

Welcome to Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity Newsletter

We are delighted to be able to share with you some of the great work that has been happening across the Alexandra, Kidderminster and Worcestershire Royal hospitals thanks to your incredible support.

All support is used to enhance our hospital environments improving the experience for patients, visitors and staff with additional extras that wouldn't be part of standard NHS care.

These improvements are only possible thanks to the wonderful support we receive from our community.

We look forward to keeping in touch occasionally with stories of how donations are making a difference in your local hospitals with over and above additional extras. Thank you for being a part of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity community.



Sophie Burt, Head of Fundraising and Community Development

Virtual reality technology transforming patient care

Thanks to our supporters we have recently funded four new VR headsets for Riverbank Children's Ward.

VR headsets provide a fully immersive experience for children and are proving invaluable at calming and distracting our youngest patients. The headsets are particularly beneficial for patients with needle phobia or who need to undergo an uncomfortable treatment.

Due to the immersive nature of the headsets it allows patients to relax and disassociate from the procedure itself. This provides a much more comfortable experience and in many cases speeds up the procedure.

One remarkable story saw one cannulation procedure (the insertion of a small plastic tube into a vein using a needle in order to administer medicine) take just 10 minutes whilst previous procedures without the headset had taken over an hour and caused much upset for the child.



"The doctor was able to quickly place a cannula without causing any pain or distress. It was simply amazing to observe. This ended up being an extremely positive experience for the child, their parents and for the staff!"

Riverbank Nurse Specialist

Stories from across our hospitals - where your donations have made a huge difference



- **Communication boxes** have been distributed across our hospitals giving easy access to reading glasses, hearing aid batteries and magnifying glasses. Making a real difference for patients struggling to speak with staff or keep themselves occupied.
- Thousands of **hand held mirrors** were distributed as part of the 'Think Skin ... react to Risk' campaign. Aiming to reduce hospital acquired pressure damage by allowing staff to more easily monitor patients' skin.
- Volunteer Breast Feeding Friends have been kitted out with **bespoke t-shirts**. These wonderful volunteers help people get to grips with breast feeding and the new t-shirts really help them stand out in the wards.
- The charity has supported **peer to peer support sessions** for young people with long term health conditions transitioning to adult services, where they can chat with other young people in the same situation and share their concerns alongside nursing staff.

Supporting patients, one story at a time

We are extremely grateful to local Worcester company Midland Road Studios for their support in creating our very own charity films!

Midland Road Studios have kindly gifted their time and expertise in creating a set of films based on the difference our supporters make to patients and staff across our hospitals. The films will focus on four stories and highlight different areas across the hospitals and the variety of projects funded by our supporters.

You can view the first film here: wahcharity.org/childrens-cancer-fund showcasing the difference our Children of Worcestershire Cancer Fund makes for young people undergoing cancer treatment and their families.

Join us for our Eastnor Castle Walk on 18 May - 9am to 2pm

Taking in the beautiful grounds and surrounding countryside it's the perfect way to get outdoors and raise some much needed funds for your local hospitals charity.

The 10-mile circular walk (graded a medium in difficulty) is fully stewarded by Sky Blue Adventures. We are asking each walker to raise £100 sponsorship which also includes the cost of your entry fee. You can direct your support to any area of our hospitals.

Find out more and sign up by emailing info@wahcharity.org by 3 May.

Thank you so much for your support and for helping to make a difference across our hospitals. You can keep up to date with the charity on our website and social media channels and we look forward to sharing more stories with you later in the year.

Many thanks

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity Team