

Annual Report & Accounts 2023/24

Look back on
another successful
year for Alder Hey
Children's Charity



Annual Report & Accounts 2023/24

Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Registered Charity No. 1160661
A Company Limited by Guarantee

Registered in England Company no. 09389239

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Trustees' Report

It is a pleasure to present the Annual Report for Alder Hey Children's Charity, together with the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The 2023/24 Annual Report and Accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Accounting Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS102). The charity's report and accounts include all the separately established funds.



A welcome message from our Chair and Chief Executive

As we look back on another successful year for Alder Hey Children’s Charity, we are immensely proud of the resilience and dedication displayed by our entire team, our supporters, and partners. This year has been one of growth, adaptation, and hope. We’ve embraced new opportunities, laid the groundwork for sustainable income growth, and supported our Trust’s bold ambitions to provide world-class care to the 450,000 young patients we see annually.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we have raised an outstanding £8.35 million in 2023/24. Every single pound has enabled us to support Alder Hey’s vision for a healthier, fairer, and happier future for children and young people. These funds have gone far beyond the vital services provided by the NHS, ensuring that our hospital and community services continue to offer exceptional care and life-enhancing experiences that wouldn’t be possible otherwise.



This year, our key funding pillars have expanded to include more projects that we are involved with including in the areas of Community, Education and Advocacy. Funding specialist equipment, research, innovation, building of our Children’s Healthcare Campus and of course providing Alder Hey magic are still very much part of our remit, supporting children and their families at the most critical moments. From securing the very best medical equipment to funding innovative research into childhood cancer, we remain committed to pushing the boundaries of what is possible in children’s healthcare.

One of our proudest achievements this year has been reaching the £3 million fundraising target for the Surgical Neonatal Appeal. This support will enhance the new Surgical Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, ensuring that Alder Hey continues to offer the very best care to our youngest and most vulnerable patients. The impact of this project will be profound, providing a safe and nurturing environment where families can stay together during their child’s most crucial moments.

We know that care is about more than just treatment—it’s about heart, creativity, and connection, so we remain deeply committed to making Alder Hey a truly special place for children and their families. Through initiatives like Arts for Health, we have been able to create moments of joy and comfort, helping to transform what could be a stressful and challenging hospital experience into one filled with creativity, music, and warmth. Our investment in arts, music, and patient-centred activities has brought immeasurable benefits to the emotional well-being of children in our care. From music workshops to calming sensory spaces, these magical experiences ease the stress of hospital stays and ensure laughter, creativity, and wonder.

Our continued focus on sustainable income growth and investment is helping to ensure that we have the resources needed to meet future demands. We have made strides in improving donor engagement further, investing in AI technology, and building



robust partnerships with national corporations, all of which position us well to meet our ambitious goals. Thanks to our supporters, we have been able to invest in our fundraising activities, expanding our lottery, running national TV appeals, and ensuring that we are poised to continue growing our impact well into 2024 and beyond.

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors, partners, volunteers, and of course our incredible team. With a renewed focus on the reforming the NHS from the new government, we are filled with cautious optimism for what lies ahead. Together, we are building a future where every child can thrive, and we are honoured to have your support in making that future a reality.

On behalf of the Trustees and the entire team, thank you for your continued belief in Alder Hey Children’s Charity and for helping us create brighter futures for the children and young people who need us most.

Graham
Graham Morris OBE
Chair of Trustees
December 2024

Fiona
Fiona Ashcroft
Chief Executive
December 2024

“
One of our proudest achievements this year has been reaching the £3 million fundraising target for the Surgical Neonatal Appeal. This support will enhance the new Surgical Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, ensuring that Alder Hey continues to offer the very best care to our youngest and most vulnerable patients.”

Strategic Report

As we closed the first year of our new three year strategy we reflected on the changes over the previous three years.

Since Covid we have had to adapt to the changing environment, introduce new activity, find new ways of working and delay or move up timeframes for new areas of growth. However, our overall focus remained the same, investment and putting the building blocks in place for sustainable income growth. Having taken the brave decision to invest during that period, whilst many others had to cut activity or make redundancies, we saw strong year on year growth. We also saw positive benefits from our focus on staff wellbeing, flexible working and team building, helping to create a great team culture

and spirit of learning within the charity which has been crucial to the success we have had since.

For the 23-26 strategy we wanted to build on those successes, learnings and investments with a continued focus on sustainable growth and investment for the medium and long term, whilst mindful of internal and external risks to income performance.

We knew there were some big areas of focus ahead including the cost of living crisis, our response to global climate change, how we maximise the opportunities from the levelling up agenda and focus on regional inequalities, how to support the Trust with its global ambitions and preventative outreach, embedding our EDI strategy and the long term impact of the pandemic on the future workplace, culture and wellbeing.

We have also updated our charitable funding priorities, ensuring they link to the Trust's 2030 strategy. Our funding priorities are our purpose for being as a charity and help ensure charitable funds are spent in the best way possible, have the largest strategic impact and make the biggest difference to children and families now and in the future.

Vision

We support Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust and have a joint vision for a healthier, fairer and happier future for every child and young person.

Our Five Charity Funding Pillars



Research, Innovation and Education

We build strong partnerships and work with leading innovators to constantly push the boundaries of what is possible. We invest to drive research excellence in areas including childhood cancer, inflammatory diseases, genomics and respiratory health.



Specialist Equipment

Alder Hey treats over 1,200 patients every day who deserve access to the highest quality care, facilities and technology available. We are proud to fund lifesaving and advanced specification equipment, cutting edge tech and distraction innovations to help Alder Hey clinicians do the very best for our patients.



Alder Hey Magic

We are committed to going above and beyond what is available on our hard-working NHS. From ward musicians and arts workshops to the latest distraction technology in clinical areas, we strive to provide the best patient experience possible for all our children. We call it the 'Alder Hey Magic'.

Campus and Community

We are helping to create the best possible environment to nurture bright futures for children across our healthcare campus and through outreach across our communities. We work with organisations to focus on prevention and early intervention and to reduce the impact of social inequalities on families.



Advocacy

We are committed to making change and ensuring all children have the potential to create their own brighter futures. Utilising our expert clinical voices Alder Hey Children's Charity strives to influence positive change at heart of government and within the NHS.

Strategic Organisational Objectives

Maximising Impact of Charitable Funding

To ensure funds raised are spent in the best way possible, have strategic impact and make the biggest possible difference to children and families now and in the future.

We have developed strategic plans for each funding pillar, including the next funding campaigns and a strong suite of funding opportunities with national and international reach to appeal to a range of potential funders.

We have maintained a focus on wellbeing and flexibility for all charity staff.



People, Wellbeing & Culture

To create and maintain a high performing, inspiring and supportive workplace and organisational culture and be known within the sector for our commitment to our people.

Key development areas include continued focus on wellbeing and flexibility for our workforce; providing development opportunities to our staff through training and cross organisational working; and reviewing our wider staff benefits. We recognise the importance and benefits of a diverse and inclusive workplace and we have developed our volunteering strategy and offer and will be actively looking to grow our volunteer numbers over this 3 year strategy.

Sustainable Income Growth & Consolidation

To invest in resources and activity with a focus on long term sustainable growth and development.

This was also a key focus of our previous ‘Growth & Recovery’ 3-year strategy, and we have achieved significant income growth with income of £8.35 million for 2023/24 being 77% up on 2019/20. We have ensured we have the enablers in place, especially strong appeals and world leading projects, to attract significant philanthropic support from individuals and large national corporates.

Providing Excellent Stewardship

To provide the best possible donor experience, building strong relationships and engagement with current and new supporters.

Our new CRM gives us the opportunity for better segmentation across all teams, leading to better communications for donors and cost savings for the charity. We have invested in new AI technology and continue to investigate automation but without losing personal contact.

Growing Awareness, Acquisition & Partnerships

To raise awareness of the Charity, form new strategic partnerships, engage new supporters and position Alder Hey as the children’s charity of choice and promote Alder Hey as a leader in Children’s health and wellbeing.

We have strong metrics to measure success in this area including a target of 60% national awareness by 2027, increasing regular and active supporters on our database, pipelines for new business and philanthropy, ensuring visibility of our events across the region and growing our lottery player base.



A year with the charity

The ongoing support of our charity changes lives every day here at Alder Hey, regardless of the season. Charitable donations help us to fund innovation, cutting edge equipment for our superb clinicians and vital research to ensure positive outcomes now and into the future. It also means every child and young person coming through our doors feels the Alder Hey ‘magic’ – the added extras that make the hospital experience the best it can be for our patients, their families and our staff, throughout the year. Our supporters have helped us to raise an incredible £8.35 million in this period.



Spring

Spring is a blissfully exciting time of year, full of new opportunities and growth, and spring at Alder Hey is no different. We provide year-round support to ensure that Alder Hey continues to be an institution of world-class and patient friendly care, and thanks to the donations of our valued supporters, we have been able to achieve just that.

Here are just a few of the ways that we have been able to use your donations to make a difference for our patients and their families this spring.

£1,800 was allocated to support our Alder Centre's Pilates After Loss course. These sessions helped to rebuild the physical and mental wellbeing of mothers who had experienced baby loss and was one of many ways that charity funds supported our Alder Centre this year (see page 20).

Thanks to our incredible donors, by the end of March 2024 our charity raised over £3 million achieving our Surgical Neonatal Appeal target. This funding will enhance the new Surgical Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, ensuring families can stay together during critical times. The unit's preparation is well underway including recruiting and inducting new staff, increasing consulting hours, and improving care consistency for families and new-borns. The project is set to greatly impact the well-being of patients and their loved ones (Read more on page 29).

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, £32,000 was raised to enable the refurbishment of two bereavement suites to support families through some of the most difficult times. The Snowdrop team provide a 24 hours a day, 365 days a year service, with the refurbished suites providing a comfortable, private and non-clinical environment for parents, friends and families during their most challenging moments.



£510 provided pre-school Hydrotherapy Sessions to support children with complex needs, to allow both children and their carers to be able to access much needed physical therapy whilst also becoming more confident in the water. This provides our youngest patients with fun and therapeutic sessions, as well as giving them valuable skills for the future.



Summer

The summer months are some of our most eagerly anticipated at Alder Hey. The days are long and the sun is shining, so therefore many of our supporters can often be found

running marathons, climbing mountains, and competing in a whole range of other thrilling challenges, all to raise crucial funds to support our wonderful hospital. Here is a few of the ways that your money has helped to make a difference at Alder Hey this summer.



£1,000 was allocated to support the introduction of 'We Can Talk', a mental health toolkit used to help provide autonomy for patients and their care when it comes to mental health. The leaflets and activities included in the packs have been shown to reduce mental health related incidents, stress, anxiety and escalated behaviours.

We were also able to support the Trust with **£10,000** for a new pilot programme to help with period poverty, supporting staff, patients and families by providing to install free machines around the hospital for those in need. (See page 21)



Last summer we were able to provide **£234,355** to extend our funding for the Alder Active programme for a further two years. This is an innovative programme developed by two of the Physiotherapists at Alder Hey during COVID, to engage children in physical activity remotely from their homes which benefited their physical and mental health. This helps children who often believe that they are not able to exercise to build confidence and exercise in a safe way for their needs. It is fantastic to work alongside our charity partners Dame Kelly Holmes Trust, LFC Foundation and Everton in the Community to ensure that even after the programme children get access to help and support within this area.



