



# Impact Report

April 2021 – March 2022





# Goal One

Improve the patient and visitor experience, enhancing care for patients and the wider community



£12,000 for the establishment of a Great North Children's Hospital Hardship Fund



## ★ Need:

Having a child in hospital is difficult enough without having to worry about the financial impact of their illness. Financial worries can place a huge amount of additional pressure on families at a time when they should be focusing on their child.

## ★ What we did:

Thanks to a £12,000 donation from Amazon Gateshead to our fund, the Great North Children's Hospital Foundation, we have established a Hardship Fund that will offer families at the hospital a helping hand when it is most needed. The fund will be managed by the Trust's Chaplaincy Service who offer a 24-hour service every day and will be able to provide funds very quickly to help families in difficulty pay for vital costs relating to travel, food, and personal care.

## ★ Impact:

It is expected that the £12,000 pot of funding will last for around two years and support around 30 families in need.

Support from the Hardship Fund is offered in a 'light touch', non-overwhelming, unbureaucratic way, in recognition of the fact that the families in question are going through perhaps the most frightening/stressful period of their lives.

Katie Watson, Head of Chaplaincy at the Trust

Our team members really enjoyed meeting some of the Charity members and hearing about the great work the Charity does. We're pleased to support the Charity with this donation and wish them all the best with the new pilot scheme.

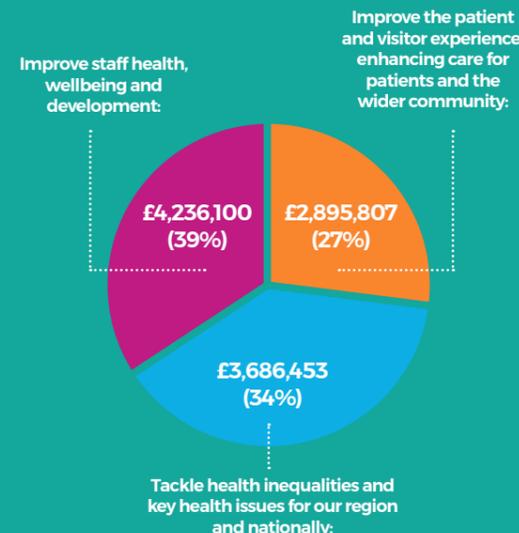
Richard Thompson, General Manager at Amazon in Gateshead

## Welcome

In a year that saw the continued pressures of COVID-19 on the NHS, we are proud to have delivered more grant funding to Newcastle Hospitals than ever before.

During this period, we gave out more than **£10 million in grants** to Newcastle Hospitals and partner organisations. These funds supported invaluable initiatives that ranged from addressing immediate concerns such as the emotional and psychological impact of COVID-19 on hospital staff; to longer-term projects that tackle health inequalities in the region. These were directly linked to the three strategic goals of Newcastle Hospitals Charity strategy to 2025.

Below you can see a breakdown of how we invested these funds into each of our goals





## £74,345 used to buy a machine to prolong the life of donated organs, increasing the number of successful transplantations



### ★ Need:

In 2019/20 in England, 300 patients died whilst awaiting a liver, kidney or pancreas transplant. In the same period, 900 donated organs were rendered unusable because blood flow to the organs ceased long before the organs were removed from the donors.

### ★ What we did:

We supported Newcastle Hospitals to purchase one of the UK's first Abdominal Normothermic Regional Perfusion machines, an innovative piece of equipment that restores circulation to abdominal organs, helping to keep them viable between donor and recipient, leading to an increase in successful organ transplantation and a reduction in complications after surgery. Donated organs are a life-changing gift from the donor, as well as a great generosity from the donor's family. This ANRP machine means that even more donors' final wishes can be honoured.

### ★ Impact:

It is anticipated that having this machine will enable Newcastle Hospitals to undertake an additional 25 liver transplants, four pancreas transplants, and 12 kidney transplants each year, transforming lives.

Having this technology in place will also keep Newcastle at the forefront of healthcare innovation and it is hoped that other Trusts will learn from our experience with the machine, spreading the benefits of this grant across the country and beyond.

**It was exhilarating to hear the news that Newcastle Hospitals Charity had agreed to fund the purchase of an ANRP machine. This will significantly transform the transplant service that we provide, and I look forward to a strong partnership with Newcastle Hospitals Charity to achieve that.**

**Aimen Amer is the Consultant Transplant Surgeon who applied for the grant**



## £19,717 for Occupational Therapy provision within the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Unit



### ★ Background:

The Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Unit is based in the Northern Centre for Cancer Care at the Freeman Hospital. The unit offers experimental cancer drugs to patients whose initial treatment plans have proved unsuccessful.

