swift changes and advances in facilities, service-level expectations and rules and regulations – which were particularly prevalent upon her return from a career break to raise her family.

Children become 'marvellous makers of medicine'

Children were invited to step into the shoes of a Victorian chemist and join in with interactive 'Marvellous Makers of Medicine' sessions.



Taking place in the children's section of Wolverhampton Central Library, the series of short activities was hosted through the Care, Create, Conserve project, led by the A&HG. This project was made possible due to funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The initiative tied into the library's Summer Reading Challenge, a national scheme which was following the theme of 'Marvellous Makers' this year.

Children aged five and over were tasked with three challenges which included weighing out 'medicine' (sweets) using a pair of scales, using a mortar and pestle, and funnelling the powdered 'medicine' into a bottle.

This interactive challenge tests simple maths skills, as well as teaching young participants new words.

Youngsters earned a certificate upon completion of each challenge, and free activity sheets were available to take away, including wordsearches and spot the difference.

Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator, said: "Marvellous Makers of Medicine brings Wolverhampton's healthcare history to a young audience, through hands-on activities and fun challenges.

"It's been great to combine the themes of our heritage collection with the summer reading challenge being delivered at Wolverhampton Libraries."

Preeti Kailey, Arts and Heritage Volunteer, said: "The first session was also my first day as a volunteer, and I really enjoyed it. The activities involved basic maths and problem solving, teaching children how medicine was made in Victorian times while injecting an element of fun – it was a real success."

The activity was accompanied by a small display of objects from Reade Brothers and Co, Wolverhampton's manufacturing chemist who made medicines throughout the 1800s.

This display includes old photographs, medicine bottles, and formula books listing the ingredients of Reade's remedies.

Young people help patients' road to recovery

Get well soon cards created by talented young people as part of a craft activity should prove a real pick me up for oncology patients at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.



The A&HG attended the #WvSameDifference festival to focus on the theme of "Creative Kindness."

The event co-ordinated by Wolverhampton CEP (Cultural Education Partnership offered two activities. The first was to create cards for young people receiving treatment on oncology wards while the second saw participants create Mind Medicine – uplifting messages rolled up inside pill capsules and put into a small pot.

Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator, said: "This was a valuable opportunity for us to talk to and work with young people who have a wealth of ideas and talent to share.

"Both craft activities were popular with children and young people popping by our stand throughout the day to offer encouraging and hopeful words, and to draw rainbows, hot-air balloons, and teddies emblazoned with the words 'get well soon'

"We really wanted our activities to promote the importance of showing kindness, to others and to yourself. Young people are capable of such extraordinary empathy, and this was really clear in the meaningful messages we heard and saw throughout the day."

The festival, at West Park was aimed at 11-18 year olds.

Puppets pull on young patients' heartstrings

A puppet company has pulled on the heart strings of young patients and staff and prompted thoughts and discussions around inclusivity at two Black Country NHS Trusts.



Nikki Charlesworth Productions visited RWT and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust to perform its semi-autobiographical puppetry show called 'What Happened to You?'

The story follows Little Red, Noodles and Bo, three raggedy puppets, just trying to get through the day. Ahead of them lies a mountain of challenges. They persevere and find creative ways to overcome their impassable surroundings. Each puppet's story explores preconceptions about disability in a playful and humorous way and showcases the endless opportunities out there once barriers of all kinds are removed.

What Happened to You? also features creative use of Audio Description, embedded into the original score and integrated British Sign Language, introducing children to enhanced access.

Nikki Charlesworth, Puppeteer and Producer said: "The puppets use children's walking aids or orthotics, some of which I used myself when growing up.

"We wanted to promote the social model of disability and underline the importance of access and inclusion – but most importantly to be proud of yourself no matter what disability you have."

"We tour hospitals as we believe every little bit matters in here. Children come and go so every interaction is vital.

Izzy Hollis, Puppeteer said: "We love what we do; there's nothing like it. It's very rewarding."

The crew visited various children's clinics and wards at both Trusts.

Molly Lockley, Play Leader at RWT, said: "It was fantastic to welcome Nikki Charlesworth and company to the Children's Ward.

"They were really enthusiastic and so good at engaging with the children. It was lovely to see so many smiling faces. The show was a big highlight of the day and enjoyed by all."

Project draws on the past to explore the present

Experiences of people recovering from mental health and addiction issues have been examined through an artistic perspective as part of a healthcare heritage project in Wolverhampton.

The A&HG worked with city artist Charlotte Webb to explore what healthcare means to people today – while drawing on the past.

Members of Wolverhampton's Service User Involvement Team (SUIT) shared their personal stories of mental health and addiction, prompted and inspired by the Trust's heritage collection of artefacts.

They reflected on the importance of care for people's whole health, as well as examining the stigma that is often associated with mental ill health and addiction issues as part of the Care Create, Conserve project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Medical artefacts dating back as far as 1840 were used as inspiration for discussion and creativity in SUIT workshops with Charlotte.



Charlotte said: "We looked at whether attitudes have changed all that much over the years – treatment and recovery programmes may well have moved with the times but does this apply more broadly to people's perceptions of healthcare for particular conditions and their perceptions of people living with these?

"Using the heritage collection as our starting point helped prompt some fascinating discussions and I think all of us involved in this important project have gained some real insight into mental health and addiction issues.

"The project also created an opportunity to explore the shared difficulties of conserving heritage and the care of people with mental and physical health conditions."

At the end of the project, participants produced a multi-media artwork, shaped and influenced by the community and people's healthcare experiences.

Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator, added: "We're really pleased this project proved such a valuable way of gaining more insight into an important area of healthcare and encouraging discussion on past and present attitudes.

"We thank members of SUIT for their openness and their willingness to work on the project in this way. Arts and heritage within healthcare can be a powerful tool within our communities to help drive change and challenge viewpoints."

People flock to Care, Create, Conserve display

More than 200 people flocked to a history fair in Wolverhampton, with many signing up to an oral history project on healthcare.

Items – including an early version of a nasal cannula – were displayed at the fair at the Wolverhampton City Archive in the Molineux Hotel Building.

A stall was hosted by volunteers from the Care, Create, Conserve project, part of the A&HG.

People handled a collection which includes a pair of Tudor Edwards oxygen spectacles from the 1930s, and a medicine bottle from Wolverhampton-based chemist Reade Brothers and Company.

Items were from both the former Royal Hospital which closed in 1997, and New Cross Hospital, part of RWT, where the Royal's services were transferred to.

Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator, said: "The event went very well. The archive had 250 people through the door despite poor weather, and the volunteers spoke to 60 people, having in-depth conversations with each.



"We got some sign-ups for our oral history project, and a fair few memories shared on our A2 display board – someone even recognised herself in one of our old photographs!

"We also made some lovely connections with other groups and heritage venues, including the Wolves Museum."

Volunteer Helen Steatham said: "Most people we spoke to had memories of the Royal and a few had worked there.

"It was lovely to hear how much it meant to them. The staff had particularly fond memories, and many had a tale to tell.

"Having a small selection of medical objects on display and allowing visitors to handle them was a great conversation starter and engaged even the few visitors who were unfamiliar with the Royal.

"Visitors were fascinated by the oxygen spectacles and baby feeding bottle, while the ear syringe inspired quite a lot of speculation."

Fellow volunteer Helen Trainer said: "It was brilliant able to talk to people about the history of Wolverhampton hospitals.

"It was also great to be able to sign up people to the oral history project, and to hear their stories, for future generations to listen to.

"Most people had lovely memories of the Royal. A few people worked there, and two described the 'pebbly' surface on the floor of the swimming pool!

"Folk were very interested in holding the objects – they loved the oxygen spectacles and Nurses' badges."

The Care, Create, Conserve display was one of numerous stalls featuring community groups, local history groups and genealogy societies.

Historians, organisations, and individuals shared their knowledge, answered questions and told people about their activities.

"Rich and rewarding" workshops bring many benefits

"By looking back at the past we learn how to do things better in the future."

A trio of Wolverhampton arts projects considering issues of identity, disability and language within a healthcare context has come to a successful close.

Real Arts Workshops (RAW) teamed up with the A&HG to deliver the projects, which saw school pupils and recovering patients taking part in workshops.

As a result, a 2D collage of The Royal Hospital building in All Saints and a 3D model, complete with a lift off roof, were produced, along with a reproduction painting of Gary O'Dowd's "Two Worlds" which depicts Deaf and Hearing worlds working together in harmony. And water colour paintings, dot drawings and a 3D model were created using The Weeping Chapel building – part of the original women's hospital at West Park Hospital.



The workshops sessions formed part of the Care, Create, Conserve project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

RAW is a Wolverhampton-based team led by graphic designer, artist and musician Alex Vann and profoundly Deaf crafter and BSL tutor Gary O'Dowd.

Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator, said: "We have seen some thought provoking work produced by participants in these workshops – work that really allowed them to immerse themselves in the project.



"And the resultant artworks will help us to raise further awareness of our heritage and spark greater interest across our communities, as well as prompt reflection."

RAW worked with Penn Fields School pupils, Warstones Primary School's Deaf Resource Base and West Park Hospital's rehabilitation patients.

Gary from RAW said: "It was great to have the opportunity of working with the young people at the Deaf Resource Base at Warstones School.



"We were able to borrow some archive hearing equipment from the Wolverhampton Sensory Team which the pupils had a great time learning about and interacting with. I spoke with the children about how technology has advanced since I was a pupil myself at a school for deaf children in the North East in the 1980s.

"In recent times there have been huge advances in digital hardware for Deaf people and smartphone technology now features deaf inclusive apps such as instant messaging, SMS texting, video calls and more specifically platforms such as Sign Video, Zoom, Facetime and BSL 999.

"Unfortunately, there are still many inequalities for Deaf and disabled people although BSL has eventually been officially recognised, it's still not accessible everywhere it's needed or on the school curriculum. Projects like this are useful to raise awareness of such issues – framed in a creative, fun and interactive way."

Alex from RAW added: "We found this such a rich and rewarding experience and it was fascinating to see the artworks develop along the way.

"But it's important to appreciate the wider benefits of these projects as we saw people of all ages developing new skills and gaining a real sense of satisfaction. They also benefitted from positive, social interaction with others and enjoyed working as a team.

"Projects like this help to break down barriers and challenge perceptions and remind us all that by looking back at the past we learn how to do things better in the future."

Wolverhampton's healthcare history shaped by local voices

Residents were taken back to 1849 during a highly anticipated spoken word performance through the Care, Create, Conserve project.

The performance took people through a historical journey of healthcare, exploring themes of gender role stereotyping, facilities and access to healthcare, based on their perspectives.

The event, at the Mander Health Hub, was led by poets Sophina Jagot and Emma Purshouse who shared a potted history of the Royal Hospital followed by a unique soundscape performance collated through listening activities during residency sessions within the health hub.

The poets took inspiration from current and former NHS staff, local historians and residents' memories

and experiences of healthcare throughout the years to craft their unique performance.

Sophina said: "It's been fantastic to talk to so many people and these lived experiences are reflected within our work."



"We've had a blast uncovering Wolverhampton's healthcare history and each individual perspective has shaped our performance. People have been excited to talk about their memories and share their thoughts – it's been a real pleasure to piece this together," Emma added.

Frances Land, Co-Artistic Director from Black Country Touring, collaborators of the programme, praised the poets for creating two inspiring pieces. She said: "I am so pleased to see the final performance after much development through capturing stories, thoughts, and experiences through listening and engagement exercises. The performances really capture the essence of healthcare history in Wolverhampton in such a fun and accessible way."

Alex Vann, who lives locally, said: "It's an ingenious idea to show healthcare history through the voices of local people. I particularly enjoyed reflecting on the archive of photographs – they complement the words, and the combination of sound and visuals helped shape a meaningful representation of history."

Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-Ordinator at RWT Charity, said: "Thank you to all of our communities which contributed to the showcase event – their input was invaluable and really helped us to paint a picture of healthcare in years gone by.

"Sophina and Emma brought people's experiences and memories to life so vividly for us and I'm sure their interpretation will have enthused the audience and left them keen to find out more."

Artwork creates focus for patients

An artist who worked on a project with Gynaecology staff at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital following her personal cancer experience has handed over two paintings to be displayed in the department.

Alexandra Hatfield wanted to bring some colour into the corridors, appreciating how nervous and frightened patients can be while they're waiting to be seen, and provide a thought provoking focus at the same time.



She has been working as an artist in residence with the A&HG, as part of the Care, Create, Conserve project, funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

"I have been in a patient's shoes and know the department all too well after being diagnosed with cervical cancer when I was 29," explained Alexandra, a former art teacher who is now co-founder of Saredon Studios in Cannock.

"While I knew something wasn't right, just hearing the word cancer sent my mind into a dark place where I imagined the worst. But with the support of my family and the staff in Gynaecology I was able to get myself to a place where I wasn't going to be defined by cancer, and I could make the treatment choices that were right for me.

"I opted against a hysterectomy as I wanted children, and I now have a four year old daughter Fern who means the world to me. My treatment involved lymph node removal and when my Consultant told me the tumour had been removed and there was no cancer in my womb or lymph nodes it was the best news.

I think my own cancer experience has brought home to me even more how art can help our health and wellbeing and how important it is to do the things we love."

For the paintings she produced, Alexandra looked at the work of herbologists in gynaecology before medical advances.

"I wanted to incorporate flowers with the speculum and colposcope featured in the paintings which I've gilded to show that they are precious items as they are vital for examination, leading to diagnosis and treatment – even though the thought of them can make us anxious" she said.

"I hope the paintings give patients something to focus on when they're in Gynaecology as I know how nervous and worried they feel, sat there waiting to be seen. I thoroughly enjoyed this project, working with staff as well as the Arts and Heritage Group, and I think it has highlighted how important a creative outlet can be in healthcare."

Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator, said the paintings would provide a focal and talking point in the department.

"It's so interesting to hear how Alexandra drew inspiration from herbology to produce the works and it does remind us how the past has contributed to healthcare services in the present day," she said.

"With her personal experience of cancer also shaping her approach, the paintings take on a poignancy and we thank Alexandra for her efforts on this project."

Helen Rutter, Departmental Manager in Gynaecology Outpatients, added: "The paintings certainly brighten up our walls in Gynaecology and when Alexandra came in to hand them over it was fascinating to hear about the process that went into producing them. We wish her well as she continues to spread her passion for the therapeutic benefits of art."





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For many years, people have been remembering our hospital in their Wills. Their gifts have gone on to help future generations and enhance the experience of people of all ages using services at RWT.

Often donors have experienced first-hand the high level of care and expertise on offer at RWT and want to ensure future patients continue to have access to cutting-edge technology and excellent facilities.

We are honoured to receive legacy gifts, both large and small, from people just like you, who have chosen to help us make a difference to our community. Over the years, the legacies left by compassionate donors have been a vital source of funding for Your RWTC. A staggering £299,800 was donated in legacies in the year leading up to 31 March 2024!

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If you choose to leave a gift in your Will to us, you'll need to include our name, address, and registered Charity number:

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity

New Cross Hospital

Location A27, OPD

Wolverhampton, WV10 0QP

Registered Charity no: 1059467

Give in Memory

Giving in memory is a distinct way to remember a loved one whilst making a valuable contribution to Your RWTC

You can pay tribute to the memory of someone special in a number of ways. You could make a donation, hold a collection at a funeral or memorial service, set up an online tribute page, collect donations to mark a special date, such as a birthday, or even take part in an event or challenge in their name.

Your courage and kindness will ensure we can provide the best treatments and experience to our patients and their families, all in the name of your loved one.

Spend

Generous donation for breast cancer patients

Patients who have breast surgery and need post operative drains will now receive two bras to wear during their recovery thanks to the generosity of former Goodyear workers.



Members of the 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Fund donated £6,340.50 to buy an extra bra to support patients through their surgical recovery.

It is hoped around 450 women a year will be supported in this way through RWT and the thoughtful donation will take away the often daunting process of buying a bra post-surgery.

Siobhan Lynch, from Albrighton, had a mastectomy recently and said how comfortable the post-operative bras are.

She said: "I had to have three drains in for a week and a half following my surgery and the bras even had space to facilitate these. They are great and I am really glad all women will now be provided with two.

"All the team have been amazing throughout my treatment. It has been a long and daunting process but the staff are like friends now and have really looked after me."

Samantha Bullows, Lead Breast Cancer Nurse at RWT, said: "Thanks to the fantastic funding from the former Goodyear workers we can ensure that patients who need them will have two comfy specialist bras to potentially reduce pain and complications.

"We often get asked what kind of bra should be worn after an operation such as a mastectomy. This is often a cause of anxiety and concern for patients before and after their surgery. While we're on hand to advise about the bras available some patients feel overwhelmed by what to choose and some aren't able to purchase suitable new bras.

"These bras have a front fastening, are soft and supportive, and include a pocket within the cup for a prosthesis if needed. The bras are also provided with detachable pouches to facilitate any drains and take away the expense and stress of women trying to go out and buy their own.

"It is great to be able to supply two bras and on behalf of our patients we are very grateful.

"A special thank you to Sarah Faulkner, General Surgery Manager and Vicki Fleury, Matron, who put in the Charity bid."

Cyril Barrett, Chair of the 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Fund, said the donation was the latest in a long line to RWT.

He said: "We have been supporting breast care services at New Cross since the late eighties and are very proud to do so.

"I am so glad we could make this donation as it is a proud legacy provided by the kindness of the former Goodyear workers."

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, added: "A huge thank you to the former Goodyear workers for the incredible support and for this latest generous donation.

"We are so lucky that due to many years of support from 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Fund, we have been able to buy some ground-breaking equipment and launch some amazing projects and we really appreciate it."

Hospital garden gets makeover

A hospital garden has been overhauled and brought back to life with new planters and colourful decorations thanks to the kindness of the local community.

Employees from The Mander Shopping Centre in Wolverhampton joined forces with patients and staff from RWT to spend the day revamping the green space outside the Neurological Rehabilitation Unit (NRU) at West Park Hospital.



They planted new flowers, tidied up the flower beds, built wooden troughs for vegetables to be grown in, painted the pagoda and installed a new table and chairs.

The volunteers also installed new solar lighting so the garden can be enjoyed at all times of the day. The makeover cost £3,000.

Laura Taylor, Marketing Manager at The Mander Shopping Centre, said:

"Our security, cleaning and management staff joined together to revamp the gardens as it is really important for us to give back to the community who shop at and use the Mander Centre.

"A lot of our team have experienced care from the hospital and we know how important the garden is for patients."

The garden has already been well received by patients, including Sophie Evans-Carey who spent time at West Park receiving treatment for functional neurological disorder (FND).

She said: "It has been so lovely to see the difference the Mander Centre has made to the garden. Being able to see it from start to finish, and the transformation of colour, and all the different ornaments that have been put around the garden, has been magical.

"It is going to make such a difference for so many people.

"Hopefully we will be able to come out here with our families and enjoy the sunshine."

Emma Stewart, Matron for NRU, said: "We would like to say a massive thank you to the Mander Centre team for coming and revamping our garden.

"It is a huge improvement for patients and is somewhere nice for them now to come and sit and enjoy, to help with their recovery."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager explained Your RWTC, funded the project through a donation from Willenhall Area Relief Rehabilitation and Nursing Trust (WARRANT),

She said: "It was lovely spending the day at the NRU and helping with this transformation. Getting to meet the patients and hearing first-hand the difference this will make to them is the best part of my job.



"A huge thanks to Laura and the teams from the Mander Centre, you truly have made an impact at the NRU and we can't wait to see the garden flourish and be used by all.

"We also want to thank WARRANT for the donation of funds for this project. Without them we wouldn't have been able to make the transformation."

Donated chairs help new parents

Specialist chairs designed to help new parents feel more comfortable when feeding or caring for their new babies have been donated to Wolverhampton's Neonatal Unit.

A total of 12 chairs – six electric and six manual – costing £48,000, have been bought by Your RWTC for the unit at New Cross Hospital.

Sarah Crowshaw, Neonatal Ward Manager, said the chairs were a huge upgrade on what was available previously.

She said: "The chairs supplied by the NHS are hard and very upright. The new ones we have had donated by the Charity are so much better.

"A lot of parents like to sleep at the baby's bedside and can do so in these chairs as they fully recline, so can be used 24 hours if parents wish to.

"They also help with the feeding of the babies and are specially designed to make this easier for the parents."



One of the first mums on the ward to use the new chair was Lucy Gould.

The full-time mum of two, gave birth to baby Lenny Mitchell-Gould.

She said: "I think the new chairs are absolutely brilliant. I had a joke going with the other women that I was like a sales rep for them I was singing their praises so much.

"I spent hours and hours on the unit and this chair made my stay a lot more comfortable.

"I had a C section so the fact there is a remote control to recline the chair really helped.

"It is just another part of the amazing care I received. I am so grateful to the staff and the unit."

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, said: "We were thrilled to provide the chairs to the Neonatal Unit to enhance the environment and support given to new mums during their stay on the unit.

"Thank you so much to everyone who donates and supports our Charity – it is because of you we are able to make these amazing donations which really lift our patients' spirits."

Orthotics makeover gives patients a champion feeling

Young patients are now able to feel like Olympic champions when they attend Orthotics appointments in Wolverhampton thanks to a colourful charity makeover.



Children receive a medal and a gift which makes having treatment a treat rather than a chore at New Cross Hospital – and with 100 patients seen a week, that's a lot of bling!

From a dinosaur climbing a ladder to dolphins and boats, with elephants and giraffes plus balloons and aeroplanes, Orthotics has never looked as bright, interesting and engaging.

Some children, who come to hospital to have insoles or other items fitted or replaced to support their mobility, have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

And young patients are the main beneficiaries of the transformation which has been organised and funded by Your RWTC.



Receiving medals for attending appointments to look like successful Olympians has a positive effect, as have knitted items, courtesy of the Crafting for Communities group of knitters.

The newly decorated walls and gifts are the ideal distraction to help ensure a less stressed environment for them, their loved ones and staff.



Sensory and themed activity packs based on the American coming-of-age animation film 'Inside Out 2' donated by MediCinema are another tactic which can help things go more smoothly.

Sensory packs are also available for Orthotics patients at The Gem Centre in Wednesfield and the Learning Disability Clinic at Cannock Chase Hospital, complete with puzzles with stickers and ear defenders.

Dr Nicky Eddison, Consultant Orthotist/Orthotics Service Manager at RWT, said: "We had plain walls before so the team got in touch with the Charity to see what could be done in terms of a makeover, to make it more inviting for patients.

"When they said they could decorate it, I didn't realise it could be this good. You can see their expertise in how they have made it so brilliant. A lot of our long-term patients have said they can see the difference straight away."

Nicky's PA Sudi Nayyar, and Admin Team Supervisor, said: "The pictures on the walls have helped the patients interact – instead of asking them to walk to a blank wall, we say things like 'Do you want to go and have a look at that elephant over there?' It really helps.

"The patients can be agitated but thanks to the knitted items too they have something to fidget with and it means the staff can talk to the patients' loved ones in a stress-free environment so it's a better experience for them too."

Lindsey Wagstaff, Community and Events Fundraiser, said: "It's wonderful to see what has been achieved, and hear what a great effect it has had on patients who come in for their appointments."

Ex-Goodyear workers fund £6,400 machine

Heart test results can now be given to young patients instantly after generous former Goodyear workers paid for a £6,400 machine to improve their hospital care as part of a £500,000 legacy.

The Children's Outpatients department at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton has its first electrocardiogram (ECG) machine, which records the electrical activity of the heart.

It means patients who need their heart tested can have this done there and then, rather than visiting the Heart and Lung Centre in an adult setting.

Having their own machine means the appointment is also quicker – around 20 minutes rather than an hour and a half.

Between 15 and 20 patients per week are already benefitting from the new machine, rising to 50 to 100 per week as more staff are trained to use it.



Dr Minoth Kanagaratnam, Consultant Paediatrician at RWT, said: "This vital piece of equipment has become our new best friend!

"Now we have this, children don't have to go to an adult setting which might be daunting and stressful, and we get the results straightaway rather than having to wait longer – maybe even days.

"This is the first time we've had an ECG machine in Children's Outpatients and I can't thank the former Goodyear workers enough. It saves huge amounts of time, it improves flow, and it prevents delays in diagnosis.

"Results are now instant and we can see if there's anything abnormal going on, so the patient experience is far better."

Kirsty Lewis, Senior Matron for Acute Children's Services, said: "This machine has provided quick reassurance for children and parents because waiting to rule out a heart condition can be quite an anxious time for both.

"Carrying out an ECG can be seen as invasive for our patients. Using the skills of our children's Nurses, we are able to communicate in a way they understand and ensure they feel at ease throughout."

Nikki Hewitt, who is RWT's first Paediatric Clinical Nurse Specialist, has trained staff to use the machine.

She said: "It's been amazing – having this is making life so much easier. Colleagues are very excited about it and patients are comfortable with it too."

Cyril Barrett, Chair of the 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Fund (Ex-Goodyear Wolverhampton), was delighted to hand over the cheque.

"For what the NHS staff do, we should get down on our knees to them every day – what wonderful human beings they all are," said Cyril.

"We feel it's important to create a living legacy and that's what donations like this have done."

Cyril's former colleague Wayne Devaney, who had a pacemaker fitted at New Cross Hospital, added: "My daughter Sylvie has been looked after here on a regular basis with juvenile arthritis as a child. We have been inspired by the staff here many times."

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, said: "This fundraising effort has been phenomenal and members can rest assured they have helped patients today as well as helping so many future generations."

Mistletoe and Michael spread seasonal smiles

Rudolf was busy at the North Pole but his reindeer friends Mistletoe and Michael brought miles of smiles to young patients at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital when they visited.



Organised through Your RWTC, the festive furry friends made themselves at home outside the Children's Ward and proved a real tonic – for all ages.

Aoife enjoyed watching them. She said: "They were really good."

Bianca Gambone and Alice Lloyd's daughter Lorena also enjoyed visiting the pair.

Bianca said: "This was amazing and totally unexpected as well. It's so good of the Charity to make this happen on the ward. The reindeer were so sweet."

Harrison said the visit helped put him in the mood for the most magical time of the year.



"It was really fun seeing the reindeer, I've never seen such majestic animals," he said.

"I'm looking forward to Christmas, meeting family and reuniting with everyone."

Anabell was happy to feed Mistletoe and Michael.

"I'm used to feeding horses so I was fine to give them some food," she said. "They loved it."

Families whose babies are on the Neonatal Unit were also invited to enjoy some festive cheer.

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said this was one of the busiest times of year for the Charity but one of the most rewarding.

"Seeing so many happy faces makes all of our work so worthwhile.

"The children loved meeting Mistletoe and Michael but this was also a seasonal treat for their parents and carers and our own staff."



Young patients benefit from another Goodyear gift

"I remember being in hospital with my own grandson and the distress caused when the medics couldn't find a vein to insert a cannula."



Motivated by this upsetting memory, as well as a desire to recognise the "amazing people who make up our NHS," former Goodyear factory workers once again supported RWT.

Led by Chair and Trustee Cyril Barrett, members of the 5/344 Branch of the Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Fund visited the Children's Ward at New Cross Hospital to see an AccuVein device handed over. This handheld device can help healthcare staff accurately and quickly find veins during blood draws, injections, and other treatments.

Cyril explained that he had seen first-hand how difficult it could be to find a vein to administer treatment after his own grandson needed a cannula to be inserted.

"I remember the distress caused when the medics couldn't find a vein to insert a cannula," he said.

"It was a long time ago, but I've not forgotten it and know how upsetting it can be for the young patients as well as their families to witness. This device will help reduce that distress and we're pleased to hand it over.

"We always said we wanted those of us who worked at Goodyear to leave a legacy, I can't emphasise enough how important that is to us. And we also want to recognise the amazing people who make up our NHS. They are angels and what they have done for many of our members – as well as families across Wolverhampton and the Black Country and Staffordshire – is priceless."

Abbie Wood, Senior Sister and HDU Lead at RWT, said the device would make a huge difference to young patients' experience.

"It can be very difficult to find a vein and this device will help us to do so, reducing the anxiety and fear that our young patients have. We are so grateful for everything the Goodyear workers have done for us in Paediatrics as well as across the wider Trust."

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, added: "It's always a pleasure to catch up with our Goodyear fundraisers and once again we appreciate their efforts to support both our patients and the staff who care for them. The AccuVein, which cost just under £5,000, will definitely benefit patients on the Children's Ward and help make their treatment easier."

Neonatal loves its £38,000 new trolleys

Neonatal staff in Wolverhampton have taken delivery of some flashy new wheels to accelerate care for poorly babies thanks to a £38,000 charity donation.



A specialist trolley for each bed in the 26-bedded Neonatal Unit at New Cross Hospital has been bought by Your RWTC, changing and improving the way care is delivered.

Each trolley comes with five different coloured drawers – four for parent care for their baby and the other for staff care for each baby.

The parent-led drawers are for their baby's medication, administration, infant feeding and the baby's belongings.

Katie Haywood, Matron for Neonatal Services at RWT, said: "Thank you to the Charity for supporting this initiative – we're delighted with the new trolleys.

"They will help standardise practice and storage of equipment, as well as reduce the risk of infection due to the design and closed drawers system.

"They will also enable us to support parent-led medications administration using the lockable green pharmacy drawer.

"This supports parent education of providing ongoing care needs, and therefore a safer, effective and more efficient discharge."

Kate Cheshire, Head of Midwifery and Neonatal Services at RWT, added: "We're so grateful to be supported by the Charity to enhance care for families. Working closely with the Charity really does make a difference to care.

"These trolleys are functional as well as looking great."

Feedback for the new trolleys has been positive.

Katie Haywood added: "The team loves them, so they have already brought a positive impact."

Erica Smith, Sister, said: "The trolleys have brightened up the unit and are a great addition to the area."

First-time mum Aakriti Aakriti's son Luvyam Kumar was born at 27 weeks, and she found the trolleys really helpful.

She said: "They are lovely and helping with breast-feeding equipment storage and more space for me to store my baby's belongings."

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, said: "We're delighted to be able to support with this initiative.

"Knowing the trolleys will help staff and ultimately improve care for our youngest patients and their families is so important, plus they brighten up the unit."

Let's get Izzy – patient gets on her bike to raise £4,200

A schoolgirl got on her bike to raise more than £4,200 for charity to help provide a new look for sick young patients.



Izzy Foley rode a mile on her bike every day for 28 days, accompanied by dad Dan Foley running alongside.

Albrighton villagers – plus supporters as far away as Cornwall and Singapore – gave generously, raising £4,217.50.

The donations will help fund a £7,000 first virtual reality headset on the Children's Ward at New Cross Hospital through Your RWTC help relieve anxiety in younger patients facing challenging situations, such as having cannulas inserted.

Izzy wanted to give back after being a patient at New Cross Hospital since 2018, under Dr Sally Edwards, while her brother Noah has also been a long-term patient.

A cystic fibrosis carrier, asthma sufferer Izzy was regularly blue-lighted to hospital as a baby until being discharged in January after Dr Edwards confirmed she is no longer asthmatic.

Mum Vicki Foley said: "Izzy wanted to give back and initially wanted to swim every day.

"But we decided that would be too challenging time-wise as she has after-school clubs.

"She stuck at it, not missing a day, even when it was raining heavily."

Noah had kidney problems as a baby and had extensive testing for several genetic conditions.

The tests were clear, but he was diagnosed with severe neutropenia.

This is an abnormally low concentration of neutrophils, which make up most white blood cells – the body's main defence against infections.

Noah's condition turned out to be autoimmune which would heal itself in time.

But he was a regular at the Children's Outpatients Department until being discharged in September 2024.

The amount and speed of the fundraising surprised the family.

"We're flabbergasted – there are a lot of generous people around," said Dan, a senior quantity surveyor.

Vicki, a business assurance manager, added: "Initially, Izzy wanted to raise £200 to buy some toys for the department but we raised £800 on the first day.

"Posters were put up in The Harp pub in Albrighton. We posted daily updates to the JustGiving page. We even had people knocking our door offering us cash!

"We also got donations from it being displayed in Keith Gibson's Cars in Albrighton where my dad works. The garage also donated generously."

Sarah Lewis, Matron on Children's Ward, said: "Thanks so much to Izzy for her efforts.

"The headset will make so much difference to younger patients. The sets are great for relieving stress and anxiety."

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement, said:

"Izzy is such a sweet, thoughtful little girl and her determination to stick to her task and raise so much money is testament to her hard work."

Behind every pound: The impact you make

Charitable funds from WARRANT have allowed us to provide the Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Team with a brand new Careflex Hydrotilt chair.

This specialist chair will aid patients' rehabilitation and will enhance patient experience. Patients to be able to sit out of bed and potentially be taken off the ward with staff, where they would have likely been nursed in bed otherwise. This will have significant benefits to the patient's well-being, as well as supporting their physical rehabilitation needs, and preventing complications associated with prolonged bed rest.

A huge thank you to WARRANT for its generous donation which also provided specialist chairs in AMU.



Volunteering at RWT

Volunteer @RWT

King's Award honour for Wolverhampton service

The King's Award for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups

Selfless volunteers who support The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust in its hospitals and community were "absolutely thrilled" after receiving The King's Award for Voluntary Service.

The accolade is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE.

Your RWTC and Volunteering Service was one of 281 local charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the prestigious award this year. Its work, along with others from across the UK, highlights all the ways fantastic volunteers are contributing to their local communities and working to make life better for those around them.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to support their communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate Her Majesty The late Queen's Golden Jubilee and was continued following the accession of His Majesty The King.

Recipients are announced annually on 14 November, The King's Birthday.

Ashleigh Key, Volunteer Services Co-ordinator at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, said:

"We are absolutely thrilled to receive the news that our phenomenal volunteers have won a King's Award for Voluntary Service. It is incredibly well-deserved, and this award really is for each and every single volunteer who has contributed their time to support our patients, staff and wider Trust. Past and present, our volunteers are heroes and continue to make such a significant impact to our local communities in Wolverhampton. Working in volunteering is such a rewarding experience, and nothing is more satisfying than seeing our volunteers win the highest achievement for voluntary service. We'd also like to acknowledge our former colleague Eleanor Morris for all of her support."



Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, added: "Huge congratulations to this super group of people who are committed to making a difference to both our patients and our staff through their volunteering roles. Our Charity supporters give up their time to help us with vital fundraising, get involved with events and help us spread the word about all the fantastic projects underway across the service. We couldn't be prouder of them."

Professor Martin Levermore MBE DL, RWT Chair of the Charity, added: "The King's Award for Voluntary Service recognises the outstanding contribution and dedication of our volunteers alongside all the many supporters of the Charity. The award highlights the unwavering commitment the Charity holds in improving our community through our volunteers' selfless acts and positive impact.

It recognises and demonstrates the importance of volunteering and civic responsibility. I am truly proud and humbled by our volunteers' collective efforts in expounding the importance of community cohesion and selfless service."

50 volunteers attended a special event where they were presented with a signed certificate from His Majesty The King and a crystal award , presented by the Lord-Lieutenant of the West Midlands, Mr Derrick Anderson CBE.

The below tables illustrate the volunteer activity for 2024/25. This year the Trust has recruited 149 volunteers, was supported by 411 active volunteers, and returned a combined total of 1,3752 volunteering hours.

The Trust has welcomed the first Volunteering In Education programme, a partnership with Wolverhampton College, supporting our workforce of the future through volunteering opportunities.

Total Volunteer Hours Per Area

Area	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YTD
New Cross Hospital	2959	2018	2572	2887	**10436**
Cannock Chase Hospital	469	314	515	531	**1829**
West Park Hospital	83	71	27	31	**212**
PIPs	15	11	19	0	**45**
Community	82	67	87	28	**264**
The Maltings	x	x	49	48	**97**
Breastfeeding Support Group	x	x	234	207	**441**
Arts and Heritage - Charity	x	x	274	154	**428**
Trust Total	**3608**	**2481**	**3777**	**3886**	**13752**
Total cost (B2 equivalent)	£38,777	£27,043	£45,626	£46,943	**£157,389**

Recruitment Numbers

Q1	**4**	**Q2**	**41**	**Q3**	**23**	**Q4**	**81**





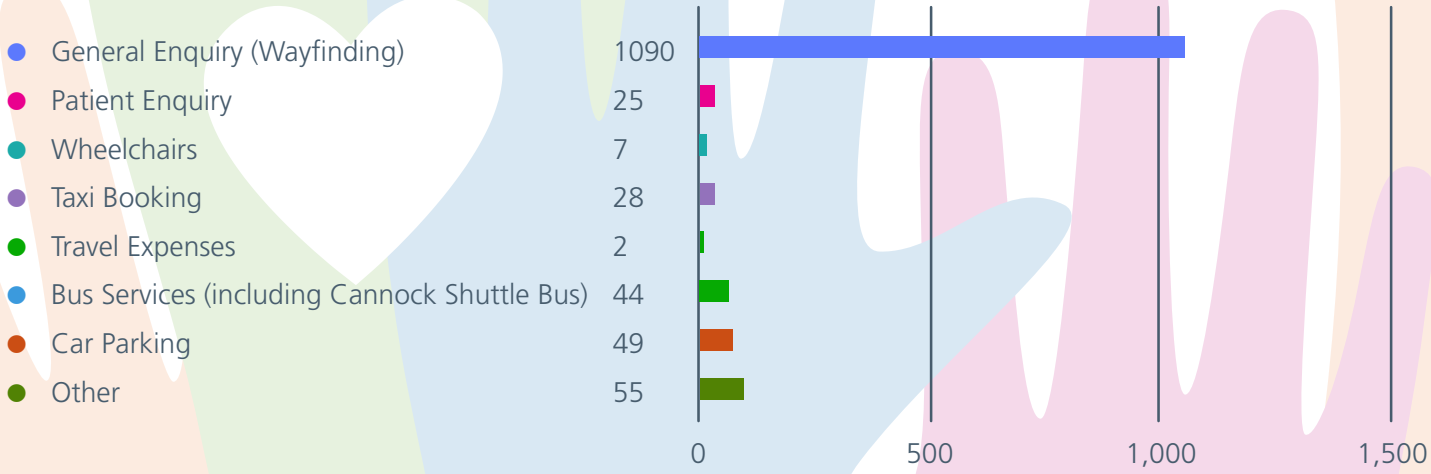
Face-to-Face Support at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital

The Beat, a new hub within the Heart and Lung Centre at New Cross Hospital opened in November 2024. The Beat offers face-to-face support for patients, staff, and visitors to access essential services and explore new opportunities. This initiative includes a new Customer Access Point, operated by The City of Wolverhampton Council, where the council's Customer Services Team will be available every Tuesday from 10 am to 2 pm.

The hub also provides information on how to get involved with Your RWTC and its Arts and Heritage Group. As The Beat grows, the Trust looks forward to welcoming more partners to showcase their support and services.

- The Beat started recording patient enquiries on an iPad from 24 January 2025
- 1300 responses have been recorded to date
- Wolverhampton City Council's Customer services Team is available every Tuesday from 10am- 2pm
- A Welfare Rights Officer (CounciQ now attends every other Tuesday to assist patients and visitors with benefits assessments, application forms, entitlement guidance, and signposting to additional services
- Volunteers support The Beat every day, except Friday afternoons





Next steps

Now that The Beat is operational, the next step is to create a monthly schedule for visitors from other organisations and internal teams. A promotional and communications plan will be developed to raise awareness both internally and externally about The Beat and it's partners.



Supporting teams to transform services

The King's Award for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups



Funding of £126,420 from Your RWTC supported our creative teams to develop a tool to improve end-of-life care for patients – and won them an HSJ Digital Award.

The Digital Innovation Unit which supports RWT and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, developed the Proactive Risk-Based Data-Driven Assessment of Patients at End of Life initiative (PRADA).

This addresses the critical inefficiencies in this type of care, particularly the inconsistent registration of patients on to the Gold Standard Framework, an evidence-based service improvement programme.

The digital tool aimed to drive earlier intervention, avoid disjointed multiple sources of information and house all vital patient details in one place, while ensuring patients are able to access the most appropriate services.

It was co-designed and created by the Digital Innovation Unit, Specialist Palliative Care Team, Adult Community Service Group and GP representation. This has ensured all potential aspects of a patient's journey have been looked at to assure inclusion and integrated ways of working.

And it was given a £126,420 funding boost which was vital to this work, thanks to Your RWTC.

Alvina Nisbett, Group Director of Digital Innovation at the Trusts, said: "End-of-life-care is such a challenging and difficult area of healthcare which has a significant impact on patients and their families if processes and pathways don't work well.

"Patients are often supported by a variety of services – hospital and community – and we wanted to look at ways in which to make this as smooth a transition as possible. Our teams have been brave in their approach and I have to give credit to them for all their hard work and perseverance.

"This national recognition only serves as a nod to our credibility and leadership in the Digital Innovation and Digital Transformation arena."

Professor Baldev Singh, who developed and leads this programme of care, added that any improvement and innovation around such an important area had to be handled sensitively, as around 30 per cent of patients in hospital are in their last year of life. Since COVID-19 more patients have shared their wishes to die at home, rather than in hospital.

"PRADA has drawn on colleagues' expertise around supporting end-of-life patients and how digitised care can bring about meaningful improvements," he said.

"We feel we have developed a groundbreaking tool to address the challenges of late identification and the fragmented response that often follows in such circumstances.

"We are proud to have won this prestigious award and it energises us to build on our collective commitment to continue making improvements for our patients and their families.

"The team is also grateful to Your RWTC for its invaluable funding support for this work".

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "This is a brilliant example of the innovative way funds can be used to improve our patients' experience.

"Your RWTC is extremely supportive of projects that go above and beyond what the NHS can provide, appreciating we can collectively make a difference now and for future generations."

Grants

NHS Charities Together Grant

Holistic Opportunities Preventing Exclusion (HOPE) project

Our HOPE project started on 25 April 2023 and was a two year project funded by NHS Charities Together, aimed at addressing and reducing social isolation and loneliness as a result of the Covid pandemic, in the community of Wolverhampton. We worked in partnership with Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council (WVCA).

Volunteers were recruited and placed alongside social prescribing teams to receive referrals of people experiencing social isolation. Volunteers received specialist training and visited their referred service users to undertake visits and link them up with suitable activities (social prescription) in their community.

Funding was available in the project for small community organisations with a turnover of less than £50,000, to apply for small grants up to £5,000, to deliver activities which aligned with the HOPE project.

Year two of the project demonstrated strong performance against its key objectives leading to a positive impact, concluding successfully on 31 March 2025.

A total of 113 new volunteers were welcomed to the Trust providing fantastic support to 92 vulnerable people coping with isolation and loneliness in Wolverhampton. Volunteers provided 1652 hours of support, covering all WV post code areas. A Volunteer appreciation event was hold in November attended by 32 volunteers.

Volunteers also assisted the wider community with volunteer support whilst still aligning with the HOPE Project's aims of working with vulnerable people and reducing social isolation:

Gatis Community space:

- PLR (Public Living Room) support: Duties consisted of being friendly and talking to people, making them feel welcome, encouraging people to talk or play together
- Youth Club: Helping supervise the children (9 to 16) in the activities or during free play

Beacon Centre

- Volunteer befriending, either by telephone or face to face. Volunteers in the Lifestyle Centre supported people who came in to use centre services, with activities such as crafts, quizzes, cooking

ASAN for All Saints

- Tuesday lunch club- supported cooking/ kitchen, assisting lunch clubbers and general support with activities and running of the lunch club
- Gardening club and caretaking
- Marketing, social media
- Winter Warm Packs - Through engagement with community partnerships at Wolverhampton City Council we were able to distribute via WVCA 20 Winter Warm packs to vulnerable residents. Hats, gloves, winter socks, phone friendly gloves, fleece blanket and reusable canvas bags were provided

National PENNA Awards (Patient Experience Network)

The HOPE Project was finalist for a PENNA (Patient Experience Network National Award) in two categories:

- Engaging and Championing the Public
- Support for Caregivers, Friends, and Family

Commissions Programme

WVCA ran the Commissions Programme known as the HOPE Small Grants Fund. There were six assessment panels which were held jointly with RWT staff. The panel reviewed 58 applications and successfully commissioned 23 projects from 21 different community groups. These projects reached an estimated 2,200 plus beneficiaries. Following an approved extension request by NHS Charities Together, seven of the commissioned projects continued until the agreed extended delivery end date of 18 July 2025.

Name of Organisation	Activity Name	Activity Description
BME (Black and Minority Ethnic) Housing Consortium	Sewing Me, Sewing You	Participants getting to know each other through the art of 'Learning' how to sew and knit, and making practical items for themselves to use or donate to other vulnerable groups in Wolverhampton.
Mandem Meet Ups Wolves	Working/ Workout	An intervention to allow men to come together to reduce isolation, exercise to improve physical health and to be more present and mindful to improve wellbeing.
Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary	Weekly drop in	Provision of a safe and welcoming space where asylum seekers and refugees can make friends and start to rebuild their lives, also including English classes, cooked meals, donations and community information.
Wolves Play Cafe	Fun and Friendly Faces	Supporting wellbeing of caregivers of children under 5.
Magical MC CIC	Social Meetup with Public Speaking Training	Creating a space where people can socialise and also gain public speaking training.
Secret Angels WLV CIC	Java Joy	Bridging hearts over brews- an afternoon of coffee, tea, games and connection.
Social Steam Engine Community Association	Life in Bloom	Flower arranging, arts in photography in library buildings, using experts by experience from local mental health charity Hear our Voice.
TNB Connect	TNBC Serenity sessions	Wellbeing workshops, social support groups, and creative wellness sessions for people who are transgender or non-binary.
Mel Jool Women's Community Group Connect	Promoting Healthy Lifestyle	To bring women together from all sections of the community and support them to combat isolation, depression, anxiety, other health conditions and improve their linguistic skills.
Voice4Parents – Wolverhampton Parent Carer Forum	Wellbeing Activities for Parent Carers of Children with Special Educational Needs and/ or Disabilities (SEND)	Provide wellbeing workshops, creative activities, and peer support opportunities for parent carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Wolverhampton, helping them combat isolation, improve mental health, and build a supportive community.
Wolves Disabled Supporters Association	Accessible Travel and Social Events	Provide accessible travel and social events for disabled supporters of Wolverhampton Wanderers, reducing isolation and improving wellbeing by enabling participation in matches and community activities through tailored transport and inclusive gatherings.
BME Housing Consortium	The Big Fix…	Hands-on workshops where they will repair, recycle, and upcycle furniture and upholstery, contributing to Wolverhampton's green and circular economy while supporting vulnerable individuals and families in need.
WCC Compton Garden Club	Compton Community Garden	Weekly gardening sessions, fostering friendships, supporting wellbeing, and helping individuals. Particularly those experiencing loneliness or bereavement, build community connections while creating and maintaining a vibrant outdoor space in Compton.
Wolverhampton Elder Asians and Disabled group – WEAD	Respond and React	Support older Asian adults by providing social activities, cultural connection opportunities, and wellbeing advice, fostering friendships, improving confidence, and reducing isolation through structured community engagement.

Name of Organisation	Activity Name	Activity Description
Re-generated Teenagers Club	Social Club	A Christmas lunch and entertainment for a 65+ group, helping to reduce isolation and loneliness by fostering meaningful connections in a welcoming environment.
Positive Activities for Young People	Community engagement trips	Community engagement trips, participants will gain meaningful experiences, build confidence, and foster social connections.
Re-generated Teenagers Club	Pensioners Social Club	A social meal experience for members of the Regenerated Teenagers Club who missed the Christmas gathering due to illness or social barriers. Helping participants rebuild confidence, reduce isolation, and enjoy meaningful social interactions.
Wild Campers Against Waste	WV10 Conscious Camping Community	Outdoor camping experiences for families, fostering a sense of community, improving wellbeing, and encouraging responsible engagement with nature through structured activities, environmental education, and accessible opportunities.
EK ONKAR Group	Stay Active, Healthy & Well-being Support Project	Wellbeing support for older, vulnerable Asian women, offering a day trip and Vaisakhi celebration meal to help reduce isolation, improve mental health, and foster a stronger sense of community.
Diversity Music Community 1st CIC	Music Served with Love	Using music as a tool for social connection, skill development, and intergenerational engagement and reducing isolation among older adults through workshops, mentoring, and creative collaboration.
Open Doors Community Space	1. MENS HEALTH AND WELL-BEING GROUP 2. SOUP KITCHEN	Bringing together men from the BAME community to reduce loneliness and improve wellbeing through monthly health discussions, social activities like dominoes, and health awareness talks on conditions. Additionally, a soup kitchen will provide nutritious meals to those in need, ensuring access to food and community support.
Grace2Grace	The B.K Project	Supporting vulnerable women from BAME communities by offering a structured six-week empowerment program, including wellbeing workshops, emotional support, and confidence-building activities, fostering resilience and community connection.
NICS Winter Wellbeing	Brighter Days	Provide structured mental health support, offering Lunch and Learn sessions to improve emotional resilience and social connections, alongside a Parent Support Group for carers of neurodivergent children, fostering confidence, wellbeing, and advocacy skills.

The HOPE project has strengthened the partnership between RWT and WVCA, laying the groundwork for future collaboration.

Volunteers have gained valuable skills and experience in Social Prescribing and supporting vulnerable individuals, which many are keen to continue using in future roles, with some already moving into employment and many more taking steps closer to where they want to be in their career paths.

Several commisioned community groups have also built new connections and developed projects that are likely to continue beyond the life of the grant, including some exploring additional funding opportunities.

The Social Prescribing service clients who received support from volunteers have benefited from increased connection, personalised assistance, and someone to walk alongside them when needed. Many of them are now further away from isolation and have accessed local services and activities they may not have been able to reach alone.

The commissioned community groups have delivered activities that helped hundreds of people feel more connected, more confident, and less isolated which has helped to build community resilience that will last beyond the project's formal end.

Care, Create Conserve Project

Grant - National Lottery Heritage Fund

Project start date April 2023 – Project end date March 2025

In 2022, an Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator was recruited and the group set out to deliver an 18-month long programme of activity which would engage local communities with Wolverhampton's rich healthcare heritage. This project, titled Care, Create, Conserve, sought to display the medical equipment, memorabilia and photographs of Wolverhampton Hospitals Heritage Collection, which was acquired by the group in July 2023. This exhibition would be supported by a vibrant programme of artist residencies, co-creation projects and events which would increase the relevance and resonance of this heritage with local people. In October 2023, the Arts and Heritage Group was awarded a grant of £139,792 by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to deliver Care, Create, Conserve.

Through the project, the heritage collection was exhibited in several local community venues including Wolverhampton Central Library and Wolverhampton Archives. From these central, accessible public locations, it successfully engaged a wide audience which reflected the diversity of the local community. New resources were developed to increase engagement and reach audiences including ex-healthcare staff and children, such as a Nursing memoir, magazine and board game.

Arts and Heritage Volunteers were recruited through the project to act as ambassadors for the heritage collection, and to share knowledge with visitors to the exhibition. Volunteers enhanced the visitor experience by bringing the displays to life, and by enabling local people to contribute their own memories and perspectives to the project. Volunteers had opportunities to participate in training which gave them the skills to begin facilitating reminiscence sessions and oral histories interviews, broadening the scope for engaging audiences. Training also encompassed topics such as collections care, conservation and curation, equipping volunteers to assist with maintenance of the valuable heritage collection.

A wide variety of artworks, developed through four artist residencies and four co-creation projects, examined healthcare through different lenses and encapsulated local experiences of healthcare both past and present. Performance poems, paintings, illustrations, prints, collages and models were developed through a mixture of community consultation, audience participation, and facilitated workshops. These projects were also successful in reaching a wide range of people, including local primary and secondary schools, patient support networks and adult community groups.

Care, Create, Conserve has been a valuable pilot project, equipping Your RWTC and the Arts and Heritage Group with knowledge and experiences that will inform future work. The ambitious scale of the project has provided opportunities to trial new approaches to engaging local communities with healthcare heritage, but has also revealed areas for development, including the need for new processes with NHS Trust departments to support the delivery of arts and heritage activity.

Through its various delivery strands, the project sought to:

- Embed the Arts and Heritage Group within the local community, providing opportunities for the community to engage in impactful and meaningful activities which would enable people to forge connections, learn new skills, and improve their wellbeing
- Provide a testbed for engagement and inform a new audience engagement strategy, enabling us to innovate with our approaches to better involve local people in telling this shared heritage
- Inform the viability of future larger-scale projects, such as a virtual healthcare museum, by facilitating research and early-stage consultation
- Create a robust collections management strategy, aided by consultation with local cultural organisations and advisory bodies including West Midlands Museum Development
- Increase the capacity and skill base of the Arts and Heritage Group. By building this resilience into the group, we will be better placed to manage its heritage collection and potentially seek accreditation in the future

Care, Create, Conserve comprised of four main strands of work:

1. The development of **exhibition and co-creation facilities** in a visible and accessible multi-purpose space in Wolverhampton city centre, with the potential to relocate to other spaces across the city. As part of this, we also delivered family activities during the school holidays, offered writing workshops as part of a poetry competition, and produced literature such as booklets and magazines
2. The recruitment of a team of **Arts and Heritage volunteers and Staff Heritage Champions**, who will steward this exhibition and engage the public with the collection. These volunteers engaged in training opportunities which included our own 'Hands-on Heritage' series, oral history and reminiscence training
3. The facilitation of four **artist residencies**, with artists having developed 2D and 3D artworks which explore healthcare through different perspectives including diversity, identity, gender, and disability/neurodiversity
4. The delivery of four **community co-creation projects**, with creative facilitators working with local schools and community groups to develop larger-scale artworks which explore personal experiences of healthcare, the interplay between healthcare and conservation, youth voice, and sustainability and the environment

Care, Create, Conserve in Numbers



Who were our audiences?

The data collected from the exhibition and from participatory activity throughout the project shows that a wide audience was reached. This has increased and widened audiences for the Arts and Heritage Group, and for the collection which has not previously been publicly accessible.

Audience Type



- General public (82%)
- Community groups (11%)
- Patients or service users (4%)
- NHS staff (2%)
- Project staff/volunteers (1%)

Arts and Heritage Volunteers who managed the exhibition space reported that visitors included:

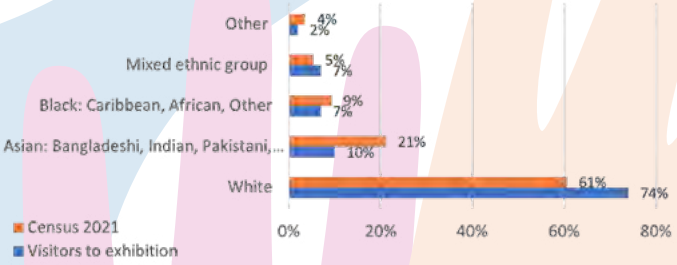
- A group of 60 school children
- A trainee doctor from Aston University (Birmingham)
- Someone who migrated from India to work in NHS
- Ex-Nurses and other healthcare staff who worked or trained at the Royal Hospital
- A girl who wants to be a Doctor
- A group of tourists from Hong Kong
- A former patient

Demographic data for our audiences was collected primarily through the mini survey cards which gathered feedback for the exhibition. Rates of disability amongst visitors to the exhibition were 15%, compared to the 19.4% amongst the Wolverhampton population (Census 2021 data published by Office of National Statistics). Figure 4 shows that data on audience ethnicity collected from exhibition visitors aligns well with the Census 2021 data. This reveals our project has been successful in reaching a wide cross-section of Wolverhampton's diverse communities.

Audiences across the Care, Create, Conserve project – including visitors and participants, artists and facilitators, and staff and volunteers – benefitted in a number of ways. They learned something new and gained additional skills.

- Audiences experienced greater connection
- Audiences took part in activity that resonated with them
- Audiences had an emotional response
- Audiences were challenged, inspired and enthused

Ethnicity of Exhibition Visitors vs Census 2021 Data





Legacy of Care, Create, Conserve

There are several ongoing benefits from the Care, Create, Conserve project which the Arts and Heritage Group can carry forward into future work:

- **Engagement knowledge and resources.** The project has trialled different ways of engaging the local community including community co-creation projects and community workshops, learning the most effective approaches and enablers. Resources to support varied engagement have been developed such as a children's magazine, oral history recording kit, and reminiscence materials
- **Visibility and reputation.** The project has established the Arts and Heritage Group as a community player that contributes to Wolverhampton's cultural scene. The organisation has become a more effective and recognised repository for healthcare heritage in the local area
- **A valuable heritage asset.** By establishing the Wolverhampton Hospitals Heritage Collection through a prominent display and its ongoing care and conservation, the collection is in a stronger position to be used as a tool for education and engagement and to pursue accreditation
- **Exhibition facilities.** By developing mobile exhibition facilities which can be relocated across the local community, the exhibition has the potential to be split across a few key venues to increase engagement and add greater resonance: for example, displaying some objects within the redeveloped Royal Hospital building (Nightingale House)
- **Greater capacity.** The Arts and Heritage Group benefits from a team of dedicated volunteers and Staff Heritage Champions who can act as ambassadors, and who have been upskilled in areas which include audience engagement, curation and collections care
- **Partnerships and connections.** A wide range of valuable partnerships have been developed with organisations and individual practitioners, which can be utilised in future work

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

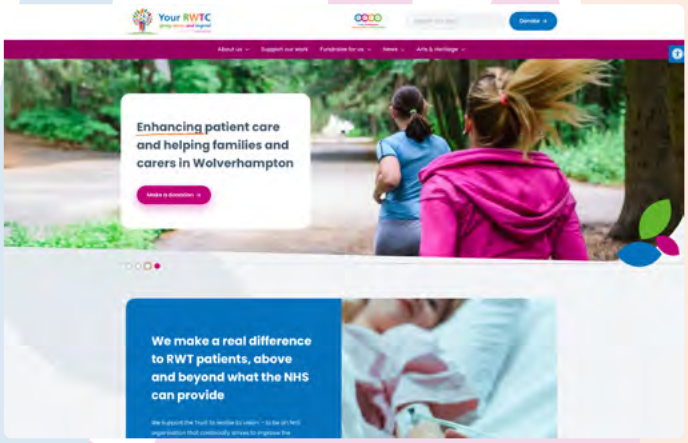
Using money raised by the National Lottery, we inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future.
www.heritagefund.org.uk

Follow @HeritageFundUK on **Twitter**, **Facebook** and **Instagram** and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised more than £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.

NHS Charities Together - Development Grant

Your RWTC was fortunate enough to be awarded a £30,000 development grant to support with our marketing and communication strategy. The first stage of the grant was securing a web builder to design and work with us on a standalone charity website. The company identified as best value for money, timeframe and recommendation from other local charities was Platform 81. Work started in January and the website launched in the summer of 2024.



The new website can be found here **RWT NHS Charity** and has been a labour of love for the Fundraising Team which works with patients, families, carers, businesses and organisations – as well as staff – to raise money for items above and beyond what the NHS can provide. The Charity supports the Trust's hospitals at New Cross, Cannock and West Park as well as its community services.

Some of the Charity's achievements over the last year include:

- Mini Tesla cars provided for young patients to travel to their operations
- Comfort bags bought to support lung cancer patients through their chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment
- Specialist chairs donated to the Neonatal Ward to help new parents feel more comfortable when feeding or caring for their babies
- The launch of a Children's Ward garden appeal to help young patients' recovery and wellbeing

The website is also a one stop shop for exciting developments within the Charity's Arts and Heritage Group which was awarded National Lottery Heritage Fund cash.

Visitors can take a step back in time to explore Wolverhampton's healthcare history, with some of the earliest items in the collection dating back to 1840. The current display features a collection of pharmaceutical items, a doctor's desk set up, Midwifery memorabilia and an area dedicated to the Eye Infirmary.

Details of the Care, Create, Conserve project can be found along with news of upcoming events and the important work of heritage volunteers.

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "We are proud of our new website which is jam packed with features to educate, engage and entertain as well as help supporters to get involved with our wide range of fundraising activities.

"There's something for everyone – no matter how big or small a fundraising project or idea may be – and we're always open to new ideas and meeting new people to help us carry on out our rewarding work. Our priority is to make a real difference to the lives of patients who use our services, and their families, with the help of our generous and compassionate communities. We hope people find the new website useful and informative and welcome any feedback."

New look for our Charity

Your RWTC, the registered Charity for The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, has refreshed its commitment to its people, patients and community by launching a new logo and values.

The new look was launched at the 77th NHS birthday event Your RWTC organised in July to give patients, visitors and staff an opportunity to reflect on more than seven decades of the National Health Service.

The new brand came about after we undertook an engagement piece of work across our staff and the local community. The team we listened to you and came up with this new, exciting brand that makes everyone feel proud of our Charity and the work we do.

Your RWTC

going above and beyond

The registered charity of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
Registered Charity No: 1054679

How you can support us

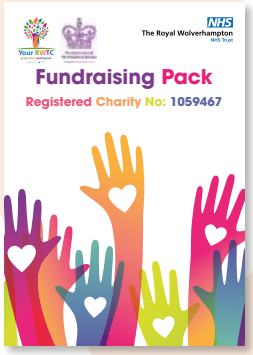
Getting involved and supporting your local hospital and community services couldn't be easier. You might consider attending one of our events or even host your own and help us raise vital funds.

The King's Award for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups

Become a corporate supporter

Benefits of becoming a corporate partner

- Build brand awareness and enhance your reputation
- Increase and retain customers
- Attract and motivate your workforce, especially if RWT houses their local hospital
- Prove to stakeholders, especially if they use RWT services, you have a genuine commitment to helping others. If you supply to the public sector or are looking to do so, under the Social Value Act 2012 all public bodies are required to consider how products and services they procure might improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of an area
- Positive PR opportunities
- Support your local hospital



Donations can be made in the following ways:

Direct into bank account:
Contact the team on 01902 694473 for details and reference.

By post:
Please make cheques payable to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity.

Please write on the back of the cheque which fund you would like to donate to, e.g. Above and Beyond Trust Fund, cancer services, elderly care, Paediatric services, and contact the team on 01902 694473 for details of where to send to.

By a donation on our 'Just Giving' site: https://www.justgiving.com/royalwolvesnhstrust

Please complete a donation form and return it along with your donation to Your RWTC.

Did you know you can also increase your donation without having to pay more? An additional £9,170.30 has been raised through the Gift Aid scheme in 2023/24.

How does Gift Aid work? Gift Aid is a scheme run by the government that enables charities to increase the value of donations made by reclaiming basic rate tax that has been paid on the gift. At the moment, we can claim 25p per £1 donated, so on a gift of £100, we will actually receive an extra £25, at no cost to the donor.

giftaid it
Make donations go further

Great! Can I Gift Aid my donations? To qualify for Gift Aid, you need to be a UK taxpayer and have paid enough tax to cover the amount of tax reclaimed by all charities on all your donations for each tax year (6 April one year to 5 April the next). Apart from tax on income from a job or self-employment, other types that are acceptable are:

- Tax deducted at source from savings interest
- Tax on state pension and/or other pensions
- Tax on investment or rental income (including tax credits on UK dividends)
- Capital Gains Tax on gains

Other taxes such as VAT and council tax do not qualify, nor does any non-UK tax. When completing your donation form or donating via an online platform, simply complete the gift aid declaration, provide your postal address and we'll do the rest!

Looking ahead

Our objectives for 2024-2026

The King's Award for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups

We will relaunch and increase awareness of the Charity and its brand, with an integrated marketing and communications campaign including website, annual report, and storytelling

We will develop funding bids for external grant makers

We will engage staff in becoming active in a programme of annual fundraising events utilising the partnership with 'Run For Charities'

We will create strong relationships with corporate supporters across our community

We will actively encourage applications to fund projects that further enhance and improve the health and wellbeing of staff and volunteers

We will actively encourage applications to fund research projects that will further medical knowledge through research

We will actively seek opportunities for collaboration with our colleagues from both statutory and non-statutory organisations and build and strengthen partnerships with key health and voluntary sector organisations to deliver greater impact

We will embrace the digital agenda and utilise opportunities to raise further awareness of the Charity with stakeholders as well as actively support projects that embrace technology and innovative ways of working

We will work closely with clinical teams and how to educate patients and their families on prevention of diseases

We will Simplify the process for fund managers and teams to apply to use their funding

Now the government's 10 Year Health Plan has been published, we will ensure our charitable activities align, where appropriate, with the three radical shifts it details:

- Hospital to community
- Analogue to digital
- Sickness to prevention

Trustees – Custodians of the Charity

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is the Corporate Trustee of the Charitable Funds governed by the law applicable to Trusts, principally the Trustee Act 2000 and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity has the authority to recruit up to eight trustees who together make up the Board of Trustees. They are unpaid volunteers who set the strategy for the Charity and make sure it is implemented. Trustees elect a Chair from amongst their number who chairs the meetings of the Board of Trustees and takes a more active role in supporting the Charity Chief Executive in the management of the Charity.

Trustees are appointed under arrangements made by the Secretary of State for Health under Section 51 of the NHS Act 2006. Vacancies are advertised and all potential Trustees must be interviewed and recommended by a panel consisting of two members of the Charity and one external assessor. Candidates must show knowledge of, and an interest in, the hospital and the community it serves and be willing to give the time necessary. Trustees are also selected to give the Charity a good mix of relevant professional skills, such as finance, investment and fundraising.

Trustees serve a fixed term of no more than four years (renewable to a usual maximum of ten years in total). New Trustees receive an induction pack consisting of the governing documents, previous trustee reports and accounts, relevant Charity Commission guidance, and policies and procedures of the Charity. They are also given a tour of the Trust. Appropriate training is provided in areas including charity law and administration, investment management and charity finance. The Charity's professional advisors provide helpful guidance, and membership of NHS Charities Together gives the Trustees access to regular conferences and training events.

The Charity has a Corporate Trustee: The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The members of the NHS Trust Board who served during the financial year were as shown in the table opposite;

Trustee	Role within The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
Sir David Nicholson KCB CBE	Group Chair of the Board
Joe Chadwick-Bell	Group Chief Executive (From 1 January 2025)
Caroline Walker	Interim Chief Executive Officer (From 1 May 2024 to 31 December 2024)
Professor David Loughton CBE CIHSCM	Group Chief Executive (Appointed as Interim Chief Executive: April 2021 and Appointed as Group Chief Executive: 23 March 2022 to 30 April 2024)
Kevin Stringer	Deputy Group Chief Executive Officer and Group Chief Financial Officer
Alan Duffell	Group Chief People Officer
Gwen Nuttall	Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Dr Jonathan Odum	Group Chief Medical Officer
Dr Brian McKaig	Chief Medical Officer
Sally Evans	Group Director of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement
Simon Evans	Group Chief Strategy Officer
Tracy Palmer	Director of Midwifery
Kevin Bostock	Group Director of Assurance
Debra Hickman	Chief Nursing Officer
Stephanie Cartwright	Group Director of Place
John Dunn	Non-Executive Director and Deputy Chair
Professor Louise Toner	Joint Non-Executive Director
Professor Martin Levermore	Joint Non-Executive Director
Julie Jones	Non- Executive Director
Allison Heseltine	Joint Non-Executive Director
Lisa Cowley	Joint Non-Executive Director
Lord Patrick Carter	Special Advisor to the Board
Dr Gill Pickavance	Associate Non-Executive Director (Current term to May 2025)
Angela Harding	Associate Non-Executive Director (Term ended 31 January 2025)
Dr Umar Daraz	Joint Associate Non-Executive Director
Rachel Barber	Joint Associate Non-Executive Director
Dawn Brathwaite	Joint Non-Executive Director

How we organise the Charity

The main Charity, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity, registered charity number 1059467, was entered on the Central Register of Charities on 27 November 1996 in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Charity is constituted of circa. 98 individual funds. The notes to the accounts distinguish the types of fund held and disclose separately all material funds. Please refer to pages 86-101.

Charitable funds received by the Charity are accepted, held and administered as funds and property on trust for purposes relating to the health service in accordance with the National Health Service Act 2006 and the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990. The Charity has no employees but reimburses the NHS Trust for the financial and other services it provides. The Charity relies on the NHS Trust to identify the appropriateness of funding requests.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust as the Corporate Trustee has devolved responsibility for the ongoing management of funds to the Charity Committee which administers the funds on behalf of the Corporate Trustee. This committee was formed in 2006.

The names of those people who served as agents for the Corporate Trustee, as permitted under the NHS Trusts (Membership and Procedures) Regulations 1990 were as follows:

Caroline Walker	-	Group Chief Executive
Joe Chadwick-Bell	-	Group Chief Executive
Kevin Stringer	-	Group Chief Financial Officer
Martin Levermore	-	Non-executive Director
Julie Jones	-	Non-executive Director

Principal Charitable Fund Advisers to the Board

The Group Chief Executive of the NHS Trust (Joe Chadwick-Bell) and Group Chief Financial Officer (Kevin Stringer) have day to day responsibility for the management of the Charitable Funds under a scheme of delegated authority by the Corporate Trustee. They must personally and together, on behalf of the Corporate Trustee, approve all expenditure over £10,000 with an upper limit of £50,000. Expenditure in excess of £50,000 on a particular project must be authorised by the Trust Board of the Corporate Trustee.

Mr Kevin Stringer was the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Charitable Funds during the year.

Principal Office

The principal office for the Charity is:

Group Chief Financial Officer

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

Hollybush House

New Cross Hospital

Wolverhampton

WV10 0QP

Wider Networks

Your RWTC is one of more than 400 NHS linked charities in England and Wales who are eligible to join NHS Charities Together. As a member charity, we have the opportunity to discuss matters of common concern and exchange information and experiences, join together with others to lobby government departments and others, and to participate in conferences and seminars which offer support and education for our staff and members of the charitable funds committee.

Related Party Relationships

The Charity holds a related party relationship with The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The transactions with these parties have been disclosed in note 17 of these financial statements.

Structure, Governance and Management

The King's Award for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups

All the Charity's funds are pooled for investment purposes and the official pooling scheme was registered with the Charity Commission on 24 June 1998.

For management purposes all funds held and received by the Charity fall into one of the following categories:

- Endowment funds - funds where the capital must be held in perpetuity and only the income generated can be used for charitable purposes
- Restricted funds - funds received which have specific restrictions set by the donor
- Unrestricted funds - funds received which have no restrictions attached to their use

Within the unrestricted category separate designated funds have been established which reflect the wishes of donors to help named wards and departments in the hospital. Subsequent donations and gifts received by the Charity that are attributable to the already established funds are added to those fund balances. Where the donations and gifts are not attributable to already established funds, new funds are set up. In this way the Corporate Trustee fulfils the legal duty to ensure that all funds are spent in accordance with the objectives of each fund and that the wishes of donors are always considered.

Unrestricted funds form the largest category with £1,796,000 of funds at 31 March 2025. There are charitable funds for most clinical specialties (e.g. medicine or ophthalmology) and for some wards and departments within specialties.

Non-Executive members of the Trust Board are appointed by the NHS Appointments Commission and Executive members of the Board are subject to recruitment by the NHS Trust Board. Members of the Trust Board and the Charity Committee are not individual Trustees under Charity law but act as agents on behalf of the Corporate Trustee.

Acting for the Corporate Trustee, the objective of the Charity Committee is to provide strategic direction to the Charity and ensure that it is managed and administered in accordance with the Charity's purposes. The committee is responsible for:

- Determining a charitable funds strategy and setting annual objectives
- Ensuring that charitable funds are managed in line with the measures and actions set out in the strategy
- Ensuring any fundraising elements of the strategy work within recognised good practice frameworks and identify methods of fundraising appropriate for the Charity
- Determining a charitable funds investment policy and monitoring performance of any investments made in line with governing documents and the Trustee Act 2000
- Appointing and considering the performance of any investment advisors or managers
- Ensuring Trust policies and procedures are adequate, that financial controls are in place to account for all funds received and that governance arrangements are appropriate and effective
- Ensuring that timely annual reports and accounts are produced and an unqualified external audit opinion is received

The accounting records and the day-to-day administration of the funds are dealt with by the Finance Department located at The Clinical Skills and Corporate Services Centre, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton WV10 0QP.

Risk Management

The Trustees recognise the responsibility that they have to identify and control the risk that the Charity is exposed to. They actively review the major risks which the Trust and Charity face on a regular basis and believe that systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The Trustee is confident that reliance can be placed on the management arrangements in place, which include internal and external audit services, to minimise any risk to the funds.

The Trustees assess the risks for both likelihood of occurrence and potential financial impact, with procedures established to mitigate these as far as possible. Risks which score highly on both scales are monitored closely. At present, the most significant risks identified are the possible losses from a fall in the value of the investments and the level of reserves available to mitigate the impact of such losses.

The investments are held by the Investment Fund Managers who act in accordance with the agreed investment policy and are subject to regular review. Given that they are externally managed, no specialist skills are required internally. In addition, unrealised gains and losses are allocated to funds at agreed intervals. Procedures in place ensure that both spending and firm financial commitments remain in line with income. Income is covered by the Standing Financial Instructions and there is an agreed boundary for the receipt of donations. This policy has been communicated to staff.

There is an agreed expenditure and reserves policy together with a tight approval procedure which gives the Corporate Trustee confidence that the expenditure will remain within the limits of the Charity's resources to enable the level of reserves available to mitigate impact of any losses from fall in investments.

Other risks include compliance whereby the Charity may not operate within its object or risks relating to the public profile of the Charity. There are also operational risks such as the risk of contravening legislation and compliance with all accounting standards and SORP compliance. The Standing Financial Instructions which the Trust and Charity adhere to, and regular internal and external audits of the Charity help to mitigate these.

The Trustee is content that the controls described have operated effectively during the year and therefore the risks outlined have been mitigated.

Investment Management

Surplus funds are pooled and invested in order to maximise income, whilst minimising risk for the Charity.

Income and cash, gains and losses are distributed equitably across the Charity funds. The income from investments amounted to £105,456 (£108,161, in 2023/24).

Throughout 2024/25 the investments were split into two portfolios.

- A Shorter Term Portfolio which aims to achieve a consistently attractive level of income, coupled with the potential for long-term capital appreciation whilst aiming to preserve the value of the capital over the short-term
- A Longer Term Portfolio which is invested to achieve long-term capital and income growth. Achieved with a broadly diversified global portfolio covering the world's principal stock, bond and currency markets, together with investments in "alternative" assets such as property and hedge funds

During the year, the Trustees requested both the Shorter and Longer Term Portfolios continue to hold a 50:50 split of the overall investments.

At the year end the Shorter Term Portfolio held £1,080,741 and the Longer Term Portfolio held £1,505,391. Both portfolio's were split between investment types. The two portfolios together were split in the following way:

- £1,245,055 – 48.1% (2024: £1,347,050 – 52.4%) was invested in equity based investments
- £1,083,054 – 41.9% (2024: £1,130,558 – 44.0%) was invested in longer fixed interest bearing government and other securities and
- £259,023 – 10.0% (2024: £93,079 – 3.6%) was held as liquid assets including cash. This total sum invested increased by £16,445 from 2023/24

The Charity does not own any investment properties.

The Charity has an investment policy that was reviewed in January 2025. See page 79.

A reflection on the last 12 months, as at 31 March 2025

As at 31 March 2025, the combined value of both portfolios stood at £2,587,132. The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Long Term Portfolio returned 3.8%, relative to a composite benchmark return of 4.9%. While behind benchmark it is important to note that the portfolio has held up well against a backdrop of heightened geopolitical tension, sweeping tariff policies, and market uncertainty – your portfolio outperformed its peer group (ARC Steady Growth Charity Index +2.7%), which reflects the performance of other charity investors with a similar risk profile.

The past 12 months have been characterised by shifting market sentiment. The year began with cautious optimism as inflation continued to ease across developed economies. This, combined with resilient labour markets and steady consumer spending, bolstered hopes of a "soft landing" for major economies. Equity markets responded positively through the summer of 2024, led by strength in the technology and consumer discretionary sectors. However, bond yields remained elevated as central banks signalled an extended pause on rate cuts, awaiting more conclusive evidence that inflation was sustainably under control. The period ended against a more volatile geo-political backdrop, with rising geo-political risks, protectionist trade policies in the US and the threat of more economically damaging policies coming to pass.).

Activity

Over the year, we actively rebalanced equity exposure - reducing concentrated positions in semiconductors and IT infrastructure, instead favouring software businesses (e.g. ServiceNow, Fortinet and Microsoft) and more diversified global companies. In fixed income, we trimmed corporate bonds in favour of gilts and cash as the premium available from UK corporate bonds, in particular, fell to historically low levels. We also launched a new mega theme, 'Security', reflecting rising global fragmentation, trade protectionism, and heightened geopolitical risks. Having held an overweight stance in equities for much of 2024, as equity markets rose, we have become more cautious of late, first reducing risk in early February of 2025 and again in early March.

Our allocation to alternatives, particularly gold, proved effective during volatile periods, while infrastructure and renewable energy trusts rebounded as discounts to net asset values recovered. We maintained a cautious but flexible stance, with a preference for high-quality businesses delivering strong cash flows and resilient earnings.

Outlook

Looking ahead, markets, and the risks within them, remain finely balanced. While rate cuts are expected to continue, albeit at a far slower pace than many had expected, rising wage pressures, geopolitical uncertainty, and protectionist US trade policies (especially following President Trump's re-election) could slow global growth and heighten inflation volatility.

Nevertheless, our long-term thematic focus and strategic asset allocation should continue to drive performance. With valuations outside of the technology sector appearing more reasonable, and with central banks likely to provide a floor under asset prices, we retain a constructive but selective approach to equities and risk assets more broadly.

Sarasin & Partners LLP

Policies

Investment Policy

Your RWTC seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk.

The investment objective for the long term portfolio is to generate a return in excess of inflation over the long term whilst generating an income to support its ongoing activities of Your RWTC.

The investment objective for the short term portfolio is to preserve the capital value with a minimum level of risk. Assets should be readily available to meet unanticipated cash flow requirements.

Your RWTC has approximately a 50/50 split for investments between long term and short term, in order that unanticipated cash flow needs can be met.

The Charity's ethical investment policy precludes direct or indirect investment in companies that generate more than 10% of revenues from alcohol, armaments, gambling, pornography and will not invest in tobacco.

Expenditure policy

The charitable funds that the Charity manages, and from which grants are made, are held as endowment funds (expendable or permanent), restricted funds and unrestricted funds (designated or non-designated).

It is the Trustees' policy to ensure that all grants made from these funds are used in accordance with the purposes of the individual fund and Your RWTC's purposes and aims.

Individual funds' purposes include research, equipment, and patient and staff welfare.

The definitions of endowment, restricted and unrestricted funds are detailed below:

- Endowment funds – funds where the capital must be held in perpetuity and only the income generated can be used for charitable purposes
- Restricted funds – fund received which have specific restrictions set by the donor
- Unrestricted funds – funds received which have no restrictions attached to their use

All of the different types of funds have fund advisors who facilitate local decision making and offer expertise in the particular area of the fund.

The fund advisors have delegated powers and responsibility to authorise expenditure in line with the Trust's Authorised Limits Schedule contained within the Standing Financial Instructions (SFI's). The fund advisors can make recommendations on how to spend the money within their designated area up to a level of £5,000 per transaction subject to any specific donor wishes. The Deputy Chief Operating Officers have delegated powers and responsibility to authorise transactions up to £10,000. For expenditure in excess of these limits they make recommendations to the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer who have authority limits up to £50,000. Any transactions over this limit must go to the Trust Board for authorisation.

All of Your RWTC's restricted and unrestricted funds can be spent at any time. Grants from these funds are applied for by fund advisors.

Reserves policy

The Corporate Trustee acknowledges that it is the donors' intention that their contributions be used as soon as possible to enhance the service provided by the Trust. Consequently, it is the policy of the Charity that significant reserves are not held. The Charity does not intend to increase fund balances unless this is as a result of significant donations or legacies. From time to time, however, balances are held in particular areas until sufficient funds have been donated to make specific purchases.