£34,000 was raised to upgrade our sensory rooms within Surgical Day Care. The upgrades will have a huge impact by helping patients with additional needs and anxiety feel calmer, happier, and positively distracted whilst awaiting medical intervention which can often take longer during busy periods. This safe space is a comforting area which is quiet and provides stimulation to our patients, which helps alleviate anxieties that can arise whilst waiting for medical assistance.



Autumn

As summer comes to an end and the autumnal winds of change return, with them come a new batch of impactful change at our hospital, all thanks to the kindness and generosity of our supporters. Here are a few examples of the difference that the generosity of our donors made to our patients over the autumn season.



£50,000 was raised to purchase play and craft resources that can be used by patients across the hospital. These resources are effective in numerous ways, as they help children to have fun during their stay with us and ensure that they continue to experience creative childhood activities, even when they're not feeling well. They also serve as a valuable distraction tool for our patients during their time at Alder Hey, as patients can naturally experience anxiety and worry about their appointments or procedures. Playing and being creative is a valuable form of distraction, so by investing in new resources we are giving our patients further opportunities to express themselves and enjoy their time at Alder Hey.

£4,000 was spent to develop a dedicated sensory space on Ward 4B, which has provided a safe and comfortable environment for children and young people with complex neurodevelopmental needs to relax and enjoy time with specialist sensory equipment, designed to help alleviate stress and anxiety.

Donor donations totalling **£20,500** also allowed us to offer families supported by our Palliative Care team, who are facing or experiencing the death of a child, the opportunity for memory making, including silver charms of their child's hand or footprint, personalised plates, art canvases and memory boxes. Supporting our bereaved families at the Alder Centre is one of the most important parts of our work, and we hope that by providing support through our nature and craft activities, as well as always being available for a chat, we can provide some comfort and solace for the families during their most difficult time.

Research and innovation are a key aspect of our funding, so we were delighted to provide **£50,000** pot of funding to allow clinicians across the hospital to apply for starter funding to explore a research idea that could lead to future funding and potential advancements in medical care for our children and young people. This particularly encouraged applications from people who have not undertaken much research before to allow our clinicians to develop their skills and also encourage innovative thinking.

Winter

Winter can be a special time of year for everyone. As the temperatures fall and the nights draw in, people everywhere await the festive season with palpable anticipation. At Alder Hey, we can't get enough, as the festive spirit is in full swing, and the fun factor is turned up to ten. Here are just some of the ways that supporter donations made a difference for our patients across the winter period.

£15,300 was used to fund the provision of our resident entertainer at Alder Hey. A true professional in his field, Barrington brings laughter and fun to children and young people of all ages, using magic tricks, balloon art and providing a bespoke experience for each child he meets. When it comes to personifying the 'Alder Hey Magic', Barrington serves as the epitome of the phrase, and we are delighted to have secured his position so that he can continue to bring joy and smiles to patients across the hospital (see page 24).

£5,000 was allocated to support the provision of Augmented Alternative Communication (AAC), a device that replaces or supports spoken language for individuals communicating via speech. Alongside the support of a speech and language therapist, these devices can help people with speech or language impairments to communicate effectively. Charity funds have allowed cohort of 10 Alder Hey patients to access this device and to work with a speech and language therapist over a 12-month period to develop their ability communicate effectively.

£14,820 was raised so that we could continue to deliver our Music Matters project for long-term patients, bringing professional musicians to our wards to facilitate child-led participatory music sessions. This project has had a hugely positive impact on the wellbeing of our patients, as they have been able to build new skills and confidence, all framed around a shared passion for music. In addition, £27,000 was provided to deliver music programme with the Emergency Department, to alleviate stress for children and young people and allow clinicians to perform much needed tests and assessments. See page 17 for a look at how charity funds support Arts for Health at Alder Hey.

In an effort to capture the spirit of fun and goodwill, donations totalling £9,652 allowed us to supplement all the fantastic toys that were brought in at Christmas time, with purchasing sensory and baby toys for our play team, additional gifts for our teenagers, enabling an amazing lights switch on event and decorations on the wards, alongside a special event to celebrate and recognise some of our wonderful staff and volunteers, bringing some festive fun and entertainment to our patients, staff and volunteers across the holiday season.



The Alder Centre is the first purpose-built dedicated child bereavement centre in the UK. For over 30 years the centre has been providing crucial support, education and activities for anybody affected by the death of a child. Alder Hey Children's Charity are proud to support the Alder Centre, funding numerous projects and events at the centre, including the annual remembrance service at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, which provides bereaved families and friends the opportunity to light a candle to remember their lost loved one.

Those who attend the Alder Centre are able to access counselling sessions either one-to-one or in a group environment, as well as many activities such as baking groups, gardening groups and weekly drop-in sessions where anybody affected by the death of a child can pop in for a cup of tea and a chat in a completely safe, supportive and judgement free environment. The Alder Centre is also home to the national Child Death Helpline, a specialist support line which helps people from across the country who have been affected by the death of a child.



Supporting



The Alder Centre

FOR ANYONE AFFECTED BY THE DEATH OF A CHILD



Simon Riley, Head of the Alder Centre said:

“ Thank you to all the supporters whose kind donations have helped to make a difference at The Alder Centre. Thanks to the support of Alder Hey Children's Charity we have been able to fund various projects that help support anybody affected by the death of a child, such as our annual Remembrance Service and national Child Death Helpline. Thank you once again for all your support of the work we do here at The Alder Centre. ”

Supporting our hardworking NHS staff

Supporting Alder Hey's hardworking NHS staff is crucial to what we do as having happy, supported, and invigorated staff is reflected in the truly incredible care that our brave patients receive each and every day.

In 2023/24, Alder Hey Children's Charity has supported NHS staff through a number of endeavours, one of which is the Period Poverty pilot scheme, which has positively impacted patients, families, and staff by providing free sanitary products for those who need them. This scheme has addressed period poverty within our community, supporting work that Alder Hey do with menopause, as well as the impact on people's mental health and self-esteem. A study showed that 45% of Alder Hey staff were at an age where menopause was an issue, therefore it was important to support these staff members by having menstrual packs available to them, and at no cost to help during the current financial climate.

Thanks to charity funding, Alder Hey's Arts for Health team launched their 'Create, Revive, Thrive' staff wellbeing programme, a series of free creative wellbeing sessions available to our hardworking NHS staff and designed to help relieve stress, boost mental and physical wellbeing, and give staff the opportunity to be creative whilst taking time out for themselves and connecting with their colleagues, both old and new. The programme comprised of a wide range of sessions. From DJing to dancing, pottery to photography, and everything else in between, the wellbeing programme has something for everybody, and is always aimed at beginners.



Specialist Paediatric Physiotherapist Rachel Wardle, who took part in an upcycling workshop with TV's Gemma Longworth, said:

“ I enjoyed being able to socialise with colleagues from across the hospital, as well as the satisfaction of being able to make something and take it home at the end of the day, it was such a fun experience. It has had such an impact on my wellbeing, as the nature of my job is very reactionary and filled with decisions to make, and so the opportunity to spend the day relaxing and doing something creative was so beneficial. ”

We are committed to funding opportunities for Alder Hey staff to develop their expertise and learn from leaders in their field to ensure that the knowledge and care at Alder Hey is always at the cutting edge. In 2023/24, charity donations totalling £112,391.49 funded Alder Hey staff attendance at 57 courses and conferences. These courses included a Neurosurgery masterclass where we funded 26 nurses and Allied Health Professionals to attend and as part of our dedication to UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative we sent 14 practitioners to represent Alder Hey at their annual conference.

Our Values

Here at Alder Hey Children's Charity, our values guide the way in which we work. By being courageous, working together, being passionate about our work, and making sure that we are creative in what we do, it helps us to deliver the support necessary so that our Hospital can continue to deliver the very best care for our young patients and their families.

Our values are:

Courage:

We try new things and take risks to innovate and drive forward new ideas. We have the courage to speak up and take a stance. We are accountable, responsive and responsible. We are unstoppable.



Together:

We work together as one team, sharing our knowledge and learning. We work in partnership with patients, families, supporters and colleagues. We are respectful, celebrate diversity and empower each other to achieve our aims.



Passion:

We are passionate about what we do and why we do it. We work together to share and grow. We inspire others.

Magic:

We are fun, creative and child led. We create special moments, provide little extras and go further for our brave young patients.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

“ At Alder Hey Children's Charity, we strive to create a healthier, happier and fairer future for the 450,000 children and young people we treat each year. We want to ensure that every child and young person grows up feeling a sense of belonging and purpose, and we must play our part in building a more inclusive world, starting with our own organisation.

By respecting and valuing one another's differences and uniqueness – including those based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or believe, sex and sexual orientation* - we can broaden our reach and impact, achieving amazing things. We strive to ensure everyone feels safe, supported and represented through their employment, progression opportunities, our fundraising and in our communications.

Guided by our values of Courage, Together, Passion and Magic, we work every day towards a fairer, inclusive and brighter future for the diverse

communities we serve, including our staff, volunteers, donors, children and young people, families and all those whose lives we touch.”

*Protected characteristics listed as per the Equality Act 2010

Staff Charter

Our staff charter was introduced to cement our commitment to our people and to promote positive relationships and good employment practice to achieve the organisation's vision and goals. It helps clarify what success for us is and what success is not in plain English.

As the charity we...

- Recognise that in order to do great work, we need to be well rested, healthy and enjoy our life outside of work.
- Know it's OK to work from home, in the office, or a mixture of the two as long as this works within our role.
- Flex our working hours around nursery/school/ life as long as that works for our role and our manager.
- Take regular breaks away from our screen and desk.
- Send emails late at night if that works for us, but don't expect a response out of hours as we are doing this for our own flexibility.
- Protect time to do exercise or go for a walk during the day.
- Recognise the importance of one-to-ones and prioritise them.
- Hold each other accountable and take responsibility for our own actions.
- Know it's OK to say our plate is full and we need more time, more support, or just to reach out to a colleague.
- Respond to requests in a reasonable amount of time and recognise that this does not need to be immediately.
- Think about the purpose of a meeting before we book it and know it's OK to say no to a meeting we're invited to that we don't believe we need to attend.
- Know it's OK to discuss flexible working with our line manager.
- Talk about our mental health.
- Know it's OK to ask questions or ask for information from the senior management team.

Know it's OK to feel however we're feeling, even if it's not OK.

Fundraising Activities Community

2023/4 was a strong year for community fundraising, in particular in the areas of events and community business. Bespoke, third party and supporter led events all had a strong year with record numbers of participants in a number of them. We continued to invest in new running and challenge events including the London Landmarks Half Marathon for 2025 and to work with other charity partners for a couple of events including our annual skydive and bi-annual children's hospital charities event.



Our first virtual Facebook event was successful and we have now added further virtual events to our annual calendar.



The Alder Hey Charity lottery continues to grow steadily and we held our first Super Draw in June.



Our more 'traditional' elements of community fundraising through schools and other community groups remains a steady source of income.



Our resident entertainer

Barrington regularly brings smiles and laughter to patients and families at Alder Hey. We are delighted to have received support from our friends at Braithwaite Group, whose kind provision has secured Barrington's services for another year.

One young person who has benefitted from the incredible impact that Barrington has at Alder Hey is 14-year-old Esmerelda. Before receiving her kidney transplant earlier this year, Esmerelda underwent regular dialysis treatment on our renal ward, which can often mean long days in the same place with little to do. Having Barrington visit our children and young people provides them with some fun and excitement to look forward to and can make a huge difference for our patients. Esmerelda told us: "When I was first at Alder Hey I was sad because the treatment was difficult and took so much time, and when Barrington came he had such a big smile and laugh, and that gave me a big smile too. Since then, the hospital has become my home from home, and I always looked forward to seeing Barrington and laughing at his jokes and tricks."

