



Impact report 2024/25

The home of

THE
great north
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

The Sir
Bobby Robson
Foundation

Contents

4-5 Welcome, Teri Bayliss,
Charity Director Newcastle
Hospitals Charity

6-7 A new Haven at the
Freeman Hospital

8-9
Making a splash
on ward 1a



10-11
Supporting our
activity and
mobility volunteers



12 Therapeutic massage
service at the Northern
Centre for Cancer Care,
North Cumbria

13 Robotic support
to help keep our
hospitals clean

14-15
Greening the grey courtyard



16-17
Prehab support for Newcastle
Hospitals staff

18 Staff development at the
Sir Bobby Robson Cancer
Trials Research Centre

19 Supporting the UK's
leading bowel cancer
research project

20-21
Working with children
and families through
the SPACE Pilot



22-23 Involving young
people in health
and research

24-25 The everyday
differences...

26-29 Arts
programme

30 Volunteer
programme

31 Volunteer
drivers



34 Corporate programme

35 Festive programme



36-37 Newcastle
Hospitals
Charity
Presents

38-39 Your support
makes a
difference

40-41 Every
donation
counts

42 Help us make
a difference

Welcome

Welcome to our impact report for 2024-25. As always, we are continually amazed by the kindness and generosity of all our supporters. Your support means that we have been able to go further than ever before.

Our mission is simple – to go further for our hospitals. Over the last year we have been able to support more than 700 diverse projects with a total value of more than £9.5m – all with the aim of creating a positive impact for the patients, staff and wider communities of Newcastle Hospitals.

Whilst the projects we support range in size and scope, each is a fantastic example of how your support can make a real difference.



Teri Bayliss, Charity Director
Newcastle Hospitals Charity

Throughout this report you will see the difference that our work makes, whether this is through the unique impact of our arts or volunteer programmes, or through funding innovative projects across Newcastle Hospitals. You can also find out more about how you can be part of our journey and help us achieve even more in the future.

On behalf of everyone at Newcastle Hospitals Charity, thank you to all our supporters, donors and fundraisers – your support is making a real difference.

Over the last year we have been proud to commit funding totalling more than

£9.5m
to over
700 diverse projects

across Newcastle Hospitals, all with the aim of creating a positive impact.

Each of the projects we support is directly linked to one of our three strategic aims, as set out in our 2022-2026 strategy. This year our funding broadly supported the following key areas:



Enhance the patient experience and environment

£6,812,814



Improve staff health, wellbeing and development

£1,908,008



Fund major developments and health related clinical research and innovation

£1,088,304

None of this would be possible without the generosity of our supporters, partners and fundraisers – here are just some of the ways their support has made a difference to the patients, staff and wider communities of Newcastle Hospitals.

A new Haven at the Freeman Hospital



When a patient is receiving end of life care, their comfort is always a priority but the wellbeing of their families, carers and loved ones is also very important. In 2019, a Haven was opened at the RVI – a dedicated space to support families and carers of patients receiving end of life care – supported by funding from Newcastle Hospitals Charity.

The space at the RVI has had a huge impact, and we know it makes such a difference to families who are going through the most difficult of times. We work directly with staff to support ideas from their on-the-ground experience with patients and were delighted to provide the trust's dedicated palliative care team with **£235,000 of funding** to support the development of a Haven at the Freeman Hospital.

Haven at the Freeman Hospital officially opened in November 2024 - with a little help from Newcastle United head coach Eddie Howe - and has been fully operational since January 2025. It provides a space to have a shower as well as a quiet place to rest for those who need some time away from the ward.



Lizzy Zabrocki
Nurse specialist –
End-of-life Care at
Newcastle Hospitals

“Haven provides a space away from clinical areas for the families and carers of patients receiving end-of-life care. Families who have used RVI Haven tell us it’s like a hug. It provides the simple things – a shower to freshen up, a quiet place to reflect and even just the pack of cards that act as a distraction.

