

# Grant Funding & Appeals 2020/21



**WORCESTERSHIRE  
ACUTE HOSPITALS  
CHARITY**

Putting patients first

Working together supporting the services and staff  
of Worcester Acute Hospitals NHS Trust



**Worcestershire  
Acute Hospitals**  
NHS Trust



## Our mission

The Charity was established in 1996. The Corporate Trustee is the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, and is responsible for the governance and administration of the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Charity (Reg. No. 1054612) and its subsidiaries.

The Board members of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust act as Trustees on behalf of the Trust in the management and administration of its Charitable Fund. The Charitable Funds Committee, being a recognised sub-committee of the Trust Board, has delegated authority on behalf of the Trustees in the execution of all responsibilities relating to the Trustees.

The main objective of the charity has been to ensure its funds are used for a charitable purpose relating to the National Health Service, exclusively for the benefit of staff and patients within the wards or departments within the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust.

We support medical and health research, and encourage excellence in healthcare for patients and their carers, mainly through the services provided at Alexandra Hospital Redditch, Kidderminster Hospital, Worcestershire Royal Hospital, as well as community sites in Bromsgrove, Evesham, Malvern and Tenbury.

All funding provided by the charity is over and above core NHS services. None of your donation is used to replace NHS services



How you  
can help

# Children of Worcestershire Cancer Charity Fund

In 2019 the staff and nurses of the Children's Ward at Worcestershire Royal Hospital held the first charity ball and raised over £6,000 for children and families affected by cancer in Worcestershire.

Everyday our young patients are treated for life-threatening childhood cancer that affects around 100 children each year in the UK. Nearly half of those are categorised as 'high-risk', a diagnosis that's even more challenging to treat and increases the need for our additional support.

The funds raised from the Ball went towards providing families affected by cancer with support throughout their cancer journey, helping them with the widespread challenges they face daily and to make sure all those little things life are taken care of.

From the funds raised last year we made sure;

- Every parent had access to support group meetings
- Every parent was provided lunch/coffees while their child was having treatment
- We hosted a Halloween party for families to attend
- We created a Christmas Party and Grotto along with a magician, foods and treats
- Every parent was given a Costa Coffee gift card when in hospital for extended appointments
- We secured 500 pantomime tickets for families under treatment
- We provided all families with thermometers so they can ensure they have a backup one to use
- We purchased new equipment and craft supplies for the children to play with in clinic

As our patients are advised against going abroad due to the risk of requiring urgent hospital admissions if they are unwell or febrile, and they really do need and deserve a break away!

With the funds we hope to raise at this years Ball, we aim to provide 30 families with a £500 gift card each to have a weekend at Centre Parcs, at a total cost of £15,000 and continue with our family support programme.



Target to raise  
**£25,000**

# Worcestershire Acute End of Life Respiratory Unit

How you can help

Our Specialist Palliative Care team provides advice and support for patients with advanced life-limiting illnesses, as well as for their families and carers.

End of life is a strategic priority for Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust because, of the estimated 60% of patients who express a wish to die at home, only 20.6% actually achieved this.

Each year the Palliative Care Team in the Acute Respiratory Unit have a higher number of cases than those deaths from emergency situations. Last year we cared for and supported over 150 families where a loved one or friend sadly died.

We recognise that end of life care is a combination of compassion, wellbeing and spiritual support for our patients and their families, and the physical environment in hospitals can have a direct impact on the experience for people at the end of life and on the memories of their carers and families.

Aligned to the National End of Life Care Programme it places critical importance on the environment of care for patients, relatives and staff. The Trust continually evaluate ways in which we can improve this care within our hospitals and the importance that end of life care takes place in a setting that provides dignity and respect for our patients and their carers.

We have currently have put aside one of our side rooms on the Acute Respiratory Unit as a palliative care room. Currently the room is an annex to a clinical room and decorated accordingly.

We aim to transform this room to help the patient and their families feel more comfortable in a calmer, informal and less clinical setting when going through such an extremely emotional of experience. Our plans are to create a new colour scheme that will enhance comfort and create a homely feel, rather than a hospital setting, place new soft furnishings and new lighting with the ability to change to the light levels and to create a warm inviting place for families to have privacy and dignity. Elements of craft and carefully placed works of art will also aim to lift spirits and create moments of restfulness and interest.