The impact of Barrington's unique magic doesn't just extend to our children and young people, but also our families too. Esmerelda's mum, Linga, said: "Just hearing Barrington's name puts a smile on my face, as he is so personable and warm. He's made such a difference during Esmerelda's time at the hospital, so it's hard not to just break into a smile every time we see him. The difference he has made has been incredible, not just

The magic of Alder Hey: Barrington's impact

for Esmerelda, but for me too. He makes everything so much easier for everyone he comes across, and he is such a credit to Alder Hey."

Barrington's incredible energy makes a difference to patients and staff alike throughout Alder Hey. His willingness to entertain anybody, from a child waiting for an appointment to volunteers in our atrium is a testament to his commitment and passion for all things Alder Hey and shows the impact that supporter donations can have day in and day out at the hospital.

“ We are so grateful for the continued support of Luke and Josh at Braithwaite Group, whose generosity has not only continued to fund Barrington to create magical experiences for children and young people at Alder Hey, but has also sponsored two highly successful corporate events, in our annual Dragon Boat Festival and annual Golf Day. The support of partners like Braithwaite Group makes such an impact in our support of Alder Hey and truly makes a difference for our children and young people. ”

– Becky Parsons, Corporate Partnerships Officer



Arts for Health magic at Alder Hey

As part of the launch of our Creative Pathways project earlier this year, Alder Hey Children's Charity are delighted to have been able to provide our patients with various opportunities to express their artistic creativity and interests with the assistance of professional experts, artists, and performers. The project, which is part of our nationally recognised Arts for Health programme, has been made possible thanks to a generous grant from Arts Council England, and is designed to encourage our patients to express themselves creatively, whilst also providing them with lots of exciting things to look forward to during their time with us at Alder Hey.

Palaeontology specialists Dino Dave and Amazing Andy, who, within just a few sessions with us, have quickly become very popular with both patients and staff across the hospital. The duo, who have been able to deliver sessions at Alder Hey thanks to our partnership with National Museums Liverpool, are experts in all things prehistoric, and their fascinating workshops and demonstrations have certainly been a hit with our patients!

11-year-old Harry was thrilled to tell us all about his experience meeting with Dave and Andy and learning about all things dinosaurs and fossils. Harry said: "Looking at the fossils is the highlight of my week, it's so interesting and not the kind of thing you normally get to see while in hospital!"

Amusingly, this wasn't the first time that Harry had met our dinosaur duo. Andy told us: "We first met Harry when he came to the museum with a family member, he was very excited and keen to tell us that he had a Spinosaurus fossil. Initially I was sceptical, but Harry soon proved me wrong, as it became obvious that he really knew what he was talking about."

This is a sentiment that Harry's mum Jenny echoed to us, as she said that Harry often likes to point out inaccuracies about dinosaurs on the television and in films, such is his utter fascination with the subject. By spending time with Dave and Andy and all the expertise they have to offer, Harry has finally met somebody with the knowledge to match his own!



Dave and Andy are not just experts on dinosaurs and fossils, but also when it comes to interacting with our patients. They arrive on our wards armed with suitcases filled with fascinating fossils and a repertoire of amazing anecdotes that leave our patients completely transfixed with their sessions. "The patients really connect with Dave", explained Andy, "when watching them together it sometimes feels as if they are talking to each other in their own secret language. No topic is off limits, as we like to give the patients the freedom to explore various areas of interest, and it's really rewarding to see the excitement on their faces when talking about something they're passionate about like dinosaurs."

Harry was delighted by the visit from Dave and Andy, with him and his mum already looking forward to visiting them at the museum again as soon as he is well enough.



“ Thanks to the incredible support from donors Arts for Health have had our biggest and busiest year yet! We have delivered hundreds of sessions to thousands of children and young people across Alder Hey, with every session providing valuable creative respite and expression for patients at the hospital. Thank you so much for your continued support! ”

– Vicky Charnock, Arts Manager

Corporate



In 23/24 we received over £1 million in donations from our corporate partners through donations, gift in kind, sponsorship and event income.

Throughout the year we continued receive support by longstanding partners such as Matalan, Liverpool John Lennon Airport and Home Bargains. In 2023 we celebrated our tenth year in partnership with Matalan. As part of the celebrations, we launched an anniversary pyjama campaign featuring one patient ambassador for every year of the partnership. In October we hosted ward parties and arts and craft stations as part of our celebrations in the hospital. We continued to partner with Proctor & Gamble (P&G) and B&M during 2023 with our autumn activation helping to raise over £55,000 for our Surgical Neonatal Appeal.



In November 2023 12 employees from Liverpool Airport took part in an international challenge to Peru as part of the organisations aim to raise £100,000 for Alder Hey Children's Charity. The group organised a number of fundraising events throughout the year raising over £50,000 collectively.

Our bespoke corporate fundraising events continue to be a success for the team. In 2023 two of these events helped to raise over £70,000 for our Surgical Neonatal Appeal. The charity is grateful for our corporate event sponsors Braithwaite Group for their continued commitment in supporting these events during the year. In 2023 we hosted a Charity Gala event in conjunction with LFC Foundation, the partnership team were successful in securing a number of table sales as well as event sponsorship. Later in the year we were supported by partners such as Max20 and Axis Entrances who sponsored elements of our Christmas decorations. Home Bargains once again produced packs of child designed Christmas cards helping to raise over £10,000 for the charity.

In 2024 we launched Insight our corporate newsletter highlighting our partners, events and the charitable projects and activities that our partners have helped to make possible.



Individual Giving and Legacies

As the cost of living continues to impact Individual Giving rates across the sector, we are incredibly grateful to all our supporters who have continued to support us during what is a difficult time. The focus in the early half of the year has been on raising funds to purchase a new £33,000 haemodialysis machine for our renal unit. This machine was needed to help build additional capacity in the existing NHS service, but also to treat younger children locally at Alder Hey. A digital and postal campaign fronted by two renal nurse specialists featured the story of Luke. Luke was just 11 weeks old when he was diagnosed with a rare genetic disorder called Autosomal Recessive Polycystic Kidney Disease (ARPKD). Life-saving renal dialysis followed by a successful kidney transplant from his dad, Carl, gave the now 11-year-old Luke the bright future he deserves. This campaign was well supported by patients and their families on the renal unit as well as by our committed supporters.

Following the success of that appeal our focus moved to fundraising for the ongoing costs of running a newly built MediCinema at Alder Hey. The state-of-the-art cinema will accommodate beds, wheelchairs, and medical equipment and show the latest movies for free to transform the hospital experience for children and young people at Alder Hey. Costing over £98,000 a year to operate, the cinema will be staffed with Alder Hey nurses supporting and delivering treatment to our children and young people. The cinema will bring hours of joy and relief to our children and young people. Our Christmas appeal, featuring the story of Sienna, raised over £69,000 it also resulted in impressive levels of engagement across social media and press. Sienna spends almost all her time at Alder Hey and has no speech, limited mobility and can only make decisions by moving her eyes. Sienna and her family's story resonated well with supporters, who were encouraged to buy a cinema ticket as a way of giving to the appeal.

Regular giving continues to be a bedrock of our activity. With its ability to help us to plan for projects not just now, but also into the future. With increased investment in recruitment, we have seen some exciting growth. New donors that now make a regular donation to the charity by a direct debit increased by



1,787, with the majority being recruited via our face-to-face fundraisers, with a smaller but still significant number signing up after our TV adverts aired and through the wide success of our MediCinema appeal. The retention of our regular givers has also been considered with 2 thank-a-thons focussing on thanking our regular givers via a telephone call. These thank-a-thons were welcome by our supporters, who loved an opportunity to tell us why they support Alder Hey.

In 2023/24 our most committed supporters left Gifts in their Wills totalling £778,000. Gifts in Wills are an amazing final gift from our supporters to Alder Hey and they allow us to fund some incredible projects including the funding of a holistic therapy specialist at the Alder Centre supporting bereaved families. We continue to encourage our supporters to consider leaving a gift in their Will to Alder Hey, by offering them free online Wills. Over 60 supporters this year have indicated that they left a gift for Alder Hey in their Will, gifts that have an estimated future income of over £1.4 million. We continue to reach our traditional Gift in Wills audience via inserts in several BBC magazines (History, Food and Gardening) as well as online ads to encourage supporters to sign up for a Gift in Wills guide.

A new cinema for Alder Hey

Alder Hey Children’s Charity is fundraising for the installation and running costs of a brand new state-of-the-art MediCinema to be built at our hospital. The cinema is set to provide a welcome boost to the wellbeing of our long-term patients and give them the opportunity to experience the joy of cinema from the safety of our hospital, all whilst providing them with memorable moments with their friends and families.

One patient that would have benefitted from the cinema during their time at Alder Hey is 7-year-old Ivy, who was born with hypoplastic left-heart syndrome and has had three open-heart surgeries at the hospital to date, as well as numerous other procedures.

Claire, Ivy’s mum, told us:

“Having a MediCinema in the hospital whilst Ivy was an inpatient would have been brilliant. Ivy has always loved films, particularly Disney films, her favourite is Wish and she so enjoyed going to watch it at the cinema. If this facility had been available whilst Ivy was in hospital it would have given her a bit of normality and the opportunity for a break away from the ward as the days can be so long when you are stuck in one room. Going to the cinema allows Ivy to escape into another world and forget about all the procedures she is going through and makes her feel like any other child, and it is so great that the children at Alder Hey are going to get this opportunity too.”

By equipping the cinema with space for wheelchairs, beds, and medical equipment, as well as being staffed by specially trained clinical staff, parents and carers can enjoy the film alongside their child with the knowledge that they are comfortable and safe. Claire said: “It would have given her some normality away from the ward, but we would also feel comfortable



knowing nurses and clinicians were on hand should she need them. She loves watching films and it would have been something for us all to look forward to and enjoy as a family. It also would have given her the opportunity to spend some time with her brother who she missed whilst she was in hospital. Being able to spend time with the whole family and being able to see siblings and share that experience can reconnect the family during a difficult time and really boost the mental health of the child who is in hospital.”

So far, our MediCinema Appeal has raised nearly £200,000 to support the running costs of the cinema for the next two years, and thanks to generous grants from trusts and foundations meaning we have hit our building costs, we are excited that the MediCinema is set to begin showing the latest films for our patients and families in Autumn 2024.



Surgical Neonatal Intensive Care Unit reaches £3 million target

Alder Hey Children’s Charity are delighted to have raised the £3 million for the Surgical Neonatal Appeal to build a Surgical Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Alder Hey. The unit will feature 22 neonatal cots and 18 individual family rooms where parents can be alongside their poorly new-borns whilst they’re receiving expert care.

As the first of its kind in the UK the unit will address a shared concern between Liverpool Women’s and Alder Hey that babies who need specialist surgery currently have to be transferred to Alder Hey to get the specialist surgical care they need and are then transferred back to Liverpool Women’s Hospital to continue their specialist neonatal care, sometimes several times.

The £3 million raised from the Appeal will help Alder Hey Children’s Charity to provide ‘over and above’ enhancements and equipment for both the clinical space and family areas, elevating the new Surgical NICU from a facility that provides families with a safe and secure environment for their new-borns, to a truly world-class facility.