### ★ Need:

Patients undergoing clinical trials can experience fatigue, breathlessness, neuropathy (nerve damage) and pain, all of which compromise their quality of life and independence. This can also impact their ability to respond well to drugs.

### ★ What we did:

Thanks to this joint grant between our Sir Bobby Robson Foundation and Oncology Clinical Research funds, we have been able to support a specialist occupational therapist (OT) to work in the Centre for two years, to address the issues that can impact the quality of life and frailty of patients undergoing clinical trials.

### ★ Impact:

This will help progress the Trust's ambitions to provide patient-centred, holistic care. Around 300 patients will benefit from the grant over two years.

**We want to make sure our patients' time with us is as comfortable as possible. Sadly, experimental drugs do not always work, so a big part of the OT's role is around symptom management and comfort. That said, the calmer, more energised and happier our patients are, the higher their chances of responding well to the drugs. Thanks to the generosity of the Charity and its donors for helping us deliver this hugely important part of our service.**

**Helen Chambers, Senior Oncology Research Sister at the Unit**



## £3,000 for a LEGO model to assist with Paediatric Radiotherapy



### ★ Need:

Sometimes our smaller grants can make a massive difference to our smallest patients. Procedures can be scary for these young patients, and the team at Newcastle Hospitals are always looking for new ways to help put these young minds at ease and make hospital a less intimidating place.

### ★ What we did:

We made a grant of £3,000 to the Paediatric Radiotherapy Team to spend on a LEGO model of a radiotherapy machine, via The Great North Children's Hospital Foundation Fund. The team are working with local LEGO architects *Brick This* to create a LEGO model of a radiotherapy machine that children can play with before they start their treatment, to get a sense of what to expect. The model is interactive and realistic; the bed moves up and down and it's big enough to fit a Barbie-sized doll on to play the part of the patient.

Radiotherapy can be scary, especially for children, and especially when you see the machine for the first time.

This fab model is going to be so, so helpful in helping us explain to young children how their treatment is going to work, and it also looks cool – like something from Star Wars!

Steve from Brick This has been a joy to work with, and the process of applying for a small grant from Newcastle Hospitals Charity was really straightforward too.

**Bethany Cockburn, a Paediatric Radiotherapy Nurse Specialist who applied for the grant**

# Goal Two

Improve staff health, wellbeing and development



£3,192,246 for the Nursing, Midwifery and AHP (NMAHP) Researcher Development Institute



### ★ Impact:

The aim is that the Institute will support at least 50 NMAHPs over five years, while also creating a lasting change in expectations around what is possible in terms of world-leading research in Newcastle.

### ★ Need:

Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals (NMAHPs) make up a huge proportion of Newcastle Hospitals' workforce. It was identified that there are limited numbers of flexible opportunities for NMAHPs to undertake research alongside their clinical practice, with obstacles including a high level of competition for national research funding and fellowships, as well as NMAHPs being unable to find time away from clinical practice to dedicate to research.

### ★ What we did:

Thanks to this major grant, Newcastle's new NMAHP Researcher Development Institute will support hundreds of staff to turn their research ideas and aspirations into reality. The Institute will fund a range of academic opportunities for NMAHPs and will also address some of the challenges associated with making space for research within busy clinical roles, such as back-filling staff posts when needed.

This incredibly generous grant will help us drive forward our innovative vision to introduce a unique Research Institute, harnessing the potential of our growing research community. Access to targeted support, relevant expertise and dedicated funding, means our NMAHPs can benefit from a truly unique springboard.

**Maurya Cushlow, Executive Chief Nurse at Newcastle Hospitals**



## £342,000 to support Trust staff through the Pandemic



### ★ Need:

Improving the health, wellbeing and morale of Newcastle Hospitals staff is one of the main reasons we exist, and this support has never been more necessary than during the last two unprecedented years. In 2021-22 we made several major grants that helped our staff during COVID-19, both in terms of the illness itself, and the wider effects of the pandemic.

Staff across the Trust have reported increased levels of anxiety relating to a range of factors including the risk of catching COVID, the logistics of enforced and unexpected periods of self-isolation, the struggle to make ends meet, and high levels of workload as staffing levels fluctuate and patient numbers remain high.

