



Southmead Hospital Charity

Impact Report 2022–2023

Welcome & thank you



Michele Romaine

Chair of North Bristol NHS Trust

It's a privilege to welcome you to this year's Impact Report and be given the opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you, our wonderful supporters. Everything you'll read over the following pages was only made possible because of your donations and fundraising.

You'll discover how your donations have been used to support patients, their families, and our incredible staff across our hospitals and services. From kick-starting pioneering research into Parkinson's Disease to purchasing high-tech equipment for babies with underdeveloped lungs, **you help our local NHS go further – and for that, we're so incredibly grateful.**

Whatever the reason or means of giving – whether by leaving gifts in wills, giving a regular donation, or by running, singing, or bravely abseiling down the Brunel building – the passion and commitment of our supporters shines through every single day. Even in these uncertain times, in which cost-of-living pressures are affecting so many, we've been overwhelmed by the kindness of our loyal supporters, who continue to give so generously.

In reading these stories, I'm touched by the efforts of our local community who continue to support our hospital charity and the staff who give patients and their families the very best care. **Thank you all for standing by your local hospitals.**

Michele

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Your support in numbers

£1.7million

raised to enhance care
across our hospitals

522

new projects made possible
thanks to your donations

£84,100

raised by people in
memory of their loved ones

£580,000

donated by people who
kindly left gifts in their wills

£235,000

of grants from charitable
trusts and foundations

6

the age of our youngest
supporter, Esme



Thanks to you

Support where it's needed most



SGS College Volunteers at Southmead Hospital

We're hugely grateful to each one of our supporters. Every gift, big or small, makes a real difference to our hospitals and services.

By giving an unrestricted donation to **the area of greatest need**, we can act quickly and flexibly alongside our North Bristol NHS Trust colleagues to support the most urgent needs of the hospitals. Whether that's in one of our five main areas of funding or being able to green-light larger projects with more ease, every donation helps our colleagues go the extra mile for their patients. The projects featured here have a huge impact on patients, families, visitors, and staff – **and that's all possible because of you.**



Fiona & Millie

Pets as Therapy

Our furry volunteers offer a sense of normality and companionship to patients.



Expanding our Volunteer Service £231,000

From the Move Makers who help patients and visitors find their way around Southmead and Cossham hospitals to the Patient Befrienders who offer companionship and a listening ear, our team of 370 volunteers is a huge part of life here at North Bristol NHS Trust.

Making sure that our wonderful volunteers are trained, supported, and given the appreciation they deserve is our small Volunteer Service team. The roles of Volunteer Service Manager and Volunteer Coordinator have been funded by donations until the end of 2024.

Last year, our volunteers donated an astonishing 35,000 hours of their time to helping patients and visitors in roles such as Ward Support, Fresh Arts musician, and Peer Support – a role in which former patients draw on their own experiences to help those currently receiving treatment for conditions such as alcohol dependency and pain management.

Introducing our Purple Butterfly Volunteers

Working alongside the Palliative Care Team, our new Purple Butterfly Volunteers are a group of specially trained individuals who support patients and their families who are experiencing end-of-life care. Our 14 Purple Butterfly Volunteers supported 308 patients in their first year and have received heartfelt feedback from family members.

“

To all the Purple Butterfly Team. Thank you all for your support during my loved one's final days. My only regret is that we did not meet you earlier.

Patient family member

”



Sandra,
Volunteer



Staff-led innovation

£103,000

Our Trust-wide competition, 'Next Big Thing', returned this year, giving staff the opportunity to present new treatment ideas, and ways to improve patient care. An inspiring final round resulted in funding being given to exciting projects including the introduction of LED phototherapy for pain-free treatment of skin conditions, and the use of nanopore technology to test the viability of same-day classification of brain tumours.

Creating a 'Just Ask' culture for end-of-life care

Another recipient of funding was the 'Just Ask' project which will assess and improve staff awareness of the cultural, religious, and spiritual needs of patients approaching the end of their lives. Staff surveys, focus groups, and workshops will be used to explore the concerns and attitudes that staff have towards asking about and meeting these needs. The resulting programme of learning will empower colleagues to create an environment in which the beliefs and needs of patients and their loved ones are nurtured.

Dr Daniel Keith,
Consultant Dermatologist



Calm rooms to improve staff wellbeing

£120,000

This year saw the creation of two wellbeing rooms for our hardworking staff. Thanks to your donations, a room in the Brunel building has been transformed into a quiet space with comfortable sofas, mood lighting, and a reading corner.