“Some families are called in unexpectedly and can’t bring anything with them so spaces like this can make a huge difference when your world is turning upside down.”

Making a splash on ward 1a

Taking a bath and getting clean during a stay in hospital can sometimes be taken for granted – but it's not always easy for all patients. Thanks to the dedication of the team on ward 1a at the Great North Children's Hospital we were able to support them with a grant of £15,760 to install an accessible bath.

The new tub means that children and young people who require reasonable adjustments can now enjoy bathtime during their stay in hospital. "When you work on a ward as special as ward 1a, you want to give everything to your families," said play specialist, Tracey Gothard. "We take having a bath and getting clean for granted during a stay in hospital. Some of our patients require adjustments, and the only way to do this safely was to bathe them in bed.

"Our patients can sometimes be on the ward for six-months to a year. To be able to offer them a simple enjoyment of a bath is amazing."



Katie Purvis
Mum to five-year-old
Sierra, a frequent visitor
to the ward said:

"Sierra was so excited to use the new bath on ward 1a, as she loves her bath at home.

"It was a real miss for her as she was in hospital for a long time. Little things like this mean a lot for children in hospital as they miss their home comforts, and it made her feel really relaxed having a bath when she had been upset or unwell."

Supporting our activity and mobility volunteers

Our dedicated team of volunteers go above and beyond to support patients, staff and visitors across Newcastle Hospitals. Covering a variety of roles, they provide vital services and make a huge impact every day.

A key part of the work of our volunteer service team is to identify areas where wards and departments might need additional support. Our team of activity and mobility volunteers are a great example of this.

Activity and mobility volunteers are a group of students from Newcastle College, the Royal Grammar School, Gosforth Academy and Jesmond Park Academy. They work alongside the physiotherapy team to support patients.

The volunteers work with the team on the ward to help get patients ready for discharge. As well as helping get patients up and ready for the day, they support staff with mealtimes and offering drinks, they also encourage patients to engage in mobility, chair and bed exercise sessions, as well as 1-1 and group activities.



Alongside getting first-hand experience of working in a hospital environment volunteers also work through a structured volunteer workbook, to record and reflect upon their learning, and after achieving 60 hours of volunteering, they receive an accredited National Volunteer Certificate from Health Education England.

To support this programme, we provided funding to recruit a volunteer co-ordinator for the project. The role supports day-to-day project delivery, managing applications and are a regular presence on the wards supporting staff and volunteers. Since the role has been in place there has been a growth in the number of activity and mobility volunteers across Newcastle Hospitals and an increase in the number of wards they have been able to support.

The volunteer co-ordinator and the team of volunteers have had a huge impact on patients, supporting them to increase their mobility and wellbeing.



Therapeutic massage service at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care, North Cumbria

Complimentary therapy services have been available to Newcastle Hospitals patients for the almost two decades. The service was fully funded by a grant of £353,148 to cover the service for patients at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care at the Freeman Hospital.

The service is now also available to patients receiving care at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care, North Cumbria and in July 2024, funding was provided to support an additional day each week to expand the service to the Henderson Suite at West Cumbria Hospital. Working alongside medical staff the service aims to improve a patient's quality of life by helping reduce some of the unpleasant physical and emotional effects of cancer and cancer treatment.

In the first six months of the service extending to the Henderson Suite almost 50 treatments had been provided and there has also been an increase in referrals from the Northern Centre for Care, North Cumbria. Between the two locations, the provision of the extra day has supported over 100 extra complimentary therapy sessions.

It is described as a service that is "looked forward to and really made a difference while going through treatment."



Robotic support to help keep our hospitals clean

Incredibly valued, but often unseen the domestic staff who work across our hospital sites work hard to make sure that clinical services can operate safely – by making sure they are clean and hygienic.

This can be a pressured role and floor cleaning is a heavy task and with many miles of corridor it can also be time consuming. To support this dedicated team, we were pleased to provide funding to purchase two T7 cleaning robots. One for the RVI and one for the Freeman Hospital.