Theo’s Story

When Theo was born, he was diagnosed with sepsis and moved to intensive care, where he was found to have two inguinal hernias and was transferred to Alder Hey for a specialist procedure.



His second operation was successful, and Theo soon made a full recovery and was able to go back home very soon afterwards.

Theo was born prematurely at 27 weeks old at Wrexham Maelor Hospital in July 2022. Theo was subsequently diagnosed with sepsis and started deteriorating very quickly. He was moved to the intensive care unit and put on a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machine, which eased his difficulties breathing. Theo was then found to have two inguinal hernias that needed to be operated on. He was transferred to Alder Hey a few days later for an operation to fix his hernia, followed by a second operation after a few weeks. Theo was needed to be transferred to Alder Hey as these operations can only be done in a specialised children’s hospital with full paediatric surgery facilities such as Alder Hey.

Theo’s mum Julia said: “Theo now has to wear a bone conduction hearing aid as he has mild hearing loss, but since he has had the hearing aid, he has come on really well. He started walking two days after having it as well as starting to say a few simple few words which is amazing after everything he has been through. He is going to be two in July and takes everything in his stride – he’s such a star!”

Theo was the star of our partner campaign alongside B&M and P&G, in which thanks to the generosity of both B&M and P&G, 5p from every eligible P&G pack across the health & beauty and cleaning ranges went directly to Alder Hey Children’s Charity to support our Surgical Neonatal Appeal. Thanks to the incredible support of our partners and donors, the building work for the NICU is well underway and is set to begin making a difference for families at Alder Hey in 2025.

Philanthropy

In 2023/24 we received over £2 million in philanthropic donations from individuals, charitable trusts, foundations and grant makers, supporting the development of our hospital campus, innovation, research and education, specialist equipment and creating magic for our brave young patients and their families.

In October 2023 we hosted our spectacular Gala Ball in partnership with LFC Foundation at Liverpool Cathedral. The event raised over £950,000 and included an incredible pledge from a long term supporter of the charity which closed our £3 million Surgical Neonatal Appeal. This appeal has received generous support from philanthropic funders and donors, these gifts will benefit families for years to come when the new unit opens in 2025.

We were delighted to receive a Culture Liverpool Euro Grant which funded an Arts for Health music project to celebrate Eurovision being held in the city. Philanthropic funding has also continued to make possible other projects within our nationally recognised Arts for Health programme. This included our Minds Matter project, which started during Covid, and enables a wonderful team of professional musicians to create music with our children and young people every week who are struggling with their mental health.

We are extremely grateful for the kind support from all of our philanthropy donors and funders. Their generosity enables us to continue delivering impactful projects and activities which change the lives of our children, young people and their families.

During the financial year we received the following restricted funding from Trusts and Grand Makers:

- National Lottery Community Fund - RC North West Region: £26,380 was received for the Calm and Connected post-Covid recovery programme.
- Youth Music: £31,730 was received for the Minds Matter project.
- BBC Children in Need: £19,990 was received for the Framing Our Futures project.
- The Parry Family Charitable Foundation: £10,500 to fund two NAVA modules for our urgent ventilator appeal.
- The Linder Foundation: £12,770 to fund the 'Blooming' music project.
- Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust: £62,800 received towards our Surgical Neonatal appeal
- Culture Liverpool Euro Grant: £2,000 received to fund an Arts for Health project.
- The Peter Harrison Foundation: £30,000 to fully fund the Alder Active project.

Our impact on children:



Edie's Story

Edie first came to Alder Hey when she was diagnosed with hip dysplasia, a condition most commonly found in babies and young children, where the "ball and socket" joint of the hip does not fully form, leading to partial or complete dislocation of the hip. Edie's condition led to her undergoing a femoral osteotomy, which is a procedure used to correct specific deformities of the femur and hip joint.

Edie has a long history with Alder Hey, having stayed at the hospital multiple times during her treatment journey. She now visits the hospital every year for a regular check-up with her clinician Mr Perry, who is consistently amazed by her progress.

Speaking of her time at Alder Hey, Edie's mum Julie recalled: "All of the staff were amazing, caring, and considerate at the fact that we weren't local. They go above and beyond for every family, and I cannot speak highly enough of them. During Edie's treatment we were also able to stay close on the ward, which was a true blessing for us being able to both be with Edie during her treatment."

Outside of hospital, Edie is an active and talented young girl, with hobbies including art, reading, cooking and drama. She is also

a proficient runner, running for her county and cross-country, and recently came second in her age category for the 800m, as well as an array of other medals.

Edie's determination has led to her having some monumental goals. Edie's mum told us that she would like to "keep achieving in her athletics and progress to county running in her age category, land a leading role in her drama class and become a world star chef." No pressure, Edie!

Edie is an Alder Hey Youth Ambassador, and when asked what motivated her to fundraise for Alder Hey Children's Charity, she told us:

"I believe that many children who have operations effecting their standard abilities should always have a good and better chance of recovery in a warm and welcoming environment, so I wanted to help to raise money to help with this and make a difference for other children like me."



Our impact on children:

10-year-old Henri first arrived at Alder Hey in December 2022. After complaining of a headache, which his mum Carly initially put down to festive excitement, doctors at Henri's local hospital diagnosed him with a viral infection, and after further tests Henri was found to have a subdural empyema on his brain. This is a form of serious brain infection which is most commonly found as a result of chronic sinusitis.

Henri was then rushed to Alder Hey, where he underwent neurosurgery to drain the infection from his brain. During his time in hospital, Henri bravely endured two Craniotomy procedures and one aspiration surgery, before spending time recovering on Ward 4A whilst undergoing a prolonged course of intravenous antibiotics. After 4 weeks, Henri was allowed to be discharged, albeit after missing out on Christmas and New Year celebrations at home. He is still under the care of the neurosurgery department and has regular follow-up appointments with his consultant. Speaking of his experience at Alder Hey, Henri's mum, Carly told us: "The experience Henri received from Alder Hey was nothing less than outstanding. The medical care, the treatment and the aftercare has been beyond amazing. Alder Hey deserve so much thanks and I cannot thank all the staff enough for what they have done for us as a family. From the consultants to the cleaners, everybody is amazing."



Henri's Story



Outside of hospital, Henri's main interests revolve around football. He trains three nights a week and plays matches on both Saturdays and Sundays for two different teams. If he isn't playing football, he can usually be found collecting football cards & stickers and also playing football on his PlayStation. Unsurprisingly, Henri's ambitions and passion for the future involve playing football, while his family are more concerned with wrapping him in cotton wool and hoping he protects his head as much as possible.

Carly told us that as an Alder Hey Youth Ambassador, Henri and his family's motivation for fundraising stems from them



“ Wanting to give something back to the most amazing hospital who gave us our son back in full health so we can enjoy watching him grow up with no lasting damage. ”

Henri told us that he feels honoured to be an ambassador for Alder Hey, and that he is always looking ahead to making future plans to keep fundraising.

Pioneering research for healthier futures

Micah was born with a congenital condition called Hirschsprung's disease. This is a rare bowel condition which affects roughly 1 in every 5000 children. This meant that when Micah was in the womb, the nerves in his bowels stopped developing, which left him with a section of lower bowel that didn't function.

As a result, Micah's bowel became blocked shortly after his birth. He was transferred to Alder Hey neonatal unit and at just 48 hours old he was taken to theatre to have the blockage removed and an ileostomy formed to enable his bowel to empty. An ileostomy is where the small bowel is diverted through a hole in the stomach.

Micah and his family spent a further two weeks in the neonatal unit with a team of nurses caring for him, as well as teaching the family about all things ileostomy care and what to look out for with Micah's condition. At just 8 weeks old, Micah had the part of his bowel without nerves removed and joined back together.

Micah has been in and out of Alder Hey for numerous procedures and hospital stays due to his condition, but he is now a happy and thriving little boy!

Micah's mum, Kayleigh said: "He is doing so well and is such a cheeky little chappy. Alder Hey has become a big part of our lives and we cannot thank each member of staff enough for all they do for Micah and all the children and families they care for. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful hospital on our doorstep!"

We invest in people to drive forward key areas of research excellence at Alder Hey, as donations help to support patients at Alder Hey, but also helps to make the future brighter for children and young people around the world. This year, donations have supported research into the effect of radiation therapy treatments, as well as developing novel cell-based therapies for



Hirschsprung's disease. Television star, writer, broadcaster and Alder Hey Charity Champion Denise Welch visited Alder Hey with her son Louis, who was cared for at the hospital as a baby for Hirschsprung's disease, where she saw the impact that our charity-funded research is having on children and young people at the hospital and met with the nursing team who cared for Louis over 20 years ago! Speaking on Louis' Hirschsprung's journey, Denise said "Before 1948 he wouldn't have survived. Thankfully Louis was treated at such a wonderful hospital where they saved his life with surgery at age 6 weeks. At 20 weeks he had another operation, the brilliant team operated for 5 hours and the care he received by the surgical and the neo-natal teams is something that I will never ever forget."



“ He is doing so well and is such a cheeky little chappy. Alder Hey has become a big part of our lives and we cannot thank each member of staff enough for all they do for Micah and all the children and families they care for. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful hospital on our doorstep! ”

– Micah's Mum, Kayleigh

Our shops, our communities

Alder Hey Promotions is a wholly owned subsidiary of the charity, which gifts back all profits to the charity. In turn the charity is committed to supporting the organisation. The company continued to operate two charity shops, in Old Swan and Huyton, throughout the year. In the year to 31st March 2024, the company achieved income of £962,000, an increase of 20% compared to the previous year and an operating profit of £571,000 for the financial year.

Thanks to the generosity of supporters choosing to Gift Aid their donations through our charity shops, we were able to claim £22,706 to support children and young people at Alder Hey.

We wouldn't be able to run our charity shops without our amazing volunteers who turn up to support us with sorting donations, serving customers and delivering furniture on our van. We are truly grateful for everything that you do to support us and make our shops a wonderful place to be.



“ Thank you so much to all the incredible supporters who have offered donations to both our Huyton and Old Swan charity shops, we are all so thankful for your generous support. I would also like to thank our amazing volunteers in both shops for everything they do in keeping our shops running on a day-to-day basis, you are all the beating heart of our retail team! ”

– Amy Atherton,
Retail Manager

Gift Aid

Gift Aid provide a great opportunity for donors to increase the value of their donation to our charity. Provided the donor is a taxpayer, our charity can claim the basic rate income tax paid on the gift aid. This increases donations by approximately 25% so a gift of £10 is worth £12.50 to our charity. During 23/24 we were able to, once again, claim a significant amount through the scheme thanks to our donor's generosity.



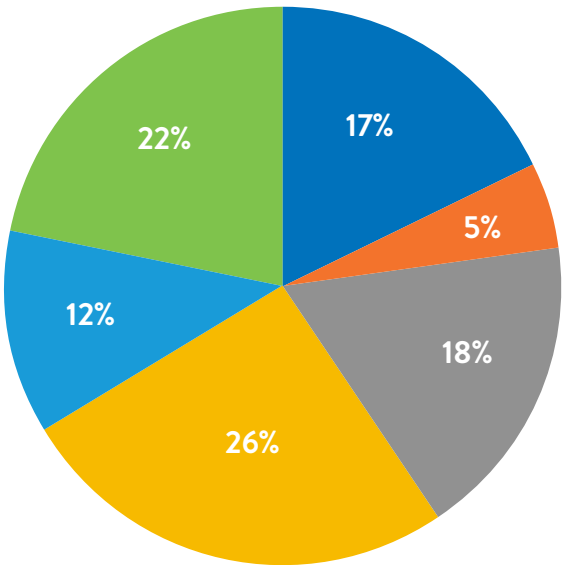
Financial Review

Thanks to our supporters an amazing £8.35 million of income has been raised during the year. We are hugely grateful to the individuals who have given £2.16 million collectively, to our corporate supporters who have provided over £1 million, to the Trusts and Foundations, who have provided £734,000 in grant funding, and to everyone who has supported us through playing the lottery or purchasing items from our shops, including as part of our Matalan pyjama campaign to provide a further £1.7 million. This has resulted in the Charity being able to provide £4.7 million in funding, with over £3 million being raised for the Neonatal Surgical Unit.