### ★ What we did:

Delivered a grant of £64,000 to the Newcastle Occupational Health Service to continue to provide psychological and physiotherapy support to staff who have had COVID-19, to facilitate and support their return to work, helping to manage their post-COVID symptoms and any anxieties they have about returning to work.

We funded a £164,000 grant to facilitate accessible and flexible psychological and practical support to staff within The Great North Children's Hospital and the Trust's Community Services team, to help reduce levels of stress and burnout in these vital teams.

We also allocated £114,000 (£40,000 of which was received from NHS Charities Together), to fund a similar service for the Trust's Critical Care staff.

### ★ Impact:

More than 250 Newcastle Hospitals Staff have benefited from this support.

**Work related ill-health in NHS workers is not a new phenomenon. The pandemic has led to an increased recognition of the importance of health and wellbeing at work, given the additional strain placed on NHS staff.**

**To deliver high quality patient care the NHS needs staff who are healthy, well and at work. Looking after the wellbeing of staff directly contributes to the delivery of quality patient care.**

**Veronica Oliver-Jenkins, who led on the critical care application**



## £59,357 for Helping Hands, a social welfare service for Trust staff



### ★ Need:

The COVID-19 pandemic has been an extremely challenging time for the Trust's 18,000+ staff, with increased workloads and uncertainty affecting almost everyone. When the Chaplaincy team made us aware of an increase in staff expressing concerns about financial worries, we knew we needed to help.

### ★ What we did:

We engaged with Citizens Advice Gateshead and funded a pilot project whereby this well-regarded local charity can support Trust staff with direct access to free, impartial and confidential social welfare advice and information.

### ★ Impact:

The funding means that three experienced Social Welfare Advisers are on hand to support staff with initial advice and referrals to other services. Around 10 members of staff are using the service each month, receiving bespoke advice on a range of issues to do with financial management, access to finance, debt management, and benefits.

**We are so grateful to the Chaplaincy for flagging this as an issue. While they're always on hand to listen and provide a safe space for staff, they recognise that they don't have the capacity or expertise to support staff in negotiating financial challenges, or the landscape of financial support that could be available to them.**

**Working in partnership with the local voluntary sector is a major part of our strategy, and we were delighted when Citizens Advice said they could help us with this vital support to Trust staff.**

**Jon Goodwin, our Head of Grant Programmes**



## £5,000 to provide fresh fruit to staff



### ★ Need:

The Trust's Cancer Services and Clinical Haematology directorate applied to us for £5,000 with which to provide fresh fruit to staff over a period of six months, after their staff expressed that this would be something that would improve their working environment.

### ★ What we did:

The directorate has eight staff rest room areas, and we have funded them to provide a selection of fresh fruit, twice per week to staff. Passion 4 Fruits, who run the fruit and veg stalls at the RVI and the Freeman, are supplying the fruit at an approximate cost of £200 per week.

This grant came about after we asked staff in the directorate about the sorts of things that would improve their working environment and quality of life. One of the things raised was having some fruit available for staff in break areas, without them having to walk to a shop or the fruit and veg stall, or remembering to bring fruit in from home.

Completing the small grant application form was incredibly easy and we will have the scheme up and running pretty quickly after that - people are really looking forward to it!

Cheryl Buchanan, Deputy Directorate Manager

# Goal Three

Tackle health inequalities and key health issues for our region and nationally



£1,567,845 for eight community partnership projects across the North East and North Cumbria



### ★ Need:

As the biggest NHS charity in the region, we successfully led a funding bid to the NHS Charities Together Community Partnerships COVID-19 Response grant programme on behalf of the North East and North Cumbria (NENC) Integrated Care System (ICS).

### ★ What we did:

We received £1,567,845 for eight two-year community partnership projects that will be delivered by a range of partners both from within the NHS and from the charity sector.

We are leading the delivery of the grant programme, working in partnership with County Durham Community Foundation and Cumbria Community Foundation to do so.

The projects that received funding are helping to tackle health inequalities, improve people's mental health and wellbeing, and offer specialist support to people disproportionately affected by the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19.

### ★ Impact:

Many local projects and organisations are benefitting from this funding, including:

- Barnardo's - a youth led mental health and wellbeing programme in Cumbria.
- Coping with Cancer North East - supporting people with cancer, and their families.
- Family Action - therapeutic support for young carers in County Durham.
- Middlesbrough & Stockton Mind - mental health support for people living in the most disadvantaged areas of Middlesbrough.
- North East and North Cumbria (NENC) Child Health and Wellbeing Network - four impactful programmes that will improve the health of the region's children and young people.
- North Cumbria Clinical Commissioning Group - bereavement training courses in Cumbria.
- Wearside Women in Need - a frontline therapeutic service in Middlesbrough and Wearside.
- Your Voice Counts - supporting people with learning disabilities and autism.