The Trustee has established a reserves policy as part of their plans to provide long term support to the services provided by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The Trustee calculates the reserves as that part of the Charity's unrestricted income funds that is freely available, after taking account of the designated funds, which have been earmarked for specific service purposes, in accordance with the stated Charity Objectives.

Total funds of the Charity were £2,656,000 (2024 £2,822,000) of which £1,796,000 (2024: £1,950,000) are unrestricted funds, £778,000 (2024 £790,000) restricted funds and £82,000 (2024: £82,000) were endowment funds

The free reserves currently stand at £295,000 and are calculated as follows:

- Total unrestricted funds £1,796,000
- Less designated funds (£1,501,000)
- Total free reserves £295,000

The Trustees intend that designated funds are spent within a reasonable period of receipt and therefore, foresee a need only to maintain reserves sufficient to provide certainty of funding to cover the administrative, fundraising and governance costs of the Charity in the short term. The Trustee aims to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately a year of non-designated, unrestricted charitable expenditure. The Trustee considers that this level will provide sufficient funds in the short term, to cover costs in the event of unforeseen circumstances which prevented the operation of the Charity in the longer term.

The Trustee reviews the balance held in designated funds, in accordance with the provisions of the NHS Acts relating to charitable funds, to determine whether these funds are likely to be committed in the near future and the extent to which there is a continuing need identified for any particular designated fund(s). Any inactive funds are closed and transferred appropriately. Additionally, within the level of designated funds held, the Trustee ensures that there are sufficient funds held to cover a fluctuation in the value of funds held in investments.

The policies specific to the Charity reserves are as follows:

- To maintain systems to forecast levels of expenditure and income to determine reserve requirements
- To ensure the level of reserves are secured
- To monitor and review the policy periodically to ensure it remains suitable for the Charity's need
- The Corporate Trustee has reviewed the reserves policy in the light of the Charity Commission's published guidance CC19 – Charities' Reserves

Further details

Principal professional advisers

Auditors - External

WR Partners
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
SY2 6LG

Auditors - Internal

RSM UK
Festival Way
Festival Park
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5BB

Bankers

Co-operative Bank plc
1-2 Dudley Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 3EN

Solicitors

Browne Jacobson
44 Castle Gate
Nottingham
NG1 7BJ

Investment Fund Managers

Sarasin & Partners LLP
Juxon House
100 St Paul's Churchyard
London
EC4M 8BU

Full accounts

This annual report comments on some of the features of the full accounts which are provided on the following pages for your information. Copies of the full accounts have been lodged with the Charity Commission and carry an unqualified audit report.

The text and accounts shown in this report were approved by the Trustees on 20 October 2025 and is signed on their behalf by the Chair.

Mlevermore

Martin Levermore
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102)
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any
- Material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume hat the Charity will continue in business

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- So far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the Charity's auditors are unaware, and
- That Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the Charity's auditors are aware of that information

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 20 October 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Mlevermore

Martin Levermore

Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee

Independent Auditors Report to the Trustees of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity (the 'charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland

(United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- We reviewed the susceptibility of the Charity's financial statements to material misstatement and identified the principal risks, implementing a series of testing procedures to provide us with sufficient comfort to issue our opinion
- We reviewed the Charity's regulatory environment to ensure we could conclude that it had acted in accordance with the framework relevant to the Charity and its environment and identify any instances of non-compliance
- We also assessed the Charity's internal control procedures to ensure we could appropriately scrutinise these controls and establish whether our understanding of the control environment was sufficient to supplement our additional testing procedures
- The engagement team consisted of a team that the engagement partner believes is equipped with the relevant level of technical and Charity awareness to carry out our work to the required standard

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

WR Partners



26 November 2025

For and on behalf of WR Partners

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6LG

Statement of Financial Activities incorporating income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Endowment funds £000	2024/25 Total funds £000	2023/24 Total funds £000
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income:						
Donations and legacies	3	351	110	-	**461**	429
Grants	3	-	187	-	**187**	186
Other trading activities	3	97	6	-	**103**	94
Investments	12	68	37	-	**105**	108
Total incoming resources		**516**	**340**	**-**	**856**	817
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	4	(204)	(7)	-	**(211)**	(210)
Charitable activities	4	(471)	(354)	-	**(825)**	(629)
Other expenditure		(2)	(0)	-	**(2)**	(2)
Total expenditure		**(677)**	**(361)**	**-**	**(1,038)**	(841)
Net gains/(losses) on investment		11	5	-	**16**	121
Net income/expenditure		**(150)**	**(15)**	**-**	**(165)**	97
Transfer between funds		(3)	3	-	**-**	-
Net movements in funds		**(153)**	**(12)**	**-**	**(165)**	97
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		1,950	790	82	**2,822**	2,725
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2024		**1,796**	**778**	**82**	**2,656**	2,822

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2024/25 Total funds	2023/24 Total funds
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed assets						
Investments	11	1,727	778	82	**2,587**	2,571
Total fixed assets		**1,727**	**778**	**82**	**2,587**	2,571
Current assets						
Debtors	13	149	-	-	**149**	50
Cash and cash equivalents	14	218	-	-	**218**	372
Total current assets		**367**	**-**	**-**	**367**	422
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(298)	-	-	**(298)**	(171)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		**69**	**-**	**-**	**69**	251
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,796**	**778**	**82**	**2,656**	2,822
Net assets		**1,796**	**778**	**82**	**2,656**	2,822
The funds of the Charity						
Endowment funds	16	-	-	82	**82**	82
Restricted income funds	16	-	778	-	**778**	790
Unrestricted income funds	16	1,796	-	-	**1,796**	1,950
Total charity funds		**1,796**	**778**	**82**	**2,656**	2,822

Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £000	2024 £000
Net income/(expenditure) for 2024/25 (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(166)	97
Adjustment for:		
(Gains) / losses on investments	(16)	(121)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(105)	(108)
(Increase) / decrease in debtors	(99)	(5)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	127	11
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**(259)**	(126)

Cash Flow	**Total funds 2024/25 £000**	Total funds 2023/24 £000
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(259)	(126)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	105	108
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	105	108
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(154)	(18)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	372	390
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**218**	372

1. General information

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity, working as Your RWTC is an unincorporated charity in England. The address of the registered office is given in the Charity information on page 75 of this report.

2. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The 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 the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published 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.

Your RWTC meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

After making enquires, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

The key risks to the Charity's continuing going concern status are a fall in income from donations or investment income but the Trustee has arrangements in place to mitigate those risks (see the risk management (page 77) and reserves (page 80) sections of the annual report for more information).

b) Funds structure

Where there is a legal restriction on the purpose to which a fund may be put, the fund is classified either as:

- A restricted fund or
- An endowment fund

Restricted funds are those where the donor has provided for the donation to be spent in furtherance of a specified charitable purpose.

Endowment funds arise when the donor has expressly provided that the gift is to be invested and only the income of the fund may be spent. These funds are sub analysed between those where the trustee has the discretion to spend the capital (expendable endowment) and those where there is no discretion to expend the capital (permanent endowment).

The Charity has three permanent endowment funds, all of which are invested within the long term portfolio and the return from this investment is transferred into either an unrestricted fund or a restricted fund dependent on the restrictions placed on the fund by the donor.

c) Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable (more likely than not) that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Where there are terms or conditions attached to incoming resources, particularly grants, then these terms or conditions must be met before the income is recognised as the entitlement condition will not be satisfied until that point. Where terms or conditions have not been met then the relevant income is not recognised in the year but deferred and shown on the balance sheet as deferred income.

d) Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind, such as food and care packages are not accounted for when they are accepted and immediately distributed unless a single donation is material.

Gifts of tangible assets such as microwaves and fridges are recognised as a donation at fair value (market price) on receipt and charitable expenditure when they are distributed.

Where gifts in kind are held before being distributed to beneficiaries, they are recognised at fair value as stock until they are distributed.

e) Incoming resources from legacies

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid Will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

f) Incoming resources from endowment funds

The incoming resources received from the invested endowment fund are transferred to the restricted or unrestricted fund as per the donors request.

g) Other incoming resources

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

h) Resources expended and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to each category of expense shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Expenditure is recognised when the following criteria are met:

- There is a present legal or constructive obligation resulting from a past event
- It is more likely than not that a transfer of benefits (usually a cash payment) will be required in settlement
- The amount of the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably

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

i) Recognition of expenditure and associated liabilities as a result of grant

The Charity is not a grant giving organisation.

j) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those costs which do not relate directly to a single activity. These include some staff recharges, costs of administration, external audit costs and IT support. Support costs have been apportioned between fundraising costs and charitable activities on an appropriate basis. The analysis of support costs and the bases of apportionment applied are shown in note 6.

k) Fundraising costs

The costs of generating 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 which include expenses for fundraising activities and a recharge paid to a related party, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (see note 18). The recharge is used to pay the salaries and support costs of the Charity's Fundraising Team.

l) Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs incurred in the pursuit of the charitable objects of the Charity. These costs, where not wholly attributable, are apportioned between the categories of charitable expenditure in addition to the direct costs. The total costs of each category of charitable expenditure include an apportionment of support costs as shown in note 6.

m) Fixed asset investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument. Fixed asset investments are initially recognised at their transaction value and are subsequently measured at their fair value (market value) as at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year. Quoted stocks and shares are included in the Balance Sheet at the current market value quoted by the investment analyst, excluding dividend. Other investments are included at the trustee's best estimate of market value.

The main form of financial risk faced by the Charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors. Further information on the Your RWTC investments can be found in note 11.

n) Debtors

Debtors are amounts owed to the Charity. They are measured on the basis of their recoverable amount.

o) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand is held to meet the day to day running costs of the Charity as they fall due. Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments, usually in 90-day notice interest bearing savings accounts.

p) Creditors

Creditors are amounts owed by the Charity. They are measured at the amount that the Charity expects to have to pay to settle the debt.

Amounts which are owed in more than a year are shown as long-term creditors.

q) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and opening carrying value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at the year end and opening carrying value (or purchase date if later).

r) Staff costs and pensions

The Charity does not have any staff. All staffing costs are recharged from The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

3. Income

a) Analysis of Donations, Legacies and Grants

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2024/25 £000	Total 2023/24 £000
Donations from individuals	122	6	**128**	172
Corporate donations	32	1	**33**	31
Legacies	197	103	**300**	226
Grants	-	187	**187**	186
	351	**297**	**648**	**615**
2023/24 Total funds £000	*290*	*325*	*615*	

Donations from individuals are gifts from members of the public, relatives of patients and staff.

Donations of goods, to the value of £21,038 2024/25 (£18,001 2023/24), are included in income valued at their market value. All of these donations have been distributed during the year.

b) Analysis of Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2024/25 £000	Total 2023/24 £000
Community	20	3	**23**	36
Individuals	16	-	**16**	1
Events	57	3	**60**	57
Corporate	4	-	**4**	-
	97	**6**	**103**	**94**
2023/24 Total funds £000	*87*	*7*	*94*	

4. Expenditure

a) Analysis of Raising Funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024/25	Total 2023/24
	£000	**£000**	**£000**	£000
Fundraisers' costs	161	-	**161**	167
Investment Management	14	6	**20**	18
Support costs	29	1	**30**	25
	204	**7**	**211**	210
2023/24 Total funds £000	*183*	*27*	*210*	

b) Analysis of Charitable Activities

	Grant funded activity	Support Costs	Total funds 2024/25	Total funds 2023/24
	£000	**£000**	**£000**	£000
Purchase of new medical equipment	109	-	**109**	85
Patients welfare and amenities	386	58	**444**	455
Staff welfare and amenities	60	9	**69**	78
Building work	139	-	**139**	-
Research	64	-	**64**	12
	758	**67**	**825**	**630**
2023/24 Total funds £000	*563*	*67*	*630*	

5. Grant funding

The Charity did not undertake any direct charitable activities on its own account during the year. All of the charitable expenditure was in the form of grant funding.

Grants were approved in favour of the partner organisations, principally the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust to carry out activities that will benefit patients and their families. The Charity incurred expenditure with third parties in pursuance of those grants or reimbursed expenditure incurred by them.

6. Allocation of support costs and overheads

Support and overhead costs are allocated between fundraising activities and charitable activities.

The bases of allocation used are as follows:

- Time: based on the Charity's staff members' time sheets
- Direct allocation: where a cost is wholly attributable to a particular activity.
- Expenditure: this is a proportion based on the fund balance at the start of the year. This is used where the trustee considers this is a more equitable treatment to avoid disadvantaging funds with high volume, low value transactions
- Salaries: this is proportionate to staff salaries where costs are related to the employed staff

	Raising funds £000	**Charitable activities £000**	**Total 2024/25 £000**	Total 2023/24 £000	Basis
Internal audit	-	-	**-**	-	Direct
External audit	3	6	**8**	8	Direct
Financial services	26	56	**81**	77	Time
Support administration costs	-	-	**-**	-	Time
Other administration costs	2	5	**7**	7	Expenditure
	30	**67**	**97**	92	
2023/24 Total funds £000	*25*	*92*	*92*		

7. Trustee remuneration, benefits and expenses

Remuneration for the Board of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is provided in The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust 2024/25 published Accounts available on the Trust website, and as such remuneration and expenses with regards to the Charity Committee are not separately identified.

8. Analysis of staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

The Charity has no employees (2023/24 none). Costs for staff incurred by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust are recharged to the Charity in the form of a Financial Services management fee along with the salaries for the Fundraising Team. The management fee for the year amounted to £81,307 (2023/24 £77,134) and the Fundraisers' salaries amounted to £138,108 (2023/24 £129,213). The Charity does not directly pay salaries national insurance or pension contributions (2023/24 £Nil).

Analysis of staff costs recharged by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

Analysis of staff costs recharged by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

	2024/25 £	2023/24 £
Fundraisers' salary	**138**	129
Financial services	**81**	77
	219	206

9. Transfers

There were transfers of £3,459 (2023/24 £255,196) during the year, with £2,059 of this being between New Cross General Purpose Legacies and Arts and Heritage, whilst £650 was received in total by RWT Choir from General Purpose and NHS CT.

10. Auditor's remuneration

External auditors' remuneration of £8,340 including VAT (2023/24 £7,650 including VAT) related solely to the audit with no other additional work undertaken (2023/24 £Nil).

11. Investments

Movement in fixed asset investments	**31 March 2025**	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
Market value at 1 April	**2,571**	2,449
Less disposals at carrying value	**-**	-
Add: additions to investments at cost	**-**	-
Add net gain (loss) on revaluation	**16**	121
Market value as at 31 March	**2,587**	2,571

Analysis of market value	**31 March 2025**	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
Investments listed on Stock Exchange	**2,587**	2,571
	2,587	2,571

Fixed asset investment by type	**31 March 2025**	**31 March 2025**	31 March 2024	31 March 2024
	£000	**%**	£000	%
Equities	**1,245**	**48.1**	1,347	52.4
Fixed Income (Inc Bonds)	**756**	**29.2**	895	34.8
Property	**57**	**2.2**	53	2.1
Other	**270**	**10.4**	183	7.1
Liquid Assets (Inc Cash)	**259**	**10.0**	93	3.6
	2,587	**100**	2,571	100

The Trustees consider the value of the investments to be supported by their underlying assets.

12. Analysis of gross income from investments and cash on deposit

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
Investments listed on Stock Exchange	105	108
	105	108

13. Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
Prepayments and accrued income	149	50
	149	50

14. Cash and cash equivalents

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
The Co-operative Bank Account	218	372
	218	372

15. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
Trade creditors	274	153
Other creditors	13	16
Deferred Income	10	2
	298	171

16. Analysis of charitable funds

a) Endowment funds

i) Analysis of endowment fund movements
ii) Details of permanent endowment funds

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
A General Purposes Fund	26	26
B W.H.Fowler Trust	14	14
C Nell Phoenix Fund	42	42
	82	82

Name of permanent endowment	Description of the nature and purpose of each permanent endowment
A General Purposes Fund	To earn interest for the benefit of the non designated fund of Your RWTC
B W.H.Fowler Trust	To earn interest for the benefit of the designated Maternity and Gynaecology fund within the Obstetrics and Gynaecology area
C Nell Phoenix Fund	To earn interest for the benefit of the restricted fund which is to provide musical entertainment for Nursing staff

b) Restricted funds

i) Analysis of restricted fund movements

	Name of fund	31 March 2024 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers £000	Gains and losses £000	31 March 2025 £000
A	Joan Jones	99	5	(4)	-	1	**101**
B	Edith Mary Jeavons	4	-	-	-	-	**4**
C	Nell Phoenix Fund	34	3	(3)	-	1	**35**
D	Cystic Fibrosis Funding	2	-	-	-	-	**2**
E	Sheila Whiting Legacy	68	3	(3)	-	-	**68**
F	Marjorie Ferguson Legacy	1	-	-	-	-	**1**
G	CCH General Purpose - Legacies	19	1	(1)	-	-	**19**
H	Rotary Dowding	223	10	(9)	-	1	**225**
I	Millicent Jessica Dwight - Legacy	17	1	(1)	-	-	**17**
J	Swan Fund	14	5	(2)	-	-	**17**
K	Cancer Centre Fund	28	1	(1)	-	-	**28**
L	Kenneth Arthur Hollins - CCH Dialysis Centre	82	4	(4)	-	-	**82**
N	New Cross General Purposes - Legacies	84	3	(4)	-	1	**84**
O	RWT Singers	6	8	(9)	-	-	**5**
P	Individual funds < £500	1	-	-	-	-	**1**
Q	Arts & Heritage Fund	4	95	(100)	3	-	**2**
R	NHS Charities Together	104	99	(117)	-	1	**87**
S	Mr Worrall Legacy	-	103	103	-	-	**-**
		790	**341**	**(361)**	**3**	**5**	**778**

Restricted funds explanation (continued)

Name of fund		Description of the nature and purpose of each fund
A	Joan Jones	to provide medical equipment to the Renal, Oncology, Vascular and Cardiac Units
B	Edith Mary Jeavons	to provide medical equipment to RWT
C	Nell Phoenix Fund	to provide musical entertainment for Nursing staff
D	Cystic Fibrosis Funding	to support patients and their families who suffer with Cystic Fibrosis
E	Sheila Whiting Legacy	to support Rheumatology services at Cannock Hospital
F	Marjorie Ferguson Legacy	to support the services provided at the Rehabilitation Day Unit at Cannock Hospital
G	CCH General Purpose - Legacies	to support services at Cannock Hospital
H	Rotary Dowding	to support services at Cannock Hospital
I	Millicent Jessica Dwight Legacy	to provide equipment to RWT
J	Swan Fund	to support End-of-Life Care with in the Trust
K	Cancer Centre Fund	to provide a top class facility for cancer patients in the area
L	Kenneth Arthur Hollins - CCH Dialysis Centre	to provide support within the Cannock Hospital Dialysis Centre
M	Special Fund for Nano Bubble Pump	for the provision of a Nano Bubble Pump
N	New Cross General Purposes - Legacies	to support services at New Cross Hospital
O	RWT Choir	to improve staff morale and enhance patient and visitor experience around the Trust
P	Individual Funds <£500	Lindsay Clift Memorial Fund is to support patient safety by way of training or providing vital monitoring equipment. Calabar Wolverhampton VISION 2020 Link is to support staff training with links to other countries, Arts in Health Trust Fund is to support delivery of the Trust's Arts In Health Programme
Q	Arts & Heritage	to provide additional resources that contribute to and enhance the healing environment, therapeutic art activities for patients, their families and staff and to record the history of and the advancements of healthcare at RWT.
R	NHS Charities Together	to provide support to patients and staff using funds from NHS Charities Together
S	Mr Worrall Legacy	to support children in hospital who have cancer

c) Unrestricted funds

i) Analysis of unrestricted funds movements

		31 March 2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains and losses	31 March 2025
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
A	Anaesthetics	**71**	14	(10)	-	1	**76**
B	Medical Directorate	**299**	29	(83)	-	2	**247**
C	Haematology and Oncology	**277**	206	(101)	-	2	**384**
D	Cardiac Services	**305**	29	(82)	-	2	**254**
E	Renal Unit	**44**	7	(20)	-	-	**31**
F	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	**45**	4	(12)	-	-	**37**
G	Ophthalmology	**80**	13	(12)	-	1	**82**
H	Orthopaedics	**86**	3	(11)	-	-	**78**
I	Paediatrics	**160**	89	(143)	-	1	**107**
J	Surgical Directorate	**92**	11	(22)	-	-	**81**
K	Clinical Support	**2**	-	-	-	-	**2**
L	Wolverhampton Medical Institute	**0**	-	-	-	-	**0**
M	Other Smaller Funds	**80**	5	(17)	-	-	**68**
N	Community Work	**8**	-	(2)	-	-	**6**
O	Research Funds	**55**	3	(10)	-	-	**48**
		1,604	413	(525)	-	9	**1,501**
	Non-designated funds						
P	General Funds	**346**	102	(152)	(3)	2	**295**
		1,950	**515**	**(677)**	**(3)**	**11**	**1,796**

c) Unrestricted funds continued

ii) Details of unrestricted funds

	Name of area	Description of the nature and purpose of each area
A	Anaesthetics	benefit of the Anaesthetics Directorate
B	Medical Directorate	benefit of the Medical Directorate
C	Haematology and Oncology	benefit of the Deanesly Centre and Cancer Services
D	Cardiac Services	benefit of the Cardiothoracic Directorate
E	Renal Unit	benefit of the Renal Unit
F	Obstetrics and Gynaecology	benefit of the Maternity and Gynaecology Directorate
G	Ophthalmology	benefit of the Ophthalmic Directorate
H	Orthopaedics	benefit of the Orthopaedic Directorate
I	Paediatrics	benefit of the Paediatric Directorate
J	Surgical Directorate	benefit of the Surgical Directorate
K	Clinical Support	benefit of Clinical Support Services
L	Wolverhampton Medical Institute	benefit of the Wolverhampton Medical Institute
M	Other Smaller Funds	benefit of Emergency Department, Ambulatory Care, Ear Nose and Throat, Theatres, Therapy Services, Nurse Training, Chaplaincy etc.
N	Community Work	benefit of the Community Nursing Teams
O	Research Funds	to support Research projects at the Trust
Unrestricted funds - Non designated funds		
P	General Funds	benefit of New Cross Hospital

Trustees have exercised their discretion to set aside part of the unrestricted funds for designated purposes. The designation applied has taken account the wishes expressed by the donor when the funds were given. Designated funds remain unrestricted as Trustees can remove the designation at any time.

17. Related party transactions

During the year neither the Corporate Trustee nor members of the key management staff or parties related to it has undertaken any material transactions with or received any remuneration or expenses from Your RWTC. As part of the normal course of business the Charity has made payments totalling £799,000 (2023/24 £565,000) to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust as Corporate Trustee of the Charity. In 2024/25 an amount of £274,423 (2023/24 £152,596 was owing to the Trust at 31 March 2025. The total income of the Corporate Trustee in the year ended 31 March 2025 amounted to £1,041,391,000 (2023/24 £940,686,000) and the adjusted retained deficit amounted to £13,103,000 (2023/24 retained deficit of £26,657,000).

18. Commitments

The Charity has commitments totalling £534,054 at 31 March 2025 (2023/24 £240,404) arising from requisitions placed for which the relevant goods and services have not been received. These commitments relate to unrestricted and restricted funds and include the purchase of an ECG machine within Cardiac, Trollies within the Neonatal unit, the refurbishment of the restaurant within West Park and a Paxman scalp cooling system. There are also commitments to support a research project and provide Complimentary Therapists to cancer patients.

19 Donations in kind

Donations in kind have been made to aid the Charity's mission to support The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. Donations to the value of £21,038 (2023/24 £18,001) have been included in the accounts this year for items of clothing, toys for the children's ward, knitted blankets, sensory items and other kind gifts that help improve patients hospital stay. All of these items will be used for some time to come. We also received several offers of kindness for the staff and patients of the Trust and the wider community for items such as care packages, hand creams, lip balms, food and drink. The value of these items were estimated at £31,035 (2023/24 £33,623.

When received, all items were distributed as soon as possible and shared amongst the whole of the Trust.





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THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON NHS TRUST CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1059467

Accounts

The Royal Wolverhampton
NHS Trust Charity
Registered Charity No. 1059467

The Royal Wolverhampton
NHS Trust

Charity Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24



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The Royal Wolverhampton
NHS Trust Charity

Message from our Chair Prof Martin Levermore DL



Having been the Chair of the Royal Wolverhampton Trust Charity for the past 12 months, I am delighted to present the 2023/24 Annual Report. This also gives me the opportunity to be a little reflective on the importance of volunteers against the backdrop of falling numbers nationally.

Only recently, the Charity Retail Association stated that "volunteer numbers have dropped from 230,000 to 186,000", the Independent Food Aid Network commented that "foodbanks were critically short", and the Scouts movement reported that it had a waiting list of 90,000 young people that it could not enlist due to a fall in adult volunteers.

The government's quote last April that "the numbers of volunteers were falling relentlessly downhill reaching an historic low" is not hard to understand – many older volunteers have not returned after the COVID-19 pandemic and, of course, the cost-of-living crisis makes it difficult for younger volunteers.

Volunteers play a vital role in the success of charities, especially in the current climate where we are faced with challenges such as budget constraints, increased demand for services, and the need to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances. The value of our volunteers cannot be overstated as they bring dedication, diverse skills, and a genuine passion for making a difference to the causes they support. As such, I am deeply grateful to all those involved in the Royal Wolverhampton Trust Charity's retention of our volunteers and humbled by the spirit and selfless commitment of our volunteers. Everything we can do to support our 'unsung heroes' should be very much at the top of our ambitions.

The Royal Wolverhampton Trust Charity holds a special place within our community. It plays a crucial role in supporting and enhancing the services provided by the Trust through fundraising, donations, and community engagement. I am also proud of the connections and partnerships the charity is achieving to raise awareness about healthcare issues and the importance of charitable giving to support our services. The work of our staff and volunteers in community engagement helps to build a true sense of collective responsibility for healthcare provision in our region.

By raising funds and awareness, the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity directly impacts the quality of healthcare services provided by the Trust. This support goes a long way to improving patient outcomes, enhancing the patient experience, and contributing to the overall wellbeing of our community.

The need for continued support is paramount. Given the ongoing public health challenges and the increasing strain on our local healthcare system, the work of the Charity is more important than ever. This is evidenced by the support of a wide range of projects across many departments and directorates, many of which are highlighted in the body of this report.

Looking ahead, our Charity must strive further to assist in the understanding of the mechanisms of early disease development and progression within our local population, to support the development of new detection and therapeutic interventions aimed at the earlier disease course. Importantly, this is to support innovative projects and programmes within the Trust, which foster a culture of continuous improvement and development in healthcare services. The outcome should lead to the implementation of cutting-edge technologies, research initiatives, and best practices that benefit our patients and staff.

I want to thank all those involved and those supporters of the Charity. We are so deeply grateful to all of you. A special thanks also goes to Professor David Loughton CBE, upon his retirement, for his many years of service to the NHS and to the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity.

Mlevermore

Martin Levermore
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee

About The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity is dedicated to improving experience and outcomes for our patients, staff and local community. The Trust's people and patients are at the heart of what we do.

Our mission is to enhance patient care and help families and carers in Wolverhampton by transforming hospital and community-based services. We do this through funding "added extras" - items, projects, research, staff training and services – that are over and above those provided by the NHS. This is what drives our Charity, inspires our fundraisers, and connects us to Wolverhampton's warm, friendly, and diverse population.

We work alongside the Trust, raising funds to support our staff to deliver the very best possible care and to help adults and children across Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. With the help of our wonderful community, our fundraising efforts make a real difference to patient outcomes.

Whether people come to hospital for routine procedures, medical investigations, or for life-saving, cutting edge treatment, we understand that needing NHS care can be a worrying time. Every day the fundraising of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity helps to ensure that visits to our hospitals and our services are as comfortable, reassuring, friendly and positive as possible

Trust Overview

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is one of the largest healthcare providers in the Black Country and West Midlands, providing primary, secondary, community and tertiary care services to a combined population of 450,000 people. The Trust provides 850 beds at its New Cross Hospital site (including Intensive Care beds and Neonatal cots), 56 rehabilitation beds at West Park Hospital, and 54 beds at Cannock Chase Hospital. It is the largest employer in Wolverhampton, with more than 10,500 staff. This means that the charity supports in the region of 460,500 beneficiaries year on year.

The Trust provides services in the following locations:

- Cannock Chase Hospital - General Surgery, Orthopaedics, Breast Surgery, Urology, Dermatology, Medical Day Case investigations and treatment (including Neurology and Endoscopy) Inpatient rehabilitation beds.
- Community Services - More than 20 community sites providing services for children and adults, Walk-in Centres, and Therapy and Rehabilitation services.
- Primary Care - Nine GP practices.
- New Cross Hospital - Secondary and tertiary services, Maternity, Accident & Emergency, Critical Care and Outpatients.
- West Park Hospital - Rehabilitation, Inpatient and Day Care services, Therapy services and Outpatients.

The Trust also successfully hosts Black Country Pathology Services (BCPS) and the West Midlands Local Clinical Research Network (WMCRN), and has done since its establishment in April 2014.

The Trustees' Mission

The mission of the charity is to make a real difference to the patients of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, their families and the staff that treat them, above and beyond that provided by the NHS. We support the Trust to realise its vision to be an NHS organisation that continually strives to improve the outcomes and experiences for the communities it serves.

Public Benefit

In planning the Charity's activities, careful consideration is given to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. We must also comply with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011. We support the work of the Trust, however, there is a clear distinction between what the Trust is required to provide as an NHS organisation and what is additional public benefit. The application of charitable funds leads to the enhancement of patient care and experience – regardless of our patients' backgrounds or personal circumstances.

Charity funds are used to provide the following:

- Additional facilities to enhance the healing environment
- Additional equipment to enhance patient care and experiences
- Opportunities for additional staff training, above and beyond mandatory training
- Opportunities for further medical knowledge through research.

Getting involved and supporting your local hospital and patients of the Trust couldn't be easier. Simply call the Fundraising Team on 01902 694473 or contact us on social media –


@TheRWTCharity


@therwtcharity


@therwtcharity

Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities can be found below as at 31 March 2024, with comparatives to the previous year. The complete set of Accounts can be found on pages 66-80.

Income

£817k

Total Incoming Resources	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000
Donations and Legacies - £429k	290	139
Grants - £186k	-	186
Fundraising - £94k	87	7
Investment income - £108k	62	46
Total - £817k	**439**	**378**

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Endowment £000	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Total incoming resources	439	378	-	**817**	881
Total expenditure	(616)	(225)	-	**(841)**	(944)
Net gains/(losses) on investment	84	37	-	**121**	(243)
Net income/ (expenditure)	**(93)**	**190**	**-**	**97**	**(306)**
Transfer between funds	252	(252)	-	-	-
Total brought forward	1,791	852	82	2,725	3,031
Total at 31 March 2024	**1,950**	**790**	**82**	**2,822**	2,725

Expenditure

£841k

	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000
Raising funds - (£210k)	(183)	(27)
Charitable activities - (£629k)	(431)	(198)
Other expenditure - (£2k)	(2)	-
Total - (£841k)	**(616)**	**(225)**

Did you know you can also increase your donation without having to pay more?

Included in the Donations and Legacies and Fundraising income above, is an additional £10k which has been raised through the Gift Aid scheme in 2023/24.

giftaid

How does Gift Aid work?

Gift Aid is a scheme run by the government that enables charities to increase the value of donations made by reclaiming basic rate tax that has been paid on the gift. We can claim 25p per £1 donated, so on a gift of £100, we will actually receive an extra £25, at no cost to the donor.

The Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024 can be found below with the comparatives to the previous year.

Balance Sheet

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Fixed Asset Investments	**2,571**	2,449
Debtors & Prepayments	**50**	45
Cash	**372**	390
Creditors	**(171)**	(160)
Net Assets	**2,822**	**2,725**

	2023/24 £000	2022/23 £000
Endowment funds	**82**	82
Restricted funds	**790**	852
Unrestricted funds		
- Designated	**1,604**	1,705
- Non-designated	**346**	86
Total Funds	**2,822**	2,725



A few helpful definitions:

Throughout this report you may see some terminology you aren't familiar with. Hopefully these next few paragraphs will help you understand the Charity's financial position.

Fixed asset investments - investments held in Shorter (low risk) or Longer (higher risk) Term Investment Portfolios.

Current assets - cash held plus debtors. Debtors - money paid in after the year end relating to the year, accrued income - money due in for activities taken place in the year. Prepayments - payments made in year relating to the next year and so have been removed from the Statement of Financial Activities expenditure.

Current liabilities - creditors falling due within one year for money owed to others for expenses chargeable in the year.

Liabilities - creditors falling due after more than one year for money owed to others for expenses chargeable for previous years.

Net assets - Total assets minus total liabilities.

Endowment funds - represent funds that are held as capital in perpetuity so that only the income is available for distribution.

Restricted income funds - represent money which is held by the Trustees which can only be used for specified purposes. These funds are supervised either by the Fund Advisors within the ward, department or specialty concerned or the Group Chief Executive and Group Chief Financial Officer for more generic purposes.

Unrestricted income funds - funds available to be spent within the objects of the Charity which can legally be spent wholly at the discretion of the Trustees. In practice, respecting the non-binding preferences expressed by donors, the Trustees have sub categorised the unrestricted income funds under two headings.

- **Designated (earmarked) funds -** separate funds which the Trustees have created to accord with sections 90 and 91 of the National Health Service Act 1977 which require that the Trustees respect, as far as practicable, the specific intentions of the gifts received through wards, departments and specialties. By designating funds the Trustees ensure that those gifts are channelled towards charitable purposes in those areas. These funds are supervised by Fund Advisors from the wards, departments and specialties concerned.
- **Non-designated funds (general/reserves) -** represent those funds available for distribution by the Trustees at their discretion which have not been restricted or earmarked and can be used as reserves should the need arise. These funds are supervised by the Group Chief Executive and Group Chief Financial Officer.

Annual summary

Our Impact

The last year has been very different to the previous 12 months for various reasons - with the main one being the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. Fundraisers have been able to participate in events again which is great news, but sadly people have also found times hard physically, emotionally, and financially. They may have lost loved ones through COVID-19 or been impacted by long COVID and jobs have been at risk from the effects of the cost-of-living crisis. Not only has this impacted our fundraisers but our patients and staff too, with many struggling in the current climate.

Below are just a few recent examples of the many ways donations have allowed us to make a significant impact. For patient comfort and welfare, we provided:

- Refurbishment of patient day rooms
- Specialist chairs (including a stroke treatment chair) for the Neuro Rehab Unit at West Park Hospital
- Funding for a specialist welfare rights officer to help renal disease patients manage loss of income
- Picnic tables across the Trust to allow patients and their families to get outside for some fresh air
- Wig caps, liners and head scarves for patients who have lost their hair due to cancer treatment

We bought lifesaving and state of the art equipment including:

- A Video Laryngoscope to help with the effective intubation of extremely pre-term babies
- A special Ultrasound machine to reduce the risk of complications for cardiac patients
- An NGENUITY® 3D Visualisation System so retinal surgeons can operate looking at a high-definition 3D screen, instead of bending to look through the eyepiece of a microscope

We supported staff training and welfare through:

- Training sessions in Deafness Awareness and basic BSL Signing for hospital staff
- Mindfulness and meditation sessions to help staff better manage on the job anxiety and stress

We have been able to support patients and staff over the last 12 months with the following to offer support and comfort to those who find themselves in hospital and for those looking after them:

- Staff Wellbeing Hub supporting families with free breakfast and access to essential food items

- Patients and staff Christmas presents to help bring some joy to those in hospital over the festive period, whether being cared for or providing the care
- Launched Garden Appeal to transform outdoor space to support our young patients' recovery
- Activity packs for patients with dementia
- Toys for Paediatric patients across the Trust
- Arts and crafts activities for patients on the Neuro Rehab Unit
- Chemotherapy packs for patients starting treatment in the Deanesly Unit
- Water bottles for patients undergoing radiotherapy
- Surgical loupes for cardiac surgery
- Singing Medicine therapy on our Children's Ward
- Art murals welcoming our youngest patients and putting them at ease

Aim

The Charity actively supports projects that enhance the delivery and experience of care for all patients and their families. This includes the provision of additional equipment or equipment that is of a higher specification than NHS funding can provide. It funds projects that enhance the healing environment and provides funding for additional training and any other resources that will help make a real difference.

We are grateful for all the support we receive, however, we have further aspirations that require us to be ambitious in our income generation activities. We will strive to increase the value of monetary and non-monetary donations we receive year upon year.

We will support our NHS colleagues' commitment to ensuring everyone has equal access to our services, saving lives and improving health outcomes for our diverse community with a key focus on:

- Staff wellbeing
- Improving the patient experience
- Opportunities to further medical knowledge through research
- Engaging with our local community
- Developing partnerships
- Tackling health inequalities

Owing to the exceptional circumstances and the uncertainty of the current environment, this strategy intentionally focuses on the strategic direction for a shorter timeframe than usual - the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years. We are now working on the new Fundraising Strategy for the next two years, which allows us to monitor the environment and review accordingly in line with the cost-of-living crisis.

Our work

Family raises money for ICCU

A grateful family were so impressed with the care their loved one received before her death they raised £2,350 for Wolverhampton's intensive care Nurses and patients – from a 10th anniversary celebration of her life.

Lauren Cole, Community Sister in Planned Care for East Team for The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT), organised a fundraiser on behalf of her late mum Penny Cole, with dad Paul Cole and brother Sam Cole.



Sam Cole, Lauren Cole, Paul Cole and Gerardine Hardisty

Penny, 56, died after suffering a cardiac arrest on her way to work at Halifax Bank in Wolverhampton City Centre. She was taken to the Integrated Critical Care Unit (ICCU) at New Cross Hospital but suffered another arrest and died on 14 December 2013 after spending four days on ICCU.

Her family held a celebration event at Pattingham Village Hall to mark the 10th anniversary of Penny's passing with friends and family with cakes, tea and a raffle, with donations for all invited. They decided to hold the event at a significant time of year for the family, as Penny and her own mum Sheila Edmead shared the same birthday – Sheila was 93 on the week of the celebration.

"We wanted to do something to celebrate mum's life, then we thought we could raise some money and the ICCU is such a good cause," said Lauren.



"We ran a few competitions to raise money such as guess the number of sweets in a jar and name the teddy elephant, and some of Penny's friends who now live in New Zealand also sent donations. I see the ICCU Nurses as the elite of the elite – they have so much compassion for the job. They are in a different league, they are just so fantastic."

"I only thought we'd raise £100 but we received £1,120 on the day and Sam's work (Lloyds Bank) matched some of the funds raised, meaning the amount came to £2,350."

Gerardine Hardisty, Matron for ICCU, said: "We really appreciate this very kind, thoughtful and generous gesture by Lauren and her family. We are very humbled. We will use this money for future training and development of our staff to enhance our patient care."

Amanda Winwood, The RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "What Lauren's family have done to support our intensive care Nurses is lovely, especially given their losses. The Intensive Care will put this to good use."

Heart patient makes second charity donation



A retired bookmaker who says he owes his life to a Wolverhampton Consultant has made a second charitable donation to the unit where he was treated – totalling almost £3,000 to date.

Graham Ellis made his first donation of £1,420 to the Cardiothoracic Trust Fund at New Cross Hospital in 2022, badging it as a "thank you" for the care he'd received while having a defibrillator fitted. His ill health started with a heart attack while on holiday in Thailand, at which point Graham returned to the UK

and received life-saving support from staff atb RWT. He has since had two other procedures, following the original operation to fit the defibrillator, to fit stents in weakened arteries and improve blood flow.

"I owe Mr Petkar (Sanjiv Petkar, Consultant Electrophysiologist at RWT) my life and that's why we decided to host another fundraiser," said Graham. "It was good to be back at the Heart and Lung Centre to present him with this money. It's our way of recognising the efforts of him, and all the Cardiology staff, and to support patients like myself who are in need of treatment."

Money was raised by 30 golfers playing in a four-ball tournament at Chesterton Valley Golf Club, near Bridgnorth, with a special auction at the end of the night which saw guests bag themselves treats such as meals at The Plough Inn in Claverley and vouchers for games of mini-golf. The tournament raised £800 in total, while two raffles held at Rudge Heath Stores, on the Wolverhampton Road, raised around a further £600. Raffle and auction prizes were generously donated from local businesses including Putt Putt Noodle in Telford and The Inn at Shipley in Wolverhampton.

The cheque presentation was organised through The RWT Charity which met with Graham and Eldon Foster – friend of 30 years and owner of Rudge Heath Stores – alongside Mr Petkar.

Mr Petkar said: "We are very thankful for this donation and grateful that Graham has considered us here at RWT. I'm pleased to hear that he feels good in himself too, and that he felt well enough to travel back to Thailand earlier this year."

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, added: "It was so lovely to see Graham again and to accept yet another kind donation. We thank him, and Eldon, for their efforts – the funds will be used for the benefit of our patients."

Mum goes on the run - twice

A mum whose poorly daughter was treated in Wolverhampton's Neonatal Unit went on the run twice to raise around £1,500 for a garden appeal to help young patients.

Aimee Guy ran the Stafford Half Marathon followed by the Wolverhampton 10k in successive weekends.





She swelled the funds of the £30,000 appeal the RWT Charity has set up to renovate its garden in the Children's Ward at New Cross Hospital.

Olivia Guy, the young daughter of Aimee and husband Jason has 1p36 deletion syndrome, a disorder that typically causes severe intellectual disability. She spent six weeks on the Neonatal Unit at New Cross Hospital from October 2020.

Both Aimee and serial fundraiser Jason were keen to boost the appeal and he kickstarted it by raising more than £9,200 when he and former footballer Neil "Razor" Ruddock had Millwall and Wolves tattoos recently.

Mum of four Aimee ran up to 35 miles a week preparing for the two events, which she completed with friend Emma Bernard – and Jason in the latter.

The pair completed their challenge in style, with both setting personal bests in the 10k. Aimee clocked 51 minutes, 37 seconds and Emma crossed the line in 51.03 in the event, which starts and finishes at Wolves' Molineux Stadium.

Reflecting on the 10k race, Aimee, who is a full-time carer for Olivia and part-time recruitment consultant for Staff4Today, said: "We did start together but Emma was definitely quicker than me, although I made a bit up on the sprint finish.

"Jason did really well too – he ran one hour 11 minutes, so he went faster than he thought. But the main winner is the charity and boosting the fund."

In the half marathon, Aimee had mixed feelings – she managed a new personal best shaving a few seconds off her previous personal best of 2:01 but finished just 45 seconds over the two-hour mark. Emma came home in 2:03, a new best by 12 minutes.

"I missed my 'goal' time by 45 seconds but even though my training takes me on hills around Wolverhampton, I massively underestimated the hills in Stafford – a couple of big hills felt like they were never-ending," said Aimee.

Amanda Winwood, The RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "Well done Aimee and Emma and we're really grateful for the Guy family's continued support for this project.

"Their donations will benefit thousands of patients and their families going forward by giving them a space to play and relax during a difficult time."

Lego car win leads to £2,000 fundraiser for garden appeal

A raffle win of a Lego car drove a £2,000 donation to help leukaemia patients.



From left, Amy Athwal, Children's Community Nursing Sister, Stephanie Friedl, Paediatric Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, Elliott McNaughton, Jon McNaughton and Dr. Julie Brent, Paediatrician, following Elliott's favourite dinosaur impression!

Jon McNaughton, whose son Elliott has leukaemia, won an adult Lego car in a competition on LinkedIn hosted by one of the assembly technician's suppliers Rebound Electronics.

Instead of claiming the prize, Jon put it on eBay to raise money for The RWT Charity.

The Trust has cared for the three year old, who was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) in June 2022. This is where cancerous cells build up in the bone marrow, until eventually there's no room for normal blood cells to be made there.

Rebound Electronics set up a crowdfunder to raise money for the Paediatric department at RWT and its £500 target soon hit £1,000. The Dubai-based company generously match funded the pot to double the total to £2,000. It also donated tickets to 'Brick Fest Live' for the family, an exhibition of a million bricks at the NEC, and a Lego voucher for Elliott.

Jon said: "Rebound don't really know me so for the staff to do what they have is incredible. Elliott is our only child. It was a huge shock when he was diagnosed and it's been a long journey with plenty of highs and lows.

"He completed a six to seven-month intense course of chemotherapy and other treatment and is now on the 'maintenance' stage. He still has daily and monthly chemo and steroids but this is less intense than the first stage. He has a pretty good long-term prognosis and he started pre-school in September. If he has a cold or high temperature, however, he has to stay in hospital for 24-48 hours as he is more vulnerable to infections."

Elliott has been treated at Birmingham Children's Hospital, particularly following his diagnosis, although the majority has been at the family's local hospital, New Cross in Wolverhampton.

Rebound said in a statement: "Thank you to everyone who has donated. We understand the money will go towards plans to upgrade the outdoor space for the children, so this will go a long way to helping to achieve this."

Amanda Winwood, The RWT Charity Development Manager, and Amie Rogers, its Fundraising and Lead Digital Officer, met Jon and Elliott at a follow-up appointment with Dr Julie Brent.

Dr Brent, Paediatrician, said: "Patients with leukaemia are often with us for lengthy stays, so it is important to give them a change of scenery and to play, which is part of their rehabilitation."

Amanda said: "We are so grateful for this donation. We've been overwhelmed at the support to improve the outdoor space."

Fab four's marathon success

Wolverhampton NHS colleagues raised more than £3000 to improve patients' experience after taking on a half marathon.



Brothers Deepak and Pardeep Chand, Suzanne Giles and Michelle Wilding took part in the London Landmarks Half Marathon (LLHM) after securing places via The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT) Charity.

Along with almost 19,000 other runners, they set off on the 13.1-mile (21km) course, which took in sightseer favourites including Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral and Trafalgar Square.

The fab four took on the challenge on Sunday 7 April and were all thrilled to have completed the course.

Deepak Chand, Directorate Manager Cardiology said: "It was an amazing experience and very fulfilling after so much training. I enjoyed the crowds and atmosphere.

"I would say the most difficult thing about the marathon was running whilst feeling unwell, I was struggling from mile one. I feel happy to have raised money for The RWT Charity and that it will support those most in need and improve our services."

Pardeep Chand said: "Completing a half marathon for the first ever time has given me confidence to try for another knowing I'm capable of doing anything if I put my mind to it.

"I enjoyed seeing my older brother pushing me to go faster and the mile-long crowds cheering was a massive confidence booster. The most difficult thing about the marathon was knowing I had another 10 miles to go after completing three. I feel great knowing that the money I raised will help and change someone's life somewhere along the line."

For Suzanne Giles, Staff Nurse (Adult), this was her first half marathon.

She said: "It was very emotional as I had trained very hard and didn't quite know what to expect. I felt exhilarated at the end.

"There was plenty to see around London; each landmark was another mile and there were plenty of choir's drums to keep me energised. The crowds and the marshalls were there to shout your name if I was flagging and plenty of water and jelly babies provided throughout. It was such an honour to raise monies for RWT Charity to support patients, relatives and staff who need it."

Michelle Wilding, Senior Sister, said: "Running the LLHM was an amazing experience!

"At the start, I remember feeling so nervous as it was my first half marathon experience and I did not know what to expect. But once I started running, the support of the crowds and all the entertainment along the way made it so enjoyable.

"The last three miles were the toughest as I felt so tired at this point, but the supporters gave me the incentive to carry on. The sense of achievement I felt when I crossed that finish line was amazing and made it all worth it. The money we have raised for RWT Charity is an unbelievable amount and knowing it is going to such a special charity makes it all worth the hard work and I can't wait to take part in future events to raise even more."

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, said: "Our colleagues did so well – we're proud of their achievement and grateful for all the money they have raised for The Charity.

"The money raised will help provide for things over and above what the NHS is able to provide."

Amber nets a near £1,500 for charity

A courageous Nurse who suffered life-threatening injuries in a near fatal car crash has raised almost £1,500 for Wolverhampton's West Park Rehabilitation Hospital.



Cheque being presented to staff from West Park Rehabilitation Hospital, from left: Kay Millincamp, Aileen Brabazon, Dr Clare Rose, Emma Eason, Amber Sorsby, Jayne Sorsby and Jenni Nasioki

Amber Sorsby, Paediatric Staff Nurse, raised £1,495 from a netball tournament to donate to the garden linked to the Neuro Rehabilitation Unit at West Park. The donation was in recognition of the care she received after spending 53 days on the unit following a traumatic brain injury in a near-fatal car accident involving a drunk driver.

Amber was put into a coma in her car before undergoing life-saving surgery in hospital after suffering a shattered spleen, a lacerated liver and kidney and a severe brain injury caused by a bleed. She had two and a half litres of blood in her abdomen and also suffered multiple fractures, to her lower spine, a broken pelvis in five places, broken ribs, collarbones, collapsed lungs and a fractured skull in the accident in March 2018. The driver of the car was sentenced to two years in prison after causing serious injury through dangerous driving. Amber spent two months in hospital in Stoke before being transferred to West Park for two months.

Having played netball since she was 15 before going on to coach and umpire the sport, a netball tournament seemed to be the obvious thing to do as a fundraiser. The Stafford & District Netball League organised it at Stafford Manor High School.

Fifteen teams made up of her old Stafford team-mates and friends played seven-minute games, with Allsorts beating Midrange in the final.

"I would like the funds to go towards the garden at West Park, because the time I spent in there was very valuable and important to my recovery," said Amber, who has recently returned to playing netball and plays in the Stafford League division one for Violets with her mum and sister.

"I thank the entire Nursing and medical team who looked after me. I received input from Nurses, Doctors, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Speech and Language Therapists and Psychologists, and the care I received was excellent and has helped me get my life back. It's hard to say I've made a full recovery as I'll never be the same again but I'd say I'm 85 per cent back to the person I was."

Amanda Winwood, The RWT Charity's Development Manager, said: "Amber has shown tremendous courage and determination to recover from her injuries. "She has carried that spirit through to her fundraising and we really appreciate her organising this tournament to raise the funds for the garden at West Park. Other patients will now benefit from this in their rehabilitation."

PCN fundraises for Trust's Dementia Unit

A fundraising event to raise awareness brought in a grand total of £1,843 for RWT's Dementia Unit.



The Warstones Surgery team that helped make the fundraising event possible (left to right): Hayleigh Griffiths, Judith Norman, Karen Gee, Lisa Burke, Dr Koodaruth and Nawaaf Koodaruth

Members of the public were invited to Warstones Surgery to take part in a range of fun activities to help raise money for the worthy cause.

The event saw an array of delicious homemade and shop-bought cakes and samosas alongside craft stalls, raffles and local business stands, with staff volunteering their time at the weekend to encourage donations.



Hayleigh Griffiths, Assistant Practice Manager at Warstones Surgery, said: "Dementia is very close to our hearts here at the practice, whether it has affected family members or our very own patients, we wanted to try and make a difference to the care and treatment they receive.

"We would also like to say a huge thank you to all of the local companies that donated raffle prizes and refreshments as well as those who donated on the day."

Money raised will contribute to enhancing the experiences of patients and their families within the Dementia Unit at New Cross Hospital via The RWT Charity.

Amanda Winwood, RWT Charity Development Manager, added: "Thank you to Warstones Surgery colleagues for putting on such a successful event, and giving up their own time to support it. They raised a fantastic amount which will be used to make a difference to our patients."



All smiles on the Festive Mile!

Rain failed to dampen the spirits of fundraisers who joined Father Christmas and The Grinch to take part in RWT Charity's Festive Mile. Staff from across the Trust donned Santa hats – and many wore their favourite Christmas jumpers – to take part and boost funds to enhance the experience of patients using healthcare services. And their efforts brought in an amazing £175. The event was also important for health and wellbeing and gave hard-working staff a chance for some fresh air and exercise, despite the wind and rain.

David Law, Head of Knowledge Services, and Josh Brazier, Knowledge Services Assistant, were among those who took part. "We're pleased to support The Charity and aren't put off by a bit of rain!" said David.

Bal Chanion joined colleagues from Finance and said: "It's always good to help other people and as a team it's nice to do something together too."



Father Christmas was his usually jolly self, encouraging walkers along the way but he was joined by a very mischievous cyclist. The Grinch, AKA Adam Billington, Creative Director of Gatis Community Centre, joined in on his bike, playing the part of the cynical character created by Dr Seuss to perfection.

"I'm not dis-similar to The Grinch as I can be a bit bah humbug, but I had a great time playing him on the Festive Mile," said Adam.

The father of three is a grateful former patient after having open heart surgery at New Cross Hospital.

"Our centre is involved with The Charity through its knitting group, but this was my first time of being involved and I really wanted to give something back for the care I received," he said.

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, said The Charity was thrilled to see so many supportive staff in such poor weather.

"Considering they had wind and rain to contend with, everyone taking part did so in good spirits and we'd like to thank them for turning out for the fundraiser," she said.

"A special thank you to Santa and The Grinch too for proving to be such brilliant company on the Festive Mile."

Santa Claus came to town early

Santa Claus stopped by New Cross Hospital's Paediatric Ward to bring cheer to patients, relatives, and staff ahead of Christmas.

Although Santa was busy preparing gifts in the North Pole, he took some time off, joined by his naughty elf, who helped him give out gifts to the youngsters in hospital.



Lucas Lisseman was one of the first patients to receive a gift from Santa and was delighted with his chocolate selection box.

Sue Halstead, Lucas's mother, said: "He was delighted to receive a gift from Santa, especially after being in hospital for nearly a week. It has brought us cheer and made his Christmas.

"Lucas would really like a camera, so he asked Santa if he was on the nice list!"

Santa spent time talking to the children on the ward and giving out gifts.

He said: "It is great to be here at New Cross Hospital spreading some Christmas cheer."

Molly Lockley, Play Leader at RWT, said: "It's great to have Santa here and see the smiles on children's faces. It makes their journey in hospital less scary and something to look forward to."



Estate agent's £5,000 donation for children

Christmas came early for sick children in Wolverhampton after a generous estate agent donated £5,000.

Royston & Lund, which has an office on Penn Road, raised £2,500 from a JustGiving page and matched it, with £2,042.33 worth of gifts going to the Children's Ward at New Cross Hospital.

The remaining amount of £2,957.67 was donated to renovate the children's garden on Ward A21. The company bought presents for children staying in hospital over the festive period and gifts were varied so all age groups were covered. They included knitted items for babies and toddlers, and colouring books and toiletries for older children, with the remaining amount to renovate the children's garden on Ward A21.

"I couldn't be happier that we were able to positively impact the community," said Monica Basra, Royston & Lund Lettings Manager.



"These children may be facing challenging health issues, but Christmas magic can offer them strength, hope, and a much-needed diversion. Giving gifts to a children's ward not only makes the young patients happier, but it also provides consolation and support to their families. We took into account a number of variables when selecting gifts, including practicality, educational value, age appropriateness for their development, and interests that matched potential activities."

Amanda Winwood, RWT Charity Development Manager, received and distributed the gifts. She said: "This really is a huge donation and we're so grateful and thankful to Royston & Lund. This will make a massive difference to our younger patients at a challenging time for them."

Gifts for patients thanks to caring staff

More than 170 gift bags were delivered to patients staying in hospital at Christmas thanks to the generous donations of Wolverhampton NHS staff.

Lisa Bristow, Ward Waitress at New Cross Hospital, gathered the gifts after asking colleagues in Catering, Portering, Radiology, Cancer Services and Domestics to help spread some seasonal cheer.



She got the idea after working at the Wednesfield and Wood End Royal British Legion Club last year.

She said: "The club donated gifts to The Haven Wolverhampton last year and they were so well received. I thought it would be a good idea to do a similar thing for the patients in hospital over Christmas.

"I went round the hospital and left collection boxes for staff to donate. When I went to collect them, I was overwhelmed by how generous staff had been. I didn't expect it. They donated mug sets, bath and body sets as well as individual items so we could make up gift bags with them."

Having worked for the Trust for 19 years Lisa has done her fair share of working on Christmas day.

She said: "I know it can be tough for people in hospital over Christmas – especially those without family. If the gifts can bring a smile to those who need it most then I will be happy that we have done a good job. Even though we all try hard to make it better for our patients, it is tough being in hospital and you are normally at your lowest."

Amie Rogers, Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer at The RWT Charity, said: "We are so grateful to Lisa and her colleagues for the thoughtful and generous gifts. It's lovely that she wanted to do something for our patients to lift their spirits. Christmas can be an incredibly difficult time for some people – especially those in hospital."

Jess sews seeds of comfort for patients

An award-winning volunteer at New Cross Hospital is using her creative flair to make life more comfortable for patients living with dementia – hopefully leading to a career in healthcare.



Jess (red hair) with some of the items she has made, with clockwise, from left: Dawn Southey, Senior Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Dementia Lead, Donna Cattell, Healthcare Assistant, and Ashleigh Key, Volunteer Coordinator, holding a blanket

Jess James-Causer, is a clinical volunteer on Ward C56 Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) Frailty. She has been sewing bells, ribbons, buttons, beads, zippers and pom-poms to twiddle muffs and blankets, as well as making holes for patients to put their fingers through. Patients find the woollen items have a calming effect on them.

It's a real family affair too as Jess's mum Zara James and her sister Brodi-Sue James-Causer knit blankets and crochet the items ready for Jess to work her magic.

"I spoke to one of the Dementia Nurses, Donna Cattell, and asked what the patients like to do and she told me about the twiddle muffs," said Jess, who has been volunteering since January 2023.

"My mum started crocheting for something to do before lockdown and now she can do it without looking, it's like muscle memory. Brodi asked if she could help out and she crochets the twiddle muffs too. We let patients take them home once we've given them out – it's something positive to remember their hospital stay by, and it makes them happy because they can get quite agitated. The twiddle muffs have a calming effect which makes people's jobs easier."

Jess is a real convert to volunteering and also supports the Staff and Wellbeing Hub and Ward A31 Ophthalmology at New Cross Hospital. The Patient Experience Volunteer Service nominated Jess for the Rising Star Award, along with other staff on the ward, and the lifelong Wolves fan was awarded at the joint RWT Charity and Volunteer Awards at Molineux.

Since August she has also been part of the arts and heritage programme at West Park Hospital, helping patients use their time by engaging creatively by painting birdhouses.

Jess, who is currently studying for a level 3 diploma in health and social care at City of Wolverhampton College, said: "I used to see my neighbour going to work at New Cross Hospital and always thought I wanted to work in a hospital setting and help people. Gradually I've wanted to look into the possibility of working in Speech and Language Therapy or special educational needs in adults. We lived with my grandad, and my mum, who cared for my great nan who had dementia, has given me tips and ideas."

Ashleigh Key, Volunteer Co-ordinator, said: "We are so proud of everything Jess does. She is an asset to our Volunteer Service and goes above and beyond to support our staff and improve patient experience. Well done Jess!"

Dawn Southey, Senior Advanced Nurse Practitioner and Dementia Lead on C56, said: "You can see the calming effect the blankets and twiddle muffs have on patients, as well as seeing their confidence return – it makes so much difference."

Magical murals created for young patients

Children attending New Cross Hospital are now greeted by an "amazing" magical underwater sea world plus a display of unicorns and dinosaurs thanks to a £15,000 transformation which has become a TikTok sensation.



Where there were once dull and drab walls, bright colourful murals now dominate two lift areas approaching the Children's Ward, A21/Paediatric Assessment Unit and A22/A23.

Artists Daniel Russell-Ahern and Simon Greenaway, aka Mural Trader, are responsible for the transformation thanks to The RWT Charity, which has funded the artwork. TikToks of the duo's creations have attracted nearly 600,000 views between them on Mural Trader's social media channel.

Sarah Lewis, Matron, Children's Specialities and Outpatients at RWT, is the brains behind the new look after seeing similar work from Daniel when she worked at Birmingham Children's Hospital (BCH).

"When I started in post, I felt the areas needed to be more child-friendly, especially the lift areas by A21/PAU and A22/23," said Sarah.

"I'd seen the artwork at BCH and contacted Daniel. As this is one of the first areas children and young people and their families see, I felt having artwork would help reduce anxiety and be a nice start to patients' journey with us. We did a piece of work with posters and a social media post asked children, young people, their families and staff to vote for their two top themes. Daniel has worked through the night to complete it. His designs stood out over the others – the work is amazing."

Daniel and Simon took eight days between them over two and a half weeks to transform the areas after RWT's Estates Team prepared the walls.

"We're really proud of the work," said Daniel, who has been painting murals for five years and is dad to daughters Blake and Robyn.

"The brief was to create an underwater, calming space that was enjoyable to be in but we could also be a bit playful so we've got an octopus pushing the lift button. It's totally changed the space. We normally do bars and business spaces but it doesn't give you the same reward as hospitals because the places never really sleep. Even when you're painting at 2am or 3am, there's always people engaging with you, and that makes it more special."

Similar artwork will be completed in the adolescent waiting area in Children's Outpatients and the Phlebotomy Room to offer distraction and help create a calming atmosphere.

Mum's £2,900 concert fundraiser after loss

A mum who lost her baby daughter and nursed her son following his premature birth has helped raised nearly £3,000 for Wolverhampton's Neonatal Unit where both were cared for.



From left, Sharlene Wright, Kerry Harnett, Amanda Winwood, and from Bethel All Saints Apostolic Church – Jeremy Grant (JezPoetic), Pearl Laird, and Pastor Paul Francis

Sharlene Wright held a community fundraiser at Bethel All Saints Apostolic Church in Parkfields. After beating the initial target of £1,000, the amount stood at £2,050 before an anonymous donor generously match-funded the JustGiving total by adding £885 to make it up to £2,935.

Poetry by JezPoetic, gospel music and inspirational stories were enjoyed at the event, which was attended by Councillor Dr Michael Hardacre and Ms Lynn Plant, the Mayor and Mayoress of Wolverhampton.

Sharlene, of Goldthorn Park, gave birth to daughter Anaya via emergency caesarean on her due date of 4 February, 2022 at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital. Anaya, who weighed 7lbs 7oz, was taken to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) with breathing difficulties but died a day later in Sharlene's arms, surrounded by her husband John and family.

"She didn't cry out when she was born so her lungs didn't expand," said Sharlene, who works in business development for the National Autistic Society. We were afforded the privacy to bring family in and pray for Anaya, and Carole Sadler, our Bereavement Midwife, gave us wonderful support."

Almost exactly a year later, Sharlene gave birth to son Lucas, who arrived 12 weeks early on 3 February, 2023, also via caesarean. Lucas weighed little more than a bag sugar – 2lbs 7oz – and spent 66 days on the Neonatal Unit.

"We had the same Consultant, Dr Anu (Dr Anurada Subramanien, Obstetric Consultant), and lots of staff remembered us from our previous experience, so they were very understanding and supportive," added Sharlene. "If Lucas had been born 23 minutes later, he would have shared the same birthday as Anaya. Lucas was being fed through a tube and me and my husband John were taught to change and wash him while in the incubator."

Once discharged, Lucas was slowly weaned off oxygen, at home. A little brother to Asher, he is now thriving.

Sharlene is part of a planning team at Bethel, headed by Shereen Bryan, a former Midwife at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust. They had the idea of a fundraising event, titled 'Let Everything That Hath Breath Praise the Lord' Psalm 150, verse 6.

"I'd never heard of the unit until our experiences," said Sharlene.

Among the speakers at the concert were Kerry Harnett, Senior Sister on the Neonatal Unit at RWT and Sharlene's lifelong friend Sangeeta Mastani.

Kerry said: "On behalf of the Neonatal Unit I thank Sharlene, Bethel All Saints Apostolic Church and all involved in the event. "It was an evening full of hope, thanks and belief. It is humbling to witness how communities we serve continue to support our unit. "The amount raised far exceeded the original target, which is amazing. The money will help the unit, the babies and their families who experience a Neonatal journey."

Arts and Heritage

Over the past year, the Arts and Heritage Group (A&HG) has delivered upon its aims to enhance the healing environment, develop community connections, and explore and exhibit the history of healthcare in Wolverhampton. The A&HG has brought about real change by engaging with patients, visitors, and the wider community through a range of projects and activities.

Arts in Health workshops at West Park

In April 2023, the A&HG worked with RWT Volunteering Services to reintroduce therapeutic arts workshops to the Neuro Rehab Unit (NRU) at West Park Hospital. These twice- monthly sessions are funded by The RWT Charity and run by passionate volunteers, with craft activities varying from decorating birdhouses to making dreamcatchers. Workshops ran from April until August, followed by a second series from November to March 2024.



Through the sessions, patients learn new skills and produce their own artwork which they can keep.

Sarah Cleaver, Senior Sister on NRU, said: "It has been fantastic having the workshops at the unit.

"It has increased morale for staff, patients and their relatives and has created a real buzz around the place. It has really helped lift the mood of our patients, and relatives love to see what their loved ones have created during the session."

Came to Care: Windrush and the NHS

The A&HG was fortunate to receive a government grant from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to deliver a project marking the 75th anniversary of Windrush. Between May and June 2023, two young artists were commissioned to explore the contributions of the Windrush generation to the health service, both locally and nationally. The artworks created by these young artists were unveiled at a showcase event, held on Windrush Day, 22 June 2023, at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.



#WvSameDifference Festival

As a member of the Wolverhampton Cultural Education Partnership (CEP), the A&HG delivered a free drop-in craft activity at the #WVSameDifference Youth Festival, held at West Park in August 2023.

Run by artist Sam McCracken, the creative session enabled young people to develop their own visual vocabulary to express their thoughts around health, healing and care.



Sophie, who was born six weeks early at New Cross Hospital and has Sensory Processing Disorder, produced an illustration to explain how she feels.

"I have drawn how I see, hear, taste, touch and feel things and the colours that I don't like that make me feel anxious and the ones I do like that make me feel calm and comfortable."

Her mother Zoe, a university lecturer, said: "I think this is a brilliant opportunity for children and young people who can advocate for themselves to be able to do so. This is a wonderful event and I'm so pleased to see the NHS Trust engage in this way."

RWT 'Through the Decades' Calendar

As a part of the NHS 75th birthday celebrations in July 2023, the A&HG produced an 18-month calendar to show RWT 'Through the Decades'. Past and present feature side-by-side in a set of fascinating photographs which include scenes from the South Staffordshire General Hospital (later the Royal Hospital) throughout the 20th century, contrasting with the modern, airy wards and departments now in existence.



Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator, said: "In this special year for the NHS a calendar seemed a great way to look back over the achievements of the past and celebrate the present, while also thinking ahead to the future."

Royal Hospital Blue Plaque

The A&HG supported the unveiling of a blue plaque, sponsored by the Royal Hospital Nurses League, which will be fitted to the front of the Royal Hospital as it is redeveloped into apartments.



Former Nurse and Nurse Tutor at the Royal Hospital, Roy Stallard – who is now a hospital historian – said: "I think the plaque is a fantastic tribute to everyone who worked at the hospital. It will be a wonderful reminder of all the hard work and brilliant care which was delivered there."



Care, Create, Conserve

A museum charting the history of Wolverhampton's healthcare with fascinating exhibitions and creative community opportunities is being developed in the city centre, thanks to a grant of almost £140,000 awarded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.



An exciting new programme called 'Care, Create, Conserve' has been pioneered by the A&HG, beginning in 2023 during the 75th year of the NHS. At the heart of the project will be the creation of Wolverhampton's first healthcare museum and co-creation centre.

The Healthcare Heritage Centre will feature an exhibition of medical artefacts, photographs, and memorabilia from RWT's collection while healthcare stories of today will be showcased through four community co-creation projects and a vibrant programme of talks and events.

Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator, said: "We are thrilled to have been successful in our bid and grateful to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for seeing the value in our vision.

"This will be an amazing addition to the city centre, connecting our communities and supporting local people to explore and share their own experiences.

"Health is universal and something we can all relate to, no matter our age, identity, belief, or circumstances, but it can also be uniquely personal. Care, Create, Conserve will seek to tell a story which acknowledges many different experiences and perspectives – a story from our history, but also from our present day."

The programme will also create opportunities for Arts and Heritage Volunteers to help manage the Healthcare Heritage Centre, as well as gaining unique opportunities for training in collections care and curation.

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk.

Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.

Made possible with Heritage Fund

Legacies

Give the gift of a lifetime. Discover how with a gift in your Will.

It's a common myth that only the rich and famous leave money to charity when they die. This couldn't be any further from the truth. The reality is that without gifts left in Wills by people like you, many of the charities we know, and support wouldn't even exist.

For years people have been remembering our hospital in their Wills. Their gifts have gone on to help future generations and enhance the experience of using services at RWT.

Often donors have experienced first-hand the high level of care and expertise on offer at The Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust (RWT) and want to ensure future patients continue to have access to cutting-edge technology and excellent facilities.

We are honoured to receive legacy gifts, both large and small, from people just like you, who have chosen to help us make a difference to our community. Over the years, the legacies left by compassionate donors have been a vital source of funding for Your Trust Charity. A staggering £226,393.95 was donated in legacies in the year leading up to 31 March 2024!

Leaving a legacy to our Charity allows you to play a supporting role in helping patients, staff and families long into the future. The money that the Charity receives from the wills of donors is used according to their wishes, to pay for research, fund projects and buy equipment.

Leaving a gift in your will is a wonderful act of selflessness, and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity is extremely grateful to all those donors who consider supporting the Charity in this manner.

Including us in your Will:

If you choose to leave a gift in your Will to us, you'll need to include our name, address, and registered Charity number:

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity

New Cross Hospital

Location The Finance Department Building 12, Wolverhampton, WV10 0QP

Registered Charity no: 1059467

Give in Memory

Giving in memory is a distinct way to remember a loved one whilst making a valuable contribution to The RWT Charity

You can pay tribute to the memory of someone special in a number of ways. You could make a donation, hold a collection at a funeral or memorial service, set up an online tribute page, collect donations to mark a special date, such as a birthday, or even take part in an event or challenge in their name.

Your courage and kindness will ensure we can provide the best treatments and experience to our patients and their families, all in the name of your loved one.

Corporate and External Donations

NHS foodbank shortlisted for Black Country award

A foodbank set up to help NHS staff in Wolverhampton who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis was shortlisted in the 2023 Black Country Chamber Business Awards. The initiative, developed in partnership between RWT Charity and its Facilities Team, was one of the finalists in the Employer of the Year category.

The foodbank forms part of the Staff Wellbeing Hub that has been created at New Cross Hospital as part of a package to support healthcare staff who are in need. Initially funded by a grant from The Charity, the Trust's Facilities Team turned a disused café into a fully functioning wellbeing hub facility within two weeks, providing a specialist fridge shelving and a counter, with appropriate kitchen equipment. The Charity has taken on the day to day running of the hub, which offers food and other essential items.

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "We are so proud to have been shortlisted for this award for our efforts in establishing a meaningful support service for staff at a time of unprecedented difficulty for them.

"Our Group Chief Executive and Board continually remind us that our staff are the organisation's greatest asset, and we need to look after them to ensure they can look after others effectively which was the backdrop to setting up the hub. Our colleagues in Facilities have been fantastic – moving quickly to get things up and running, motivated by a desire to help those in need."

To date, 4,910 staff have received a free breakfast at the hub and 3,642 have used the food bank since it opened in December 2022.

Brendan Houston, Head of Facilities, added: "The Charity and Facilities made a great team when it came to getting this much-needed support established at New Cross Hospital. We believe that such provision means we are showing the Trust to be a compassionate and considerate employer towards its workforce."

The foodbank is open to all staff, including those working in the community and Cannock Chase Hospital and West Park Hospital.



"Unfortunately we didn't win the award. But, we continue to support our staff at this difficult time".

Wolves All Stars raise £2,230 for charity

A football match which attracted the biggest gathering of former Wolves players for a charity game scored by raising £2,230 for three worthy causes – including RWT's Neonatal Unit.

Around 30 former Molineux favourites who played some 2,750 games for the club across six decades either played in or watched the match against FA Veterans at Bilston Town FC.

They were cheered on by a crowd of 300 at the Queen Street ground, who saw former captain Jody Craddock open the scoring for the All Stars with a towering header.

Matt Hill put the Wolves side 2-0 up just before half-time following a solo run prior to Chris Lake pulling one back for the FA side in the second half.

Craddock and Hill were two of more than a dozen ex-Wolves players who dusted off their boots to take to the field. They included League Cup winner Mel Eves, Simon Osborn, Adam Proudlock, Kevin Ashley, Micky Holmes, Jackie Gallagher, Tony Dinning, Colin Taylor, Paul Jones, Matt Forman and Dennis Pearce.

Among those watching were Phil Parkes, Matt Murray and Carl Ikeme, Steve Daley, Robbie Dennison, Alistair Robertson, Colin Brazier, Jon Purdie, Gerry Taylor and Joe Jackson.

The money was raised by admission to the ground, a raffle and an auction, plus £700 from the FA Veterans.

All proceeds will be split equally between the Neonatal Unit at New Cross Hospital, Breast Cancer Now and 1p36 Family Trust.

Long-term Wolves All Stars sponsor and secretary Jason Guy organised the game. His daughter Olivia was born with 1p36, a rare condition that typically causes severe intellectual disability. She spent around six weeks in the Neonatal Unit at New Cross from October 2020.

The money raised means the event easily surpassed Jason's target of £2,000 and he was delighted with the turnout.

"It was an incredible amount to raise so I can only thank everyone who attended for their wonderful support and generosity," said Jason, who attended the game with wife Aimee, Olivia and son Jonas. "It was wonderful to see people give up their time to make a difference to the lives of others. And to see more than 300 people in attendance with all the former players meant we made history. Everyone had a fantastic afternoon."

Kate Cheshire, Head of Midwifery and Neonatal Services at RWT, said: "We're delighted to see this money raised for our unit – thanks so much to Jason and the All Stars. This money will go towards caring for our sick babies and their loved ones. What a fantastic turnout of former players and the crowd too. Well done everyone."



Footie favourites donation to help male cancer patients

Caring Wolves favourites have donated more than £16,000 to benefit Black Country Urology patients. Popular 1970s heroes Phil Parkes and Steve Daley, who have both been touched by cancer, visited New Cross Hospital to present a cheque for £16,680.03 to The RWT Charity.

Phil and Steve are now prominent committee members of the Wolves Former Players Association and the money, which will be used to benefit men with cancer, is the entire funds of the Maureen Parkes Breast Care Fund. This has raised more than £75,000 for RWT over the last 28 years to buy various pieces of equipment to enhance the treatment and care of patients.



Phil lost wife Maureen in April 2010 at the age of 62 after battling stomach cancer. After beating breast cancer in 1995, she set up the fund to raise the money for the Trust in thanks for the care she received.

Phil and Maureen's close friend Sheila Edwards, who was a Healthcare Assistant at RWT for 43 years, were the Trustees of the fund and Sheila helped organise many fashion shows which raised funds. Following her death, Phil carried on raising money for the fund in his wife's name through the Wolves FPA, through its popular annual golf days and other events, while St Columba's URC Church in Finchfield also made yearly donations.

Steve underwent an operation to remove his prostate cancer in spring 2022 and the former midfielder has since joined RWT Nurses promoting awareness of the condition.

Andeana Andreas, Urology Outpatients Departmental Manager at RWT said: "We're delighted to receive this money from Phil and Steve and are hugely thankful for the efforts of them, Maureen and the Wolves FPA over the years.

The department will use this money to benefit urology patients with suspected and proven urological cancers such as bladder and prostate cancer, specifically improving their care in the outpatient setting. "The Urology department is currently looking at ways to improve the outpatient management of some recurrent bladder cancers to help reduce waiting lists for standard operations and to improve the treatment of patients who are not fit for standard general anaesthetics. This could help drive forward these changes. The Urology services at RWT and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust joined forces a little over a year ago, so this service will benefit a large population."

Former goalkeeper Phil, who played 382 games for Wolves between 1966-78, said: "I'm very proud of the work Maureen did and what we have done since her death to raise the money, and of the benefit it has given to patients in Wolverhampton and the local area.

"We feel it's the right time to wind the fund down, but there is still so much to do to help patients. As the money raised by Maureen's fund has mainly benefitted women, we thought it right that the remainder of the fund will go towards helping men."

Steve, who was once Britain's costliest footballer when he joined Manchester City after scoring 43 goals in 244 games for Wolves from 1971-79, returned to Urology Outpatients where he had his biopsy.

"I owe my life to the staff at New Cross Hospital and I want to help people who have what I had," said Steve, who also played for Walsall during a 17-year professional career. "What impressed me at the prostate cancer evening was that we had men in their 20s and 30s, not just older ages, so people are starting to realise that this is something that can affect anyone at any time."

Amanda Winwood, RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "We're grateful to Phil and Steve for their donation and everyone who has donated to Maureen's fund and supported the events over the years. This money will hugely benefit our male patients."

Razor has Hi Ho tattoo for a good cause

He was used to giving opponents the needle on the football pitch but Neil "Razor" Ruddock found himself on the receiving end!

It was all for a good cause as the former Liverpool and Tottenham defender had a Wolves tattoo to raise money for a special project.

He visited New Ink in Tettenhall to have the artwork to help The RWT Charity towards a target of £30,000 to renovate its garden in the Children's Ward at New Cross Hospital.

Neil is good friends with Wolves fanatic and serial fundraiser Jason Guy, who has raised more than £400,000 for good causes, including The RWT Charity. Jason's daughter Olivia, has 1p36, a disorder that typically causes severe intellectual disability.



Neil "Razor" Ruddock having his tattoo, with, from left, Craig James, Jason Guy, Amie Rogers and Amanda Winwood

"I've known Jason for a few years now and his daughter Olivia has had a lot of treatment at New Cross Hospital," said Neil.

"He told me how the garden could do with a bit of TLC for children and their families so I thought I'd have a Wolves tattoo. He took me to a Wolves game against Nottingham Forest and I loved it when the fans sang 'Hi Ho Wolverhampton!' So I thought I'd have a tattoo with that on and I said Jason had to have a Millwall (Neil's boyhood team) tattoo and then we'd see how much money we could raise."

Jason added: "We saw the difference it made to us as a family to have that outside space and my wife Aimee used to come home and say 'it's a lovely space but it could do with a bit of work.'



"So I asked The Charity and the ladies told me about the garden. It's something everyone can get involved with raising money for, to help the community, and that £30,000 will change the garden for years to come."

Neil had 'Hi Ho Wolverhampton' with the Wolves emblem on his right forearm, where the artwork joined tattoos from his former clubs Tottenham (To Dare Is To Do) and 'YNWA' the abbreviated form of You'll Never Walk Alone, the Liverpool anthem. Jason had one saying 'The Wall' on his right bicep.

It was a dream come true for New Ink owner Craig James, who is a Liverpool fan. "This is a big highlight for me because I used to watch Razor play in the early 1990s when he was at Liverpool," said father of two Craig, from Wombourne.

He completed the £50 tattoos free of charge.

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager for The RWT Charity, said: "It's a wonderful gesture by Razor and Jason to have their tattoos done – rather them than me! But they are truly great sports and this will raise a lot of money towards our garden fund."

Wolverhampton's healthcare history shaped by local voices

Residents were taken back to 1849 during a highly anticipated spoken word performance through the Care, Create, Conserve project, led by The RWT Charity's Arts and Heritage Group.

The performance took people through a historical journey of healthcare, exploring themes of gender role stereotyping, facilities and access to healthcare, based on their perspectives.

The event, at the Mander Health Hub, was led by poets Sophina Jagot and Emma Purshouse who shared a potted history of the and wider healthcare in the city, going as far back as 1849. This was followed by a unique soundscape performance collated through listening activities during residency sessions within the health hub.