Below is the split of income generated in the year (including gifts in kind) and the charitable expenditure on grant funding split by the five funding pillars.

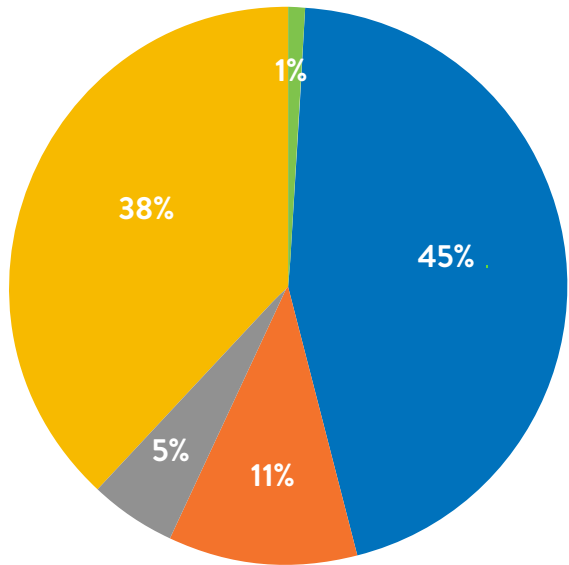


Income Areas



- Alder Hey Promotions & Lottery
- Other Income
- Community
- Philanthropy
- Corporate Partnerships (incl. gifts in kind)
- Individual Giving

Charitable Expenditure



- Magic
- Research & Innovation
- Equipment
- Campus & Community
- Advocacy

Reserves Policy

The objective of the reserves policy is to ensure the Charity has sufficient funds available to honour its commitments and continue to deliver its business plan. The Trustees have formally adopted a reserves policy to hold a minimum of six months operating costs and emergency funding, with an aspiration to hold 12 months where this does not impact on immediate funding requirements. Operating costs have been calculated including wages and core running costs (e.g. heating, lighting, insurance). Emergency funding has been calculated using the requirements faced during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. On this basis, for 2023/24, operating costs and emergency funding amounted to £2 million for six months and £3.9 million for 12 months.

Apart from this reserve, all funds which have not been committed to a specific project are available to be spent in furtherance of the charity’s objectives. At the 31st March 2024 total unrestricted, undesignated free reserves within the Charity were £5 million.

The total value of the restricted funds at the end of the year was £3.3 million.



Risk to performance

We demonstrated a robust approach to contingency planning throughout the pandemic and ability to adapt to challenges and take advantage of new opportunities. We ensure we are regularly reviewing internal and external risks and monitor trends and threats. Our risk register is updated and reviewed quarterly by our Finance, Audit and Risk Committee who report back to the Trustee Board.

The top three risks to the organisation are currently:

- Cost of living & political landscape leading to a risk of decreased fundraised income.
- Delay to Capital Campaigns resulting in delayed impact of funding and a potential decrease in future fundraising opportunities.
- Increased competition for funding across the sector leading to a risk of decreased fundraised income.

Governance Structure and Management

Alder Hey Children’s Charity was originally established in July 1995 by a Trust Deed and two further supplemental Deeds, the first reflecting the change of status from Corporate Trustee in May 2011 to appointment of individual Independent Trustees and the second in June 2012 reflecting the change of name of the Charity. On 1st April 2015, Alder Hey Children’s Charity became an independent charity (registration number 1160661) and company limited by guarantee (company no 09389239).

Alder Hey Children’s Charity has a Board of independent Trustees; it is governed by its Standing Orders and can have up to thirteen Trustees on its Board. In the year ended 31 March 2024 and to the date of this report the following people served as Trustees:

Graham Morris OBE (Chair)	Appointed 27th March 2019
Eileen Jones (Vice Chair)	Resigned 6th December 2023
Kirsty Muir (Co Vice Chair and Chair of Finance, Audit & Risk Committee)	Appointed 7th February 2019
Rick Turnock (Co Vice Chair and Chair of Charitable Spending Committee)	Appointed 27th January 2021
John Carson (Chair of HR Committee)	Appointed 14th January 2015
Paul Bibby (Chair of the Alder Hey Promotions Ltd. Board)	Appointed 6th February 2019
Sarah Robinson (Board Safeguarding Lead)	Appointed 14th February 2019
Dame Jo Williams (Non independent member: Chair & Non-Executive Director, Alder Hey Children’s Foundation Trust)	Appointed 1st November 2017
Shalni Arora (Non independent member: Non-Executive Director, Alder Hey Children’s Foundation Trust)	Resigned 1st June 2023
Glynis Johnston	Resigned 6th December 2023
Jacqui Barker	Appointed 1st June 2023
Ryan Wain	Appointed 1st June 2023
Lydia Barker	Appointed 1st June 2023 (Resigned 23rd October 2023)
Hil Berg	Appointed 24th January 2024
Preeti Kankonkar	Appointed 2nd October 2024



At all times the Board of Trustees remains independent of the Foundation Trust to ensure it remains focused on the charity's purpose as required under Charity law. This is achieved by ensuring the balance of independent Trustees and those with an NHS link is maintained. The Foundation Trust has the right to appoint up to two of its non-executive directors as Trustees of the Charity.

The Trustees consider that it operates a balanced, complete and unified Board with particular emphasis on achieving the optimum balance of appropriate skills and experience; this is reviewed whenever any vacancy arises to ensure that a broad range of skills and expertise is available to the charity.

The Trustees are required to:

- Ensure an adequate system of internal control is in place, continually reviewed and updated as appropriate.
- Ensure all operations are undertaken within the Standing Orders laid down by the Board and in accordance with Charity Commission guidelines, charity law, other relevant statute and regulations, and best practice.
- Uphold current generally held principles of good governance, value for money and probity of transactions at all times.

Trustees have adopted the Charity Governance Code to ensure they are following good governance practices and they adhere to the Nolan Seven Principles of Public Life. Each year trustees review their own performance with the Chair of the Board and each trustee provides anonymous feedback on the performance of the Chair, ensuring all trustees are accountable within their role.



New trustees are given an induction pack explaining the duties of a trustee and the role of the Board. A comprehensive trustee induction programme provides new trustees with full knowledge of the charity's vision and strategy prior to their first Board meeting.

To aid decision-making the Trustees established four sub-committees to the main Board as follows:

- Finance, Audit and Risk Committee
- Charitable Spending Committee
- HR Committee
- Nominations Committee

The terms of reference to each committee have been agreed by the Trustees. Each sub-committee is Chaired by a Trustee and includes at least one other Trustee in its membership:

The purpose of the **Finance, Audit and Risk Committee** is to support the Board of Trustees in ensuring that the strategic objectives of the charity are met, particularly with reference to effective operational and financial planning, reporting and management, risk management policy setting, and implementation of effective governance procedures. The name of the Committee was changed in-year to better reflect its remit.

The purpose of the **Charitable Spending Committee** is to oversee the charitable expenditure of the Alder Hey Children's Charity in accordance with the vision and values of the organisation it supports (Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust) and with the charity's stated and charitable purposes. Within its approval procedures, the Committee is provided with a breakdown of spending trends at least four times per annum. The Trustees remain accountable for all the funds and adhere to Charity Commission guidelines, laws, other statute, regulations, generally accepted best practice and appropriate protocols. The Committee ensures that donations go to fund items that would not be funded by the NHS.

The purpose of the **HR Committee** is to oversee the processes that have been put in place to ensure continued staff wellbeing and development, to encourage staff retention and ensure that fair and equitable remuneration policies and practices are in place.

The purpose of the **Nominations Committee** is to lead on ensuring formal, rigorous, and transparent procedure are in place to appoint new Trustees to the board, which includes advertising vacancies widely; and to evaluate the appropriateness of new Celebrity Charity Champions escalated by the CEO where required in-line with the Terms of Reference.

There is also an additional ad-hoc **Ethics Panel**, the purpose of which is to assess, when called upon by the charity CEO, to what extent a potential partner, fundraising activity or donation could have a negative reputational impact on either Alder Hey Children's Charity or Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust. The Ethics Panel, in consultation with key stakeholders where appropriate, would consider when necessary, whether the partnership,



fundraising, activity, or donation in question could be detrimental to the charity's mission, the charity's and/or the hospital's brand, existing partners, funders/donors, and key stakeholders.

The Board of Trustees receives the minutes and feedback from the committees at each Board meeting and an annual report is received by the Board on the work undertaken by the committees.

The Trustees have a legal obligation to act in the best interests of the charity in accordance with the charity's governing documents. The staff of the charity have the same obligation. Conflicts of interest may arise where an individual's or a related party's business, personal or family interests and/or loyalties conflict with those of the charity. All Trustees declare their interests in writing each year. In addition, all Trustees are asked to declare any conflicts of interest prior to the commencement of each Board. See note 16 for related party transactions.

Registered Office

The registered address of the charity is:
Alder Hey Children's Charity
Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust
Eaton Road
Liverpool
L12 2AP

Principal Professional Advisors

Bankers

NatWest
Liverpool City Office
2-8 Church Street
Liverpool
L1 3BG

Auditors

Bennett Brooks & Co Ltd
St. George's Court
Winnington Avenue
Northwich
Cheshire
CW8 4EE

Investment Fund Managers

Rathbones Investment Management Ltd.
Port of Liverpool Building
Pier Head
Liverpool
L3 1NW

Public Benefit

The Trustees have a duty to comply with Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission’s general guidance on public benefit. The trustees confirm that it has fulfilled the public benefit requirement and that this requirement is strongly embedded within the procedures for approving grants and spending plans.

The Trustees ensure that all grants and spending plans contain clear identifiable public benefits, which meet the objectives of the charity in supporting any NHS charitable purpose relating to Alder Hey Children’s NHS Foundation Trust. This is achieved by the Trustees keeping spending plans under review throughout the year.

The charity’s aims and its public benefit requirements are undertaken through a range of programmes, as identified in the Activities section, supported by charitable funds provided by our generous donors. Services are provided free to patients in accordance with the objects of the charity and there are no unreasonable restrictions. The trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.



Investments

Over the 12 months to the 31st March 2024, global equities rose 23.1% with UK equities also providing positive returns of 8.4%, while gilts remained flat. For Alternatives, the HFRI index was up 11.0% over the year, while gilt markets had nil growth over the same period.

Over the same period, Alder Hey’s portfolio returned 10.0%, outperforming the tailored benchmark (9.6%). The portfolio continues to also outperform over the longer term and is ahead of benchmark over 5 years.

From an asset allocation perspective, the main positive drivers were outperformance in the fixed interest & equity elements and an overweight allocation to overseas equities.