Over in the Women & Children's Division, a new 'garden room' has been installed. Colleagues can now take a break in a purpose-built room, and then return to their patients refreshed and re-energised.

“

Our new garden room provides a space for staff to have a quick coffee, where we can relax, refuel and regroup. Whilst that may sound like a simple pleasure, our room provides colleagues with a protected space to manage and process the physical and psychological demands of our work. It makes the world of difference to the whole division.

Di Dorrington, Deputy Head of
Midwifery and Nursing

”

Thanks to you

Pioneering research



Scientific breakthroughs start with you. By supporting the vibrant and growing research community at North Bristol NHS Trust, we can move closer to new diagnoses.

Using artificial intelligence to accelerate research into Parkinson's Disease £220,000

North Bristol NHS Trust treats over 1,000 patients with Parkinson's Disease every year. With more than 145,000 people living with Parkinson's in the UK alone, it's the fastest growing neurological condition in the world.

Thanks to your donations and a hugely generous £99,954 pledge from the Medlock Charitable Trust, a research team led by Dr Alan Whone is embarking on an ambitious three-year project that will use artificial intelligence (AI) and specialist MRI equipment to improve the way disease progression is monitored in relation to drug treatments.

AI scoring and advanced MRI scans

Using videos of people with Parkinson's, AI computer systems will be used to automatically recognise symptoms and assess the severity of progression of the disease, meaning that subtle changes to patients due to drug treatments could be picked up earlier and with greater accuracy. This will maximise the chances of finding effective drugs, while minimising the risk of mistakenly discarding one that works.

The second major innovation being explored is the analysis of brain scans using the Connectom MRI system at Cardiff University combined with Positron Emission Tomography (PET) imaging. These advanced technologies will help identify early markers of the disease and how it progresses through the complex network of brain connections. This method could be used to predict the onset of Parkinson's and assess drug effects before physical symptoms emerge.

“

Early support from donors is helping us generate the evidence we need to demonstrate the potential of this research. We aim to use our findings to leverage further governmental research grants or industry funding to drive forward real-world change for patients with Parkinson's Disease. We're incredibly grateful to all the donors who've contributed over the years and to the Medlock Charitable Trust for giving so generously to this project.

Dr Alan Whone

”

“

I think Billie would be extremely proud of our efforts and she would fully support our aim to help others in a similar situation.

Danny Lay, Billie’s uncle.

”



Billie



Funding life-saving research roles £200,000

When Billie was 25, she suffered a subarachnoid haemorrhage (SAH) – a sudden leak of blood over the surface of the brain. She was taken to Bristol Royal Infirmary and then transferred to Southmead Hospital’s specialist neurological unit for treatment. After fighting for six days in intensive care, she experienced a vasospasm, which caused a stroke, and she died suddenly.

The Billie Elizabeth Wood Trust (BEWT) was established by her family and friends in her memory, with the singular focus of raising funds to promote and support research into treatments for SAH and vasospasm. We’re honoured to be working alongside BEWT to make this important research a reality.

Thanks to money raised by BEWT, two specialist research roles have now been created at Southmead Hospital to widen knowledge and evaluate current treatments for vasospasm in the hopes of increasing survival rates for this life-threatening condition.

To date, Billie’s family and friends have raised over £250,000 through a variety of fundraising events, including a Bristol to Devon bike ride, a 136km trek along Hadrian’s Wall, and an 85-mile row along the Thames.



PhD success in brain tumour research £36,000

Earlier this year Dr Amy Howell completed her PhD in the field of glioma research. Gliomas are a group of brain tumours, the most common and aggressive of which is glioblastoma.

Amy’s research aimed to identify and validate risk factors for the onset of glioma, as well as explore targeted treatment options that could positively change the course of the disease in glioma patients. Her findings have been published in three peer-reviewed journals and acknowledged for their valuable contribution to glioma research.

“

I’d like to thank all the donors for providing me with this valuable opportunity that I will treasure for the rest of my life. My PhD has enabled me to develop into an academic scientist and make contributions to the glioma research field, where research is so desperately needed. I’ve learned so much and I hope to use these skills to make advances in other areas of research. Dr Amy Howell

”

Amy is now working as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Bristol looking at risk factors for adverse pregnancy outcomes.