The poets took inspiration from current and former NHS staff, local historians and residents' memories and experiences of healthcare throughout the years to craft their unique performance.

Sophina said: "It's been fantastic to talk to so many people and these lived experiences are reflected within our work."

"We've had a blast uncovering Wolverhampton's healthcare history and each individual perspective has shaped our performance. People have been excited to talk about their memories and share their thoughts – it's been a real pleasure to piece this together," Emma added.

In the audience was Helen Trainer, Healthy Age Co-ordinator, who has worked for the NHS since 1976. Soon to join the Arts and Heritage Team as a Volunteer, she said: "It's an interesting and engaging way to capture and showcase the healthcare history of Wolverhampton, representing a variety of experiences and memories. I am looking forward to my role as a volunteer throughout the remainder of the programme."

Frances Land, Co-Artistic Director from Black Country Touring, collaborators of the programme, praised the poets for creating two inspiring pieces. She said: "I am so pleased to see the final performance after much development through capturing stories, thoughts, and experiences through listening and engagement exercises. The performances really capture the essence of healthcare history in Wolverhampton in such a fun and accessible way."

Alex Vann, who lives locally, said: "It's an ingenious idea to show healthcare history through the voices of local people. I particularly enjoyed reflecting on the archive of photographs - they complement the words, and the combination of sound and visuals helped shape a meaningful representation of history."

Following the performance, attendees saw a sneak peek of a wider collection of healthcare heritage items that will form part of a fascinating exhibition in a new Healthcare Heritage Centre and co-creation space.

This project has been made possible thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-Ordinator at RWT Charity, said: "Thank you to all of our communities which contributed to the showcase event – their input was invaluable and really helped us to paint a picture of healthcare in years gone by.

"Sophina and Emma brought people's experiences and memories to life so vividly for us and I'm sure their interpretation will have enthused the audience and left them keen to find out more."



Emma Purshouse (left) and Sophina Jagot

Young patients' luxury ride to theatre

Children undergoing surgery in Wolverhampton will be able to 'drive' themselves to the operating theatres in a Tesla electric car.

Two miniature version of the electric car have been donated to The RWT Charity and will be used to transport children to theatre as well as for their scans.

The Tesla Owners Club UK donated the cars to make the experience of undergoing surgery less daunting for younger patients.

One of the first to try out the shiny new wheels was six-year-old Stanley Cochrane who was diagnosed with Leukaemia in December.

Stanley has to frequently come into hospital for procedures, blood transfusions and appointments.

He said: "I always get worried when I go for surgery but now I won't feel as nervous by driving the car. I love how fast it is. Thank you so much for letting me drive one – it is brilliant."

His dad Lee Cochrane said he was thrilled to see the new cars.

He said: "Something like this is right up his street. He has model cars and was watching car videos on You Tube earlier, he has his own toy Lamborghini he takes everywhere so it is great for Stanley to be able to drive his own little car. I think it is a fantastic idea and will really help ease the nerves of the children going to surgery."

Anthony-Hugh Selormey, from Tesla Owners Club, said the donation was thanks to the generosity of the Tesla Owners Club members and the charity events they run.

He added: "To give back to the community is fantastic and a lot of fundraising has taken place to be able to make this donation. To bring a bit of fun into what can be a traumatic experience is what we aim to do with these cars."

Kirsty Lewis, Acting Deputy Head of Nursing for Children's Services for RWT, said: "We are so grateful for the donation. Being in hospital is never a nice experience for children and little things like this can make it so much nicer for them. We hope it will get rid of some anxiety they get from being in hospital and it will help make it a little bit more fun for them."



Kirsty Lewis, Shayne Ihedoro, Anthony-Hugh Selormey, Stanley Cochrane and Amie Rogers

Classroom creativity inspires latest arts and heritage project





Enthusiastic schoolchildren have brought the iconic façade of Wolverhampton's Royal Hospital to life in a colourful collage and 3D sculpture.

The artistic interpretations will shape part of a creative showcase, focusing on language and identity in healthcare settings, with a spotlight on disability and deafness.

This forms part of the Care, Create, Conserve project being led by The RWT Charity's Arts and Heritage Group. It is funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

The project will see schoolchildren and local community groups embark on an artistic collaboration with Real Arts Workshops, led by Alex Vann, graphic designer, artist and musician and Gary O'Dowd, profoundly deaf crafter, and British Sign Language (BSL) tutor, who provide high-quality, tailor-made creative arts workshops.

The artistic duo will explore the theme of language in healthcare, through working with community groups to co-create a final artwork.

This creative process began with sessions with pupils from years 7, 8 and 11 at Penn Fields School. They were asked 'What does the NHS mean to you?' generating answers including "friendly and hard working", "helps me when I'm poorly" and "support and protection."

Thrilled with the artistic flair coming from the classroom, Shelley Cooper, Arts Lead at Penn Fields School said: "Feedback from children and staff has been very positive and many have expressed how much they have enjoyed it. The model looks amazing."

The 3D sculpture features the recognisable columns that still stand at the entrance of the Royal Hospital. The triangular roof can be lifted off to view hospital scenes, recreated by the students using plastic figurines.

Passionate about engaging people in meaningful arts experiences that build confidence and break down barriers, Alex and Gary said: "We want the creative sessions to be led by the people we are working with. We will be running multiple sessions with community groups, and we are excited to see how participants will add their own personalities and thoughts to shape the final piece."

It is hoped the final artwork will represent a variety of thoughts and feelings on language in healthcare and give those who have limited access to creative opportunities, a chance to share their voice.

Gary will also deliver some BSL teaching as part of this project. The final creation will be showcased in the new Healthcare Heritage Centre, housed within Wolverhampton Central Library.

Volunteering at RWT

Introduction

The Trust continues to be fortunate to have the support of volunteers - unpaid members of our local community who offer their time willingly to help.

As always, we hold provision of a positive patient experience at the forefront of our volunteering activity, and we aim to place volunteers into roles which complement, but do not replace, paid members of staff. Volunteers add an important 'extra' factor to helping us provide a positive patient and visitors' experience.

Review of 2023- 2024:

Community Clinical Volunteer role

The Volunteer Services Team has continued developing the Clinical Volunteer role within RWT and providing further support to wider teams across the Trust. Within the last 12 months, Volunteer Services have successfully recruited 131 new volunteers across three cohorts (May, June, and October 2023) who are supporting services at Cannock, New Cross, and West Park Hospitals. The attributed volunteer hours equate to 12,598. This an increase of 6,940 hours compared to the previous year.

The Volunteer Service continues its partnership with the NHS Cadets which is a national programme for young people who receive training by St Johns Ambulance and information on the variety of roles within the NHS and is supported by NHSE.

Roles in Clinical Areas

Our Clinical Volunteer role continues to support Trust areas most in need and we currently have 127 Clinical Volunteers actively at RWT. The volunteer service has also seen an expansion of medical and surgical wards receiving volunteer support with the development of clinical support roles in areas such as Renal Home Therapies, Dermatology, Ophthalmology, Paediatrics, and Oncology (Ward B12, B12 Durnall, and C35 Deanesly).

We have also seen an increase in admin support roles in areas such as Cardiac Rehabilitation, Radiology, Cardiology, Maternity and Patient Access and appointment support roles in areas across Trust sites.



In this reporting period, volunteers have dedicated 12,598 hours of their free time to support New Cross Hospital (9,962 hours), Cannock Chase Hospital (1,606 hours), and West Park Hospital (554 hours). Other contributing hours have been committed to other Patient Experience initiatives such as Patient Involvement Partners and the HOPE Project which is detailed further below.

New Cross Hospital is where most of our volunteer opportunities are. In the past year, the Trust areas with the most volunteer support were the Discharge Lounge (897 hours), Acute Medical Unit (622 hours), B14 Cardiology (588 hours), ED (476 hours), B8 Cardiothoracic (471 hours), and C18 Elderly Care (430 hours). Other areas with high levels of support were Staff Wellbeing Hub, D7 General Surgery, C21 Stroke, C8 Renal Home Therapies, and B2 Cardiac Rehabilitation.

Other roles are detailed within this report.

Arts in Health Programme

The Arts in Health programme was re-launched at West Park Rehabilitation Hospital in April 2023 after being stood down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme is funded by the RWT Charity Arts and Heritage project, and the funds provide craft resources that enable the programme to be delivered by RWT volunteers on the Neuro-Rehab ward, supporting patients recovering from neurological trauma through therapeutic arts activities.



The collaborative working between the Volunteer Services Team and the Arts and Heritage project has resulted in a successful first term in which saw volunteers supporting the King's Coronation and NHS 75th Birthday celebrations. Following a review of the first term, feedback resulted in improvements to the programme design and delivery. The programme has recently finished its second term and is currently being reviewed and feedback collected. We aim to continue delivering the programme across 2024/25 and hope to scale across other Trust sites in the near future.

Staff Wellbeing Hub

Since December 2022, RWT volunteers have been supporting The Charity's Staff Wellbeing Hub initiative, a food bank, and essential items service to help support staff during the cost-of-living crisis. So far, volunteers have given more than 669 hours of their time to support mainly the afternoon service in the Hub, but have also extended their support to the morning shifts due to this being a busier time. The Staff Wellbeing Hub is a great addition to our volunteer opportunities, providing variety and a non-clinical, but essential, support service to our staff. The Charity has also provided the opportunity for one volunteer to progress on to paid employment via the Trust's Temporary Staff Bank Team, providing paid employment at the Hub.

Career Development and Progression



Volunteer Services are continuing to seek pathways and opportunities for volunteers to access employment development opportunities as, for many, this is their aim. During this year, we have successfully supported 11 volunteers with gaining Bank or permanent positions in the Trust. The Volunteer Services Team also continues to identify opportunities for development for volunteers including access to enrol on the Care Certificate programme if certain criteria are met, as well as accessing personal development courses that the Trust provides internally.

Looking Forward 2024/25

We are looking forward to a collaborative voluntary service across RWT and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, pooling resources and providing opportunities for volunteers across both organisations.

In partnership between the two Trusts, we want to explore volunteering in education, and supporting young people in local communities. We recognise our role in supporting the workforce of the future, particularly as 54% of our volunteer workforce is between the ages of 16 and 25.

We have developed a Volunteer and Engagement Hub in the Heart and Lung Centre. This is volunteer-led hub to provide information to patients and visitors, supporting with wayfinding and signposting, and promoting wider Trust services.



We will continue to raise the profile of volunteering and staff awareness of what is involved in the supervision of volunteers, as well as recognising achievements.

Rewards and Celebrations

In May 2023, as part of the King's Coronation celebration, we worked collaboratively with The RWT Charity to deliver the 'Big Help Out' celebration event at New Cross Hospital. The event was joined by our Group Chief Executive and Group Chair to award our volunteers with certificates and a special commemorative pin badge to recognise their outstanding contributions.



This was followed by a social media campaign in June for National Volunteers' Week, focusing on success stories, role highlights, and staff feedback on the positive impact of volunteers.

The Volunteer Services were delighted to have been shortlisted for the three categories in the 2023 Helpforce Champions Awards. The awards were held at the Royal Air Force Club in London in October 2023. RWT Volunteer Services came away with all three awards - Staff Champion, won by Charity Development Manager Amanda Winwood, Volunteer of the Year, won by Kemal Osman, and the Volunteer Services Team won the Celebrating Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion award. This highlighted RWT Volunteer Services at a national level for its achievements in increasing volunteer opportunities for volunteers with complex needs and learning disabilities.

In addition, in November 2023, the joint RWT Charity and Volunteer Awards returned for the first time since before the COVID-19 pandemic at the Molineux Stadium, an event attended by Trust Executives to highlight the achievements of volunteers and Charity fundraisers.



Events

King's Coronation – Big Help Out

We honoured more than 50 volunteers who work for RWT as part of our coronation celebrations. The volunteers were celebrated at an event outside the hospital's Emergency Department, where they were presented with a certificate and a commemorative King's Coronation badge in recognition of their efforts.

Among the volunteers whose efforts were celebrated was Lisa Wright, a mother of one from Penkridge. Lisa has been happily giving two days a week of her time on Wards A5 and A6 Orthopaedics, and says she owes her life to RWT staff. Her life was saved by surgeon Deepak Singh-Granger after she was diagnosed with stage 4 bowel cancer and given two hours to live before a tumour the size of a bag of sugar was removed from under her ribs.



Another volunteer who was honoured was Lasanthi Wawalage who settled permanently in the UK from Sri Lanka in 2015.

Lasanthi volunteers two days a week on Ward C18: Women and Elderly Care. She decided to join her husband Philip Weaver, who became a volunteer after an accident left him with a physical disability.

The event, organised by The RWT Charity and supported by the Trust's Patient Experience Team, was held partly to recognise The Big Help Out. The Big Help Out was a national day of volunteering which was part of a campaign led by King Charles III to showcase how volunteering benefits both communities and the people who take part.

The monarch was represented at the event by Professor Martin Levermore MBE, Deputy Lieutenant for the West Midlands and Non-Executive Director at RWT. Professor Levermore said he was honoured to read the King's speech, adding that the volunteers were the first to hear it.

He said: "Each one of our volunteers is an exemplar to our cause."

Sir David Nicholson KCB CBE, RWT and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust Joint Chair, gave each of the volunteers their certificate and commemorative King's coronation badge.

Sir David said: "One of the reasons why this Trust is regarded as one of the top five in the country is that it's deeply connected to the local community. Volunteering is a fantastic and selfless thing to do and we absolutely recognise it dearly.

"People have calculated how much money all of the things volunteers do would cost but I don't think that's the right thing to do. It's about those individual moments that you have with patients and their loved ones, that they will remember forever. That's why we're particularly thankful for the incredible work you do.

This is our small way of recognising the contribution you make to the community and our patients. The coronation of King Charles III is an opportunity for us to think about our place in society and think about how we can improve things and make them better through the Big Help Out. As part of that, we want to genuinely recognise the contribution our volunteers make to this wonderful institution."

Professor David Loughton CBE, Group Chief Executive, added: "It really is a privilege to see so many volunteers because I see the work you all do and I'm very proud of it – you contribute so much and it's very much appreciated.

"Some of the letters of appreciation we get are astounding, it's incredible how often volunteers are mentioned in terms of interacting with patients and their families. I'm also pleased that our volunteer numbers are getting back to what we had pre COVID-19, but we're always on the lookout for more."

Eleanor Morris, Deputy Head of Patient Experience (Strategy and Engagement) at RWT, said: "It's a lovely day to celebrate our volunteers and we're proud to recognise their value and contribution."

NHS 75

Staff across The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust made the 75th birthday of the NHS one to remember. And some of them were the stars of special BBC Radio WM's breakfast and morning shows.

Roving reporter Leona Smart interviewed staff at the hospital and these stories were shared with presenter Kathryn Stanczyszyn, who was broadcasting live from Walsall Manor Hospital between 10am and 2pm.

Doreen Black, Head of Nursing at RWT, who has worked for the NHS for 35 years, told listeners her career was "a lifelong passion."

She also spoke of the importance of good role models both for herself and her colleagues.

Steve Baxter, Porter, performed a magic trick and spoke of visiting the Children's Ward to cheer up young patients. He also worked hard later in the day as part of a fun event outside the Emergency Department where his unrideable bike was given an outing.

Professor Matthew Brookes, Clinical Director of the Clinical Research Network West Midlands (CRNWM) which is hosted by RWT, shared his vision for the future.

He said: "I want every patient to say: "Can I be involved in a research study?"

As part of the #NHS75 celebrations, hosted by The RWT Charity, staff were able to take part in a bake sale and a fun day in the Emergency Department marquee which featured games and a range of new and exciting craft stalls. Visitors also had a go on a 12-foot inflatable dart board.

Amanda Winwood, RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "It was fantastic to see our staff celebrating NHS 75 together and taking part in the fun activities which have brought smiles to the faces of patients, staff and families

"We are so proud to be part of the NHS!"

Roundabout makeover is a showstopper

A roundabout near New Cross Hospital had a makeover to celebrate the NHS's 75th birthday – thanks to a generous-spirited pub landlord.

Wayne Parkes, licensee of The New Pheasant in Wednesfield with wife Janet, used his skills as a former builder to transform the traffic feature into a tribute to the NHS.

He created three feet high stand-up NHS 75 lettering in mdf, made a cake in the middle and displayed four banners saying 'Happy Birthday NHS' courtesy of DIS Graphics to decorate Wood End roundabout at the junction of Wood End Road and Prestwood Road West opposite his pub.

He marked Remembrance Day, Christmas, Valentine's Day, St George's Day, Easter, the Queen's Jubilee, Halloween, the Queen's funeral and the King's Coronation in similar fashion.

His latest pieces of work cost him £420 and took two weeks to make, but it's a labour of love for Wayne.

"It's an honour to do it because of what the NHS does for everyone and to try to put something back," said the father of two.



The decorated roundabout with the NHS 75 sign and cake, from left, Amie Rogers, RWT Charity Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, Janet Parkes, Wayne Parkes, Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, Jane Stevenson MP, Lindsey Goodall, Community and Events Fundraising Officer

Calendar captures then and now scenes

Images showing a range of past and present hospital scenes are featured in a limited-edition calendar produced by The RWT Charity.

The Charity has worked with the Arts and Heritage Group to produce the 18-month calendar which fittingly starts from July 2023, the month that the NHS celebrates its 75th birthday, and goes through to December 2024.

Photos include South Staffordshire General Hospital on Wolverhampton's Cleveland Road in 1846, and a Nurse entertaining children with a quaint ventriloquist's dummy, contrasted with the modern, airy wards and departments now in existence.

Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator at RWT, who created the calendar, said: "In this very special year for the NHS a calendar seemed a great way to look back over the achievements of the past and celebrate the present, while also thinking ahead to the future.

"Each page features a juxtaposition of photos old and new. It's fascinating to compare the difference in clinical environments, reflect on how far equipment and medicines have come, and look back through all the ways NHS staff have gone above and beyond to provide their patients with positive and hope-filled experiences over the years. The environments may change but the care and compassion remain throughout.

"I've loved creating this calendar and reflecting on how the NHS has transformed itself over the years."

A limited number of calendars have been printed and these cost £5 each. They are available from The RWT Charity by calling 01902 694473 or emailing rwh-tr. fundraisingteam@nhs.net.



July 2023



1846 – South Staffordshire General Hospital built on Cleveland Road, Wolverhampton

The hospital was designed by Edward Banks in the classical style and built between 1844 and 1849 on Cleveland Road. It was the second hospital to be established in Wolverhampton (the first was the General Hospital in the second half of the 18th century). The hospital was able to open thanks to the collection of charitable funds from local people.

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Special Days

5th 75th Birthday of the NHS
6th International Hurricane's Day

August 2023



In 1922, the Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VIII) visited the Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire General Hospital to lay the foundation stone of its newest change to the Royal Hospital in 1928.

Her Royal Highness Princess Anne visits New Cross Hospital in 1971, to open the new Accident and Emergency Department, accompanied by Wolverhampton MP, Richard Wainwright.

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Special Days

1st to **7th** is World Breastfeeding Awareness Week.

September 2023



Nurses learn the basics of bandaging during World War I, at the Royal Hospital in the early 1910s. The hospital was recognised as a Nurse Training School by the General Nursing Council.

Students from schools across Wolverhampton visit the Royal Hospital to learn about the role of Health Professionals at a career event at New Cross Hospital in 2020.

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Special Days

13th is World Sepsis Day
17th is World Patient Safety Day
18th is Organ Donation Week and National Eye Health Week
29th is the World's Biggest Coffee Morning (Macmillan Cancer Support)
1st – 30th is Healthy Sleep Month
4th – 10th is Know Your Numbers (Blood Pressure Awareness) Week.
10th is World Suicide Prevention Day

October 2023



A patient receiving an x-ray in the Royal Hospital's "X-Ray Hall" (1950s).

Samira Sharif, Radiographer, demonstrates the use of modern x-ray equipment.

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Special Days

October is "Unpinkfor" or "Inktober", encouraging people to step away from pink and raise awareness of the less Publicised Cholesterol Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
3rd – 7th is Back Care Awareness Week
10th is World Mental Health Day
12th – 20th is Bone and Joint Week
16 – 22 Infection Prevention Control Week
16th October – Allied Health Professions Day
10th is World Menopause Day

November 2023



The spacious and well-lit Edward Ward, a part of the new King Edward VII Memorial Wing which opened in November 1912.

A generous donation in the will of former patient Michael Worrall led to the opening of the Worrall Ward, a specialist cancer ward for children receiving cancer treatment. The ward opened in 2022.

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Special Days

November is "Movember" where moustaches are grown out to raise awareness around Men's Mental and Physical Health.
Boy's National Stress Awareness Day

13th is Self Care Week
On the **13th** November 1912, the King Edward VII Memorial Wing was opened at the Royal Hospital.
Nov 14 – Dec 14 Disability History Month

December 2023



Children in the play room of the Royal Hospital Child Health Ward have lots of fun to play with during their stay.

On 28th December 2022, young fundraiser Logan Mackay donated a modern mail of Ship and the Boscott Gaming Station to the Children's Ward at New Cross Hospital. Logan is pictured here with student nurse Yiora Arnaoud.

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Special Days

Nov 16 – Dec 16 Disability History Month
1st is #HateAIDS Day
3rd is #PurpleLetterDay (National Day of People with Disabilities)

On the 28th December 1926, King George V decreed that the South Staffordshire General Hospital should be known as The Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

January 2024



Pharmacy assistants measure doses and grind medical compounds in the pharmacy at the Royal Hospital.

Paula Haydon, Principal Pharmacist, oversees orderly and well-stocked shelves of medicine at New Cross Hospital (2022).

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Special Days

On the **1st** January 1839, the South Staffordshire General Hospital opened its doors to its first patients. The hospital had a bed total was 23 beds, and the hospital opened with 20 beds.
12th is National Pharmacist Day

February 2024



Young children and babies play and take in the fresh air on the balcony of the Children's Ward at the Royal Hospital.

The Sensory Room offers a safe, comfortable space with reclining seats, projected lights, and interactive equipment. It is located on the ground floor of New Cross Hospital. The facility was funded by a generous donation from ex-Goodyear workers, and was opened in 2023.

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Special Days

2nd is Time to Talk Day
4th is World Cancer Day
5th – 11th is Children's Mental Health Week
10th is National Caregivers Day
26th – 3rd March is Eating Disorder Awareness Week
29th is Rare Disease Day

March 2024



Matilda is a former Royal Hospital patient. Following treatment, she returned to Mary Long, a nurse from Alabama that she befriended, who is now at The Royal. (1967)

The Royal Wolverhampton and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust welcome new cohorts of international nurses to join the workforce in 2022.

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Special Days

March is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.
4th is World Kidney Day
9th is Social Prescribing Day
11th – 17th is Nutrition and Hydration Week
14th is World Kidney Day
20th is World Oral Health Day
21st is World Down Syndrome Day
30th is National Doctors Day

April 2024



Nurses at New Cross Hospital relax in the sunshine after playing some sports during a well-deserved break.

In 2019, staff from Ward A7 take part in the NHS Big Tea, supported by NHS Charities Together.

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Special Days

April is Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month.
2nd is World Autism Awareness Day

7th is World Health Day
24th is World Immunisation Day
25th – 1st May is MS Awareness Week

May 2024



A nurse at the Royal Hospital keeps a close eye on a newborn baby, balanced on top of a pair of scales.

Joyce Lin, Midwife, watches over baby Honey Hazelshead with parents Charlotte-Phillips-Taylor and Jack Hazelshead (2022).

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Special Days

May is Arthritis Awareness Month.
6th is World Asthma Day / NHS Anniversary Day
13th is International Day of the Midwife

6th – 12th is Mental Health Awareness Week
12th is Deaf Awareness Week
12th is International Nurses Day
13th – 21st is Dementia Action Awareness Week

June 2024



Biomedical scientists working in the pathology and bacteriology laboratory at the Royal Hospital in the 1940s.

To help children with anxiety, and to reassure them about their treatment, patients from the children's ward at New Cross Hospital were given the opportunity to have a virtual tour of the operating theatre before their surgery. Mikael Lobb, 16, is a sickle cell patient and in 2022, he was able to get a hands-on experience of the process.

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Special Days

National Pathology Week normally runs in the first week of June.

July 2024



A patient on a stretcher being lifted from a motor ambulance outside the Royal Hospital (1920s)

A fleet of modern ambulances parked up outside the Emergency Department at New Cross Hospital.

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Special Days

5th July – 75th birthday of the NHS.
6th July – International Paramedics Day

August 2024



A fully equipped operating theatre at the Royal Hospital. Surgery was performed with lots of natural lighting from the room's large windows.

Mari-Colette Pickering and Maureen Johnson in one of the modern theatres at New Cross Hospital.

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Special Days

September 2024



On 10th September 2018, three time capsules from throughout the 20th century were excavated and opened at West Park, Wolverhampton. The capsules contained items belonging to the head of King Edward VII, leaflet for the opening of the Women's Hospital on Park Road West, and was sealed with wax.

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Special Days

October 2024



A motorist and PC, including Alderman H. Lane, visits a patient at the Royal Hospital in 1898.

The Mayor of Wolverhampton, Councillor Sandra Samuels OBE, and Carl Samuels visited New Cross Hospital on 27th October 2022, for a special Pinocchio event celebrating Black History Month.

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Special Days

November 2024



Marion Mia Richie and surgeon Mr Bennan celebrate the staff at the Royal Hospital during the Presentation of Nursing Awards in 1950.

The annual Royal Awards took place in 2021 to celebrate the contributions of staff and volunteers across the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust workforce.

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Special Days

December 2024



A nurse from the Royal Hospital performs with a ventriloquist doll at the Nurses Pantomime in 1951, for the entertainment of staff and patients.

In 2022, pantomime performers from Wolverhampton Grand Theatre visited the Children's Ward at New Cross Hospital to spread a little festive cheer.

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Special Days

Charity & Volunteer Awards 2023



The Charity and volunteer Awards recognise our exceptional individuals and teams for their dedication and commitment to RWT.

They are a superb opportunity to celebrate the significant contribution of our outstanding volunteers and charity supporters, and to share their achievements which enhance the experience for the wider benefit of patients, staff and their families. To mark this occasion, we held our first face to face awards event post COVID-19 and brought volunteers and supporters together to celebrate them.

Categories and Winners

Volunteer Rising Star



And the winner is……. Jessica May Causer.

Those who nominated Jessica said how friendly and helpful she is and how she has helped the way the patients experience the ward and how the patients view the hospital experience.

Volunteer Team Award



And the winner is……. Arts in Health Team (Gurpal Matharu, Shriya Patel, Javine Whitter and Lucy Hopkins).

The team which delivers the arts in health programme has been amazing. The team is made up of consistent volunteers who have remained reliable in their role. The programme has received fantastic feedback, and we can see the positive impact it has made. Senior Sister Sarah Cleaver said how much the programme has helped patients. She also mentioned that it was great for family and visitors for seeing what their loved one has done whilst in care on NRU and that they are cared for and there is an excellence in care delivered. Because of their hard work and commitment, the programme will be continuing on to another 'term'. They are amazing and have made such an impact!

Outstanding Volunteer Achievement



And the winner is……. Kemal

Kemal joined the RWT Volunteer Team in January 2023. Since then, he has committed to 415 hours of volunteering. Kemal is an inspirational man, and his story has touched our hearts. He has survived cancer following treatment on D7 and now uses his own cancer experience to support other patients going through the same. Kemal has a stoma bag fitted and shares how he came to terms with something so life-changing and supports and inspires others. He is now part of our Patient Involvement Partners (PIPs), using his own patient experience and perspectives to improve current Trust services and contribute to the development of new services. Kemal says he missed his vocation in life, and never thought of himself as someone who could care for others like he has. He has now joined Bank staff on D7 but continues to volunteer alongside. He has built very strong working relationships with the staff who love him. He has achieved so much, not just getting on to Bank, but winning Volunteer of the Month and being shortlisted for a national award for 'Volunteer of the Year' that he went on to win.

Volunteer Long Service Award



And the winner is……. Polly Cartwright

Nominees told us Polly consistently goes above and beyond in her role. Polly's dedication shines through her exceptional mentoring skills, providing invaluable guidance to new volunteers, helping them integrate seamlessly. Her willingness to lend a hand whenever it's needed has been instrumental in the successes of the volunteering team and that she is a truly deserving candidate for this award.

Special Recognition Award – Volunteering Staff Star



And this special award goes to… Maria Glover - Cardiac Rehabilitation Nurse Manager

The reason we chose Maria for this award is that she has a long history of welcoming volunteers into Cardiology and Cardiac Rehab. In fact she attended the awards with John Howell, one of our longest-serving volunteers who recently came back to support Cardiology after a break.

Maria welcomed a young volunteer to her area earlier this year who came with some complex support needs of his own. Mara has integrated Thomas into the admin area of Cardiac Rehab successfully, recognising the extra support Thomas needs and providing a welcoming, safe and quiet space for him to flourish in this role.

Maria is welcoming to volunteers, engages with them, recognises the value they can bring, and is truly an exemplary staff leader of volunteers within the Trust.

Special Recognition Award – Exceptional Volunteer Service



And this award goes to… John Bunting

John joined the Trust as a volunteer in 2008, initially along with wife Josie. John has supported the Appleby Suite and Discharge Lounge from then until now - being very committed and loyal to this team. He has made hundreds of cups of tea for patients (and staff), talked to patients and laughed with them, cheered them up, and listened to them when they have been talking about their fears and anxieties.

On top of this, John has helped us out in a number of additional ways. He has helped us seek the views of patients through surveys, assisted in different ward areas during times of crisis such as winter pressures, tidied and maintained the garden outside the Children's Ward, been a 'secret Santa', and helped the The RWT Charity out at various events, including being an annual 'Mr Christmas' for a few years running.

Unfortunately, in 2023 John made the difficult decision that he can no longer volunteer due to his health.

On behalf of all the staff in the Patient Experience Team, Charity, Appleby Suite and in fact all of the Trust John, we wanted to honour your service as a volunteer with this award and hope this goes some way in showing you how thankful we are.

Staff Fundraising Champion



And the winner is……. Deepak Chand

Deepak has been a breath of fresh air to work with. He has undertaken his own fundraising challenge by way of LLHM in April this year and raised £1105 which is amazing. And he is keen to run again next year. Deepak has also been a strong advocate for enhancing the environment within Deansley Unit, Snowdrop and also our Clinical Haematology Unit for young people. He has set plans for a garden revamp, vinyls within cubicles, TVs, RockinR gaming systems, laptop, chemo bags and revamp of the roof terrace garden. The impact these changes will have on our patients will be immense and make such a difference to their journey. It is such a pleasure to work with Deepak.

Young Fundraiser of the Year



And the winner is……. Alfie

We were told by your many nominees that your smile has helped a lot of children undergoing gruelling treatment by providing comfort packs, Christmas gifts, Easter gifts and funding special days out. While Alfie was receiving treatment for a brain tumour, he wanted to raise awareness and raise money for other children going though similar situations. He has raised significant amounts of money and has his own charity called @alfiessmile where money is raised to help put a smile back on the faces of children going through battles of their own, while still supporting our Charity.

Well done Alfie – you are a credit to your family, friends and RWT.



But we also wanted to celebrate Amelia Mae, Ollie and Zach, Logan and Ricardo and all the nominees for Young Fundraiser of the Year.

You are all amazing. Some of you have been dealing with your own illness but still thinking of other children in hospital. You are truly inspirational young people who should be so proud of the difference you have made and continue to make. Thank you all and your parents for being there with you and encouraging you.

Corporate Charity of the Year



And the winner is……. Collins Aerospace.

Sharn rallied the troops at Collins Aerospace to support our elderly care Christmas campaign in 2022. When she contacted us back in September we linked with the Matron for the area and made suggestions of things patients would need. Sharn and her colleagues went above and beyond and delivered 130 gift bags to be given out on Christmas Day to every elderly care patient in our hospitals. Handwritten cards accompanied the gift bags which included art therapy books, crayons, socks and a sweet treat. Then at Easter the team arrived with 500 Easter eggs for the children's wards/ departments and also our elderly care wards. Sharn is so motivated and loves to get behind projects. She has offered to undertake a Corporate Social Responsibility Day and work on a project here to transform an area for patients.

Well done to you all.

Fundraiser of the Year



And the winner is……. Jason and Aimee Guy.

They both continue to actively fundraise for our Neonatal Unit and Children's Ward where their daughter Olivia who has a genetic condition called IP36 has spent a lot of time here at the Trust.

Jason and Aimee are great supporters and want to make a difference to others. In three years of fundraising, they have raised £30,000 which is amazing. This has been through events, books sales, Wolves memorabilia, golf days, meet and greets with ex Wolves players. They are an inspirational family who have their own journey with Olivia but still go above and beyond to help others.

Very well deserved.

Fundraising Team of the Year



And the winner is……. Goodyears - The 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Charity.

Your enthusiasm and passion for making a difference to our patients and staff is amazing. Since 2016 the group has donated more than £400,000 of equipment - the last donation was for our sensory room in the Children's Ward at New Cross Hospital. The sensory room has been a great addition to the ward, allowing our youngest patients to take some time to relax in the lovely safe, sensory space. We were also fortunate enough to buy a sensory trolley that can be taken to the bed space of those more poorly patients.

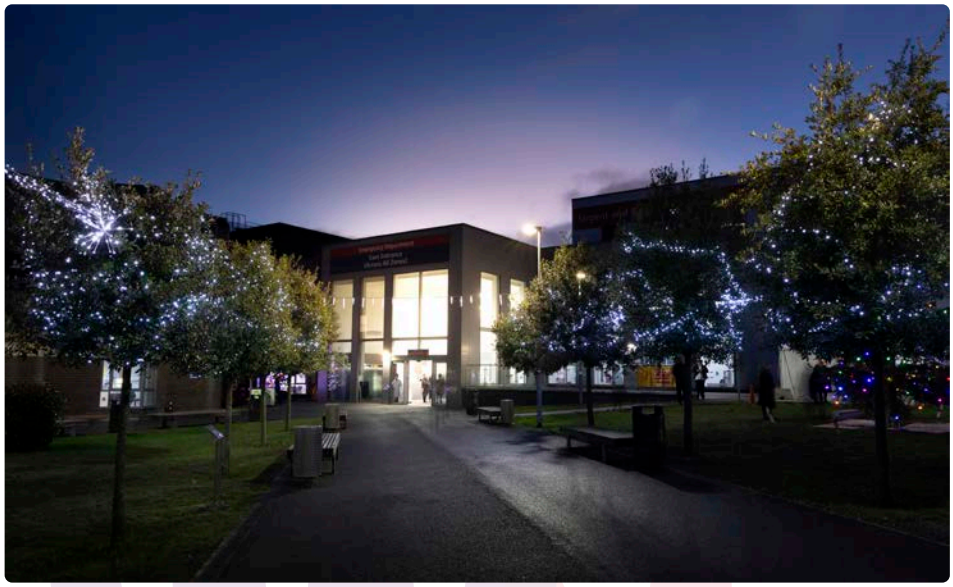
A huge thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support which has made a huge difference over the years.

Charity Special Recognition Award



Our final award is a special recognition to say a huge thank you to staff that always, without question go above and beyond to help the Charity Team deliver its work. Whether it is dealing with reindeer, car parking, helping to move cages of stock for the Staff Wellbeing Hub, helping at big events, lighting up the site at Christmas and other festivals, secret missions, and generally being amazing whenever we need them. Congratulations to Estates, Catering and Security who truly deserve this award for always going above and beyond.

Christmas Lights Switch-on



Christmas was officially declared at RWT when staff and patients got into the festive spirit with the annual lights switch-on.

The glittering event, organised by The RWT Charity, was attended by people of all ages in the ED Marquee at New Cross Hospital.

A total of £813 was raised for the charity which will be used to provide additional items to enhance patient experience - above and beyond what is provided by the NHS.

The day kicked off with a Christmas market where staff, patients and visitors were able to visit a host of seasonal stalls.

One of the stall holders, Helen Harris, said there was a lovely atmosphere in the marquee. Helen, who owns NeleBelles Chic selling handmade scrunchies and hair accessories, said: "It has been a great event and I have really enjoyed taking part. It has been lovely to meet staff and patients and showcase my items."

Another stall holder Jo Dudley from Bilston was at the event selling homemade jewellery.

She said: "I have loved being part of this event. Everyone I have met has been so friendly and chatty. The lights around the site look great as well!"

The official switch-on was carried out by Gwen Nuttall, RWT Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive, Father Christmas and special guest, six-year-old Stevie-Rose Richards.

Stevie's mum Kayleigh Richards works as an administration assistant and attended with her family. She said: "It was a real honour to see Stevie turn on the Christmas lights, she absolutely loved doing it and it has made her very excited for Christmas."

After the switch-on the crowds were treated to Christmas carols sung by the RWT singers.

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "We are so grateful to everyone who came out and supported us. A special thank you to E H Humphries, Eyre and Elliston and Measham for providing the lights and labour to support our Estates Team. It was great to see so many happy, smiling faces. It is a real highlight of our calendar, and I am glad so many people could come out and enjoy the festivities."





Grants

NHS Charities Together Grant

Holistic Opportunities Preventing Exclusion (HOPE) project

Project start date April 2023 – Project update April 2024

The Charity secured a grant of £220,000 to help up to 1,000 vulnerable people in Wolverhampton over the next two years, in partnership with Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action (WVCA) for project Holistic Opportunities Preventing Exclusion (HOPE).

In the first year the grant allowed us to:

Recruitment Staff for the Project

- Link Project Co-ordinator appointed
- Link Project Administrator position

Project Steering Group

- Established in April 2023. Meetings held quarterly. Membership is RWT Patient Experience management team and Charity Development Manager, key stakeholders from WVCA Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action (WVCA), and Black Country ICB and One Wolverhampton

Volunteer recruitment and training

- Volunteer recruitment started in April 2023 and new volunteers started roles in July 2023.
- Logo and branding designed for the programme and volunteer uniform and training packs bought and provided
- Joint volunteer training and induction agreed with WVCA as a two-part process
- So far, we have recruited 63 volunteers

A third of the grant – £75,000 – was available for small community groups to offer activities aimed at improving social connectivity. These bids are assessed by the steering group and decisions made. To date, commissions have been allocated to the following and further commissions are to be assessed and awarded.

Organisation Name	Activity Title	Amount awarded	Number of beneficiaries
Wolverhampton city of Sanctuary	Weekly Drop-in	£5,000	100
Black & Minority Ethnic Housing Consortium	"Sewing Me, Sewing You…"	£2,000	50
Mandem Meetup	WorkIn / Workout	£5,000	60
Wolves Play Café	Fun and Friendly Faces	£5,000	507
Magical MC CIC	Social Meetup with Public Speaking Training	£5,000	30
Secret Angels WLV CIC	Java Joy	£5,000	35
Social Steam Engine Community Association	Life in Bloom	£5,000	120
	Total	**£32,000**	

To date, 36 referrals have been made to the HOPE project and volunteers have been linked to support social prescribing service users.

We feel this has been an excellent example of a partnership between a statutory NHS organisation and a Voluntary Sector organisation, which we have not experienced before on this scale. This has been due to the solid and longstanding relationship we have held with the WVCA over time, and mutual respect from both parties.

Monies left from year two of the project are to be carried over and will support further commissions for community groups.

National Lottery Heritage Grant

Project Grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund

In October 2023, The Charity was successful in obtaining a project grant of £139,792 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund. The project bid proposed an 18-month programme of heritage and community arts activity, which would showcase The Charity's valuable heritage collection, and engage the people of Wolverhampton with the story of Wolverhampton's healthcare history. This programme was titled 'Care, Create, Conserve', arising from the A&HG's core aims and reflecting the Trust's strategic plan known as the Four Cs.

Earlier in 2023, The Charity received a donation of more than 120 medical artefacts and items of memorabilia from ex-Nurse and hospital historian Roy Stallard. In accepting this donation, The Charity and A&HG became custodians of a valuable heritage asset which has huge potential to engage, inspire, and provide reminiscence. It is for this reason that a programme revolving around heritage was developed, and an application to the Heritage Fund was pursued.

Care, Create, Conserve is multi-faceted in its aims. As well as engaging the public and offering opportunities for involvement in co-creation projects and as an Arts and Heritage Volunteer, the project grant also facilitates training and upskilling for the A&HG and the Trust in areas such as collections management, conservation, and curation. This will support The Charity in becoming safe and sustainable custodians of heritage, and provide the skills and experience needed to continue engaging the public with the story of Wolverhampton's healthcare legacy.

About The National Lottery Heritage Fund

Using money raised by the National Lottery, we inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities, now and in the future. www.heritagefund.org.uk.

Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund

Since The National Lottery began in 1994, National Lottery players have raised over £43 billion for projects and more than 635,000 grants have been awarded across the UK.

NHS Charities Together Development Grant

The Charity was fortunate enough to be awarded a £30,000 development grant to support with our marketing and communications strategy. The first stage of the grant was securing a web builder to design and work with us on a standalone charity website. The company identified as best value for money, timeframe and recommendation from other local charities was Platform 81. Work started in January and the website was launched in summer 2024.

Having a standalone site will give:

Visibility and Reach: A website provides a platform for us to showcase our mission, programmes and impact. It allows us to reach a wider audience beyond our local community. When people search online for causes, they care about, a charity website ensures visibility and accessibility.

Transparency and Credibility: Having a professional website builds trust with potential donors, volunteers, and partners. Transparency is crucial in the nonprofit sector, and a well-maintained website demonstrates accountability and openness.

Fundraising and Donations: A website serves as a hub for accepting online donations. Charities can set up secure payment gateways, share donation stories, and encourage recurring contributions. It also facilitates fundraising campaigns and events.

Storytelling: Websites allow us to tell our story effectively. Compelling content, including photos, videos, and success stories allows an emotional connection with visitors. Personal narratives create empathy and encourage support.

Resource Centre: Our website is a resource hub, provides educational materials, FAQs, and information about us. This helps potential beneficiaries and supporters understand our work better.

Volunteer Recruitment: Our website will allow us to recruit volunteers. By listing volunteer opportunities and sharing testimonials from existing volunteers, we can attract passionate individuals who want to contribute their time and skills.

Advocacy and Awareness: The website can be used to to raise awareness about social issues, publish articles, infographics, and reports to educate the public and advocate for change.

Event Promotion: Whether it's a fundraising gala, community clean-up, or awareness walk, a website allows charities to promote events. Visitors can find event details, register, and participate.

Impact Measurement: We can showcase our impact through data visualisation, graphs, charts, and progress reports. These help donors understand how their contributions make a difference.

Networking and Collaboration: Websites encourage networking with other nonprofits, government agencies, and corporate partners. Collaboration leads to shared resources, joint initiatives, and greater impact.

In summary, a charity website is more than just an online presence; it's a powerful tool for communication, engagement, and achieving the organisation's mission.

The next stage of the development grant will be brand awareness around the Trust and promoting the work we do.



Spend

Neonatal Unit - Cuski products – £6,924

Cuski nests, swaddle wraps and bean bags for premature babies for Neonatal positioning and development care. Alternative to swaddling for babies who do not like space around them and helps prevent flailing.



The nest gives babies the security of boundaries that are created naturally within mummy's womb, this helps to keep them snug and secure which enhances their sleep pattern sooner. For the first three months baby sleeping = baby growing.

Jaundice meter £4,125

The Jaundice Meter JM-105 accurately identifies at-risk infants as young as 24 weeks gestational age. Effective screening can decrease re-admission rates and durations of stay.



Having dependable results in seconds rather than hours helps to increase patient safety and expedite decision making. New integrated flagging feature helps keep track of patients in need of special attention and comply with jaundice management protocols.

Stock Cura chair for brain injury patients - £3,228



This offers a greater range of seat width, seat depth and back rest recline, whilst also offering more tilt in space, a greater range of floor to seat height and new and improved handle bar positioning.

Cloud Kits for children of patients with cancer – £903

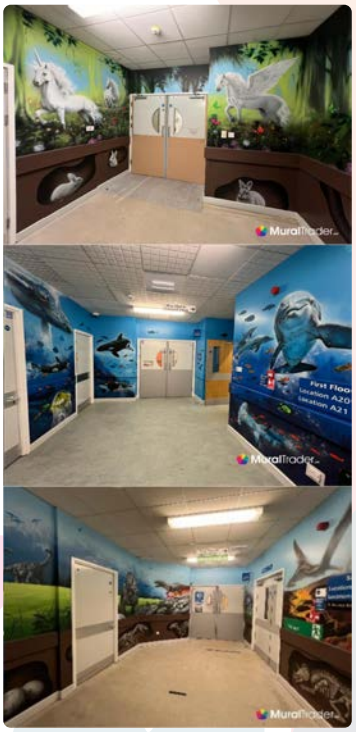
These help children affected by a parent being diagnosed with cancer. The Cancer Clouds are an award-winning group of toolkits and there are three different kits designed for different age ranges.



Each kit contains an age-appropriate set of tools designed to help children or young people to understand what cancer is, the treatments given, and the side-effects they may cause.

There are also tools to help improve communication within the family, practical tools to help manage changes in the family's routine, and tools that explore the emotional impact a cancer diagnosis brings.

Mural Artwork for paediatrics - £14, 220



Artwork was created following a consultation with our young patients asking what can be done to improve their time in hospital. Entrances to the children's department and adolescent waiting area have been transformed with artwork carried out by Mural Trader. Coming into hospital can be scary, but now children are met with beautiful colours, images and art to help relax them before entering the ward.

Quickcheck Machine for renal patients - £2,999

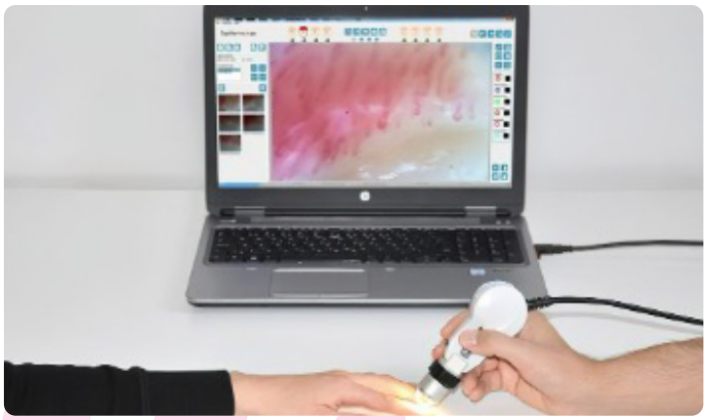


This is a device that can help speed the diagnosis of peritonitis in vulnerable kidney and liver failure patients. With results 10,000 times faster than current methods, this portable and rapid detection device now means that Nurses can carry out an instant leukocyte count at the patient's home. This is convenient for the patient and supports rapid detection and treatment pathways.

Digital Capillaroscopy £20,050 plus donation from Hibbs Lupus Trust of £16,623

Capillaroscopy is a non-invasive, easy and safe diagnostic technique designed to evaluate small vessels of the microcirculation in the nailfold. It can reveal both the general architecture of capillary rows and fine details of particular vessels.

The most important indications for performing capillaroscopy include differential diagnosis of primary and secondary Raynaud's phenomenon, as well as assessment of scleroderma spectrum disorders.



Artificial intelligence for support of outlining in radiotherapy planning - £47,388



Treatment planning is an essential step of the radiotherapy workflow. It has become more sophisticated over the past couple of decades with the help of computer science, enabling planners to design highly complex radiotherapy plans to minimise the normal tissue damage while persevering sufficient tumour control. As a result, treatment planning has become more labour intensive, requiring hours or even days of planner effort to optimise an individual patient case in a trial and error fashion. More recently, artificial intelligence has been utilised to automate and improve various aspects of medical science. For radiotherapy treatment planning, many algorithms have been developed to better support planners. These algorithms focus on automating the planning process and/or optimising dosimetric trade-offs, and they have already made great impact on improving treatment planning efficiency and plan quality consistency.

How you can support us

Getting involved and supporting your local hospital and community services couldn't be easier. You might consider attending one of our events or even host your own and help us raise vital funds.

Donations can be made in the following ways:

Direct into bank account:

Contact The Charity Team on 01902 694473 for details and reference.

By post:

Please make cheques payable to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity.

Please write on the back of the cheque which fund you would like to donate to, e.g. General Purposes Trust Fund, and contact the team on 01902 694473 for details of where to send to.

By a donation on our 'Just Giving' site:

https://www.justgiving.com/royalwolvesnhstrust

Please complete a donation form and return it along with your donation to The RWT Charity.

Did you know you can also increase your donation without having to pay more? An additional **£9,736.18** has been raised through the Gift Aid scheme in 2023/24.

How does Gift Aid work? Gift Aid is a scheme run by the government that enables charities to increase the value of donations made by reclaiming basic rate tax that has been paid on the gift. At the moment. We can claim 25p per £1 donated, so on a gift of £100, we will actually receive an extra £25, at no cost to the donor.

Great! Can I Gift Aid my donations? To qualify for Gift Aid, you need to be a UK taxpayer and have paid enough tax to cover the amount of tax reclaimed by all charities on all your donations for each tax year (6 April one year to 5 April the next). Apart from tax on income from a job or self-employment, other types that are acceptable are:

- Tax deducted at source from savings interest
- Tax on state pension and/or other pensions
- Tax on investment or rental income (including tax credits on UK dividends)
- Capital Gains Tax on gains

Other taxes such as VAT and council tax do not qualify, nor does any non-UK tax.

When completing your donation form or donating via an online platform, simply complete the gift aid declaration, provide your postal address and we'll do the rest!

Looking ahead

Our objectives for 2024-2026

We will relaunch and increase awareness of The Charity and its brand, with an integrated marketing and communications campaign including website, annual report, and storytelling

We will develop funding bids for external grant makers

We will engage staff in becoming active in a programme of annual fundraising events utilising the partnership with 'Run For Charities'

We will create strong relationships with corporate supporters across our community

We will actively encourage applications to fund projects that further enhance and improve the health and wellbeing of staff and volunteers

We will actively seek opportunities for collaboration with our colleagues from both statutory and non-statutory organisations and build and strengthen partnerships with key health and voluntary sector organisations to deliver greater impact

We will embrace the digital agenda and utilise opportunities to raise further awareness of the charity with stakeholders as well as actively support projects that embrace technology and innovative ways of working

Trustees

Custodians of the Charity

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is the Corporate Trustee of the Charitable Funds governed by the law applicable to Trusts, principally the Trustee Act 2000 and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity has the authority to recruit up to eight Trustees who together make up the Board of Trustees. They are unpaid volunteers who set the strategy for the Charity and make sure it is implemented. Trustees elect a Chair from amongst their number who chairs the meetings of the Board of Trustees and takes a more active role in supporting the Charity Chief Executive in the management of the Charity.

Trustees are appointed under arrangements made by the Secretary of State for Health under Section 51 of the NHS Act 2006. Vacancies are advertised and all potential Trustees must be interviewed and recommended by a panel consisting of two members of The Charity and one external assessor. Candidates must show knowledge of, and an interest in, the hospital and the community it serves and be willing to give the time necessary. Trustees are also selected to give The Charity a good mix of relevant professional skills, such as finance, investment and fundraising.

Trustees serve a fixed term of no more than four years (renewable to a usual maximum of 10 years in total). New Trustees receive an induction pack consisting of the governing documents, previous Trustee reports and accounts, relevant Charity Commission guidance, and policies and procedures of The Charity. They are also given a tour of the Trust. Appropriate training is provided in areas including Charity law and administration, investment management and charity finance. The Charity's professional advisors provide helpful guidance, and membership of NHS Charities Together gives the Trustees access to regular conferences and training events.

The Charity has a Corporate Trustee: The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The members of the NHS Trust Board who served during the financial year are as shown in the table opposite;

Trustee	Role within The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
Sir David Nicholson	Group Chair (from 1 April 2023)
Prof. D Loughton CBE	Group Chief Executive Officer (v)
Prof. A-M Cannaby	Group Chief Nursing Officer (v) (to August 2023)
Mr A Duffell	Group Chief People Officer
Mr J Dunn	Deputy Chair (from 30 May 2023) Non-Executive Director Chair of Finance and Productivity Committee Chair of Remuneration Committee
Mr S Evans	Group Chief Strategy Officer
Ms S Evans	Group Director of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement
Mr J Hemans	Non-Executive Director (to 24 May 2023) Chair of People and Organisational Development Committee
Ms G Nuttall	Chief Operating Officer and Deputy Chief Executive (from 15 July 2023) (v) Chair of Trust Management Committee
Dr J Odum	Group Chief Medical Officer
Dr B McKaig	Chief Medical Officer
Ms T Palmer	Director of Midwifery
Ms S Rawlings	Associate Non-Executive Director (to 6 June 2023) Chair of Trust Charity
Mr K Stringer	Group Chief Financial Officer and Group Deputy Chief Executive (from 15 July 2023) (v)
Prof. L Toner	Non-Executive Director
Ms D Hickman	Director of Nursing Chief Nursing Officer (from 15 July 2023)
Mr M Levermore	Non-Executive Director Chair of Trust Charity Committee (from 20 June 2023)
Ms A Heseltine	Associate Non-Executive Director (to 24 May 2023) Non-Executive Director (from 25 May 2023) Chair of People Committee (from June 2023)
Ms J Jones	Associate Non-Executive Director (to 15 August 2023) Non-Executive Director (from 16 August 2023) Chair of Audit Committee
Dr G Pickavance	Associate Non-Executive Director
Ms L Cowley	Non-Executive Director Chair of the Integration Committee
Mr K Bostock	Group Director of Assurance
Dr U Daraz	Associate Non-Executive Director
Ms A Harding	Associate Non-Executive Director
Lord Carter	Strategic Advisor to the Board
Stephanie Cartwright	Group Director of Place (from 24 July 2023)

How we organise The Charity

The main Charity, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity, registered charity number 1059467, was entered on the Central Register of Charities on 27 November 1996 in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Charity is constituted of circa. 98 individual funds. The notes to the accounts distinguish the types of fund held and disclose separately all material funds. Please refer to pages 66-80.

Charitable funds received by The Charity are accepted, held and administered as funds and property on trust for purposes relating to the health service in accordance with the National Health Service Act 2006 and the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990. The Charity has no employees but reimburses the NHS Trust for the financial and other services it provides. The Charity relies on the NHS Trust to identify the appropriateness of funding requests.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust as the Corporate Trustee has devolved responsibility for the ongoing management of funds to the Charitable Funds Committee which administers the funds on behalf of the Corporate Trustee. This committee was formed in 2006.

The names of those people who served as agents for the Corporate Trustee, as permitted under the NHS Trusts (Membership and Procedures) Regulations 1990 were as follows:

David Loughton CBE	-	Group Chief Executive
Kevin Stringer	-	Group Chief Financial Officer
Martin Levermore	-	Non-executive Director
Sue Rawlings	-	Non-executive Director
Julie Jones	-	Non-executive Director
Lisa Cowley	-	Non-executive Director

Principal Charitable Fund Advisers to the Board

The Group Chief Executive of the NHS Trust (David Loughton CBE) and Group Chief Financial Officer (Kevin Stringer) have day to day responsibility for the management of the Charitable Funds under a scheme of delegated authority by the Corporate Trustee. They must personally and together, on behalf of the Corporate Trustee, approve all expenditure over £10,000 with an upper limit of £50,000. Expenditure in excess of £50,000 on a particular project must be authorised by the Trust Board of the Corporate Trustee.

Mr Kevin Stringer was the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Charitable Funds during the year.

Principal Office

The principal office for the Charity is:

Group Chief Financial Officer
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
Hollybush House
New Cross Hospital
Wolverhampton
WV10 0QP

Wider Networks

The RWT Charity is more than 400 NHS linked charities in England and Wales who are eligible to join NHS Charities Together. As a member charity, we have the opportunity to discuss matters of common concern and exchange information and experiences, join together with others to lobby government departments and others, and to participate in conferences and seminars which offer support and education for our staff and members of the Charitable Funds Committee.

Related Party Relationships

The Charity holds a related party relationship with The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The transactions with these parties have been disclosed in note 17 of these financial statements.

Trustees of the Charity



Professor David Loughton CBE CIHSCM – Group Chief Executive

Appointed 2004

Professor Loughton's first Chief Executive appointment was at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust in 1986. There he led the organisation through two hospital mergers, developed a new medical school with Warwick University and reached financial closure on a new £400m hospital.

He then started as Chief Executive of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT) in 2004. He has led the organisation from one of the most financially challenged in the NHS, to being financially sound whilst at the same time gaining a national and international reputation for improving patient safety and experience. He started as Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust in 2021, which has seen improvements in both staff and patient satisfaction along with the opening of a new £40m Emergency and Urgent Care Centre.

RWT hosts the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) in the West Midlands, Professor Loughton is the Chair of the West Midlands Cancer Alliance.

Commitee Attendances in 2023/24: 0/3

Declaration of interests:

- National Institute for Health and Care Research – Member of Advisory Board
- Chair of West Midlands Cancer Alliance
- Group Chief Executive Officer Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
- Companion – Institute of Health and Social Care Management



Kevin Stringer – Deputy Chief Executive and Group Chief Financial Officer from December 2022

Originally appointed 2009

Mr Stringer is a qualified accountant with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and holds a Masters qualification in Business Administration (MBA). With more than 34 years in the NHS, 21 of those as a Board Director, he has experience of commissioning and provider organisations.

His experience covers:

- Primary Care, Community Services and Commissioning (with successor organisations being Walsall CCG and Birmingham Cross-city CCG)
- Secondary and Tertiary Care (at University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire, Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust)
- Specialist Secondary and Tertiary Care (Birmingham Children's Hospital Foundation Trust where he helped the Trust secure FT status)
- Regional NHS Planning and Oversight (West Midlands Regional Health Authority)

His role is to provide professional advice to the Board and wider Trust to ensure delivery of the Board's financial strategy, key statutory financial targets and ensure good internal control.

He is a member and advocate for Healthcare Financial Management (HFMA) having been a past Chairman of the West Midlands Branch where he is now the Treasurer.

Commitee Attendances in 2023/24: 3/3

Declaration of interests:

- Treasurer, West Midlands Branch – Healthcare Financial Management Association
- Member of CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants)
- Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit – brother-in-law is Managing Director
- Group IT Director and SIRO at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust (from 6 June 2022)
- Group Chief Financial Officer at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust



Martin Levermore
Non Executive Director

From 15 August 2022, originally Associate Non-Executive Director appointed 7 February 2022

Professor Martin Levermore MBE DL is a Visiting Professor for Health, Education and Life Science at Birmingham City University (BCU).

He is a founder and Chief Executive of Medical Devices Technology International Ltd (MDTi), and has been working with the NHS regionally and nationally for over the past 18 years to commercialise and bring to market innovative products and service ideas.

He has more than 18 years at Senior Board level in the Life Sciences sector and sits on the Executive Board of PIONEER as Commercial Adviser, whilst Chairing the advisory board to Health Data Research UK (HDRUK).

Currently Professor Levermore's professional area of interest is on the adoptability of agile strategies and technologies that will improve clinical utility and the equity of medical devices to provide quicker and accurate assessment and diagnosis for patients centred around the flexibility of remote management.

He holds a Senior Associateship with the Royal Society of Medicine, he is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment and Fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts.

He is the Independent Person for the Windrush Compensation Scheme reporting to the Home Secretary.

Professor Levermore was appointed in 2018 by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant, Sir John Crabtree OBE, as a Deputy Lieutenant to the West Midlands.

Commitee Attendances in 2023/24: 3/3

Declaration of interests:

- Chief Executive Officer of Medical Devices Technology International Ltd
- Vice Chair for Nehemiah United Churches Housing Association (UCHA)
- Chair of Medilink Midlands (non-paid)
- Interim Chair of New Roots Homelessness Charity (from 26/08/2020 to 31/07/2023)
- Chair of Trade and Business Birmingham Commonwealth Association (BCA)
- Executive Committee Member of the Greater Birmingham Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce
- Home Office Independent Adviser to the Windrush Compensation Scheme
- Ordinary Shares at Medical Devises Technology International Ltd
- Chair of black internship programme non-paid charitable organisation- HDRUK
- Data research committee non-paid charitable to Cancer Research UK



Sue Rawlings
Non-Executive Director

From 1 October 2021. Originally appointed Non - Executive Director July 2013 to 6 June 2023

Mrs Rawlings is formerly a Chartered Certified Accountant who has worked in the public, private and voluntary sector (last position: Finance and Development Director for Groundwork Black Country, an environmental charity).

For almost 20 years, up to 2020, she was joint director of the consultancy firm RHCS, a well-established, highly skilled consultancy firm working with a range of cross sector clients from the voluntary/community, charitable and public sectors. She has extensive experience in evaluating the effectiveness of public expenditure and has worked with the British Red Cross in various parts of the country, conducting needs assessments, developing performance monitoring and carrying out evaluations.

She worked with voluntary and community sector organisations to develop their business planning, their future sustainability and identify their impact. Previously a local improvement advisor appointed via IDeA to the Regional Improvement Efficiency Partnership in the West Midlands, she is also a Trustee of both Telford Christian Council Supported Housing Charitable Company and Telford Churches Together Charity.

Commitee Attendances in 2023/24: 0/0

Declaration of interests:

- Trustee and Company Director of Telford Christian Council Supported Housing – STAY started
- Trustee and Director of Faith based Charity in Telford – Telford Christian Council



Lisa Cowley
Non Executive Director

Appointed 1 February 2022

Ms Cowley brings a wealth of experience gained in large, national and regional, health, social care and third sector organisations. She has held senior leadership positions, both as an employee and in a charitable Trustee capacity, ensuring she brings a strong foundation in financial, business and operational planning, project evaluation and impact monitoring, amongst other expertise.

She is particularly skilled at developing partnerships across the voluntary and public sector, including the evolution of the VCSE Alliance as part of the development of Integrated Care Systems.

Ms Cowley is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Beacon Vision having worked for the organisation since 2018. This is one of the region's most established and well-known health and social care charities, where she has been in post for more than four years. She has bought many positive improvements to the charity and is passionate about making a difference to the lives of people living with sight loss across the West Midlands.

In addition to her unwavering dedication to Beacon's charitable objectives, she is committed to building long-term sustainability, actively seeking new ways to improve and develop increased integrated, co-operative and progressive health and social care systems to support beneficiaries.

Previous roles have included Deputy CEO of the Black Country Living Museum, where she implemented significant change programmes and oversaw complex funding bids and projects of national heritage significance. Ms Cowley has also been involved in complex projects during her time at organisations such as the RSPB and The British Horse Society, where she developed and implemented the charity's national volunteer programme. A highlight from her earlier career includes a pivotal role in the redevelopment of the world's first 'skyscraper' in Shrewsbury.

She is originally from Wolverhampton, having returned after completing her degree at the University of Liverpool. Her personal interests include a passion for horses and horse riding.

Commitee Attendances in 2023/24: 3/3

Declaration of interests:

- Healthy Communities Together Project Sponsor for Beacon Centre for the Blind
- Chief Executive for the Beacon Centre for the Blind
- Co-Owner of Ridge &Furrow Foods
- Co-Owner of Streetway House Farms
- Partner employed by Harris Allday EFG-Wealth Management arm of Private Bank
- Partner employed by HM Armed Forces



Julie Jones
Non Executive Director

From 15 August 2022, originally appointed Associate Non-Executive Director 7 February 2022

Ms Jones is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales who, after 15 years in external audit at a leading accounting firm, has spent the last 10 years in executive finance director positions in the not for profit and public sector. She is currently the Chief Financial Officer of a secondary school academy in Solihull, and is an associate director of a company providing internal audit services to academy schools nationwide.

She has more than 20 years' experience as a Non-Executive Director in social housing and higher education and is currently a member of the Audit and Assurance Committee of whg, and Trustee and Treasurer of two local charities. She was previously the Chair of Audit Committee at Birmingham and Solihull CCG.

Commitee Attendances in 2023/24: 2/3

Declaration of interests:

- Associate Director of Academy Advisory
- Member of Audit and Risk Committee whg
- Trustee of Solihull School Parents' Association
- Director of Leasehold Management Company Cranmer Court Residents Wolverhampton Limited
- Chief Financial Officer of Heart of England Academy

Structure, Governance and Management

All The Charity's funds are pooled for investment purposes and the official pooling scheme was registered with The Charity Commission on 24 June 1998.

For management purposes all funds held and received by The Charity fall into one of the following categories:

- Endowment funds - funds where the capital must be held in perpetuity and only the income generated can be used for charitable purposes
- Restricted funds - funds received which have specific restrictions set by the donor
- Unrestricted funds - funds received which have no restrictions attached to their use.

Within the unrestricted category separate designated funds have been established which reflect the wishes of donors to help named wards and departments in the hospital. Subsequent donations and gifts received by The Charity that are attributable to the already established funds are added to those fund balances. Where the donations and gifts are not attributable to already established funds, new funds are set up. In this way the Corporate Trustee fulfils the legal duty to ensure that all funds are spent in accordance with the objectives of each fund and that the wishes of donors are always considered.

Unrestricted funds form the largest category with £1,950,000 of funds at 31 March 2024. There are charitable funds for most clinical specialties (e.g. Medicine or Ophthalmology) and for some wards and departments within specialties.

Non-Executive members of the Trust Board are appointed by the NHS Appointments Commission and Executive members of the Board are subject to recruitment by the NHS Trust Board. 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.

Acting for the Corporate Trustee, the objective of the Charitable Funds Committee is to provide strategic direction to The Charity and ensure that it is managed and administered in accordance with The Charity's purposes. The committee is responsible for:

- Determining a charitable funds strategy and setting annual objectives
- Ensuring that charitable funds are managed in line with the measures and actions set out in the strategy
- Ensuring any fundraising elements of the strategy work within recognised good practice frameworks and identify methods of fundraising appropriate for The Charity
- Determining a charitable funds investment policy and monitoring performance of any investments made in line with governing documents and the Trustee Act 2000
- Appointing and considering the performance of any investment advisors or managers
- Ensuring Trust policies and procedures are adequate, that financial controls are in place to account for all funds received and that governance arrangements are appropriate and effective
- Ensuring that timely annual reports and accounts are produced and an unqualified external audit opinion is received.

The accounting records and the day-to-day administration of the funds are dealt with by the Finance Department at The Clinical Skills and Corporate Services Centre, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton WV10 0QP.

Risk Management

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed have been identified and considered. They have been reviewed and systems established to mitigate those risks. The Trustee is confident that reliance can be placed on the management arrangements in place, which include internal and external audit services, to minimise any risk to the funds. The most significant risks identified are the possible losses from a fall in the value of the investments and the level of reserves available to mitigate the impact of such losses.

The investments are held by the Investment Fund Managers who act in accordance with the agreed investment policy and are subject to regular review. In addition, unrealised gains and losses are allocated to funds at agreed intervals. Procedures in place ensure that both spending and firm financial commitments remain in line with income. Income is covered by the Standing Financial Instructions and there is an agreed boundary for the receipt of donations. This policy has been communicated to staff.

There is an agreed expenditure and reserves policy together with a tight approval procedure which gives the Corporate Trustee confidence that the expenditure will remain within the limits of the Charity's resources.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

This can be found at the beginning of this report on page 5.

Investment Management

Surplus funds are pooled and invested in order to maximise income, whilst minimising risk for the Charity.

Income and cash, gains and losses are distributed equitably across the Charity funds. The income from investments amounted to £108,161 (£101,068 in 2022/23). The investment management fee has previously been netted off against the income earned, but these are now shown as gross.

Throughout 2023/24 the investments were split into two portfolios:

A Shorter Term Portfolio which aims to achieve a consistently attractive level of income, coupled with the potential for long-term capital appreciation whilst aiming to preserve the value of the capital over the short-term

A Longer Term Portfolio which is invested to achieve long-term capital and income growth. Achieved with a broadly diversified global portfolio covering the world's principal stock, bond and currency markets, together with investments in "alternative" assets such as property and hedge funds.

During the year, the Trustees requested both the Shorter and Longer Term Portfolios continue to hold a 50:50 split of the overall investments.

At the year end, the Shorter Term Portfolio held £1,080,959 and the Longer Term Portfolio held £1,489,728. Both portfolio's were split between investment types.

The two portfolios together were split in the following way:

- £1,347,050 – 52.4% (2023: £1,106,793 – 45.2%) was invested in equity based investments
- £1,130,558 – 44.0% (2023: £1,265,201 – 51.6%) was invested in longer fixed interest bearing government and other securities and
- £93,079 – 3.6% (2023: £77,343 – 3.2%) was held as liquid assets including cash. This total sum invested increased by £121,348 from 2022/23

The Charity does not own any investment properties.

The Charity has an investment policy that was reviewed in January 2024. See page 59.

A reflection on the last 12 months from Sarasin and Partners LLP

As at 31 March, the total value of both portfolios was £2,570,687. The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Long Term Portfolio returned 11.2% against our composite benchmark return of 15.5%, although encouragingly performance was well in excess of the long-term UK CPI +4% objective (+7.6%) and comfortably ahead of the ARC Steady Growth Charity peer group (+9.4%) of other charity investors adopting a comparable amount of risk.

Despite significant geopolitical and economic turbulence, equity markets emerged as the winning asset class over the 12 months. Our decision to reduce our UK equity allocation and adopt a fully global approach was positive for the portfolio, with global equities (from 1st June to end 2023) increasing by 10.3% in contrast with the UK equity index that gained 5.8%. The extraordinary growth of the 'Magnificent 7' has meant that the upward trajectory of equity markets has been focused on a narrow range of large US technology-led companies, exposed to the AI and Large Language Model phenomenon. Whilst this has been a challenge for active investment managers of well-diversified portfolios, we have participated in the majority of this rise, owning the shares of six of those seven businesses.

By the end of September, UK headline inflation rates had almost halved from their peak in 2022. This resulted in positive returns from corporate bonds, where we had been rebuilding exposure since the start of the year. Over the final quarter of 2023, fixed interest investments generated the strongest absolute returns as bond yields fell, justifying our increased allocation. Over the rolling year period, our fixed interest allocation surpassed the return of its corresponding benchmark and, in spite of the move into lower-yielding securities in 2023, the portfolio actually performed better than expected from an income perspective. As a consequence, we increased the final quarter distribution from the Sarasin Endowments Fund, making 2023's distribution 3% higher than that of 2022.

Alternative assets, which represent just 6.5% of the portfolio, have been more challenged. Whilst our commodity exposure (predominantly gold) performed well - the positive run for gold in 2023 continued into the first quarter of 2024 – sadly this was not sufficient to offset the continued weakness in infrastructure and renewable energy assets. In a higher interest rate environment, these investments have struggled. Their performance remains the main driver of relative underperformance, due to the 'cash + 2%' benchmark which we use as a comparator. Critically, we expect capital values to recover over the period ahead as interest rates and power prices stabilise.

Overall, while the outlook for equity markets in 2024 remains positive, driven by expectations for lower interest rates and continued innovation in the technology sector, it is essential to remain cautious and selective, considering the varied performance and intrinsic values of individual companies. Embracing uncertainty and conducting thorough analysis will be key to navigating the evolving investment landscape effectively over the months ahead.

Policies

Investment Policy

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk.

The investment objective for the long term portfolio is to generate a return in excess of inflation over the long term whilst generating an income to support the ongoing activities of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity.

The investment objective for the short term portfolio is to preserve the capital value with a minimum level of risk. Assets should be readily available to meet unanticipated cash flow requirements.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity has approximately a 50/50 split for investments between long term and short term, in order that unanticipated cash flow needs can be met.

The Charity's ethical investment policy precludes direct or indirect investment in companies that generate more than 10% of revenues from alcohol, armaments, gambling, pornography and will not invest in tobacco.

Expenditure policy

The charitable funds that the Charity manages, and from which grants are made, are held as endowment funds (expendable or permanent), restricted funds and unrestricted funds (designated or non-designated).

It is the Trustees' policy to ensure that all grants made from these funds are used in accordance with the purposes of the individual fund and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity's purposes and aims.

Individual funds' purposes include research, equipment, and patient and staff welfare.

The definitions of endowment, restricted and unrestricted funds are detailed below:

- Endowment funds – funds where the capital must be held in perpetuity and only the income generated can be used for charitable purposes
- Restricted funds – fund received which have specific restrictions set by the donor
- Unrestricted funds – funds received which have no restrictions attached to their use.

All of the different types of funds have fund advisors who facilitate local decision making and offer expertise in the particular area of the fund.

The fund advisors have delegated powers and responsibility to authorise expenditure in line with the Trust's Authorised Limits Schedule contained within the Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs). The fund advisors can make recommendations on how to spend the money within their designated area up to a level of £5,000 per transaction subject to any specific donor wishes. The Deputy Chief Operating Officers have delegated powers and responsibility to authorise transactions up to £10,000. For expenditure in excess of these limits they make recommendations to the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer who have authority limits up to £50,000. Any transactions over this limit must go to the Trust Board for authorisation.

All of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity's restricted and unrestricted funds can be spent at any time. Grants from these funds are applied for by fund advisors

Reserves policy

The Corporate Trustee acknowledges that it is the donors' intention that their contributions be used as soon as possible to enhance the service provided by the Trust. Consequently, it is the policy of the Charity that significant reserves are not held. The Charity does not intend to increase fund balances unless this is as a result of significant donations or legacies. From time to time, however, balances are held in particular areas until sufficient funds have been donated to make specific purchases.

The Trustee has established a reserves policy as part of their plans to provide long term support to the services provided by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The Trustee calculates the reserves as that part of the Charity's unrestricted income funds that is freely available, after taking account of the designated funds, which have been earmarked for specific service purposes, in accordance with the stated Charity Objectives.

Total funds of the charity were £2,822,000 (2023 £2,725,000) of which £1,950,000 (2023: £1,790,000) are unrestricted funds, £790,000 (2023 £853,000) restricted funds and £82,000 (2023: £82,000) were endowment funds

The free reserves currently stand at £346,000 and are calculated as follows:

Total unrestricted funds £1,950,000

Less designated funds (£1,604,000)

Total free reserves £346,000

The Trustees intend that designated funds are spent within a reasonable period of receipt and therefore, foresee a need only to maintain reserves sufficient to provide certainty of funding to cover the administrative, fundraising and governance costs of the Charity in the short term. The Trustee aims to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately a year of non-designated, unrestricted charitable expenditure. The Trustee considers that this level will provide sufficient funds in the short term, to cover costs in the event of unforeseen circumstances which prevented the operation of the Charity in the longer term.

The Trustee reviews the balance held in designated funds, in accordance with the provisions of the NHS Acts relating to charitable funds, to determine whether these funds are likely to be committed in the near future and the extent to which there is a continuing need identified for any particular designated fund(s). Any inactive funds are closed and transferred appropriately. Additionally, within the level of designated funds held, the Trustee ensures that there are sufficient funds held to cover a fluctuation in the value of funds held in investments.

The policies specific to the Charity reserves are as follows:

To maintain systems to forecast levels of expenditure and income to determine reserve requirements

To ensure the level of reserves are secured

To monitor and review the policy periodically to ensure it remains suitable for the Charity's need

The Corporate Trustee has reviewed the reserves policy in the light of the Charity Commission's published guidance CC19 – Charities' Reserves.

Further details

Principal professional advisers

Auditors - External

WR Partners
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
SY2 6LG

Auditors - Internal

RSM UK
Festival Way
Festival Park
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5BB

Bankers

Co-operative Bank plc
1-2 Dudley Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 3EN

Solicitors

Browne Jacobson
44 Castle Gate
Nottingham
NG1 7BJ

Investment Fund Managers

Sarasin & Partners LLP
Juxon House
100 St Paul's Churchyard
London
EC4M 8BU

Full accounts

This annual report comments on some of the features of the full accounts which are provided on the following pages for your information. Copies of the full accounts have been lodged with the Charity Commission and carry an unqualified audit report.

The text and accounts shown in this report were approved by the Trustees on 8 November 2024 and is signed on their behalf by the Chair.

Mlevermore

Martin Levermore -
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any
- Ensure material departures are disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- So far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which The Charity's auditors are unaware, and
- That Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 8 November 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

Mlevermore

Martin Levermore

Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee

Independent Auditors Report to the Trustees of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity (the 'charity) for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We have reviewed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement and identified the principal's risks, implementing a series of testing procedures to provide us with sufficient comfort to issue our opinion.

We reviewed the charities regulatory environment to ensure we could that it had acted in accordance with the framework relevant to the charity and its environment and identify any instances on non-compliance.

We also assessed the charity's internal control procedures to ensure we could appropriately scrutinise these controls and establish whether our understanding of the control environment was sufficient to supplement our additional testing procedures.

The engagement team consisted of a team that the engagement partner believes is equipped with the relevant level of technical and charity awareness to carry out our work to the required standard.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

WR Partners

For and on behalf of WR Partners

Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors

Belmont House

Shrewsbury Business Park

Shrewsbury

Shropshire

SY2 6LG

8th November 2024

Statement of Financial Activities incorporating income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2023/24 Total funds	2022/23 Total funds
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income:						
Donations and legacies	3	290	139	-	**429**	637
Grants	3	-	186	-	**186**	59
Other trading activities	3	87	7	-	**94**	84
Investments	12	62	46	-	**108**	101
Total incoming resources		**439**	**378**	**-**	**817**	881
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	4	(183)	(27)	-	**(210)**	(170)
Charitable activities	4	(431)	(198)	-	**(629)**	(773)
Other expenditure		(2)	-	-	**(2)**	(1)
Total expenditure		**(616)**	**(225)**	**-**	**(841)**	(944)
Net gains/(losses) on investment		84	37	-	**121**	(243)
Net income/expenditure		**(94)**	**191**	**-**	**97**	(306)
Transfer between funds		252	(252)	-	**-**	-
Net movements in funds		**159**	**(62)**	**-**	**97**	(306)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		1,791	852	82	**2,725**	3,031
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2024		**1,950**	**790**	**82**	**2,822**	2,725

2022/23 figures have been restated to reflect the change in accounting practice for the Investment Management Fee. The Investment Management fee has previously been netted off against the income earned but this is now shown as gross.

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	2023/24 Total funds	2022/23 Total funds
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fixed assets						
Investments	11	1,714	775	82	**2,571**	2,449
Total fixed assets		**1,714**	**775**	**82**	**2,571**	2,449
Current assets						
Debtors	13	35	15	-	**50**	45
Cash and cash equivalents	14	372	-	-	**372**	390
Total current assets		**407**	**15**	**-**	**422**	436
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(171)	-	-	**(171)**	(160)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		**236**	**15**	**-**	**251**	276
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,950**	**790**	**82**	**2,822**	2,725
Net assets		**1,950**	**790**	**82**	**2,822**	2,725
The funds of The Charity						
Endowment funds	16	-	-	82	**82**	82
Restricted income funds	16	-	790	-	**790**	852
Unrestricted income funds	16	1,950	-	-	**1,950**	1,791
Total Charity funds		**1,950**	**790**	**82**	**2,822**	2,725

Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	Note	2024 £000	2023 £000
Net income/(expenditure) for 2023/24 (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)		97	(306)
Adjustment for:			
(Gains)/losses on investments		(121)	243
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	12	(108)	(82)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(5)	(4)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		11	(349)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		**(126)**	(498)

Cash Flow		**Total funds 2023/24 £000**	Total funds 2022/23 £000
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		(126)	(498)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	12	108	82
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		108	82
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		(18)	(416)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		390	806
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		**372**	390

1. General information

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity is an unincorporated charity in England. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 52 of this report.

2. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The 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 the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published 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 Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

After making enquires, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

The key risks to the Charity's continuing going concern status are a fall in income from donations or investment income but the Trustee has arrangements in place to mitigate those risks (see the risk management (page 57) and reserves (page 59) sections of the annual report for more information).

b) Funds structure

Where there is a legal restriction on the purpose to which a fund may be put, the fund is classified either as:

- A restricted fund or
- An endowment fund

Restricted funds are those where the donor has provided for the donation to be spent in furtherance of a specified charitable purpose.