The robots were delivered in early 2025 and are now in use across both hospital sites.



Tara Robinson
hotel services manager
at the RVI has seen first-hand the impact the robots have already made

"Feedback from staff has been amazing, it's great to have access to such innovative technology within the department. The machines are easy to programme and they're freeing up staff time to do additional cleaning whilst the robot goes about its job. We're only using them on night shift at the moment but hope to be able to use them during the day too!"



Greening the grey courtyard

Research has shown that contact with, and a connection to nature is linked to a range of positive mental and physical health outcomes.

Alongside the Climate Emergency Action fund, we provided staff in the radiotherapy department with funding to redevelop a large courtyard area at the Northern Centre for Cancer Care at the Freeman Hospital.

The team were supported to equip the courtyard with furniture and plants, each chosen to make sure the space is an inviting area for staff, patients and visitors to enjoy,



Karen Taylor
Assistant sustainability
manager at Newcastle
Hospitals said:

“On a sunny day the courtyard is full which never used to happen. Staff are taking their breaks and lunch outside and patients are using it much more than they ever have – many people are even just walking around the courtyard to take in the sights and get some fresh air.”

The space is now home to a number of large freestanding planters, as well as large scented, sensory plants to increase the attractiveness of the area and make it a calming environment. Screens have also been provided so that patients can sit more privately if they wish.

Investing in outdoor spaces is hugely beneficial not just for patients and staff but also has a positive impact on the environment. This redevelopment also supports the trust's wider climate emergency strategy and biodiversity action plan.



Prehab support for Newcastle Hospitals staff

The Newcastle occupational health service provides physiotherapy and counselling services to the NHS and other partners. We supported the team with a grant of more than £88,000 to fund the provision of prehabilitation support for Newcastle Hospitals staff.

Prehabilitation (prehab) is designed to improve psychological and physical health before facing major stressors such as surgery or treatment – hopefully to help return patients to their previous level of fitness more quickly.

There are a number of benefits from introducing prehab support into occupational health services. Firstly, it tends to result in shorter hospital stays and fewer post-operative complications – increasing patient satisfaction and reducing the burden on NHS services. Additionally, it can lead to faster functional recovery meaning patients can return to work and their daily activities sooner.

The funding was used to recruit a full-time band 5 physiotherapist and a band 4 assistant psychologist and the key areas of support focussed on:



Lifestyle

weight management, smoking cessation and physical activity.



Physical

strengthening exercise, cardiovascular fitness.



Psychological

mindfulness, managing uncertainty and psychological support.

The project has successfully engaged with staff across Newcastle Hospitals who have ongoing health conditions - many of whom having treatment in prehab. Interventions were holistic and often involved providing self-care information, guidance and signposting however, there were several cases in which service users accessed more specialised and tailored physiotherapy and wellbeing support to prepare for and recover from specialist procedures. This support had a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of staff and will have contributed to their return to work.



Staff development at the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre

The Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre is one of only seven Cancer Research UK centres, with over 1,000 patient visits a year. It is home to cutting-edge research that has changed the treatment pathway for cancer patients across the north east and beyond.

Patients receiving treatment in the centre have advanced cancer and existing cancer treatments are no longer an option however it offers patients access to early trials and potential new treatment.

Since its launch in 2008, The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation – a fund within Newcastle Hospitals Charity – has funded two training posts for a resident doctor and junior research nurse.

Funded on a rolling three-year basis these two posts have proved to be vital – not only for developing better treatments for patients but also supporting staff development and progression. The doctors and nurses who have held these roles have successfully progressed to more senior roles following their training period – supporting the next generation of skilled research staff.

In 2025 the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation committed to re-fund these roles for another three years.



Supporting the UK's leading bowel cancer research project

Supporting major developments and health related clinical research is one of our key strategic aims. Research is the key to developing new and innovative treatments and interventions, improving care for patients now and in the future.

In 2019 the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation provided a £985,000 grant to support COLO-SPEED, now one of the UK's leading bowel cancer research projects.