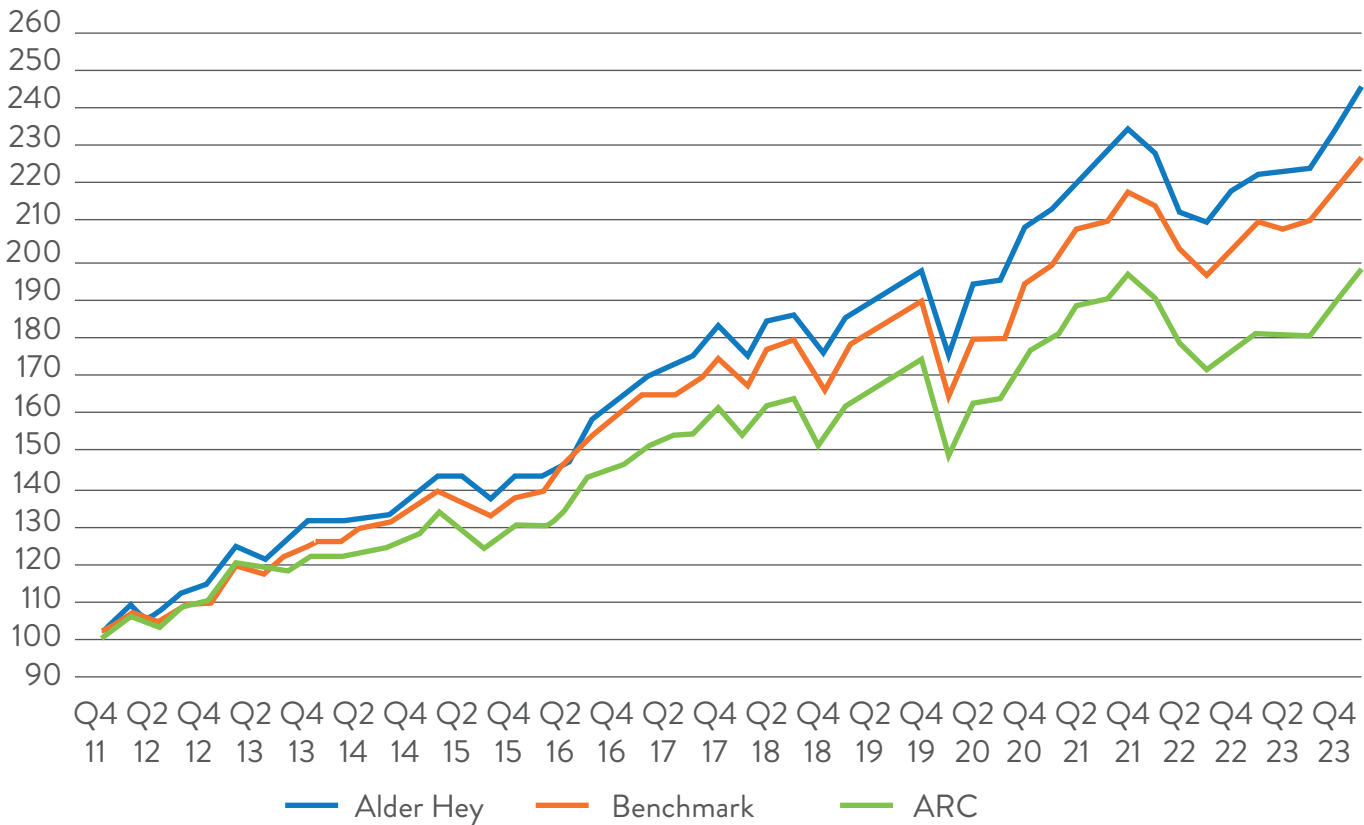
The main negatives were the underweight position in the ‘Magnificent 7’ technology stocks and the infrastructure performance.

Regarding the stock and sector selection, the positive drivers were the stock selection in Japan and strong performance in technology, together with stocks such as Palo Alto Networks, Alphabet, Nvidia, Shell and JP Morgan Japan fund.

The main negative contributors to performance were the underweight position in consumer discretionary goods and the mix in mining & media stocks together with individual stocks including Anglo American, Yum China, Reckitt Benckiser and Prudential.

At the time of writing the portfolio is ahead of benchmark since 31st March 2024.

Performance 31 December 2011 to 31 March 2024



Charity Personnel

Key management personnel for the charity are:

- Chief Executive: responsible for setting the charity’s business plan and fundraising strategy and day-to-day running of the charity.
- Chief Operating Officer: responsible for the oversight of the People Strategy, Finance, Risk and Governance operations of the charity, Grant Giving Strategy, as well as the oversight of Digital and Data.
- Head of Philanthropy: responsible for strategic development of Trust & Foundation fundraising and for philanthropic giving.
- Head of Corporate Partnerships: responsible for the strategic development of corporate fundraising and identification and development of key strategic corporate partners
- Head of Community Fundraising, Individual Giving & Legacy: responsible for the strategic development of community and events fundraising, Individual Giving and Legacy.
- Head of Marketing and Communications: responsible for setting the marketing and stewardship strategy for the Charity, alongside using our voice for advocacy of children and young people.
- Head of Operations, People & Retail: responsible for the strategic development of the People function, operations and stewardship within the charity, along with oversight of our charity shops. This is a new position that commenced in June 2024.
- Head of Grants & Impact: overseeing the gifting of charitable funds to the Trust and the processes used to measure the impact of this. This is a new position that commenced in June 2024.





A BIG THANK YOU

The success of the charity cannot be achieved without the continuing support and very generous financial contributions received from the public. The Trustees and staff of the charity are acutely aware of this, are extremely grateful and would like to thank each person who has donated their time, money or other services to the charity, which has been particularly vital in such a difficult year for everyone. On behalf of the patients and their families, who benefit so greatly from this support, the Trust and all its employees, and all here at the charity, we would like to thank you now and in anticipation of your continued support of the charity during the forthcoming year.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Alder Hey Children's Charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law, the Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK", and applicable law (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Under company law, the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company, the group, the incoming resources, and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable group for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards, comprising FRS 102, have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and the group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence

for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

As far as the Trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware; and
- the Trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The confirmation is given and should be interpreted with the provisions of section 418 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial information may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Signed on behalf of the Trustees:

Graham J Morris

Date: 13 / 12 / 2024

Graham Morris OBE
Chair of Trustees

Company no. 09389239
Charity no. 1160661

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Trustees of Alder Hey Children’s Charity

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Alder Hey Children’s Charity (the ‘charitable company’ or the “charity”) and its subsidiary (the ”group”) for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities, the Consolidated Group and Charity Balance Sheet, the Consolidated Cash Flow Statement and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including a summary of 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 group and charitable company’s affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of the group’s 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 Companies Act 2006.

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 group and 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 Trustee’s use of the going concern basis of accounting on 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 group and 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 trustees are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our Report of the Independent Auditors thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, 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 audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. 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.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of Alder Hey Children’s Charity

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Report of the Trustees which includes the Strategic Report and the Directors’ Report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the Strategic Report and the Directors’ Report included within the Report of the Trustees has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the group and charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Report of the Trustees.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the charitable company; 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 trustees’ 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 Statement of Trustees Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) 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 group and charitable company’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 charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Our 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 a Report of the Independent Auditors 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.

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 Report of the Independent Auditors.

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.

Report of the Independent Auditors to the Members of Alder Hey Children's Charity

Our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements (continued)

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks applicable to the group and charitable company, and the sector in which it operates, and determined which of these frameworks may influence the financial statements. Given the nature of its operating activities, the group and parent charitable company is subject to several laws and regulations where the consequences of non-compliance could have a material effect on the amounts or disclosures in the financial statements. Based on our understanding of the group and charitable company and sector, we identified the following laws and regulations are the most significant which are directly relevant to specific assertions in the financial statements:

- Those that relate to reporting frameworks, being FRS102 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP(FRS102)) and the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006 and the relevant UK tax compliance legislation and regulations,
- Those that relate to the operational activities of the group and charitable company, including Health and Safety requirements and data protection practices.

We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks were related to posting inappropriate journal entries to increase income, through management bias in manipulation of accounting estimates or accounting for significant transactions outside the normal course of charitable operations. Audit procedures performed included:

- Enquiry of management around actual and potential litigation and claims and instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, testing accounting estimates (because of the risk of management bias),

- and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of charitable operations;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and agreeing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and
- Review of trustee meeting minutes.

There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above. We are less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations that are not closely related to events and transactions reflected in the financial statements. Also, the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion. No matters relating to non-compliance with laws and regulations or relating to fraud were identified in relation to the above-mentioned laws and regulations that were identified by us as most significant.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. 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 auditors' 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.

Signed:



Date:

13 / 12 / 2024

**Jason Leach FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
for and on behalf of Bennett Brooks & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditors**

St George's Court, Winnington Avenue,
Northwich, CW8 4EE



Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

(Incorporating an income and expenditure account)

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds Year Ended 31.03.2024	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds Year Ended 31.03.2024
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income							
Donations and legacies	4	2,848	2,163	5,011	2,685	2,772	5,457
Income from charitable activities	4	1,839	146	1,985	1,680	157	1,837
Income from other trading activities	4	953	-	953	792	-	792
Investment income	3	401	-	401	198	-	198
Total income		6,041	2,309	8,350	5,355	2,929	8,284
Expenditure							
Cost of raising funds		2,617	-	2,617	1,873	-	1,873
Expenditure on charitable activities	6	2,995	2,488	5,483	3,667	2,507	6,174
Total expenditure		5,612	2,488	8,100	5,540	2,507	8,047
Realised and unrealised gain/(loss) on investments	9	348	-	348	(235)	-	(235)
Net income/(expenditure)		777	(179)	598	(420)	422	2
Net movement on funds		777	(179)	598	(420)	422	2
Total funds brought forward		4,274	3,476	7,750	4,694	3,054	7,748
Total funds carried forward		5,051	3,297	8,348	4,274	3,476	7,750

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year.
All income and expenditure derives from continuing activities.

Consolidated Group and Charity Balance Sheets at 31 March 2024

	Note	Group 2024	Charity 2024	Group 2023	Charity 2023
		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed Assets					
Tangible fixed assets	8	33	-	38	-
Investments	9	12,104	12,104	9,945	9,945
Total fixed assets		12,137	12,104	9,983	9,945
Current assets					
Stock	10	34	-	36	-
Debtors	11	947	1,162	942	1,118
Cash at bank and in hand	12	2,259	2,050	1,470	1,296
Total current assets		3,240	3,212	2,448	2,414
Liabilities					
Creditors falling due within one year	13	(7,029)	(6,968)	(4,681)	(4,609)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		(3,789)	(3,756)	(2,233)	(2,195)
Total assets less current liabilities		8,348	8,348	7,750	7,750
Net assets		8,348	8,348	7,750	7,750
Funds					
Unrestricted income funds	14	5,051	5,051	4,274	4,274
Restricted income funds	14	3,297	3,297	3,476	3,476
Total Funds		8,348	8,348	7,750	7,750

These Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 12 December

2024. Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors:

Graham Morris OBE
Chair of Trustees

Graham J Morris

13 / 12 / 2024

Consolidated cash flow statement for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Year Ended 31 March 2024 £'000	Year Ended 31 March 2023 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities		2,199	(359)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends and interest from investments	3	401	198
Payments to acquire investments/deposits	9	(2,857)	(3,233)
Receipts from sales of investments/withdrawals	9	1,046	1,905
Net cash provided by investing activities		(1,410)	(1,130)
Increase/(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		789	(1,489)
Cash and cash equivalents at the start of the year		1,470	2,959
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		2,259	1,470
Reconciliation of net income to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net income for the reporting year (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)		598	2
Adjustments for:			
Dividends and interest on investments		(401)	(198)
(Gains) / losses on investments		(348)	235
Depreciation		5	5
(Increase)/decrease in stock		2	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(5)	(321)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		2,348	(82)
Net cash provided/ (used in) by operating activities		2,199	(359)
Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Bank current accounts		292	232
Bank deposit accounts		1,967	1,238
Total cash and cash equivalents		2,259	1,470

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting Policies

a. Accounts preparation

The Charity is a public benefit entity and the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019) – (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Companies Act 2006.