The grant supports our key aim to tackle health inequalities and create healthier communities through place-based partnerships that can make a genuine difference to individuals and families across our region.

Teri Bayliss, our Charity Director



## £409,441 for a range of Clinical Research Projects



### ★ Background:

Working closely in partnership with Newcastle Hospitals and Newcastle University, we dedicate a proportion of our funding to clinical research that is relevant to patients and their families or carers. This is in line with our aspirations to support 'early-career' researchers and help keep Newcastle at the forefront of innovation and research that has an impact at a regional, national and global level.

In 2021-22, 13 research grants were agreed, with a total value of more than **£400,000**.

Conditions and diseases that the research will help us, and the world tackle, include:

- Chronic Fatigue Syndrome
- Depression
- Advanced Prostate Cancer
- Joint Replacements
- B-Cell Leukaemia
- Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy

Applications for research grants are assessed by the Joint Research Executive Scientific Committee (JRESC), which brings together experts from across Newcastle Hospitals and Newcastle University.

I'm always amazed by the sheer variety of research activity that is going on in Newcastle and this year's JRESC meeting was no exception.

To help the Charity allocate nearly half a million pounds to this work is a privilege, and I look forward to working with the team to do even more next year, making the funding available as accessible and flexible as possible, while maintaining the high standards of diligent peer review that the JRESC is known for.

**Malcolm Brodlie, Chair of the JRESC, who vet and recommend which research projects to fund**



## £138,756 for Active Hospitals, a pilot project embedding physical activity within the health system



### ★ Need:

In 2021, a review of physical activity levels of 203 patients admitted to Ward 16 at the Freeman Hospital found that 80% of them were physically inactive in the lead-up to their admission. This speaks volumes about the link between physical inactivity and hospitalisation, and so the Trust's Therapy Services department worked up a proposal to us that would help them address this important issue and, in doing so, reduce the risk of readmission to hospital.

### ★ What we did:

We made a grant of £138,756 for the 'Active Hospitals' project, which is designed to offer physical activity programmes on hospital wards, supporting patients to move more while they're actually in hospital through targeted activities including bedside exercises, walking programmes, and group exercise sessions.

When it's time to leave the hospital, patients will be provided with a personalised activity plan to keep them active either at home or in the community, with referrals being made to a wide range of local partner organisations who can help people keep fit and active.

### ★ Impact:

Around 60 patients per month are benefitting from the scheme and will hopefully consider leading a more active lifestyle.

I was really pleased when the Charity supported this proposal, as promoting physical activity and the associated health benefits of this is a key objective of our Therapy Services strategy. Thanks to this funding, the Trust and our partners can begin to tackle community health inequalities and helps us build collaborative new models of care and partnerships with community colleagues.

**Ewan Dick, Director of Allied Health Professionals & Therapy Services at Newcastle Hospitals**



## £71,320 for a Long Covid support service delivered by Healthworks



### ★ Need:

Data is increasingly showing that people in more deprived areas are more likely to be affected by Long Covid, likely as a result of higher levels of exposure to the virus for reasons relating to accommodation and employment, as well as people's pre-existing health conditions. With the NHS recovering from the peaks of COVID-19, a solution was needed to help people from these communities tackle Long Covid without returning to hospital.

### ★ What we did:

We engaged with award-winning local charity Healthworks, to deliver a community-based rehabilitation intervention for patients in areas served by Newcastle Hospitals.

Healthworks is an award-winning local charity, based in the West End of Newcastle, which has a long history of community-based rehabilitation work. The aim of this new funded service is to improve symptoms - including tiredness, fatigue, breathing issues and more - in patients who are being referred to Healthworks by the Newcastle Hospitals' Long Covid Rehabilitation Team.

Participants attend two sessions per week for six weeks. Each exercise session is delivered by a physical activity specialist, with specific knowledge of 'exercise on prescription' in both healthy individuals and those with long-term conditions.

### ★ Impact:

250 patients were helped via this support service.

**Healthworks is a fantastic organisation with whom the Trust has a good relationship. Funding collaborative prevention initiatives that address health inequalities is a big part of our strategy, and we saw this project as a huge opportunity to do exactly that. There is a clear referral pathway from the Trust to Healthworks and we as the grant-maker can ensure that effective partnership working is maintained throughout the project.**

**Jon Goodwin, Head of Grant Programmes at Newcastle Hospitals Charity**



## How you can maximise your support for Newcastle Hospitals Charity



We are so grateful to every person who helps us in our mission to make a positive impact at Newcastle Hospitals. As you have read, your support enables us to fund a whole host of important, pioneering, and touching projects.