Devised by Professor Colin Rees and a group of passionate bowel cancer researchers, COLO-SPEED (which stands for Colorectal Cancer Screening Prevention Endoscopy and Early Diagnosis) is a collaborative project delivered by the NHS and Newcastle University.

Around 15,000 patients have been recruited into nine innovative studies and clinical trials linked to the project so far. The ultimate aim of COLO-SPEED is to speed up research into bowel cancer, a disease that currently claims almost 16,000 lives in the UK each year.

It does this by providing the infrastructure and resources to deliver research efficiently and responsively. The charity's grant is funding a programme manager, a nurse, an administration researcher and the construction of a digital platform that will make research participation and engagement even easier for patients.



Professor Rees

who is also President of the British Society of Gastroenterology, says

"COLO-SPEED is the biggest bowel cancer research project in the UK by some distance and accounts for over 10% of all UK gastroenterology research.

"In the North East we have particularly high levels of bowel cancer as well as poor outcomes. People are dying from the disease every day.

"It was our aim at the outset of COLO-SPEED to change this and, instead, to help turn this region into a world leader in research into the prevention and early detection of bowel cancer.

"By enabling clinical trials and research, and encouraging more patients to take part in it, we're making a real difference now for the future.

"The Sir Bobby Robson Foundation funding is not just enabling ground-breaking studies and research, it is attracting other project partners and funding and, together, we're confident we will reduce the number of people affected by and dying from the disease."



Working with children and families through the SPACE Pilot

A partnership between Newcastle Hospitals Charity and Ways to Wellness, the SPACE Pilot project is a collaboration with the Great North Children's Hospital that sees social prescribing link workers placed alongside clinicians treating children with chronic conditions.

The project provides non-clinical support for children and their families and focusses on improving child and family wellbeing and increasing NHS productivity.

Developed in two phases the project was initially available to those children with neurodisabilities who are inpatients at the Great North Children's Hospital. From April 2024 the project expanded to children with chronic, complex needs and by February 2025 almost 100 families had been supported.

A grant of almost £55,000 was provided to support phase two of the project which included funding link workers and community resources for children and young people. Support through the project ranges from improving access to relevant benefits and improving access within their own home to supporting with accessible activities such as swimming, football and youth clubs.



Dr Anna Basu
consultant paediatric neurologist at the Great North Children's Hospital and SPACE Pilot lead said:

"Our study shows the real benefits of supporting children with neurodisabilities and their families through social prescribing – both emotionally and financially. Having link workers come into the hospital is a vital part of the scheme, as it makes the service more accessible for some families and allows support to start early."

In early 2025 the project was one of only six to be awarded funding from NHS Charities Together Innovation Challenge – it is hoped this will lead to the expansion of the work to help more families with non-medical support and help them focus on what matters to them.



Involving young people in health and research

The Young Persons Advisory Group North England or YPAG NE launched in 2015 with the aim of helping young people inform and influence research designed for children and young people.

This hugely important project is led and supported by engagement coordinator Jo Ball – a post proudly funded through Newcastle Hospitals Charity. Jo's role is dedicated to engaging young people across the region in research, healthcare related issues and service improvement. She runs the young person's advisory group, the great north youth forum and ad-hoc projects and focus groups.

YPAG NE now has over 75 members aged between 12 and 18 years old and to date, the group have reviewed over 140 research projects and more than 80 service improvement projects. Alongside YPAG NE Jo also runs a youth forum – now in its third year the forum currently has 14 members who represent 35 trust services.

Over the last year the forum also reviewed the new patient safety incident response framework – with Newcastle Hospitals being the only trust in the country to engage with young people around this new patient safety initiative.

The impact of Jo's role goes beyond providing an opportunity for young people to help shape the future of research and contributing meaningful improvements to services. Young people are also able to take part in interview preparation for medical school or health related degrees, are supported with completing application forms and have the opportunity to gain – and develop – skills to help them in all aspects of their lives.