Endowment funds arise when the donor has expressly provided that the gift is to be invested and only the income of the fund may be spent. These funds are sub analysed between those where the Trustee has the discretion to spend the capital (expendable endowment) and those where there is no discretion to expend the capital (permanent endowment).

The Charity has three permanent endowment funds, all of which are invested within the long term portfolio and the return from this investment is transferred into either an unrestricted fund or a restricted fund dependent on the restrictions placed on the fund by the donor.

c) Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable (more likely than not) that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Where there are terms or conditions attached to incoming resources, particularly grants, then these terms or conditions must be met before the income is recognised as the entitlement condition will not be satisfied until that point. Where terms or conditions have not been met then the relevant income is not recognised in the year but deferred and shown on the balance sheet as deferred income.

d) Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind, such as food and care packages are not accounted for when they are accepted and immediately distributed unless a single donation is material.

Gifts of tangible assets such as microwaves and fridges are recognised as a donation at fair value (market price) on receipt and charitable expenditure when they are distributed.

Where gifts in kind are held before being distributed to beneficiaries, they are recognised at fair value as stock until they are distributed.

e) Incoming resources from legacies

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to it (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

f) Incoming resources from endowment funds

The incoming resources received from the invested endowment fund are transferred to the restricted or unrestricted fund as per the donors request.

g) Other incoming resources

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

h) Resources expended and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to each category of expense shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Expenditure is recognised when the following criteria are met:

- There is a present legal or constructive obligation resulting from a past event
- It is more likely than not that a transfer of benefits (usually a cash payment) will be required in settlement
- The amount of the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

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

i) Recognition of expenditure and associated liabilities as a result of grant

The Charity is not a grant giving organisation.

j) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those costs which do not relate directly to a single activity. These include some staff recharges, costs of administration, external audit costs and IT support. Support costs have been apportioned between fundraising costs and charitable activities on an appropriate basis. The analysis of support costs and the bases of apportionment applied are shown in note 6.

k) Fundraising costs

The costs of generating 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 which include expenses for fundraising activities and a recharge paid to a related party, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (see note 17). The recharge is used to pay the salaries and support costs of the Charity's Fundraising Team.

l) Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs incurred in the pursuit of the charitable objects of the charity. These costs, where not wholly attributable, are apportioned between the categories of charitable expenditure in addition to the direct costs. The total costs of each category of charitable expenditure include an apportionment of support costs as shown in note 6.

m) Fixed asset investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument. Fixed asset investments are initially recognised at their transaction value and are subsequently measured at their fair value (market value) as at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year. Quoted stocks and shares are included in the Balance Sheet at the current market value quoted by the investment analyst, excluding dividend. Other investments are included at the Trustee's best estimate of market value.

The main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors. Further information on the RWT Charity investments can be found in note 11.

n) Debtors

Debtors are amounts owed to the charity. They are measured on the basis of their recoverable amount.

o) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand is held to meet the day to day running costs of the charity as they fall due. Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments, usually in 90-day notice interest bearing savings accounts.

p) Creditors

Creditors are amounts owed by the charity. They are measured at the amount that The Charity expects to have to pay to settle the debt.

Amounts which are owed in more than a year are shown as long-term creditors.

q) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and opening carrying value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at the year end and opening carrying value (or purchase date if later).

r) Staff costs and pensions

The Charity does not have any staff. All staffing costs are recharged from The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

3. Income

a) Analysis of Donations, Legacies and Grants

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2023/24 £000	Total 2022/23 £000
Donations from individuals	169	3	172	130
Corporate donations	30	1	31	52
Legacies	91	135	226	455
Grants	-	186	186	59
	290	**325**	**615**	**696**
2022/23 Total funds £000	*188*	*508*	*696*	

Donations from individuals are gifts from members of the public, relatives of patients, patients and staff.

Donations of goods, to the value of £18,001 2023/24 (£24,472 2022/23), are included in income valued at their market value. All of these donations have been distributed during the year.

b) Analysis of Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2023/24 £000	Total 2022/23 £000
Community	29	7	36	33
Individuals	1	-	1	11
Events	57	-	57	40
Corporate	-	-	-	-
	87	**7**	**94**	84
2022/23 Total funds £000	*80*	*4*	*84*	

4. Expenditure

a) Analysis of Raising Funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2023/24	Total 2022/23
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Fundraisers' costs	151	16	167	130
Investment Management	11	7	18	19
Support costs	21	4	25	21
	183	**27**	**210**	170
2022/23 Total funds £000	170	0	170	

2022/23 figures have been restated to reflect the change in accounting practice for the Investment Management Fee.

b) Analysis of Charitable Activities

	Grant funded activity	Support Costs	Total funds 2023/24	Total funds 2022/23
	£000	£000	£000	£000
Purchase of new medical equipment	85	-	85	40
Patients welfare and amenities	398	57	455	208
Staff welfare and amenities	68	10	78	59
Building work	-	-	-	464
Research	12	-	12	1
	563	**67**	**630**	773
2022/23 Total funds £000	*726*	*47*	*773*	

5. Grant funding

The charity did not undertake any direct charitable activities on its own account during the year. All of the charitable expenditure was in the form of grant funding.

Grants were approved in favour of the partner organisations, principally the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust to carry out activities that will benefit patients and their families. The Charity incurred expenditure with third parties in pursuance of those grants or reimbursed expenditure incurred by them.

6. Allocation of support costs and overheads

Support and overhead costs are allocated between fundraising activities and charitable activities.

The bases of allocation used are as follows:

- Time: based on timesheets of those supporting the Charity.
- Direct allocation: where a cost is wholly attributable to a particular activity.
- Expenditure: this is a proportion based on the fund balance at the start of the year. This is used where the Trustee considers this is a more equitable treatment to avoid disadvantaging funds with high volume, low value transactions.
- Salaries: this is proportionate to staff salaries where costs are related to the employed staff.

	Raising funds £000	**Charitable activities £000**	**Total 2023/24 £000**	Total 2022/23 £000	Basis
Internal audit	-	-	-	3	Direct
External audit	2	6	8	8	Direct
Financial services	21	56	77	52	Time
Support admin costs	-	-	-	-	Time
Other administration costs	2	5	7	5	Expenditure
	25	**67**	**92**	68	
2022/23 Total funds £000	*21*	*47*	*68*		

7. Trustee remuneration, benefits and expenses

Remuneration for the Board of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is provided in The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust 2023/24 published Accounts available on the Trust website, and, as such remuneration and expenses with regards to the Charitable Funds Committee are not separately identified.

8. Analysis of staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

The Charity has no employees (2022/23 none). Costs for staff incurred by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust are recharged to the Charity in the form of a Financial Services management fee along with the salaries for the Fundraising Team. The management fee for the year amounted to £77,134 (2022/23 £52,252) following the introduction of the Charity Finance & Assurance Manager post in year and the Fundraisers' salaries amounted to £129,213 (2022/23 £111,649). The Charity does not directly pay salaries national insurance or pension contributions (2022/23 £Nil).

Analysis of staff costs recharged by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

Analysis of staff costs recharged by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

	2024 £	2023 £
Fundraisers' salary	**129**	112
Financial services	**77**	52
	206	164

9. Transfers

There were transfers of £255,196 (2022/23 £41,664) during the year, with £251,671 of this being between New Cross General Purpose Legacies and RWT Legacies, whilst £2,052 was to Physio and OT Rehab from West Park and Neuro Rehab Trust funds.

10. Auditor's remuneration

External auditors' remuneration of £7,650 including VAT (2022/23 £7,800 including VAT) related solely to the audit with no other additional work undertaken (2022/23 £Nil).

11. Investments

Movement in fixed asset investments	**31 March 2024**	31 March 2023
	£000	£000
Market value at 1 April	**2,449**	2,691
Less disposals at carrying value	**-**	-
Add: additions to investments at cost	**-**	-
Add net gain (loss) on revaluation	**121**	(242)
Market value as at 31 March	**2,571**	2,449

Net movement is made up of the revaluation of investments (£121,348) at the year end and £18.75 increase in the balance of cash held to £29.10 as part of the investment portfolio.

Analysis of market value	**31 March 2024**	31 March 2023
	£000	£000
Investments listed on Stock Exchange	**2,571**	2,449
	2,571	2,449

Fixed asset investment by type	**31 March 2024**	**31 March 2024**	31 March 2023	31 March 2023
	£000	**%**	£000	%
Equities	**1,347**	**52.4**	1,107	45.2
Fixed Income (Inc Bonds)	**895**	**34.8**	894	36.5
Property	**53**	**2.1**	61	2.5
Other	**183**	**7.1**	310	12.6
Liquid Assets (Inc Cash)	**93**	**3.6**	77	3.2
	2,571	**100**	2,449	100

The Trustees consider the value of the investments to be supported by their underlying assets.

12. Analysis of gross income from investments and cash on deposit

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£000	£000
Investments listed on Stock Exchange	108	101
	108	101

2022/23 figures have been restated to reflect the change in accounting practice for the Investment Management Fee.

13. Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£000	£000
Prepayments and accrued income	50	45
	50	45

14. Cash and cash equivalents

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£000	£000
The Co-operative Bank Account	372	390
	372	390

15. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£000	£000
Trade creditors	153	83
Other creditors	16	12
Deferred Income	2	65
	171	160

16. Analysis of charitable funds

a) Endowment funds

i) Analysis of endowment fund movements

ii) Details of permanent endowment funds

	31 March 2024	31 March 2023
	£000	£000
A General Purposes Fund	**26**	26
B W.H.Fowler Trust	**14**	14
C Nell Phoenix Fund	**42**	42
	82	82

Name of permanent endowment	Description of the nature and purpose of each permanent endowment
A General Purposes Fund	To earn interest for the benefit of the non designated fund of the RWT Charity
B W.H.Fowler Trust	To earn interest for the benefit of the designated Maternity & Gynaecology fund within the Obstetrics and Gynaecology area
C Nell Phoenix Fund	To earn interest for the benefit of the restricted fund which is to provide musical entertainment for nursing staff

b) Restricted funds

i) Analysis of restricted fund movements

	Name of fund	31 March 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains & losses	31 March 2024
		£000	**£000**	**£000**	**£000**	**£000**	**£000**
A	Joan Jones	94	5	(4)	-	4	**99**
B	Edith Mary Jeavons	4	-	-	-	-	**4**
C	Nell Phoenix Fund	30	3	(3)	-	4	**34**
D	Cystic Fibrosis Funding	2	-	-	-	-	**2**
E	Sheila Whiting Legacy	64	3	(2)	-	3	**68**
F	Marjorie Ferguson Legacy	1	-	-	-	-	**1**
G	CCH General Purpose - Legacies	18	1	(1)	-	1	**19**
H	Rotary Dowding	212	10	(9)	-	10	**223**
I	Millicent Jessica Dwight - Legacy	16	1	(1)	-	1	**17**
J	Swan Fund	9	4	-	-	1	**14**
K	Cancer Centre Fund	27	1	(1)	-	1	**28**
L	Kenneth Arthur Hollins - CCH Dialysis Centre	77	4	(3)	-	4	**82**
N	New Cross General Purposes - Legacies	194	147	(9)	(252)	4	**84**
O	RWT Singers	7	7	(8)	-	-	**6**
P	Individual funds < £500	1	-	-	-	-	**1**
Q	Arts & Heritage Fund	28	37	(61)	-	-	**4**
R	NHS Charities Together	68	155	(123)	-	4	**104**
		-					-
		852	378	(225)	(252)	37	**790**

Restricted funds explanation (continued)

Name of fund		Description of the nature and purpose of each fund
A	Joan Jones	to provide medical equipment to the Renal, Oncology, Vascular and Cardiac Units
B	Edith Mary Jeavons	to provide medical equipment to RWT
C	Nell Phoenix Fund	to provide musical entertainment for nursing staff
D	Cystic Fibrosis Funding	to support patients and their families who suffer with Cystic Fibrosis
E	Sheila Whiting Legacy	to support Rheumatology services at Cannock Hospital
F	Marjorie Ferguson Legacy	to support the services provided at the Rehabilitation Day Unit at Cannock Hospital
G	CCH General Purpose - Legacies	to support services at Cannock Hospital
H	Rotary Dowding	to support services at Cannock Hospital
I	Millicent Jessica Dwight Legacy	to provide equipment to RWT
J	Swan Fund	to support End-of-Life Care with in the Trust
K	Cancer Centre Fund	to provide a top class facility for cancer patients in the area
L	Kenneth Arthur Hollins - CCH Dialysis Centre	to provide support within the Cannock Hospital Dialysis Centre
M	Special Fund for Nano Bubble Pump	for the provision of a Nano Bubble Pump
N	New Cross General Purposes - Legacies	to support services at New Cross Hospital
O	RWT Singers (Choir)	to improve staff morale and enhance patient and visitor experience around the Trust
P	Individual Funds <£500	Lindsay Clift Memorial Fund is to support patient safety by way of training or providing vital monitoring equipment. Calabar Wolverhampton VISION 2020 Link is to support staff training with links to other countries, Arts in Health Trust Fund is to support delivery of the Trust's Arts In Health Programme
Q	Arts & Heritage	to provide additional resources that contribute to and enhance the healing environment, therapeutic art activities for patients, their families and staff and to record the history of and the advancements of healthcare at RWT.
R	NHS Charities Together	to provide support to patients and staff using funds from NHS Charities Together

c) Unrestricted funds

i) Analysis of unrestricted funds movements

		31 March 2023	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains & losses	31 March 2024
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
A	Anaesthetics	70	9	(11)	-	3	**71**
B	Medical Directorate	277	123	(112)	(2)	13	**299**
C	Haematology and Oncology	380	41	(157)	-	13	**277**
D	Cardiac Services	288	63	(58)	-	12	**305**
E	Renal Unit	42	6	(6)	-	2	**44**
F	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	63	4	(25)	-	3	**45**
G	Ophthalmology	80	7	(10)	-	3	**80**
H	Orthopaedics	92	20	(30)	-	4	**86**
I	Paediatrics	177	46	(69)	(1)	7	**160**
J	Surgical Directorate	72	31	(15)	-	4	**92**
K	Clinical Support	3	-	(1)	-	-	**2**
L	Wolverhampton Medical Institute	8	-	(8)	-	-	**0**
M	Other Smaller Funds	82	8	(13)	-	3	**80**
N	Community Work	5	1	(1)	3	-	**8**
O	Research Funds	66	2	(15)	-	2	**55**
		1,705	361	(531)	-	69	**1,604**
Non-designated funds							
P	General Purposes Funds	86	78	(85)	252	15	**346**
		1,791	439	(616)	252	84	**1,950**

Trustees have exercised their discretion to set aside part of the unrestricted funds for designated purposes. The designation applied has taken account the wishes expressed by the donor when the funds were given. Designated funds remain unrestricted as Trustees can remove the designation at any time.

Within General Purposes, a new fund was set up in year, RWT Legacies, for those legacies gifted to the Charity for which there are no restrictions attached. The transfer of £251,671in year from the restricted fund of New Cross General Purpose Legacies is in respect of any remaining legacies, for which there were no conditions attached when they were gifted.

17. Related party transactions

During the year, neither the Corporate Trustee nor members of the key management staff or parties related to it has undertaken any material transactions with or received any remuneration or expenses from The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity. As part of the normal course of business, The Charity has made payments totalling £565,000 (2022/23 £835,013) to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust as Corporate Trustee of the Charity. In 2023/24 an amount of £152,596 (2022/23 £83,212) was owing to the Trust at 31 March 2024. The total income of the Corporate Trustee in the year ended 31 March 2024 amounted to £940,686,000 (2022/23 £899,891,000) and the adjusted retained deficit amounted to £26,657,000 (2022/23 retained surplus of £90,000).

18. Commitments

The Charity has commitments totalling £240,404 at 31 March 2024 (2022/23 £45,195) arising from requisitions placed for which the relevant goods and services have not been received. These commitments relate to unrestricted and restricted funds.

19 Donations in kind

Donations in kind have been made to aid the Charity's mission to support The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. Donations to the value of £18,001 (2022/23 £24,472) have been included in the accounts this year for items of clothing, toys for the children's ward, knitted blankets, sensory items and other kind gifts that help make the patients' stay better. All of these items will be used for some time to come. We also received several offers of kindness for the patients and staff of the Trust and the wider community for items such as care packages, hand creams, lip balms, food and drink. The value of these items was estimated at £33,623 (2022/23 £12,034).

When received, all items were distributed as soon as possible and shared with the whole of the Trust.



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THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON NHS TRUST CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1059467

Accounts



NHS
The Royal Wolverhampton
NHS Trust

Charity Annual Report and Accounts 2022/23

The Royal Wolverhampton
NHS Trust Charity
Registered Charity No. 1059467



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The Royal Wolverhampton
NHS Trust Charity

Message from our Chair Martin Levermore



As the incoming Chair I am delighted to present the 2022/23 Annual Report of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity.

I wish to thank the outgoing Chair, Mrs Sue Rawlings, for her years of commitment and sterling leadership of the Charity that enabled the success the Charity has achieved to date.

Over the previous years the Charity sector like many sectors has faced many challenges and without our many supporters and the tireless work of fundraisers, both in the hospital and in our surrounding community and businesses our RWT Charity would not be in the robust place that it is today. People who have given of their time, effort and generosity which we greatly thank you all. We have again received vital support from partners and funders.

Our new charity team has taken big steps forward to help develop and grow the Charity, we are greatly appreciative to Amanda and the team, not forgetting the invaluable support from members of the Communications and Finance teams for their hard work.

We welcome Katy Ball as our dedicated Charity Accountant which was a post planned as part of our Strategic Review, and I would like to thank Emma Greybanks who has so effectively looked after us financially up to this point.

This year, we were again able to support a wide range of projects across many departments and directorates, many of which are highlighted in the body of this report.

I want to thank all who have done so much to help us support our staff, patients, and their families. We are so grateful to all of you, without whom we could not have achieved so much. It is great privilege to be Chair of this very important Charity and I look forward to work with all to make a difference to our patients, families and staff.

Mlevermore

Martin Levermore
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee

About The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity

At The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity, we are dedicated to improving the experience of and outcomes for our staff, patients, and our local community. The people and patients of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT) are at the heart of what we do.

Our mission is to enhance patient care and help families and carers in Wolverhampton, by transforming hospital and community-based services. We do this through funding "added extras" - items, projects, research, staff training and services - that are over and above those provided by the NHS. This is what drives our charity, inspires our fundraisers, and connects us to Wolverhampton's warm, friendly, and diverse population.

We work alongside RWT, raising funds to support our staff to deliver the very best possible care and to help adults and children across Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. With the help of our wonderful community, our fundraising efforts make a real difference to patient outcomes.

Whether people come to hospital for routine procedures, medical investigations, or for lifesaving, cutting edge treatment, we understand that needing NHS care can be a worrying time. Every day the RWT Charity's fundraising helps to ensure that visits to our hospitals and our services are as comfortable, reassuring, friendly and positive as possible.

Trust Overview

RWT is one of the largest healthcare providers in the Black Country and West Midlands, providing primary, secondary, community and tertiary care services to a combined population of 450,000 people. The Trust provides 850 beds at our New Cross site (including intensive care beds and neonatal cots), 56 rehabilitation beds at West Park Hospital, and 54 beds at Cannock Chase Hospital. It is the largest employer in Wolverhampton, with more than 10,500 staff. This means that the Charity supports in the region of 460,500 beneficiaries year on year.

The Trust provides services in the following locations:

- Cannock Chase Hospital - General Surgery, Orthopaedics, Breast Surgery, Urology, Dermatology, Medical Day Case investigations and treatment (including Neurology and Endoscopy) Inpatient rehabilitation beds
- Community Services - More than 20 community sites providing services for children and adults, Walk-in Centres, and Therapy and Rehabilitation services
- Primary Care - Nine GP practices.
- New Cross Hospital - Secondary and tertiary services, Maternity, Accident & Emergency, Critical Care and Outpatients
- West Park Hospital - Rehabilitation, Inpatient and Day Care services, Therapy services and Outpatients

The Trust also successfully hosts Black Country Pathology Services (BCPS) and the West Midlands Local Clinical Research Network (WMCRN) and has done since its establishment in April 2014.

The Trustees' Mission

The mission of the charity is to make a real difference to RWT patients, their families and the staff that treat them, above and beyond what is provided by the NHS. We support the Trust to realise its vision to be an NHS organisation that continually strives to improve the outcomes and experiences for the communities it serves.

Public Benefit

In planning the Charity's activities, careful consideration is given to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. We must also comply with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011. We support the work of the Trust, however, there is a clear distinction between what the Trust is required to provide as an NHS organisation and what is additional public benefit. The application of charitable funds leads to the enhancement of patient care and experience – regardless of our patients' background or personal circumstances.

Charity funds are used to provide the following:

- Additional facilities to enhance the healing environment
- Additional equipment to enhance patient care and experience
- Opportunities for additional staff training, above and beyond mandatory training
- Opportunities for further medical knowledge through research

Getting involved and supporting your local hospital and patients of the Trust couldn't be easier. Simply call the Fundraising Team on (01902) 447293 or contact us on social media:

TheRWTCharity on X

Facebook

@therwtcharity on Instagram

Financial review

The Statement of Financial Activities can be found below as at 31 March 2023 with comparatives to the previous year. The complete set of Accounts can be found on pages 71-86.

Income

£862k

Total Incoming Resources	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000
Donations and Legacies - £611k	162	449
Grants - £85k	26	59
Fundraising - £84k	80	4
Investment income - £82k	44	38
Total - £862k	**312**	**550**

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Endowment £000	2022/23 £000	2021/22 £000
Total incoming resources	312	550	0	**862**	886
Total expenditure	(402)	(524)	0	**(926)**	(750)
Net gains/(losses) on investment	(146)	(97)	0	(243)	(24)
Net income/ (expenditure)	**(236)**	**(71)**	**0**	**(306)**	**112**
Total brought forward	2,026	923	82	3,031	2,919
Total at 31 March 2023	**1,790**	**853**	**82**	**2,725**	**3,031**

Expenditure

£926k

	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000
Raising funds - (£151k)	(151)	0
Charitable activities - (£773k)	(249)	(524)
Other expenditure - (£1k)	(1)	0
Total - (£926k)	**(402)**	**(524)**

Did you know you can also increase your donation without having to pay more? Included in the Donations and Legacies and Fundraising income above, is an additional £6k which has been raised through the Gift Aid scheme in 2022/23.

giftaid

How does Gift Aid work?

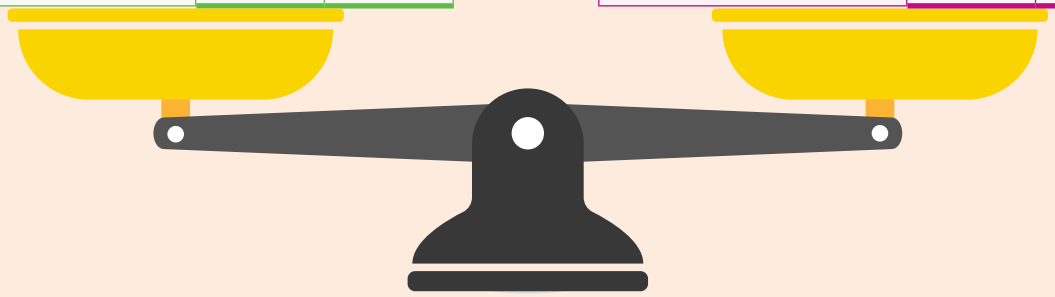
Gift Aid is a scheme run by the government that enables charities to increase the value of donations made by reclaiming basic rate tax that has been paid on the gift. At the moment, we can claim 25p per £1 donated, so on a gift of £100, we will actually receive an extra £25, at no cost to the donor.

The Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023 can be found below with the comparatives to the previous year.

Balance Sheet

	2022/23 £000	2021/22 £000
Fixed Asset Investments	**2,449**	2,691
Debtors & Prepayments	**45**	42
Cash	**390**	806
Creditors	**(160)**	(508)
Net Assets	**2,725**	**3,031**

	2022/23 £000	2021/22 £000
Endowment funds	**82**	82
Restricted funds	**852**	923
Unrestricted funds - Designated	**1,705**	1,921
- Non-designated	**86**	105
Total Funds	**2,725**	**3,031**



A few helpful definitions:

Throughout this report you may see some terminology you aren't familiar with. Hopefully these next few paragraphs will help you understand the Charity's financial position.

Fixed asset investments - investments held in Short and Long Term Investment Portfolios, where the Charity seeks to produce the best financial return with an acceptable level of risk.

Current assets - cash held plus debtors. Debtors - money paid in after the year end relating to the year, accrued income - money due in for activities taken place in the year, prepayments - payments made in year relating to the next year and so have been removed from the Statement of Financial Activities expenditure.

Current liabilities - creditors falling due within one year for money owed to others for expenses chargeable in the year.

Liabilities - creditors falling due after more than one year for money owed to others for expenses chargeable for previous years.

Net assets - Total assets minus total liabilities.

Endowment funds - represent funds that are held as capital in perpetuity so that only the income is available for distribution.

Restricted income funds - represent money which is held by the Trustees which can only be used for specified purposes. These funds are supervised either by the Fund Advisors within the ward, department or specialty concerned or the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer for more generic purposes.

Unrestricted income funds - are funds available to be spent within the objects of the Charity which can legally be spent wholly at the discretion of the Trustees. In practice, respecting the non-binding preferences expressed by donors, the Trustees have sub categorised the unrestricted income funds under two headings.

- **Designated (earmarked) funds -** represent separate funds which the Trustees have created to accord with sections 90 and 91 of the National Health Service Act 1977 which require that the Trustees respect, as far as practicable, the specific intentions of the gifts received through wards, departments and specialties. By designating funds the Trustees ensure that those gifts are channelled towards charitable purposes in those areas. These funds are supervised by Fund Advisors from the wards, departments and specialties concerned.
- **Non-designated funds (general/reserves) -** represent those funds available for distribution by the Trustees at their discretion which have not been restricted or earmarked and can be used as reserves should the need arise. These funds are supervised by the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer.

Annual Summary and Charity Objectives

The last 12 months have been very different to the previous year for various reasons - with the main one being the cost-of-living crisis having an impact on us all. Fundraisers have, however, been able to participate in events again which is great news, but sadly people have also found times hard physically, emotionally, and financially. They may have lost loved ones through COVID-19 or have been impacted by long COVID, and jobs have been at risk from the effects of the cost-of-living crisis.

Not only has this impacted our fundraisers but our staff and patients. Staff have been struggling with the current climate and this has had an impact on their lives. We have been able to support patients and staff over the last 12 months with the following to offer support and comfort to those who find themselves in hospital and for those looking after them:

- Patient and staff Christmas presents to help bring some joy to those in hospital over the festive period, whether being cared for or providing the care
- Rocking R gaming consoles for our Children's Ward
- Staff Wellbeing Hub, supporting families with free breakfast and access to essential food items
- Activity packs for patients living with dementia
- Toys for Paediatric patients across the Trust
- Arts and crafts activities for patients on the Neurological Rehabilitation Unit
- Hats and scarves for patients with cancer
- Water bottles for patients undergoing radiotherapy
- DAB radio, LED Lighting, electronic diffuser and sensory projector for Maternity birth rooms
- Comfortline therapy chairs for chemotherapy treatment at Cannock Chase Hospital

Aim

The Charity actively supports projects that enhance the delivery and experience of care for all patients and their families. This includes the provision of additional equipment or equipment that is of a higher specification than NHS funding can provide, funding projects that enhance the healing environment, provision of funding for additional training and any other resources that will help make a real difference.

We are grateful for all the support we receive; however, we have further aspirations to enhance patient care and experiences that require us to be ambitious in our income generation activities. We will strive to increase the value of monetary and non-monetary donations we receive year upon year.

We will support our NHS colleagues' commitment to ensuring everyone has equal access to our services, saving lives and improving health outcomes for our diverse community with a key focus on:

- Staff wellbeing
- Improving the patient experience
- Opportunities to further medical knowledge through research
- Engaging with our local community
- Developing partnerships
- Tackling health inequalities

Due to the exceptional circumstances and the uncertainty of the current environment, this strategy intentionally focuses on our direction for a shorter timeframe than usual - the 2022/ 23 and 2023/ 2024 financial years. This allows us to develop our usual longer-term strategy once there is more certainty over the environment in which we operate.



Our work

Fundraising and working within our community

Nine fundraisers from Trust run and raise over £4,000

Nine fundraisers from RWT completed the London Landmarks Half Marathon (LLHM) 2022, clocking up more than £4,000 for its Charity.

The LLHM is the first half marathon (13.1 miles) to take runners through the heart of the capital on a closed road route that showcases the city's iconic landmarks.

The event started at The Strand, before crossing and re-crossing Waterloo Bridge, passing Covent Garden, the Thames, St Paul's Cathedral, the Bank of England, the Tower of London and the Houses of Parliament before finishing in Downing Street.

Louise Porter and Jan Share, Therapy Assistants at the Gem Centre, wanted to take on the challenge after losing nearly 10 stone between them during the COVID-19 lockdown. The friends completed the half marathon together in a time of two hours, 55 minutes and 27 seconds.

Louise said: "We never believed we would run it in under three hours, but we ran all the way and never stopped to walk.

"We were very emotional. Having our families there was amazing, but you couldn't do it without all the support from the crowd, entertainment and all the charities there cheering you on.

"When we saw the 13-mile marker, we turned the corner and saw the finish line. Jan grabbed my hand and we sprinted to the finish."

Five other members of staff who entered are part of the New Cross Harriers. Kirstie Rice, Consultant Biomedical Scientist in Cytology, Winsome Bonnie, Administration Officer in the Diabetic Centre, Satbinder Suman, founder Karen Kendall and Desiree Galizia, Medical Laboratory Assistant in the Microbiology Department, train with the group, which started three and a half years ago to improve fitness and meets weekly after work. Kirstie, Karen and Desiree all work for Black Country Pathology Services, based at New Cross Hospital.

The New Cross Harriers members finished in close succession of each other between the times of 2:50:00 and 3:04:00.

"Unfortunately I pulled something in the back of my leg quite early on which was very painful, but Kirstie and Dessie came back and ran with me," said Satbinder, a Diabetic Educator/Support Worker. "The camaraderie we have between us is great."

Karen, a Senior Biomedical Scientist and Clinical Operations Manager, said: "It was a fabulous day, with perfect conditions and so well organised – I'm going to do it again next year!

"Three and a half years ago I said to Kirstie 'shall we start a running club? She said 'yes' and more people have joined us. We're lucky to have such lovely people."

The other two entrants from the Trust were Dr Mohamed Shariff, Anaesthetist and Clinical Fellow, and Laura Butterworth, a Staff Nurse for the Care Co-ordination Team in Adult Community, who has run several marathons and half marathons in the past.

Dr Shariff completed the course in an excellent time of 1:47:17 while Laura clocked 4:17:31 after unfortunately getting lost en route.

The group raised a total of £4,351.81 plus Gift Aid for the Trust Charity.

Rachel Robinson, former Digital Engagement and Fundraising Officer at the Charity, said: "We are very proud and grateful to our colleagues who took on the challenge. They all did fantastically, and it's been a pleasure to be involved in this experience with them."



New Cross Harriers before the race from left: Desiree Galizia, Kirstie Rice, Karen Kendall, Winsome Bonnie and Satbinder Suman



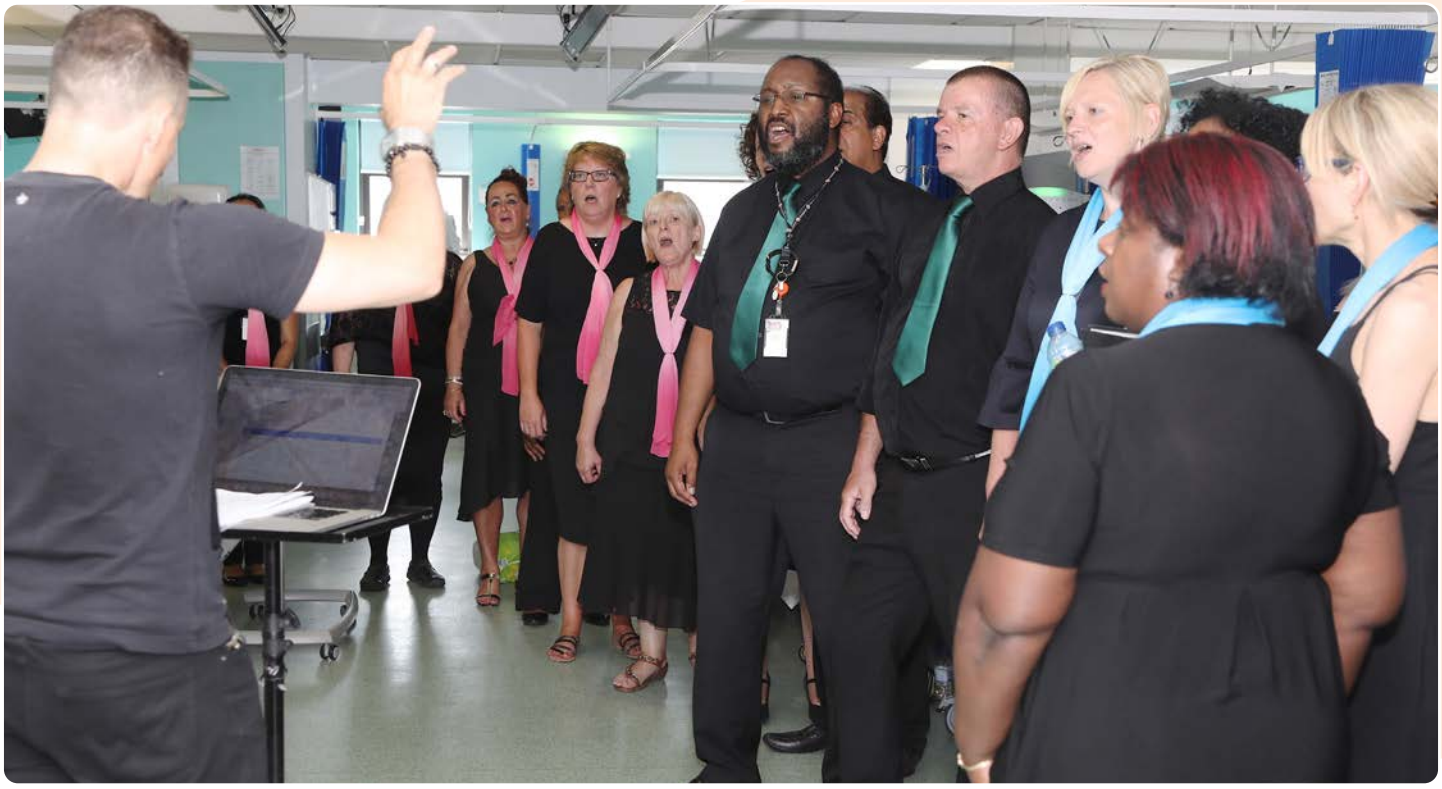
Before taking part: Louise Porter and Jan Share



After the race: from left: Satbinder Suman, Winsome Bonnie, Desiree Galizia and Kirstie Rice

RWT Singers tune up for competition.

A group of NHS singers hit all the right notes after reaching the semi-finals of a singing competition.



The RWT Singers pictured before a concert prior to COVID-19, with Choir Director Martin Trotman

The RWT staff choir, The RWT Singers, qualified for the semi-finals of the Midlands Choir of the Year competition.

For the semi-final, each group had to sing at least two songs in six minutes led by their Choir Director Martin Trotman, The RWT Singers performed Pink's What About Us, Hold Back the River by James Bay, and True Colours by Cyndi Lauper. Hold Back the River was the choir's acapella number.

The choir reached the semi-finals in 2020 but the competition was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. The group re-entered and again reached the semi-finals with new songs. While the group failed to reach the finals last July at Lichfield Cathedral, members still enjoyed the experience and opportunity.

Jayne Harper, Choir Organiser, is one of the six founder members of The RWT Singers from when it started in October 2016, following an idea from then Chief Nurse, Cheryl Etches.

A retired Patient Access Manager who worked for the Trust for 43 years, Jayne, from Moseley Green, Wolverhampton, said: "Just to be accepted into the competition is great."

An inclusive group, the 22-strong RWT Singers has nurses, a doctor, a clinical scientist, a physiotherapist, a nursing tutor, procurement and governance staff, patient access staff and volunteers among its members.

But the friendly group is always on the lookout for new members, who enjoy songs from Earth, Wind & Fire, Queen, Bob Marley, Diana Ross, Wilson Phillips, Rihanna, Rag'n'Bone Man, Coldplay and Stormzy, to name a few artists.

"We welcome anyone and everyone," added Jayne. "The only criteria is that you're a staff member or former staff member.

"It's so relaxing and you lose yourself. When we perform a concert or go round the wards it's so rewarding."

Before lockdown, the group sang in Wolverhampton city centre on Armed Forces Day, in Sainsbury's, a baby memorial service, staff carol service, summer and Christmas concerts and on many wards within the Trust, including the dementia and paediatric wards.

"When we sang to patients with dementia, one wife turned to me and said it was the first time she'd seen her husband smile in 18 months. His face lit up and she was thrilled," added Jayne.

The group is supported by the RWT Charity but wasn't able to raise funds for two years due to COVID-19.

"It's such a boost to be together and singing in front of people after lockdown. Staff need to know there's a choir in the Trust and come and join us!" said Jayne.

Anyone interested in joining the RWT Singers should email Jayne at: jayne.harper56@gmail.com

Doctors on the run raise £2,500

A group of medics went on the run to raise almost £2,500 for equipment to help vulnerable children attending their department at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.

Eight members of staff from A21 Paediatric Assessment Unit at RWT joined more than 13,000 people in the Great Birmingham Run 2022, with seven running the 10k race and one completing the half marathon (13.1 miles).

Ambra Righetti, Trainee Paediatric Advanced Nurse Practitioner, had the idea to use the race as a fundraising event and a total of £2,434 was raised.

The money will contribute towards buying an ultrasound (USS) machine for the ward to help cannulate children, in particular those who visit often.

She said: "The day was brilliant and the atmosphere was great. There were professional runners and a lot of people running for charities, like us. The race was tough but seeing people running next to you kept everyone going.

"Everyone did their best and was such an achievement just being there and finishing the race. A big thank you to all the running gang members, it was such a lovely day full of fun, laughs and good exercise.

"We also had a flamingo (colleague Dr Ash Holt) joining us for the race – you had to see the faces of the little children, it was ace!

"We did not have a target but the generosity of people allowed us to raise nearly £2,500, which was more than expected."

Rachel Robinson, former RWT Digital Engagement Fundraising Officer, said: "Thanks to all the runners from A21 for their magnificent efforts – and for raising a fantastic amount of money."

A special mention goes to Dr Julie Brent, Consultant Paediatrician, who was the only member of the team to complete the half marathon (13.1 miles).

Despite it being her first attempt at the distance for 10 years, she achieved a personal best time of two hours and 14 minutes.

Dr Brent said: "I run every week, 8.5 miles but slowly, so decided I would do the half marathon instead as more of a challenge."

At 53, mother of three teenage boys Dr Karen Davies, Consultant in General Paediatrics and Paediatric Rheumatology, has been running for two decades and was the most senior of the group who ran the race.

Running her first race was Dr Katie Shelley, Paediatric Registrar, 36. The mother of two has worked on A21 since September 2020, but also previously in 2014.

Dr Shelley completed the couch 2 5K running programme last year and had trained for the race since the autumn.

Also running the 10k were Paediatric Consultants Dr Minoth Kanagaratnam, Dr Holt and Dr Kiran Sastry and Paediatric Registrar Dr Katie Crombie.

Starting and finishing in the city centre, the Great Birmingham Run 10k took runners past the Bullring, along Pershore Road to Cannon Hill Park which marks the halfway point, before looping round Edgbaston Cricket Ground and past Calthorpe Park, before a final section through Digbeth.



Runners, pre race, pictured from left: Dr Minoth Kanagaratnam, Dr Elke Reunis (who has since left the organisation), Dr Julie Brent, Dr Ash Holt, Dr Katherine Shelley and Ambra Righetti

Staff scale Snowdon and raise £3,450

More than 30 energetic RWT walkers put their best feet forward to climb Mount Snowdon to raise more than £3,000 for its Charity.

Each year, colleagues Claire Flatt, Lead for Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professionals Leadership Development, Laura Roberts, Executive Assistant, and Claire Young, Deputy Director of Education and Training, invite colleagues, staff, friends and family to join them on a new #RWTchallenge. This raises money for the RWT Charity, as well as a nominated charity from which patients benefit.

The walkers' efforts raised more than £3,200 for this year's chosen charity, The Macmillan Cancer Support Centre at New Cross Hospital.

Starting from the village of Llanberis, the Snowdon Sunset Walk took the group along a challenging nine-mile route which included 950 metres of ascent, including a tough trek up the Llanberis Path, the longest way to the summit. The walk concluded at the summit of Snowdon for sunset, before the descent back down got underway after dark.

Claire said: "We hoped to get a rare view of billions of stars splashed across the night sky, however we were met with 40mph winds, and it was too cloudy at the top for the sunset.

"But we did manage to catch it as we came down under the clouds and we got some fantastic photos of a bright orange sky.

"It was still a fantastic experience. Well done to everyone who smashed the #RWTchallenge and thank you to everyone who has helped us raise over £3,450!

"I'm already thinking of next year's challenge, although most people don't seem up for my idea of a skydive!



Walkers on their trip to climb Snowdon

"Not only do our annual challenges support our chosen charities, but they will also help our own physical and mental health."

Kelly Pritchard, Macmillan Information and Support Centre Manager at New Cross Hospital, said: "The walkers put in amazing effort and we're so thankful to them. The funds they raised will go towards treatment comfort packs for cancer patients."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager for The RWT Charity, said: "We are so proud of you all for pushing yourselves and raising an amazing amount of money for our charity.

"It was brilliant seeing your updates throughout the challenge and felt like we were there with you. I can't wait to see what challenge you set for next year."

Charities help take the heat off staff



Staff working in hospitals and community services across Wolverhampton were given a helping hand in last year's heatwave, thanks to the efforts of the RWT Charity.

The Charity, which worked in partnership with Walsall healthcare NHS Trust's Well Wishers charity, sorted out fruit, drinks and ice creams for staff.

They were treated to a free ice-cream at Cannock Chase, New Cross and West Park hospitals thanks to Charity funding and the Charity Team secured bottles of water from Tesco in Willenhall and Morrisons in Cannock.

Amanda Winwood, RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "The Charity was pleased to organise ice-cream trucks to keep our staff cool during the heatwave, making it a little easier to work in such temperatures.

"We would like to thank our local corporate supporters and supermarkets in offering bottles of water to help keep staff hydrated."

Inspirational girl born at 25 weeks raises money for 'incredible' unit



An inspirational schoolgirl who defied the odds after being born at 25 weeks has helped her mum to write a book to raise money for the 'incredible' Wolverhampton Neonatal Unit (NNU) which saved her life.

Naiyana Aikens was born on 13 November 2014, weighing just 1lb 8oz and looking like "a tiny baby bird." Her mother Shemayne Walker, a Therapeutic Radiographer at RWT, had an emergency caesarean section at New Cross Hospital after going into premature labour and Naiyana was rushed straight to the NNU.

Shemayne, from Bushbury, said she wanted to write the book to help other parents with babies in NNU.

'My Neonatal Journey' is an emotional story about Naiyana's journey from a very ill baby to the thriving seven-year-old she is today and the fantastic care she received from the NHS.

Naiyana said: "I hope that families read the book and see that their baby can grow big and strong like me."

Shemayne said: "It is a short story to introduce people to Naiyana's journey. Niayana is now thriving but at the time when she was born it was very much an hour by hour, day by day case. I wish I could have seen how well she would do in the future then, to give us hope.

"I hope this book will help other parents. The journey of a premature baby is very unpredictable and at times overwhelming but at the same time watching your little miracle thrive daily is inspiring in so many ways."

First time mum Shemayne was admitted on to the Maternity Unit at New Cross Hospital after her waters broke at 24 weeks.

She said: "I was immediately admitted and put on bed rest. At 25 weeks I went into premature labour which was very scary. I had a C-section and even though it was a terrifying moment I felt calm and relaxed thanks to the staff. I could never thank them enough.

"Naiyana was rushed straight to the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU). It was hours later until I was able to go and see her.

"As she was born at 25 weeks, I expected her to be small, yet I still felt shocked by her size. Her dad described it best – she was "a tiny baby bird". At this early stage I could not picture her as a full-term baby, and soon realised that I had to take things one day at a time.

"I couldn't take Naiyana home for five months so visiting the NNU became my obsession. I wanted to be as involved in her care as I could possibly be.

"I became numb to the once overwhelming sounds of bleeping coming from the machines and grew more confident in putting a nappy on her tiny frame, navigating the small openings in the incubator. This new found skill was later tested when Naiyana had a stoma."

Naiyana developed Necrotising Enterocolitis (NEC) and was transferred to Chelsea and Westminster Hospital as an emergency for a specialist operation.

"The surgery was successful - just over 40 centimetres of Naiyana's bowel was removed and a stoma formed. She then spent a month in London before being transferred back to New Cross Hospital," Shemayne said.

"Naiyana had a reversal of her stoma a month later at Birmingham Children's Hospital and recovered well. We realised how resilient our little daughter was, despite how nerve-wracking it was for us as parents.

"Over a total of five months Naiyana had three operations, went from a ventilator to Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP), oxygen and then no breathing support. She had a Nasogastric feed and night pump to help her thrive before advancing to formula via bottle, with the support of an amazing dietitian.

"I will never forget the amazing care and supportive staff on the unit. They were incredible."

Naiyana was discharged from hospital five months later to continue her recovery at home with mum, brother Eshay Aikens, three, and dad Anthony Aikens.

Sarah Crowshaw, Neonatal Ward Manager, said: "We are grateful for the fundraising by Naiyana and Shemayne's inspirational story. This is a great way to share their story of their neonatal journey with other families and a personal record for Naiyana to keep forever. The fundraising will help the NNU continue to support babies and families who experience our neonatal care."





Former ICCU patient thanks staff after recovery

A COVID-19 survivor made an emotional return to New Cross Hospital's Integrated Critical Care Unit (ICCU) to thank "amazing" staff for her care.

Angie Fleming began to feel unwell and was classed as COVID-19 high risk due to being diagnosed with leukaemia in 2020.

After testing positive she deteriorated rapidly and was ventilated.

"It was a truly frightening experience. I was struggling to breathe, and I wasn't sure if I was going to make it. I have now got post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from my time in ICCU, it was the worst time of my life, " Angie, 51, said.

"After I woke from my induced coma I remember seeing some of the staff's faces and hearing them talking. They were all so kind to me. They were all so upbeat and cheery. They are an amazing team – so respectful and lovely.

"My family said the staff were also very easy to contact for an update at any time as I was in hospital while there were visiting restrictions. The staff also did a diary for me with messages while I was ventilated that I could read when I woke up."

Due to her outstanding care, Angie, who lives in Cannock, asked if she could return to New Cross to thank staff for their kindness. She met with the team outside ICCU.

Kathy Harvey, Senior Sister on ICCU, said: "There is nothing better than seeing patients who were severely unwell, back home with their family. We don't normally see patients after they go home so it is lovely Angie took time to come and see us and meet some of the staff who cared for her. It is a real team effort to care for our patients."

One of the members of staff who looked after Angie was Sister Judy Rockfort. She said: "I am really proud



to see how well Angie is doing. It was a very emotional visit. This is one of the rewards of nursing - seeing our patients do well."

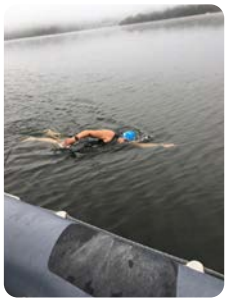
Liefah Misa and Jade James also came to meet Angie so she could thank them with chocolate.

Angie, who is business support administrator for the Countywide Day Services for people with a learning disability, went on to recover at home with her daughter Holly.

Keen swimmer makes waves for charity

Fundraiser Debbie Brackstone has certainly made a splash for New Cross Hospital's Integrated Critical Care Unit (ICCU) – raising almost £2,000 after a 21-mile swim of Lake Windermere to thank staff for caring for her friend who contracted COVID-19.





Debbie on her swim

Debbie's friend Angie Fleming was cared for on the ICCU in December last year and returned to New Cross Hospital to thank staff for their kindness and outstanding care.

Working for Staffordshire County Council as the Countywide Day Service Manager during the week, Debbie loves to swim long distances in her spare time. She completes many endurance swims purely for the challenge and does one significant fundraising event every year.

Debbie, of Stafford, said: "I had planned on completing Windermere anyway, but after finding out about the extraordinary care Angie received, it provided an even greater incentive to accomplish it.

"Lake Windermere is 21 miles both ways, and I couldn't touch the boat or the ground beneath her. I planned to do it in 45-minute blocks, then give myself one minute to rest in between."

Ten months of preparation were endured, including five weeks that included a six or seven-hour swim on a Saturday, followed by a four-hour swim on a Sunday, leading up to the event.

Despite the thorough training in a mixture of pools and the River Trent, Debbie admitted the actual event was tough.

"It's the mental side of the swim that's more difficult than the physical," she said. "When you're out there it's so important to stay 'in the now', appreciating what is around you. It's honestly where I'm happy – I love the isolation and moments of mindfulness.

"Although, I wasn't happy at the halfway point (six hours in), as I knew I could have gone faster!"

Twelve hours and 56 minutes later, Debbie completed the 21-mile swim across Lake Windermere and, most importantly, she managed to raise an incredible £1,869 for the RWT Charity.



Debbie with Angie and staff from ICCU

Grateful patient donates £1,420



From left to right, Sanjiv Petkar, Graham Ellis, Amanda Winwood, Eldon Foster and Saib Khogali, Clincal Lead and Consultant Interventional Cardiologist

A retired bookmaker who says he owes his life to a Wolverhampton consultant made a generous donation to the unit where he was treated.

Graham Ellis, 78, from Bridgnorth, donated £1,420 to the Cardiothoracic Trust Fund based at the Heart and Lung Centre at New Cross Hospital through the RWT Charity after having a defibrillator fitted to regulate his heartbeat.

Money was raised by 40 golfers playing in a four-ball tournament at Chesterton Valley Golf Club near Bridgnorth, before a meal afterwards at The Plough pub in Claverley.

Graham had a heart attack on the golf course while on holiday in Thailand, so he had a stent inserted to keep his right coronary artery open, and has since had a further two stents and a defibrillator fitted at New Cross Hospital. For the latter, he was discharged on the same day.

So, it's little surprise that the father of two daughters and granddad of five was only too happy to hand over the cheque to Sanjiv Petkar, Consultant Electrophysiologist at RWT.

Graham, who owned betting shops in Old Hill, Gornal and Bridgnorth, as well as spending many years as an on-track bookie, was accompanied to the cheque presentation with his long-time friend Eldon Foster, who owns Rudge Heath Stores on Wolverhampton Road.

A raffle at Rudge Heath Stores raised around £700, a collection in the pub after the golf day raised a further £200 and concessions from the golf club and pub for entry and the meals respectively accounted for the rest of the money.

"Mr Petkar saved my life and that's why we made this donation," said Graham. "I am so grateful. When I was in Thailand I was given two hours to live – I thought I had indigestion and I had to come off the golf course!

"But Mr Petkar put the defibrillator in and I haven't had any problems since. This treatment has given me a new lease of life.

"This is an annual fundraiser and this time I was only too happy to donate it to the people who saved my life. Mr Petkar and his team are brilliant. I no longer drink alcohol and I'm certainly looking after myself."

Mr Petkar said: "Graham had quite a lot of damage to his heart muscle and was having quite a lot of extra heart beats – a lot of 'sparking' and the pump was weak.

"So we put in a defibrillator to protect him. It's like a pacemaker, but a pacemaker is for slow heartbeats and a defibrillator is for slow and fast heartbeats.

"That monitors his heartbeat. If there is a problem it will give treatment and it can also shock him.

"So it's much quicker than a paramedic. The gadget talks to his device and it sends all the information via satellite to our pacemaker clinic here in hospital.

"Recently he had chest pain and he attended on more than one occasion. So he has now had another stent put into a different place but his symptoms have subsided significantly and he no longer has chest pain.

"Medication will still be there and he has to look after himself, but we can add a third wire to the two he already has to support the pumping function.

"We're keeping that in reserve, so along with medication and a good lifestyle, that should help Mr Ellis."

He added: "We are very thankful for this donation and grateful that Graham has considered the Heart and Lung Centre.

"The NHS does a lot but there is always more that can be done for patients, and that is where this substantial amount will help."

Amanda Winwood, The RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "It was so lovely to meet Graham and share in his journey. We thank him for his wonderful donation, which will be used for the benefit of our patients."

Panto stars bring cheer to Paediatric Ward

Ian Adams, who plays Widow Twankey in this year's panto Aladdin at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre, slapped on the greasepaint and donned his full dame's costume to join Rebecca Fisher and Faye Campbell, who play the Princess and Elizabeth Darling respectively on the tour.

On the tour, the actors present a condensed, 40-minute version of the panto to children featuring the main characters, written by Ian. Over the last six years, the tour has been seen by some 6,000 children across England and Wales.

"It's a way of promoting the pantomime to children, as well as tell them all the history of panto," said Ian, 62, who was playing Widow Twankey for the second time at the Grand. "We also put on workshops where we teach kids songs and jokes.

"It's also a way of introducing theatre to children, many of whom might not have seen any live theatre before. I first saw live theatre at the age of five and was hooked. It also teaches the children what to expect if they see it."

Previously appearing in variety with stars such Danny La Rue, Bernie Clifton, Don Maclean and Ray Alan and dummy Lord Charles, Ian has done panto for 22 years.



The cast of Intro to Panto Primary Schools Tour with Scarlett Moreton

Rebecca, from Burntwood, said: "We received a great reaction from the children – they absolutely love it and it was wonderful to see their faces."

Being in a healthcare setting was nothing new for Faye, 24, from Tettenhall, as she recently played a student midwife in the BBC daytime soap Doctors.

Faye, who has also starred as Cinderella at the York Theatre Royal, said: "It was great fun and the children really enjoyed it. It's great to engage with them and see them smile."

Patient Lilly-Mae Whitney, aged 10 from Wheaton Aston, was one of those who saw the cast. Dad Tom Whitney said: "It was great to see them – they really cheered her up and it was wonderful to see her smile."

Safa Mudassir, 15 from Claregate, persuaded the cast to do a Tik Tok and appear on Facetime and said: "It's really nice of them to come and see us. I'm going to see the panto now!"

Caroline Moreton, from Bilston, was with her eight-year-old daughter Scarlett. "Their costumes are really bright. We're hoping to see the panto as a birthday treat," said Caroline.

The visit was organised by The RWT Charity and Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager said: "Thanks to the cast – we were delighted to see the actors and it was wonderful to see the impact, with wide smiles on the children's faces."

Liz Luton, Play Leader on Paediatrics, said: "The children loved it. It's great that the actors came in and to see the patients' faces made it all worthwhile."



The cast of Intro to Panto Primary Schools Tour with Lilly-Mae Whitney

Couple's £1,000 donation after cancer scare

A grateful couple donated £1,000 from their ruby wedding celebrations to RWT's breast care unit.

Karen and Barry Palmer, who both work for the Trust, decided to celebrate their ruby anniversary along with a surprise renewal of their wedding vows. Instead of presents, they asked for donations from the 95 guests attending the ceremony, at the Park Hall Hotel and Spa in Wolverhampton, to support care for breast cancer patients.



Karen and Barry Palmer renewing their vows

Diagnosed following a routine mammogram last August 2021, Karen had surgery to remove the cancerous tissue as a day case in October 2021 before undergoing five sessions of radiotherapy. She had another mammogram which thankfully came back all clear.

"My cancer showed up on a routine mammogram but I'd always checked myself and couldn't find anything, so it just shows how important it is to have your mammogram," said Karen.

Karen, a Biomedical Scientist in Cytology, had all her treatment at New Cross Hospital and was delighted with the care she received.

"From day one, the minute I was diagnosed, I was seen quickly and the care I received was fantastic," said Karen.

"A huge thank you too to the pathologists and laboratory staff for diagnosing me so promptly, and to the staff at Cannock Chase Hospital, where I had my mammogram and biopsies taken.

"The breast care service was brilliant too – there were a couple of times where I rang up and asked questions and they were really prompt in getting back to me."

Relieved at Karen's treatment and recovery, the couple arranged to renew their wedding vows, telling only their sons, with the rest of the invited guests thinking they had been invited to an anniversary party.

The date for the renewal was 12 August 2022 – almost exactly a year after Karen's diagnosis – and virtually 40 years since they tied the knot, on August 14, 1982 at St Thomas's Church Wednesfield, the day after Karen's 21st birthday.

For their vow renewal, the couple presented each other with new rings, Karen's naturally containing a ruby stone, before they departed on a second honeymoon – a cruise around the Mediterranean.

"We set up a post box at the party for people to make donations and we thought we might raise £200 to £300, so didn't expect anything like we received," said Barry, a Clinical Technologist in Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering at New Cross Hospital. Collections were also made in their respective workplaces, which went towards the total.

The ceremony also helped raise awareness. "Some relatives and friends of mine had been putting off going for their mammograms, but they've now decided to get screened," said Karen.



Karen and Barry Palmer pictured now and on their wedding day in 1982

Sadly, breast cancer runs in Karen's family. Her mum Ida Jones underwent a lumpectomy (removal of cancerous breast tissue) at New Cross 27 years ago and had a mastectomy following a second bout of breast cancer. Two of Ida's sisters also had the disease and although Doris survived, sadly, the eldest, Jane died.

"When I was first diagnosed, I was in floods of tears and thought it was the end of the world," added Karen. "Our eldest son Jonathan was due to get married in August 2022 and I didn't think I'd be here for that or perhaps not have my hair, so I had a lot of negative thoughts.

"Then I looked at my mum who overcame breast cancer and I realised there is hope. But I couldn't have got through it without Barry. Since this has happened, I'm a lot more chilled about things. You just have to cherish every day and every moment of your life."

Caroline Jones, Consultant Nurse in Breast Cancer, said: "We are delighted to receive such a generous donation. Hopefully this story will encourage everyone to be breast and chest aware and always report anything new or usual to their GP."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "It's wonderful Karen has recovered and we're thrilled at the lovely gesture Karen and Barry have made to breast cancer patients.

"It's important to highlight that both men and women should check their breasts and chests and report any changes."

Lady Tiffany is star of the show!



A donation to benefit youngsters on New Cross Hospital's Children's Ward was made in memory of a three-year-old patient whose family worked hard with staff to take her mind off her treatment.

A projector and a cinema screen were bought for the ward and donated to the RWT Charity thanks to a fundraising Disney walk led by Tiffany Benjamin-Mcfarlane's brother.

Tiffany, known affectionately as Lady Tiffany, died on 20 September 2020 due to complications from extensive bleeding to her brain and lungs when she was born.

Her mum Stacey, who also has son, Ricardo, created Lady Tiffany's Tributes which is a legacy set up in her honour.

Tiffany spent most of her life on the Children's Ward. During her time here, her family were fortunate enough to make many memories together which were supported by her medical team.

The Wolverhampton-based family decided to help other families in their position to make memories and offer distractions for other children in hospital.

Stacey said: "One of our fondest memories with Lady Tiffany was when Ricardo wanted to take her to the cinema.

"As she was too unstable to leave the ward, the medical team helped borrow a projector from another department so we could watch The Polar Express on Christmas Eve. We all wore matching pyjamas and it felt like we were able to escape from our current situation for a while.

"We wanted to purchase a projector to be kept on the ward so other families and children could have the same pleasure as us whenever they need it – from ward movie nights to intimate family moments.

"Ricardo asked his cousins and friends to dress up as Disney characters to do a sponsored three mile walk from the hospital to the cemetery where Tiffany is buried to raise the money. They had all been to parties of hers on the ward, so it was a way for them all to say thank you. Adults wore her favourite colour - pink.

She added: "We feel privileged to be able to make this donation. Lady Tiffany taught us to make the most of our time on the ward and we hope other families can make happy memories during their stay in her memory.

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were some delays installing the projector on the ward, but it was up in time for the Queen's funeral which meant all the children were able to come together and have the opportunity to watch it."

Liz Luton, Play Leader at the Trust, said: "We are so grateful to Stacey and her family for donating the projector and screen to the Children's Ward.

"This will enable us to have cinema nights for the patients and their families. It will also be lovely at Christmas time for us to show some movies to get everyone in the festive spirit. Previously we have loaned a projector from our IT department for this to happen; now that we have one of our own it gives us the flexibility to use it as often as we like. It will be well used in so many different ways."

Stacey and Ricardo also do craft donations to mark various occasions in Tiffany's memory from Halloween and Christmas to Valentine's Day and Easter. They also make up toiletry and activity packs for parents and teenagers.



Young fundraiser's £1,500 charity climb

Carl, 43, and Logan expect to spend eight hours walking up and down Snowdon. Taking the Llanberis Path – which is the longest but easiest of the six routes to the summit at 4.2 miles – they will ascend 3,166 feet, or 965 metres. But with the walk from the caravan site in Llanberis, they will end up trekking around 12 miles altogether.

The pair often go for walks with mum Jodie, 40, at weekends, and when Carl mentioned they were walking up Snowdon and a colleague offered to sponsor them, the fundraiser was hatched.

Carl asked Logan, who was born five weeks premature at New Cross Hospital and spent a few days on the Neonatal Unit, where he would like the money raised to go.

When told children have to spend Christmas in hospital after thinking they would be sent home, Logan decided to raise money to buy presents for those spending the festive period in hospital.

"Logan loves his karate, but he's a caring kid who's generous, good mannered and puts others before himself," said Carl.

"At school recently one of his friends didn't have any money to buy sweets from the tuck shop so Logan gave him his money and he had none – he just said he'd get his another day.

"He was really surprised that the children have to stay in hospital over Christmas so said he wants to buy things, so hopefully with the money raised, we will be able to buy X-boxes and tablets. It will put a few smiles on people's faces.

"Logan was very lucky as the care he had was amazing on all department wards, so Logan and us as a family will be forever grateful to the hospital, and we're delighted to be giving something back to the hospital."

As soon as they set up the Just Giving page, they were inundated with donations. Their initial £500 target set on Friday was smashed and by Wednesday, it had reached £1,500.

"We didn't expect the response we've had – it certainly puts pressure on us to get the job done!" admitted Carl. "Thanks so much to everyone who has donated."

As for the walk, Carl says they are prepared for challenging conditions and Logan is unfazed by the distance – even if he thought he get out of it!

"We often go away in our motorhome and go on long walks and Logan has walked 10 miles before," added Carl, who is a senior operations co-ordinator at logistics firm Pallet-Track.

"The weather doesn't look favourable – 50mph winds are forecast, and at the top, it could be three or four degrees C and driving rain.

"When I first told Logan what we were doing he said he'd wait at the bottom for me with a pint, but when he thought about who he as doing it for, he quickly agreed to do it. We've got kitted out at Go Outdoors, which gave us a discount, so we should be fine.

"We're going to start at first light so the plan is to climb 200 feet by sunrise, then hopefully we'll be at the summit by 11am and in the pub by 3pm!"

Logan's exploits are being featured in an assembly today by his headteacher Philip Salisbury at Woodfield Primary School in Penn, while Carl is compiling a blog on their adventure and has set up a WhatsApp group to keep people informed of their progress.





Logan and dad Carl, ready for their walk up Snowdon

Care for "miracle" baby prompts £1,000 donation

A loving family donated more than £1,000 to help Wolverhampton's vulnerable babies after their "miracle" daughter who weighed just half a bag of sugar at birth reached her 14th birthday.

Talitha Caris Sond weighed just 1lb 2oz when she was born at 23 weeks and six days at New Cross Hospital on 27 October, 2008. Fourteen years later, her parents were reunited with the consultant who helped save her life.

Talitha didn't have a heartbeat for four hours and was declared clinically dead before being revived by the care and skills of staff at RWT's Neonatal Unit (NNU).

Parents Teerth and Usha Sond were told to expect the worst and warned their daughter could be deaf, blind and with a brain injury. But after heart surgery and five months in the unit, she pulled through and is now a healthy teenager, loving life.

Her name is taken from the bible, in the gospel of Mark, chapter five, when Jesus said: "Talitha koum" which means 'little girl, arise'.

Tragically, Talitha's sister, Aniya Gabriella Sond, died just two weeks after being born at New Cross on 2 October, 2012, spending her short life on the same unit.

But the couple were so impressed by the care and treatment their daughters had at New Cross they set up a charity called Voices of the Voiceless (VOTV). Through that, they wanted to do something to support other families in a similar situation. They would like the money to go towards incubator care.

Teerth said: "This is a story of hope – Talitha is a miracle child. As soon as you go to the Neonatal Unit, you think 'is my child going to be OK?' But we saw the work of the staff there and we want to support their work.

"One day in the womb is like seven days in an incubator so the womb should be the most secure place for a baby, and we want to make a contribution towards incubator care for neonatal babies.

"We thought we were going through the same with Gabriella as we did four years previously with Talitha, but this time we saw the other side of the coin.



Dad Teerth Sond, Sarah Crowshaw, Neonatal Unit Ward Manager, Amy Addiss, Senior Sister, Lucy Ageoye, Neonatal Staff Nurse, Ann Hazel (behind, almost hidden), Personal Assistant to Senior Management Team, Sarah Downes-Baugh, Neonatal Staff Nurse, Babu Kumaratne (in navy), Consultant Neonatologist, SmartglazeUK co-director Gurpal Sehmi, Louise Forsyth (in lilac uniform), Neonatal Support Worker, and SmartglazeUK co-director Charles Deward, and front, Talitha Sond

"The Nurses and Doctors did their best to save her but she suffered internal bleeding and died at 5pm on 16 October 2012. A member of staff (Chew Grainger, Neonatal Junior Sister, now retired) was with us when Gabriella breathed her last breath and she cried – the compassion she showed was real.

"Even though she had tears, Gabriella never had a voice to speak out, but through her short life, VOTV was born. If I could carry a legacy that through my daughter's death others have survived, I have done my job."

Teerth, 49, and Usha, 46, were reunited with Babu Kumararatne, Consultant Neonatologist, who helped saved Talitha's life, along with other NNU staff to present a cheque for £700 to the RWT Charity, with the extra money coming in cash donations.

Teerth is co-owner of home improvement firm SmartglazeUK and a registered pastor and minister at the Fellowship of Servants in All Saints, Wolverhampton.

A total of £300 was raised by the Fellowship of Servants' congregation, with VOTV contributing £400. A further £200 came from Smartglaze customer Harry Semhon, and £100 from Teerth's parents Hari Ram and Gurimoto Kaur. An additional £50 came from Jass Singh, another SmartglazeUK customer, took the total to £1,050.

In remembering Aniya Gabriella's life, Teerth takes a quote from Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch lady and Christian writer who survived the Nazi concentration camp after trying to protect Jews in her home and said: "The measure of a life, after all, is not its duration, but its donation."

Teerth added: "This is Aniya Gabriella's story through VOTV. Through VOTV many babies lives have been saved." If anyone else would like to make a donation, they should email VOTV at info@votv.org.uk

The couple, who have three other children, were joined at the presentation by fellow SmartglazeUK co-directors Gurpal Sehmi and Charles Deward.

Alfie's Smile raises nearly £1,200 for Children's Ward

A schoolboy brain cancer survivor raised almost £1,200 for the Children's Ward where he was treated at New Cross Hospital.

Alfie Hinks, aged 13 from Bentley Bridge, has now been cancer free for nearly two years, after being diagnosed on September 16, 2019 with a medulloblastoma, or brain tumour. He had been suffering headaches, vomiting, losing weight and losing his balance.



Alfie Hinks with the cheque

Three days later, he underwent a 12-hour operation at Birmingham Children's Hospital (BCH) to remove most of the tumour and was in hospital for three months.

Chemotherapy at BCH and radiotherapy at Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital followed while Alfie had to learn to walk and talk again, because the tumour had affected his cognitive ability, mobility and eyesight.

Throughout this time, Alfie was a patient at RWT, having his transfusions, scans and check-ups at New Cross Hospital.

He was able to 'ring the bell' to signal his recovery after his final chemotherapy session on 3 November 2020. As he recovered, Alfie decided he wanted to raise money for the hospitals that saved his life and he set up Alfie's Smile, which is in the process of becoming a registered charity.

A total of 280 family and friends of Alfie's raised £2,372 from a black tie ball held at Jacks Café and Bar in St John's Retail Park in Wolverhampton city centre. The funds raised are being split equally between the Children's Ward at New Cross and BCH.

Top prize was a champagne party for 70 people including a DJ and canapes which was won by Tru Hair of Shipley who made Alfie's hairpiece, their first for a child.

Items such as framed presentations of boxer Tyson Fury and footballers Fabio Silva and Rayan Ait-Nouri from Wolves and Liverpool's Fabio Carvalho were auctioned off.

The winner of Ait-Nouri's generously handed it back and it now sits proudly on Wolves fan Alfie's bedroom wall. The youngster was even mascot for Wolves' final home game of last season, against Norwich City.

Alfie and his family have now chosen items from a wishlist to benefit young patients, and he returned to the ward with mum Kerry Hinks, 38, brother Louie, aged three and sister Darcie, one to deliver the good news to staff.

"I want the money to go to oncology patients with cancer and I'd like to buy children games to play and video games," said Alfie.

Alfie is now on a phased return back at Coppice Performing Arts School in Wednesfield, with one-to-one tuition to help him.

"We're so grateful and thankful for the treatment Alfie has had and to the Children's Ward," said Kerry, a children's services senior family support worker at City of Wolverhampton Council who has been married for 10 years to John, a project manager for water treatment firm H20 in Cheslyn Hay.

"I think I had Steph (Friedl, Paediatric and Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist) on speed dial! Alfie initially saw Dr Marita Macken and Dr Julie Brent at New Cross and Dr Martin English at BCH and his care was amazing throughout his treatment."

Mum of two Steph Friedl looked after Alfie when he was at New Cross. She said: "Alfie was so poorly when he was diagnosed, but throughout his intensive treatment, he showed such courage and determination to get through it, even though he has faced – and continues to face – many challenges.

"He definitely kept us on our toes and at times showed us who was the boss and in control, which was great to see!

"It is so nice for the team here at New Cross to continue to review Alfie to see how confident he has become. It's also lovely that he continues to have that 'Alfie Smile' which we all love."

Kirsty Lewis, Senior Matron, Children's Acute Services, said: "We are so grateful to Alfie's smile for choosing to support children's services here at RWT.

"Alfie has first-hand experience of being a patient with us and so he has brilliant insight into what we need to make things better and more comfortable for our oncology patients.

"His suggestion of more video gaming facilities and equipment will be top of our list and I have no doubt our future children and young people will be just as grateful to Alfie as we are."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "It was lovely to see Alfie looking so well – and cheeky – he certainly kept us all entertained!

"We're delighted he and his family and friends have raised so much money and are so thankful he has chosen to donate it to the Children's Ward."



Mum Kerry Hinks, Alfie's sister Darcie Hinks, patient Alfie Hinks, Steph Friedl, Paediatric Oncology Clinical Nurse Specialist, Kirsty Lewis, Senior Matron, Children's Acute Services, and Nicola Bradshaw, Senior Sister on Ward A2

Three Peaks leads to £2,000 for charity

"Sore thighs and toes – but definitely worth the pain" – so says a Nurse who raised £2,000 by scaling the Three Peaks for charity.

Nicki Teruel, Urology Clinical Nurse Specialist at RWT, climbed 11,180 feet (3,408 metres, over two miles) scaling Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon to raise money for the British Association of Urology Nurses (BAUN).

The hike up and down the highest mountains of Scotland, England and Wales was organised by line manager Clare



Nicki Turuel on the top of Scafell Pike

Waymont, Urology Consultant Nurse and President of BAUN, who joined Nicki climbing Ben Nevis.

BAUN is a charity which allows urology Nurses to expand their knowledge and further their education to the benefit of their patients.

"I'm more of a runner than a mountaineer," said mum of two Nicki, who took around 30 hours to climb the three mountains, including driving between them.

Setting out for Ben Nevis, Nicki, who has worked at New Cross Hospital since she started her nurse training in 2000, and Clare started the climb with the weather in their favour, taking eight and a half hours, two hours longer than planned. A friend, Abbie Matthews, joined them on the walk.

One of the group struggled which meant they took four and a half hours to reach the top and most of the descent was in darkness. Two of the party went on ahead but Nicki stayed with her companion.

Some unexpected drama followed, however. "We lost the path – it was so scary. There was a waterfall and my logic was to follow the side of it, as it was going downhill," said Nicki, who lives in Sedgley.

"But I didn't realise there was a ravine and quite a drop – which I was heading for. The other two girls screamed I needed to go up.

"I scrambled to the top of a steep bank on my hands and knees and eventually found some rocks which led to the path. I was so relieved."

At Scafell Pike, the group set off at 6am, taking around five hours to get up and down the mountain.

"There was only two of us climbing Scafell and I'm so glad we didn't do that one in the dark," said Nicki.

"But we had to traverse a waterfall and the terrain is very rocky. You think you're almost at the top but there are about four or five false summits before you get there."

Finally, it was on to Snowdon, and, fortified by a McDonald's meal, Nicki made it to the top and back down in four and a half hours.

"By this time, my thighs and toes were very sore," admitted Nicki. "We took the Miners' Track, which is the shortest route, yet probably involves the most rock climbing.

"The views there were absolutely spectacular – definitely worth all the pain. But the descent was really steep, which put extra pressure on the legs.

"We did laugh though as the sheep were bleating what sounded like "Claaaarrre"! I think we were a bit delirious by this point!

"We may not have managed to do it in 24 hours, however we completed it, which is a major achievement for us."

Nicki, who prepared for the trek by running the Great North Run, clocking two hours, 16 minutes, and raised £670 for Macmillan, was indebted to colleague Helen Heap, who chauffeured her for the whole 1,000 mile trip.

"I had no prior mountaineering experience, apart from climbing Snowdon as a training hike beforehand," she added.





Nicki Turuel on the top of Ben Nevis (left) and Snowdon

Sunny's walk raises more than £3,400

A grateful breast cancer patient raised more than £3,400 for two wards at New Cross Hospital – with a little help from her friends.

Despite being unable to walk just two weeks beforehand, Sunny Mohindra-Payne, 48, climbed The Wrekin – Shropshire's third highest peak at 1,335 feet (407 metres).



In front of Snowdrop Millennium Chemotherapy Suite in Deanesly Centre, from left, Sunny Mohindra-Payne, husband Trevor Payne, Nicola Barding, Next store manager, Telford Forge branch, daughter Yasmine Payne and Louise Tongue, Staff Nurse on Snowdrop Millennium Chemotherapy Suite

And she raised £3,455.11 for The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity to thank staff who looked after her on Snowdrop Millennium Chemotherapy Suite in Deanesly Centre, and Durnall Unit.

It was a real family affair too, as Sunny was joined by 35 of her family, friends and work colleagues, including husband Trevor, 52, daughters Yasmine, 27, and Anisa, 26 and son Kyan, 14 on the two-mile walk, which took around an hour and 20 minutes to complete.

Sunny, who manages the Next clothing store in Bentley Bridge, Wednesfield and lives in Wolverhampton, was joined by her counterpart at the Telford Forge branch Nicola Barding, who helped organise the event and made it a real 'work social'.

Along with the tough gradient of the walk, another challenge was the dark, as the trek was done in the evening to allow as many store managers and assistant store managers as possible to take part after the stores had shut for the day. As a reward, they celebrated at the summit, raising a glass and lighting sparklers to celebrate Sunny's achievement and to toast her recovery.

"I didn't think I'd be able to do it because two weeks before it, I couldn't walk, but with the aid of sticks and with Trevor's arm around me, I managed it," said a relieved Sunny.

"The Doctors and Nurses deserve this donation because they have been amazing to me and that's what has got me through this. It's quite daunting when you come into hospital for cancer treatment, but they make you feel so comfortable and confident.

"The store managers wanted to do something for me and then they asked me to choose a charity, so I asked for it to be for the people who had looked after me because they do such a great job."

Nicola, 39, from Codsall, said: "Sunny is a really loved colleague and friend at Next and when we found out she was poorly we wanted to do something to show how much we care for her and support her.

"We came up with the idea of a walk up The Wrekin because we thought it would be a fun thing to do as a group of store managers and it quickly escalated to include Sunny's family and friends.

"It's fantastic that we were able to raise this sum of money for such a worthy cause."

After being diagnosed on Valentine's Day 2022 when she was referred following the discovery of a lump, Sunny had the tissue removed, then underwent chemotherapy.

"Since I've been diagnosed, some of the ladies at work are being more vigilant in checking themselves, and if what has happened to me helps one person, then it's a good thing," she added. "You never think it can happen to you, but this proves it can.

"I just ignored it for a bit but I showed it my daughter and she said 'let's get you to the doctor's today' so we did. I would urge everyone to check themselves regularly and if they spot anything, see a doctor."



In front of the bell rung by patients when they have completed their cancer journey, from left, Louise Tongue, Staff Nurse on Snowdrop Millennium Chemotherapy Suite, Sunny, Trevor, Yasmine and Nicola

Along with her donation, Sunny also treated staff to samosas on her visits for chemotherapy. The money will be split 70-30 in favour of Snowdrop.

Gill Williams, Sister on Snowdrop Millennium Chemotherapy Suite, said: "We're very grateful for this donation. We'll make sure this money isn't just to the benefit of staff but for the patients as well.

"We recognise that no one wants to come to hospital, so when they come here, they realise it's not all doom and gloom and we try to give them the best patient experience possible. The patients make it easier for us as well because they're so lovely."

Amanda Winwood, The RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "We're delighted to see Sunny is recovering from cancer and are full of praise for her efforts in doing the walk so soon after her treatment. We're also really grateful for her generous donation."

Gaming gift will bring joy to children



Gaming cart, with Jess Miree from RockinR, Kirsty Lewis, Senior Matron, Children's Acute Services, Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, and front, Alfie Hinks

Children with cancer can now play FIFA from hospital after a £2,600 medical gaming cart was donated from young fundraisers – provided by an organisation hit by a double tragedy.

Patient Alfie Hinks, 13, raised almost £1,200 for the Children's Ward where he was treated at New Cross Hospital. Alfie, from Bentley Bridge, was diagnosed with a medulloblastoma, or brain tumour, in September 2019.

Although he has now made a full recovery, Alfie spent a lot of time on the Children's Ward over a two-year period before being given the all clear and said he wished he could have been able to do gaming when he was having his treatment.

Logan Munday, aged six, from Goldthorn Park, raised £1,800 by climbing Snowdon and wanted the money to go to children spending Christmas in hospital.

A total of £1,400 has come from Logan towards the gaming cart, and £1,200 from Alfie, whose money was half the total he raised from a black-tie ball and auction through his own charity Alfie's Smile. Logan's remaining money bought toys for the Children's Ward.

Their wishes turned into reality with The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity's purchase of a medical gaming cart from TheRockinR.

Situated in the playroom on Ward A21 at New Cross, the cart, which is height adjustable and lockable, comes complete with 21 of the newest games – all restricted to age 12 – access to Netflix, Disney+, the internet and streaming services.

TheRockinR was the gaming name of Reece Miree, who tragically died of a brain tumour at the age of 11 in March 2018.

Unable to cope with Reece's death, his mum Carol took her own life in 2021 at the age of 47, devastating husband and Reece's dad Jonny Miree.