If you would like to maximise your support and help us make an even bigger impact in the future, why not consider:

### ★ Making a regular gift

Regular donations are a lifeline, helping us to plan our spending and ensure funds are allocated where they are most needed.

**You may not miss £10 a month too much, but for us and staff, patients, and the communities of Newcastle Hospitals, it will be so precious.**



Scan here to make a regular donation

### ★ Leave a gift in your will

A gift in the form of a legacy is the greatest honour we can receive. The process of remembering Newcastle Hospitals Charity in a will is straightforward and our

charitable status could reduce the overall amount of inheritance tax you would be liable to pay. To find out more, please give us a call on 0191 213 7235.

### ★ Spread the word

We are always looking to reach more people and let them know about the amazing work of Newcastle Hospitals, and how we support the hospitals.

Once you have finished reading this report, why not pass it on to a friend or colleague who you think might be interested?

# ★ Our partners

We'd also like to thank the below partners for kindly supporting our work during this time.

- Pulman Group
- Amazon - NCL1
- Robertson CE Limited
- Royal College of Surgeons of England
- Tyneside Kidney Patients Association
- Newcastle United Football Club
- Beamish Park Golf Club
- Geoffrey Robinson Ltd
- Tolent Construction Ltd
- FP McCann
- CAD 21
- ECS Textiles
- The Grace Trust
- Ambers Law
- St James' Place Wealth Management (Foundation)
- Dane Architecture Systems Holdings Limited
- Datatron
- Shepherd Offshore
- Nicholson & Morgan Solicitors
- Integrated Financial Solutions For You Ltd
- Belsay International Horse Trials
- True Solicitors LLP
- GT Cleaning Machines
- Nixon Hire
- Ion Industries
- P+HS Architects
- Instant Offices Limited
- Sintons LLP
- Newcastle University (Newcastle Neurosurgery Foundation)
- West Moor Residents Association
- Pall-Ex Group
- Caztec Group Limited
- IKM Testing UK Limited (Cramlington)
- SHJ Hospital Pipelines Ltd
- Breast Screening Charity Boxes
- Esh Group
- Identity Consult
- Renolit Cramlington Limited
- HMS Northumberland
- The Darlington Farmers Auction Mart Company Limited (Dfam)
- Fezziwigs & Tynemouth Shopping Events
- Greater Walker Community Trust
- Knop Law Primary School
- Rider Hunt
- Teddy Bear Hospital Newcastle (Newcastle University Branch)
- Heaton Stannington AFC
- Heaton Probus Club
- Northumberland Ladies County Golf Association
- Durham County Football Association
- Stowe Family Law Newcastle
- Rentokil Specialist Hygiene
- DTA Consulting Engineers
- Keenan Processing Limited
- STCS Ltd
- Armstrong Rhead Limited
- IE Signs Ltd
- Albany Office Equipment
- McNally & Thompson UK Contracts Ltd
- Futamura Chemical UK Ltd
- Starbucks Jesmond & Kingston Park
- Tweedmouth Community Football
- Gosforth Masonic Lodge 1664 Charitable Trust
- The Rotary Club of Amble and Warkworth
- Berties Club
- Alberta Social Club
- Northern Powergrid Holdings Company
- E Stafford & Son
- Boldon Amateur Boxing Club
- Wallsend Whippet Racing Club
- The Northumberland Tea Company
- Swinburne Arms
- Westerhope Methodist Church
- Blakelaw Pensioners Association
- NHS Charities Together
- Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland
- Newcastle Building Society



The home of



## Contact us

Newcastle Hospitals Charity, Peacock Hall,  
Royal Victoria Infirmary,  
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4LP

E: [nuth.charity@nhs.net](mailto:nuth.charity@nhs.net) | T: 0191 213 7235

Charity Reg. 1057213

 [charity.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/](https://charity.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/)

 [instagram.com/newcastle\\_nhs/](https://www.instagram.com/newcastle_nhs/)

 [facebook.com/NewcastleHospitalsCharity](https://www.facebook.com/NewcastleHospitalsCharity)

 [twitter.com/Newcastle\\_NHS](https://twitter.com/Newcastle_NHS)



Scan here to  
make a regular  
donation