Jo Ball - engagement coordinator
for the Young Persons Advisory
Group North East.



Important advice from
a member of the youth
forum

“The advice I have for any staff or services when working with young people is to be very open towards their ideas. Also encourage all member to contribute and not only input their own ideas but to actively listen and respond to the ideas of others.”

And the everyday differences...

Sometimes, it is the small things that make a big difference. Over the last year we have supported staff from all areas of Newcastle Hospitals to implement ideas and projects that have a meaningful impact on patients and staff.

We committed more than

£1.1m

in easy to access, smaller project funding, for projects seeking

£5,000 or less.

Any member of staff is encouraged to apply and the variety of the over

600 projects funded

shows the commitment and creativity of those who came forward for charity support.



Mother's Day gifts for first time mums who were inpatients on the maternity unit delivery suite on this day.



Tilting wheelchair to support patients on critical care to have additional mobility while recovering.



Baby Loss Awareness Week – supporting with raising awareness and supporting those affected by this experience.



Sensory lighting and equipment for ward 1b at the Great North Children's Hospital to help support patients receiving treatment.



Purchase of a shower chair which enables patients who have had a stroke to have a more comfortable shower.



Dementia friendly clocks for critical care ward 37 at the Freeman Hospital to help support patients with dementia.



IV therapy sleeves to assist nursing teams when applying dressings which in turn means patients are able to have a shower.



Memory boxes for families to support them during their time of bereavement.



Purchase of a gaming console on an accessible kart that can be placed in various positions around a child or young person's bed.



Distraction toys for all treatment and examination rooms in the RVI's paediatric assessment unit.



Arts programme

Our arts programme is a core charity activity. Our team deliver regular participatory creative programmes both across trust sites and in the community.

Over the past 12 months sessions have reached over

250,000

patients, visitors, staff and members of the wider community. With over

140 creative engagement sessions

the arts programme has offered a range of activities, such as photography, printmaking, pottery, creative writing, crafting and live music.



Feedback from staff about our live music hospital sessions.

“Just keep this going! Visiting wards where they can play for the patients and staff is a lovely way to lift spirits and just make people feel better about their day!”

It has been proven that arts and health (or creative health) programmes have the potential to hasten recovery times, address health inequalities and challenges facing healthcare, including ageing, long-term conditions, loneliness, isolation and mental health.

This year live music has returned to our sites, through a new hospital sessions programme which has seen the recruitment of 7 freelance musicians, who provide 20 sessions a week across wards, clinics and waiting areas. We had an extensive live performance programme over the festive period, with pop-up performances from choirs, bands and dancers. Listening to music has been proven to have positive effects on our health

and wellbeing, with research demonstrating the effects of music on elevating mood, improving memory and cognitive function, reducing stress, anxiety and blood pressure, having anti-inflammatory effects and enhancing immune systems.

We also have a Singing for Lung Health programme that brings people together who have breathing or lung issues like COPD, lung cancer, asthma, to sing in groups. Singing has been proven to help reduce being short of breath, strengthens muscles and helps people to manage their symptoms better. As a group activity it also reduces social isolation and loneliness and improves quality of life.

Arts programme

A strategic partnership between our arts programme and the city parks authority - formerly known as Urban Green Newcastle - has also continued through the Springbank Pavilion project. Together, with local arts organisations, Chilli Studios, Curious Arts and GemArts, we have funded free artist-led workshops that all centre around creative practice in nature.

We partnered again with Northern Lights Newcastle in Leazes Park, which saw 94,000 attendees experience the 'Beacons of Light' which featured the drawings of children and young people who are patients of Newcastle Hospitals, accompanied by a new composition full of musical sounds by young patients.

A continued partnership with writing development agency New Writing North, has enabled the specialist training of shared reading volunteers who read to, and talk with patients. This can help negate social isolation, providing mental stimulation and

alleviating boredom during hospital stays. Books and reading allow us to connect to the world around us, and the shared reading programme is a way to foster this connection and increase wellbeing for patients in hospital.