Alder Hey Children's Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historic cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note. The financial statements have been prepared in Pound Sterling as this is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the company operates.

b. Group financial statements

The financial statements consolidate the results of the Charity and its wholly owned subsidiary, Alder Hey Promotions Limited, on a line-by-line basis. Alder Hey Promotions Limited is registered in England and Wales and its registered company number is 08019977. All intra-group transactions, balances, income and expenditure are eliminated on consolidation. A separate Statement of Financial Activities and Income and Expenditure Account for the charity has not been presented because the charity has taken advantage of the exemption afforded by section 408 of the Companies Act 2006.

c. Funds structure

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor. Unrestricted funds are those funds which the Trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objectives. Unrestricted funds include designated funds, where the donor has made known their non-binding wishes

or where the Trustees, at their discretion, have created a fund earmarked for a specific purpose.

d. Going concern

After making enquiries and considering the levels of investment and cash reserves and current risks, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that Alder Hey Children's Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the Trustees have adopted the going concern basis in preparing the accounts.

e. Income

Income is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

- General donations, donations from fundraising events, corporate and philanthropy income and direct marketing income are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when entitled, receipt is probable and when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. Income received in advance is deferred where appropriate. Gift Aid receivable is included when claimable.
- Income from legacies is recognised when receipt is considered probable, which is when the amount can be measured reliably, and the Charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the Charity or the Charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.
- Income from Government and other grants, whether "capital" grants or "revenue" grants, is recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount can be measured reliably.

- iv. Goods and services donated to the Charity are recognised as both income and expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities at their estimated market value.
- v. Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes dividends, interest, and rent. Where it is not practicable to identify investment management costs incurred within a scheme with reasonable accuracy, the investment income is reported net of these costs. It is included when the net amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method and dividend and rent income is recognised as the Charity's right to receive payment is established.
- vi. Sales of goods are recognised when the significant risks and rewards of the goods have transferred to the buyer and the amount of income can be measured reliably. Income is recorded net of returns, discounts and value added taxes.

f. Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- i. The costs of raising funds are the costs associated with generating income for the charity, including the costs of managing the investments.
- ii. Expenditure on charitable activities is expenditure incurred on the provision of services or goods. A grant is any payment which is made voluntarily to any institution or to an individual in order to further the Charity's objectives, without receiving goods or services in return.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

g. Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses. Depreciation is calculated to

write down the cost less estimated residual value of all tangible assets using the straight-line method.

The rates applicable are:

Leasehold Improvements - Over the period of the lease

h. Investment fixed assets

Stocks and shares are included in the balance sheet at market value. Listed investments are included in the Balance Sheet at fair value, which is their market closing price on the current or previous trading day.

i. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks.

j. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount net of any discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any discounts due.

k. Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the Charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any discounts due.

l. Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments, with the exception of investments, are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

m. Foreign currency transactions

All expenditure and income arising from transactions denominated in a foreign currency are translated into sterling at the exchange rate in operation on the date on which the transactions occurred.

n. Allocation of overhead and support costs

Overhead and support costs have been allocated as a direct cost or apportioned on an appropriate basis between charitable activities and governance costs. The support costs relating to charitable activities and the governance costs have been apportioned to individual funds.

o. Tax

The company is a registered charity and as such is exempt in respect of certain types of income from income tax, corporation tax, and capital gains tax under the provisions of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992.

p. Pensions

All Charity employees are eligible to join the Charity's People's Pension scheme, which is a defined contribution arrangement. The Charity's contribution is 3% and the employee has to make at least an equal contribution. The cost of this is charged to the profit and loss account.

NHS employees working on behalf of the Charity are entitled to join the NHS Pensions Scheme which is a multi-employer defined benefit scheme administered for the benefit of NHS employees, General Practices and other bodies allowed under the direction of the Secretary of State. Past and present employees are covered by the provision of the NHS Pension Scheme, details of which are available from the NHS Pension Agency at www.nhs.pa.gov.uk.

The cost of employer pension contributions to the NHS Pension Scheme is charged to the Statement of Financial Activities. The Charity has no liability under the NHS defined benefit pension scheme.

q. Stock

Stock is valued at the lower of purchase cost and net realisable value.

r. Presentation

The figures in the accounts are rounded to the nearest one thousand pounds.



s. Joint venture

Joint ventures are accounted for under the equity method of accounting, whereby the Charity's share of the net income or net expenditure of the joint venture are disclosed as a single item in the Statement of Financial Activities and the Charity's share of the net assets is recognised in the balance sheet.

t. Judgements and estimates

In applying the Charity's accounting policies, the Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions in determining the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities, which are based on the best and most reliable evidence available at the time when the decisions are made and on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be applicable. Due to the inherent subjectivity involved in making such judgements, estimates and assumptions, the actual results and outcomes may differ. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised, if the revision only affects that period, or in the period of revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods. The items in the financial statements where judgements and estimates would be required include gifts in kind, where an estimate of the value of a gift to the Charity is made by reference to current market values, and investments, where judgement is required in deciding whether there is any impairment in value. In assessing whether there have been any indicators of impairment in relation to assets, the Trustees have considered both external and internal sources of information and there have been no indicators of impairment identified during the current financial period.

2. Financial activities of the Charity

The financial activities shown in the consolidated statement include those of the Charity's wholly owned subsidiary, Alder Hey Promotions Limited. A summary of the financial activities undertaken by the Charity and its subsidiary is set out above.

Charity

	Year Ended 31 March 2024	Year Ended 31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Gross incoming resources	7,959	7,936
Cost of raising funds	(2,226)	(1,523)
Cost of charitable activities	(5,483)	(6,175)
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	250	238
Realised and unrealised gains/(losses) on investments	348	(236)
Total funds brought forward	7,750	7,748
Total funds carried forward	8,348	7,750
Represented by:		
Restricted income funds	3,297	3,476
Unrestricted income funds	5,051	4,274
	8,348	7,750

Subsidiary

	Year Ended 31 March 2024	Year Ended 31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Turnover	962	805
Operating costs	(391)	(349)
Operating profit	571	456

3. Investment Income

	Year Ended 31 March 2024	Year Ended 31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000
Interest	308	93
Dividends	93	105
Total	401	198

Dividends are received for all stocks and shares in beneficial ownership of the Charity and are shown after recover of tax. Interest is recorded for all bank accounts and short-term deposits made by the Charity.

4. Analysis of Group Income

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Year Ended 31.03.2024	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total Funds Year Ended 31.03.2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Donations and legacies						
Donations from individuals	1,050	1,110	2,160	513	775	1,288
Corporate donations	554	248	802	224	334	558
Donations from groups & associations	225	50	275	145	45	190
Donations in memoriam	86	28	114	102	45	147
Grant income	9	725	734	38	1,452	1,490
Legacies	776	2	778	1,270	121	1,391
Gifts in kind	148	-	148	393	-	393
Total donations and legacies	2,848	2,163	5,011	2,685	2,772	5,457
Income from charitable activities:						
Fundraising events	1,009	146	1,155	920	157	1,077
Lottery	830	-	830	760	-	760
Total income from charitable activities	1,839	146	1,985	1,680	157	1,837
Income from other trading activities:						
Sale of promotional items	953	-	953	792	-	792
Total income from other trading activities	953	-	953	792	-	792



5. Allocation of Management and Overhead Costs

The costs of administering the Charity have been identified and apportioned between governance costs and support costs. The figures have been apportioned to the General-Purpose Fund. The governance costs are shown as part of the charitable activities' expenditure.

	Year ended 31 March 2024	Allocated to Governance	Allocated to Support Costs	Year ended 31 March 2023	Allocated to Governance	Allocated to support costs
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Salaries	601	149	452	532	138	394
Bank and service charges	50	-	50	41	-	41
Investment management costs	42	-	42	42	-	42
Trust services	66	-	66	54	-	54
Total	759	149	610	669	138	531

Apportionment of Support Costs

Area of Expenditure	Support Charges	Governance	Investment Management	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Year ended 31 March 2024				
Patient welfare	568	149	42	759
Year ended 31 March 2023				
Total fixed assets	489	138	42	669

Auditors' Remuneration	Year ended 31 March 2024 £'000	Year ended 31 March 2023 £'000
Auditors' remuneration for audit	10	10
Fees payable to auditors for non-audit services	1	1
	11	11

6. Analysis of Charitable Expenditure

	Grant Funding to Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust £'000	Support Costs £'000	Total Year to 31 March 2024 £'000	Grant Funding to Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust £'000	Support Costs £'000	Total Year to 31 March 2023 £'000
Area of expenditure						
Magic (Patient welfare & Other)	1,708	759	2,467	1,996	669	2,665
Research & Innovation	592	-	592	1,279	-	1,279
Equipment	280	-	280	105	-	105
Campus & Community	2,104	-	2,104	2,125	-	2,125
Advocacy	40	-	40	-	-	-
Total	4,724	759	5,483	5,505	669	6,174

7. Analysis of Staff Costs

	Fundraising & Publicity £'000	Support Costs £'000	Governance £'000	Total £'000
Year ended 31 March 2024				
Salaries and Wages	905	401	130	1,436
Social Security Costs	83	35	15	133
Other Pension Costs	24	11	4	39
Total Staff Costs	1,012	447	149	1,608
Average Number of Employees	28	12	2	42
Year Ended 31 March 2023				
Salaries and Wages	784	331	119	1,234
Social Security Costs	69	29	15	113
Other Pension Costs	19	9	4	32
Total Staff Costs	872	369	138	1,379
Average Number of Employees	26	8	2	36



The Charity makes a contribution to the Pension Scheme of 3% of gross salary in respect of all employees.

The Charity directly employed 41 staff during the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (2023:35 staff). 8 members of staff were employed to work within Alder Hey Promotions Ltd. The Charity also made a contribution to Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust for administrative support received from the Foundation Trust, including for the secondment of one members of staff. In August 2020 the Charity implemented a banding structure to enhance transparency with regard to employee remuneration.

No Trustees received emoluments or reimbursed expenses during the period. Charitable donations of £2,000 were received from Trustees during the year (2023: £3,000).

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

Group	2024	2023	
	Leasehold Improvements	Total	Leasehold Improvements
Cost	£'000	£'000	£'000
At 1 April 2023	50	50	50
Additions	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	50	50	50
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	12	12	7
Charge for the year	5	5	5
At 31 March 2024	17	17	12
Net Book Value			
At 31 March 2024	33	33	38
At 31 March 2023	38	38	43

The number of employees whose emoluments as defined for taxation purposes amounted to over £60,000 in the period was as follows:

	2024	2023
£90,000 to £100,000	1	-
£80,000 to £90,000	-	1
£70,000 to £80,000	1	1
£60,000 to £70,000	-	-

Total emoluments paid to key management personnel in the period were £443,000 (2023: £406,000). The roles of the key personnel were as follows: Chief Executive, Head of Corporate Partnerships, Director of Finance & Operations, Head of Community Fundraising, Head of Philanthropy, Head of Marketing & Communications.