Thanks to you

Patient & family wellbeing



Dance for Parkinson's group in Southmead Hospital's atrium



From the moment a patient enters our hospitals, your donations enable our staff to go the extra mile to provide comfort and peace of mind.

Recovering after intensive care £77,000

For the 2,600 patients treated in Southmead Hospital's Intensive Care Unit (ICU) each year, returning to everyday life after being critically ill can be incredibly challenging.

Many patients will experience ongoing physical and psychological problems which can affect their personal relationships and return to work or study.

Following a successful trial, the ICU team has rolled out a critical care follow-up service supported entirely by donations. This has ensured that hundreds of patients have accessed the additional services and treatment necessary for them to settle back into their home lives.

350 patients received additional support

Over 350 patients were invited to take part in the follow-up service.

253 patients received phone calls which enabled the team to signpost them to the most relevant health and wellbeing services, or progress specialty referrals.

A further 101 patients who required more complex levels of support were invited to in-person clinics

to meet with an ICU Consultant, Physiotherapist, Psychologist and Clinical Nurse Specialist. This multidisciplinary team helps patients better understand their ICU admission and treatment, addresses specific concerns about life after their illness or accident, and discusses medication and rehabilitation so that each patient receives the personalised support they need.

The critical care follow-up service demonstrates how donations can make a difference to patient care by enabling our dedicated clinicians to use their expertise to trial new services in our hospitals.

“

Thank you, from the ICU follow-up staff and all our patients. Your donations have given us the opportunity to develop and improve the service over the year, and to demonstrate why it is so important to our patients.

Andy Ray, ICU Consultant



”

“

My personal experience at Southmead Hospital helped me take a closer look at what was being offered to support children who are bereaved.

Keri Vickery, founder of Made a Mark Charity

”



Keri's children Casey & Parker help with deliveries of Made a Mark memory boxes



Making memories for bereaved children £4,000

Following the death of her husband Mark at Southmead Hospital, Keri, who works here at North Bristol NHS Trust, quickly realised that there was no specialist support available for her two young children Casey and Parker – and decided to act.

“

Made a Mark Charity was founded to offer supporting materials, signposting, and memory making opportunities for children and families facing the death of a parent or sibling.

Keri, founder of Made a Mark Charity

”



Thanks to your donations, Made a Mark has delivered more than 100 memory boxes to support children who lose a loved one at North Bristol NHS Trust.

Available for three age ranges (0-4 years, 5-12 years, and 13+), the boxes contain age-appropriate support books, a journal to encourage children to express their feelings, hand print and hair lock kits, and a pair of matching soft toys – one for the child, and one to remain with the person who has died to create an everlasting bond.



Fresh Arts brings creativity and joy to patients £121,000

From live music sessions on wards to creative workshops for patients, the Fresh Arts programme makes a difference to countless patients, as well as families, visitors, and staff.

Fresh Arts on Referral is an innovative social prescribing programme that utilises the power of art and creativity to help build self-esteem and peer support networks of patients with long term health conditions. Through creative writing, printmaking, visual art and poetry, the programme helps to alleviate symptoms of stress, social isolation, boredom, pain, anxiety and depression.



Big Jeff paints hospital window

One of the most inspiring programmes is Dance for Parkinson's. Facilitated by dance company The Original Spinners, the weekly sessions help Parkinson's patients stay active, maintain mobility, and form friendships.

Thanks to you

Staff wellbeing & training



At the heart of our hospitals are thousands of dedicated staff who work around the clock to care for you and your loved ones. Your donations help care for them as they care for you.



Helping displaced doctors begin their NHS careers
£81,000

Since November 2021, Southmead Hospital has welcomed more than 50 internationally trained doctors, most of whom are displaced from Myanmar, as part of the national Medical Support Workers (MSWs) programme. While undertaking the relevant training to register with the UK's General Medical Council (GMC), MSWs work under supervision to support medical teams on wards. Day-to-day tasks include medical note taking, specialty referrals, and coordinating patient discharge, all of which contribute to delivering high-quality routine care to patients.

“Many refugee doctors have gone through huge mental and physical toll to be able to work in the UK, having to leave our loved ones amidst difficult circumstances. Working as an MSW helped me get used to a completely different healthcare setting and sharpen my clinical skills and knowledge.

Su Wut Ye, former Medical Support Worker



Su Wut Ye

Protecting staff wellbeing and development
While the core costs of the MSW programme are funded by NHS England, donations have enabled the employment of a clinical fellow to design a framework of support to meet the learning needs and psychological wellbeing of the MSWs.