A new partnership with Seven Stories, the National Centre for Children's Books, based in Newcastle has brought storytelling into the Great North Children's Hospital and Freeman Hospital, delivering both group sessions and 1:1 sessions at the bedside. This brings stories to life, which helps patients to feel involved, builds confidence and introduces new creative and cultural experiences. Staff have reported patients indicated that they feel happy, relaxed, less agitated and less lonely.

The arts programme also includes visual arts exhibitions and site-specific artworks across trust sites. The Handing on our History project has seen a new phase, which brings visibility to LGBTQ+ staff and allies in blue light services, sharing what Pride means to them.

Feedback from staff taking part in our workshops at Springbank Pavillion.

"I went to a few of the pottery in the park sessions last year, met some lovely people who I keep in touch with who then introduced me to new classes by city learning and I am doing a very basic textile art qualification now! But it's the community and connections which will have the biggest impact. Just wanted to share with you and your team my experience of the longer term benefits from just a few sessions."



Following the publishing and launch of a staff anthology After the Applause, that included creative writing and stories from Newcastle Hospitals staff, we developed a series of displays, across 40 community boards in the Metro Nexus system. This has brought wider visibility of staff experience, and creativity. Following this project, we have continued to provide free monthly online Keep Writing sessions, giving trust staff the opportunity to develop their confidence in their creative writing skills, and find ways to communicate their own stories, on their own terms.

The arts programme has demonstrated how it can support new connections and understanding, while improving wellbeing by taking part in creative activity.





Volunteer programme

Our exceptional team of Newcastle Hospitals Charity volunteers continue to go above and beyond to help support patients, visitors and staff across Newcastle Hospitals. Each year our volunteers complete around

37,000 hours

of volunteering in a variety of roles including meet and greet, mealtime support, charity events, retail and ward-based support.

Their support is invaluable and makes a real difference to patient experience.



220
volunteers



Aged
16 – 92
years old



Over 90%
give up their time to
volunteer at least once
a week.



95% said
they were happy
in their role and
felt valued and
supported by staff
and patients.

Volunteer drivers



Meet Alan – one of a team of four dedicated volunteer drivers who use their own vehicles to deliver and collect essential assisted ventilation equipment as part of the North East Assisted Ventilation volunteer driver service. Between January and April 2025, the team has travelled **over 7,000 miles**, ensuring that over **250 patients** have timely access to equipment and enabling clinical teams to maintain high standards of care and responsiveness.

“One of the most enjoyable aspects of my role is the chance to meet patients, their families, and caregivers. Additionally, since I have a passion for driving, I find it incredibly satisfying to travel to various places, including Northumberland, Cumbria, Yorkshire, and Tyne and Wear.” says Alan. Each shift averages around 200 miles, with volunteers covering urban, rural, and remote locations. In addition to standard deliveries, the team occasionally collects equipment from the homes of patients who have sadly died - a responsibility they handle with exceptional compassion and sensitivity. This service enables patients to receive life-saving ventilation equipment in their own homes, while also providing crucial support to NHS teams managing care across a large geographical area, ensuring that care goes beyond hospital walls and reaches patients when and where they need it most.

“The team have found the volunteer drivers a great support to our service. We have a volunteer driver available each day of the week which allows us to plan for equipment to be delivered to patients and collections to be arranged. This allows us to give patients a confirmed date that the kit they require will arrive and reassures them that a plan is in place.

“The volunteers are very flexible and are always willing to go above and beyond to help us meet the needs of our patients and deliver our service across a very large geographical area. They are a delight to work with and we are very pleased to have them as part of our team.” Katie Kaiser, senior nurse specialist (assisted ventilation)

New opportunities

We are excited to have recently introduced two new volunteer initiatives:



The adult theatres chaperone volunteer programme, where volunteers assist with alleviating patient anxiety and providing support to patients in pre-operative areas.