9. Investments

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Group		
Investment Portfolio	12,104	9,945
	12,104	9,945
Charity		
Investment Portfolio	12,104	9,945
	12,104	9,945

Investment portfolio (Charity)

£5.2 million of the investment portfolio is managed by Rathbone Investment Management Ltd in accordance with the guidance issued by the Trustees. The rest is held in deposit accounts with either Charity Bank or through the Flagstone investment platform, which allows investment across a number of banking institutions to reduce the risk to the Charity by spreading funds. The movement in the portfolio can be analysed as follows (below):

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Market Value brought forward	9,945	8,852
Additions at cost/deposits	2,857	3,233
Disposals/withdrawals	(1,046)	(1,905)
Net (loss)/gain on revaluation	348	(235)
Market Value carried forward	12,104	9,945
Historic cost at year end	11,028	9,113

The Market Value can be analysed as follows:

	Held in UK	Held Outside UK	Total at 31.03.2024	Held in UK	Held Outside UK	Total at 31.03.2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
UK Equities	1,036	-	1,036	1,317	-	1,317
Overseas Equities	-	2,229	2,229	-	1,666	1,666
Fixed Interest	977	-	977	772	-	772
Cash held as part of investment portfolio	7,134	-	7,134	5,255	-	5,255
Alternatives	728	-	728	935	-	935
Total	9,875	2,229	12,104	8,279	1,666	9,945

No individual holding exceeded 5% of the value of the portfolio.

Investments in group companies

Alder Hey Promotions Limited

Alder Hey Children’s Charity owns 100% of the share capital of Alder Hey Promotions Ltd, a company incorporated in England & Wales, company registration number 08019977.

The company had a profit after tax of £571,000 (2023: £457,000)

	2024 £'000	2023 £'000
Issued share capital	2	2
Turnover and other operating income	962,526	805,382
Expenditure	390,948	348,517
Total Assets	645,579	606,810
Total Liabilities	645,141	606,372
Shareholders’ Funds	438	438

As part of a joint venture, Alder Hey Promotions Limited has a holding of 490 A Ordinary Shares in The Hardleeyes Limited, a company incorporated in England, company number 9856586. This represents a 49% shareholding in the company. The aggregate share capital and reserves of The Hardleeyes Limited was £1,000. The Hardleeyes Limited has not traded since incorporation.

10. Stock

Stock comprises merchandise for resale. The value of stock held by the group at the balance sheet date was £34,000 (2023: £36,000).

11. Debtors

Debtors in respect of the following are represented in the accounts:

	2024 Group £'000	2024 Charity £'000	2023 Group £'000	2023 Charity £'000
Recoverable Tax & Accrued income	529	1,026	454	972
Other Debtors	418	136	488	146
	947	1,162	942	1,118

There were no debtors falling due over one year.

12. Cash at Bank

Cash held by the Group / Charity can be summarised as:

	2024 Group £'000	2024 Charity £'000	2023 Group £'000	2023 Charity £'000
Bank current and deposit account balances	2,259	2,050	1,470	1,296
	2,259	2,050	1,470	1,296

13. Creditors

The creditor position can be summarised as follows:

Falling due within one year:	2024 Group £'000	2024 Charity £'000	2023 Group £'000	2023 Charity £'000
Taxation and social security costs	86	33	77	27
Amount owed to Alder Hey NHS Trust (recharged)	173	173	124	124
Amount owed to Alder Hey NHS Trust (accrued grant)	6,632	6,632	4,354	4,354
Pension contributions due	11	11	9	9
Other creditors and accruals	127	119	117	95
	7,029	6,968	4,681	4,609



14. Analysis of Funds

Year ended 31 March 2024:

Restricted Funds – Charity and Group

	Balance at 1 April 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains & Losses	Balance 31 March 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fund					
John Lennon Research Fund	156	-	-	-	156
Neonatal Capital Fund	305	1,417	(1,722)	-	-
Projects Fund	1,525	540	(466)	-	1,599
Burns Unit Fund	61	1	(2)	-	60
Leukaemia Research Fund	177	-	-	-	177
Intensive Care Fund	117	4	8	-	129
Oncology Fund	63	29	29	-	121
Cancer Patients Fund	188	-	-	-	188
Neonatal Fund	140	27	(126)	-	41
Neurology/Neurodisability	111	38	(1)	-	148
Cardiac Surgery Fund	178	-	-	-	178
Bereavement Care Fund	70	17	-	-	87
Medical Equipment Fund	64	-	-	-	64
Cardiac Fund	38	25	(11)	-	52
Others	283	211	(197)	-	297
Total	3,476	2,309	2,488	-	3,297

Unrestricted Funds - Group

	Balance at 31 March 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains & Losses	Transfers	Balance 31 March 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Alder Hey General Purpose Fund	4,274	6,041	(5,612)	348	-	5,051
Total	4,274	6,041	(5,612)	348	-	5,051

Unrestricted Funds - Charity

	Balance at 31 March 2023	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains & Losses	Transfers	Balance 31 March 2024
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Alder Hey General Purpose Fund	4,274	5,650	(5,221)	348	-	5,051
Total	4,274	5,650	(5,221)	348	-	5,051

Year ended 31 March 2023:

Restricted Funds – Charity and Group

	Balance at 31 March 2022	Incoming Resources	Resources Expended	Gains & Losses	Balance 31 March 2023
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fund					
John Lennon Research Fund	168	-	(12)	-	156
Neonatal Capital Fund	382	901	(978)	-	305
Projects Fund	808	1,067	(350)	-	1,525
Alder Centre Fund	59	10	(22)	-	47
Burns Unit Fund	61	5	(5)	-	61
Leukaemia Research Fund	172	5	-	-	177
Oncology Fund	166	34	(137)	-	63
Intensive Care Fund	121	2	(6)	-	117
Cancer Patients Fund	71	117	-	-	188
Neonatal Fund	81	63	(4)	-	140
Neurology/Neurodisability	113	48	(50)	-	111
Cardiac Surgery Fund	178	-	-	-	178
Others	674	677	(943)	-	408
	3,054	2,929	(2,507)	-	3,476

Unrestricted Funds - Group

	Balance at 31 March 2022 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains & Losses £'000	Transfers £'000	Balance at 31 March 2023 £'000
Alder Hey General Purpose Fund	3,694	5,355	(4,540)	(235)	-	4,274
Neonatal Capital Designated Fund	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-	-
Total	4,694	5,355	(5,540)	(235)	-	4,274

Unrestricted Funds - Charity

	Balance at 31 March 2022 £'000	Incoming Resources £'000	Resources Expended £'000	Gains & Losses £'000	Transfers £'000	Balance 31 March 2023 £'000
Alder Hey General Purpose Fund	3,694	5,007	(4,192)	(235)	-	4,274
Neonatal Capital Designated Fund	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-	-
Total	4,694	5,007	(5,192)	(235)	-	4,274

15. Net Assets

As at 31 March 2024	Fixed Assets £'000	Current Assets £'000	Current Liabilities £'000	Long Term Liabilities £'000	Net Assets £'000
Charity:					
Unrestricted	6,473	3,212	(4,634)	-	5,051
Restricted	5,631	-	(2,334)	-	3,297
Total	12,104	3,212	(6,968)	-	8,348
Group:					
Unrestricted	6,506	3,240	(4,695)	-	5,051
Restricted	5,631	-	(2,334)	-	3,297
Total	12,137	3,240	(7,029)	-	8,348

As at 31 March 2023	Fixed Assets £'000	Current Assets £'000	Current Liabilities £'000	Long Term Liabilities £'000	Net Assets £'000
Charity:					
Unrestricted	4,449	2,414	(2,589)	-	4,274
Restricted	5,496	-	(2,020)	-	3,476
Total	9,945	2,414	(4,609)	-	7,750
Group:					
Unrestricted	4,487	2,448	(2,661)	-	4,274
Restricted	5,496	-	(2,020)	-	3,476
Total	9,983	2,448	(4,681)	-	7,750

16. Related Party Transactions

Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust staff provide administrative support to the Charity.

During the year the Charity paid £39,960 to BB Partners Advisory Ltd for consultancy services, on terms equivalent to those that prevail in arm's length transactions. A director of that company is the spouse of Ryan Wain, one of the Trustees of the Charity. There were no amounts owing by either party at the year end. No other Trustees or parties related to them have undertaken any transactions with Alder Hey Children's Charity.

The Charity delivers its charitable objectives by making grants to the Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust. The total grants made in the year amounted to £4,724k (2023: £5,505k). The NHS Trust receives the grants after it has incurred the expenditure. At 31 March 2024 the Charity owed the Trust £173k in relation to these transactions (2023: £124k).

17. Subsidiary Company

A subsidiary company, Alder Hey Promotions Limited, company number 08019977, became a fully owned subsidiary of the Charity on 1 April 2015. Its principal activity is to carry out fundraising on behalf of Alder Hey Children's Charity. This company is active and had a profit of £571,578 for the year ended 31 March 2024 and net assets of £438 which have been consolidated into the financial statements of the group. The address of the principal place of business of Alder Hey Promotions Ltd is Alder Hey Children's Charity, Eaton Road, Liverpool, L12 2AP.



18. Post Balance Sheet Event

In July 2024, a mass stabbing at a children’s dance studio in Southport shook the nation when three children lost their lives. A further eight children and two adults were injured, and many more families were significantly impacted by the day’s events. In the days that followed, many JustGiving pages were set up by members of the public, each aiming to support the families and support services affected.

Alder Hey Children’s Charity was named as the chosen charity for one of these appeals, Swifties for Southport which raised £397,942 plus £75,084 in Gift Aid (as of 29th October 2024). Working in collaboration with the Charity Commission, the Fundraising Regulator, the National Emergencies Trust, and the Community Foundation for Merseyside, Sefton Council and Sefton CVS, Alder Hey facilitated the careful and prompt distribution of these funds. Together, we ensured that support reached the families, local schools, and the wider community with additional provision for long-term emotional support also put in place.



19. Neonatal Capital designated fund

Unrestricted funds comprise the Alder Hey General Purpose Fund. The income of the General Purpose Fund can be used for the furtherance of any of the Charity’s objectives and does not carry any additional restrictions. Whilst the Neonatal Capital designated funds has been ring fenced to support the Trust, these funds can be released back into the General Purpose Fund if they are not required by the Trust or the expenditure does not meet the Charity’s objectives.

20. Restricted Funds

The Charity has a specific number of restricted funds which hold donations for the benefit of patients with specific conditions or for specific projects being undertaken by the hospital. The largest of these funds are:

Projects Fund:

This fund is used for specific projects requested by the Alder Hey Children’s NHS Foundation Trust and directly funded by external donors.

The following funds are used to provide funding to individual departments and specialties within the hospital for equipment, training, research and other charitable purposes:

- Projects Fund
- Intensive Care Fund (PICU)
- Oncology Fund
- Neonatal Fund
- Leukaemia Research Fund
- Alder Centre Fund
- Burns Unit Fund
- Cancer Patients Fund
- Neurology/Neuro-disability Fund
- Cardiac Surgery Fund
- John Lennon Research Fund
- Neonatal Capital Fund

The above funds all held balances of over £50,000 at the current or prior year end.

“We invest in people to drive forward key areas of research excellence at Alder Hey...donations help to support patients at Alder Hey but also helps to make the future brighter for children and young people around the world.”





Alder Hey 
CHILDREN'S CHARITY







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