Despite losing two close family members, former Marine Jonny, 51, and daughter Jess Miree, 24, who are based in Wakefield, near Leeds, have continued to dedicate their lives to TheRockinR, which is now a national charity that has distributed more than 350 medical gaming carts to UK hospitals.

Jonny said: "Reece continued to do gaming until the very end of his life. It gave him satisfaction and belonging, knowing he was part of an online community he could take part in 24 hours a day. Without this, I'm certain that Reece's battle with cancer would have been far worse."

Jess said: "We do this in Reece's name and to make people's lives easier is great for us because we can see the difference it makes first-hand.

"The Xbox is much better than the PlayStation because the games are more age appropriate."

Kirsty Lewis, Senior Matron, Children's Acute Services, said: "We're really grateful to Alfie, Logan and TheRockinR for this gaming cart because we wouldn't be able to provide this without the donations.

"Video games are a really good distraction from the worries and anxieties of being in hospital. We find the children really respond well and it takes their mind off their treatment."

Alfie, who tried out the gaming cart, said: "This is great – it takes your mind off things when you're having your treatment."

His mum Kerry, 38, said: "This is wonderful – Alfie could have done with something like this when he was in hospital, but it will benefit children who have to spend time on the ward."

Amanda Winwood, RWT Charity Development Manager said: "We're delighted to be able to present this to the Children's Ward. It will make a real difference to our younger patients when they come in for their treatment, making their lives – and those of their families and staff – a little easier and less stressful."

Foodbanks opened for staff

Foodbanks have opened at two Black Country hospitals as part of a package to support healthcare staff coping with the cost of living crisis.

Free hot drinks and free bread for toast or a cereal bar are also being offered to all 16,000 staff across both RWT and partners Walsall Healthcare, as well as a subsidised hot meal for £1.50 each.



Jo Flavell, Health & Wellbeing Specialist, Prof. David Loughton CBE, Group Chief Executive, Amanda Winwood, RWT Charity Development Manager, and Julie Smith, who is part of the Domestics team assisting in the Staff Wellbeing Hub, pictured outside the new Hub at New Cross Hospital



Amanda Winwood, Joanne Flavell, Julie Smith, Mark Ondrak, Zoe Marsh, David Loughton

The Staff Wellbeing Hub at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital and the Manor Lounge at Walsall Manor Hospital include a small food and essential items shop, while a temporary foodbank at the Manor Hospital has opened. The respective Trust charities are supporting the foodbanks.

The Trusts were alerted to the need to support colleagues from July and August onwards after being told some were struggling to afford to come to work because of the cost of living crisis.

At New Cross, there is already a stream of regular customers at the hub for breakfast and the foodbank, while the same is expected at the Manor.

Professor David Loughton CBE, Group Chief Executive of both Trusts, introduced subsidised hot meals for staff at £1.50 each, available from outlets at each main hospital site.

"We have a duty of care to support our staff and their wellbeing is our focus, so this gesture has been made to support them at a challenging time for so many people in our society," said Professor Loughton. "Sadly, there is a real need for this service, and, we're keen to do everything we can to help our colleagues.

"By doing this we know our staff are there for our patients, and they will not be going without a small meal or access to essentials.

"We are pleased to be able to offer this but extremely concerned too; our organisations are at risk of increased staff absence due to stress and the potential of increased vacancies if colleagues cannot afford to work due to the cost of living crisis."

The foodbanks are open to all staff, including those working in the community and Cannock Chase Hospital and West Park Hospital.

Donations of goods to both foodbanks are gratefully accepted. Anyone interested in donating should contact Amanda Winwood at Wolverhampton via email at: amanda.winwood@nhs.net

Children bring Christmas cheer to patients



Children from St Terera's Primary School with left, Amie Rogers, Charity Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, and, far right, Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager

Children from a Wolverhampton school brought some festive cheer to patients who will be spending Christmas in hospital.

Pupils from St Teresa's Catholic Primary School in Parkfields made Christmas cards and sang carols at New Cross Hospital, with the cards being distributed to patients and staff.

Headteacher Stacey McHale said: "Part of our Christian values is that we encourage the children to think of those in most need at Christmas.

"So, by making handmade cards and singing carols we aim to spread some of that love and peace at Christmas time."

Children also raised more than £100 from their Christmas jumper day which they donated to Save The Children.

Mercy, aged seven, made a card with pop-up Christmas trees. The Year 3 pupil said: "We celebrate Advent when Jesus was born and we give thanks to God. We're going to give the cards to people in hospital to cheer them up and give them a smile at Christmas time."

Pastoral teacher Emma Price said: "The children made cards for patients who won't be home for Christmas and to thank staff and sang at New Cross Hospital. We thought it would be a really nice way for the school to give back and show community spirit."

Amanda Winwood, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust's Charity Development Manager said: "It was lovely to see the colourful designs the children had produced with their cards and we're very grateful for what they have done.

"Their efforts will help bring some cheer to patients as well as boost staff who are working at Christmas.

"It was also lovely having the children visit to spread some cheer with Christmas carols and songs – they all did an amazing job and sounded wonderful."



Children from St Terera's Primary School

Alex's Everest Base Camp walk raises over £4,000

An intrepid accountant had a 50th birthday with a difference – trekking to Mount Everest Base Camp to raise over £4,000 in honour of his late brother.

Alex Howes, who works for the Clinical Research Network West Midlands (CRN WM), hosted by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, walked 130 kilometres (miles) to South Base Camp in Nepal and back. In doing so, he reached a height of 5,364 metres – nearly three and a half miles.

He was raising money after his eldest brother Stuart died suddenly of a heart attack at the age of 53 on 6 September 2021.

Having previously scaled 5,800 metres to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest peak, last August when he raised £4,200, Alex is used to challenging walks, but admitted this 11-day trek topped them.

"The summit at Kilimanjaro was the hardest physical thing in my life – however, Everest Base Camp was harder," said Alex.

"It wasn't as wintry or as snowy as I expected, although there was thick ice at the camp. It was eight days uphill but coming down was worse because it was really steep, and because I'd been walking for so long."

Most mornings he would start walking at 8am but on two days he began at 6am and he would walk anything from eight to 14 hours a day.

Days three and six were 'rest' days when he acclimatised, which still involved walking for four hours. Other challenges included avoiding eating meat, due to health and safety concerns, while it was so cold at night



Alex Howe celebrating his achievement

that a glass of water next to Alex's bed froze!

"My birthday fell on one of the rest days and the 'tea house' (hotel) where we stayed the night provided me with a cake," he added.

"At night the weather was so cold. The altitude of the highest hotel was 5,200 metres and that was when my water froze. The air was so thin that I'd wake up gasping for breath and you'd be tired even bending down to tie your shoelaces!"

As if those challenges weren't enough, Alex also had to watch out for the resident yaks (ox-like mammal), which have been known to literally boot walkers off the path!

Alex's achievements are even more remarkable after he was partly paralysed at the age of 19, following a road accident.

A fall saw Alex land on the left hand side of his head, resulting in him being totally paralysed down the right hand side of his body, spending nearly 12 months in hospital, also receiving speech therapy and occupational health.

Half of the money – £1,852.50 – went to the RWT Charity to be spent at the Heart and Lung Centre at New Cross Hospital, while the other half went to the British Heart Foundation.

Amanda Winwood, RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "Alex chose an unusual way to celebrate his 50th birthday but his walk showed how dedicated he is to raise money in honour of his late brother Stuart.

"This outstanding contribution will provide much-needed funds to support patients at our Heart and Lung Centre and we're very grateful for his efforts."



Corrie star helps fund donation



From left: Mckala Harrold, Sue Huddart, Senior Podiatrist, Dr Rajeev Raghavan, Consultant, Jean Shears, Senior Matron for Renal and Diabetes, and Kirsty Hadlington, Mckala's friend

A Coronation Street star pulled in the punters to help a serial fundraiser donate £2,520 to Wolverhampton's Diabetes Centre.

Andrew Whyment, who plays Kirk Sutherland in the long-running ITV soap, was the star guest for Mckala Harrold's latest annual fundraiser for the RWT Charity.

Actor Andrew, 41, appeared at Gilbert's Bar in Willenhall with locals paying £10 a ticket to see him. Other proceeds from Mckala's Facebook page Celebrity Random Raffle also enabled the fundraiser, from Bilston, to donate the same £2,500 sum to the Air Ambulance.

Celebrity Random Raffle hosts a twice-weekly raffle with people paying 20p or a £1 a go. Membership of the page stands at 3,000.

Over the last four years Mckala has persuaded Danny Miller, who was formerly Aaron Dingle in Emmerdale, Jamie Lomas – Hollyoaks' Warren Fox – Coronation Street's Maria Connor, played by Samia Longchambon, and Eastenders' Jack Branning, played by Scott Maslen, to make celebrity appearances.

Every year Mckala's appeals raise money for causes close to her heart, and this time it was the turn of the Diabetes Centre at New Cross Hospital and the Air Ambulance.

Mckala's father Keith Harrold, 71, has Type 2 diabetes, while friends, Marley Dodd aged eight, and Janine Oakley, who helps her fundraise, have Type 1 diabetes.

"My dad has been receiving treatment at the Diabetes Centre and they have done wonders for him," said Mckala, 47, from Bilston. "So this donation is a small thank you for the care they provide to him and hundreds of patients across the city. The NHS does a fantastic job.

"We were thrilled to see 'Kirk' and he loved it – he was singing karaoke and dancing with everyone. It was a great night."

Jean Shears, Senior Matron for Renal and Diabetes, said: "This money will make a massive difference and we are really grateful for it. We will make sure it's put to good use."

Mckala's fundraisers have previously seen £6,000 handed over to the Trust's Neonatal Unit (NNU) a year ago, £4,000 to the RWT's Integrated Critical Care Unit in 2021 and £3,000 to Animal Shelters in Willenhall in 2020.

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "Mckala never fails to amaze us with her fundraising. We're delighted she has decided to donate this sum to the Diabetes Centre and I'm sure patients will feel the benefit."

Mckala says has the Trust to thank for her life. Her and twin sister Sally-Ann Whitehouse were born prematurely to mum Angela Harrold, also from Bilston, at New Cross weighing just three pounds and two pounds 10 ounces respectively.

They spent eight months on the NNU before they were finally allowed home.





Andrew Whyment, aka Kirk Sutherland, singing karaoke, and with Mckala Harrold and her friend Janice Oakley

Just the tonic for young patients



A sing song to help the medicine go down could be just what the doctor ordered for young patients at New Cross Hospital if a charity appeal hits the right note with supporters.

The RWT Charity has been working with the Ex-Cathedra Singing Medicine Team which brings its songs and games to poorly youngsters in hospital to improve their health and wellbeing.

And in February, the Charity launched an appeal to prescribe Singing Medicine to Wolverhampton patients for a whole year after seeing how delighted they, their parents and Trust staff have been by recent visits.

Little Euriel, aged two, pictured, is just one of many patients who has enjoyed this very special treatment while in hospital.

His mum, Marthr Makah, said: "His face just lit up with the singing games and he was waving, dancing and playing. It has really made me smile when I'm tired and worried too so thank you!"

Marianne Ayling who started the Singing Medicine project back in 2004 at Birmingham Children's Hospital, said: "We have so many stories of seeing children benefit from singing play such as this.

"One little boy we entertained was crying and coughing so badly that he was struggling to breathe. But sitting up with us, listening, then joining in meant his breathing calmed down and his coughing stopped. This helps worried parents too, of course because we all know how distressing it is to see young children in hospital."

Clare Acton, Acute Paediatrics Matron at the Trust said having Singing Medicine on the ward had boosted staff morale too.

"We can have difficult days and are supporting parents and carers in some challenging circumstances when their children are poorly. To walk around the corner and hear such lovely singing boosts our mood too," she said.

"It is really good for our patients' wellbeing and their cognitive development and it's lovely to see their smiles and hear their laughter."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said she hoped supporters would get behind such a worthwhile charity appeal.

"We want to raise £30,000 to be able to fund Singing Medicine for a year at New Cross Hospital which we know will make a real difference to our young patients, their parents and carers," she said.

"Watching the joy on children's faces when Singing Medicine has visited has been priceless. The effect this has on patients can't be underestimated and we are determined to reach our fundraising goal."

To support please contact the charity team on rwh-tr.fundraisingteam@nhs.net or donate at Just Giving - Singing Medicine at RWT.



Memorial wall mural created for much-loved Pete



Pete Moxon's former colleagues Rosemary Steel (left) and Andy Pritchard in front of the mural.

A memorial wall mural has been created as a touching tribute to an "outstanding" Wolverhampton clinician who died unexpectedly.

Pete Moxon, who was the Clinical Service Lead for Respiratory and Sleep Physiology at RWT, passed away on 17 October 2022 at the age of 51.

Most recently Chair of the Association for Respiratory Technology and Physiology (ARTP) standards committee, Pete was hugely respected both regionally and nationally in his field and served RWT for more than 21 years. In 32 years with the NHS, he also spent six years at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust prior to joining RWT.

Among Pete's many achievements during his distinguished career was his introduction of a drive-through spirometry service at New Cross Hospital during COVID-19, which had such a significant impact in reducing spirometry waiting lists.

As a tribute to him and his work, colleagues, friends, family and the ARTP clubbed together to raise £2,350 via a JustGiving page to create a piece of vinyl wall art.

Measuring some 12 feet long, the stunning full colour vinyl now takes pride of place in the patient waiting area in the Respiratory Centre, Ward B1 at New Cross Hospital, where Pete worked. The remaining shortfall was met by The RWT Charity.

The mural depicts Fair Oak Pools on Cannock Chase, where Pete, who lived with his family near Chasewater, used to walk Peny, his nine-year-old Welsh black Labrador-cross-Collie.

Andy Pritchard, Acting Chief Respiratory Physiologist and Acting Clinical Service Manager at RWT, said: "Pete was a fantastic friend, colleague and role model. He always strived to ensure the Respiratory Physiology team was such a positive place to work.

"Pete cared so much about our profession and worked tirelessly to improve standards and promote excellence, his contribution to Respiratory Physiology and the wider NHS was enormous.

"For the mural, we wanted to include a picture of Pete, the text, departmental logo etc., and the design team did a great job of putting it all together in a fabulous contemporary design.

"The whole team thinks it's brilliant. It looks even better in reality than on the screen and we're very happy with it. In the short time it's been up, it's received many positive comments from patients."

An inscription on the mural reads: "This mural commemorates the outstanding contribution made by Pete Moxon to the development and delivery of respiratory physiological services across Wolverhampton and Cannock.

"Pete dedicated his 32-year NHS career to improving professional standards, enhancing patient experience, promoting excellence in respiratory measurement and representing healthcare scientists at the highest level."

Pete's family was invited to the official unveiling and love the mural. Together with wife Jane for 24 years and married for 15 years, he left daughter Olivia, 18 and son Finley, 12.

His widow Jane said: "This mural is such a fantastic tribute to Pete and the contribution he made to the NHS. He put his heart and soul into everything he did, he believed in his team and cared very deeply for every one of them.

"We are all truly devastated by his passing away so suddenly. We all continue to be so very proud of him and his achievements, he will be forever missed."

Dr Helen Ward, Respiratory Consultant at RWT, said: "Pete was a wonderful and dedicated colleague to work with and this is a wonderfully fitting tribute to him and his work."

Pete's uniform still keeps a watchful eye over the Respiratory Centre as a teddy bear sits proudly wearing part it next to his framed photo.



Pete's family in front of the mural erected in his honour.

Golfers raise £4,500



Dean Gritton, Group Manager, Renal and Diabetes at RWT, Brett Healey, Senior Diabetes Specialist Nurse, Dr Rajeev Ragavan, Consultant and Clinical Director at RWT, Tracey Gamston, Ladies Captain at South Staffordshire Golf Club, and Wendy Cotterill, former Ladies Captain at South Staffordshire Golf Club.

Generous golfers clubbed together to raise £4,500 to support the treatment of diabetes patients in Wolverhampton.

Members of South Staffordshire Golf Club nominated The RWT Charity as their chosen cause for the year in recognition of diabetic colleague Wendy Cotterill.

Mum of three Wendy, 64, has been a patient at the Wolverhampton Diabetes Centre at New Cross Hospital for more than 20 years after being diagnosed with type 1 diabetes at the age of 27.

The retired restaurant owner from Tettenhall was ladies' captain of the club but was unable to raise funds during her year as skipper due to the COVID-19 lockdown, so Tracey Gamston, who succeeded her, decided to raise money for the same charity.

A series of events including a black-tie summer ball, a raffle, a disco with a live band, a festive afternoon tea and donations in lieu of sending Christmas cards – which alone raised £200 – pushed the total to £4,500.18.

Caring and compassionate people from all over the community joined together – 120 packed out the ball, the tea was serenaded by the Brewood Singers choir singing carols and many businesses in Tettenhall donated prizes for the raffle.

"It's a fantastic amount of money to raise in the current climate," said Tracey, who also thanked all the members for their support during her year. "Everyone has done something to help. The male members came to the summer ball and we had some lovely prizes for the raffle.

"I chose the charity because Wendy has been a great support to me so I wanted to support her. The summer ball was such a success that it will become an annual event."

Dr Rajeev Ragavan, Consultant and Clinical Director at RWT, Brett Healey, Diabetes Specialist Nurse at RWT and Dean Gritton, Group Manager, Renal and Diabetes at RWT, attended the presentation and the group received a complimentary four-ball to play at South Staffs.

Dr Ragavan said: "What they've done for us is wonderful – I'm thunderstruck by the amount raised and it's been very gratefully received.

"Diabetes is an increasingly very common condition and it affects some people's life and health a lot with its complications, so the contribution is very welcome as it will go towards helping patients with this condition.

"This is only possible because of patients like Wendy who aren't shy of raising the profile of diabetes or saying they're living with it. I said to Wendy, 'one can carry a small burden for an hour or a day, but living with a chronic disease like diabetes is a big burden for life'."

Dr Ragavan said the money will be used to buy communication devices and educational material to aid better care in outpatients for diabetes.

Grandmother of one Wendy, a former buyer for the NHS and a South Staffs member for nine years, said: "We're so pleased with the amount raised and Tracey has been fabulous."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "We're delighted at the fantastic response South Staffs have had to their fundraising and thank them very much. Their generosity will help diabetes patients like Wendy."

Arts and Heritage

RWT Arts and Heritage Group

Purpose

Established in 2020, the purpose of the Arts and Heritage Group (AHG) is to produce projects which use the arts to enhance the experience of patients, staff, visitors, and the wider community, and to increase historical awareness in relation to Wolverhampton's hospital heritage. We were fortunate enough to appoint an Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator into post and she started in November 2022.

Membership

The AHG is made up of representatives from across RWT, as well as nominated lay members and representatives from external partnered organisations. Additionally, the role of Arts and Heritage Project Co-ordinator was created to identify, develop, and deliver projects which work towards the group's aims.

The AHG is responsible for the implementation of the Arts and Heritage Strategy, supporting and guiding the work of the Project Co-ordinator, and advising on fundraising to deliver planned projects and activities.

Further details on the membership of the AHG can be found in the group's Terms of Reference.

Audience

The projects and activities delivered by the AHG will seek to benefit patients and their families, visitors, and the wider community in Wolverhampton. AHG activity will offer this audience with opportunities for creative freedom, self-expression, and the improvement of wellbeing. This contributes towards RWT and Walsall Healthcare's joint strategic aims to excel in the delivery of care and improve the health and wellbeing of our communities.

Projects will also be delivered that benefit staff at RWT. In some cases, these projects will respond to the input and ideas from RWT's several Employee Voice Groups (EVGs). This works towards RWT and Walsall Healthcare's joint strategic aim of supporting our colleagues, by elevating and celebrating the diverse voices across the workforce.

Locations

Arts and heritage projects will take place across Wolverhampton. Some activity will take place at RWT's sites; where a project generates a creative output for display, these will likely be installed at New Cross Hospital. Other projects, particularly those with a community focus, will take place in city centre locations to make them as accessible and inclusive as possible. Activity delivered in partnership with local arts and heritage organisations may utilise the venues or spaces these organisations can offer. Furthermore, projects which have a digital output will be shared online, through RWT's website and social media.

Art & Heritage Group Aims

The aims of the AHG are informed by RWT's values and strategic aims outlined below. The following three areas of focus provide a framework for the projects and activities carried out by the AHG.

To contribute to and enhance the healing environment for patients, visitors, and our wider community (Care)

To develop community connections between RWT and local arts and heritage individuals and organisations (Community)

To explore and exhibit the history of healthcare in relation to RWT, its workforce, and the wider city (Colleagues)

To contribute to and enhance the healing environment for patients, visitors, and our wider community (Care)

To develop community connections between RWT and local arts and heritage individuals and organisations (Community)

To explore and exhibit the history of healthcare in relation to RWT, its workforce, and the wider city (Colleagues)

Healing Environment

RWT is proud to provide high-quality care across its sites. The AHG will contribute to and enhance the healing environment at RWT by pursuing the following objectives:

- To deliver a programme of participatory art activities for patients, their families, staff, and the wider community, that offer opportunities for creativity, expression, and the improvement of wellbeing
- To commission local artists and art facilitators to deliver workshops, drop-in sessions, and take-away art packs
- To generate creative outputs which can be displayed and exhibited, brightening the built environment and fostering a more therapeutic and welcoming atmosphere at RWT sites

Community Connections

- RWT strives to be a collaborative and community-focused organisation. The AHG will develop community connections by pursuing the following objectives:
- To forge stronger ties between RWT and the wider community of Wolverhampton, through collaborations and partnerships with local artists, facilitators, community groups, and arts and heritage organisations
- To engage with and contribute towards arts and heritage activities happening within the community and across the city
- To facilitate community co-creation projects which elevate the voices of Wolverhampton and celebrate the city's diverse heritage

History of Healthcare

RWT has a rich history of healthcare provision. The AHG will explore and exhibit the history of healthcare and its advancements in Wolverhampton by pursuing the following objectives:

- To exhibit and interpret items from the Royal Hospital Heritage Collection, which includes medical artefacts, records, and artworks, and make this accessible to the public through the development of a central resource
- To deliver supporting projects and activities which engage the wider community, including staff, with the heritage of where they live and work
- To provide opportunities which enable the wider community to contribute to the telling of this history, and find ways to increase its relevance for the people of Wolverhampton today

Workshop launched by Charity

Budding artists were invited to try new skills at a series of workshops offering people the chance to produce a mini magazine for patients and visitors to New Cross Hospital.

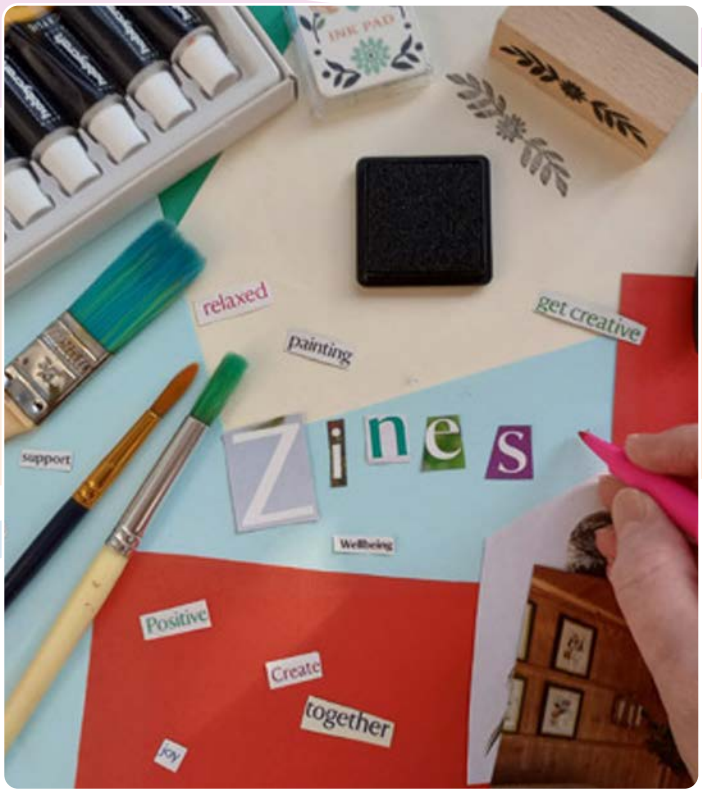
Weekly workshops at Wolverhampton Art Gallery took place through February and March 2023. No prior skills were needed, and participants didn't have to bring any materials – just a willingness to try new things.



Alexandra Hatfield at one of her workshops

The course, funded by The RWT Charity, aimed to improve people's wellbeing by offering the opportunity to connect with others and practice creative mindfulness. Through the sessions, participants learnt new skills and produced their own artwork to keep or give as gifts.

The four workshops featured different mediums such as painting and printmaking, and produced art which could be brought together into a zine, or mini magazine.



Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator, said: "Zines are a brilliant way to boost mood and create connection. These workshops offered people an exciting opportunity to try their hand at something new.

"We're really looking forward to re-introducing arts activity that will benefit the community, as well as those visiting or being treated at New Cross."

Each workshop was led by a different local artist or arts group. These included Alexandra Hatfield from Cannock-based Saredon Studios, and Alex Vann and Gary O'Dowd from Real Arts Workshops.

As well as keeping their finished pieces, participants received three printed copies of their zine to gift to friends or family.

Printed canvasses of several artworks created during the workshops were displayed at New Cross Hospital.

Copies of the zines were distributed around New Cross Hospital in waiting rooms and wards, to boost wellbeing among patients, visitors, and staff.

Legacies

It's a common myth that only the rich and famous leave money to charity when they die. This couldn't be any further from the truth. The reality is that without gifts left in wills by people like you, many of the charities we know, and support wouldn't even exist.

Often donors have experienced first-hand the high level of care and expertise on offer at RWT Tand want to ensure future patients continue to have access to cutting-edge technology and excellent facilities.

Over the years, the legacies left by compassionate donors have been a vital source of funding for our charity. A staggering £454,868.02 was donated in legacies in the year leading up to 31 March 2023 alone!

Leaving a legacy to 'The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity' allows you to play a supporting role in helping patients, staff, and families long into the future. The money that the charity receives from the wills of donors is used according to their wishes, to pay for research, fund projects and buy equipment.

Thankfully 74% of the UK population support charities and when asked, 35% of people say they'd happily leave a gift in their will once family and friends had been provided for. The problem is only 7% actually do. That's why, if we all leave some money in our wills for charity as well as our family, we can make a huge difference.

Leaving a gift in your will is a wonderful act of selflessness, and 'Your Trust Charity' is extremely grateful to all those donors who consider supporting The Charity in this manner.



Riley's life transformed after £442,000 donation

An "amazing" facility built at New Cross Hospital from a former patient's generous donation of £442,000 has transformed the life of a young boy receiving treatment for leukaemia.

The sum of £442,142 – one of the largest received by The RWT Charity – came from Michael Worrall, who chose to donate the money through a gift in his will.



Worrall Suite, from left: Dr Julie Brent, Prof. David Loughton CBE, Group Chief Executive, Kirsty Lewis, Senior Matron for Children's Acute Services and Rick Williams, solicitor

Mr Worrall, who didn't have any close family, was a former patient at New Cross Hospital who died on 15 September 2016 at the age of 78. His donation has funded The Worrall Suite – two new specialist cubicles to treat children with cancer on the Children's Ward.

Patient Riley Weaver-Harrison was one of the first to use the new suite. Seven-year-old Riley, from Cannock, has Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL), a type of blood cancer that starts from white blood cells in the bone marrow which requires regular chemotherapy to control it.

He also has neutropenia, condition which means he has a low number of white blood cells and weakens the immune system.

When first diagnosed at the age of five, he missed nine months of schooling and his illness means he is more susceptible to viruses and infection.

Riley has to be monitored closely and has spent much of the last two years in hospital – a minimum of two days at a time, mostly in the Worrall Suite.

Each cubicle – which are about three times the size of the side room Riley used to have to use – is equipped like a wet room with a spacious air-conditioned bedroom and en suite, with plenty of natural light.

As the suite is away from the wards, the risk of infection is reduced, while there's even an X-box console to help keep young patients occupied. Like Riley, other young oncology patients benefit from the Worrall Suite.

"We're immensely grateful for this facility and the amazing generosity of Mr Worrall," said Riley's mum Sara Weaver-Harrison, a therapeutic support worker.

"As soon as Riley gets to hospital, all the Nurses, Doctors and oncology staff joke that it's called the 'Riley Suite'! When he comes in, he walks to it like it's his own – a second home.

"Before the suite was opened, Riley was in a room near the nurses' station and struggled to sleep at night with the telephone ringing. Going there has massively changed his life and brought him some happiness."

Rick Williams, Mr Worrall's solicitor, of R N Williams & Co, said: "Mike was a kind, generous man who, unfortunately was struck down by cancer. He spent long and painful times in hospital, having had part of his vocal organs removed, but remained cheerful and his usual helpful self.

"He saved his earnings and wanted to make a difference. Mike instructed me to make sure any funds he left and which were surplus should be used for the benefit of the children in the cancer wards at New Cross Hospital. Mike would be very impressed at what has been done.

"I'm glad the children and their families who use the facilities are aware that a man they didn't know wanted to make their lives better."

Additional funds were used to buy educational equipment, including a laptop, for older children to occupy them during their treatment. A plaque commemorating Mr Worrall's generous gesture was also unveiled.

Kirsty Lewis, Senior Matron for Children's Acute Services, said: "We're so incredibly grateful for the extremely kind and generous bequest from Mr Worrall. Many of our oncology patients spend a considerable amount of time on the ward."

"These new cubicles mean we're able to care for them in a specially-adapted environment in their local hospital which offers them increased protection from infection while they undergo treatment.

"Our new cubicles also offer increased comfort for families with parent beds and televisions."





Riley Weaver-Harrison in the Worrall Suite

Corporate and External Donations

Charity receives donation from Bilston Rotary Club



From left, Councillor Phil Page, Councillor Greg Brackenridge, the Mayor of Wolverhampton, Andy Baker, President of the Bilston Rotary Club and Amie Rogers, RWT Charity Community and Events Fundraiser

Swimmers made a splash to raise £1,500 for The RWT Charity to coincide with Bowel Cancer Awareness Month.

Six people of all ages swam 20 lengths of the pool at Bert Williams Leisure Centre in Wednesfield to raise the money for Bilston Rotary Club, which donated the money to the Trust's Charity.

All six have some connection to Bilston, whether they live in the town or are part of the Bilston Rotary Club.

Andy Baker, club president, said: "One of the reasons Bilston Rotary chose to raise money for bowel cancer within the Deanesly Centre (at New Cross Hospital) was because a wife of one of the members was diagnosed with bowel cancer in 2020.

"Her care and treatment by the department, throughout the whole procedure was excellent. This prompted our club to show our grateful thanks. She is now clear of this terrible disease."

Phil Page, Bilston Councillor, whose 11-year-old grandson Alex Solomon took part and raised £200, added: "We all thought it was a great idea to raise money so nominated The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity on this occasion, along with Good Shepherd Relief in Need."

Councillor Greg Brackenridge, Mayor of Wolverhampton, said: "It's been an absolute pleasure to be present when the cheques were presented by the Bilston Rotarians to the Trust for bowel cancer treatment in the sum of £1,500 and also £4,000 to the Good Shepherd in Wolverhampton.

"I'm very proud that the Rotarians in Bilston do so much for all local charities, including my own, the Mayor's charities of Wolverhampton.

"So I'd like to thank everyone involved and wish them the very best in their fundraising efforts in the way they support the vulnerable people in our community."

Rachel Robinson, former Digital Engagement Fundraising Officer for The RWT Charity, said: "We're delighted Bilston Rotary Club choose to donate this money to our charity and are pleased the care the member's wife received has resulted in her getting the all clear. The money will go towards continuing to enhance the care patients receive.

"We are also very grateful to the swimmers for their efforts – well done everyone!"

Generous support received from Crafting for Communities

Crafting For Communities is a charity that crafts for the community making useful items that bring joy or relieve discomfort to our patients. They make and distribute between 3 – 5,000 items per month for our community. The RWT Charity has been fortunate enough to receive regular deliveries of items such as knitted heart pairs, teddies and toys, Neonatal clothing, scarves and hats, toiletry packs, care bags for cancer patients, sensory items, period pouches, worry monsters and worry worms to help support patients in hospital.

The charity has 16 hubs throughout the Dudley borough and beyond, including Kidderminster, Birmingham, Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire. The group has around 2,700 Facebook members who either make, volunteer or support. Without its fabulous team of volunteer drivers distributing to the hubs and the communities it supports, charities like ours wouldn't be able to bring joy and comfort to patients.

Stroke patient, Ann, was overjoyed to receive a blanket and twiddle muff. She said: "This will help keep me warm when it drops cold at home in my flat".

We would like to express our gratitude to Crafting For Communities for its continuous support over the years and we hope to continue our work together in the future.







Pictures show items we have received from Crafting For Communities.

Hair stylists donate vouchers for Nurses Day

Nurses at RWT already tried to be a cut above the rest but they definitely were after a generous donation on International Nurses Day.

Hair stylists Urban Coiffeur of Wednesfield donated 400 cups of coffee and vouchers offering 20 per cent discount off any haircut and/or styling as a thank you to staff at the Trust.

Sarah Shinton, who runs the business on Wood End Road with business partner Sonia Sparrow, made the generous offer after being treated as a patient at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.

"I had a molar pregnancy (where there's a problem with a fertilised egg, which means a baby and a placenta do not develop the way they should) and had to undergo a lot of treatment at New Cross," said Sarah.

"I had chemotherapy every other day for six months so I really got to know some of the nurses well and got an insight into how hard they work.

"I was looked after really well and it made me think about giving back to the community, so I thought I'd start by doing this."



Children get a cuddle after gift of teddy bears



Play leader Dil Uppal with Brielle Foster-Matthews 5yrs in the sensory room on the childrens ward, New Cross Hospital.

Young patients attending New Cross Hospital can now receive a cuddle from their own teddy bear after a generous donation from the Freemasons.

Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) started as a way of providing much-needed comfort to children in Emergency Departments, helping to reduce the shock and distress of their experience.

The initiative is managed by Freemasons who also volunteer their time to run the scheme. Since its inception in 2001, more than three million teddies have been distributed to hospitals and organisations throughout England and Wales.

A total of 162 individually sealed bears have been handed over for young patients who attend New Cross Hospital and the community to make their journey a little bit brighter.

James Cairns, TLC representative from the Freemasons, visited the hospital to make the donation and Dil Uppal, Play Leader, met with staff from The RWT Charity to accept them on behalf of Children's Services.

James said: "A hospital visit can be a frightening experience for a young child, especially in an emergency situation. Every child that receives a teddy gets to take it home."

Dil said: "Thanks so much to the Freemasons for the kind donation of teddies. The patients absolutely love them. They put a smile on every child's face. They are very comforting for those who are having surgery too. They help to make the patients have a more relaxed and comfortable stay with us."

Amie Rogers, Community and Events Fundraiser at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Charity said: "A huge thank you to Jim and Freemasons for their generous donation of teddies. They really make a difference to our young patients during their visit to hospital."

The work of TLC is funded through the generous donations of Freemasons, their families and supporters of the programme. Many Freemasons also volunteer hundreds of hours each year to manage the scheme, deliver bears to hospitals and other organisations and campaign to raise funds and increase awareness through events and talks.

The TLC teddy has become an invaluable tool for healthcare staff and a real comfort for children, used to calm them down, reward them for being brave or to demonstrate procedures. Often the bears distract poorly children so Nurses and Doctors can get their jobs done quickly and efficiently.



Patients benefit from rehab equipment



Pictured from left, Paul Baugh, Secretary of the Fund, Lou Jones, Group Manager, Phil Chew (on bike), Clare Banks, Matron for Rehabilitation, Ray Briggs, Cyril Barrett, Chair and Trustee of the Fund and John Humphries

Patients at West Park Hospital can now benefit from new rehabilitation equipment thanks to a generous donation of more than £13,000.

The 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Scheme (ex-Goodyear workers) bought three pieces of equipment costing a total of £13,398.95 to help patients in rehabilitation.

Two Metomed movement therapy bicycles in the gym will help wheelchair users and patients recovering from strokes, while a SaeboMAS Mini machine assists in strengthening upper arm muscles.

Clare Banks, Matron for Rehabilitation, said: "On behalf of the patients and staff at West Park Hospital, I would like to express my gratitude to Cyril and the TGWU for their very generous donation.

"The new equipment will enable patients who have suffered a neurological event to improve their rehabilitation outcomes as they will have access to specialist exercise bikes that will improve the strength in their arms and legs.

"The patients are very excited to start using this equipment. Thank you so much."

Two ex-members of the Fund now work at West Park Hospital – Porters John Humphries and Phil Chew – while Paul Baugh, Secretary of the Fund, and Ray Briggs, who both joined the presentation, are ex-members too.

The donation is the latest in a long series from the 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Fund, which has now donated more than £440,000 to projects at RWT over the last five years.

Cyril Barrett, Chair and Trustee of the Fund, said: "We have many ex-Goodyears workers who have been supported by staff at West Park Hospital, including a friend of mine who had a stroke and is sadly no longer with us.

"On behalf of the Fund, we are grateful for the dedication and commitment of the medical teams, doctors, nurses and volunteers who provide outstanding care to the local community."

Donation helps stroke patients

Stroke and neurology patients at RWT are benefiting from a helping hand thanks to a charity's generous donation of more than £5,000.

Willenhall Area Relief Rehabilitation And Nursing Trust (WARRANT) has provided £5,775.90 to pay for the E-LINK Upper Limb Exerciser rehabilitation equipment at West Park Hospital.

Many of the 500 outpatients on Stroke Services' caseload will be using the games-based treatment tool to treat the many impairments that can result from a stroke, through upper limb exercises and pinch grip attachments.

Patients can access more than 30 different games from the Upper Limb Exerciser on a one-to-one basis to enable functional, repetitive movements, and the resistance can be graded for improving the difficulty of the exercise.

Grip attachments help improve grip strengths and games support information processing and spatial awareness.

Jane Bisiker, Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist for Stroke Services, said: "Thanks to the generosity of an ongoing supporter, both inpatients and outpatients will benefit from this donation, and it will make such a difference to the rehabilitation of our patients.

"There is a range of grips and movements so patients can do a lot of upper limb work on their arms and shoulders. You can grade it from very little resistance then improve it to strengthen your range.

"The patients love it – I have not known anyone who doesn't enjoy it because it's fun, engaging and works you really hard without realising it."



Patient Ray Whitehouse, who is a regular user of the equipment

Jane also said the equipment saves staff valuable time preparing exercises and even offers a competitive element for patients should they want it.

"Without it, we would have to rely on a lot of pen and paper work which is very time consuming because it would involve preparing a lot of materials, whereas with this, you can click the bits you want and grade it as you go.

"There's also a motivational aspect for the patient because they can improve their scores each time they use it."

Realistic goals can be set and achieved, addressing specific therapeutic objectives. Baseline measurements of a patient's comfortable range of motion (ROM) can be taken and used for exercise.

Patient Ray Whitehouse, 78, suffered a stroke in 2000 which affected his left side and left him unable to walk, use his left arm or read.

The retired insurance broker and father of two from Wightwick, Wolverhampton, used the games-based treatment tool at West Park Hospital to help his cognitive ability.

He said: "I would definitely recommend it. It's improved things for me.

"I couldn't look to the left and now I look a lot more to the left than I did before."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager at the Trust, said: "We're very grateful for the support WARRANT has provided to purchase these items. The equipment will really help our stroke patients with their rehabilitation."

The Upper Limb Exerciser is the latest piece of equipment WARRANT has helped with after the charity previously purchased several specially-adapted bicycles for stroke patients, costing around £3,500 each.

Grateful former Mayor raises £2,000

A former Black Country Mayor who underwent radical cancer treatment at New Cross Hospital donated £2,000 to charities – half of which will benefit cancer patients in the future.

Steve Waltho climbed 20 peaks in the Lake District in March, just four months after his cancer removal surgery in November 2021 to raise money for The RWT Charity.

The 66-year-old, who is a former Dudley Mayor, was diagnosed with an enlarged prostate in 2014 after going to his doctor with symptoms of a water infection. Further tests conducted by his GP showed a high Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) reading, which was followed by a biopsy.

Steve, who lives in Kingswinford, was then monitored regularly until an MRI scan in November 2020 which showed progressive prostate cancer.

He said: "I was put on hormone treatment to stop any spread until my robotic prostatectomy surgery in early November 2021.

"The surgery went well and after that I wanted to give something back to show a little gratitude and took to the hills which have been such a prominent source of fitness, peace and fundraising in my life.

"I'll be eternally grateful for the brilliance of Mr Pete Cooke, consultant urological and robotic surgeon, and his team at New Cross Hospital for giving me an extension to my life. There's no way of telling what my quality of life might have been now or even if I'd still be here without it but at the moment I feel ok and back to being as active as a 66 year old might expect."

Steve's brother-in-law Neil Holt, 64, who has learning difficulties, also wanted to raise money so supported Steve's challenge on a family holiday in Wales. In April, the duo climbed the highest peak in the Preseli Hills in Wales to further add to the funds.

Steve added: "When Neil learned of my desire to raise money he also wanted to add to the total by suggesting his own event in Wales. He's an absolute inspiration to all who know him and he wanted to donate to a charity for people with disabilities. As I am honorary patron of Access In Dudley (AID) it was an absolute no-brainer to split the donation and hand over £1,000 to AID and give £1,000 to The RWT Charity to be used for future prostate cancer patients.

"I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who has sponsored me along this journey."

Amie Rogers, community and events fundraiser for The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Charity, said: "We are very grateful to Steve and his family for this fantastic support. It was great to meet Steve and hear about his fantastic care by Mr Cooke and his team. Thank you again for this generous donation."

Steve also dedicated the fundraising to former Dudley Council colleague Councillor David Vickers who sadly passed away with prostate cancer.



From left to right Steve Waltho, Consultant Peter Cooke and Neil Holt

COVID-19 survivor launches book

One of Wolverhampton's first COVID-19 patients returned to New Cross Hospital to launch his book and thank staff for the 'outstanding care' he received during his illness.

Darren Buttrick, from Coven, decided to write the book 'Fifteen Minutes and Counting; Never Stop Fighting' about his COVID-19 experience as he wanted to give something back to the staff who saved his life. He has also donated his blood plasma to help other sufferers and in 2021 became the most prolific donator in the UK, donating 24 times, the maximum allowed in a 12-month period.

The father of three, who works in Telecommunications, said he had been told by his family - wife Angela and daughters Freya 17, Maia 17 and Esme 15, colleagues and friends - he had an inspiring story to tell.

He said: "I also wanted to leave a legacy and raise money for The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity so patients will benefit from the sales of the book. This was never about me, but another way of giving back.

"I enlisted the support of StoryTerrance and a ghost writer to write my story. It was very emotional writing it and I hope the staff like it. They saved my life and I will always be eternally grateful to them for their outstanding care.

"I hope the book inspires others and shows people it is tough out there but never give up."

The 51-year-old was so ill when he was rushed to hospital in March 2020 and was given 15 minutes to "phone his family and say his final goodbyes."

This is where the title of the book came from as Darren said all he remembers in those 15 minutes is messages of "love, don't give up and keep fighting."

He describes 'the darkest day' as when he was intubated and put into a coma. After spending 10 days on ICCU, however, he was finally discharged after receiving what he describes as "second to none" care from staff at New Cross Hospital.

Darren said he particularly wanted to thank four members of staff - Sergio Fernandez, Catherine Watkins, Dawn Southey and Kate Holden.

He returned to New Cross Hospital with copies of his book and a special cake to thank the team.

Sergio, Staff Nurse on ICCU, said it was good to see how well Darren was doing. He said: "It shows what we do is important, and it is so rewarding to see Darren doing well. It feels like a great achievement, and I am overwhelmed to be mentioned in the book. It is nice recognition."

Kate Holden, Critical Care Outreach Practitioner, said it was very emotional to see Darren again.

She said: "Darren was one of our first COVID-19 patients and I remember intubating him on the ward before ICCU. We really didn't know much about COVID-19 at the time, and it was really unknown. To see him come out the other side and see him back fit and well is lovely."

Catherine Watkins, Specialist Physiotherapist, said she remembers Darren's story giving her hope.

"At the time we hadn't seen many survivors so to see Darren come off the ventilator and go home gave us some hope in a very scary time, "she said.

"I've worked in intensive care for 37 years and, looking back, you can't imagine the enormity of it all and how emotional it all was, as we thought all our patients might die. When Darren woke up we were so relieved that someone had survived.

"We were very frightened of the unknown and Darren's story was uplifting for us all."

Senior Advanced Nurse Practitioner Dawn Southey said: "It is fantastic what Darren has done with helping others and donating blood plasma. To see Darren do so well and be a part of that story is wonderful."

The book is available to purchase on Amazon, with all profits being donated to The RWT Charity.



Singers' charity donation



From left: Vangie Griffin, Amie Rogers, RWT Charity Fundraising and Lead Digital Engagement Officer, Dr Sanjiv Petkar, Stephen Robins, Heather Johnson, Lynne Slater, Trish Hooper and Kayne Round – all from Songbirds in Harmony – and Amanda Winwood

A ladies choir donated more than £4,200 to help put a song in the hearts of patients at New Cross Hospital.

During 2022/23 and 2023/24, Songbirds in Harmony from Hednesford donated £4,240.37 to The RWT Charity after choosing it as its charity of the year.

Trish Hooper, who is the secretary and founder member of the choir, has been a cardiology patient for nearly 20 years and nominated the charity of RWT, which hosts the Cardiology team in the Heart and Lung Centre.

A ballot put to the choir's 28 members at its AGM saw the Trust's charity receive the highest number of votes.

Money raised from the group's three concerts and other fundraising events, held during the year, will go towards buying a screen and camera system to help patients and families with cardiac education.

"It's humbling and very rewarding knowing we've contributed to purchasing a piece of equipment to help that team and department," said Trish, 58. "As a close group of ladies, we've raised money while doing what we love – singing."

Trish, a mother of three and grandmother of three, has a history of atrial fibrillation, when abnormal electrical impulses override the heart's natural pacemaker, causing a highly irregular pulse rate.

She has undergone numerous procedures, including several cardioversions – a procedure that uses quick, low-energy shocks to restore a regular heart rhythm – and ablations, which uses small burns or freezes to help break up the electrical signals causing irregular heartbeats.

Trish, who lives in Hednesford, said: "The choir always strives to support local charities, but as this one is so personal after having received such amazing treatment, it's all the more special and emotional.

"Every member of staff has been kind, courteous and caring. On the nursing side Andy Lapper has been so supportive over the years, always returning reassuring messages and phone calls in tough times.

"Also, Dr Sanjiv Petkar works tirelessly – he's a huge asset to the department and is extremely well respected."

Steve Robins, Interim Group Manager, Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Services at RWT, said: "It was a pleasure to meet this dedicated group which cares so much for its local community.

"We really appreciate being chosen for this donation and the team will ensure it goes towards the care and support of our patients. Thank you so much."

Dr Petkar, Consultant Cardiologist at RWT, said: "Over the years, Trish has had the benefit of cutting-edge treatments and I'm happy that because of these interventions we've been able to improve her condition.

"It's also very kind of her to think how the local expertise can be extended to other patients. I'm confident the money raised will make a huge difference to our patients undergoing cardiac rehabilitation. We are extremely grateful."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "What a wonderful way to raise money! We're very grateful to Trish and her colleagues for their generosity and thank them very much for choosing to donate their fundraising efforts to our charity this year."

Formed in 2011, Songbirds In Harmony is an all-female, three-part harmony choir. It can be contacted via its email info@songbirdsinharmonyuk.com or website, Songbirds in Harmony UK.

Sensory room opened after £20,000 boost



Cyril Barrett and Kirsty Lewis in the sensory room

A sensory room has opened to support younger patients at New Cross Hospital following a £20,000 donation from ex-Goodyear workers.

The brightly-painted facility, which cost £20,638 and is on the Children's Ward, A21, includes two mobile sensory trolleys, a soft play area, large reclining seats, and an infinity mirror and was funded by The 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Charity.

There are different pads on the wall which change the colour of the lighting when pushed and the room has bluetooth access so patients can pair their phones and listen to their own music.

It has been designed to offer a safe, comfortable space for children and young people with physical health conditions, developmental delay or additional sensory needs. But it is also just a relaxing and calm space for any of the patients on the ward.

The donation completes a remarkable legacy of generosity that has seen the group donate more than £400,000 of equipment to the Trust since 2016.

Cyril Barrett, Chair and Trustee of the scheme, said: "We've seen the tremendous difference our donations have made to the Trust and hopefully this room will have the same effect on the children and the staff here.

"We've bought many pieces of equipment for community initiatives in and around Wolverhampton, but in particular for The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, to whom we have donated over £400,000 worth of equipment.

"We hope the decency, kindness and care shown by the ex-union Goodyear workers of Wolverhampton and the Black Country will not be forgotten.

"This has been a passion of ours. If you can complete a project that puts a smile on the faces of the patients and their families, what more of a legacy can we leave in our lives?"

Addressing members of The 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Charity, Sue Rawlings, Chair of The RWT Charity, said: "Thank you on behalf of the Board, staff and patients for everything you and your colleagues have done which have made such a big difference and equally, I'm sure this swansong will do the same. Your efforts will not be forgotten."

Kirsty Lewis, Senior Matron, Children's Acute Services, said: "The sensory room is such a lovely bright, colourful and safe space for the patients. We feel very lucky to have this on our ward at Wolverhampton as not every Children's Ward has one, so we're very grateful to the scheme for funding it.

"Some of our children with complex health needs have been here for a long time and it's really hard on the child and the families. So for them to be able to come into a room like this, away from their bed space with a break from clinical procedures and doctors and nurses, is really wonderful."



Sensory room group photo, from left:- Mark Jenkins, trustee, The 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Charity, Paul Bough, secretary of The 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Charity, Amanda Winwood, Kirsty Lewis, Kate Jenks, Group Manager, Acute and Community Paediatrics (Children and Young People), Sue Rawlings, Barry Malia, management committee member of The 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Charity, and Cyril Barrett.

Charity granted £220,000 to give HOPE

A charity has won a grant of £220,000 to help up to 1,000 vulnerable people in Wolverhampton over the next two years.

The RWT Charity, in partnership with Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action (WVCA) was awarded £220,000 from NHS Charities Together for project Holistic Opportunities Preventing Exclusion (HOPE).

As part of the bid, RWT will recruit, train, manage and support a full-time Link Volunteer Co-ordinator, a part-time Link Administration Officer, and up to 200 volunteers per year. These will work alongside the city's Social Prescribing Service, run by WVCA, to help tackle loneliness, isolation, depression and anxiety.

There are currently more than 3,000 referrals a year to the Social Prescribing Service, following a spike in referrals for mental health in the last two years following the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is mainly due to increased loneliness and isolation and the mental and physical impact of that. Other reasons include bereavement and the effects on physical health from Long Covid.

HOPE will work alongside the service – which identifies and refers people to improve their wellbeing – including linking them to community services such as social groups, sporting activities, and groups focusing on areas of interest, such as gardening and arts and crafts.

Around a third of the grant – £75,000 – will be available to apply for to fund small, grass roots community groups to offer activities aimed at improving social connectivity. These bids will be assessed by the steering group.

HOPE will also focus on supporting people experiencing Long Covid, carers and those needing support with pain and medication management and these funds will be used to deliver a range of support, including:

Safe spaces for carers to socialise with those they care for and with others in a similar circumstance



From left: Lindsey Goodall, Community and Events Fundraising Officer, The RWT Charity, Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-Ordinator, The RWT Charity, Alison Dowling, Head of Patient Experience and Public Involvement at RWT, Eleanor Morris, Deputy Head of Patient Experience (Strategy and Engagement) at RWT and Ian Darch, Chief Executive of WVCA

Physical activities such as walks, art activities, knitting and yoga

Healthy eating, 'knit and natter' and art therapy

Alison Dowling, Head of Patient Experience at RWT, said: "This is the first time we've really been able to work in partnership with the voluntary sector and we're excited about the opportunities this can bring for volunteers. I wish to sincerely thank the Trust's Charity and in particular Chair Sue Rawlings for the support and vision for this project."

Eleanor Morris, Deputy Head of Patient Experience at RWT, added: "We hope by boosting social prescribing programmes, more support can be provided to people experiencing loneliness and isolation and it encourages more connection with community activities.

"We hope the programme will provide meaningful difference to people and even help reduce pressures on frontline NHS services."

Ian Darch, Chief Executive of WVCA, said: "We're delighted to be working with RWT on the HOPE project which will play an important role in improving the wellbeing of local people.

"Tackling loneliness reduces mental and physical illness. Ultimately, if people are supported to remain well, the pressure on the health and social care system will reduce."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager from The RWT Charity, said: "We are so grateful to have been successful with the grant from NHS Charities together and we look forward to the positive difference we can make to the people of Wolverhampton.

"Reducing isolation will hopefully give confidence to our community and open other opportunities for them and focusing on their wellbeing."

Opportunities to apply for a small grant and to volunteer with the HOPE project are now open.

Volunteering at RWT

Introduction

The Trust is fortunate to have the support of volunteers, unpaid members of our local community, who offer their time willingly to help.

As always, we hold the provision of a positive patient experience at the forefront of our volunteering activity, and we aim to place volunteers into roles which complement, but do not replace, paid members of staff. Volunteers add an important 'extra' factor to helping us provide a positive patient and visitors' experience at RWT.

Review of 2022- 2023: Community Clinical Volunteer role

Following on from the success of our Community Clinical Volunteer role which was established during the COVID-19 pandemic to support Trust areas most in need, we decided to continue offering this role during 2022-2023. This support also ensures a ready supply of volunteers to help the Trust during winter pressures.

During the last 12 months, we have carried out recruitment in this role in five additional cohorts, July 2022, September 2022, January 2023, and July 2023 and an additional cohort of NHS Cadets in March 2023. From these cohorts combined, we have recruited a total number of 150 volunteers. We have also attended two Trust recruitment days which were the July 2022 and January 2023 cohorts.

NHS Cadets is a national programme for young people who receive training by St John's Ambulance and information on the variety of roles within the NHS.

Specific roles that volunteers have supported during this time can be seen below:

Arts in Health Programme

The Arts in Health Programme returned in April 2023 since it had to be stood down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme is funded by the Arts and Heritage Group that is within The RWT Charity. The funds provide craft resources that enable the programme to be delivered by RWT volunteers. The Volunteer Services Team worked in collaboration with the Arts and Heritage Co-ordinator to create a programme of activities that occur twice a month. The programme is designed to encourage engagement and interaction between patients at West Park Rehabilitation Hospital who are recovering from a form of neurological trauma. As well as encourage engagement in the craft sessions, volunteers complete an evaluation form at the end of each session. These forms will be used at the programme's review in September. The review will confirm whether the programme continues, and whether there is scope to expand this service to the other two Trust sites, New Cross and Cannock Chase Hospitals.

Staff Wellbeing Hub

Since December 2022, RWT volunteers have been supporting The Charity's Staff Wellbeing Hub initiative, a food bank, and essential items service to help support staff during the cost-of-living crisis. So far, volunteers have given more than 500 hours of their time to mainly support the afternoon service on the Hub, but more recently, extended their support to the busier morning shifts. The Hub is a great addition to our volunteer opportunities, providing variety and a non-clinical, but essential, support service to our staff.

Roles in Clinical Areas

In the past year (1 July 1022 – 10 August 2023), volunteers have contributed 8,648 hours of their free time to support the Trust. This includes 6,785 hours at New Cross Hospital, 961 hours at Cannock Chase Hospital, 601 hours at West Park Rehabilitation Hospital, 152 hours in the local community and 149 hours of other supportive roles such as the Bereavement Hub service, and Patient Involvement Partner activities. Community roles were the vaccination clinics during the autumn and spring.

New Cross Hospital is where most of our overall volunteer opportunities are. In the past year, the Trust areas with the most volunteer support were Acute Medical Unit (758 hours), C18 Elderly Care (569 hours), Staff Wellbeing Hub (508 hours), Discharge Lounge (485 hours), C21 Stroke (444 hours), D7 General Surgery (395 hours) and Emergency Department (382 hours). Other areas with high levels of support were A16 Appleby Suite, B14 Cardiology, C55 Same Day Emergency Care and C56 Frailty and Dementia.

At Cannock Chase Hospital, the main areas supported were Fairoak Ward (517 hours) and the Endoscopy Unit (304 hours). In 2023, we have added several additional opportunities that include Hilton Main and Hollybank Ward.

West Park Rehabilitation Hospital provides volunteer placements within Ward 1, Ward 2 or the Neurological Rehabilitation Unit. Our reports show equal levels of volunteer support across each ward.

Holistic Opportunities Preventing Exclusion (HOPE)

The Trust has been awarded two years' funding by NHS Charities Together, to provide a volunteer programme aimed at alleviating social isolation and loneliness in the community of Wolverhampton. Working alongside Wolverhampton Voluntary Community Action (WVCA), the project aims to place volunteers alongside the Social Prescribing service, to support vulnerable people in the community referred in. There is also additional funding for the WVCA to deliver a Commissions programme, in which community groups can bid for small pots of funding to develop activities. The project will be reported on more fully in the next Charity annual review.

Looking Forward 2023- 2024

We want to improve the experience of volunteers who wish to use their volunteer opportunity to form career or educational pathways into the NHS. We will use the National Volunteer Certificate to enhance this - 16 volunteers have already completed it.

Building on successes during 2022- 2023, we will also aim to improve opportunities for volunteers with a disability or long-term condition and work with services to remove barriers.

We will expand our HOPE volunteer programme and community volunteering opportunities.

We will continue to raise the profile of volunteering and staff awareness of what is involved in supervision of volunteers.

And we will continue to work with The RWT Charity and recruit volunteer Charity Ambassadors.

















Events made a welcome return

We were thrilled to be able to bring back face-to-face events in June last year.

Kicking off the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we hosted a Jubilee Fair.

A fun day was had by all at the event which included special guests, our staff choir. The RWT Singers treated visitors to a right royal performance, finishing with the National Anthem and a speech by Group Chief Executive, Professor David Loughton CBE.

The marquee outside the Emergency Department hosted several stalls managed by community partners and Trust staff members. Items on sale included handbags, handmade soaps, shampoos and wood crafts.

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "It was lovely to see staff and community partners engaging and marking this special occasion. Thank you to all those who helped make the fair a huge success and for giving their time to bring some cheer."

In addition, an event originally planned for April 2020, The RWT Charity Fashion Show was a chance for guests to shop 'til they dropped!

We teamed up with SOS Charity Fashion Shows to host this fabulous event, featuring a number of NHS workers strutting their stuff on the catwalk, and rails of ladies' high street clothing which were available to purchase at up to 75 per cent off normal retail price.

Thank you so much to family, friends, colleagues, and members of the community who came along. We're also grateful to SOS Charity Fashion Shows, corporate supporters and local businesses who donated prizes for the raffle, and Fordhouses Cricket Club for hosting us.

We're thrilled to reveal that we raised a fantastic £709!

The funds raised will help us to fund additional resources, equipment and projects which will benefit young patients and their families being cared for at RWT.

Celebrating the Platinum Jubilee

In June 2022, the late Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, after an incredible 70 years of service.

RWT is proud of its heritage and its connection to the Royal family following the historic build of The Royal Hospital. The build was only possible thanks to charitable donations from Victorian businessmen in Wolverhampton that determined that the town (as it was then) was worthy of a hospital as a replacement to a six-bedded Dispensary. A total of £18,000 was raised which purchased land from the Duke of Cleveland and a hospital with 84 beds was built.

The hospital opened its doors on 1 January 1849 to 'patients who are such unable to pay for medicine and advice and are destitute of funds to make provision for them'. It was run by a self-supporting Board of Governors and was totally dependent on charity for its complete running costs. The original staff consisted of a Matron, one Physician, one Consulting Surgeon, three Surgeons, one House Surgeon and a Secretary. The House Surgeon, Edward Hayling Coleman, had, in 1847, carried out the third-ever operation using anaesthesia, in England. During the first year of operation, 408 inpatients and 2,853 outpatients were treated at the hospital.

A Children's Ward was established in 1862, overturning a rule which had excluded the treatment of children under six years old in hospital.

A new wing for inpatients and a new outpatient block were added in 1872 to reduce overcrowding.

In 1873 official recognition from the Royal College of Surgeons, gave the Royal Hospital approval as a teaching hospital.

As the hospital moved into the 20th century, many modern facilities were introduced. Electricity replaced gas lighting and, in 1900, the operating theatre was lit by electricity.

In 1875 an organisation was founded in Parkdale by a Mrs EA Whitehouse with a sum of £50 for the Outdoor Blind. A meeting was held under the support of the Briscoe family, Edward Banks retired architect ,and Dr W Millington to raise charitable donations to establish an Eye Infirmary to ease the significant pressure faced by the Cleveland Road Hospital for conditions such as Ophthalmia Neonatorum (which was increasingly becoming widespread due to social conditions of the day). Initially, only 10 beds were provided and there was an average, daily queue of 50 people waiting outside for treatments. All patients were treated irrespective of their ability to pay or provision of a subscriber ticket from employer, Minister of Religion, or benefactor to the services.



Children's Ward 1975





Electrotherapy and Patient with Respirator

New Cross began its life on the 60-acre site in Wednesfield Road as a large public workhouse in 1904. Following the First World War and the general economy of the country improving, central government ordered that workhouses were to be converted to public hospitals, funded by the local authority and free to general use.

By the year 1912, The Royal Hospital had developed a 53-bed Nurses' home, a new wing of beds dedicated to King Edward VII, its own motorised ambulance provided by Wolverhampton Police Force, an electric lift and a new laboratory. In the ten years immediately after the war, the hospital added many new departments and wards including operating theatres and VD clinics.



Prince of Wales

On 13 June 1923, HRH The Prince of Wales visited the hospital to present its Royal Charter of Incorporation, establishing it as a legally constituted body. That same year saw the General Nursing Council approve the hospital for Nurse training. Five years later, on 28 December 1928, HM King George V declared that from then on, the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire General Hospital should be known as The Royal Wolverhampton Hospital.

College of Nursing, and initially they sought support in The Society of Registered Male Nurses, whose membership was so strong in the West Midlands that its annual congress was held in Wolverhampton in 1959.

The 1950s saw the Eye Infirmary become the fourth largest workload eye centre in the UK and it was now becoming evident from the Commonwealth that much of its eye service provision was being provided by a doctor formerly trained in Chapel Ash. In 1958, the first International Ophthalmic Nurses Conference was held.

With the development of the NHS in 1948 there was larger and wider provision of medical care.

The first separate facilities for the treatment of women's diseases or obstetrics did not come until the establishment of the Women's Dispensary in 1886 which changed its name to the Wolverhampton and District Hospital for Women in 1889. The objective was to treat women "afflicted with diseases peculiar to their sex" and it consisted of inpatient and outpatient departments. The hospital was financed by voluntary donations and was initially in a house in St Mark's Place until it moved to new purpose-built accommodation at Park Road West in 1904.

In 1926 there was a proposed merger with the Maternity Home at the District Nursing Association (but not the Nursing Association). The merger did not take place because the Hospital for Women strongly held on to the principles of voluntary hospitals whereas the Maternity Home seemed to have been a fee-based institution. Both the Hospital for Women and District Nursing Association and Maternity Home combined with the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton, in 1928.

In 1975, gynaecological services were transferred to New Cross and the hospital was renamed West Park Hospital housing mainly 'geriatric' patients. The building was finally demolished in 1978 and new accommodation was built for West Park Hospital.



Princess Anne Walkabout

The new Maternity Unit was opened by Princess Anne in May 1971, finally encompassing gynaecology within a two-to-three-year period and providing total care including a Neonatal Unit just like its predecessor at West Park. The Tettenhall Road 'Beeches' and Bath Road unit were no more and subsequently the West Park site came under Primary Care control with considerable new building. Renovation plus provisions of care for a wide age group of conditions and patients took place. The hospital was largely demolished in 1978 to make way for West Park Hospital.

In the 1980s many of the specialities from The Royal moved away to New Cross Hospital and over the next decade the wards closed. A full transfer of all departments was seen including Cancer Care, ENT, Paediatric and A&E Departments. But as the 148th anniversary of the hospital approached it was closed in 1997.

Special thanks to Roy Stallard for sharing his wealth of knowledge of The Royal Hospital.

Christmas has arrived at New Cross Hospital!



Staff, patients, and guests gathered together at New Cross Hospital for a Christmas extravaganza – featuring market stalls, music and special guests.

The event, organised by The RWT Charity, saw the area outside the Emergency Department and all the Christmas trees around the site lit up.

Local businesses sold a selection of goodies – everything from bags to candles and perfume, and the Trust's Choir, The RWT Singers, serenaded the crowd with carols and seasonal songs.

And some of the Trust's oldest and youngest patients received a visit from Santa Claus alongside special friends George and Mistletoe – two reindeer straight from the North Pole.

The visit, made possible thanks to the Phoenix Children's Foundation Charity, lifted everyone's spirits.

Patient Derek Rushton, 88, who was recovering from a stroke, was one of the first to meet the festive duo. He said: "It has been really enjoyable."

Doris Halifax, 94, was also taking time out from the hospital's stroke ward to greet the guests. She said: "I just can't believe what I'm seeing. It's a lovely surprise."

Trust staff were equally as delighted, as the smiles widened each time the reindeer were spotted in the marquee outside of the Diabetes centre – the first base on their tour across the site.



Cathy Mincher, Medical Secretary, said: "It's just so lovely. Things like this are really good for your mental health and wellbeing too. The reindeer have a real calming effect. How often do you get to say you've seen a reindeer while at work!"

Jane Haynes, Domestic Support Worker, also dropped by to say hello. She said: "It's really starting to feel Christmassy here at the Trust."

Santa's little helpers then made their way up to the garden on the children's ward.

Seven-year-old Riley Weaver-Harrison is battling leukaemia and spends a lot of time in hospital, but there was no doubt the event helped cheer him up.

Riley's mum, Sara Weaver-Harrison said: "It's brilliant to have Santa and his reindeer here today. It's definitely brought a smile to his face." Riley added: "That was excellent!"

Jessica Moyo from Wolverhampton is mum to three-year-old Zara Moyo who was on site for some allergy tests. She said: "Zara was so excited to meet the reindeer – she hasn't stopped talking about them since. It's a great experience, especially for the children who are here for a long period of time."



And when it came to the light switch-on, Karl Henry, former Wolves captain, hit the big red button with the help of two young fundraisers –13-year-old Alfie Hinks and six-year-old Logan Munday.

He said: "It's an absolute privilege to be asked to turn on the Christmas tree lights – especially with such fantastic young fundraisers by my side. I was born here at the hospital and received lots of treatment here over the years for asthma. I'm delighted to be able to support the charity team and be here at this wonderful event."

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "The RWT Charity strives to go above and beyond to improve patient experiences, and what better time of year is there than the festive period to bring about some cheer to patients, families and staff members. It's something both adults and children can enjoy.

"Thank you to everyone who came and supported us during the Christmas Fair – it was definitely a day to remember."

A stylish sum raised

Dedicated followers of fashion were wowed by a range of styles for all shapes and sizes in a fundraising fashion show that netted a very smart £821 for The RWT Charity.

The charity staged a winter show following the success of a similar show back in the spring – and organisers were thrilled to double ticket sales this time round with 140 guests attending. Bringing a touch of glamour to the event were ten members of staff from the Trust who all took to the catwalk to model the clothes being showcased by SOS Charity Fashion Shows at Fordhouses Cricket Club.

High quality ladies' high street clothing was on offer at up to 75 per cent off normal retail prices and brands on sale included Topshop, Wallis, Next, Evans and Warehouse, from sizes six to 30.

Amanda Winwood, Charity Development Manager, said: "We had another fabulous night of fashion and fundraising.

"We £560 from tickets in advance, another £127 on the door and from the raffle £134 giving our total of £821. And our staff models were amazing – easily giving Kate Moss and Ashley Graham a run for their money!

"We'd like to thank SOS Charity Fashion Shows for another successful partnership and the team at the venue for letting us use it free of charge. All proceeds will be added to our 2022 Christmas Appeal which is used to bring festive joy to our patients and service users at this time of year."

Amanda added that 17 businesses had also been supportive by donating raffle prizes and these included, TK Maxx, Boots at Bentley Bridge, Tesco, Wolverhampton, Morrisons, Willenhall, Costa Wolverhampton, Abi Rogansky bags, Travelling Boutique, Paul's Fragrances and SOS Charity Fashion Show.



Charities score as £700 raised from football match



Both teams together at Silverdale FC. RWT are in white shirts, with Well Wishers wearing blue shirts.

Charity was the big winner as staff from RWT and Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust tackled each other on the football pitch for the first time, with nearly £700 raised.

Spectators paid £5 to watch, while every player, including substitutes, paid £10 each to play and there was a raffle, which all contributed to an overall figure raised of £691.61, split between The RWT Charity and Well Wishers, Walsall Healthcare's charity.

The money was put towards a sensory garden for the Stroke Rehabilitation Unit at Hollybank House, Willenhall, which is a joint service for both Trusts.

Well Wishers won 7-1 in the game at Silverdale FC, Walsall, after RWT took an early lead. Right midfielder Ryan Bellingham put RWT in front after a mistake by Well Wishers goalkeeper, but then the tables turned in Walsall's favour.

Left winger Aiden Justin was in four-midable form with four goals while captain Ben Malpass netted twice and substitute Conor Meehan the other as Well Wishers led 4-1 at half-time.

There was an executive flavour to the teams too, with Well Wishers featuring Ned Hobbs, Chief Operating Officer, and Russell Caldicott, Chief Financial Officer, while Emily Smith, Head of Communications, played for RWT and was the only woman involved.

Ben, Assistant Communications Officer for Digital, said: "It was a good day for us on the pitch and a great example of collaborative working between the Trusts to raise that amount of money.

"We're a group of lads who enjoy playing together so we were over the moon to get the win and to carry on our winning streak."

RWT captain Adam Loftus said: "It was a great day for the respective charities – to raise nearly £700 is exceptional and we're delighted to play a part in that.

"A few of the lads have already mentioned a rematch. It was a case of stepping into the unknown for us."

Georgie Westley, Well Wishers' Fundraising Manager, said: "We were really pleased with the way everything went, and to raise the amount of money we did was the icing on the cake. Hopefully this is the first of many joint initiatives between the charities. Thank you to everyone who supported the event."

Amanda Winwood, RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "As one of the first joint charity efforts, we're very proud and delighted that this has been a success – even if we wished the result had been better on the pitch! Thanks to everyone involved and hopefully it's kickstarted more collaborative working with Well Wishers."



NHS Charities Together Grants

BAME End of Life project

Project End Date - March 2023

Beginning in March 2021 this project was delivered in partnership with Compton Care to improve and support patients and their families from the BAME community, who were living with a complex and incurable condition.

The project provided a key link for patients and their families to help access care and the necessary support, liaising between services providing specialist support to patients and families across Wolverhampton.

The project had a key support worker whose aim was to empower patients to increase their choices for end-of-life care from community and acute settings, ensuring care was accessed in the right time and setting.

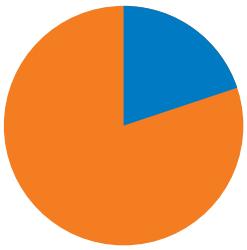
Project outcomes:

- Due to delays with projects starting because of COVID-19, numbers were not as expected, but a turnaround in 2022 was much better
- More than 50 individual employees from both organisations have benefited from the advice and support given by the Support Worker which included setting up a masterclass in Cultural Awareness which was delivered by staff at Compton Care in partnership with their Chaplaincy Team
- The catering Team at Compton Care re evaluated its menu choices for provision in the coffee shop and the hospice. This ensured a culturally appropriate menu for families of those receiving care at the hospice
- Recruitment of a new BAME Support Worker after the original one left
- BAME Support Worker given access to RWT community systems to be able to actively pull patient information
- BAME Support Worker included in meetings with Care Co-ordination Team and collaborative working
- Difficulties with working across two organisations generated complexities in terms of referral processes, new processes identified, and improvement seen
- Project Steering Group set up with regular meetings
- Fifty nine patients supported and signposted to other agencies

Survey Results

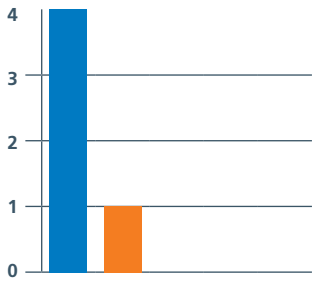
1. Please confirm if you are the patient or the family / friend / carer:

Patient	1
Family / friend / carer	4



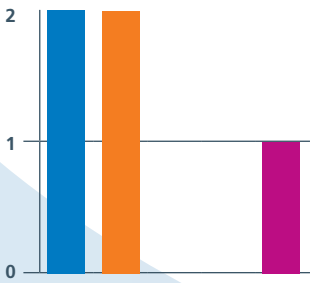
2. I felt I was treated with respect and dignity:

Strongly Agree	4
Agree	1
Neither Agree or Disagree	1
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't Know	0
N/A	0



3. I received helpful guidance on practical issues (e.g. financial):

Strongly Agree	2
Agree	2
Neither Agree or Disagree	1
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't Know	0
N/A	1



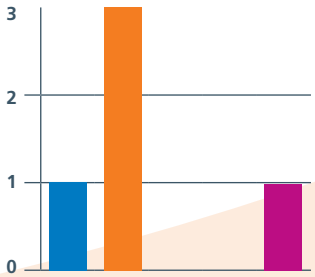
4. I felt supported with my advance wishes and requirements:

Strongly Agree	0
Agree	0
Neither Agree or Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't Know	0
N/A	5



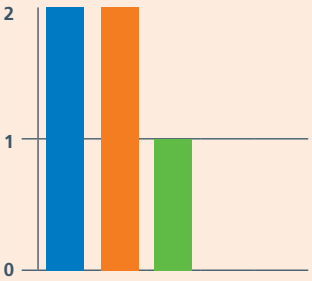
5. I felt relaxed and reassured with my family and friends:

Strongly Agree	1
Agree	3
Neither Agree or Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't Know	0
N/A	1



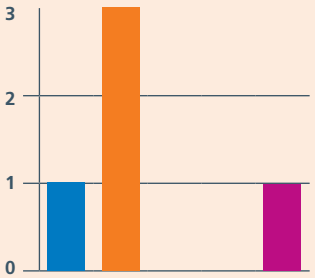
6. I felt my emotional needs and feelings were managed well:

Strongly Agree	2
Agree	2
Neither Agree or Disagree	1
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't Know	0
N/A	0



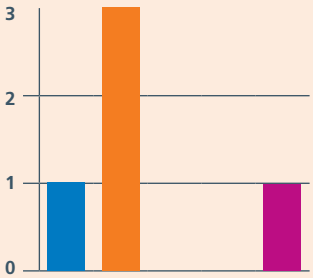
7. I felt the service allowed me the freedom to do what mattered to me:

Strongly Agree	1
Agree	3
Neither Agree or Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't Know	0
N/A	1



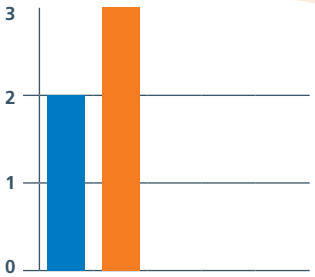
8. I felt I had access to the right services and at the right time:

Strongly Agree	1
Agree	3
Neither Agree or Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't Know	0
N/A	1



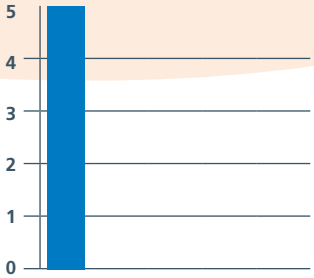
9. I was provided with information in a way that I understood:

Strongly Agree	2
Agree	3
Neither Agree or Disagree	0
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't Know	0
N/A	0



10. Overall, how was your experience of our service:

Very Good	5
Good	0
Neither Good or Poor	0
Poor	0
Very Poor	0
Don't Know	0



11. What was good about the service?

Great	Laugh	Appointments	Appreciate
Service	Happy	Helpful	Understanding
Explanations	Interpreter	Sessions	Help
Thanks	Wonderful	Given	Supported
Referrals	Eye-opener	Making	Lovely

Holistic Opportunities Preventing Exclusion (HOPE) project

Project start date April 2023

Our charity won a grant of £220,000 to help up to 1,000 vulnerable people in Wolverhampton over the next two years. Working in partnership with Wolverhampton Voluntary and Community Action (WVCA), the project has been awarded £220,000 from NHS Charities Together for project Holistic Opportunities Preventing Exclusion (HOPE).



From left: Lindsey Goodall, Community and Events Fundraising Officer, The RWT Charity, Elinor Cole, Arts and Heritage Co-Ordinator, The RWT Charity, Alison Dowling, Head of Patient Experience and Public Involvement at RWT, Eleanor Morris, Deputy Head of Patient Experience (Strategy and Engagement) at RWT and Ian Darch, Chief Executive of WVCA

The grant will allow us to:

- Recruit, train, manage and support a full-time Link Volunteer Co-ordinator
- Take on a part-time Link Administration Officer
- Recruit up to 200 volunteers per year.

Around a third of the grant – £75,000 – will be available for organisations to apply for to fund small, grass roots community groups to offer activities aimed at improving social connectivity. These bids will be assessed by the steering group.

NHS
The Royal Wolverhampton
NHS Trust

HOPE
Holistic Opportunities Preventing Exclusion

A 2-year project supporting the local community of Wolverhampton to prevent social isolation.

Would you like to support vulnerable people in your community and help others get more connected whilst reducing isolation?

If so, then please consider volunteering for HOPE.

To find out more, please:

Call **07796 046072** or email **rwh-tr.hope@nhs.net**

SUPPORTED BY NHS CHARITIES TOGETHER

Some of the items bought through The Charity

Charity Spend

Neonatal Unit – Cuski products – £1033.50

Cuski nests, swaddle wraps and bean bags for or premature babies for neonatal positioning and development care.



Paediatrics – Sensory room – £26,000

Following a donation of £20k from The 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Charity we were able to create a sensory room which is a bright, colourful and safe space for patients. We feel very lucky to have this at RWT as not every Children's Ward has one. Some of our children with complex health needs are here for a long time and it's really hard on the child and the families. So, for them to be able to come into a room like this, away from their bed space with a break from clinical procedures and doctors and nurses, is wonderful.



Orthopaedics
TV and DAB radio – £483

Some entertainment to support patients in our outpatient department and help pass the time.

Music therapy is shown to be good for the heart and reduce blood pressure making people feel more relaxed.





Oncology – Comfortline2 Therapy chairs

Comfort chairs were purchased for the Deanesly Centre. Comfortline chairs provide patients with a more comfortable and positive experience when receiving their treatment which is often over a long period of time.



Paediatrics – RockinR gaming system - £2,600

When speaking to some of our younger patients they identified they missed gaming, so two young fundraisers decided to raise some funds and purchase a system. Logan, aged six, climbed Snowdon with his dad and raise £1,400 and Alfie, aged 13, held a charity ball with his family and raised £1,200 to support this project. Situated in the playroom on Ward A21 at New Cross, the cart, which is height adjustable and lockable, comes complete with 21 of the newest games – all restricted to age 12 – access to Netflix, Disney+, the internet and streaming services and can be moved to the individual bed space.



Vascular – Handheld Dopplers - £3,011

A Doppler ultrasound is a non-invasive test that can be used to estimate the blood flow through your blood vessels by bouncing high-frequency sound waves (ultrasound) off circulating red blood cells. A regular ultrasound uses sound waves to produce images, but can't show blood flow.



How you can support us

Getting involved and supporting your local hospital and community services couldn't be easier. You might consider attending one of our events or even host your own and help us raise vital funds.