The N.E Assisted Ventilation volunteer driver service where our dedicated drivers deliver and pick up vital life-supporting equipment for patients in their homes, averaging around 200 miles per shift.

This year, we are pleased to reintroduce our student volunteer Summer and Winter programme. This initiative will provide students from local schools and colleges - who are interested in pursuing a career in healthcare - with the opportunity to gain valuable insights into a healthcare environment while also developing their communication skills and building confidence.

Over the next 12 months, we will collaborate with Helpforce, an independent charity dedicated to partnering with NHS volunteer services to create impactful volunteering programmes. They will assist us in creating a three-year volunteering strategy aimed at enhancing the growth and effectiveness of volunteering across our services. This initiative will focus on a volunteer programme that will address frailty, falls prevention, as well as establishing a responder volunteer programme to help expedite discharge times.

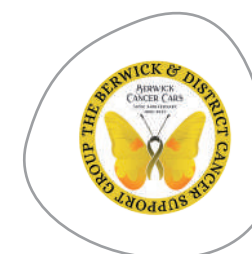


Working in partnership

This year we officially launched our partnership with North East charity Wag & Company to help bring more therapy dogs to patients across Newcastle Hospitals. Our team of volunteers and their four-legged friends will visit patients at the Freeman Hospital, RVI and Great North Children's Hospital and this will eventually extend to patients in the community.

Research has shown that spending time with animals – dogs in particular – can help release endorphins, having a calming effect on patients, it can help reduce anxiety, lower stress and increase physical activity. We know that these visits can help lift the spirits of patients while they are in hospital and we're delighted to be able to be able to expand the service to support more patients both in hospital and in the community.

We also work in partnership with other voluntary organisations to support with volunteer recruitment checks. Partner organisations include:



Corporate programme

We work with businesses across the region that share our vision, developing meaningful partnerships that help to support business needs and charity objectives.

This year we launched our corporate volunteering programme. Volunteers from local organisations have supported our gift in kind drive – collecting products to be included in comfort packs for family members of patients receiving end of life care. As well as collecting donations volunteers have then come into hospital to spend time putting the packs together with the trust's palliative care team. These packs are a small gesture of comfort to families going through the most difficult of times.

This spring the programme will expand, and corporate volunteers will be joining the trust's estate team to tend to the grounds surrounding the hospitals, making the gardens a welcoming place for staff, patients and visitors to enjoy. They'll also be planting seasonal bulbs and native plants and shrubs supporting the trust's biodiversity plan.

In addition to our corporate volunteering programme we're always thankful to those organisations that choose Newcastle Hospitals Charity – or one of our funds – as their charity of the year. Each year organisations deliver multiple fundraising events with their employees and customers to raise vital funds for our charity.

Building management company MAPP have selected Newcastle Hospitals Charity as their charity of the year for their Earl Grey House complex on Grey Street in Newcastle. Building residents will be fundraising in 2025-26 taking part in events such as the Big Brew and an Easter hamper raffle, as well as an in-kind initiative for the palliative care team and supporting fundraising challenges such as the NE1 Dragon Boat race.

The festive season continues to be a highlight in terms of charitable support. From companies who help fund gifts for patients in hospital over the festive period or supporting visits and events to help spread festive cheer and decorations to bring some welcome brightness across Newcastle Hospitals.



Festive programme

The festive period is such a special time of year, but not everyone gets to spend it at home celebrating with their loved ones. Whilst we can't change that, we can help to spread a little festive cheer and joy.

As always, our festive programme did just that. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we were able to support a full programme of events, provide those patients who couldn't be home with their loved ones with small gifts and brighten up wards and departments across Newcastle Hospitals with festive decorations.

Live music and performances also returned to our hospitals. We welcomed dance from 'Complete Ballet CIC', celebrated Kenya's National Independence Day with musician Rapasa Nyatrapasa Otieno, welcomed Northern Counties Signing Choir and enjoyed the sounds of Voices of Virtue Gospel Choir.