It's been wonderful to see the MSWs flourish in their transition to NHS life. The games and roleplay sessions with ACTA, a theatre group with experience of working with refugees, had a really positive knock-on effect on the MSWs' confidence in communicating with colleagues and patients.

Sadie Rawlinson,
clinical fellow, MSW programme



MSWs at ACTA



Of the 30 MSWs who started working at Southmead Hospital last summer, 21 now have GMC registration, and 19 have secured a GMC-registered job – five of which are here at North Bristol NHS Trust.

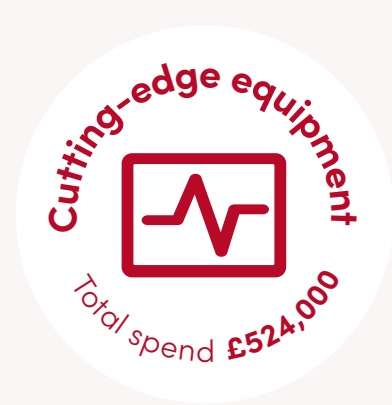


The programme has provided invaluable additional clinical support on the wards at an incredibly busy time, supporting our NHS workforce and – perhaps most importantly – offering a haven to doctors fleeing persecution in Myanmar. We're so grateful to donors for the part they've played in making this extraordinary programme a success in Bristol.

Dr Emma Mitchell, MSW programme lead



Cutting-edge equipment



Your donations put the top technology in the most talented hands to give patients the best chance of getting better.

Delivering the best care to babies in NICU £20,000

Many of the babies admitted to NICU require help with their breathing, often because they have been born prematurely and have underdeveloped lungs.

A generous donation from long-term supporters Shirley and Dennis Banfield has enabled the purchase of four Vapotherm devices and oxygen assist modules to help babies in respiratory distress.

What is a Vapotherm?

The Vapotherm device is a special breathing circuit which allows air to flow through very fine tubes into the baby's nostrils to keep their lungs inflated. The additional oxygen assist modules use automatic oxygen delivery to ensure that the baby's oxygen saturation is maintained within a healthy range.

“

The Vapotherm and oxygen assist modules provide the respiratory support that babies need in a way that reassures parents. Because the Vapotherm is comfortable and minimally invasive, it means that the developmental care and bonding, including skin to skin contact and breastfeeding, can continue uninterrupted.

Amy Purnell, NICU Matron

”



NICU staff with Vapotherm

Three generations of Southmead babies

Proud to have three generations of 'Southmead babies' in their family, Shirley and Dennis made their donation to NICU to celebrate the birth of their great granddaughter Esme.

Shirley, along with daughter Karen and granddaughter Lucy, visited NICU and the maternity wards to see the difference that donations make, and to meet some of the amazing midwives and nurses who care for more than 6,000 expectant parents each year.



Family visit to NICU

Dennis Banfield very sadly died in July 2023. We're forever grateful for the significant difference he made to patient care and his remarkable legacy will live on at Southmead Hospital.



E-bike to improve tests for patients with heart conditions £15,000

A state-of-the-art e-bike has been purchased to improve stress echocardiograms for patients.

The e-bike has an integrated examination table so that patients can remain on the equipment during exercise while a dynamic ultrasound assessment of their heart function can be made. This allows our cardiac physiologists to place patients in the best position to achieve the clearest imaging, helping to uncover symptoms and ultrasound changes which may only be seen during activity.

Thanks to you

Enhancing buildings & spaces

Your support helps create calm, welcoming and healing spaces, giving patients and families a break from clinical environments.

Maple Suite refurbishment for families experiencing baby loss £23,000

The Maple Suite is a dedicated area for bereaved families, offering loving care and support following pregnancy loss or the death of a baby. Situated away from the main maternity ward, the private Suite allows parents to spend precious time with their baby in comforting surroundings before going home.

With the guidance of our maternity team, the room has been updated with new furnishings, including a double bed, a sofa, a Moses basket and a kitchenette.

“
It's so important having this space for families going through the loss of a baby. We've tried to make it as welcoming as possible and not feel too clinical, so that parents can spend time with their babies, making memories together, and do not need to leave the space until they are ready.

Lauren Cole, Bereavement Midwife



The Maple Suite now extends out into a tranquil garden and seating area – something that families who had previously used the room had requested. Rachel, who spent time in the Maple Suite in 2020, said:

“

The Maple Suite is a fantastic space for families like us who unfortunately needed to use it after our baby Florence passed away at 14 days. It looks even better since the refurbishment and will be a great comfort to families at an unbearably difficult time.