Donations can be made in the following ways:

Direct into bank account:

Contact the charity team on 01902 694473 for details and reference.

By post:

Please make cheques payable to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity.

Please write on the back of the cheque which fund you would like to donate to, e.g. General Purposes Trust Fund, and send to; Charity Office, Location A27 OPD, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, WV10 0QP

By a donation on our 'Just Giving' site:

https://www.justgiving.com/royalwolvesnhstrust

Please complete a donation form and return it along with your donation to the RWT charity.

Did you know you can also increase your donation without having to pay more? An additional £36,000 was raised through the Gift Aid scheme in 2021/22.

How does Gift Aid work? Gift Aid is a scheme run by the government that enables charities to increase the value of donations made by reclaiming basic rate tax that has been paid on the gift. At the moment, we can claim 25p per £1 donated, so on a gift of £100, we will actually receive an extra £25, at no cost to the donor.

Great! Can I Gift Aid my donations?

To qualify for Gift Aid, you need to be a UK taxpayer and have paid enough tax to cover the amount of tax reclaimed by all charities on all your donations for each tax year (6 April one year to 5 April the next). Apart from tax on income from a job or self-employment, other types that are acceptable are:

- Tax deducted at source from savings interest
- Tax on state pension and/or other pensions
- Tax on investment or rental income (including tax credits on UK dividends)
- Capital Gains Tax on gains

Other taxes such as VAT and council tax do not qualify, nor does any non-UK tax.

When completing your donation form or donating via an online platform, simply complete the gift aid declaration, provide your postal address and we'll do the rest!

Looking Ahead

Our objectives for 2023-2024

- We will increase the visibility, profile and understanding of the charity within the hospitals and our local community.
- We will strive to increase the value of monetary and non-monetary donations we receive year upon year, to ensure that we can continue to enhance the care and experiences of patients, their families, and our staff.
- We will deliver an effective, accessible grants programme to support Trust improvements to services and the patient environment.
- We will actively encourage applications to fund projects that further enhance and improve the health and wellbeing of staff and volunteers.
- We will actively encourage applications to fund research projects that will further medical knowledge through research.
- We will actively seek opportunities for collaboration with our colleagues from both statutory and non-statutory organisations and build and strengthen partnerships with key health and voluntary sector organisations to deliver greater impact.
- We will embrace the digital agenda and utilise opportunities to raise further awareness of the charity with stakeholders as well as actively support projects that embrace technology and innovative ways of working.

Trustees – Custodians of the Charity

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is the Corporate Trustee of the Charitable Funds governed by the law applicable to Trusts, principally the Trustee Act 2000 and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity has the authority to recruit up to eight trustees who together make up the Board of Trustees. They are unpaid volunteers who set the strategy for the Charity and make sure it is implemented. Trustees elect a Chairman from amongst their number who chairs the meetings of the Board of Trustees and takes a more active role in supporting the Charity Chief Executive in the management of the Charity.

Trustees are appointed under arrangements made by the Secretary of State for Health under Section 51 of the NHS Act 2006. Vacancies are advertised and all potential Trustees must be interviewed and recommended by a panel consisting of two members of the Charity and one external assessor. Candidates must show knowledge of, and an interest in, the hospital and the community it serves and be willing to give the time necessary. Trustees are also selected to give the Charity a good mix of relevant professional skills, such as finance, investment and fundraising.

Trustees serve a fixed term of no more than four years (renewable to a usual maximum of ten years in total). New Trustees receive an induction pack consisting of the governing documents, previous trustee reports and accounts, relevant Charity Commission guidance, and policies and procedures of the Charity. They are also given a tour of the Trust. Appropriate training is provided in areas including Charity law and administration, investment management and charity finance. The Charity's professional advisors provide helpful guidance, and membership of NHS Charities Together gives the Trustees access to regular conferences and training events.

The Charity has a Corporate Trustee: The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The members of the NHS Trust Board who served during the financial year were as shown in the table below;

Trustee	Role within The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
Mr K Bostock	Group Director of Assurance
Prof. A-M Cannaby	Group Chief Nursing Officer
Ms L Cowley	Non-Executive Director
Dr U Daraz	Associate Non-Executive Director(from 1 February 2023)
Mr A Duffell	Group Chief People Officer
Mr J Dunn	Non-Executive Director, Chair of Finance and Performance Committee (from 4 July 2022), Chair of Remuneration Committee (from 4 July 2022)
Mr R Dunshea	Non-Executive Director, Senior Independent Director (to 31 August 2022), Chair of Audit Committee (to 31 August 2022)
Mr S Evans	Group Chief Strategy Officer
Ms S Evans	Group Director of Communication and Stakeholder Engagement
Prof. S Field	Chair, Non-Executive Director (to 31 March 2023)
Ms A Harding	Associate Non-Executive Director(from 1 February 2023)
Mr J Hemans	Non-Executive Director, Chair of People and Organisational Development Committee
Ms A Heseltine	Associate Non-Executive Director
Ms D Hickman	Director of Nursing
Ms J Jones	Non-Executive Director, Chair of Audit Committee (from 4 July 2022)
Mr M Levermore	Non-Executive Director
Prof. D Loughton CBE	Group Chief Executive Officer, Chair of Management Committee
Ms M Martin	Non-Executive Director (to 3 July 2022), Chair of Finance and Performance Committee (to 3 July 2022), Chair of Remuneration Committee (to 3 July 2022)
Ms G Nuttall	Chief Operating Officer
Dr J Odum	Group Chief Medical Officer
Ms T Palmer	Director of Midwifery
Ms S Rawlings	Non-Executive Director, Chair of Trust Charity
Mr K Stringer	Group Chief Financial Officer/Deputy Chief Executive
Prof. L Toner	Non-Executive Director

How we organise the Charity

The main Charity, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity, registered charity number 1059467, was entered on the Central Register of Charities on 27 November 1996 in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Charity is constituted of circa. 94 individual funds. The notes to the accounts distinguish the types of fund held and disclose separately all material funds. Please refer to pages 71-86.

Charitable funds received by the Charity are accepted, held and administered as funds and property on trust for purposes relating to the health service in accordance with the National Health Service Act 2006 and the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990. The Charity has no employees but reimburses the NHS Trust for the financial and other services it provides. The Charity relies on the NHS Trust to identify the appropriateness of funding requests.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust as the Corporate Trustee has devolved responsibility for the on-going management of funds to the Charitable Funds Committee which administers the funds on behalf of the Corporate Trustee. This Committee was formed in 2006.

The names of those people who served as agents for the Corporate Trustee, as permitted under the NHS Trusts (Membership and Procedures) Regulations 1990 were as follows:

Prof. Steve Field CBE -	Chairman
David Loughton CBE -	Group Chief Executive
Kevin Stringer -	Group Chief Financial Officer
Sue Rawlings -	Non-executive Director
Roger Dunshea -	Non-executive Director
Julie Jones -	Non-executive Director
Lisa Cowley -	Non-executive Director

Principal Charitable Fund Advisers to the Board

The Chief Executive of the NHS Trust (David Loughton CBE) and Chief Financial Officer (Kevin Stringer) have day to day responsibility for the management of the Charitable Funds under a scheme of delegated authority by the Corporate Trustee. They must personally and together, on behalf of the Corporate Trustee, approve all expenditure over £10,000 with an upper limit of £50,000. Expenditure in excess of £50,000 on a particular project must be authorised by the Trust Board of the Corporate Trustee.

Mr Kevin Stringer was the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Charitable Funds during the year.

Principal Office

The principal office for the Charity is:

Group Chief Financial Officer
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
Hollybush House
New Cross Hospital
Wolverhampton
WV10 0QP

Wider Networks

RWT Charity is one of over 400 NHS linked charities in England and Wales who are eligible to join NHS Charities Together. As a member charity, we have the opportunity to discuss matters of common concern and exchange information and experiences, join together with others to lobby government departments and others, and to participate in conferences and seminars which offer support and education for our staff and members of the charitable funds committee.

Related Party Relationships

The Charity holds a related party relationship with The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The transactions with these parties have been disclosed in note 17 of these financial statements.

Trustees of the Charity



Professor David Loughton CBE CIHSCM, Group Chief Executive,

Appointed 2004

Professor Loughton's first Chief Executive appointment was at the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust in 1986 where he successfully led the organisation through two hospital mergers, developed a new medical school with Warwick University and reached financial closure of a new £400m hospital.

He then started as Chief Executive of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT) in 2004. He has led the organisation from one of the most financially challenged in the NHS, to being financially sound whilst at the same time gaining a national and international reputation for improving patient safety and experience. He started as Chief Executive of Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust in 2021, which has seen improvements in both staff and patient satisfaction.

RWT hosts the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in the West Midlands and Professor Loughton is the Chair of the West Midlands Cancer Alliance.

Committee Attendances in 2022-2023: 2/4

Declaration of interests:

- National Institute for Health Research – Member of Advisory Board
- Chair of West Midlands Cancer Alliance
- Group Chief Executive Officer



Professor Steve Field Chair of the Board

Appointed 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023

Professor Field holds a number of roles at various organisations including Chair at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Trustee at Nishkam Healthcare Trust and a Trustee for Pathway Healthcare for Homeless People.

Prior to his role of Chair, he was Chief Inspector of General Practice, Primary Medical Services, and Integrated Care at the Care Quality Commission (CQC). He has held several board positions in the NHS including, Deputy National Medical Director at NHS England, Regional Postgraduate Dean for NHS West Midlands, and Chair of the NHS Inclusion Health Board at the Department of Health. He also held the position of Chair of The Royal College of GPs and has been a faculty member at the Harvard Macy Institute of Harvard University in the USA. He has been awarded a number of honorary degrees and also holds academic appointments at the University of Birmingham and the University of Warwick.

Committee Attendances in 2022-2023: 0/4

Declaration of interests:

- Nishkam Healthcare Trust Birmingham – Trustee
- Chair, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
- Honorary Professor - University of Birmingham
- Honorary Professor – University of Warwick
- Director of EJC Associates
- Trustee for charity, Pathway Healthcare for Homeless People (from 04/08/20 to 01/04/22)
- Advisor to Health Holding Company and Board Member of Makkah Health Cluster, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Kevin Stringer
Chief Financial Officer

Appointed 2009

Mr Stringer is a qualified accountant with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and holds a Masters qualification in Business Administration (MBA). With more than 34 years of experience in the NHS, 21 of those years as a Director, he has experience of commissioning and provider organisations.

His experience covers:

- Primary Care, Community Services and Commissioning (with successor organisations being Walsall CCG and Birmingham cross-city CCG)
- Secondary and Tertiary Care (at University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals)
- Specialist Secondary Care (Birmingham Children's Hospital Foundation Trust where he helped the Trust secure FT status)
- Regional NHS Planning and Oversight (West Midlands Regional Health Authority) .

His role is to provide professional advice to the Board and wider Trust to ensure delivery of the Board's financial strategy, key statutory financial targets and ensure good internal control.

He is a member and advocate for Healthcare Financial Management (HFMA) having been a past Chair of the West Midlands Branch where he is now the Treasurer.

Committee Attendances in 2022-2023: 4/4

Declaration of interests:

- Treasurer, West Midlands Branch – Healthcare Financial Management Association
- Member of CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants)
- Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit - brother-in-law is the Managing Director
- Interim IT Director and SIRO at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
- Interim Director of Finance at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust
- Group Chief Financial Officer at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
- Daughter works on the administration Bank at the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust



Roger Dunshea
Non-Executive Director

Appointed April 2014 to 31 August 2022

Mr Dunshea has worked in the NHS in Scotland, Wales, and England in a variety of positions including Staff Nurse, Project Manager, Clinical General Manager and Executive Director roles. Between 1997 and 2013 he was a Director with OFWAT (the economic regulator of the water sector in England and Wales) with responsibilities covering finance, information systems, human resources, and procurement. He has been the Chair of Governors at a Central Birmingham High School and a Non-Executive Director with the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust.

His other current roles are independent member of the Welsh Government's Education and Public Services audit and risk assurance committee and Chair of the audit committee of the Geological Society. He is volunteer warden with Natural England. He is a Chartered Public Finance Accountant and Fellow of the Geological Society.

Committee Attendances in 2022-2023: 2/2

Declaration of interests:

- Geological Society of London – Member of Audit Committee
- Independent member of the Welsh Government Audit and Risk Committee for Education and Public Services
- Independent Member of Judicial Appointments Commissions ARAC



Julie Jones
Non Executive Director

Appointed August 2022 (Served as an Associate Non-Executive Director from February 2022).

Ms Jones is a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales who, after 15 years in external audit at a leading accounting firm, has spent the last 10 years in executive finance director positions in the not for profit and public sector. She is currently the Chief Financial Officer of a secondary school academy in Solihull and is an Associate Director of a company providing internal audit services to academy schools nationwide. She has more than 20 years' experience as a Non-Executive Director in social housing and higher education and is currently a member of the Audit & Assurance Committee of Walsall Housing Group, and Trustee and Treasurer of two local charities. She was previously the Chair of Audit Committee at Birmingham and Solihull CCG.

Committee Attendances in 2022-2023: 3/4

Declaration of interests:

- Associate Director of Academy Advisory
- Member of Audit and Risk Committee Walsall Housing Group
- Trustee of Solihull School Parents' Association
- Director of Leasehold Management Company Cranmer Court Residents Wolverhampton Limited
- Chief Financial Officer of Heart of England Academy



Sue Rawlings
Non-Executive Director

Appointed July 2013 (Served as an Associate Non-Executive Director from October 2012).

Re-appointed as an Associate Non-Executive Director in October 2021.

Ms Rawlings is a Chartered Certified Accountant who has worked in the public, private and voluntary sector. For 20 years, until 2020, she was a partner of the consultancy firm RHCS, a well- established, highly skilled consultancy firm working with a range of cross sector clients from the voluntary community/charitable and public sectors. She has extensive experience in evaluating the effectiveness of public expenditure and has worked, for example, with the British Red Cross in various parts of the country, conducting needs assessments, developing performance monitoring, and carrying out evaluations.

She worked with voluntary and community sector organisations to develop their business planning, their future sustainability and identify their impact. Previously a local improvement advisor appointed via IDeA to the Regional Improvement Efficiency Partnership in the West Midlands, she is also a Trustee of both Telford Christian Council Supported Housing Charitable Company and Telford Churches Together Charity.

Committee Attendances in 2022-2023: 4/4

Declaration of interests:

- Trustee and Company Director of Telford Christian Council Supported Housing – STAY
- Trustee and Director of Faith based Charity in Telford – Telford Christian Council



Lisa Cowley
Non Executive Director

Appointed February 2022

Ms Cowley joins Trust Board bringing a wealth of experience gained in large, national and regional, health, social care and third sector organisations. She has held senior leadership positions, both as an employee and in a charitable trustee capacity, ensuring she brings a strong foundation in financial, business and operational planning, project evaluation and impact monitoring, amongst other expertise. She is particularly skilled at developing partnerships across the voluntary and public sector, including the evolution of the VCSE Alliance as part of the development of Integrated Care Systems. In her current role, Ms Cowley is Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Beacon Vision, one of the region's most established and well-known health and social care charities, where she has been in post for more than four years. She has bought many positive improvements to the charity and is passionate about making a difference to the lives of people living with sight loss across the West Midlands. In addition to her unwavering dedication to Beacon's charitable objectives, she is committed to building long-term sustainability, actively seeking new ways to improve and develop increased integrated, cooperative and progressive health and social care systems to support beneficiaries. Previous roles have included Deputy CEO of the Black Country Living Museum, where she implemented significant change programmes and oversaw complex funding bids and projects of national heritage significance. Ms Cowley has also been involved in complex projects during her time at organisations such as the RSPB and The British Horse Society, where she developed and implemented the charity's national volunteer programme. A highlight from her earlier career includes a pivotal role in the redevelopment of the world's first 'skyscraper' in Shrewsbury. She is originally from Wolverhampton, having returned after completing her degree at the University of Liverpool. Her personal interests include a passion for horses and horse riding.

Committee Attendances in 2022-2023: 4/4

Declaration of interests:

- Healthy Communities Together Project Sponsor for Beacon Centre for the Blind
- Chief Executive for the Beacon Centre for the Blind



Martin Levermore
Non Executive Director

Non-Executive Director from 15 August 2022, originally appointed Associate Non-Executive Director from 7 February 2022

Professor Martin Levermore MBE DL is a Visiting Professor for Health, Education and Life Science at Birmingham City University (BCU).

He is a founder and Chief Executive of Medical Devices Technology International Ltd (MDTi), he has been working with the NHS regionally and nationally for over the past 18 years to commercialise and bring to market innovative products and service ideas.

He has more than 18 years at Senior Board level in the Life Sciences sector and sits on the Executive Board of PIONEER as Commercial Adviser, whilst Chairing the advisory board to Health Data Research UK (HDRUK).

Currently, Professor Levermore's professional area of interest is on the adoptability of agile strategies and technologies that will improve clinical utility and the equity of medical devices to provide quicker and accurate assessment and diagnosis for patients centred around the flexibility of remote management.

He holds a Senior Associateship with the Royal Society of Medicine; he is a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Securities and Investment and Fellowship of the Royal Society of Arts.

He is the Independent Person for Windrush Compensation Scheme reporting to the Home Secretary

Professor Levermore was appointed in 2018 by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant, Mr John Crabtree OBE, as a Deputy Lieutenant to the West Midlands.

Committee Attendances in 2022-2023: 0/0

Declaration of interests:

- Chief Executive Officer of Medical Devices Technology International Ltd
- Vice Chair for Nehemiah United Churches Housing Association (UCHA).
- Chair of Medilink Midlands
- Interim Chair of New Roots Homelessness Charity
- Chair of Trade and Business Birmingham Commonwealth Association (BCA)
- Executive Committee Member of the Greater Birmingham Commonwealth Chamber of Commerce
- Home Office Independent Adviser to Windrush Compensation Scheme
- Ordinary Shares at Medical Devises Technology International Ltd

Structure, Governance and Management

All the Charity's funds are pooled for investment purposes and the official pooling scheme was registered with the Charity Commission on 24 June 1998.

For management purposes all funds held and received by the Charity fall into one of the following categories:

- Endowment funds - funds where the capital must be held in perpetuity and only the income generated can be used for charitable purposes
- Restricted funds - funds received which have specific restrictions set by the donor
- Unrestricted funds - funds received which have no restrictions attached to their use.

Within the unrestricted category separate designated funds have been established which reflect the wishes of donors to help named wards and departments in the hospital. Subsequent donations and gifts received by the Charity that are attributable to the already established funds are added to those fund balances. Where the donations and gifts are not attributable to already established funds, new funds are set up. In this way the Corporate Trustee fulfils the legal duty to ensure that all funds are spent in accordance with the objectives of each fund and that the wishes of donors are always considered.

Unrestricted funds form the largest category with £1,791,000 of funds at 31 March 2023. There are charitable funds for most clinical specialties (e.g. medicine or ophthalmology) and for some wards and departments within specialties.

Non-Executive members of the Trust Board are appointed by the NHS Appointments Commission and Executive members of the Board are subject to recruitment by the NHS Trust Board. 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.

Acting for the Corporate Trustee, the objective of the Charitable Funds Committee is to provide strategic direction to the Charity and ensure that it is managed and administered in accordance with the Charity's purposes. The Committee is responsible for:

- Determining a charitable funds strategy and setting annual objectives
- Ensuring that charitable funds are managed in line with the measures and actions set out in the strategy
- Ensuring any fundraising elements of the strategy work within recognised good practice frameworks and identify methods of fundraising appropriate for the Charity
- Determining a charitable funds investment policy and monitoring performance of any investments made in line with governing documents and the Trustee Act 2000
- Appointing and considering the performance of any investment advisors or managers

- Ensuring Trust policies and procedures are adequate, that financial controls are in place to account for all funds received and that governance arrangements are appropriate and effective
- Ensuring that timely annual reports and accounts are produced and an unqualified external audit opinion is received.
- The accounting records and the day-to-day administration of the funds are dealt with by the Finance Department located at The Clinical Skills and Corporate Services Centre, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton WV10 0QP.

Risk Management

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed have been identified and considered. They have been reviewed and systems established to mitigate those risks. The Trustee is confident that reliance can be placed on the management arrangements in place, which include internal and external audit services, to minimise any risk to the funds. The most significant risks identified are the possible losses from a fall in the value of the investments and the level of reserves available to mitigate the impact of such losses.

The investments are held by the Investment Fund Managers who act in accordance with the agreed investment policy and are subject to regular review. In addition, unrealised gains and losses are allocated to funds at agreed intervals. Procedures in place ensure that both spending and firm financial commitments remain in line with income. Income is covered by the Standing Financial Instructions and there is an agreed boundary for the receipt of donations. This policy has been communicated to staff.

There is an agreed expenditure and reserves policy together with a tight approval procedure which gives the Corporate Trustee confidence that the expenditure will remain within the limits of the Charity's resources.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

This can be found at the beginning of this report on page 5.

Investment Management

Surplus funds are pooled and invested in order to maximise income, whilst minimising risk for the Charity.

Income and cash, gains and losses are distributed equitably across the Charity funds. The income from investments amounted to £82,397 (£77,879 in 2021/22).

Throughout 2022/23 the investments were split into two portfolios.

- A Shorter Term Portfolio which aims to achieve a consistently attractive level of income, coupled with the potential for long-term capital appreciation whilst aiming to preserve the value of the capital over the short-term
- A Longer Term Portfolio which is invested to achieve long-term capital and income growth. Achieved with a broadly diversified global portfolio covering the world's principal stock, bond and currency markets, together with investments in "alternative" assets such as property and hedge funds.

During the year the Trustees requested both the Shorter and Longer Term Portfolios continue to hold a 50:50 split of the overall investments.

At the year end the Shorter Term Portfolio held £1,069,146 and the Longer Term Portfolio held £1,380,183. Both portfolio's were split between investment types. The two portfolio's together were split in the following way. £1,106,793 – 45.2% (2022: £1,290,563 – 48%) was invested in equity based investments, £1,265,201 – 51.6% (2022: £1,306,414 – 48.5%) was invested in longer fixed interest bearing government and other securities and £77,343 – 3.2% (2022: £94,025 – 3.5%) was held as liquid assets including cash. This total sum invested decreased by £241,674 from 2021/22.

The Charity does not own any investment properties.

The Charity has an investment policy that was reviewed in November 2022. See page 66.

A reflection on the last 12 months, from Sarasin & Partners LLP.

Investment returns for the past 12 months have been a tale of two halves. With Russia's invasion of Ukraine came rising inflation, which, added to the supply shock created by the COVID-19 pandemic, caused central banks to raise interest rates faster and higher than many had anticipated. This, along with mounting recessionary concerns, triggered falls across both equity and bond markets over the following months.

October, by contrast, brought a sense of optimism as data releases began to imply that inflation was showing signs of nearing a peak. This optimism was further strengthened by the rapid reopening of China in early 2023 and falling wholesale gas prices in Europe. Since this point, and in spite of the many oscillations in sentiment and a banking crisis in Europe & the US in March, returns for equity investors have rebounded strongly. The resurgence has been led by a relatively narrow set of US listed technology companies, which have benefitted from the renewed excitement in large language models and the advances in machine learning. Over the entire period, the net result is that returns from equities have been broadly flat.

Having had limited exposure to fixed income in 2022, falling capital values have meant that the yields on offer, particularly from high-quality, investment grade corporate bonds, look increasingly attractive. This has provided an opportunity to start adding back to positions, which had been roughly half-weighted, to a more neutral level by the end of the twelve months.

The portfolios have benefitted from our continued focus on high quality businesses with strong balance sheets and meaningful pricing power, with companies like Merck & Co (diversified pharmaceuticals), National Instruments (software and hardware for engineers and scientists) and Broadcom (semiconductors and infrastructure software) contributing strongly to performance.

With regards to income, distributions for the long-term portfolio were kept flat, as was projected this time last year, thus maintaining our commitment to produce sufficient income for the Trust. We expect income receipts to again be matched over the next 12-month period, which we hope will assist with the Trust's financial planning.

Policies

Investment Policy

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk.inflation over the long term whilst generating an income to support the on-going activities of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity.

The investment objective for the short term portfolio is to preserve the capital value with a minimum level of risk. Assets should be readily available to meet unanticipated cash flow requirements.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity has approximately a 50/50 split for investments between long term and short term, in order that unanticipated cash flow needs can be met.

The Charity's ethical investment policy precludes direct or indirect investment in companies that generate more than 10% of revenues from alcohol, armaments, gambling, pornography and will not invest in tobacco.

Expenditure policy

The charitable funds that the Charity manages, and from which grants are made, are held as endowment funds (expendable or permanent), restricted funds and unrestricted funds (designated or non-designated).

It is the Trustees' policy to ensure that all grants made from these funds are used in accordance with the purposes of the individual fund and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity's purposes and aims.

Individual funds' purposes include research, equipment, and patient and staff welfare.

The definitions of endowment, restricted and unrestricted funds are detailed below:

- Endowment funds – funds where the capital must be held in perpetuity and only the income generated can be used for charitable purposes
- Restricted funds – fund received which have specific restrictions set by the donor
- Unrestricted funds – funds received which have no restrictions attached to their use.

All of the different types of funds have fund advisors who facilitate local decision making and offer expertise in the particular area of the fund.

The fund advisors have delegated powers and responsibility to authorise expenditure in line with the Trust's Authorised Limits Schedule contained within the Standing Financial Instructions (SFI's). The fund advisors can make recommendations on how to spend the money within their designated area up to a level of £5,000 per transaction subject to any specific donor wishes. The deputy chief operating officers have delegated powers and responsibility to authorise transactions up to £10,000. For expenditure in excess of these limits they make recommendations to the chief executive and chief financial officer who have authority limits up to £50,000. Any transactions over this limit must go to the Trust Board for authorisation.

All of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity's restricted and unrestricted funds can be spent at any time. Grants from these funds are applied for by fund advisors

Reserves policy

The Corporate Trustee acknowledges that it is the donors' intention that their contributions be used as soon as possible to enhance the service provided by the Trust. Consequently, it is the policy of the Charity that significant reserves are not held. The Charity does not intend to increase fund balances unless this is as a result of significant donations or legacies. However, from time to time, balances are held in particular areas until sufficient funds have been donated to make specific purchases.

The trustee has established a reserves policy as part of their plans to provide long term support to the services provided by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The Trustee calculates the reserves as that part of the Charity's unrestricted income funds that is freely available, after taking account of the designated funds, which have been earmarked for specific service purposes, in accordance with the stated Charity Objectives.

Total funds of the charity were £2,725,000 (2022 £3,031,000) of which £1,791,000 (2022: £2,026,000) are unrestricted funds, £852,000 (2022 £923,000) restricted funds and £82,000 (2022: £82,000) were endowment funds

The free reserves currently stand at £86,000 and are calculated as follows:

- Total unrestricted funds £1,791,000
- Less designated funds (£1,705,000)
- Total free reserves £86,000

The Trustees intend that designated funds are spent within a reasonable period of receipt and therefore, foresee a need only to maintain reserves sufficient to provide certainty of funding to cover the administrative, fundraising and governance costs of the Charity in the short term. The Trustee aims to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately a year of non-designated, unrestricted charitable expenditure. The Trustee considers that this level will provide sufficient funds in the short term, to cover costs in the event of unforeseen circumstances which prevented the operation of the Charity in the longer term.

The Trustee reviews the balance held in designated funds, in accordance with the provisions of the NHS Acts relating to charitable funds, to determine whether these funds are likely to be committed in the near future and the extent to which there is a continuing need identified for any particular designated fund(s). Any inactive funds are closed and transferred appropriately. Additionally, within the level of designated funds held, the Trustee ensures that there are sufficient funds held to cover a fluctuation in the value of funds held in investments.

The policies specific to the Charity reserves are as follows:

- To maintain systems to forecast levels of expenditure and income to determine reserve requirements
- To ensure the level of reserves are secured
- To monitor and review the policy periodically to ensure it remains suitable for the Charity's need
- The Corporate Trustee has reviewed the reserves policy in the light of the Charity Commission's published guidance CC19 – Charities' Reserves.

Further details

Principal professional advisers

Auditors - External
WR Partners
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
SY2 6LG

Auditors - Internal
RSM UK
Festival Way
Festival Park
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5BB

Bankers
Cooperative Bank plc
1-2 Dudley Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 3EN

Solicitors
Browne Jacobson
44 Castle Gate
Nottingham
NG1 7BJ

Investment Fund Managers
Sarasin & Partners LLP
Juxon House
100 St Paul's Churchyard
London
EC4M 8BU

Full accounts

This annual report comments on some of the features of the full accounts which are provided on the following pages for your information. Copies of the full accounts have been lodged with the Charity Commission and carry an unqualified audit report.

The text and accounts shown in this report were approved by the Trustees on 17 October 2023 and is signed on their behalf by the Chair.

Mlevermore

Martin Levermore -
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102)
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any
- Material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- So far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- That Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 17 October 2023
and signed on their behalf by:



Martin Levermore
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity (the 'charity) for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- Give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- Have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- Have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- Adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- The financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- Certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- We have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We have reviewed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement and identified the principal's risks, implementing a series of testing procedures to provide us with sufficient comfort to issue our opinion.

We reviewed the charities regulatory environment to ensure we could that it had acted in accordance with the framework relevant to the charity and its environment and identify any instances on non-compliance.

We also assessed the charity's internal control procedures to ensure we could appropriately scrutinise these controls and establish whether our understanding of the control environment was sufficient to supplement our additional testing procedures.

The engagement team consisted of a team that the engagement partner believes is equipped with the relevant level of technical and charity awareness to carry out our work to the required standard.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

WR Partners

For and on behalf of WR Partners
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6LG

Charity Accounts 2022-2023

Statement of Financial Activities incorporating income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Endowment funds £000	2022/23 Total funds £000	2021/22 Total funds £000
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income:						
Donations and legacies	3	188	449	-	**637**	484
Grants	3	-	59	-	**59**	257
Other trading activities	3	80	4		**84**	67
Investments	12	44	38	-	**82**	78
Total incoming resources		**312**	**550**	**-**	**862**	886
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	4	(151)	-	-	**(151)**	(101)
Charitable activities	4	(249)	(524)	-	**(773)**	(645)
Other expenditure		(1)	-	-	**(1)**	(4)
Total expenditure		**(402)**	**(524)**	**-**	**(926)**	(750)
Net gains/(losses) on investment		(146)	(97)	-	**(243)**	(24)
Net income/expenditure		**(236)**	**(71)**	**-**	**(306)**	112
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	**-**	-
Net movements in funds		**(236)**	**(71)**	**-**	**(306)**	112
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		2,026	923	82	**3,031**	2,919
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2023		**1,791**	**852**	**82**	**2,725**	3,031

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Endowment funds £000	2022/23 Total funds £000	2021/22 Total funds £000
Fixed assets						
Investments	11	1,514	853	82	**2,449**	2,691
Total fixed assets		**1,514**	**853**	**82**	**2,449**	2,691
Current assets						
Debtors	13	45	-	-	**45**	42
Cash and cash equivalents	14	390	-	-	**390**	806
Total current assets		**436**	**-**	**-**	**436**	848
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(160)	-	-	**(160)**	(508)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		**276**	**-**	**-**	**276**	340
Total assets less current liabilities		**1,791**	**852**	**82**	**2,725**	3,031
Net assets		**1,791**	**852**	**82**	**2,725**	3,031
The funds of the Charity						
Endowment funds	16	-	-	82	**82**	82
Restricted income funds	16	-	852	-	**852**	923
Unrestricted income funds	16	1,791	-	-	**1,791**	2,026
Total Charity funds		**1,791**	**852**	**82**	**2,725**	3,031

Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£000	£000
Net income/(expenditure) for 2022/23 (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(306)	112
Adjustment for:		
(Gains)/losses on investments	243	24
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(82)	(78)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(4)	(18)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(349)	362
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**(498)**	402

Cash Flow	**Total funds 2022/23 £000**	Total funds 2021/22 £000
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(498)	402
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	82	78
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	82	78
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(416)	480
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	806	326
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**390**	806

1. General information

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity is an unincorporated charity in England. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 60 of this report.

2. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The 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 the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published 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 Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

After making enquires, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

The key risks to the Charity's continuing going concern status are a fall in income from donations or investment income but the Trustee has arrangements in place to mitigate those risks (see the risk management (page 65) and reserves (page 66) sections of the annual report for more information).

b) Funds structure

Where there is a legal restriction on the purpose to which a fund may be put, the fund is classified either as:

- a restricted fund or
- an endowment fund.

Restricted funds are those where the donor has provided for the donation to be spent in furtherance of a specified charitable purpose.

Endowment funds arise when the donor has expressly provided that the gift is to be invested and only the income of the fund may be spent. These funds are sub analysed between those where the trustee has the discretion to spend the capital (expendable endowment) and those where there is no discretion to expend the capital (permanent endowment).

The Charity has three permanent endowment funds, all of which are invested within the long term portfolio and the return from this investment is transferred into either an unrestricted fund or a restricted fund dependent on the restrictions placed on the fund by the donor.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked for a particular area so where donations are received for individual wards or departments, these are transferred to a fund designated for that particular ward or department. These funds are held for general, day to day needs as opposed to long term projects.

c) Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable (more likely than not) that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Where there are terms or conditions attached to incoming resources, particularly grants, then these terms or conditions must be met before the income is recognised as the entitlement condition will not be satisfied until that point. Where terms or conditions have not been met then the relevant income is not recognised in the year but deferred and shown on the balance sheet as deferred income.

d) Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind, such as food and care packages are not accounted for when they are accepted and immediately distributed unless a single donation is material.

Gifts of tangible assets such as microwaves and fridges are recognised as a donation at fair value (market price) on receipt and charitable expenditure when they are distributed.

Where gifts in kind are held before being distributed to beneficiaries, they are recognised at fair value as stock until they are distributed.

e) Incoming resources from legacies

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

f) Incoming resources from endowment funds

The incoming resources received from the invested endowment fund are transferred to the restricted or unrestricted fund as per the donors request.

g) Other incoming resources

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

h) Resources expended and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to each category of expense shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Expenditure is recognised when the following criteria are met:

- there is a present legal or constructive obligation resulting from a past event
- it is more likely than not that a transfer of benefits (usually a cash payment) will be required in settlement
- the amount of the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably

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

i) Recognition of expenditure and associated liabilities as a result of grant

The Charity is not a grant giving organisation.

j) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those costs which do not relate directly to a single activity. These include some staff recharges, costs of administration, external audit costs and IT support. Support costs have been apportioned between fundraising costs and charitable activities on an appropriate basis. The analysis of support costs and the bases of apportionment applied are shown in note 6.

k) Fundraising costs

The costs of generating 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 which include expenses for fundraising activities and a recharge paid to a related party, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (see note 17). The recharge is used to pay the salaries and support costs of the Charity's fundraising team.

l) Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs incurred in the pursuit of the charitable objects of the charity. These costs, where not wholly attributable, are apportioned between the categories of charitable expenditure in addition to the direct costs. The total costs of each category of charitable expenditure include an apportionment of support costs as shown in note 6.

m) Fixed asset investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument. Fixed asset investments are initially recognised at their transaction value and are subsequently measured at their fair value (market value) as at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year. Quoted stocks and shares are included in the Balance Sheet at the current market value quoted by the investment analyst, excluding dividend. Other investments are included at the trustee's best estimate of market value.

The main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors. Further information on the RWT Charity investments can be found in note 11.

n) Debtors

Debtors are amounts owed to the charity. They are measured on the basis of their recoverable amount.

o) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand is held to meet the day to day running costs of the charity as they fall due. Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments, usually in 90-day notice interest bearing savings accounts.

p) Creditors

Creditors are amounts owed by the charity. They are measured at the amount that the charity expects to have to pay to settle the debt.

Amounts which are owed in more than a year are shown as long-term creditors.

q) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and opening carrying value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at the year end and opening carrying value (or purchase date if later).

r) Staff costs and pensions

The Charity does not have any staff. All staffing costs are recharged from The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

3 Income

a) Analysis of Donations, Legacies and Grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022/23	Total 2021/22
Donations from individuals	124	6	130	308
Corporate donations	51	1	52	40
Legacies	13	442	455	136
Grants	0	59	59	257
	188	**508**	**696**	**741**
2021/22 Total funds £000	*707*	*34*	*741*	

Donations from individuals are gifts from members of the public, relatives of patients and staff.
Donations of goods, to the value of £24,472 2022/23 (£9,839 2021/22), are included in income valued at their market value. All of these donations have been distributed during the year.

b) Analysis of Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022/23	Total 2021/22
Community	29	4	33	14
Individuals	11	-	11	-
Events	40	-	40	53
Corporate	-	-	-	-
	80	**4**	**84**	67
2021/22 Total funds £000	*65*	*2*	*67*	

4 Expenditure

a) Analysis of Raising Funds

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2022/23 £000	Total 2021/22 £000
Fundraisers costs	130	-	130	87
Support costs	21	-	21	14
	151	**-**	**151**	101
2021/22 Total funds £000	*101*	-	*101*	

b) Analysis of Charitable Activities

	Grant funded activity £000	Support Costs £000	Total funds 2022/23 £000	Total funds 2021/22 £000
Purchase of new medical equipment	40	-	40	306
Patients welfare and amenities	171	37	208	270
Staff welfare and amenities	49	10	59	69
Building work	464	-	464	-
Research	1	-	1	-
	726	47	773	645
2021/22 Total funds £000	*599*	*46*	*645*	

5 Grant funding

The charity did not undertake any direct charitable activities on its own account during the year. All of the charitable expenditure was in the form of grant funding.

Grants were approved in favour of the partner organisations, principally the RWNHST to carry out activities that will benefit patients and their families. The Charity incurred expenditure with third parties in pursuance of those grants or reimbursed expenditure incurred by them.

6 Allocation of support costs and overheads

Support and overhead costs are allocated between fundraising activities and charitable activities.
The bases of allocation used are as follows:

- Time: based the charity's two staff members' timesheets.
- Direct allocation: where a cost is wholly attributable to a particular activity.
- Expenditure: this is a proportion based on the fund balance at the start of the year. This is used where the trustee considers this is a more equitable treatment to avoid disadvantaging funds with high volume, low value transactions.
- Salaries: this is proportionate to staff salaries where costs are related to the employed staff.

	Raising funds £000	**Charitable activities £000**	**Total 2022/23 £000**	Total 2021/22 £000	Basis
Internal audit	1	2	3	-	Direct
External audit	2	6	8	7	Direct
Financial services	16	36	52	49	Time
Support admin costs	-	-	-	-	Time
Other administration costs	2	3	5	4	Expenditure
	21	**47**	**68**	60	
2020/21 Total funds £000	*14*	*46*	*60*		

7 Trustee remuneration, benefits and expenses

Remuneration for the Board of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is provided in The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust 2022/23 published Accounts available on the Trust website, and as such remuneration and expenses with regards to the Charitable Funds Committee are not separately identified.

8 Analysis of staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

The Charity has no employees (2021/22 none). Costs for staff incurred by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust are recharged to the Charity in the form of a Financial Services management fee along with the salaries for the Fundraising team. The management fee for the year amounted to £52,252 (2021/22 £49,228) and the Fundraisers' salaries amounted to £111,649 (2021/22 £80,603). The Charity does not directly pay salaries national insurance or pension contributions (2021/22 £Nil).

Analysis of staff costs recharged by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

	2023	2022
	£0	£0
Fundraisers salary	**112**	81
Financial services	**52**	49
	164	130

9 Transfers

There were transfers of £41,664 (2021/22 £5,022) during the year, between New Cross General Purpose Legacies and Arts and Heritage.

10 Auditor's remuneration

External auditors' remuneration of £7,800 including VAT (2021/22 £6,600 including VAT) related solely to the audit with no other additional work undertaken (2021/22 £Nil).

11 Investments

Movement in fixed asset investments	**31 March 2023 £000**	31 March 2022 £000
Market value at 1 April	**2,691**	2,715
Less disposals at carrying value	**-**	-
Add: additions to investments at cost	**-**	-
Add net gain (loss) on revaluation	**(242)**	(24)
Market value as at 31 March	**2,449**	2,691

Net movement is made up of the revaluation of investments (£241,674) at the year end and £8.96 increase in the balance of cash held to £10.35 as part of the investment portfolio.

Analysis of market value	**31 March 2023 £000**	31 March 2022 £000
Investments listed on Stock Exchange	**2,449**	2,691
	2,449	2,691

Fixed asset investment by type	**31 March 2023 £000**	**31 March 2023 %**	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2022 %
Equities	**1,107**	**45.2**	1,291	48.0
Fixed Income (Inc Bonds)	**894**	**36.5**	853	31.7
Property	**61**	**2.5**	82	3.0
Other	**310**	**12.6**	371	13.8
Liquid Assets (Inc Cash)	**77**	**3.2**	94	3.5
	2,449	**100**	2,691	100

The Trustee's consider the value of the investments to be supported by their underlying assets.

12 Analysis of gross income from investments and cash on deposit

	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2022 £000
Investments listed on Stock Exchange	**82**	78
	82	78

13 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2022 £000
Prepayments and accrued income	**45**	42
	45	42

14 Cash and cash equivalents

	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2022 £000
Co-Operative Bank Account	**390**	806
	390	806

15 Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:	31 March 2023 £000	31 March 2022 £000
Trade creditors	**83**	490
Other creditors	**12**	13
Deferred Income	**65**	5
	160	508

16 Analysis of charitable funds

a) Endowment funds

i) Analysis of endowment fund movements

ii) Details of permanent endowment funds

	31 March 2023	31 March 2022
	£000	£000
A General Purposes Fund	**26**	26
B W.H.Fowler Trust	**14**	14
C Nell Phoenix Fund	**42**	42
	82	82

Name of permanent endowment	Description of the nature and purpose of each permanent endowment
A General Purposes Fund	to earn interest for the benefit of the non designated fund of the RWT Charity
B W.H.Fowler Trust	to earn interest for the benefit of the designated Maternity & Gynaecology fund within the Obstetrics and Gynaecology area
C Nell Phoenix Fund	to earn interest for the benefit of the restricted fund which is to provide musical entertainment for nursing staff

b) Restricted funds

i) Analysis of restricted fund movements

	Name of fund	31 March 2022	**Income**	**Expenditure**	**Transfers**	**Gains & losses**	**31 March 2023**
		£000	**£000**	**£000**	**£000**	**£000**	**£000**
A	Joan Jones	102	4	(2)	-	(10)	**94**
B	Edith Mary Jeavons	4	-	-	-	-	**4**
C	Nell Phoenix Fund	37	2	(6)	-	(3)	**30**
D	Cystic Fibrosis Funding	2	-	-		-	**2**
E	Sheila Whiting Legacy	71	3	(1)	-	(9)	**64**
F	Marjorie Ferguson Legacy	1	-	-	-	-	**1**
G	CCH General Purpose - Legacies	20	1	-	-	(3)	**18**
H	Rotary Dowding	230	9	(5)	-	(22)	**212**
I	Millicent Jessica Dwight - Legacy	19	1	-	-	(4)	**16**
J	Swan Fund	5	4	-	-	-	**9**
K	Cancer Centre Fund	30	1	(1)	-	(3)	**27**
L	Kenneth Arthur Hollins - CCH Dialysis Centre	84	3	(2)	-	(8)	**77**
N	New Cross General Purposes - Legacies	256	9	(5)	(47)	(19)	**194**
O	RWT Singers	3	7	(7)	5	(1)	**7**
P	Individual funds < £500	1	-	-	-	-	**1**
Q	Arts & Heritage Fund	1	1	(12)	42	(4)	**28**
R	COVID-19	57	63	(41)	-	(11)	**68**
S	Mr Worrall Legacy	-	442	(442)	-	-	**-**
		923	550	(524)	-	(97)	**852**

b) Restricted funds continued

ii) Details of restricted funds

Name of fund		Description of the nature and purpose of each fund
A	Joan Jones	to provide medical equipment to the Renal, Oncology, Vascular and Cardiac Units
B	Edith Mary Jeavons	to provide medical equipment to RW Trust
C	Nell Phoenix Fund	to provide musical entertainment for nursing staff
D	Cystic Fibrosis Funding	to support patients and their families who suffer with Cystic Fibrosis
E	Sheila Whiting Legacy	to support Rheumatology services at Cannock Hospital
F	Marjorie Ferguson Legacy	to support the services provided at the Rehabilitation Day Unit at Cannock Hospital
G	CCH General Purpose - Legacies	to support services at Cannock Hospital
H	Rotary Dowding	to support services at Cannock Hospital
I	Millicent Jessica Dwight Legacy	to provide equipment to RW Trust
J	Swan Fund	to support End of Life Care with in the Trust
K	Cancer Centre Fund	to provide a top class facility for Cancer Patients in the area
L	Kenneth Arthur Hollins - CCH Dialysis Centre	to provide support within the Cannock Hospital Dialysis Centre
M	Special Fund for Nano Bubble Pump	for the provision of a Nano Bubble Pump
N	New Cross General Purposes - Legacies	to support services at New Cross Hospital
O	RWT Singers (Choir)	to improve staff morale and enhance patient and visitor experience around the Trust
P	Individual Funds <£500	Lindsay Clift Memorial Fund is to support patient safety by way of training or providing vital monitoring equipment, Calabar Wolverhampton VISION 2020 Link is to support staff training with links to other countries, Arts in Health Trust Fund is to support delivery of the Trust's Arts In Health Programme
Q	Arts & Heritage	to provide additional resources that; contribute to and enhance the healing environment, therapeutic art activities for patients, their families and staff and to record the history of and the advancements of healthcare at RWT.
R	COVID-19	to provide support to patients and staff as part of the COVID-19 recovery
S	Mr Worrall Legacy	to support children in hospital who have cancer

c) Unrestricted funds

i) Analysis of unrestricted funds movements

		31 March 2022	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Gains & losses	31 March 2023
		£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Designated funds							
A	Anaesthetics	80	8	(12)	-	(6)	**70**
B	Medical Directorate	338	29	(68)	-	(22)	**277**
C	Haematology & Oncology	440	58	(88)	-	(30)	**380**
D	Cardiac Services	320	24	(33)	-	(23)	**288**
E	Renal Unit	39	28	(22)	-	(3)	**42**
F	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	73	4	(8)	-	(6)	**63**
G	Ophthalmology	97	5	(15)	-	(7)	**80**
H	Orthopaedics	106	5	(12)	-	(7)	**92**
I	Paediatrics	166	81	(56)	-	(14)	**177**
J	Surgical Directorate	77	8	(7)	-	(6)	**72**
K	Clinical Support	3	-	-	-	-	**3**
L	Wolverhampton Medical Institute	9	-	-	-	(1)	**8**
M	Other Smaller Funds	90	5	(7)	-	(6)	**82**
N	Community Nursing	6	-	(1)	-	-	**5**
O	Research Funds	77	2	(8)	-	(5)	**66**
		1,921	257	(337)	-	(136)	**1,705**
Non-designated funds							
P	General Purposes Funds	105	55	(64)	-	(10)	**86**
		2,026	**312**	**(401)**	**-**	**(146)**	**1,791**

c) Unrestricted funds continued

ii) Details of unrestricted funds

Name of area		Description of the nature and purpose of each area
A	Anaesthetics	benefit of the Anaesthetics Directorate
B	Medical Directorate	benefit of the Medical Directorate
C	Haematology & Oncology	benefit of the Deanesly Centre and Cancer Services
D	Cardiac Services	benefit of the Cardiothoracic Directorate
E	Renal Unit	benefit of the Renal Unit
F	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	benefit of the Maternity & Gynaecology Directorate
G	Ophthalmology	benefit of the Ophthalmic Directorate
H	Orthopaedics	benefit of the Orthopaedic Directorate
I	Paediatrics	benefit of the Paediatric Directorate
J	Surgical Directorate	benefit of the Surgical Directorate
K	Clinical Support	benefit of Clinical Support Services
L	Wolverhampton Medical Institute	benefit of the Wolverhampton Medical Institute
M	Other smaller funds	benefit of Emergency Department, Ambulatory Care, Ear Nose and Throat, Theatres, Therapy Services, Nurse Training, Chaplaincy etc.
N	Community Nursing	benefit of the Community Nursing Teams
O	Research Funds	to support Research projects at the Trust
Unrestricted funds - Non designated funds		
P	General Funds	benefit of New Cross Hospital

Trustees have exercised their discretion to set aside part of the unrestricted funds for designated purposes. The designation applied has taken account the wishes expressed by the donor when the funds were given. Designated funds remain unrestricted as Trustees can remove the designation at anytime.

17 Related party transactions

During the year neither the Corporate Trustee nor members of the key management staff or parties related to it has undertaken any material transactions with or received any remuneration or expenses from The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity. As part of the normal course of business the Charity has made payments totalling £835,013 (2021/22 £355,610) to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust as Corporate Trustee of the Charity. In 2022/23 an amount of £83,212 (2021/22 £489,691) was owing to the Trust at 31 March 2023. The total income of the Corporate Trustee in the year ended 31 March 2023 amounted to £899,891,000 (2021/22 £817,270,000) and the adjusted retained surplus amounted to £90,000 (2021/22 £4,454,000).

18 Commitments

The Charity has commitments totalling £45,195 at 31 March 2023 (2021/22 £35,559) arising from requisitions placed for which the relevant goods and services have not been received. These commitments relate to unrestricted and restricted funds.

19 Donations in kind

Donations in kind have been made to aid the Charity's mission to support The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. Donations to the value of £24,472 (2021/22 £9,839) have been included in the accounts this year for items of clothing, toys for the children's ward, knitted blankets, sensory items and other kind gifts that help make the patients stay better. All of these items will be used for some time to come. We also received several offers of kindness for the staff and patients of the Trust and the wider community for items such as care packages, hand creams, lip balms, food and drink. The value of these items were estimated at £12,034 (2021/22 £8,781).

When received, all items were distributed as soon as possible and shared amongst the whole of the Trust.



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THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON NHS TRUST CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1059467

Accounts





The Royal Wolverhampton
NHS Trust Charity

Registered Charity No:1059467

Annual Report and Accounts 2021/22





Black Country Chamber of Commerce
Member

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Cannock Chase Hospital - Community Services - New Cross Hospital - West Park Hospital








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The Royal Wolverhampton
NHS Trust Charity

Message from our Chair Sue Rawlings

Following another difficult but successful year, I am delighted to present the 2021/22 Annual Report of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity.

As ever, we could not achieve what we do without our many supporters and the tireless work of fundraisers, both in the hospital and in our surrounding community and businesses. People who have given of their time, effort and generosity. We have again received vital support from partners and funders.

We undertook an independent Strategic Review, and we now have a plan moving forward to further develop the charity and expand the team. As always, we have to thank members of the Communications and Finance teams for their hard work. I also want to say a personal thank you to our outgoing Charity Fundraising Manager Leanne Bood who has worked tirelessly, over a number of years, to develop and improve the charity, building wonderful connections with donors, the community and staff alike. I wish her well in her next role. We will also be losing Rachel Robinson, our Digital Engagement Officer, who also moves on to pastures new – again, thank you Rachel for all your hard work and support.

We welcome Amanda Winwood as our new Charity Development Manager and Amie Rogers as our new Community Fundraiser.

This year, we were again able to support a wide range of projects across many departments and directorates – many of which are highlighted in the body of this report. We also continued to support patients and staff through the COVID-19 pandemic thanks to the generous donations and gifts received.

Key highlights of our year:

- Former Wolves director Kevin Threlfall and his wife Gillian donated £100,000 to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity to buy equipment for the Trust's Heart and Lung Centre. This is the largest donation raised by an individual in the last 11 years.

- Two charities donated over £30,000 to fund equipment to help Wolverhampton breast care patients. The 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Scheme (ex-Goodyear workers) and the Maureen Parkes Breast Care Fund have each donated £15,127.35 for equipment to support breast care patients treated at New Cross Hospital.

- A cancer support centre here at New Cross Hospital was given a near £10,000 upgrade to create a more comfortable area for patients – thanks to our charitable funds. The Macmillan Information Centre provides practical and emotional support for patients and their families as they navigate their cancer journey.

Finally, thank you again to all who have done so much to help us support our staff, patients and their families. We are so grateful to all of you, without whom we could not have achieved what we have this year.



Sue Rawlings
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee



About the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity

At The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity, we are dedicated to improving the experience and outcomes for our staff, patients, and our local community. The people and patients of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust are at the heart of what we do.

Our mission is to enhance patient care and help families and carers in Wolverhampton, by transforming hospital and community-based services. We do this through funding "added extras" - items, projects, research, staff training and services – that are over and above those provided by the NHS. This is what drives our charity, inspires our fundraisers, and connects us to Wolverhampton's warm, friendly, and diverse population.

We work alongside The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, raising funds to support our staff to deliver the very best possible care and to help adults and children across Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. With the help of our wonderful community, our fundraising efforts make a real difference to patient outcomes.

Whether people come to hospital for routine procedures, medical investigations, or for lifesaving, cutting edge treatment we understand that needing NHS care can be a worrying time. Every day the fundraising of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity helps to ensure that visits to our hospitals and our services are as comfortable, reassuring, friendly and positive as possible.

Trust Overview

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is one of the largest healthcare providers in the Black Country and West Midlands, providing primary, secondary, community and tertiary care services to a combined population of 450,000 people. The Trust provides 850 beds at our New Cross site (including intensive care beds and neonatal cots), 56 rehab beds at West Park Hospital, and 54 beds at Cannock Chase Hospital. They are the largest employer in Wolverhampton, with more than 10,500 staff. This means that the charity supports in the region of 460,500 beneficiaries year on year.

The Trust provides services in the following locations:

- **Cannock Chase Hospital** - General Surgery, Orthopaedics, Breast Surgery, Urology, Dermatology, Medical Day Case investigations and treatment (including Neurology and Endoscopy) Inpatient rehabilitation beds.
- **Community Services** - More than 20 community sites providing services for children and adults, Walk-in Centres, and Therapy and Rehabilitation services.
- **Primary Care** - Nine GP practices.
- **New Cross Hospital** - Secondary and tertiary services, Maternity, Accident & Emergency, Critical Care and Outpatients.
- **West Park Hospital** - Rehabilitation, Inpatient and Day Care services, Therapy services and Outpatients.

The Trust also successfully host Black Country Pathology Services (BCPS) and the West Midlands Local Clinical Research Network (WMCRN), and have done since its establishment in April 2014.

The Trustees' Mission

The mission of the charity is to make a real difference to the patients of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, their families and the staff that treat them, above and beyond that provided by the NHS. We support the Trust to realise its vision to be an NHS organisation that continually strives to improve the outcomes and experiences for the communities they serve.

Public Benefit

In planning the charity's activities, careful consideration is given to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. We must also comply with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011. We support the work of the Trust however there is a clear distinction between what the Trust is required to provide as an NHS organisation and what is additional public benefit. The application of charitable funds leads to the enhancement of patient care and experience – regardless of our patients background or personal circumstances.

Charity funds are used to provide the following:

- Additional facilities to enhance the healing environment
- Additional equipment to enhance patient care and experiences
- Opportunities for additional staff training, above and beyond mandatory training
- Opportunities for further medical knowledge through research.

Getting involved and supporting your local hospital and patients of the Trust couldn't be easier. Simply call the fundraising team on (01902) 447293 or contact us on social media –

TheRWTCharity on Twitter

Facebook

@therwtcharity on Instagram

Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities can be found below as at 31 March 2022 with comparatives to the previous year. The complete set of Accounts can be found on pages 52-65.



Income

£886k

Total Incoming Resources	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000
Donations and Legacies - £484k	480	4
Grants - £257k	227	30
Fundraising - £67k	65	2
Investment income - £78k	49	29
Total - £886k	**821**	**65**

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Endowment £000	2021/22 £000	2020/ 21 £000
Total incoming resources	821	65	0	**886**	1,164
Total expenditure	(612)	(138)	0	**(750)**	(865)
Net gains/(losses) on investment	(16)	(8)	0	**(24)**	318
Net income/(expenditure)	**193**	**(81)**	**0**	**112**	617
Transfer between funds	(5)	5	0	0	0
Total brought forward	1,838	999	82	2,919	2,302
Total at 31 March 2022	**2,026**	**923**	**82**	**3,031**	2,919

Expenditure

£750k



	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000
Raising funds - (£101k)	(101)	0
Charitable activities - (£645k)	(507)	(138)
Other expenditure - (£4k)	(4)	(0)
Total - (£750k)	**(612)**	**(138)**

giftaid

Did you know you can also increase your donation without having to pay more?
Included in the Donations and Legacies and Fundraising income above, is an additional £36k which has been raised through the Gift Aid scheme in 2021/22.

How does Gift Aid work?

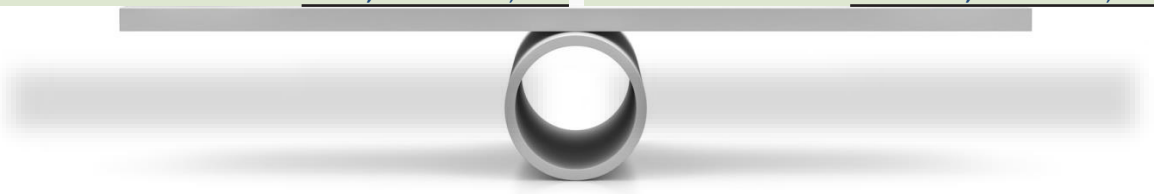
Gift Aid is a scheme run by the government that enables charities to increase the value of donations made by reclaiming basic rate tax that has been paid on the gift. At the moment, we can claim 25p per £1 donated, so on a gift of £100, we will actually receive an extra £25, at no cost to the donor.

The Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022 can be found below with the comparatives to the previous year.

Balance Sheet

	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Fixed Asset Investments	**2,691**	2,715
Debtors & Prepayments	**42**	24
Cash	**806**	326
Creditors	**(508)**	(146)
Net Assets	**3,031**	2,919

	2021/22 £000	2020/21 £000
Endowment funds	**82**	82
Restricted funds	**923**	999
Unrestricted funds		
- Designated	**1,921**	1,732
- Non-designated	**105**	106
Total Funds	**3,031**	2,919



A few helpful definitions:

Throughout this report you may see some terminology you aren't familiar with. Hopefully these next few paragraphs will help you understand the Charity's financial position.
Fixed asset investments - investments held in Shorter (low risk) or Longer (higher risk) Term Investment Portfolios.

Current assets - cash held plus debtors. Debtors - money paid in after the year end relating to the year, accrued income - money due in for activities taken place in the year, prepayments - payments made in year relating to the next year and so have been removed from the Statement of Financial Activities expenditure.

Current liabilities - creditors falling due within one year for money owed to others for expenses chargeable in the year.

Liabilities - creditors falling due after more than one year for money owed to others for expenses chargeable for previous years.

Net assets - Total assets minus total liabilities.

Endowment funds - represent funds that are held as capital in perpetuity so that only the income is available for distribution.

Restricted income funds - represent money which is held by the Trustees which can only be used for specified purposes. These funds are supervised either by the Fund Advisors within the ward, department or specialty concerned or the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer for more generic purposes.

Unrestricted income funds - are funds available to be spent within the objects of the Charity which can legally be spent wholly at the discretion of the Trustees. In practice, respecting the non-binding preferences expressed by donors, the Trustees have sub categorised the unrestricted income funds under two headings.

- **Designated (earmarked) funds -** represent separate funds which the Trustees have created to accord with sections 90 and 91 of the National Health Service Act 1977 which require that the Trustees respect, as far as practicable, the specific intentions of the gifts received through wards, departments and specialties. By designating funds the Trustees ensure that those gifts are channelled towards charitable purposes in those areas. These funds are supervised by Fund Advisors from the wards, departments and specialties concerned.
- **Non-designated funds (general/reserves) -** represent those funds available for distribution by the Trustees at their discretion which have not been restricted or earmarked and can be used as reserves should the need arise. These funds are supervised by the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer.

Annual summary

The last 12 months have been very different to the previous 12 months for various reasons. Fundraisers have been able to participate in events again which is great news, but sadly people have also found times hard physically, emotionally and financially. They may have lost loved ones through COVID or have been impacted by long COVID and even jobs have been at risk from the effects of COVID.

Not only has this impacted our fundraisers but our staff and patients. Staff sickness levels have been high from the aftermath of COVID and it's still very much in the forefront of peoples daily lives, wards are still having to isolate to ensure the safety of our patients. We have been able to support patients and staff over the last 12 months with the following purchases to offer support and comfort to those who find themselves in hospital and for those looking after them.

- Patients and staff Christmas presents to help bring some joy to those found in hospital over the festive period, whether being cared for or providing the care
- Aromatherapists for patients in Oncology
- Welfare rights support provided to renal patients
- Comfort packs for patients that have been admitted to hospital with no toiletries
- Fruit hampers for nutrition and well being week
- Activity packs for dementia patients
- Toys for Paediatric Audiology patients
- Microwave, fridge and furniture for the parents flat in the Neo Natal department
- Arts and crafts activities for patients on the Neuro Rehab Unit
- Comfortable chairs for patients in various departments such as Oncology and Renal providing comfort whilst receiving chemotherapy or dialysis for several hours a day
- Installation of TV's at Pond Lane Renal Unit

More details on what has been purchased can be found later in the report.



Impact of COVID-19

The pandemic has been incredibly hard, not only on our staff, but Wolverhampton as a whole, the city was a COVID-19 'hotspot', as well as being particularly hard hit by the contraction in the economy.

Challenging as it was, COVID-19 has also showcased the true determination and commitment of our staff and of the people of Wolverhampton to come together and support each other.

The pandemic also highlighted some key areas of focus for the NHS, which has helped to shape the way our charity will move forward and support the Trust, and everyone associated with it, as we emerge from what has been the most challenging period in its history.

We will support our NHS colleagues' commitment to ensuring everyone has equal access to our services, saving lives and improving health outcomes for our diverse community with a key focus on:

- Staff wellbeing
- Improving the patient experience
- Opportunities to further medical knowledge through research
- Engaging with our local community
- Developing partnerships
- Tackling health inequalities

Owing to the exceptional circumstances and the uncertainty of the current environment, this strategy intentionally focuses on the strategic direction for a shorter timeframe than usual - the 2022/ 23 and 2023/ 2024 financial years. This allows us to develop our usual longer-term strategy once there is more certainty over the environment in which we operate.

Aim

The charity actively supports projects that enhance the delivery and experience of care for all patients and their families. This includes the provision of additional equipment or equipment that is of a higher specification than NHS funding can provide, funding projects that enhance the healing environment, provision of funding for additional training and any other resources that will help make a real difference.

We are grateful for all the support we receive; however, we have further aspirations to enhance patient care and experiences that require us to be ambitious in our income generation activities. We will strive to increase the value of monetary and non-monetary donations we receive year upon year.

Our work

Fundraising and working within our community

Former Wolves director donates £100,000 to specialist cardiology centre

Former Wolves director Kevin Threlfall and his wife Gillian donated £100,000 to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity to buy equipment for the Trust's Heart and Lung Centre. This is the largest donation raised by an individual in the last 11 years.

Mr and Mrs Threlfall, from Perton, gifted the generous amount after staff from the Trust saved Mr Threlfall's life following a heart attack in 2014. Since then he has been under the care of Dr Sanjiv Petkar, Consultant Cardiologist at RWT and his team.

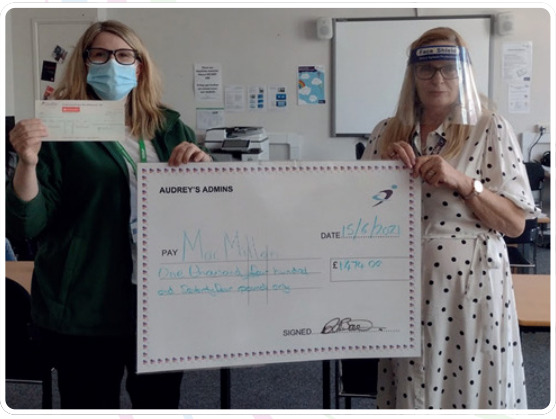


Kevin Threlfall and wife Gillian hand over a cheque for £100,000 to consultant cardiologist Dr Sanjiv Petkar at New Cross Hospital, after surgeons saved his life

Mr Threlfall wanted to show his appreciation for the 'first class' care he received he wanted to fund some equipment for the cardiology team – outside of what they are able to get via the NHS.

The donation will be used for numerous pieces of equipment and in house research projects.

Dr Petkar said the funds for equipment would make a huge difference for the department. I am overwhelmed and extremely grateful for this amazing donation to our department. We will use the funds to buy various pieces of equipment including 10 Holter monitors".



Kelly Pritchard and Audrey Bartholomew

Dudley college students fundraise for Macmillan Centre at New Cross Hospital

Each year the students select a charity to fundraise for. Due to Audrey one of the lecturers and some of the students' personal reasons, they made the decision this year to split the monies raised between Macmillan and Cancer Research UK.

Audrey said: "The past two years have been difficult due to COVID-19 restrictions. We have been unable to visit other classes due to staying in bubbles and of course lockdowns. So we all came together and sold to family, friends and work colleagues. Yes it was hard, but they achieved what they wanted to do, and gave cheques to both charities for £1,474.00!"

Kelly said: "I am extremely grateful for this kind donation. Everyone worked so hard to come up with inventive ways to raise this money. This generous donation will go towards supporting those with a cancer diagnosis in Wolverhampton and the Black Country and I can't thank them enough."

Couple raise £5,000 for Maternity Unit in memory of daughter

A couple raised nearly £5,000 for the Willow Suite, a bereavement suite within the maternity ward at New Cross in memory of their daughter. Sunny Edwards was born sleeping at 8.52pm on Sunday, August 8th 2021 about halfway through Abbie's pregnancy. The couple found out that Sunny's heart had stopped beating two days prior.



Abbie Rodger and Josh Edwards, with Kirsty Malcolm, Specialist Midwife for Bereavement Services

Abbie Rodger, 27, and her partner Josh Edwards, 25, both from Bilbrook cycled around 94 miles / 151km from Wolverhampton to Oxford on the last day of Baby Loss Awareness Week, on Friday, October 15th. Abbie's father George also joined for the ride.

"The time we got to spend with our little girl in the Willow Suite, and the care, kindness and patience of the midwives and other staff from New Cross was a lifeline in the most traumatic and heart-breaking time of our lives," said Abbie.

Carole Sadler, Bereavement Midwife added: "Raising awareness of baby loss for their daughter Sunny, they have supported each other and given back to the Willow Suite. Using the money raised for families like themselves, they have created a beautiful birth environment under such sad and heart-breaking circumstances. They are truly inspirational."

Couple's Fundraising Supports Launch of DadPad on NNU

A recent launch of DadPad on the NNU at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust has been supported by a generous donation of £2,760 thanks to fundraising by Kiran and Ramesh.



The DadPad is an essential guide for new dads, developed with the NHS. The guide aims to reduce a dad's anxiety by encouraging him to get involved and gain in confidence. It also guides on how to create a strong bond and healthy attachment with their baby.

Kiran and Ramesh raised this donation in memory of their beautiful son, Milan. Milan was born prematurely on April 21st 2020 and sadly passed away on the Neonatal Unit on the April 29th 2020. "When Kiran heard about the Neonatal DadPad she immediately felt this is something they wanted to support. Following their own experience, they knew how much this would provide additional benefit for our fathers on the NNU".



From left to right: Nicky Farrington and Liz Mckie

Young fundraiser spreads some Christmas cheer

A grateful schoolgirl has really stepped up for fellow patients at New Cross Hospital by completing a fundraising walk to buy Christmas toys – raising nearly £2,658.19.



Amelia Smith

Seven-year-old Amelia Smith, from Codsall, has been setting herself challenges for fundraising walks since she was just three years old.

Amelia has several health conditions including Arthprogrosis, club foot and dislocated hips.

Mum Louise said: "Amelia has always wanted to do something around Christmas time, and has always wanted to help others.

"Previously she has fundraised for Birmingham Children's Hospital as Amelia has received a lot of treatment there. But this year she has spent more time at New Cross Hospital.

"One day whilst she was at the hospital, she saw an oncology patient and decided that was the department she wanted to fundraise for."



Amelia Smith and Wolfie

She started from Molineux Stadium at 10am Saturday 4 December, where she was surprised by Wolves mascot, Wolfie. He gave her a Wolves rucksack containing snacks, a warm hat, and other Wolves goodies. She then set off on the 2.2-mile journey to New Cross, accompanied by her parents Louise and Adrian Smith and her bother Jayden.

Amelia had originally planned to use her newly adapted bike to complete her challenge, but on hearing she wouldn't receive it in time, she was determined to still go ahead, using a combination of her walking frame and pushing herself along in her wheelchair.

But there was another surprise when she got to Molineux – representatives from the bike company were there to lend her one, meaning she could use the bike and her walker for the journey.

Charities donate £30,000 worth of equipment to help breast care patients

Two charities have combined to donate over £30,000 to fund equipment to help Wolverhampton breast care patients.

The 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent Scheme (ex-Goodyear workers) and the Maureen Parkes Breast Care Fund have each donated £15,127.35 for equipment to support breast care patients treated at New Cross Hospital.

The money raised has been used to buy three lipomodelling pieces of equipment – two Vibrasat PRO units and one Microaire handset.

Lipomodelling – or fat grafting – is the process of relocating fat to improve the shape, volume, consistency and profile of breast tissue, which is widely applied following breast cancer surgery.



From left to right: Paul Baugh, Secretary and Administrator of the 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent scheme, Tony Latham and Brian Davis, who are both members of the fund and Porters, Kate Lees, Assistant Directorate Manager, General Surgery, Dr Senthum Mylvaganam and Dr Tapan Sircar, who are both Consultant Surgeons on the Breast Care Unit, Sandra Spence-Turton, Sister for Breast Care Surgery, Sheila Edwards, Trustee of the Maureen Parkes Breast Care Fund and Cyril Barrett, Chair and Trustee of the 5/344 Transport and General Workers Union Benevolent scheme.

Demand for lipomodelling has increased in recent years as it helps to provide a better aesthetic outcome for patients.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT) previously had only one such machine – which was also funded by the 5/344 TGWU Benevolent Scheme – but having only one restricted the number of cases that could be done as the handsets must be sterilised after each procedure.

Having more handsets and machines means more than one lipomodelling case can be done in one theatre list and can also be used by two surgeons if they are operating on the same day.

This will help to reduce waiting times and if one of the machines fails, this operation could still go ahead.

RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "We are so grateful to the charities for their generosity and support. Their joint donation will make a real difference to the care we can give our patients and we thank both organisations wholeheartedly."



Dr Tapan Sircar, Consultant Surgeon on the Breast Care Unit, holding one of the Vibrosat machines and Sandra Spence-Turton, Sister for Breast Care Surgery

No tricks, just treats donated to young patients this Halloween

A local mother of two has dressed up as Mrs Halloween Queen to donate goody bags to young patients on the children's ward at New Cross Hospital.



From left to right: Sukhvinder Mann, Surinder Mann, Kiran Mann

Surinder Mann, from Oxley in Wolverhampton, created 40 Halloween buckets containing items such as activity packs, sweets and treats, pencils and other items. The items were donated by local corporate supporters such as Eggfree Cake Inn, Claire's Accessories, Scrummy Kits on Facebook, The Entertainer, Tesco, Morrisons, Co-op and other supermarkets.

With help from her daughter Kiran, 12, they put all the donations together to create these fantastic Halloween buckets.

Explaining why she chose to make her donations this year, Surinder said: "I thought about the children who may not have a chance to go trick or treating this year. I thought it would be a good idea for Mrs Halloween Queen to bring some treats for the young patients.

"I dressed up as Mrs Halloween Queen last year also, where I put together a creative Halloween competition, including pumpkin carving and drawing for local children.

"Mrs Halloween Queen was an original idea of mine. I have always enjoyed celebrating Halloween and getting into the Halloween spirit.

"I am amazed by all of the companies and people who have supported me. Thank you to all my colleagues who made donations also."

Rachel Robinson, Community and Events Fundraiser for The RWT Charity, said: "Being in hospital during one of the holiday periods can be difficult for our young patients as they may miss out on the celebrations. We're very grateful to Surinder and everyone who has offered their support as this means they have something to enjoy during their stay."

Tablet donation to benefit patients

A generous Walsall couple with the help of family and friends have donated to help patients who are receiving dialysis treatment.



Tim and Karen Dhesi have donated 22 Samsung tablets to the Renal unit at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust in memory of a special family member. The couple made the donation in memory of Tim's grandma, Swaran Khera, who died aged 73 last year from kidney failure. Tim explained that when his grandma died the whole family was solemn and that his wife tried to do something positive. Karen decided to set up a GoFundMe page and raise some money so they could say thank you to New Cross Hospital for the care and support received.

He added: "When we decided what we were going to do with the money raised, we knew we had to get something that would help patients. We thought to ourselves how dialysis can be quite long and arduous and I remember when some of the TVs never used to work on the unit so there wasn't much to do in those hours. "Luckily for my grandma she had a big family so she could always call someone and they would always be around to keep her company. However, not everyone is so lucky and may have to go through this on their own - especially if they are older which is why we bought 22 tablets for patients to use while they are having treatment.

"We went to Currys and bought heavy duty holders too as well as a gift card and chocolates for the staff on the ward."

When asked what the staff on the unit's reaction was, Tim and Karen said: "They were happy, some were even crying. It was a heart-warming experience."

Toy donation to brighten up Christmas for children in hospital

Christmas has come early for New Cross Hospital's youngest patients after receiving a generous donation of toys.

More than 300 toys were dropped off in December for the children's ward following a fundraising campaign by Hit the Dhol, specialists in educational Asian Dhol drumming workshops for schools and colleges.

The group were inspired to make the donation following a performance at the Trust's Christmas lights switch-on earlier this month.

One of the members of the group, nine-year-old Guvi Jhalli wanted to collect toys for children who will have to sadly spend this Christmas in hospital. He launched the toy donation on his ninth birthday.

He said: "After being at the hospital I wanted to help and make the children who are in hospital happy this Christmas.

"A massive thank you to everyone who helped us and donated and even till this morning the donations have been coming in.

"It is amazing seeing all the community come together and donate all these gifts. I hope the children like them."

Rachel Robinson, Digital Engagement Fundraising Officer, said: "We are so very grateful to Hit the Dhol for thinking of us and the young patients at the Trust this Christmas. Thank you to everyone who supported their collection and contributed.

"We were amazed with the huge amount of toys they have donated."



Celebrity support nets £6,000 for Neonatal Unit

A kind-hearted fundraiser who has persuaded stars including I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! winner Danny Miller to promote her cause has donated £6,000 to support sick babies and their families at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.

Mckala Harrold, 46, from Bilston – a premature twin herself, born at 28 weeks at New Cross – used the power of social media through her 3,000-strong Facebook group called Celebrity Random Raffle to raise the money.

Friends join raffles at £2 a time to win a £1,000 prize and every year, Mckala donates all the money to a good cause.

This time she chose the Neonatal Unit in response to suggestions on the page. The cash will go towards the parent meal voucher scheme to help fund meals and drinks when babies are being cared for, as well as refurbishing parent facilities on the unit.

Danny, Jamie and Samia appeared in her garden because of COVID-19 restrictions at the time and Scott's appearance was inside, at Gilbert's in Willenhall.

"It's been a huge collective effort," said Mckala, who has extended an open invitation for anyone to join the group. "Friends invite other people to join the group and it's just grown. As a thank you for their support, I invite people to come and meet a celebrity so they can have a bit of a treat.



From left: friend Kirsty Hadlington and McKala Harrold holding the cheque. In the background, from left, Sarah Crowshaw, Neonatal Unit Ward Manager, Amy Addis, Neonatal Nurse, Kate Cheshire, Deputy Head of Nursing and Midwifery and Nikki Farrington, Specialist Nurse for Bereavement and Family Support



Montage of McKala Harrold with the celebrities who have supported her cause

Cancer patient's donation to 'marvellous' oncology team

A big thank you to Maureen Manns and family for their kind donation of £1,500 to the Deanesly Centre (cancer services) at New Cross Hospital.

Maureen, who lives in Bilston, was diagnosed with stage 4 throat and mouth cancer after an abscess was spotted by her dentist. The 74-year-old was urgently referred for testing and describes being in 'shock' to be told this mouth pain, which she hadn't thought much of, was in fact cancer.

After 30 days of radiotherapy and eight months of hospital appointments, Maureen is now in remission and feels "well within herself". The big adjustment she explains is being unable to eat some solid foods and instead must use a 'feeding peg' on her.

When asked about the care she received she replied: "They were absolute marvellous, I can't thank them enough – especially Mr Rehman who has been so helpful and friendly."

Daughter Marie added: "The care received from the staff was second to none. Even during the busy Christmas period where she was so unwell – and admitted onto the ward – the committed staff always ensured she was cared for and attended her radiotherapy sessions. The team were wonderful and without them, our mum would not be here today."

And in an effort to thank the team for the excellent care, a fundraising trip to Snowdown was organised in July by Marie's nephew Kyle Rowson with several volunteers from their local pub, the Rocket Pools Inn Bar in Bilston. The pub also rallied round with collection tins and raffles across a period of a week, helping to raise enough for new equipment or equipment repairs for the centre.

Marie's sister Louise explained how generous the local community has been while rallying round to support their mum. "It's been a tough 18 months for people, what with the COVID-19 pandemic, but even people who are struggling have been able to donate money towards this and it's truly been heart-warming," she said.

"A big thank you to all those who donated and also a thank you to Church Street Dental Practice (Bilston) who made sure mum was seen quickly after suspecting a problem."

Stephen West, Head of Operational Radiology, was able to receive the cheque from the family in the garden of the Deanesly Centre. He said: "All of us within Oncology really appreciate the time and effort that goes into supporting the Centre with charitable monies. We are much obliged to Maureen and her family in their support."

Sweet treat for Macmillan Cancer Centre

A staff member at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust raised nearly £300 from a cake sale and raffle to raise funds for the Macmillan Centre at New Cross Hospital.

Tracey Challenor, 41, from The Scotlands in Wolverhampton wanted to host the cake sale on the 41st birthday of her sister-in-law Louise. Louise passed away just after her 40th birthday in October 2020, after being diagnosed with appendiceal cancer.

One month later, Tracey's father-in-law Vernon Williams passed away from oesophageal cancer. This made Tracey's fundraising this year even more important to her.

Colleagues and staff based on the Urology Outpatient department supported Tracey by donating cakes for the sale, as well as some raffle prizes. Two professional cake makers also contributed, one of which was a good friend of Louise. By the end of the day Tracey raised a fantastic £298.47.

Tracey, a HCA at New Cross Hospital, said: "I'm really pleased that all of the money I have raised today will benefit the Macmillan Centre at New Cross, where I also work."

Andeana Andreas, Departmental Manager/ Senior Sister for Urology OPD, said: "Tracey only joined the team in Urology Outpatients in June and is a fantastic addition to our team. When she approached me about hosting a coffee morning for Macmillan, we were excited to support her.

"Tracey has worked really hard to secure some amazing raffle prizes and a huge amount of cakes for donations. It has been five years since we hosted a cake sale for Macmillan in the department, raising £240. Patients and staff have been extremely generous and it was a lovely day."

Kelly Pritchard, Support and Information Centre Manager for Macmillan, said: "I'd really like to thank Tracey, their kindness and generosity in raising funds for the Macmillan Centre means we can implement much needed support for patients such as treatment comfort packs. I can't thank them enough for the fundraising that they continually do for the centre."

Lady Tiffany's Tributes

The family of the longest patient to stay on the children's ward at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust have been fundraising in her memory.