We also welcomed visitors from the Theatre Royal's production of the Little Mermaid, players from Newcastle United's men's and women's teams and the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service brought along a very special visitor to greet the young patients at the Great North Children's Hospital.





Newcastle Hospitals Charity Presents

**This year we launched our panel discussion series
Newcastle Hospitals Charity Presents...**

Open to members of the public, partners, staff and donors, NHC Presents gives us an opportunity to shine a light on some of the amazing projects we support, showing the invaluable difference they make across Newcastle Hospitals.

Our first three events have covered topics including the impact of robotics and AI on healthcare, arts in health and the future of children's healthcare at The Great North Children's Hospital. Panel speakers have spoken passionately – and movingly – about their projects and the impact they have not just on patient care and experience but also on wider communities.

The series will continue throughout the next year and we're excited to be able to share more about some of the projects we're supporting in 2025-26.





Your support makes a difference

We are incredibly grateful to every person that supports us in making a positive difference for the patients, staff and wider communities of Newcastle Hospitals.

Whether you are supporting Newcastle Hospitals Charity, the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation or the Great North Children's Hospital you are helping to make a meaningful difference to people's lives every day.

Thank you



Every donation counts

Your support can help us do more to improve the patient and visitor experience, improve the health and wellbeing of staff across Newcastle Hospitals and tackle health inequalities and key health issues. We know much more can be achieved and as you to consider continuing your support so we can – together – transform even more lives.



Fundraise for us

We can only achieve all we do through the generosity of the many fundraisers who give their time to help raise vital funds, often undertaking their own personal challenges to show their appreciation for the work of staff at Newcastle Hospitals.

Here are a few ways you can get involved:



Organise an event:

Host a charity run, bake sale, or a quiz night. These events are great for groups or work colleagues.



Participate in a challenge:

Take on a sponsored challenge like the Great North Run, marathons, bike rides or swimming. Challenges are a great way to push yourself and get fit all while supporting Newcastle Hospitals Charity.



Corporate partnerships:

If you own a business or work for a company, consider setting up a corporate partnership. This can include matching employee donations, sponsoring events, or organising team fundraising activities. Boosting your profile while giving back to your community.



Join our Business Club:

For as little as £10 per month join our business club and receive a framed certificate, banner for your website, personalised email banner, member networking events and your logo on our website.



Making a regular gift

Regular donations are a lifeline, enabling us to better plan for the future to make sure we reach those most in need of help. Scan the QR code to start making a regular donation to Newcastle Hospitals Charity.



Leave a gift in your Will

Leaving a gift in your will is one of the greatest honours we can receive. Your gift will support innovative and transformative healthcare programmes that significantly improve the health and wellbeing of the patients, staff and wider communities of Newcastle Hospitals – creating an incredible legacy.

The process is straightforward, and our charitable status could reduce the overall tax amount of inheritance tax you would be liable to pay. To find out more, scan the QR code, call us on 0191 213 7235 or email nuth.charity@nhs.net.



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 them. Once you have finished reading this, why not pass it on to a friend or colleague who you think might be interested. To hear more about the work of Newcastle Hospitals Charity why not scan the QR code and sign up to our newsletter.



Help us make a difference



£5

can support dementia patients with tea sets to help spark connections and conversations.



£10

per month can buy arts and craft supplies that our play specialists can use to help entertain and distract our youngest patients



£25

can support distressed families with bereavement boxes to cherish important memories of a loved one.



£50

can provide equipment for a sensory room for children and young people who have autism and learning disabilities.



£150

can provide overnight accommodation for families dealing with end-of-life care, providing comfort and a safe haven to deal with the difficulties of losing a loved one.



£500

supports our research team to test and trial new approaches; without it, many projects which go on to provide new cures, drugs, treatments or diagnostics would not be possible.





Newcastle Hospitals Charity
The Fleming
Burdon Terrace
Jesmond
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE 2 3AE

E: nuth.charity@nhs.net | T: 0191 213 7235

Charity Reg. 1057213



charity.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/



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