”



Mural for Bright Satellite Dialysis Unit £1,600

A vinyl mural has been installed in the Bright Satellite Dialysis Unit to improve the waiting area for patients and visitors. The unit treats 42 patients each day with many of them returning for dialysis up to three times a week. With such frequent appointments, it's important to make the environment as welcoming and stimulating as possible.

The new mural in the Bright Satellite Dialysis Unit

Thanks to you



A big *thank you* to our supporters

Esme

... our youngest supporter who kindly donated **£10** on her birthday to say 'thank you to the NICU staff for looking after poorly babies'.



The Jolly Hog

... who come back each Christmas to give staff at Southmead Hospital a festive breakfast!



Ayushi

...who swam 10 miles in eight hours to raise an amazing **£5,000** to say thank you for the care her grandfather Darshan received at the Bright Satellite Dialysis Unit before he passed away.



John Lewis & Partners

...who raised over **£17,000** from donation points and hosting Buskathons at the Cribbs Causeway store, and by team leader Baaba running the London Marathon!



Martin & Mary

...who raised over £4,300 by running their tombolas at community events, bringing their total over five years to an astonishing **£19,469!**



And to everyone else

...who donated, set up a regular gift, baked, ran, hiked, cycled and fundraised. Thank you so much for your support.

Thank you to those who've left a gift in their will

This year we've been touched by the generosity of people who have chosen to leave a gift in their will to Southmead Hospital. Without gifts in wills, a third of our projects to enhance patient care wouldn't be possible so we're incredibly grateful to the very special group of people who have chosen to do this. We've partnered with will making experts Guardian Angel to offer a free will writing service to our supporters. To find out more, please call us on **0117 414 0170** or visit southmeadhospitalcharity.org.uk/wills

Financial summary

Over the course of the year we've worked alongside our colleagues at North Bristol NHS Trust to deliver hundreds of projects to improve patient care and staff experience.

As a result, we spent £2.4 million on projects and roles that will support and improve care across our hospitals, committing a total of £3.7 million to projects that span multiple years. We remain committed to using donations to fund ambitious projects that will make the most difference to patients in our local community and beyond.

Despite the continuing backdrop of consumer finance concerns and a difficult fundraising climate, our passionate supporters helped raise £1.7 million.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 March 2023*

	2022/23 £000s
Income:	
Donations	837
Legacies	580
Investments	258
Other	20
Total Income:	1,695
Expenditure:	
Raising funds	(892)
Charitable activities	(2,437)
Other	(136)
Total Expenditure:	(3,465)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(727)
Net Income/(Expenditure)	(2,497)
Funds brought forward	10,869
Total Funds Carried Forward	8,372

*Our audited, final annual report will be published on our website and via the Charity Commission as soon as available.

Please note: Total spend values featured throughout the report refer to approved spend including multi-year projects spanning financial years.

Looking to *the future*



Maria Kane

CEO of North Bristol NHS Trust

I want to start by saying thanks to you, our incredible supporters who help make Southmead Hospital the place it is, a place I am proud to work and be alongside so many inspiring people.

As we look back on this year, we must of course acknowledge the cost-of-living crisis and the impact that rising costs have had on household budgets. This year, like the one before, hasn't been easy and yet despite this you continued to give generously, raising £1.7 million to support our staff, patients, and their families across Southmead Hospital and the wider Trust. Looking ahead, I know that there is so much more we can achieve together.

We continue to strive to create an outstanding health and care environment for our patients, staff and community. With this in mind, we are looking to the future with a focus on maximising our effectiveness and impact, proud to work alongside Southmead Hospital Charity to deliver vital projects that enable us to remain at the forefront of medical care.

We're incredibly grateful for your ongoing commitment to our work, helping to enhance and improve the care and services provided across Southmead, Cossham Hospital, Bristol Centre for Enablement, and our other sites.

On behalf of our 12,000 staff and one million patients, please accept my heartfelt thanks for everything you have done, and continue to do, for your local NHS.

Maria





Seasons at Southmead Hospital.
Photographs taken by North
Bristol NHS Trust staff members.

Southmead Hospital Charity

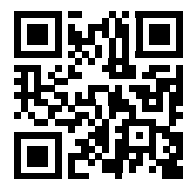
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