Lady Tiffany's Tributes has been set up to build Tiffany's legacy after she sadly passed away on 20th September 2020 aged three. Tiffany's conditions meant that she was unable to go home; Doctors advised that her brain stem had been affected after suffering from extensive bleeding to her brain and lungs prior to birth. With her Mom, Stacey Benjamin- Mcfarlane, by her side every day, the family and medical team did everything to bring as much happiness to Tiffany as possible. During Tiffany's life, she spent less than three months at home.



As part of their on-going support, Stacey's son Ricardo, seven, and mother Linda Swan visited New Cross Hospital to donate comfort packs for parents and patients. They also donated special cups to be used as "hugs in a mug" for when parents or patients need a little pick me up.

The Community Champions at a local Morrisons and Asda have been able to support the family by donating toiletries for the comfort packs. Nicky Hampton, who has been following Tiffany's story, also held raffles to raise money towards the total fundraising.

Neo Mattress



A Wolves fanatic and charity fundraiser raised more than £13,000 for The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity.

Jason Guy, who lives in Cannock, decided to raise funds for the Trust's Neonatal department at New Cross Hospital after his baby daughter Olivia was treated there.

We are so grateful for all of the wonderful ways Jason has fundraised for us over the past year, from selling his book 'Tales from the Tape', to the Three Wise Men following a Star – Steve Bull – from Birmingham Children's Hospital to New Cross Hospital.

During the sale of 'Tales from the Tape' an anonymous supporter made a generous donation of £5,000 via the Steve Bull Foundation. This enabled the NNU to purchase their own specialist Neo Mattress using charitable funds, which would have normally had to be hired for a daily cost.

The Neo Mattress is specifically designed for neonates that have been compromised and are at high risk of skin breakdown.

Ebuwa Humphreys, Neonatal Matron, said: "We are deeply appreciative of the kindness shown to our department. We give our heartfelt thanks for the generosity shown to us with this wonderful gesture."

Corporate and External Donations



Local superstore support youngest patients

A Peaky Blinders-inspired dress up morning, tombola and bring and buy sale organised by staff at Tesco have all added up to £1,000 for the Neonatal Unit at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.

Sara Dawson, Community Champion of the Tesco store on the Marston Road, Wolverhampton along with colleague Carolyn Aldridge, hosted a range of fundraising activities on behalf of the store.

They chose to support the Neonatal Unit after Carolyn's step grandson was born prematurely in August 2021 at 24 weeks, weighing 1 lb 10 oz, and was cared for on the unit.

Their fundraising included an in-store raffle made up of donations from colleagues and Tesco, a tombola, and a bring and buy tabletop sale. One staff member bears a resemblance to Cillian Murphy's character Thomas Shelby in Peaky Blinders and this inspired a dress up morning.

Further support from Tesco allowed the duo to create two hampers for staff which were donated alongside a framed "thank you" message and onesies for patients.

Carolyn said: "I think the staff do such an amazing job on the Neonatal Unit. I really wanted to donate the hampers for them in addition to our fundraising as they should be rewarded as well."

Matron for Neonatal Services, Ebuwa Humphreys, said: "Thank you on behalf of our staff and families on the neonatal unit. We appreciate your compassion and generosity."



Ramadan Radio's Appeal for Children's Ward

We were recently selected as the charity of choice to be supported by Ramadan Radio during the Islamic holy month.

Ramadan Radio Wolverhampton is a not-for-profit faith-based radio station connecting the community and empowering unity. This year their station manager, Alvina Ali, got in touch with us to set up an appeal to raise money for the Children's Ward.

RWT Charity Development Manger, along with staff from the ward, including Senior Matron Julie Plant, attended the station during the appeal held on Friday, 23rd April. We were overwhelmed by the level of support pledged by the local community, and a total of £4,748.00 was raised from the appeal.

We are very grateful to them for getting in touch to learn more about the hospital and offer this fantastic support.

Easter

Our annual community support did not fail us again this year we had an 'eggcellent' amount of easter eggs donated to ensure our patients were still able to celebrate whilst being in hospital. Our supporters included Café Wolves, The Bumpy Foundation, Olivia's Closet, Thaper Food and Wine Store a huge thank you to them for bringing smiles to many faces.



The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity wins regional business award

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity has been recognised for supporting patients and their families throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



Leanne Bood, Charity Development Manager and Rachel Robinson, Community and Events Fundraiser, attended the event.

An annual event, The Black Country Chamber of Commerce Business Awards celebrates the resilience, adaptability and outstanding contribution of local businesses and organisations.

In a glitzy awards ceremony, which took place last night (Thursday, November 11th) at Wolverhampton Racecourse, the charity was crowned winner in the Kindness in the Community' category.

The official charity of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (RWT), which looks after New Cross, West Park and Cannock Chase Hospitals, the charity was recognised as having supported over 11,000 staff members and 450,000 patients and families throughout a challenging and unprecedented time for the NHS.

The judges were impressed by how the charity adapted during the pandemic, commenting on how innovative ideas helped to drive donations whilst using funds to invest in technology that kept people connected during periods of restricted visiting.

Sue Rawlings, Chair of The RWT Charity, added: "It's fantastic to see The RWT Charity get such prestigious recognition for the amazing work they do. Leanne, Rachel, Emma Greybanks (RWT Charity Accountant) and Zoe Lees (Charitable Funds Officer) have gone above and beyond to keep our staff and patients smiling at a stressful and uncertain time. I'm incredibly proud of the positive impact they've had and for embracing the Trust values of being 'Kind and Caring'

"This work however would not be possible without our incredible supporters – a big thank you to all the individuals, businesses, community groups and faith groups who have helped us. From PPE, the comfort packs and monetary donations, we're extremely grateful for it all."

The team's incredible fundraising work is ongoing as we continue throughout the pandemic.



Events

Cousins complete fundraising walk in memory of grandfather



Two ten-year-olds put their best foot forward to raise money for the Trust's charity in memory of their grandfather, who was a member of staff at New Cross Hospital.

Trevor Johnson passed away at New Cross Hospital on October 16th 2020 last year from COVID-19. He was a highly valued and much-loved member of the portering team at the Trust, which he joined in 2013.

Cousins Kayla Brice and Amelia Jones, from Warstones, created a crowd funding page to raise money in memory of their grandad.

They recently completed their challenge by walking more than 11 miles from Trevor's house in Tettenhall, to New Cross Hospital, and then on to their houses in Warstones in one day. Staff working at New Cross Hospital came out to lend their support and spared the time to give them a cheer when they passed by.

Rachel Robinson, Community and Events Fundraiser for the Trust Charity, said: "A big well done to Kayla and Amelia! We want to thank them both so much for their fundraising for the ICU and Maternity Ward."

Their grandmother, Maureen Johnson, added: "I am so proud of what the girls have achieved."

The girls have well surpassed their target, having raised a total of £1,485

Doctors on the run to raise money for children



Dr Minoth Kanagaratnam, Dr Elke Reunis, Dr Julie Brent, Dr Ash Holt, Dr Katherine Shelley and Ambra Righetti

A group of medics set themselves a challenge to run and raise up to £15,000 for equipment to help vulnerable children attending their department at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.

Ten members of staff from A21 Paediatric Assessment Unit at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust signed up to the Great Birmingham Run on Sunday, May 1. Nine ran the 10k race and one attempted the half marathon (13.1 miles).

Ambra Righetti, Trainee Paediatric Advanced Nurse Practitioner, had the idea to run the race to raise money to buy an ultrasound (USS) machine for the ward – and persuaded five paediatric consultants and four paediatric registrars to sign up. The machine will help cannulate children, helping those in particular who visit often.

Originally from Italy, Ambra, 29, has worked at the Trust since 2015 and now lives in Birmingham. She said: "This is such a great opportunity to spend time with the amazing paediatrics team while raising money for a good cause and getting into shape."

Dr Julie Brent, Consultant Paediatrician, ran the half marathon. Dr Brent, who is from Birmingham and has worked on A21 for eight years, said: "I run every week, 8.5 miles but slowly, so decided I would do the half marathon instead as more of a challenge."

Dr Brent, who also enjoys tennis, cycling and swimming, added: "I have run the half marathon twice before, around 10 years ago, but I'm that much older now and wanted to see if my body can still do it. "I've been running every week since start of lockdown. I can run a long way but I want to speed up. I am hoping to complete it in two hours."

To date the team have raised £2,464 of their target.

Cycling back to the 60s

A 60s band member and his family are fundraising to thank the staff at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust who cared for him after suffering from a stroke.

In August 2020, John O'Hara, 75, from Claregate, was rushed to New Cross Hospital with a suspected stroke. Whilst on the Acute Stroke Ward his condition deteriorated after suffering a large bleed on the brain.

John was the lead vocalist of The Californians, one of the best known Wolverhampton recording groups during the 1960s.

His son, Ben, 45, from West Sussex, set himself the challenge of cycling 500 miles throughout May in order to express the family's gratitude for the "exceptional teams" who cared for his dad. Ben also hopes to raise some money and make a donation to them both.

"Words cannot express our thanks for the team of consultants, doctors, nurses, physio therapists, occupational therapists and anyone else who tirelessly worked to not only keep Dad alive, but furthermore, get him back to living a normal life. They dealt with both Dad and us as a family with the utmost dignity and compassion and never gave up," said Ben. "The staff in both the stroke ward and West Park rehabilitation unit are real life super-heroes who we witnessed continually going over and above their normal duties. We will be eternally grateful."

Rachel Robinson, Community and Events Fundraiser, said, "We are so grateful for the large amount of support Ben and his family have received in the short time that his JustGiving page has been open. We wish Ben lots of luck in completing his impressive challenge."

Ben set himself a target of £500 on his just giving page which was quickly hit, with the total now standing at £2,326.25 including Gift Aid as at 31st March 2022.



Pam's pedal power for Neonatal Unit

A devoted mum who tragically lost her baby is getting on her bike with 50 others, saddling up to cycle 7,200 miles between them to raise £1,000, to date they have raised £2,938.25.



From left, Julie Tolley, Wendy Bullock and Pam Harvey

Pam Harvey planned to cycle the length of the Route 66 highway, which runs from Chicago to Los Angeles in the United States – a distance of 2,400 miles – to raise money for the Neonatal Unit (NNU) at Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital.

Pam, 44, lost son Louis on September 5, 2019 after he suffered a series of serious illnesses following his premature birth at just 25 weeks and two days. He was just 52 days old when he passed away on the NNU.

Since Louis's death, Pam has dedicated much of her time to raising money for the unit and staff where he spent all of his short life, raising just under £8,000 for the Integrated Critical Care Unit (ICCU) and the Neonatal Unit – both at New Cross Hospital – and other neonatal wards at Christmas. Her Facebook page, Because of Louis, which started in December 2019, has more than 1,100 followers.

Her latest fundraising idea is to cycle the gruelling distance on an exercise bike at Xhersize gym in Bridgtown, Cannock, but on hearing about the challenge, gym owner Julie Tolley, 45, pledged to match Pam's effort.

Word soon spread and now around 50 Xhersize members have signed up to do 2,400 miles collectively, meaning Pam, Julie and the other members will be cycling 7,200 miles between them. They had promotional T-shirts made emblazoned with the distance, courtesy of Grayson Design & Print in Cannock.

What is perhaps surprising is that many of those who have signed up – around 40 women and 10 men – are in the 70-80 years old category, as Xhersize has specialist equipment tailored to more mature members and those with health conditions.

Happy Birthday NHS!
More than 1,500 miles cycled to raise funds for Trust Charity

The Wolverhampton Filipino Cyclists Association have completed their second charity bike ride to raise funds in aid of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity in celebration of the NHS' birthday.



The group of cyclists also took part in the charity fundraising event '72 Miles in July' in 2020, where individuals asked friends and family to sponsor them to cycle, walk or even hop for 72 miles throughout the month of July. Those taking part could complete the miles throughout the month or during one day.

In a single day on Sunday, July 18th 2021 members followed the route from Wolverhampton to Birmingham, then on to Tamworth, back to Birmingham, before finishing in Wolverhampton. It took the members 13 hours and 28 minutes to cycle 73.04 miles, raising £348.75 an astonishing achievement for them all!

Santa and his reindeer bring a smile to patients in hospital over Christmas

Santa and his reindeer took some time out of their busy schedule to bring a smile to patients at New Cross Hospital this Christmas Eve.

Patients, relatives and staff enjoyed a surprise visit from George and Mistletoe the reindeer, as well as the man in red himself.

The visit, which was arranged by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity, lifted the spirits of the patients who will be spending the festive season in hospital.

Some of the Trust's oldest and youngest patients received the unusual visit from Santa's little helpers.

Dawn Stait, 65, from Cannock, has been in hospital since Monday and will be spending Christmas in hospital.

She said: "Christmas has been so difficult, and I haven't been able to help with things like picking out the tree so seeing the reindeer here today has made it feel much more like Christmas. It was magical to see them."

Another patient, Anne Archer, 72, from Birmingham, said she was over the moon to see real life reindeer. She added: "I am a real animal lover so to actually see real life reindeer it has lifted my spirits. I am hopefully going home on Monday so I will be having a delayed Christmas with my family then."

It was also a big thumbs up from 82-year-old Joe Ball and 79-year-old Valerie Beddow who are both patients on the elderly care ward.

Sharon Chambers, Sister, was delighted to welcome the special guests on site. She said: "I wasn't exactly sure what was happening but I knew something exciting was going on today so I swapped my shift to make sure I was in and I'm so happy I did, it's been fantastic."

On the Children's Ward nine-year-old Riley Hickman was thrilled to see the reindeer. He was in hospital following an ear operation.

He said: "It was amazing to see Santa and his reindeer. They were so cool to see. I did not expect to see that. It was so nice to see. I am hoping Santa visits me tomorrow, I have been good and I am hoping for a phone."

Riley's mum Michelle Hickman added: "He's been really down about coming into hospital in the build up to Christmas but this has definitely put a smile on his face. He's heading home today so we're really pleased he won't miss out on Christmas at home with the family."

Natasha Wade, who is mum to three-year-old Ava Findley, was also pleased to be heading home, but only after meeting St Nick himself! "It's just absolutely magical", she explained.



Julie Plant, Senior Matron – Children's Services, said it was a huge morale boost for staff.

She added: "After another difficult year, this visit has been a real morale boost for everyone. We try and do all we can to make our patients smile – and this certainly has done so."

This visit was made possible thanks to the Phoenix Children's Foundation Charity, who spend their time bringing cheer and joy to vulnerable or poorly children and adults.

Anita Withers from the charity said: "These reindeer have a lovely temperament and they're great with young children. As their trainer it takes a lot of time building trust with the animals, but it's so rewarding when trained bringing them out and about to meet people, particularly when it's making people smile again."

Football shirt Friday

To show our support for England being in the Euro finals our charity arranged 'Football Shirt Friday'. A big thank you to staff at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust who are supporting our charity today for Football Shirt Friday! It was great to see so many staff donning their shirts and bringing some cheer to our patients and getting them in the mood to watch the match. We raised £270.80.





Trust Celebrates #NHSBigTea Virtually

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity celebrated the #NHSBigTea virtually by providing 11,000 packs of goodies for staff and volunteers.

The Big Tea, a national celebration of the NHS on its 73rd birthday, saw the workforce from New Cross Hospital, Cannock Chase Hospital, West Park Hospital, the community sites and GP surgeries all celebrate, socially distanced, with a cuppa at 3pm on Monday July 5 2021.

The decision to celebrate virtually was due to the temporary suspension of a pilot roll-out scheme of visiting across medical and surgical wards following an increase of COVID-19 cases in the community.

However, marquees outside the Emergency Department and Heart and Lung Centre at New Cross Hospital were specially decorated for the occasion to allow staff and volunteers to enjoy a socially distanced brew, while tea-themed activities took place virtually.

Councillor Greg Brackenridge, the Mayor of Wolverhampton officially opened the ceremony virtually at 3pm. He said: "On behalf of everyone in Wolverhampton and the surrounding area, we are extremely proud of everything you have done to keep us safe – we know how important you are. The NHS is the best example of what Britain has done."

Outpouring of Thanks awards were presented virtually by members of the Trust's executives to staff. The winners received framed certificates for making a difference to patients' lives, their families and colleagues.

These went to Mike Grinsell, volunteer (at West Park Hospital), Sally Whitehouse, Healthcare Assistant from the Phoenix Centre (for the Community), Prescribing Support Team (for GP practices) and volunteers the League of Friends (for Cannock Chase Hospital). Councillor Sandra Samuels, Deputy Mayor of Wolverhampton and a retired nurse, presented an Outpouring of Thanks award to the Respiratory Physio Team (for New Cross Hospital).

Generous donations from Costa, Morrisons, Sainsbury's and Tesco enabled the Trust to hand out fantastic prizes to staff who won a tea-themed word search, while an ongoing online competition saw colleagues asked to guess how many tea bags were in a vase.

Leanne Bood, RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "We were delighted to be able to stage the Big Tea celebrations, albeit virtually, and it was wonderful that so many staff enjoyed a socially distanced cuppa. It was unfortunate we couldn't stage live events, but it didn't stop staff enjoying the #NHSBigTea."

Personal Care Packs, a social enterprise who produce customised care and wellbeing items for the NHS, supplied the packs to for staff at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and Walsall Healthcare Trust. All profits from the sales of care packs are gifted to its sister charity, Giving World.

Sujata Sabharwal, Director of Personal Care Packs, said: "We are delighted and honoured to work with RWT and WHT on their Big Tea initiative, putting together 16,000 Big Tea snack packs to say a huge thank you to frontline staff."

While the Big Tea was a chance to celebrate the NHS, it remains a challenging time for staff. In view of this, the Chaplaincy Team placed a prayer tree and rainbow prayer cards in the chapels at New Cross Hospital, Cannock Chase Hospital and in the first floor meeting room at West Park Hospital.

This gesture gave staff the opportunity to quietly reflect for a short time and to complete a prayer request and hang it on the tree, if they so wished. The team also ensured information leaflets and cards were available for staff to access bereavement or occupational health or chaplaincy support, if required.



From left, Leanne Bood, Fundraising Co-ordinator, and Rachel Robinson, Charity and Events Organiser

Wear it Pink

We loved seeing so much pink today at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust for #WearItPink - thank you again to everyone who helped us support breast cancer awareness and our fundraising to help make a real difference, we raised £415.57.





Christmas came to RWT!

Christmas came to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust after the big festive lights switch-on at New Cross Hospital.

Staff were joined by many others online to kick off the festive celebrations, which saw the area outside the Emergency Department and all the Christmas trees around the site lit up.

They were serenaded by the RWT Singers, the organisation's staff choir, who sang Christmas songs, and Hit The Dhol Community Interest Charity (CIC), the Indian drumming band who also kicked off Wolverhampton city lights.

The guest of honour was Rosemary Steel, after clocking up an amazing 50 years' service with the Trust.

Mother of two and grandmother of two Rosemary, who is Specialist Respiratory Physiologist – Oxygen Lead from Westcroft near New Cross Hospital, officially turned on the lights, along with Prof. David Loughton CBE, Chief Executive of the Trust.

Prof. Loughton said: "I'm delighted to join Rosemary to proudly switch on our Christmas lights. The hospital grounds look incredible, and I am glad that we can bring a little bit of festive cheer to those who find themselves needing our help during the Christmas period."

Rosemary's daughter Rebecca Steel, who is a district nursing sister at the Trust, watched her mum turn on the lights and said it was a very proud moment.



Big Christmas lights switch on outside Emergency Department at New Cross Hospital.

She said: "My mom shows true dedication and love for everything she does, she has always been my inspiration in life. We as a family are very proud of her and her 50 years' service to RWT."

Antonio Jhalli from Hit The Dhol CIC, said: "A big thank you for giving our students the opportunity to play at the hospital. They had a great time."

The event, which was organised by the RWT Charity, raises awareness of the organisation's appeal for donations, which will support the Trust's 0-19 children's services.

The Charity's Fundraising Development Manager said: "It's an honour and a privilege to support this year's Christmas lights switch-on. It is a major boost for our staff and patients and a highlight in everyone's calendar."

Students from 'Hit The Dhol' also decided to do a toy appeal and were to donate some Christmas presents to the Children's Ward on December 17.

Volunteering at RWT

Introduction

The Trust continues to be fortunate to have the support of volunteers, who are unpaid members of our local community who offer their time willingly to help.

As always, we hold provision of a positive patient experience at the forefront of our volunteering activity, and we aim to place volunteers into roles which complement, but do not replace, paid members of staff. Volunteers add an important 'extra' factor to helping us provide a positive patient and visitors experience in Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

Review of 2021- 2022:

Community Clinical Volunteer role

Following on from the success of our community Clinical Volunteer role during 2020, we decided to continue offering this role during 2021. We carried out further recruitment of up to 75 volunteers, every 3 months.

Volunteers were provided with training in bed making, nutrition and serving refreshments, dementia, and infection prevention.

The role of the volunteers continues to be extremely successful. While preparing the volunteers to help out on wards with practical support to staff and patients, especially important during staff shortages as a result of the pandemic, and also winter pressures, volunteers can also be booked flexibly to help out in other ad-hoc roles as and when.

Rehabilitation Activity Programme

During 2021- 2022, several volunteers stepped forward to support activities for patients in wards at West Park Hospital, and Fairoak ward, Cannock Chase Hospital, to access a range of themed activity days and suitable activities- either at bedside or in day rooms.

Activities include arts and crafts, simple baking, quizzes, bingo, gardening, and reminiscence type activities. Themes covered Ester, the Football Euro Championships, Halloween, and Christmas!

We are very grateful to the Trust Charity for funding activity resources as part of this programme.

Youth Volunteer Programme

During this period we were fortunate to be awarded 12 month funding by the Pears Foundation to develop youth volunteering in the Trust. As part of this volunteers age 16-21 years were offered enhanced support to access RWT volunteer opportunities. The programme ended in May 2022 and was very successful, providing 132 young people with enhanced supportive placements, and strengthened our network and partnership working with local schools and colleges.

Numbers

During 2021- 2022 we recruited an additional 183 volunteers to support the Trust in a variety of roles

Looking Forward 2022- 2023

During 2022- 2023 we will continue to recruit community clinical volunteers and expand the reach of the role to newly requested services. We will enhance support within our frailty team and dementia outreach services to patients.

We will continue to offer support with patient activities in rehabilitation areas.

We will continue to link in with our communities to ensure volunteer opportunities are accessible and available to all sections of our community and work with local partners.

We will evaluate and develop volunteer training and support.

And we will evaluate the volunteer services we provide to ensure they are truly making an impact.

Dedicated fundraisers and volunteers celebrated

Supporters of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity have been acknowledged for their dedicated support, as part of the charity's 25th anniversary celebrations.

The charity works to enhance patient care in hospitals in Wolverhampton and Cannock and are marking their 25th anniversary on 25 November 2021.

As part of the celebrations, the organisation held the RWT Charity and Volunteer Awards on November 25th to thank all their dedicated supporters and volunteers and give them the recognition they rightly deserve.

Due to the government social distancing guidelines and legislation, this year's celebration was hosted as a virtual event.

Councillor Greg Brackenridge, the Mayor of Wolverhampton, opened the event and said: "It really is quite staggering when you see the work that both our NHS and our volunteers have done to support the most vulnerable during these really difficult times. So thank you all sincerely for your service.

"I'm looking forward to seeing some of the award winners today from our voluntary sector and charities.

"Thank you for all of your service which is very much appreciated on behalf of the city of Wolverhampton. Thank you for inviting me to open the event today."

RWT Charity Development Manager, said: "The support our charity has been given over the last 25 years has meant we have been able to raise nearly £19.6 million since being registered onto the Central Register of Charities in 1996.

"Without their support, the charity would not have been able to have helped enhance patient care and experience at the Trust."

The awards are:-



Volunteer of the Year

Winner: Phil Weaver

Phil joined the Trust as a volunteer in June 2019 before the pandemic and has provided unwavering support throughout, volunteering four days a week without fail.



Winner: Polly Cartwright

Polly has provided unstinting support before and during the pandemic, giving her time to support AMU twice a week.



Winner: Eve Adam

Eve is very passionate about all aspects of medicine and patient care, and she has undoubtedly displayed this in abundance during her time with the Trust.



Winner: Eloise Dowell

Most recently, Eloise has helped patients on the Neuro Rehab ward at West Park Hospital with an activities programme funded by the Trust Charity, which provides various activities for patients to engage with to support their rehabilitation and give them the best patient experience possible.



Fundraising Champion Award

Winner: Jason Guy

To date, Jason has raised and donated a total of £13,726.91 and he isn't stopping there! With future fundraising plans underway, he hopes to soon pass the £15,000 mark.

Fundraising Champion Award

Highly commended: Pamela Harvey



Following the tragic loss of her son Louis, Pamela has fundraised to help support staff, patients, and their parents on NNU.



Young Fundraiser Award

Winner: Ricardo Benjamin-Mcfarlane

Ricardo is the sibling of Tiffany, who sadly passed away September 2020. Since then Ricardo has helped his and Tiffany's mum Stacey and grandmother Linda to support the ward in making things as easy as possible for patients, their siblings and parents.



Corporate Charity Ambassador of the Year

Winner: Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club

The Trust and the club have always had a close working relationship. FOSUN, Wolves' owners, donated additional personal protective clothing (PPE) to the Trust to help protect staff and patients in their fight against COVID-19 throughout 2020. This included 41,000 surgical face masks, 2,200 coveralls 6,500 protection masks, and 400 pairs of goggles.

Wolves Foundation senior managers Tom Warren and Lee Smith pictured.



Highly commended: Alveen Biggs

Alveen, former Community Champion for Tesco Willenhall, has been an avid supporter of the Charity and helped support projects to support our young patients and their siblings, patients with dementia and wider Trust charity fundraising opportunities

NHS Charities Together Grant

BAME End of Life Project awarded £100,000 through the NHS Charities Together Black Country & West Birmingham STP Partnership.

The BAME End of Life Project is being delivered in partnership with The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and Compton Care to support patients and their families who are living with complex and incurable conditions.

The project provides a key link for patients and their families to help access care and the necessary support, liaising between services providing specialist support to patients and families across Wolverhampton.

A BAME support worker has been recruited to empower patients to increase their choices for end-of-life care from community and acute settings, ensuring care is accessed in the right time and setting.

The project duration is for two years and commenced March 2021 and has achieved the following results:

Number Onboarded Via RWT Referral	Number Onboarded Via RWT Matrix In-reach	Number Onboarded Via Compton Care Referral	Number Onboarded Via Compton Care In- reach	Number of Patients needing follow- up	Number Referred into other services	Number Awaiting 1st Appointment
0	42	4	2	18	9	30

Staff resources significantly impacted this project during Q3, due to Support Worker leaving the role in September and one of the Project Leads (Compton Care) being off long term sick. Further work to be made to ensure that project outcomes can be achieved when issues like this arise.

The project will continue in 2022/23 and a final evaluation will be in the next annual report giving clear outcomes.

Spend

Refurbishment of cancer support centre

Our cancer support centre at New Cross Hospital has been given a near £10,000 upgrade that will create a more comfortable area for patients – thanks to charitable funds.

The Macmillan Information Centre provides practical and emotional support for patients and their families as they navigate their cancer journey.

Until recently, the centre had an open plan layout located on the main hospital corridor. Noise from the corridor often made difficult and personal conversations even more challenging.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust's Charity has funded a £9,930 refurbishment of the centre to ensure the area is as comfortable as possible for visitors and they have the privacy they need when seeking support and advice.



Kelly Pritchard, Macmillan Support and Information Centre Manager, in the newly-refurbished centre

Funds have also been used to provide soundproofing and better quality, more comfortable furniture and lighting which has meant when patients and relatives meet with the team a warm and welcoming environment awaits them.

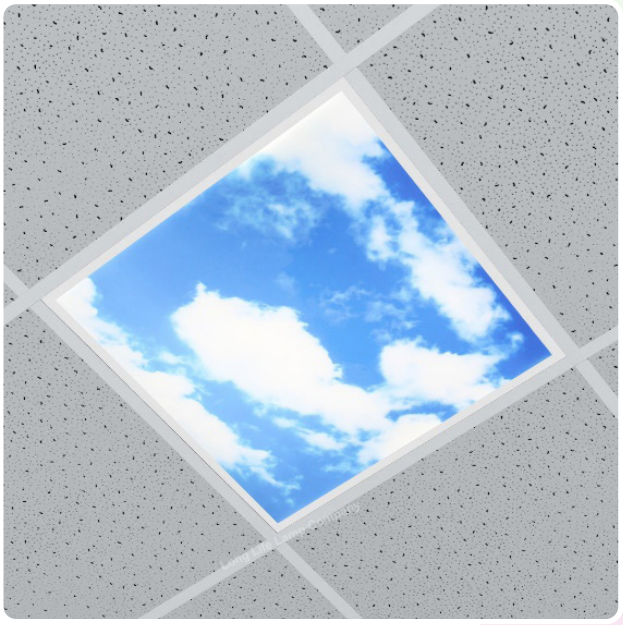
Kelly Pritchard, Macmillan Information and Support Centre Manager, said: "We are so grateful for the upgrade to our important support centre.

"We wanted to make sure we provided an environment patients feel comfortable to talk to us in – so making it more private has been well received."

Blue sky and cloud ceiling tiles - £2,600

Relaxing ceiling tiles were funded in our Gynaecology department treatment rooms for our ladies whilst undergoing examination and treatment as part of investigation and diagnosis of cancer. The aim is to provide a safe comforting environment for our women and to reduce any feelings of anxiety with giving them something nice to focus on. The benefits of improving our environment is supported by evidence that demonstrates welcoming, calming environments promote an improved experience and has a positive impact on patients (The Kings Fund 2010).

Improving the patient experience in outpatients means we can continue to drive forward what we can offer in our department. This impacts us with a reduced need for inpatient procedures, meaning our women can benefit from shorter hospital stays and 'one stop' style see and treat clinics.



Recliner chairs for parents on Neonatal Unit - £2,788.80



Recliner chairs were purchased to help make parents stay more comfortable and encourage mothers to be able to feed their child in a comfortable manner and encourage kangaroo care (skin to skin). Having reclining chairs also allows for partners to stay overnight with mom and baby giving much needed support.



Ophthalmology Spectralis OCT machine - £75,061.06

A SPECTRALIS OCT examination provides detailed clinical information about the condition of the retinal layers. The examination can help identify early signs of disease in the retina and on the optic nerve head. Glaucoma patients were waiting longer periods for review due to demand. Purchasing the additional OCT will allow an increased number of patients to undergo examination to check the condition of their eye with results reviewed 'virtually' by a clinician

Therapeutic activity boxes for Dementia patients - £4,788.95

Activity equipment and boxes for patients with dementia in outpatient and short stay waiting areas across the Trust were purchased to improve the quality of care and the patient journey for people with dementia and their carers by adding something that is above and beyond what would normally be expected in these circumstances. Patients with dementia can often get restless and agitated when having to wait for appointments / procedures in an unfamiliar hospital environment. Their carers can feel helpless and embarrassed by their associated behaviours. These therapeutic activity boxes will provide sensory, activity and reminiscence materials to help calm and distract patients whilst they must wait for and even during their appointments / procedures. They will enable a much more comfortable experience for the patient and carer and in some circumstances may contribute to the avoidance of non-compliance or aborted / wasted appointments.

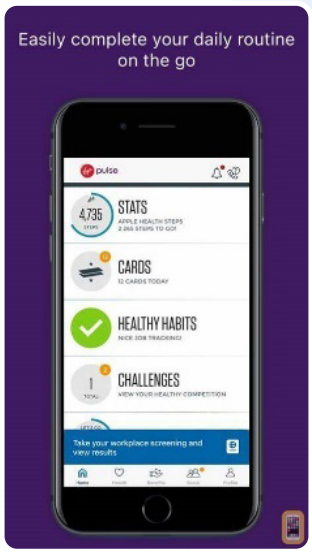


LED lighting for delivery suite, triage and maternity induction unit - £1,500

Striving for a homely, tranquil birth environment is preferential in supporting women's experiences but is also further validated with research into the hormonal physiology of birth. Odent (1994) states 'the balanced secretion of hormones is a delicate matter, highly responsive to external conditions and psychological states'.

Delivery suite can adopt the same philosophy as birth centres; to allow women to have a seamless transition between the home environment and the delivery suite. The funding has allowed in making the environment more conducive to the delicate cascade of hormones. The adaptations will be simple, embracing tools such as aromatherapy and mood lighting.





Virgin Pulse Go fitness app - £8,000

VP go is personalised wellbeing for staff at their fingertips. It offers daily tips that work around busy schedules, personal guided journeys that let you choose how to get healthier and weekly mini health challenges, allowing you to compete with colleagues and other teams. This initiative has been to engage all RWT staff to support their mental health and wellbeing following a very intense and busy period due to the COVID-19 pandemic. By supporting our staff they in turn will be able to support their patients, colleagues and family members.

Comfortline chairs - £4,329.60

Comfort chairs were purchased for the Durnall unit within the Deanesly Centre. Comfortline chairs will provide patients with a more comfortable and positive experience when receiving their treatment which is often over a long period of time.



How you can support us

Getting involved and supporting your local hospital and community services couldn't be easier. You might consider attending one of our events or even host your own and help us raise vital funds.

Donations can be made in the following ways:

Direct into bank account:

- Bank: Co-Operative Bank Sort code: 08-90 19
- Account number: 50101166
- Account name: The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity
- Please state the Trust Fund i.e. General Purposes TF

By post:

Please make cheques payable to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity.

Please write on the back of the cheque which fund you would like to donate to, e.g. General Purposes Trust Fund, and send to; General Office, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, WV10 0QP

By a donation on our 'Just Giving' site:

https://www.justgiving.com/royalwolvesnhstrust

Please complete a donation form and return it along with your donation to the RWT charity.

giftaid

Did you know you can also increase your donation without having to pay more?
An additional £36k has been raised through the Gift Aid scheme in 2021/22.

How does Gift Aid work?

Gift Aid is a scheme run by the government that enables charities to increase the value of donations made by reclaiming basic rate tax that has been paid on the gift. At the moment, we can claim 25p per £1 donated, so on a gift of £100, we will actually receive an extra £25, at no cost to the donor.

Great! Can I Gift Aid my donations?

To qualify for Gift Aid, you need to be a UK taxpayer and have paid enough tax to cover the amount of tax reclaimed by all charities on all your donations for each tax year (6th April one year to 5th April the next). Apart from tax on income from a job or self-employment, other types that are acceptable are:

- Tax deducted at source from savings interest
- Tax on state pension and/or other pensions
- Tax on investment or rental income (including tax credits on UK dividends)
- Capital Gains Tax on gains

Other taxes such as VAT and council tax do not qualify, nor does any non-UK tax.

When completing your donation form or making a donation via an online platform, simply complete the gift aid declaration, provide your postal address and we'll do the rest!

thank you!

Looking Forward

Our objectives for 2022-2024

- We will increase the visibility, profile and understanding of the charity within the hospitals and our local community.
- We will strive to increase the value of monetary and non-monetary donations we receive year upon year, to ensure that we can continue to enhance the care and experiences of patients, their families, and our staff.
- We will deliver an effective, accessible grants programme to support Trust improvements to services and the patient environment.
- We will actively encourage applications to fund projects that further enhance and improve the health and wellbeing of staff and volunteers.
- We will actively encourage applications to fund research projects that will further medical knowledge through research.
- We will actively seek opportunities for collaboration with our colleagues from both statutory and non-statutory organisations and build and strengthen partnerships with key health and voluntary sector organisations to deliver greater impact.
- We will embrace the digital agenda and utilise opportunities to raise further awareness of the charity with stakeholders as well as actively support projects that embrace technology and innovative ways of working.



Trustees - Custodians of the Charity

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is the Corporate Trustee of the Charitable Funds governed by the law applicable to Trusts, principally the Trustee Act 2000 and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity has the authority to recruit up to eight trustees who together make up the Board of Trustees. They are unpaid volunteers who set the strategy for the Charity and make sure it is implemented. Trustees elect a Chairman from amongst their number who chairs the meetings of the Board of Trustees and takes a more active role in supporting the Charity Chief Executive in the management of the Charity.

Trustees are appointed under arrangements made by the Secretary of State for Health under Section 51 of the NHS Act 2006 Vacancies are advertised and all potential Trustees must be interviewed and recommended by a panel consisting of two members of the Charity and one external assessor Candidates must show knowledge of, and an interest in, the hospital and the community it serves and be willing to give the time necessary Trustees are also selected to give the Charity a good mix of relevant professional skills, such as finance, investment and fundraising

Trustees serve a fixed term of no more than four years (renewable to a usual maximum of ten years in total). New Trustees receive an induction pack consisting of the governing documents, previous trustee reports and accounts, relevant Charity Commission guidance, and policies and procedures of the Charity. They are also given a tour of the Trust. Appropriate training is provided in areas including Charity law and administration, investment management and charity finance. The Charity's professional advisors provide helpful guidance, and membership of NHS Charities Together gives the Trustees access to regular conferences and training events.

The Charity has a Corporate Trustee: The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The members of the NHS Trust Board who served during the financial year were as shown on the page opposite



Trustee	Role within The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
Prof. A-M Cannaby	Chief Nursing Officer
Mr A Duffell	Chief People Officer
Mr J Dunn	Non-Executive Director
Mr R Dunshea	Non-Executive Director, Senior Independent Director, Chair of Audit Committee, Chair of Innovation & Research Committee
Ms R Edwards	Non-Executive Director (to 24 November 2021), Chair of Quality Governance Assurance Committee
Mr S Evans	Chief Strategy Officer
Ms S Evans	Director of Communication and Stakeholder Engagement (from Jan 2021)
Prof. S Field	Chair, Non-Executive Director
Mr J Hemans	Non-Executive Director, Chair of People and Organisational Development Committee
Prof. D Loughton CBE	Chief Executive Officer, Chair of Management Committee
Prof. S Mahmud	Chief Innovation, Integration and Research Officer (to 14 May 2021)
Ms M Martin	Non-Executive Director, Chair of Finance and Performance Committee, Chair of Remuneration Committee
Ms G Nuttall	Chief Operating Officer
Dr J Odum	Chief Medical Officer
Dr B McKaig	Chief Medical Officer (from 12 July 2021)
Ms T Palmer	Director of Midwifery
Prof. A Pandyan	Associate Non-Executive Director (to 31 March 2022)
Ms S Rawlings	Non-Executive Director (to 30 September 2021), Associate Non-Executive Director (from 1 October 2021), Chair of Trust Charity
Mr M Sharon	Strategic Advisor to the Board
Mr K Stringer	Chief Financial Officer/Deputy Chief Executive
Prof. L Toner	Associate Non-Executive Director (31 October 2021), Non-Executive Director (from 1 November 2021), Chair of Clinical Ethics Committee
Ms D Hickman	Director of Nursing (from 8 November 2021)
Mr M Levermore	Associate Non-Executive Director (from 7 February 2022)
Ms A Heseltine	Associate Non-Executive Director (from 7 February 2022)
Ms J Jones	Associate Non-Executive Director (from 7 February 2022)
Ms L Cowley	Non-Executive Director (from 1 February 2022)
Mr K Bostock	Director of Assurance (from 1 January 2022)

How we organise the Charity

The main Charity, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity, registered charity number 1059467, was entered on the Central Register of Charities on 27 November 1996 in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Charity is constituted of circa. 94 individual funds. The notes to the accounts distinguish the types of fund held and disclose separately all material funds. Please refer to pages 52-65.

Charitable funds received by the Charity are accepted, held and administered as funds and property on trust for purposes relating to the health service in accordance with the National Health Service Act 2006 and the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990. The Charity has no employees but reimburses the NHS Trust for the financial and other services it provides. The Charity relies on the NHS Trust to identify the appropriateness of funding requests.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust as the Corporate Trustee has devolved responsibility for the on-going management of funds to the Charitable Funds Committee which administers the funds on behalf of the Corporate Trustee. This Committee was formed in 2006.

The names of those people who served as agents for the Corporate Trustee, as permitted under the NHS Trusts (Membership and Procedures) Regulations 1990 were as follows:

Prof. Steve Field CBE - Chairman

David Loughton CBE - Chief Executive

Kevin Stringer - Chief Financial Officer

Sue Rawlings - Non-executive Director

Roger Dunshea - Non-executive Director

Principal Charitable Fund Advisers to the Board

The Chief Executive of the NHS Trust (David Loughton CBE) and Chief Financial Officer (Kevin Stringer) have day to day responsibility for the management of the Charitable Funds under a scheme of delegated authority by the Corporate Trustee. They must personally and together, on behalf of the Corporate Trustee, approve all expenditure over £10,000 with an upper limit of £50,000. Expenditure in excess of £50,000 on a particular project must be authorised by the Trust Board of the Corporate Trustee.

Mr Kevin Stringer was the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Charitable Funds during the year.

Principal Office

The principal office for the Charity is:

Chief Financial Officer
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
Hollybush House
New Cross Hospital
Wolverhampton
WV10 0QP

Wider Networks

RWT Charity is one of over 400 NHS linked charities in England and Wales who are eligible to join NHS Charities Together. As a member charity, we have the opportunity to discuss matters of common concern and exchange information and experiences, join together with others to lobby government departments and others, and to participate in conferences and seminars which offer support and education for our staff and members of the charitable funds committee.

Related Party Relationships

The Charity holds a related party relationship with The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The transactions with these parties have been disclosed in note 17 of these financial statements.

Trustees of the Charity



Sue Rawlings - Non-Executive Director

Appointed July 2013 (Served as an Associate Non-Executive Director from October 2012). Re-appointed as an Associate Non-Executive Director in October 2021.

Ms Rawlings is a Chartered Certified Accountant who has worked in the public, private and voluntary sector. For 20 years, until 2020, she was a partner of the consultancy firm RHCS, a well- established, highly skilled consultancy firm working with a range of cross sector clients from the voluntary community/charitable and public sectors. She has extensive experience in evaluating the effectiveness of public expenditure and has worked, for example, with the British Red Cross in various parts of the country, conducting needs assessments, developing performance monitoring, and carrying out evaluations.

She worked with voluntary and community sector organisations to develop their business planning, their future sustainability and identify their impact. Previously a local improvement advisor appointed via IDeA to the Regional Improvement Efficiency Partnership in the West Midlands, she was, until recently, a Trustee of both the Beacon Centre for the Blind and a Director of Beacon4Life CIC. Ms Rawlings is now trustee and treasurer for Stay – a supported housing charity based in Telford and a trustee and treasurer of Telford Christian Council.

Committee Attendances in 2021-2022: 4/4

Declaration of interests

- Trustee and Company Director of Telford Christian Council Supported Housing – STAY
- Trustee and Director of Faith based Charity in Telford – Telford Christian Council (from 01/11/2021)



Professor David Loughton CBE - Chief Executive.

Appointed 2004

Professor Loughton joined our Trust in 2004 having had extensive experience as a Chief Executive within the NHS. During his career he has developed a new Medical School with Warwick University and achieved financial close on a £400 million new hospital Private Finance Initiative (PFI). He has now turned around one of the 17 most financially challenged Trusts in the NHS, whilst improving the quality of care provided to patients. Professor Loughton is a member of the National Institute for Health Research Advisory Board.

Committee Attendances in 2021-2022: 1/4

Declaration of interests

- National Institute for Health Research – Member of Advisory Board
- Chair of West Midlands Cancer Alliance
- Chief Executive Officer (from 01 April 2021)



Prof. Steve Field CBE - Chairman of the Board

Appointed 1 April 2019

Professor Field holds a number of roles at various organisations including Chair at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Trustee at Nishkam Healthcare Trust and a Trustee for Pathway Healthcare for Homeless People.

Prior to his role of Chair, he was Chief Inspector of General Practice, Primary Medical Services, and Integrated Care at the Care Quality Commission (CQC). He has held several board positions in the NHS including, Deputy National Medical Director at NHS England, Regional Postgraduate Dean for NHS West Midlands, and Chair of the NHS Inclusion Health Board at the Department of Health. He also held the position of Chair of The Royal College of GPs and has been a faculty member at the Harvard Macy Institute of Harvard University in the USA. He has been awarded a number of honorary degrees and also holds academic appointments at the University of Birmingham and the University of Warwick.

Committee Attendances in 2021-2022: 0/4

Declaration of interests

- Nishkam Healthcare Trust Birmingham – Trustee
- Chair, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
- Honorary Professor - University of Birmingham
- Honorary Professor – University of Warwick
- Director of EJC Associates
- Trustee for charity, Pathway Healthcare for Homeless People



Kevin Stringer - Chief Financial Officer

Appointed 2009

Mr Stringer is a qualified accountant with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and holds a Masters qualification in Business Administration (MBA). With more than 30 years of experience in the NHS, 20 of those years as a Director, he has experience of commissioning and provider organisations.

His experience covers:

- Primary Care, Community Services and Commissioning (with successor organisations being Walsall CCG and Birmingham cross-city CCG)
- Secondary and Tertiary Care (at University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals)
- Specialist Secondary Care (Birmingham Children's Hospital Foundation Trust where he helped the Trust secure FT status)
- Regional NHS Planning and Oversight (West Midlands Regional Health Authority) .

His role is to provide professional advice to the Board and wider Trust to ensure delivery of the Board's financial strategy, key statutory financial targets and ensure good internal control.

He is a member and advocate for Healthcare Financial Management (HFMA) having been a past Chair of the West Midlands Branch where he is now the Treasurer.

Committee Attendances in 2021-2022: 3/4

Declaration of interests

- Treasurer, West Midlands Branch – Healthcare Financial Management Association
- Member of CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants)
- Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit - brother-in-law is the Managing Director
- Interim IT Director and SIRO at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
- Interim Director of Finance at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust



Roger Dunshea - Non-Executive Director

Appointed April 2014

Mr Dunshea has worked in the NHS in Scotland, Wales, and England in a variety of positions including Staff Nurse, Project Manager, Clinical General Manager and Executive Director roles. Between 1997 and 2013 he was a Director with OFWAT (the economic regulator of the water sector in England and Wales) with responsibilities covering finance, information systems, human resources, and procurement. He has been the Chair of Governors at a Central Birmingham High School and a Non-Executive Director with the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust.

His other current roles are independent member of the Welsh Government's Education and Public Services audit and risk assurance committee and Chair of the audit committee of the Geological Society. He is volunteer warden with Natural England. He is a Chartered Public Finance Accountant and Fellow of the Geological Society.

Committee Attendances in 2021-2022: 4/4

Declaration of interests

- Geological Society of London – Member of Audit Committee (from 14/12/2018)
- Independent member of the Welsh Government Audit and Risk Committee for Education and Public Services
- Independent Member of Judicial Appointments Commissions ARAC (from 01/07/2021)









Structure, Governance and Management

All the Charity's funds are pooled for investment purposes and the official pooling scheme was registered with the Charity Commission on 24 June 1998.

For management purposes all funds held and received by the Charity fall into one of the following categories:

- Endowment funds - funds where the capital must be held in perpetuity and only the income generated can be used for charitable purposes
- Restricted funds - funds received which have specific restrictions set by the donor
- Unrestricted funds - funds received which have no restrictions attached to their use.

Within the unrestricted category separate designated funds have been established which reflect the wishes of donors to help named wards and departments in the hospital. Subsequent donations and gifts received by the Charity that are attributable to the already established funds are added to those fund balances. Where the donations and gifts are not attributable to already established funds, new funds are set up. In this way the Corporate Trustee fulfils the legal duty to ensure that all funds are spent in accordance with the objectives of each fund and that the wishes of donors are always considered.

Unrestricted funds form the largest category with £2,026,000 of funds at 31 March 2022. There are charitable funds for most clinical specialties (e.g. medicine or ophthalmology) and for some wards and departments within specialties.

Non-Executive members of the Trust Board are appointed by the NHS Appointments Commission and Executive members of the Board are subject to recruitment by the NHS Trust Board. 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.

Acting for the Corporate Trustee, the objective of the Charitable Funds Committee is to provide strategic direction to the Charity and ensure that it is managed and administered in accordance with the Charity's purposes. The Committee is responsible for:

- Determining a charitable funds strategy and setting annual objectives
- Ensuring that charitable funds are managed in line with the measures and actions set out in the strategy
- Ensuring any fundraising elements of the strategy work within recognised good practice frameworks and identify methods of fundraising appropriate for the Charity
- Determining a charitable funds investment policy and monitoring performance of any investments made in line with governing documents and the Trustee Act 2000
- Appointing and considering the performance of any investment advisors or managers
- Ensuring Trust policies and procedures are adequate, that financial controls are in place to account for all funds received and that governance arrangements are appropriate and effective
- Ensuring that timely annual reports and accounts are produced and an unqualified external audit opinion is received.

The accounting records and the day-to-day administration of the funds are dealt with by the Finance Department located at The Clinical Skills and Corporate Services Centre, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton WV10 0QP.

Risk Management

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed have been identified and considered. They have been reviewed and systems established to mitigate those risks. The Trustee is confident that reliance can be placed on the management arrangements in place, which include internal and external audit services, to minimise any risk to the funds. The most significant risks identified are the possible losses from a fall in the value of the investments and the level of reserves available to mitigate the impact of such losses.

The investments are held by the Investment Fund Managers who act in accordance with the agreed investment policy and are subject to regular review. In addition, unrealised gains and losses are allocated to funds at agreed intervals. Procedures in place ensure that both spending and firm financial commitments remain in line with income. Income is covered by the Standing Financial Instructions and there is an agreed boundary for the receipt of donations. This policy has been communicated to staff.

There is an agreed expenditure and reserves policy together with a tight approval procedure which gives the Corporate Trustee confidence that the expenditure will remain within the limits of the Charity's resources.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

This can be found at the beginning of this report on page 5.

Investment Management

Surplus funds are pooled and invested in order to maximise income, whilst minimising risk for the Charity.

Income and cash, gains and losses are distributed equitably across the Charity funds. The income from investments amounted to £77,879.25 (£81,000 in 2020/21).

Throughout 2021/22 the investments were split into two portfolios.

- A Shorter Term Portfolio which aims to achieve a consistently attractive level of income, coupled with the potential for long-term capital appreciation whilst aiming to preserve the value of the capital over the short-term
- A Longer Term Portfolio which is invested to achieve long-term capital and income growth. Achieved with a broadly diversified global portfolio covering the world's principal stock, bond and currency markets, together with investments in "alternative" assets such as property and hedge funds.

During the year the Trustees requested both the Shorter and Longer Term Portfolios continue to hold a 50:50 split of the overall investments.

At the year end the Shorter Term Portfolio held £1,222,664 and the Longer Term Portfolio held £1,468,339. Both portfolio's were split between investment types. The two portfolio's together were split in the following way. £1,290,563 – 48% (2021: £14,30,077 – 49.4%) was invested in equity based investments, £1,306,414 – 48.5% (2021: £1,227,134 – 45.2%) was invested in longer fixed interest bearing government and other securities and £94,025 – 3.5% (2021: £147,827 – 5.4%) was held as liquid assets including cash. This total sum invested decreased by £24,035 from 2020/21.

The Charity does not own any investment properties.

The Charity has an investment policy that was reviewed in November 2021. See page 43.

A reflection on the last 12 months, from Sarasin & Partners LLP

Investment returns for the period were positive. Markets once again were led by the United States, with Europe and to a lesser extent the UK providing support. Against a backdrop of a third successive year of double-digit gains for equity markets in 2021, investors were braced for a less certain outlook in 2022. However, the extent and nature of the volatility experienced in the first quarter was beyond most investors' expectations. Russia's invasion of Ukraine is first and foremost a human tragedy. It does, however, exacerbate the worries that gripped markets before the invasion; namely that inflation would prove to be higher and longer-lasting than initially thought, and that interest rates would need to rise as a result, thereby denting the values of most major asset classes.

Throughout the period, the portfolio continued to benefit from its holdings in cyclical companies and technological leaders such as Rio Tinto and Microsoft respectively, in addition to Gold, a longstanding safe haven in times of heightened volatility. During the twelve months we gradually increased the charity's exposure to high quality, defensive businesses. In particular, defensive pharmaceuticals such as Merck & Co., Amgen, and Medtronic, all of which proved beneficial, whilst also showing strong potential for growth in the period ahead.

With regard to income, distributions for the long-term portfolio were reduced only very slightly (c7%), maintaining our commitment to protect the Trust from the income cuts experienced elsewhere. The reduction was flagged to the trustees well in advance and we expect income receipts to be matched over the following 12 month period.

Policies

Investment Policy

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk.
The investment objective for the long term portfolio is to generate a return in excess of inflation over the long term whilst generating an income to support the on-going activities of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity.
The investment objective for the short term portfolio is to preserve the capital value with a minimum level of risk. Assets should be readily available to meet unanticipated cash flow requirements.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity has approximately a 50/50 split for investments between long term and short term, in order that unanticipated cash flow needs can be met.

The Charity's ethical investment policy precludes direct or indirect investment in companies that generate more than 10% of revenues from alcohol, armaments, gambling, pornography and will not invest in tobacco.

Expenditure policy

The charitable funds that the Charity manages, and from which grants are made, are held as endowment funds (expendable or permanent), restricted funds and unrestricted funds (designated or non-designated).

It is the Trustees' policy to ensure that all grants made from these funds are used in accordance with the purposes of the individual fund and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity's purposes and aims.

Individual funds' purposes include research, equipment, and patient and staff welfare.

The definitions of endowment, restricted and unrestricted funds are detailed below:

- Endowment funds – funds where the capital must be held in perpetuity and only the income generated can be used for charitable purposes

- Restricted funds – fund received which have specific restrictions set by the donor

- Unrestricted funds – funds received which have no restrictions attached to their use.

All of the different types of funds have fund advisors who facilitate local decision making and offer expertise in the particular area of the fund.

The fund advisors have delegated powers and responsibility to authorise expenditure in line with the Trust's Authorised Limits Schedule contained within the Standing Financial Instructions (SFI's). The fund advisors can make recommendations on how to spend the money within their designated area up to a level of £5,000 per transaction subject to any specific donor wishes. The deputy chief operating officers have delegated powers and responsibility to authorise transactions up to £10,000. For expenditure in excess of these limits they make recommendations to the chief executive and chief financial officer who have authority limits up to £50,000. Any transactions over this limit must go to the Trust Board for authorisation.

All of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity's restricted and unrestricted funds can be spent at any time. Grants from these funds are applied for by fund advisors.

In 2020/21 a restricted fund was established for the grants received from NHS Charities Together, the majority of which has been spent during 2021/22. The remaining balance will be spent during 2022/23 with approval from the NHS Charities Together.

Reserves policy

The Corporate Trustee acknowledges that it is the donors' intention that their contributions be used as soon as possible to enhance the service provided by the Trust. Consequently, it is the policy of the Charity that significant reserves are not held. The Charity does not intend to increase fund balances unless this is as a result of significant donations or legacies. However, from time to time, balances are held in particular areas until sufficient funds have been donated to make specific purchases.

The trustee has established a reserves policy as part of their plans to provide long term support to the services provided by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The Trustee calculates the reserves as that part of the Charity's unrestricted income funds that is freely available, after taking account of the designated funds, which have been earmarked for specific service purposes, in accordance with the stated Charity Objectives.

Total funds of the charity were £3,031,000 (2021 £2,919,000) of which £2,026,000 (2021: £1,838,000) are unrestricted funds, £923,000 (2021 £999,000) restricted funds and £82,000 (2021: £82,000) were endowment funds

The free reserves currently stand at £105,000 and are calculated as follows:

Total unrestricted funds £2,026,000

Less designated funds (£1,921,000)

Total free reserves £105,000

The Trustees intend that designated funds are spent within a reasonable period of receipt and therefore, foresee a need only to maintain reserves sufficient to provide certainty of funding to cover the administrative, fundraising and governance costs of the Charity in the short term. The Trustee aims to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately a year of non-designated, unrestricted charitable expenditure. The Trustee considers that this level will provide sufficient funds in the short term, to cover costs in the event of unforeseen circumstances which prevented the operation of the Charity in the longer term.

The Trustee reviews the balance held in designated funds, in accordance with the provisions of the NHS Acts relating to charitable funds, to determine whether these funds are likely to be committed in the near future and the extent to which there is a continuing need identified for any particular designated fund(s). Any inactive funds are closed and transferred appropriately. Additionally, within the level of designated funds held, the Trustee ensures that there are sufficient funds held to cover a fluctuation in the value of funds held in investments.

The policies specific to the Charity reserves are as follows:

- To maintain systems to forecast levels of expenditure and income to determine reserve requirements
- To ensure the level of reserves are secured
- To monitor and review the policy periodically to ensure it remains suitable for the Charity's need
- The Corporate Trustee has reviewed the reserves policy in the light of the Charity Commission's published guidance CC19 – Charities' Reserves.

Further details

Principal professional advisers

Auditors - External
WR Partners
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
SY2 6LG

Auditors - Internal
RSM UK
Festival Way
Festival Park
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5BB

Bankers
Cooperative Bank plc
1-2 Dudley Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 3EN

Solicitors
Browne Jacobson
44 Castle Gate
Nottingham
NG1 7BJ

Investment Fund Managers
Sarasin & Partners LLP
Juxon House
100 St Paul's Churchyard
London
EC4M 8BU

Full accounts

This annual report comments on some of the features of the full accounts which are provided on the following pages for your information. Copies of the full accounts have been lodged with the Charity Commission and carry an unqualified audit report.

The text and accounts shown in this report were approved by the Trustees on 22 November 2022 and is signed on their behalf by the Chair.



Sue Rawlings -
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any
- Material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- So far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- That Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 22 November 2022
and signed on their behalf by:



Sue Rawlings
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity (the 'charity) for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:
•give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
•have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
•have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.
Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.
Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:
• adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
• the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
• certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
• we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We have reviewed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement and identified the principal's risks, implementing a series of testing procedures to provide us with sufficient comfort to issue our opinion.

We reviewed the charities regulatory environment to ensure we could that it had acted in accordance with the framework relevant to the charity and its environment and identify any instances on non-compliance.

We also assessed the charity's internal control procedures to ensure we could appropriately scrutinise these controls and establish whether our understanding of the control environment was sufficient to supplement our additional testing procedures.

The engagement team consisted of a team that the engagement partner believes is equipped with the relevant level of technical and charity awareness to carry out our work to the required standard.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Andrew Malpass BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)



For and on behalf of WR Partners
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6LG

15/12/2022

Charity Accounts 2021 - 2022

Statement of Financial Activities incorporating income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Endowment funds £000	2021/22 Total funds £000	2020/21 Total funds £000
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income:						
Donations and legacies	3	480	4	0	**484**	590
Grants	3	227	30	0	**257**	256
Other trading activities	3	65	2	0	**67**	237
Investments	12	49	29	0	**78**	81
Total incoming resources		**821**	**65**	**0**	**886**	1,164
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	4	(101)	0	0	**(101)**	(58)
Charitable activities	4	(507)	(138)	0	**(645)**	(797)
Other expenditure		(4)	0	0	**(4)**	(10)
Total expenditure		**(612)**	**(138)**	**0**	**(750)**	(865)
Net gains/(losses) on investment		(16)	(8)	0	**(24)**	318
Net income/expenditure		**193**	**(81)**	**0**	**112**	617
Transfer between funds		(5)	5	0	**0**	0
Net movements in funds		**188**	**(76)**	**0**	**112**	617
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		1,838	999	82	**2,919**	2,302
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2022		**2,026**	**923**	**82**	**3,031**	2,919

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Endowment funds £000	2021/22 Total funds £000	2020/21 Total funds £000
Fixed assets						
Investments	11	1,686	923	82	**2,691**	2,715
Total fixed assets		**1,686**	**923**	**82**	**2,691**	2,715
Current assets						
Debtors	13	42	0	0	**42**	24
Cash and cash equivalents	14	806	0	0	**806**	326
Total current assets		**848**	0	0	**848**	350
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(508)	0	0	**(508)**	(146)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		**340**	0	0	**340**	204
Total assets less current liabilities		**2,026**	**923**	82	**3,031**	2,919
Net assets		**2,026**	**923**	82	**3,031**	2,919
The funds of the Charity	16					
Endowment funds	16			82	**82**	82
Restricted income funds	16		923		**923**	999
Unrestricted income funds		2,026			**2,026**	1,838
Total Charity funds		**2,026**	**923**	**82**	**3,031**	2,919

Signed:



Sue Rawlings
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee
Date: 22 November 2022

The note at pages 55 to 65 form part of these financial statements.

Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Net income/(expenditure) for 2021/22 (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	112	617
Adjustment for:		
(Gains)/losses on investments	24	(318)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(78)	(81)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(18)	(19)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	362	(58)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**402**	141

Cash Flow	**Total funds 2021/22 £000**	Total funds 2020/21 £000
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	402	141
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	78	81
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	78	81
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	480	222
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	326	104
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**806**	326

1. General information

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity is an unincorporated charity in England. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 40 of this report.

2. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The 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 the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published 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 Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

After making enquires, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

The Trustees have also assessed the potential impact on the future operations of the Charity with regard to the Covid-19 outbreak. The Charity is considered to be well positioned given the current environment with no impact on the going concern basis of the financial statement.

The key risks to the Charity's continuing going concern status are a fall in income from donations or investment income but the Trustee has arrangements in place to mitigate those risks (see the risk management (page 45) and reserves (page 47) sections of the annual report for more information).

b) Funds structure

Where there is a legal restriction on the purpose to which a fund may be put, the fund is classified either as:

- a restricted fund or
- an endowment fund.

Restricted funds are those where the donor has provided for the donation to be spent in furtherance of a specified charitable purpose.

Endowment funds arise when the donor has expressly provided that the gift is to be invested and only the income of the fund may be spent. These funds are sub analysed between those where the trustee has the discretion to spend the capital (expendable endowment) and those where there is no discretion to expend the capital (permanent endowment).

The Charity has three permanent endowment funds, all of which are invested within the long term portfolio and the return from this investment is transferred into either an unrestricted fund or a restricted fund dependent on the restrictions placed on the fund by the donor.

c) Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable (more likely than not) that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Where there are terms or conditions attached to incoming resources, particularly grants, then these terms or conditions must be met before the income is recognised as the entitlement condition will not be satisfied until that point. Where terms or conditions have not been met then the relevant income is not recognised in the year but deferred and shown on the balance sheet as deferred income.

d) Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind, such as food and care packages are not accounted for when they are accepted and immediately distributed unless a single donation is material.

Gifts of tangible assets such as microwaves and fridges are recognised as a donation at fair value (market price) on receipt and charitable expenditure when they are distributed.

Where gifts in kind are held before being distributed to beneficiaries, they are recognised at fair value as stock until they are distributed.

e) Incoming resources from legacies

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

f) Incoming resources from endowment funds

The incoming resources received from the invested endowment fund are transferred to the restricted or unrestricted fund as per the donors request.

g) Other incoming resources

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

h) Resources expended and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to each category of expense shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Expenditure is recognised when the following criteria are met:

- there is a present legal or constructive obligation resulting from a past event
- it is more likely than not that a transfer of benefits (usually a cash payment) will be required in settlement
- the amount of the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

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

i) Recognition of expenditure and associated liabilities as a result of grant

The Charity is not a grant giving organisation.

j) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those costs which do not relate directly to a single activity. These include some staff recharges, costs of administration, external audit costs and IT support. Support costs have been apportioned between fundraising costs and charitable activities on an appropriate basis. The analysis of support costs and the bases of apportionment applied are shown in note 6.

k) Fundraising costs

The costs of generating 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 which include expenses for fundraising activities and a recharge paid to a related party, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (see note 17). The recharge is used to pay the salaries and support costs of the Charity's fundraising team.

l) Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs incurred in the pursuit of the charitable objects of the charity. These costs, where not wholly attributable, are apportioned between the categories of charitable expenditure in addition to the direct costs. The total costs of each category of charitable expenditure include an apportionment of support costs as shown in note 6.

m) Fixed asset investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument. Fixed asset investments are initially recognised at their transaction value and are subsequently measured at their fair value (market value) as at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year. Quoted stocks and shares are included in the Balance Sheet at the current market value quoted by the investment analyst, excluding dividend. Other investments are included at the trustee's best estimate of market value.

The main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors. Further information on the RWT Charity investments can be found in note 11.

n) Debtors

Debtors are amounts owed to the charity. They are measured on the basis of their recoverable amount.

o) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand is held to meet the day to day running costs of the charity as they fall due. Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments, usually in 90-day notice interest bearing savings accounts.

p) Creditors

Creditors are amounts owed by the charity. They are measured at the amount that the charity expects to have to pay to settle the debt.

Amounts which are owed in more than a year are shown as long-term creditors.

q) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and opening carrying value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at the year end and opening carrying value (or purchase date if later).

r) Staff costs and pensions

The Charity does not have any staff. All staffing costs are recharged from The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

3 Income

a) Analysis of Donations, Legacies and Grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021/22	Total 2020/21
Donations from individuals	304	4	308	162
Corporate donations	40	0	40	227
Legacies	136	0	136	201
Grants	227	30	257	256
	707	**34**	**741**	846
2020/21 Total funds £000	*589*	*257*	*846*	

Donations from individuals are gifts from members of the public, relatives of patients and staff.

Donations of goods, to the value of £9,839 2021/22 (£5,642 2020/21), are included in income valued at their market value. All of these donations have been distributed during the year.

In 2021/22, the Charity did not receive any grants from the NHS Charities Together Covid-19 emergency appeal (2021: £254,000). The breakdown for the prior year was as follows; Stage 1 Emergency Grant £102,000, Stage 1 Second Wave Staff Wellbeing and Patient Care Grant £100,000, Starbucks Distribution £2,000 and Stage 2 Community Partnership Grant £50,000. Applications have been put forward in 2022/23.

b) Analysis of Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021/22	Total 2020/21
Community	12	2	14	19
Individuals	0	0	0	0
Events	53	0	53	217
Corporate	0	0	0	1
	65	**2**	**67**	237
2020/21 Total funds £000	*235*	*2*	*237*	

4 Expenditure

a) Analysis of Raising Funds

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2021/22 £000	Total 2020/21 £000
Fundraisers costs	87	0	87	49
Support costs	14	0	14	9
	101	**0**	**101**	58
2020/21 Total funds £000	*58*	*0*	*58*	

b) Analysis of Charitable Activities

	Grant funded activity £000	Support costs £000	Total funds 2021/22 £000	Total funds 2020/21 £000
Purchase of new medical equipment	306	0	306	224
Patients welfare and amenities	233	37	270	168
Staff welfare and amenities	60	9	69	395
Research	0	0	0	10
	599	**46**	**645**	797
2020/21 Total funds £000	*722*	*75*	*797*	

5 Grant funding

The charity did not undertake any direct charitable activities on its own account during the year. All of the charitable expenditure was in the form of grant funding.

Grants were approved in favour of the partner organisations, principally the RWNHST to carry out activities that will benefit patients and their families. The Charity incurred expenditure with third parties in pursuance of those grants or reimbursed expenditure incurred by them.

6 Allocation of support costs and overheads

Support and overhead costs are allocated between fundraising activities and charitable activities.
The bases of allocation used are as follows:

- time: based the charity's two staff members' timesheets
- direct allocation: where a cost is wholly attributable to a particular activity.
- expenditure: this is a proportion based on the fund balance at the start of the year. This is used where the trustee considers this is a more equitable treatment to avoid disadvantaging funds with high volume, low value transactions.
- salaries: this is proportionate to staff salaries where costs are related to the employed staff.

	Raising funds £000	**Charitable activities £000**	**Total 2021/22 £000**	Total 2020/21 £000	Basis
External audit	2	5	7	6	Direct
Financial services	11	38	49	46	Time
Support admin costs	0	0	0	27	Time
Other administration costs	1	3	4	5	Expenditure
	14	**46**	**60**	84	
2020/21 Total funds £000	*9*	*75*	*84*		

7 Trustee remuneration, benefits and expenses

Remuneration for the Board of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is provided in The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust 2021/22 published Accounts available on the Trust website, and as such remuneration and expenses with regards to the Charitable Funds Committee is not separately identified.

8 Analysis of staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

The Charity has no employees (2020/21 none). Costs for staff incurred by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust are recharged to the Charity in the form of a Financial Services management fee along with the Fundraiser's salary. The management fee for the year amounted to £49,228 (2020/21 £46,264) and the Fundraisers' salaries amounted to £80,603 (2020/21 £43,256). The Charity does not directly pay salaries national insurance or pension contributions (2020/21 £Nil).

Analysis of staff costs recharged by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

	2022 £000	2021 £000
Fundraisers salary	**81**	43
Financial services	**49**	46
	130	89

9 Transfers

There were transfers of £5,022 (2020/21 £5,411) during the year, between the New Cross General Purpose Fund and RWT Singers during the year.

10 Auditor's remuneration

External auditors' remuneration of £6,600 including VAT (2020/21 £6,048 including VAT) related solely to the audit with no other additional work undertaken (2020/21 £Nil).

11 Investments

Movement in fixed asset investments	**31 March 2022 £000**	31 March 2021 £000
Market value at 1 April	**2,715**	2,397
Less disposals at carrying value	**0**	0
Add: additions to investments at cost	**0**	0
Add net gain (loss) on revaluation	**(24)**	318
Market value as at 31 March	**2,691**	2,715

Net movement is made up of the revaluation of investments (£24,035) at the year end, and decrease in the balance of cash held (£1.39) as part of the investment portfolio.

Analysis of market value	**31 March 2022 £000**	31 March 2021 £000
Investments listed on Stock Exchange	**2,691**	2,715
	2,691	2,715

Fixed asset investment by type	**31 March 2022 £000**	**31 March 2022 %**	31 March 2021 £000	31 March 2021 %
Equities	**1,291**	**48.0**	1,340	49.4
Fixed Income (Inc Bonds)	**853**	**31.7**	977	36.0
Property	**82**	**3.0**	35	1.3
Other	**371**	**13.8**	215	7.9
Liquid Assets (Inc Cash)	**94**	**3.5**	148	5.4
	2,691	**100**	2,715	100

The Trustee's consider the value of the investments to be supported by their underlying assets.

12 Analysis of gross income from investments and cash on deposit

	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2021 £000
Investments listed on Stock Exchange	**78**	81
	78	81

13 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	**31 March 2022 £000**	31 March 2021 £000
Prepayments and accrued income	**42**	24
	42	24

14 Cash and cash equivalents

	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2021 £000
Co-Operative Bank Account	**806**	326
	806	326

15 Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:	**31 March 2022 £000**	31 March 2021 £000
Trade creditors	**490**	117
Other creditors	**13**	29
Deferred Income	**5**	0
	508	146

16 Analysis of charitable funds

a) Endowment funds

i) Analysis of endowment fund movements

ii) Details of permanent endowment funds

	31 March 2022 £000	31 March 2021 £000
A General Purposes Fund	**26**	26
B W.H.Fowler Trust	**14**	14
C Nell Phoenix Fund	**42**	42
	82	82

Name of permanent endowment	**Description of the nature and purpose of each permanent endowment**
A General Purposes Fund	to earn interest for the benefit of the non designated fund of the RWT Charity
B W.H.Fowler Trust	to earn interest for the benefit of the designated Maternity & Gynaecology fund within the Obstetrics and Gynaecology area
C Nell Phoenix Fund	to earn interest for the benefit of the restricted fund which is to provide musical entertainment for nursing staff

b) Restricted funds

i) Analysis of restricted fund movements

	Name of fund	**31 March 2021 £000**	**Income £000**	**Expenditure £000**	**Transfers £000**	**Gains & losses £000**	**31 March 2022 £000**
A	Joan Jones	102	3	(2)	0	(1)	**102**
B	Edith Mary Jeavons	4	0	0	0	0	**4**
C	Nell Phoenix Fund	40	2	(4)	0	(1)	**37**
D	Cystic Fibrosis Funding	2	0	0	0	0	**2**
E	Sheila Whiting Legacy	70	2	(1)	0	0	**71**
F	Marjorie Ferguson Legacy	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
G	CCH General Purpose - Legacies	20	0	0	0	0	**20**
H	Rotary Dowding	229	7	(4)	0	(2)	**230**
I	Millicent Jessica Dwight - Legacy	18	1	0	0	0	**19**
J	Swan Fund	2	4	(1)	0	0	**5**
K	Cancer Centre Fund	29	1	0	0	0	**30**
L	Kenneth Arthur Hollins - CCH Dialysis Centre	84	3	(2)	0	(1)	**84**
N	New Cross General Purposes - Legacies	221	37	(5)	5	(2)	**256**
O	RWT Singers	7	2	(6)	0	0	**3**
P	Individual funds < £500	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
Q	Arts & Heritage Fund	2	0	(1)	0	0	**1**
R	COVID-19	167	3	(112)	0	(1)	**57**
		999	**65**	**(138)**	**5**	**(8)**	**923**

ii) Details of restricted funds

Name of fund		Description of the nature and purpose of each fund
A	Joan Jones	to provide medical equipment to the Renal, Oncology, Vascular and Cardiac Units
B	Edith Mary Jeavons	to provide medical equipment to RW Trust
C	Nell Phoenix Fund	to provide musical entertainment for nursing staff
D	Cystic Fibrosis Funding	to support patients and their families who suffer with Cystic Fibrosis
E	Sheila Whiting Legacy	to support Rheumatology services at Cannock Hospital
F	Marjorie Ferguson Legacy	to support the services provided at the Rehabilitation Day Unit at Cannock Hospital
G	CCH General Purpose - Legacies	to support services at Cannock Hospital
H	Rotary Dowding	to support services at Cannock Hospital
I	Millicent Jessica Dwight Legacy	to provide equipment to RW Trust
J	Swan Fund	to support End of Life Care with in the Trust
K	Cancer Centre Fund	to provide a top class facility for Cancer Patients in the area
L	Kenneth Arthur Hollins - CCH Dialysis Centre	to provide support within the Cannock Hospital Dialysis Centre
M	Special Fund for Nano Bubble Pump	for the provision of a Nano Bubble Pump
N	New Cross General Purposes - Legacies	to support services at New Cross Hospital
O	RWT Singers (Choir)	to improve staff morale and enhance patient and visitor experience around the Trust
P	Individual Funds <£500	Lindsay Clift Memorial Fund is to support patient safety by way of training or providing vital monitoring equipment, Calabar Wolverhampton VISION 2020 Link is to support staff training with links to other countries, Arts in Health Trust Fund is to support delivery of the Trust's Arts In Health Programme
Q	Arts & Heritage	to provide additional resources that; contribute to and enhance the healing environment, therapeutic art activities for patients, their families and staff and to record the history of and the advancements of healthcare at RWT.
R	COVID-19	to provide support to patients and staff as part of the COVID-19 recovery

nrestricted funds

i) Analysis of unrestricted funds movements

		31 March 2021 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers £000	Gains & losses £000	31 March 2022 £000
Designated funds							
A	Anaesthetics	74	17	(10)	0	(1)	**80**
B	Medical Directorate	278	89	(27)	0	(2)	**338**
C	Haematology & Oncology	391	145	(93)	0	(3)	**440**
D	Cardiac Services	197	163	(38)	0	(2)	**320**
E	Renal Unit	32	12	(5)	0	0	**39**
F	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	65	21	(12)	0	(1)	**73**
G	Ophthalmology	160	220	(281)	0	(2)	**97**
H	Orthopaedics	105	9	(7)	0	(1)	**106**
I	Paediatrics	157	55	(45)	0	(1)	**166**
J	Surgical Directorate	79	4	(6)	0	0	**77**
K	Clinical Support	5	0	(2)	0	0	**3**
L	Wolverhampton Medical Institute	10	0	(1)	0	0	**9**
M	Other Smaller Funds	92	12	(13)	0	(1)	**90**
N	Community Nursing	6	0	0	0	0	**6**
O	Research Funds	81	2	(5)	0	(1)	**77**
		1,732	749	(545)	0	(15)	**1,921**
Non-designated funds							
P	General Purposes Funds	**106**	**72**	**(67)**	**(5)**	**(1)**	**105**
		1,838	**821**	**(612)**	**(5)**	**(16)**	**2,026**

c) Unrestricted funds continued

ii) Details of unrestricted funds

	Name of area	Description of the nature and purpose of each area
A	Anaesthetics	benefit of the Anaesthetics Directorate
B	Medical Directorate	benefit of the Medical Directorate
C	Haematology & Oncology	benefit of the Deanesly Centre and Cancer Services
D	Cardiac Services	benefit of the Cardiothoracic Directorate
E	Renal Unit	benefit of the Renal Unit
F	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	benefit of the Maternity & Gynaecology Directorate
G	Ophthalmology	benefit of the Ophthalmic Directorate
H	Orthopaedics	benefit of the Orthopaedic Directorate
I	Paediatrics	benefit of the Paediatric Directorate
J	Surgical Directorate	benefit of the Surgical Directorate
K	Clinical Support	benefit of Clinical Support Services
L	Wolverhampton Medical Institute	benefit of the Wolverhampton Medical Institute
M	Other smaller funds	benefit of Emergency Department, Ambulatory Care, Ear Nose and Throat, Theatres, Therapy Services, Nurse Training, Chaplaincy etc.
N	Community Nursing	benefit of the Community Nursing Teams
O	Research Funds	to support Research projects at the Trust
Unrestricted funds - Non designated funds		
P	General Funds	benefit of New Cross Hospital

Trustees have exercised their discretion to set aside part of the unrestricted funds for designated purposes. The designation applied has taken account the wishes expressed by the donor when the funds were given. Designated funds remain unrestricted as Trustees can remove the designation at anytime.

17 Related party transactions

During the year neither the Corporate Trustee nor members of the key management staff or parties related to it has undertaken any material transactions with or received any remuneration or expenses from The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity. As part of the normal course of business the Charity has made payments totalling £355,610 (2020/21 £876,344) to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust as Corporate Trustee of the Charity. In 2021/22 an amount of £489,691 (2020/21 £57,635) was owing to the Trust at 31 March 2022. The total income of the Corporate Trustee in the year ended 31 March 2022 amounted to £817,270,000 (2020/21 £743,285,000) and the adjusted retained surplus amounted to £4,454,000 (2020/21 £243,000).

18 Commitments

The Charity has commitments totalling £35,559 at 31 March 2022 (2020/21 £68,399) arising from requisitions placed for which the relevant goods and services have not been received. These commitments relate to unrestricted and restricted funds.

19 Donations in kind

Donations in kind have been made to aid the Charity's mission to support The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. Donations to the value of £9,839 (2020/21 £6,562) have been included in the accounts this year for items of clothing, toys for the children's ward, knitted blankets, sensory items and other kind gifts that help make the patients stay better. All of these items will be used for some time to come. We also received several offers of kindness for the staff and patients of the Trust and the wider community for items such as care packages, hand creams, lip balms, food and drink. The value of these items were estimated at £8,781 (2020/21 £103,370).

When received, all items were distributed as soon as possible and shared amongst the whole of the Trust.









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THE ROYAL WOLVERHAMPTON NHS TRUST CHARITY

England & Wales - Charity number 1059467

Accounts







The Royal Wolverhampton
NHS Trust Charity

Registered Charity No:1059467

Annual Report and Accounts 2020/ 21

Black Country Chamber of Commerce
Member

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

Cannock Chase Hospital - Community Services - New Cross Hospital - West Park Hospital








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The Royal Wolverhampton
NHS Trust Charity

Message from our chair Sue Rawlings

I am pleased to be able to present the 2020/ 21 Annual Report and Accounts of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity, after what has been an incredibly difficult year for all of us.

As a charity we have done our very best to respond positively to the impact of COVID-19 on our patients and staff. We have been able to pass on the benefits of significantly increased funding and gifts directly to those needing support.

I cannot fail to draw attention to the amazing fundraising efforts of Captain Sir Tom Moore – the millions of pounds raised and passed on to NHS Charities Together, through grant funding, has also benefited The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. We have been able to offer complementary therapies and other support to staff. In addition to this, significant donations were received from Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club and its players and manager; amongst other items, this enabled us to part fund the equipment for the two new wards, created to treat patients suffering from COVID-19.

We were also overwhelmed by the generosity of so many people in the local community – individuals, families, community groups, churches and businesses. The donations, both financial and practical items (including food packages for staff, treats, toiletries, to name but a few), were gratefully received and helped make life just that bit easier for our selfless and exhausted staff and for struggling patients.

As a charity we were also delighted to be able to provide all staff members with a small gift and a commemorative badge to acknowledge their hard work and the immense difficulties faced during this extraordinary year. The charity also funded 50 picnic benches so that staff could take their much deserved breaks, away from their department. For patients, we arranged comfort packs and the availability of IPads to ensure they could talk to and see their loved ones who were not allowed to visit.

I also want to thank all those staff who continued to work so hard for the charity: our fundraising coordinator and our community fundraiser worked tirelessly to ensure that the charity did what it could to make use of the wonderful donations – a very different approach to our usual activities. Also, the communications team and finance team members who supported them should not be forgotten. A huge personal thank you to all of you for your commitment, hard work and positivity. I feel incredibly privileged to be the chair.

Key highlights of our year:

- Recieving £102,000 in stage 1 grants from NHS Charities Together, that we used to help the Trust as they responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Recieving £50,000 in stage 2 grants from NHS Charities Together that we used to develop a partnership with Compton Care. The project will provide specialist support to those that are receiving end of life care and are from south asian and afro-carribbean communities.

As we hopefully move back towards some sort of normality, I look forward to a year when we can build on the increased presence of the charity and continue to support our staff, patients and local community through growth and ongoing development.



Sue Rawlings
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee



Objectives of the charity

The main purpose of the Charitable Funds held on Trust is to apply income for any charitable purpose relating to the NHS and wholly or mainly for the services provided by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

The Trustees' Mission

The mission of the charity is to make a real difference to the patients of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, their families and the staff that treat them, above and beyond that provided by the NHS. We support the Trust to realise its vision to be an NHS organisation that continually strives to improve the outcomes and experiences for the communities they serve.

Priorities

Our priorities are outlined within our Fundraising Strategy 2019/ 21.

Public Benefit

In planning the charity's activities, careful consideration is given to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance. We must also comply with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2011. We support the work of the Trust however there is a clear distinction between what the Trust is required to provide as an NHS organisation and what is additional public benefit. The application of charitable funds leads to the enhancement of patient care and experience – regardless of our patients back ground or personal circumstances.

Charity funds are used to provide the following:

- Additional facilities to enhance the healing environment
- Additional equipment to enhance patient care and experiences
- Opportunities for additional staff training, above and beyond mandatory training
- Opportunities for further medical knowledge through research.

Getting involved and supporting your local hospital and patients of the Trust couldn't be easier. Simply call the fundraising team on (01902) 447293 or contact us on social media –

TheRWTCharity on Twitter OR Facebook, or @therwtcharity on Instagram

Financial Review

The Statement of Financial Activities can be found below as at 31 March 2021 with comparatives to the previous year. The complete set of Accounts can be found on pages 37-50.



Income

£1,164k

Total Incoming Resources	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000
Donations and Legacies - £590k	587	3
Grants - £256k	2	254
Fundraising - £237k	235	2
Investment income - £81k	57	24
Total - £1,164k	**881**	**283**

Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000	Endowment £000	2020/21 £000	2019/ 20 £000
Total incoming resources	881	283	0	**1,164**	367
Total expenditure	(648)	(217)	0	**(865)**	(600)
Net gains/(losses) on investment	204	114	0	**318**	(85)
Net income/(expenditure)	**437**	**180**	**0**	**617**	(318)
Transfer between funds	(5)	5	0	0	0
Total brought forward	1,406	814	82	2,302	2,620
Total at 31 March 2020	**1,838**	**999**	**82**	**2,919**	2,302



Expenditure

£865k

Total Expenditure	Unrestricted £000	Restricted £000
Raising funds - (£58k)	(58)	0
Charitable activities - (£797k)	(580)	(217)
Other expenditure - (£10k)	(10)	(0)
Total - (£865k)	**(648)**	**(217)**

The Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021 can be found below with the comparatives to the previous year.

Balance Sheet

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Fixed Asset Investments	**2,715**	2,397
Debtors & Prepayments	**24**	5
Cash	**326**	104
Creditors	**(146)**	(204)
Net Assets	**2,919**	2,302

	2020/21 £000	2019/20 £000
Endowment funds	**82**	82
Restricted funds	**999**	814
Unrestricted funds		
- Designated	**1,732**	1,355
- Non-designated	**106**	51
Total Funds	**2,919**	2,302



A few helpful definitions:

Throughout this report you may see some terminology you aren't familiar with. Hopefully these next few paragraphs will help you understand the Charity's financial position.

Fixed asset investments - investments held in Shorter (low risk) or Longer (higher risk) Term Investment Portfolios.

Current assets - cash held plus debtors. Debtors - money paid in after the year end relating to the year, accrued income - money due in for activities taken place in the year, prepayments - payments made in year relating to the next year and so have been removed from the Statement of Financial Activities expenditure.

Current liabilities - creditors falling due within one year for money owed to others for expenses chargeable in the year.

Liabilities - creditors falling due after more than one year for money owed to others for expenses chargeable for previous years.

Net assets - Total assets minus total liabilities.

Endowment funds - represent funds that are held as capital in perpetuity so that only the income is available for distribution.

Restricted income funds - represent money which is held by the Trustees which can only be used for specified purposes. These funds are supervised either by the Fund Advisors within the ward, department or specialty concerned or the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer for more generic purposes.

Unrestricted income funds - are funds available to be spent within the objects of the Charity which can legally be spent wholly at the discretion of the Trustees. In practice, respecting the non-binding preferences expressed by donors, the Trustees have sub categorised the unrestricted income funds under two headings.

- **Designated (earmarked) funds -** represent separate funds which the Trustees have created to accord with sections 90 and 91 of the National Health Service Act 1977 which require that the Trustees respect, as far as practicable, the specific intentions of the gifts received through wards, departments and specialties. By designating funds the Trustees ensure that those gifts are channelled towards charitable purposes in those areas. These funds are supervised by Fund Advisors from the wards, departments and specialties concerned.
- **Non-designated funds (general/reserves) -** represent those funds available for distribution by the Trustees at their discretion which have not been restricted or earmarked and can be used as reserves should the need arise. These funds are supervised by the Chief Executive and Chief Financial Officer.

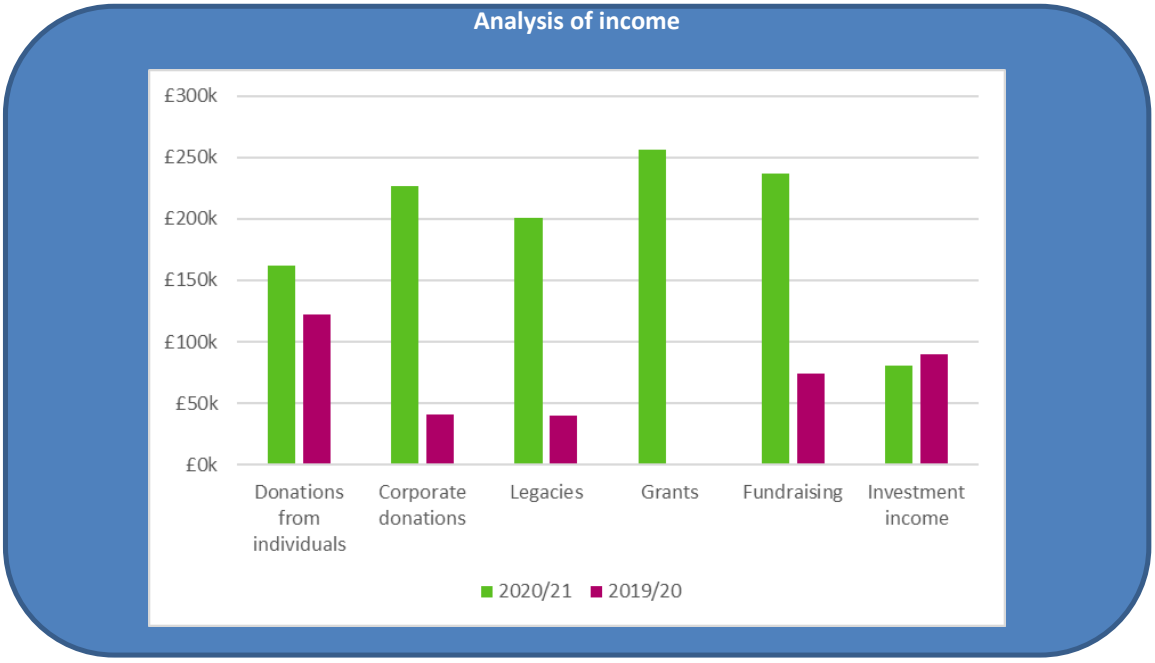
Annual summary

The last year has seen us go through unprecedented times. Our planned events, such as the Fashion Show, the Spin-a-thon and many other sponsored events that our fabulous fundraisers had planned, had to be put on hold or cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, there were new and varied events taking place up and down the country, with people walking around their gardens or climbing their mountains of staircases. It was amazing to see people of all ages, some experienced fundraisers and others organising their first. All were coming together for their NHS, to support the staff and patients who found themselves alone in hospital during the pandemic.

The funds have been utilised to support The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and its community, with the main purchases of £395k for staff welfare and amenities, £224k for new medical equipment and £168k for patient welfare and amenities. The patients and staff have benefited from additional comforts such as:

- I-Pads for patients to keep in touch with their loved ones during their stay in hospital, whilst not being able to have visitors due to Covid-19.
- Picnic benches for staff have been added around the site in various locations for staff to be able to get some down time away from the wards/departments. To gain some much-needed fresh air after having to wear PPE for such long periods of time.
- Holistic Therapies for staff to help with their well-being after stressful days at work.
- Patient comfort packs for those that haven't been able to obtain toiletries before their admission to hospital or have run out during their stay. Family and friends would normally bring along these items during visits, but this was unable to happen during the pandemic.
- Activity packs to help keep the patients minds active and to help with the boredom of days in hospital when they would normally look forward to seeing loved ones at visiting times.
- A staff Thank You for all their hard work and going above and beyond during these, what can only be described as "crazy times".
- A commemorative badge as a keepsake to remind staff of their bravery and strength to carry on with other key workers through adversity, when the world outside seemed to stand still.
- More details on these can be found later in the report.

The chart below shows our main sources of income this year compared to last year. An increase shown in all areas except investment income. The main increase came in the way of grants received from NHS Charities Together.



COVID-19 Appeal

The charity had many different fundraising events planned for 2020/ 21, however all face to face events were cancelled because of the pandemic and we had to consider other means of raising funds.

We received much support from the local community and NHS Charities Together, that helped support the wellbeing of our patients and staff. We also received non-monetary donations of toiletries, snacks and comfort items for patients and staff to the value of £103,370.

Thank you to each and everyone of you that supported us throughout the pandemic. Your generosity and kindness was overwhelming and helped to boost the morale of our staff and patients during such a challenging time.



Trevor Dunn, owner of the Toll House restaurant in Walsall Street, Willenhall, had to close his premises because of the COVID-19 outbreak, so he decided to raise money for care workers and other key workers instead.

One of his staff members, **Wayne Palmer**, put together a GoFundMe page which raised £1,700 and the group used the money to buy crisps, biscuits, chocolate bars, flapjacks, soft drinks, cakes and Jaffa Cakes for staff at the Trust, as well as snacks and meals for staff at Walsall Manor Hospital, Willenhall Fire Station and Ashmore Lake Ambulance Station in Willenhall.



Pamela Harvey donated 100 care packages to staff on the Neonatal Unit. Pam lost her son Louis after he suffered a series of serious illnesses following his premature birth at just 25 weeks. He was just 52 days old when he passed away on the NNU.

The care packs contained tissues, deodorant, sweets, a lollipop, tea, biscuits, a notepad and pen, paper clips, hand cream, a face mask and a candle. “I wanted to do something for the staff who are working so hard and do such a brilliant job,” said Pamela.

The Ummah Welfare Trust generously donated items such as bottles of water, oat bars, biscuits and dates which were used to replenish temporary reflection and prayer spaces.

Our staff were very grateful for their support.





The Coven Mother's Union fundraised for the partnering families team at the Trust. They initially planned to host a stand at the Coven Fete, however during lockdown all the children and grandchildren took part in individual sponsored events. They raised £900 to put together some mother and baby bags for our vulnerable moms and their babies.

Thank you to everyone involved, all of our families appreciated your support.

During the pandemic, around 70 staff stayed at the Novotel in Wolverhampton as they protected their families and loved ones whilst saving the lives of our patients.

We had many donations of comfort items for staff to help raise their spirits whilst they were away from home for 12 weeks.

Wolves sent items including crisps, chocolate, sweets and toiletries to staff, while Boots donated hundreds of shower gels and hand creams through Hygiene UK.







We were really grateful to Nicola Reid who donated outdoor games and toys for the children's ward.

On VE Day, Nicola's daughter Evie and her neighbour, Emily decided to set up a table at the end of their street during social distancing celebrations, collecting donations from passers-by. Other children on the cul-de-sac got involved and took turns manning the table. They raised £135 in total, which was used to purchase these toys.

Many of the wonderful donations we received were accompanied by a thoughtful message.

We ensured that each of those messages were passed on to our colleagues. We also developed posters that were displayed across all three hospital sites and community and GP sites so that all of our staff knew that the local communities we serve were thinking of them.



In the community

Stuart Bailey, who dresses up as Peppa Pig, and **Earl Edwards**, aka Pink Panther, both 47 and from Codsall, ran around their local streets every Monday and Thursday for several weeks and raised £10,813 for the Trust.

They completed their final two miles around the grounds of New Cross Hospital before finishing outside the emergency department as a way to thank staff to coincide with the Clap for Carers at 8pm.



Worshippers from The **Shree Krishan Hindu temple** in Pennfields kindly donated £10,000 following a collection they held for less than two months.

Satyapal Sharma, General Secretary of the temple and a worshipper there for 35 years, said at the time: "With what is going on now with COVID-19 we wanted to do all we can to help our local hospitals and the community and we wanted as many people to contribute as possible. Unfortunately, because of the coronavirus and social distancing, we haven't been able to reach as many people as we would have liked, but we hope this gesture can go towards helping as many staff as possible.

"We started a fundraising campaign as responsible and committed citizens of this country to help the NHS to fight against COVID- 19. In this campaign, the Hindu community along."



In the community

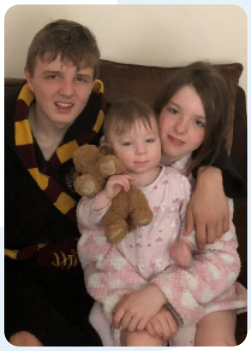
A local visual artist kindly donated her skills to help raise funds.

Charlotte Webb created a range of electronic greeting card designs to suit any occasion with customers able to add personalised text.

People were able to purchase the cards to send to loved ones without having the need for any social contact, continuing to keep themselves, and others, safe.



Charlotte said "All of the cards in this collection have the same background presented slightly differently on each. The colours are meant to be symbolic of the rainbow that is associated with the community and it's NHS throughout the COVID-19 pandemic."



A big congratulations to **Daniel and Emily** who wanted to raise some money for us so completed 24 hours in the garden, cooking food on the BBQ and stove and sleeping in a tent! Their fundraising raised £70.

Thank you to the Sikh community of the **Guru Nanak Gurdwara Wednesfield** for their generous donation of £5,100 to support the Acute Medical Unit (AMU) at New Cross Hospital. This lovely gift came from the 500-strong congregation who worship regularly at the temple in Well Lane.





To mark World AIDS Day, a drag duo performed a variety act online to not only raise funds in aid of RWT but to also raise awareness of HIV and AIDS.

Paul Ryder and his partner **Marcus Cotterill**, performed a 30-minute set online as Tiffany and Bianca – drag characters they have created and raised £116.25.

Winter Wonderland

Due to COVID-19 and the guidance around social gatherings and social distancing, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charitys' Winter Fair 2020 was held as a virtual event.

The Fair was open from December 4 - 31 and featured a welcome speech from the Mayor of the City of Wolverhampton, Councillor Claire Darke, a video message from Santa and the Christmas tree and lights switch on across the Trust.

Due to the introduction of the second lockdown and the tremendous support we received, we wanted to give something back to local businesses during the pandemic. We invited local businesses and crafters to have a space within our special Christmas brochure for stall holders to advertise their products.



Events

Get moving in aid of RWT!

In celebration of the NHS' 72nd birthday, the charity asked supporters to seek sponsorship to cycle, walk or even hop for 72 miles throughout the month of July. Those taking part could complete the miles throughout the month or during one day.

More than 2,000 miles were completed by members of the community and staff at The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

People that signed up completed their miles by cycling, walking, and running, whilst one member of staff rode their horse.

The Wolverhampton Filipino Cyclists Association planned a bike ride from New Cross Hospital and back. Although they aimed to complete their 72 miles in one day, they actually each cycled 92.44 miles each!

The event raised £5,362.95 and was used to enhance patient care and experiences for all patient groups across the Trust.





Pauline Evans decided to set herself a challenge of running 5K to raise money as a personal thank you following her treatment for breast cancer in 2005 and endometrial cancer in 2019.

She followed the nine week Couch to 5K podcasts to train for her run, which also gave her something to focus on during lockdown.

Rebecca Williams and Edward Evans, Pauline's children, helped to promote her fundraising by sharing details on Facebook. The local community also showed support and made donations.

On July 11th Pauline was joined by Rebecca, Edward and his partner Harriot to help her complete her 5K. Edward set the pace, running 10K in the same time. The total amount raised was £2,593.75.



Cycling for RWT

Edward Robinson rode 50 miles over a 7-day period to raise funds in aid of NNU following the 14-week care of his baby sister Freya, after she was born at 25 weeks. He set himself a goal of £500 but raised an incredible £1,500





Aman Dhillon had not exercised for 18 years, however decided to take on the personal challenge of cycling to work from Monday 27th April 20 - Friday, 8th May 20. The journey was miles each day and thanks to Aman's supporters raised £1,103.02 in aid of RWT!

Walking for RWT

William Jones aged 12, walked more than 100 miles and raised over £1,000 in aid of ward A12. This was close to his heart as his Mum Joanne, has worked at the Trust since 1996.

William was inspired by Captain Sir Tom Moore and said "I am proud that my Mum works for the NHS and I wanted to do something nice for the ward to say thank you to all of the staff".



Climbing for RWT

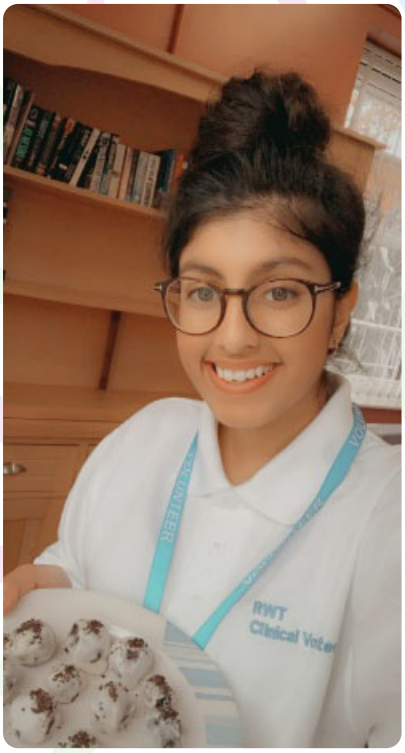
Kevin O'Reilly, one of the senior coaches at Wolverhampton Judo Club, took on the 'climb-a-thon' to walk up and down his stairs at home, in Coppice Farm, Willenhall, 271 times, an ascent of 1,085 metres – the height of the highest mountain in Wales – to raise money for The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity.

The gruelling challenge took the 59-year-old one hour, 54 minutes and 40 seconds. Kevin raised an impressive £1,905 towards the COVID-19 Appeal.



Volunteering at RWT

The Trust is fortunate to have the support of volunteers, who are unpaid members of our local community who offer their time willingly to help.



As always, we hold provision of a positive patient experience at the forefront of our volunteering activity, and we aim to place volunteers into roles which complement, but do not replace, paid members of staff. Volunteers add an important 'extra' factor to helping us provide a positive patient and visitors experience in Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

The last year saw huge changes within voluntary services at RWT. Our existing voluntary workforce prior to the COVID pandemic, were stood down due to a combination of factors.

As a result, the Trust decided to hold recruitment for a COVID specific 'Community Clinical Volunteer' role to provide much needed support to our clinical areas who were struggling at the start of the pandemic.

We recruited 120 volunteers by May 2020 and placed them in ward areas. Volunteers were provided with training in bed making, nutrition and serving refreshments, dementia, and infection prevention.

The role of the volunteers was extremely successful. While volunteers were deployed initially into areas of greatest need to perform essential tasks such as bed making, volunteers also got involved with examples of truly enhancing the patient experience including helping set up a new patient lounge, to create and facilitate a VE Day socially distanced tea party celebration, and helping patients undertake video calls with loved ones.

Later we expanded the roles to include supporting the COVID swab hub, internal vaccination hubs, virtual COVID ward, a discharge follow up call scheme, and an activity programme at our rehabilitation hospital.

During recruitment, we particularly increased the number of younger volunteers supporting the Trust by linking in with local schools and colleges.

A further recruitment for clinical volunteers took place in late 2020 and we received a further 100 applications, and during 2020 / 2021 we plan to hold further recruitment for another 4 cohorts of clinical volunteers.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your hard work and dedication. From April 2020 to March 2021, volunteers have provided 10,067 hours! Thank you also to our volunteers for their contributions over time- and we look forward to welcoming back our entire volunteer workforce once we are able to.

Looking Forward 2021/ 2022

We wish to build upon the success of the community clinical volunteer programme by holding further recruitment, and expanding the support and engagement of younger volunteers. Work still continues to scope collaboration in the city around a possible volunteer programme which addresses social isolation in the community.

The RWT Charity & Volunteer Awards

A celebration of our Charity and our volunteer's achievements

The Charity & Volunteer Awards is a highlight in everyone's calendar as it gives us the opportunity to thank all of our dedicated supporters and volunteers and give them the recognition they rightly deserve.

In 2019, we were delighted to launch The RWT Charity Special Recognition Awards. The awards were introduced so that individuals or organisations that are or have been active supporters of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity were recognised. Without their support, the charity would not have been able to have helped to enhance patient care and experience at the Trust.

Due to government social distancing guidelines and legislation, we decided to host a virtual event and although it was not as interactive as our previous events, this does not take away from our message of thanks and huge appreciation for everything that our supporters and volunteers continue to do for us.













Corporate and External Trust Donations

Throughout the year, local, regional and national companies really got behind us by providing whatever they could to make things easier for our staff and patients. There are too many of them to name them all individually but here is a snap shot of the overwhelming generous donations we received.

Tesco

We received more amazing donations from **Tesco** (Willenhall) for our staff and patients – thanks to **Community Champion, Alveen Biggs**. Alveen and her colleagues collected together sweet treats and toiletries for staff as well as clothing for vulnerable children on the Children's ward.





Area Manager, Kevin Twynholm pledged support from all thirty of his Tesco Express stores across the West Midlands to raise funds. Colleagues arranged dress up days to raffles, colouring competitions to cake sales. Their total donation was £15,637. Thank you to all staff and customers that took part.



The Wolverhampton branch of **West Bromwich Building Society** generously donated gift bags for staff on our ICU wards, containing items such as toiletries and sweet treats! Staff at the branch organised a collection to purchase these items

Thank you to **Home Bargains** who delivered goodies for staff at Cannock Chase Hospital. They brought a lovely message for us all too







A big thank you to **Superdry** who donated over 100 items of clothing for our staff. We hosted a free prize draw and were overwhelmed to have received 2,361 entries! Here are some of the winners collecting their prizes, which included T-shirts, hoodies and joggers.

There are several benefits of becoming a corporate partner and working with us to enhance patient care and experience.

For further information please contact the fundraising coordinator on 01902 447293 or email leanne.bood@nhs.net

Wolverhampton Wanderers



We strengthened our relationship with Wolves Football Club, former players and supporters throughout this year. The outpouring of support from those with an involvement with the club was phenomenal.

Wolves' owners **Fosun** continually made generous donations of personal protective clothing (PPE) to the Trust throughout the last year to help fight the COVID-19 outbreak. In total, they donated 2,200 coveralls and 7,500 masks to the and 400 pairs of goggles. This was a huge support to us as nationally and internationally stocks of PPE were extremely low.

The Steve Bull Foundation also sourced and donated many items of PPE, stationery, hand creams, lip balms, and helped keep staff refreshed by supplying packs of tea and coffee, water and snacks.

Current First Team Players donated an undisclosed six figure sum which went towards purchasing vital equipment for the two new wards that were designed, manufactured and built in less than 12 weeks.

The Wolves Former Players Association and their supporters raised a tremendous £50,000 to help increase capacity at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton. Former Wolves captain Karl Henry, who was born at New Cross and was treated there as a child, launched the fund and with help from ex team-mates such as Matt Murray and Danny Batth, and support from the Wolves Foundation and Wolves Former Players Association, it quickly gathered pace in support of the Trust. Donations came in quickly from so many former players, managers and staff, including Mick McCarthy, Glenn Hoddle, Jez Moxey, Robbie Keane and Wayne Hennessey.



Wolves fans also added their backing with donations, with several raffles and auctions then taking place to help boost the fund, including former England defender Joleon Lescott giving away the shirt he wore in the 2003 play-off win against Sheffield United at the Millennium Stadium.

At Christmas time, first team players sent special pre-recorded messages to some of our young oncology patients as well as special gifts. The children's and young patients were absolutely thrilled to receive a personal message from their favourite players.

Professor Steve Field CBE, The Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust Chairman, said: "We have a long established and hugely valued relationship with Wolves and this is yet another demonstration of the outstanding support we enjoy from the club and its wider family, including former players and supporters. The generosity of this contribution underlines the strength of the bond between the Trust and the club".



Corporate and external Trust donations

Age UK	Nova Training	Flip the Clown	Magic Russ (visits funded by Eveson)	Dudley Zoo	Hollywood Bowl
Bella Italia	West Midlands Safari Park	Tesco	BabyPrem	Melbourne Accessories	Best Marquee Hire
E H Humphries (Norton) Ltd	Wolverhampton Racecourse	Eyre & Elliston	CofiCoo	Bluesky Cosmetics	L&B Jewellery
SG	Roy Quinton Funeral Directors	Meals for the NHS	Fairy Bricks	More Mascots Please CIC	Wolverhampton Wanderers FC
Lindt	A.F. Blakemore & Son Ltd	The National Childbirth Trust	Noah's Star	Boots (Bentley Bridge)	
The Nickelodeon	Costa Coffee	Cake Box	Purity Soft Drinks	Morrisons (Willenhall)	Grill-It Restaurant
Bromford Housing Group - C/O the Sikh Toy Appeal	Guru Nanak Satsang Sikh Temple on Cannock Road	Institute of Architectural Ironmongery	Early Years students of City of Wolverhampton College	HOPPE UK Ltd	Veolia

There are several benefits of becoming a corporate partner and working with us to enhance patient care and experience:

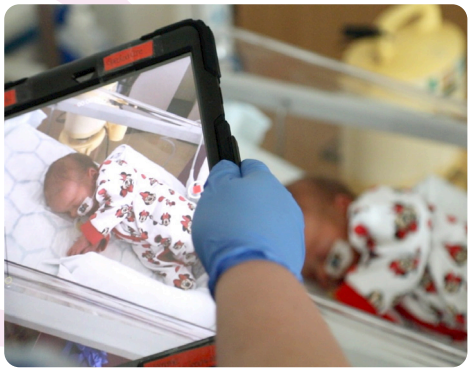
- Build brand awareness and enhance your reputation
- Increase and retain customers
- Attract and motivate your workforce, especially if RWT is their local hospital
- Ongoing positive PR opportunities.

For further information please contact the fundraising coordinator on 01902 447293 or email leanne.bood@nhs.net

Spend

Staying in touch

With support from the charity, the Trust was able to introduce a video link for parents to see their new-born babies' precious moments to help deal with the restrictions in place under the COVID-19 outbreak.



Visiting to the Neonatal Unit at New Cross Hospital is currently one parent, once a day. Parents and their babies can feel isolated and anxious while they are separated, so the Trust has brought in vCreate, a free, secure messaging service where staff share videos and pictures of a baby's first experiences with parents who aren't able to be present on the ward.

The Neonatal Unit received donations of six IPads - four from the Trust's IT department and two from Libby Mae's Little Angels, a charity set up to provide medical equipment needed to look after babies on neonatal units across the Midlands. Each room on the Trust's unit will have its own IPad, located in Special Care, High Dependency ITU and one in each of the isolation cubicles so those areas remain infection prevention friendly.

Comfort packs for patients welfare - £2,356.42

Patients across the Trust received special comfort packs, thanks to donations. Restricted visiting due to COVID-19 meant friends and relatives were unable to pass on toiletries and essential items to patients during their stay. The Charity worked hard with Giving World, a charity that works with a network of donor businesses and receiving charities to donate surplus products to people in need.



Around 600 packs were distributed to patients at Cannock Chase, New Cross and West Park hospitals so far. Items included shower gel, hand and body lotion, lip balm, deodorant and soap.

Thank you to our amazing staff

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of the general public and the communities we serve, the charity was able to provide a treat for the 11,000 staff and volunteers across the Trust. Throughout the pandemic, many of the charity's supporters made their donation with the stipulation that it was "something for the staff" or "we want to say thank you to NHS staff". As a charity, it was important for us to get it right and ask staff for their suggestions about what this might look like.

We hosted a staff survey (via Survey Monkey) for two weeks that was promoted across social media and the All User Bulletin updates. Following feedback, the charity funded £25 shopping vouchers, a thank you card with special messages from the Trust board and also an exclusively designed pin badge.





Food vouchers for parents on NNU

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic visiting restrictions were in place as well as strict guidance on social distancing.

By providing food vouchers, parents did not have to attend another ward area or leave the hospital to access adequate meals. This project supported promotes parent and baby wellbeing and increased bonding.



Staff seating areas - £56,520

Thanks to help from the local community and a grant from NHS Charities Together, we were able to purchase over fifty picnic benches for staff to use at the New Cross Hospital and Phoenix Centre sites. The benches allow staff to observe social distancing during their breaks and also the opportunity to enjoy some fresh air and sunshine away from their department.



Additional resources for patients with Dementia - £2,240.75

Charitable funds from our COVID-19 appeal were used to purchase games to encourage mobility including skittles, balloon swatter and tin can alley. Puzzles such as infinity maze and spiral maze were purchased to aid cognition skills and creative activities such as art and craft materials, paints, paint brushes and pencils.

Phillips Alumify 795005 machine £4,999

A portable ultrasound machine for breastcare patients. The machine provides portable and easy ultrasounds for patients.



IPods for Dermatology - £3,450

The charity purchased 15 IPods for Dermatology to enable clinical photography of all lesions for biopsy or surgery. This has enhanced the service for patients, enabling more accurate assessment and review of patients with possible skin cancer.

TV's for Neuro rehab - £2,577.84

TV's were purchased for patients on the NRU at West Park hospital. Due to the pandemic, restrictions on visiting and group activities, TV's were provided for each of the patient bed spaces.



We need your support

Getting involved and supporting your local hospital and community services couldn't be easier. You might consider attending one of our events or even host your own and help us raise vital funds.

Donations can be made in the following ways:

Direct into bank account:

Bank: Co-Operative Bank Sort code: 08-90 19
Account number: 50101166
Account name: The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity
Please state the Trust Fund i.e. General Purposes TF

By post:

Please make cheques payable to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity.
Please write on the back of the cheque which fund you would like to donate to, e.g. General Purposes Trust Fund, and send to; General Office, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton, WV10 0QP

By a donation on our 'Just Giving' site: https://www.justgiving.com/royalwolvesnhstrust

Please complete a donation form and return it along with your donation to the RWT charity.

Developing the Charity 2021/ 22

The pandemic had a huge impact on our fundraising plans for 2020/ 2021. To keep our patients, staff and community safe, we suspended all face to face events. This will be reviewed in 2021/ 2022.

We have moved towards increased virtual fundraising opportunities and recognise that to do this, we must expand the charity and fundraising team.

For 2021/ 2022, we aspire to create two new posts; a digital engagement and fundraising officer and a philanthropy officer. We will provide a full update within next years Annual Report and Accounts.

Members of the Charitable Funds Committee meet regularly with the wider Trust representatives to provide focus and discuss future developments. Our strategic priorities are aligned to the Trust's commitment to delivering the Long Term Plan and will provide additional resources above and beyond that provided by the NHS.

Our Trustees will continue to actively encourage medical and nursing staff to act as fund advisors to identify new equipment for wards and departments and new ways to enhance inpatient stays and care delivered within the community.

The Trust comprises of a range of clinical and support facilities which vary significantly in terms of age and functional suitability. The Trust has a strategic vision for the redevelopment of it's hospital and community sites. It has a master plan to provide modern facilities which are fit for purpose and underpin the objective of delivering high quality, effective and efficient patient care.

The Royal Wolverhampton
NHS Trust Charity

Message from the fundraising coordinator

What a year the last one has been. The unprecedented challenges of COVID-19 has meant that this year the charity has worked even harder than ever to meet the needs of our patients and staff.

It has been both an honour and a privilege to work alongside colleagues to ensure that the charity continues to make a difference to the lives of patients and the health and wellbeing of our dedicated team of staff and volunteers.

The team were unable to fundraise in the way we had planned and so our efforts focused on coordinating the outpouring of toiletries, snacks and other comfort items. We were also very humbled by the very generous monetary donations from the communities we serve.

There are too many of you to thank you all individually within this document, but please know that we sincerely appreciate everything you have all done.

The team worked hard, ably supported by communications, catering, portering, finance and transport teams to distribute donations to patients and staff across the Trust. Thank you to each and every one of you, we couldn't have done it without you.

We strengthened our ongoing relationship with NHS Charities Together and were very fortunate to receive various grants thanks to the fundraising of Captain Sir Tom Moore and their other supporters. These grants helped us to support a variety of different projects, as detailed within this report.

Due to the guidance around social gatherings and social distancing, the charity had to re think some of our events this year. We sadly had to either cancel or re think some of our events and host them virtually.

We supported the Trust's Long Service Awards again this year. It was a great honour and a humbling experience to hear about members of Trust staff that received awards for either 25, 30, 40 or 50 years of service, hard work and commitment to the NHS – especially this year of all years.

We hosted our Charity and Volunteers Awards 2020 online, celebrating Trust volunteers that went the extra mile, alongside our committed supporters that overwhelmed us by their generosity and kindness.

The year's Winter Fair was also held virtually, featuring a welcome speech from the Mayor of the City of Wolverhampton, Councillor Claire Darke, a special message from Santa and the Christmas lights switch on across the Trust. Due to the introduction of the second lockdown and the tremendous support we received, we wanted to give something back to local businesses during the pandemic. We invited local businesses and crafters to have a space within our special Christmas brochure for stall holders to advertise their products.

Moving forward, the charity will be commissioning an independent review of the Fundraising Strategy to ensure that it is fit for purpose and supports the Trust's commitment to the NHS Long term Plan.

We are always looking for volunteers to join the Fundraising team. No formal experience is necessary, just a commitment to the Trust's vision and values and a genuine desire to improve patient care. If you have any questions or want to discuss some of your fundraising ideas, please give me a call on (01902) 447293 or email me on leanne.bood@nhs.net

Leanne Bood
Fundraising Coordinator



The Royal Wolverhampton
NHS Trust Charity
Registered Charity No. 1059467

Trustees - Custodians of the Charity

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is the Corporate Trustee of the Charitable Funds governed by the law applicable to Trusts, principally the Trustee Act 2000 and the Charities Act 2011.

The Charity has the authority to recruit up to eight trustees who together make up the Board of Trustees. They are unpaid volunteers who set the strategy for the Charity and make sure it is implemented. Trustees elect a Chairman from amongst their number who chairs the meetings of the Board of Trustees and takes a more active role in supporting the Charity Chief Executive in the management of the Charity.

Trustees are appointed under arrangements made by the Secretary of State for Health under Section 51 of the NHS Act 2006. Vacancies are advertised and all potential Trustees must be interviewed and recommended by a panel consisting of two members of the Charity and one external assessor. Candidates must show knowledge of, and an interest in, the hospital and the community it serves and be willing to give the time necessary. Trustees are also selected to give the Charity a good mix of relevant professional skills, such as finance, investment and fundraising.

Trustees serve a fixed term of no more than four years (renewable to a usual maximum of ten years in total). New Trustees receive an induction pack consisting of the governing documents, previous trustee reports and accounts, relevant Charity Commission guidance, and policies and procedures of the Charity. They are also given a tour of the Trust. Appropriate training is provided in areas including Charity law and administration, investment management and charity finance. The Charity's professional advisors provide helpful guidance, and membership of NHS Charities Together gives the Trustees access to regular conferences and training events.

The Charity has a Corporate Trustee: The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The members of the NHS Trust Board who served during the financial year were as shown in the table opposite;

Trustee	Role within The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
Prof. A-M Cannaby	Chief Nursing Officer
Mr A Duffell	Chief People Officer
Mr J Dunn	Non-Executive Director (from 17 February 2021)
Mr R Dunshea	Non-Executive Director, Senior Independent Director, Chair of Audit Committee Chair of Innovation & Research Committee
Ms R Edwards	Non-Executive Director, Chair of Quality Governance Assurance Committee
Mr S Evans	Chief Strategy Officer
Ms S Evans	Director of Communication and Stakeholder Engagement (from Jan 2021)
Prof. S Field	Chair, Non-Executive Director
Mr J Hemans	Non-Executive Director, Chair of Workforce Committee
Prof. D Loughton CBE	Chief Executive Officer, Chair of Management Committee
Prof. S Mahmud	Chief Innovation, Integration and Research Officer
Ms M Martin	Non-Executive Director, Chair of Finance and Performance Committee, Chair of Remuneration Committee
Ms G Nuttall	Chief Operating Officer
Dr J Odum	Chief Medical Officer
Ms D Oum	Non-Executive Director (to 3 October 2020)
Ms T Palmer	Director of Midwifery (from Jan 2021)
Prof. A Pandyan	Associate Non-Executive Director
Ms S Rawlings	Non-Executive Director, Chair of Trust Charity
Mr M Sharon	Strategic Advisor to the Board
Mr K Stringer	Chief Financial Officer/Deputy Chief Executive
Prof. L Toner	Associate Non-Executive Director, Chair of Clinical Ethics Committee

How we organise the Charity

The main Charity, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity, registered charity number 1059467, was entered on the Central Register of Charities on 27 November 1996 in accordance with the Charities Act 2011. The Charity is constituted of circa. 89 individual funds. The notes to the accounts distinguish the types of fund held and disclose separately all material funds. Please refer to pages 40-50.

Charitable funds received by the Charity are accepted, held and administered as funds and property on trust for purposes relating to the health service in accordance with the National Health Service Act 2006 and the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990. The Charity has no employees but reimburses the NHS Trust for the financial and other services it provides. The Charity relies on the NHS Trust to identify the appropriateness of funding requests.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust as the Corporate Trustee has devolved responsibility for the on-going management of funds to the Charitable Funds Committee which administers the funds on behalf of the Corporate Trustee. This Committee was formed in 2006.

The names of those people who served as agents for the Corporate Trustee, as permitted under the NHS Trusts (Membership and Procedures) Regulations 1990 were as follows:

Prof. Steve Field CBE - Chairman

David Loughton CBE - Chief Executive

Kevin Stringer - Chief Financial Officer

Sue Rawlings - Non-executive Director

Roger Dunshea - Non-executive Director

Principal Charitable Fund Advisers to the Board

The Chief Executive of the NHS Trust (David Loughton CBE) and Chief Financial Officer (Kevin Stringer) have day to day responsibility for the management of the Charitable Funds under a scheme of delegated authority by the Corporate Trustee. They must personally and together, on behalf of the Corporate Trustee, approve all expenditure over £10,000 with an upper limit of £50,000. Expenditure in excess of £50,000 on a particular project must be authorised by the Trust Board of the Corporate Trustee.

Mr Kevin Stringer was the principal officer overseeing the day to day financial management and accounting for the Charitable Funds during the year.

Principal Office

The principal office for the Charity is:

Chief Financial Officer
The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust
Hollybush House
New Cross Hospital
Wolverhampton
WV10 0QP

Wider Networks

RWT Charity is one of over 400 NHS linked charities in England and Wales who are eligible to join NHS Charities Together. As a member charity, we have the opportunity to discuss matters of common concern and exchange information and experiences, join together with others to lobby government departments and others, and to participate in conferences and seminars which offer support and education for our staff and members of the charitable funds committee.

As a member of NHS Charities Together, we have also been very grateful to receive grants from their national emergency appeal.

Related Party Relationships

The Charity holds a related party relationship with The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The transactions with these parties have been disclosed in note 17 of these financial statements.

Trustees of the Charity



Sue Rawlings - Non-Executive Director

Appointed July 2013 (Served as an Associate Non-executive Director from October 2012)

Mrs Rawlings is a Chartered Certified Accountant who has worked in the public, private and voluntary sector. For the past 20 years, until 2020, she was a partner of the consultancy firm RHCS, a well- established, highly skilled consultancy firm working with a range of cross sector clients from the voluntary/ community / charitable and public sectors. Sue has extensive experience in evaluating the effectiveness of public expenditure and has worked, for example, with the British Red Cross in various parts of the country, conducting needs assessments, developing performance monitoring and carrying out evaluations.

She worked with voluntary and community sector organisations to develop their business planning, their future sustainability and identify their impact. Previously a local improvement advisor appointed via IDeA to the Regional Improvement Efficiency Partnership in the West Midlands, she was, until recently, a Trustee of both the Beacon Centre for the Blind and a Director of Beacon4Life CIC and is now a trustee for Stay – a supported housing charity based in Telford.

Committee Attendances in 2020-2021: 4/4

Declaration of interests

- Rawlings Heffernan Consultancy Services Ltd (RHCS Ltd) - Director / Company Secretary ceased 31/07/20
- Trustee and Company Director of Telford Christian Council Supported Housing – STAY commenced 23/02/21
- Board member of Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin commenced 11/05/20 ceased 1/08/20
- Trustee of Beacon Centre of the Blind ceased 01/03/20.



Prof. David Loughton CBE - Chief Executive

Appointed 2004

Professor Loughton joined our Trust in 2004 having had extensive experience as a Chief Executive within the NHS. During his career he has developed a new Medical School with Warwick University and achieved financial close on a £400 million new hospital Private Finance Initiative (PFI). He has now turned around one of the 17 most financially challenged Trusts in the NHS, whilst improving the quality of care provided to patients. Professor Loughton is a member of the National Institute for Health Research Advisory Board.

Committee Attendances in 2020-2021: 2/4

Declaration of interests

- Health policy adviser to the Labour and Conservative Parties ended 01/12/2020
- Dementia Health and Care Champion Group – Member ended 01/12/2020
- National Institute for Health Research – Member of Advisory Board
- Chair of West Midlands Cancer Alliance (from 06/06/2018).



Prof. Steve Field CBE - Chairman of the Board

Appointed 1 April 2019

Professor Field holds a number of roles at various organisations including Chair at Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust, Trustee at Nishkam Healthcare Trust and a Trustee for Pathway Healthcare for Homeless People.

Prior to his role of chair, he was Chief Inspector of General Practice, Primary Medical Services and Integrated Care at the Care Quality Commission (CQC). He has held several board positions in the NHS including, Deputy National Medical Director at NHS England, Regional Postgraduate Dean for NHS West Midlands and Chairman of the NHS Inclusion Health Board at the Department of Health. He also held the position of Chairman of The Royal College of GPs, and has been a faculty member at the Harvard Macy Institute of Harvard University in the USA. He has been awarded a number of honorary degrees and also holds academic appointments at the University of Birmingham and the University of Warwick.

Committee Attendances in 2020-2021: 2/4

Declaration of interests

- Nishkam Healthcare Trust Birmingham – Trustee
- Chair, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
- Honorary Professor - University of Birmingham
- Honorary Professor – University of Warwick
- Director of EJC Associates
- Trustee for Charity, Pathway Healthcare for Homeless People.



Kevin Stringer - Chief Financial Officer

Appointed 2009

Mr Stringer is a qualified accountant with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) and holds a Masters qualification in Business Administration (MBA). With over 25 years of experience in the NHS, with 13 of those years as a Board Director, he has experience of commissioning and provider organisations.

His experience covers –

Primary Care, Community Services and Commissioning (with successor organisations being Walsall CCG and Birmingham cross-city CCG)

Secondary and Tertiary Care (at University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals)

Specialist Secondary Care (Birmingham Children's Hospital Foundation Trust where he helped the Trust secure FT status)

Regional NHS Planning and Oversight (West Midlands Regional Health Authority)

His role is to provide professional advice to the Board and wider Trust to ensure delivery of the Board's financial strategy, key statutory financial targets and ensure good internal control.

He is a member and advocate for Healthcare Financial Management (HFMA) having been a past Chairman of the West Midlands Branch where he is now the Treasurer.

Committee Attendances in 2020-2021: 3/4

Declaration of interests

- Treasurer, West Midlands Branch – Healthcare Financial Management Association
- Member of CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants)
- Midlands and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit – brother in law is the Managing Director.



Roger Dunshea - Non-Executive Director

Appointed April 2014

Mr Dunshea has worked in the NHS in Scotland, Wales and England in a variety of positions including Staff Nurse, Project Manager, Clinical General Manager and Executive Director roles. Between 1997 and 2013 he was a Director with OFWAT (the economic regulator of the water sector in England and Wales) with responsibilities covering finance, information systems, human resources and procurement. He has been the Chair of Governors at a Central Birmingham High School and a Non-Executive Director with the Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust.

His other current roles are independent member of the Welsh Government's Education and Public Services audit and risk assurance committee and chair of the audit committee of the Geological Society. He is volunteer warden with Natural England. He is a Chartered Public Finance Accountant and Fellow of the Geological Society.

Committee Attendances in 2020-2021: 4/4

Declaration of interests

- Geological Society of London – Member of Audit Committee (from 14/12/2018)
- Independent member of the Welsh Government Audit and Risk Committee for Education and Public Services.











Structure, Governance and Management

All the Charity's funds are pooled for investment purposes and the official pooling scheme was registered with the Charity Commission on 24 June 1998.

For management purposes all funds held and received by the Charity fall into one of the following categories:

- Endowment funds - funds where the capital must be held in perpetuity and only the income generated can be used for charitable purposes
- Restricted funds - funds received which have specific restrictions set by the donor
- Unrestricted funds - funds received which have no restrictions attached to their use.

Within the unrestricted category separate designated funds have been established which reflect the wishes of donors to help named wards and departments in the hospital. Subsequent donations and gifts received by the Charity that are attributable to the already established funds are added to those fund balances. Where the donations and gifts are not attributable to already established funds, new funds are set up. In this way the Corporate Trustee fulfils the legal duty to ensure that all funds are spent in accordance with the objectives of each fund and that the wishes of donors are always considered.

Unrestricted funds form the largest category with £1,838,000 of funds at 31 March 2021. There are charitable funds for most clinical specialties (e.g. medicine or ophthalmology) and for some wards and departments within specialties.

Non-Executive members of the Trust Board are appointed by the NHS Appointments Commission and Executive members of the Board are subject to recruitment by the NHS Trust Board. 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.

Acting for the Corporate Trustee, the objective of the Charitable Funds Committee is to provide strategic direction to the Charity and ensure that it is managed and administered in accordance with the Charity's purposes. The Committee is responsible for:

- Determining a charitable funds strategy and setting annual objectives
- Ensuring that charitable funds are managed in line with the measures and actions set out in the strategy
- Ensuring any fundraising elements of the strategy work within recognised good practice frameworks and identify methods of fundraising appropriate for the Charity
- Determining a charitable funds investment policy and monitoring performance of any investments made in line with governing documents and the Trustee Act 2000
- Appointing and considering the performance of any investment advisors or managers
- Ensuring Trust policies and procedures are adequate, that financial controls are in place to account for all funds received and that governance arrangements are appropriate and effective
- Ensuring that timely annual reports and accounts are produced and an unqualified external audit opinion is received.

The accounting records and the day-to-day administration of the funds are dealt with by the Finance Department located at The Clinical Skills and Corporate Services Centre, New Cross Hospital, Wolverhampton WV10 0QP.

Risk Management

The major risks to which the Charity is exposed have been identified and considered. They have been reviewed and systems established to mitigate those risks. The Trustee is confident that reliance can be placed on the management arrangements in place, which include internal and external audit services, to minimise any risk to the funds. The most significant risks identified are the possible losses from a fall in the value of the investments and the level of reserves available to mitigate the impact of such losses.

The investments are held by the Investment Fund Managers who act in accordance with the agreed investment policy and are subject to regular review. In addition, unrealised gains and losses are allocated to funds at agreed intervals. Procedures in place ensure that both spending and firm financial commitments remain in line with income. Income is covered by the Standing Financial Instructions and there is an agreed boundary for the receipt of donations. This policy has been communicated to staff.

There is an agreed expenditure and reserves policy together with a tight approval procedure which gives the Corporate Trustee confidence that the expenditure will remain within the limits of the Charity's resources.

Objectives and activities for the public benefit

This can be found at the beginning of this report on page 4.

Investment Management

Surplus funds are pooled and invested in order to maximise income, whilst minimising risk for the Charity.

Income and cash, gains and losses are distributed equitably across the Charity funds. The income from investments amounted to £81,000 (£90,000 in 2019/20).

Throughout 2020/21 the investments were split into two portfolios.

- A Shorter Term Portfolio which aims to achieve a consistently attractive level of income, coupled with the potential for long-term capital appreciation whilst aiming to preserve the value of the capital over the short-term
- A Longer Term Portfolio which is invested to achieve long-term capital and income growth. Achieved with a broadly diversified global portfolio covering the world's principal stock, bond and currency markets, together with investments in "alternative" assets such as property and hedge funds.

During the year the Trustees requested both the Shorter and Longer Term Portfolios continue to hold a 50:50 split of the overall investments.

At the year end the Shorter Term Portfolio held £1,277,581 and the Longer Term Portfolio held £1,4,437,457. Both portfolio's were split between investment types. The two portfolio's together were split in the following way. £1,340,077 – 49.4% (2020: £1,004,464 – 41.9%) was invested in equity based investments, £1,227,134 – 45.2% (2020: £1,212,863 – 50.6%) was invested in longer fixed interest bearing government and other securities and £147,827 – 5.4% (2020: £179,187 – 7.5%) was held as liquid assets including cash. This total sum invested increased by £318,000 from 2019/20.

The Charity does not own any investment properties.

The Charity has an investment policy that was reviewed in November 2020. See page 31.

A reflection on the last 12 months, from Sarasin & Partners LLP

Investment returns over the 12 month period were far higher than we might have expected when markets fell sharply in March 2020. This was in part thanks to the robust and co-ordinated policy response of governments and central banks around the world but also as a result of our portfolio positioning ahead of the pandemic, tactical asset allocation over the course of 2020 and prudent company selection. The portfolio benefitted from exposure to companies that were natural beneficiaries of a marked increase in home working and e-commerce, many of which sit within our digitalisation theme. Some examples include the technology companies Amazon and Apple, as well as UPS, who saw a huge uplift in the volume of parcel deliveries, and Taiwan Semiconductor, who manufacture the chips that power high-end smartphones and electrical consumer goods. A string of positive vaccine announcements in early November 2020, in conjunction with Joe Biden's election victory, also led to a sharp recovery in the companies that had suffered most from COVID-19 (e.g. travel, hotels and leisure).

As regards income, distribution levels for the long-term portfolio were maintained throughout 2020 and the early part of 2021 at the same level as 2019. This was against a backdrop of a c40% cut in UK dividends and a 15% drop in overseas dividends for UK investors. This was achieved through a mix of our focus on global company selection, strong portfolio diversification and use of other asset classes and financial instruments, which enabled us to shield the Trust from the worst of the income cuts experienced elsewhere.

Policies

Investment Policy

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity seeks to produce the best financial return within an acceptable level of risk.
The investment objective for the long term portfolio is to generate a return in excess of inflation over the long term whilst generating an income to support the on-going activities of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity.
The investment objective for the short term portfolio is to preserve the capital value with a minimum level of risk. Assets should be readily available to meet unanticipated cash flow requirements.

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity has approximately a 50/50 split for investments between long term and short term, in order that unanticipated cash flow needs can be met.

The Charity's ethical investment policy precludes direct or indirect investment in companies that generate more than 10% of revenues from alcohol, armaments, gambling, pornography and will not invest in tobacco.

Expenditure policy

The charitable funds that the Charity manages, and from which grants are made, are held as endowment funds (expendable or permanent), restricted funds and unrestricted funds (designated or non-designated).

It is the Trustees' policy to ensure that all grants made from these funds are used in accordance with the purposes of the individual fund and The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity's purposes and aims.

Individual funds' purposes include research, equipment, and patient and staff welfare.

The definitions of endowment, restricted and unrestricted funds are detailed below:

- Endowment funds – funds where the capital must be held in perpetuity and only the income generated can be used for charitable purposes

- Restricted funds – fund received which have specific restrictions set by the donor

- Unrestricted funds – funds received which have no restrictions attached to their use.

All of the different types of funds have fund advisors who facilitate local decision making and offer expertise in the particular area of the fund.

The fund advisors have delegated powers and responsibility to authorise expenditure in line with the Trust's Authorised Limits Schedule contained within the Standing Financial Instructions (SFI's). The fund advisors can make recommendations on how to spend the money within their designated area up to a level of £5,000 per transaction subject to any specific donor wishes. The deputy chief operating officers have delegated powers and responsibility to authorise transactions up to £10,000. For expenditure in excess of these limits they make recommendations to the chief executive and chief financial officer who have authority limits up to £50,000. Any transactions over this limit must go to the Trust Board for authorisation.

All of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity's restricted and unrestricted funds can be spent at any time. Grants from these funds are applied for by fund advisors.

In 2020/21 a restricted fund was established for the grants received from NHS Charities Together, we expect these grants will be spent during 2021/22.

Reserves policy

The Corporate Trustee acknowledges that it is the donors' intention that their contributions be used as soon as possible to enhance the service provided by the Trust. Consequently, it is the policy of the Charity that significant reserves are not held. The Charity does not intend to increase fund balances unless this is as a result of significant donations or legacies. However, from time to time, balances are held in particular areas until sufficient funds have been donated to make specific purchases.

The trustee has established a reserves policy as part of their plans to provide long term support to the services provided by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. The Trustee calculates the reserves as that part of the Charity's unrestricted income funds that is freely available, after taking account of the designated funds, which have been earmarked for specific service purposes, in accordance with the stated Charity Objectives.

Total funds of the charity were £2,919,000 (2020 £2,302,000) of which £1,838,000 (2020: £1,406,000) are unrestricted funds, £999,000 (2020 £814,000) restricted funds and £82,000 (2020: £82,000) were endowment funds

The free reserves currently stand at £106,000 and are calculated as follows:

Total unrestricted funds £1,838,000

Less designated funds (£1,732,000)

Total free reserves £106,000

The Trustees intend that designated funds are spent within a reasonable period of receipt and therefore, foresee a need only to maintain reserves sufficient to provide certainty of funding to cover the administrative, fundraising and governance costs of the Charity in the short term. The Trustee aims to maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds at a level which equates to approximately a year of non-designated, unrestricted charitable expenditure. The Trustee considers that this level will provide sufficient funds in the short term, to cover costs in the event of unforeseen circumstances which prevented the operation of the Charity in the longer term.

The Trustee reviews the balance held in designated funds, in accordance with the provisions of the NHS Acts relating to charitable funds, to determine whether these funds are likely to be committed in the near future and the extent to which there is a continuing need identified for any particular designated fund(s). Any inactive funds are closed and transferred appropriately. Additionally, within the level of designated funds held, the Trustee ensures that there are sufficient funds held to cover a fluctuation in the value of funds held in investments.

The policies specific to the Charity reserves are as follows:

- To maintain systems to forecast levels of expenditure and income to determine reserve requirements
- To ensure the level of reserves are secured
- To monitor and review the policy periodically to ensure it remains suitable for the Charity's need
- The Corporate Trustee has reviewed the reserves policy in the light of the Charity Commission's published guidance CC19 – Charities' Reserves.

Further details

Principal professional advisers

Auditors - External
WR Partners
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
SY2 6LG

Bankers
Cooperative Bank plc
1-2 Dudley Street
Wolverhampton
WV1 3EN

Solicitors
Browne Jacobson
44 Castle Gate
Nottingham
NG1 7BJ

Investment Fund Managers
Sarasin & Partners LLP
Juxon House
100 St Paul's Churchyard
London
EC4M 8BU

Full accounts

This annual report comments on some of the features of the full accounts which are provided on the following pages for your information. Copies of the full accounts have been lodged with the Charity Commission and carry an unqualified audit report.

The text and accounts shown in this report were approved by the Trustees on 25 November 2021 and is signed on their behalf by the Chair.



Sue Rawlings
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England & Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any
- Material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the Charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charity (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 and the provisions of the Trust deed. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- So far as that Trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware, and
- That Trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charity's auditors are aware of that information.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees on 25 November 2021
and signed on their behalf by:



Sue Rawlings
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity (the 'charity) for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:
•give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
•have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
•have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.
Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.
Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.
We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.
We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:
• adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
• the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
• certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
• we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We have reviewed the susceptibility of the charity's financial statements to material misstatement and identified the principal's risks, implementing a series of testing procedures to provide us with sufficient comfort to issue our opinion.

We reviewed the charities regulatory environment to ensure we could that it had acted in accordance with the framework relevant to the charity and its environment and identify any instances on non-compliance.

We also assessed the charity's internal control procedures to ensure we could appropriately scrutinise these controls and establish whether our understanding of the control environment was sufficient to supplement our additional testing procedures.

The engagement team consisted of a team that the engagement partner believes is equipped with the relevant level of technical and charity awareness to carry out our work to the required standard.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Andrew Malpass BA FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)



For and on behalf of WR Partners
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors
Belmont House
Shrewsbury Business Park
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6LG

1st December 2021

Charity Accounts 2020 - 2021

Statement of Financial Activities incorporating income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Endowment funds £000	2020/21 Total funds £000	2019/20 Total funds £000
Incoming resources						
Voluntary income:						
Donations and legacies	3	587	3	0	**590**	203
Grants	3	2	254	0	**256**	0
Other trading activities	3	235	2	0	**237**	74
Investments	12	57	24	0	**81**	90
Total incoming resources		**881**	**283**	**0**	**1,164**	367
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	4	(58)	0	0	**(58)**	(84)
Charitable activities	4	(580)	(217)	0	**(797)**	(515)
Other expenditure		(10)	0	0	**(10)**	(1)
Total expenditure		**(648)**	**(217)**	**0**	**(865)**	(600)
Net gains/(losses) on investment		204	114	0	**318**	(85)
Net income/expenditure		**437**	**180**	**0**	**617**	(318)
Transfer between funds		(5)	5	0	**0**	0
Net movements in funds		**432**	**185**	**0**	**617**	(318)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		1,406	814	82	**2,302**	2,620
Fund balances carried forward at 31 March 2021		**1,838**	**999**	**82**	**2,919**	2,302

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Endowment funds £000	2020/21 Total funds £000	2019/20 Total funds £000
Fixed assets						
Investments	11	1,634	999	82	**2,715**	2,397
Total fixed assets		**1,634**	**999**	**82**	**2,715**	2,397
Current assets						
Debtors	13	24	0	0	**24**	5
Cash and cash equivalents	14	326	0	0	**326**	104
Total current assets		350	0	0	**350**	109
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(146)	0	0	**(146)**	(204)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		204	0	0	**204**	(95)
Total assets less current liabilities		1,838	999	82	**2,919**	2,302
Net assets		1,838	999	82	**2,919**	2,302
The funds of the Charity	16					
Endowment funds	16			82	**82**	82
Restricted income funds	16		999		**999**	814
Unrestricted income funds		1,838			**1,838**	1,406
Total Charity funds		**1,838**	**999**	**82**	**2,919**	2,302

Signed:



Sue Rawlings
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee
Date: 25 November 2021

The notes at pages 40 to 50 form part of these financial statements.

Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2021 **£000**	2020 £000
Net income/(expenditure) for 2020/21 (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	617	(318)
Adjustment for:		
(Gains)/losses on investments	(318)	85
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(81)	(90)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(19)	5
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(58)	54
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**141**	(264)

Cash Flow	**Total funds 2020/21 £000**	Total funds 2019/20 £000
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	141	(264)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	81	90
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	81	90
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	222	(174)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	104	278
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	**326**	104

1. General information

The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity is an unincorporated charity in England. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 25 of this report.

2. Accounting policies

a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The 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 the Charities SORP (FRS 102) published 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 Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

After making enquires, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. The Charity therefore continues to adopt the going concern basis in preparing its financial statements.

The Trustees have also assessed the potential impact on the future operations of the Charity with regard to the Covid-19 outbreak. The Charity is considered to be well positioned given the current environment with no impact on the going concern basis of the financial statement.

The key risks to the Charity's continuing going concern status are a fall in income from donations or investment income but the Trustee has arrangements in place to mitigate those risks (see the risk management (page 30) and reserves (page 32) sections of the annual report for more information).

b) Funds structure

Where there is a legal restriction on the purpose to which a fund may be put, the fund is classified either as:

- a restricted fund or
- an endowment fund.

Restricted funds are those where the donor has provided for the donation to be spent in furtherance of a specified charitable purpose.

Endowment funds arise when the donor has expressly provided that the gift is to be invested and only the income of the fund may be spent. These funds are sub analysed between those where the trustee has the discretion to spend the capital (expendable endowment) and those where there is no discretion to expend the capital (permanent endowment).

The Charity has three permanent endowment funds, all of which are invested within the long term portfolio and the return from this investment is transferred into either an unrestricted fund or a restricted fund dependent on the restrictions placed on the fund by the donor.

c) Incoming resources

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable (more likely than not) that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Where there are terms or conditions attached to incoming resources, particularly grants, then these terms or conditions must be met before the income is recognised as the entitlement condition will not be satisfied until that point. Where terms or conditions have not been met then the relevant income is not recognised in the year but deferred and shown on the balance sheet as deferred income.

d) Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind, such as food and care packages are not accounted for when they are accepted and immediately distributed unless a single donation is material.

Gifts of tangible assets such as microwaves and fridges are recognised as a donation at fair value (market price) on receipt and charitable expenditure when they are distributed.

Where gifts in kind are held before being distributed to beneficiaries, they are recognised at fair value as stock until they are distributed.

e) Incoming resources from legacies

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

f) Incoming resources from endowment funds

The incoming resources received from the invested endowment fund are transferred to the restricted or unrestricted fund as per the donors request.

g) Other incoming resources

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

h) Resources expended and irrecoverable VAT

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to each category of expense shown in the Statement of Financial Activities. Expenditure is recognised when the following criteria are met:

- there is a present legal or constructive obligation resulting from a past event
- it is more likely than not that a transfer of benefits (usually a cash payment) will be required in settlement
- the amount of the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably.

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

i) Recognition of expenditure and associated liabilities as a result of grant

The Charity is not a grant giving organisation.

j) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those costs which do not relate directly to a single activity. These include some staff recharges, costs of administration, external audit costs and IT support. Support costs have been apportioned between fundraising costs and charitable activities on an appropriate basis. The analysis of support costs and the bases of apportionment applied are shown in note 6.

k) Fundraising costs

The costs of generating 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 which include expenses for fundraising activities and a recharge paid to a related party, The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (see note 18). The recharge is used to pay the salaries and support costs of the Charity's fundraising team.

l) Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs incurred in the pursuit of the charitable objects of the charity. These costs, where not wholly attributable, are apportioned between the categories of charitable expenditure in addition to the direct costs. The total costs of each category of charitable expenditure include an apportionment of support costs as shown in note 6.

m) Fixed asset investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument. Fixed asset investments are initially recognised at their transaction value and are subsequently measured at their fair value (market value) as at the balance sheet date. The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation and disposals throughout the year. Quoted stocks and shares are included in the Balance Sheet at the current market value quoted by the investment analyst, excluding dividend. Other investments are included at the trustee's best estimate of market value.

The main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors. Further information on the RWT Charity investments can be found in note 11.

n) Debtors

Debtors are amounts owed to the charity. They are measured on the basis of their recoverable amount.

o) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand is held to meet the day to day running costs of the charity as they fall due. Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments, usually in 90-day notice interest bearing savings accounts.

p) Creditors

Creditors are amounts owed by the charity. They are measured at the amount that the charity expects to have to pay to settle the debt.

Amounts which are owed in more than a year are shown as long-term creditors.

q) Realised gains and losses

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and opening carrying value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the market value at the year end and opening carrying value (or purchase date if later).

r) Staff costs and pensions

The Charity does not have any staff. All staffing costs are recharged from The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

3 Income

a) Analysis of Donations, Legacies and Grants

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020/21	Total 2019/20
Donations from individuals	159	3	**162**	122
Corporate donations	227	0	**227**	41
Legacies	201	0	**201**	40
Grants	2	254	**256**	0
	589	**257**	**846**	203
2019/20 Total funds £000	*202*	*1*	*203*	

Donations from individuals are gifts from members of the public, relatives of patients and staff.

Donations of goods, to the value of £5,642, are included in income valued at their market value. All of these donations have been distributed during the year.

In 2020/21, the charity received grants from the NHS Charities Together Covid-19 emergency appeal. An analysis of the grants can be found in the table below.

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020/21	Total 2019/20
Stage 1 Emergency Grant	0	102	**102**	0
Stage 1 Second Wave Staff Well Being and Patient Care Grant	0	100	**100**	0
Starbucks Distribution	0	2	**2**	0
Stage 2 Community Partnership Grant	0	50	**50**	0
	0	**254**	**254**	0

b) Analysis of Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2020/21	Total 2019/20
Community	17	2	**19**	24
Individuals	0	0	**0**	0
Events	217	0	**217**	49
Corporate	1	0	**1**	1
	235	**2**	**237**	74
2019/20 Total funds £000	*69*	*5*	*74*	

4 Expenditure

a) Analysis of Raising Funds

	Unrestricted funds £000	Restricted funds £000	Total 2020/21 £000	Total 2019/20 £000
Fundraisers costs	49	0	**49**	74
Support costs	9	0	**9**	10
	58	**0**	**58**	84
2019/20 Total funds £000	*84*	*0*	*84*	

b) Analysis of Charitable Activities

	Grant funded activity £000	Support costs £000	Total funds 2020/21 £000	Total funds 2019/20 £000
Purchase of new medical equipment	224	0	**224**	185
Patients welfare and amenities	146	22	**168**	245
Staff welfare and amenities	342	53	**395**	85
Community Welfare				
Covid-19 recovery				
Research	10	0	**10**	0
	722	**75**	**797**	515
2019/20 Total funds £000	*460*	*55*	*515*	

5 Grant funding

The charity did not undertake any direct charitable activities on its own account during the year. All of the charitable expenditure was in the form of grant funding.

Grants were approved in favour of the partner organisations, principally the RWNHST to carry out activities that will benefit patients and their families. The Charity incurred expenditure with third parties in pursuance of those grants or reimbursed expenditure incurred by them.

6 Allocation of support costs and overheads

Support and overhead costs are allocated between fundraising activities and charitable activities.

The bases of allocation used are as follows:

• time: based the charity's two staff members' timesheets

• direct allocation: where a cost is wholly attributable to a particular activity.

• expenditure: this is a proportion based on the fund balance at the start of the year. This is used where the trustee considers this is a more equitable treatment to avoid disadvantaging funds with high volume, low value transactions.

• salaries: this is proportionate to staff salaries where costs are related to the employed staff.

	Raising funds £000	**Charitable activities £000**	**Total 2020/21 £000**	Total 2019/20 £000	Basis
External audit	1	5	**6**	5	Direct
Financial services	5	41	**46**	45	Time
Support admin costs	3	24	**27**	0	Time
Other administration costs	0	5	**5**	15	Expenditure
	9	**75**	**84**	65	
2019/20 Total funds £000	*10*	*55*	*65*		

7 Trustee remuneration, benefits and expenses

Remuneration for the Board of The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is provided in The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust 2020/21 published Accounts available on the Trust website, and as such remuneration and expenses with regards to the Charitable Funds Committee is not separately identified.

8 Analysis of staff costs and remuneration of key management personnel

The Charity has no employees (2019/20 none). Costs for staff incurred by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust are recharged to the Charity in the form of a Financial Services management fee along with the Fundraiser's salary. The management fee for the year amounted to £46,264 (2019/20 £45,113) and the Fundraisers' salaries amounted to £43,256 (2019/20 £58,485). The Charity does not directly pay salaries national insurance or pension contributions (2019/20 £Nil).

Analysis of staff costs recharged by The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

	2021 £000	2020 £000
Fundraisers salary	**43**	58
Financial services	**46**	45
	89	103

9 Transfers

There were transfers of £5,411 (2019/20 £1,436) during the year, between the New Cross General Purpose Fund and RWT Singers during the year.

10 Auditor's remuneration

External auditors' remuneration of £6,048 including VAT (2019/20 £5,760 including VAT) related solely to the audit with no other additional work undertaken (2019/20 £Nil). There was no internal audit review during 2020/21.

11 Investments

Movement in fixed asset investments	**31 March 2021 £000**	31 March 2020 £000
Market value at 1 April	**2,397**	2,482
Less disposals at carrying value	**0**	0
Add: additions to investments at cost	**0**	0
Add net gain (loss) on revaluation	**318**	(85)
Market value as at 31 March	**2,715**	2,397

Net movement is made up of the revaluation of investments (£318,523) at the year end, and decrease in the balance of cash held (£2.67) as part of the investment portfolio.

Analysis of market value	**31 March 2021 £000**	31 March 2020 £000
Investments listed on Stock Exchange	**2,715**	2,397
	2,715	2,397

Fixed asset investment by type	**31 March 2021 £000**	**31 March 2021 %**	31 March 2020 £000	31 March 2020 %
Equities	**1,340**	**49.4**	1,005	41.9
Fixed Income (Inc Bonds)	**977**	**36.0**	978	40.8
Property	**35**	**1.3**	38	1.6
Other	**215**	**7.9**	197	8.2
Liquid Assets (Inc Cash)	**148**	**5.4**	179	7.5
	2,715	**100**	2,397	100

The Trustee's consider the value of the investments to be supported by their underlying assets.

12 Analysis of gross income from investments and cash on deposit

	31 March 2021 £000	31 March 2020 £000
Investments listed on Stock Exchange	**81**	90
	81	90

13 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	**31 March 2021 £000**	31 March 2020 £000
Prepayments and accrued income	**24**	5
	24	5

14 Cash and cash equivalents

	31 March 2021 £000	31 March 2020 £000
Co-Operative Bank Account	**326**	104
	326	104

15 Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year:	**31 March 2021 £000**	31 March 2020 £000
Trade creditors	**117**	132
Other creditors	**29**	69
Deferred Income	**0**	3
	146	204

16 Analysis of charitable funds

a) Endowment funds

i) Analysis of endowment fund movements

ii) Details of permanent endowment funds

	31 March 2021 £000	31 March 2020 £000
A General Purposes Fund	**26**	26
B W.H.Fowler Trust	**14**	14
C Nell Phoenix Fund	**42**	42
	82	82

Name of permanent endowment	**Description of the nature and purpose of each permanent endowment**
A General Purposes Fund	to earn interest for the benefit of the non designated fund of the RWT Charity
B W.H.Fowler Trust	to earn interest for the benefit of the designated Maternity & Gynaecology fund within the Obstetrics and Gynaecology area
C Nell Phoenix Fund	to earn interest for the benefit of the restricted fund which is to provide musical entertainment for nursing staff

b) Restricted funds

i) Analysis of restricted fund movements

	Name of fund	**31 March 2020 £000**	**Income £000**	**Expenditure £000**	**Transfers £000**	**Gains & losses £000**	**31 March 2021 £000**
A	Joan Jones	91	2	(2)	0	11	**102**
B	Edith Mary Jeavons	3	0	0	0	1	**4**
C	Nell Phoenix Fund	31	2	(2)	0	9	**40**
D	Cystic Fibrosis Funding	2	0	0	0	0	**2**
E	Sheila Whiting Legacy	62	2	(2)	0	8	**70**
F	Marjorie Ferguson Legacy	1	0	0	0	0	**1**
G	CCH General Purpose - Legacies	18	0	0	0	2	**20**
H	Rotary Dowding	203	5	(4)	0	25	**229**
I	Millicent Jessica Dwight - Legacy	16	0	0	0	2	**18**
J	Swan Fund	1	1	0	0	0	**2**
K	Cancer Centre Fund	25	1	0	0	3	**29**
L	Kenneth Arthur Hollins - CCH Dialysis Centre	74	2	(1)	0	9	**84**
M	Special Fund for Nano Bubble Pump	1	0	(1)	0	0	**0**
N	New Cross General Purposes - Legacies	281	7	(92)	5	25	**221**
O	RWT Singers	5	2	(6)	0	1	**7**
P	Individual funds < £500	0	1	0	0	0	**1**
Q	Arts & Heritage Fund	0	2	0	0	0	**2**
R	COVID-19	0	256	(107)	0	18	**167**
		814	**283**	**(217)**	**5**	**114**	**999**

ii) Details of restricted funds

Name of fund		Description of the nature and purpose of each fund
A	Joan Jones	to provide medical equipment to the Renal, Oncology, Vascular and Cardiac Units
B	Edith Mary Jeavons	to provide medical equipment to RW Trust
C	Nell Phoenix Fund	to provide musical entertainment for nursing staff
D	Cystic Fibrosis Funding	to support patients and their families who suffer with Cystic Fibrosis
E	Sheila Whiting Legacy	to support Rheumatology services at Cannock Hospital
F	Marjorie Ferguson Legacy	to support the services provided at the Rehabilitation Day Unit at Cannock Hospital
G	CCH General Purpose - Legacies	to support services at Cannock Hospital
H	Rotary Dowding	to support services at Cannock Hospital
I	Millicent Jessica Dwight Legacy	to provide equipment to RW Trust
J	Swan Fund	to support End of Life Care with in the Trust
K	Cancer Centre Fund	to provide a top class facility for Cancer Patients in the area
L	Kenneth Arthur Hollins - CCH Dialysis Centre	to provide support within the Cannock Hospital Dialysis Centre
M	Special Fund for Nano Bubble Pump	for the provision of a Nano Bubble Pump
N	New Cross General Purposes - Legacies	to support services at New Cross Hospital
O	RWT Singers (Choir)	to improve staff morale and enhance patient and visitor experience around the Trust
P	Individual Funds <£500	Lindsay Clift Memorial Fund is to support patient safety by way of training or providing vital monitoring equipment, Calabar Wolverhampton VISION 2020 Link is to support staff training with links to other countries, Arts in Health Trust Fund is to support delivery of the Trust's Arts In Health Programme
Q	Arts & Heritage	to provide additional resources that; contribute to and enhance the healing environment, therapeutic art activities for patients, their families and staff and to record the history of and the advancements of healthcare at RWT.
R	COVID-19	to provide support to patients and staff as part of the COVID-19 recovery

nrestricted funds

i) Analysis of unrestricted funds movements

		31 March 2020 £000	Income £000	Expenditure £000	Transfers £000	Gains & losses £000	31 March 2021 £000
Designated funds							
A	Anaesthetics	32	216	(181)	0	7	**74**
B	Medical Directorate	248	22	(23)	0	31	**278**
C	Haematology & Oncology	318	10	(72)	0	45	**391**
D	Cardiac Services	42	147	(6)	0	14	**197**
E	Renal Unit	54	14	(41)	0	5	**32**
F	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	54	7	(5)	0	9	**65**
G	Ophthalmology	140	12	(10)	0	18	**160**
H	Orthopaedics	91	10	(8)	0	12	**105**
I	Paediatrics	141	52	(54)	0	18	**157**
J	Surgical Directorate	66	18	(14)	0	9	**79**
K	Clinical Support	5	0	(1)	0	1	**5**
L	Wolverhampton Medical Institute	9	0	0	0	1	**10**
M	Other Smaller Funds	75	20	(13)	0	10	**92**
N	Community Nursing	6	0	0	0	0	**6**
O	Research Funds	74	3	(5)	0	9	**81**
		1,355	621	(433)	0	189	**1732**
Non-designated funds							
P	General Purposes Funds	51	260	(215)	(5)	15	**106**
		1,406	**881**	**(648)**	**(5)**	**204**	**1838**

c) Unrestricted funds continued

ii) Details of unrestricted funds

	Name of area	Description of the nature and purpose of each area
A	Anaesthetics	benefit of the Anaesthetics Directorate
B	Medical Directorate	benefit of the Medical Directorate
C	Haematology & Oncology	benefit of the Deanesly Centre and Cancer Services
D	Cardiac Services	benefit of the Cardiothoracic Directorate
E	Renal Unit	benefit of the Renal Unit
F	Obstetrics & Gynaecology	benefit of the Maternity & Gynaecology Directorate
G	Ophthalmology	benefit of the Ophthalmic Directorate
H	Orthopaedics	benefit of the Orthopaedic Directorate
I	Paediatrics	benefit of the Paediatric Directorate
J	Surgical Directorate	benefit of the Surgical Directorate
K	Clinical Support	benefit of Clinical Support Services
L	Wolverhampton Medical Institute	benefit of the Wolverhampton Medical Institute
M	Other smaller funds	benefit of Emergency Department, Ambulatory Care, Ear Nose and Throat, Theatres, Therapy Services, Nurse Training, Chaplaincy etc.
N	Community Nursing	benefit of the Community Nursing Teams
O	Research Funds	to support Research projects at the Trust
Unrestricted funds - Non designated funds		
P	General Funds	benefit of New Cross Hospital

Trustees have exercised their discretion to set aside part of the unrestricted funds for designated purposes. The designation applied has taken account the wishes expressed by the donor when the funds were given. Designated funds remain unrestricted as Trustees can remove the designation at anytime.

17 Related party transactions

During the year neither the Corporate Trustee nor members of the key management staff or parties related to it has undertaken any material transactions with or received any remuneration or expenses from The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust Charity. As part of the normal course of business the Charity has made payments totalling £876,344 (2019-20 £536,751) to The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust as Corporate Trustee of the Charity. In 2020/21 an amount of £57,635 (2019/20 £132,199) was owing to the Trust at 31 March 2021. The total income of the Corporate Trustee in the year ended 31 March 2021 amounted to £743,285,000 (2019/20 £676,144,000) and the adjusted retained surplus amounted to £243,000 (2019/20 £5,143,000).

18 Commitments

The Charity has commitments totalling £68,399 at 31 March 2021 (2019/20 £40,658) arising from requisitions placed for which the relevant goods and services have not been received. These commitments relate to unrestricted and restricted funds.

19 Donations in kind

Donations in kind have been made to aid the Charity's mission to support The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. More so than this year than ever before, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Donations to the value of £6,562 have been included in the accounts this year for items such as I-Pads, I-Pad covers, children's outdoor toys for the garden in the paediatrics department, furniture for staff rooms and Christmas light decorations. All of these items will be used for some time to come and help with the Covid-19 recovery. We also received several offers of kindness for the staff and patients of the Trust and the wider community for items such as care packages, hand creams, lip balms, food and drink. The value of these items were estimated at £103,370.

When received, all items were distributed as soon as possible and shared amongst the whole of the Trust.

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