By making these simple changes it will help to make our patients feel more like they are at home and their loved ones more comfortable in their surroundings



**Target to raise £15,000**



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# How you can help

## Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Health Research

At Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust we bring international world-class research studies to our patients through a dedicated research team.

Key to much of this groundbreaking work is our dedicated team of clinical research practitioners, facilitating clinical teams so that they have the time to carry out vital research.

Clinical trials can offer patients lifesaving or life-changing treatments they would otherwise not be able to access. Contributing to these studies is the only way to find out if new treatments or devices are effective and can be made available to future patients.

Working in partnership with the National Institute for Health Research, the research arm of the research, we were able to contribute to a number of studies that helped us to understand the Coronavirus pandemic. One of these identified the steroid that dramatically increased survival rates in those worst affected by Covid.



**Clinical trials lead to changes in care.** These are just some of the trials we have participated in that have changed practice

### Respiratory research

In 2019, the world was hit by the Coronavirus pandemic that effected millions of people globally. As a new disease, there was no evidence whether one treatment would work better than another. Worcestershire Acute Hospitals Trust took part in the RECOVERY trial, a national trial looking at the effectiveness of existing medications for Covid-19.

The trial demonstrated that dexamethasone, a steroid that is easily available improves survival rates for those admitted to hospital needing respiratory support. This finding is hugely significant, and globally a lot of lives will be saved because of research that happened in Worcestershire.

### Reproductive health research

20% of pregnant women bleed in early pregnancy, and one third of these pregnancies sadly end in miscarriage. The PRISM study was a national study comparing the effect of progesterone in preventing miscarriage for women experiencing bleeding in early pregnancy.

For women who had one or more previous miscarriages, the trial showed that progesterone was more effective than a placebo (a dummy drug) on live births.

77 people experiencing early pregnancy bleeding in Worcestershire took part, supported by research practitioners who helped support women throughout the study.

### Cancer research

Prostate cancer accounts for around one fifth of all male cancers. In the UK there are around 47,000 new cases each year and ~11,000 deaths. The STAMPEDE trial aims to help provide evidence to improve the treatment and outcomes of men with newly diagnosed advanced prostate cancer.

The trial had 168 patients participate in STAMPEDE across the Trust. The trial reported practice-changing results that show docetaxel or abiraterone improve disease control and life-expectancy. Previously their options were surgery or radiotherapy. The trial has continued looking at other drugs and radiotherapy.

Research helps in other ways too – studies have shown that outcomes are better for all patients, regardless of whether they were in a trial, when their hospital is research active.

This could be because it helps to increase knowledge in the area and helps to engage the whole clinical team.

We want to increase the number of studies that we can offer patients by increasing our workforce. This means more patients will benefit from research.

#### Clinical Research Practitioners

Our research practitioners are vital for making sure trials run smoothly and patients are safe.

They provide information and support for patients and their families to help decide whether or not they want to take part in a trial.

This continues throughout the trial, acting as their advocate and first point of contact.

Working closely with clinical teams, they monitor each patient carefully, identifying any side effects or extra symptoms.

They support additional procedures that are part of the trial plan (known as the protocol) to help understand more about a treatment. They also work behind the scenes, coordinating studies and ensuring all data is entered on time.

This is essential to make sure data is accurate and reliable to inform the results of a trial.

The number of trials we can run, and the number of departments we can support, is limited by the number of research practitioners we have. There is no additional funding for research through the Trust budget.

Our appeal will mean we can fund three full-time research practitioners to cover Worcestershire, opening more studies, entering more patients and ultimately saving more lives.



The impact on patients can be seen by some of the feedback we get, such as in the cancer patient experience survey.

This asks patients about their treatment and experience in the hospital, and throughout their treatment, these patients remembered the difference research practitioners made to their care:

"I felt Dr Price and research nurse Alison really cared about me"

"The quality of care, professional approach and attention to detail shown by ...Dr Kurec and oncology research nurse, Alison Harrison ... was of the highest standard"

## Target to raise £120,000



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How you  
can help

# The Alexandra Hospital Wellness Garden Appeal

The project is designed to support dementia patients, reduce anxiety and distress and help overall mental wellbeing while visiting or receiving treatment the Alexandra Hospital, Redditch, Worcestershire.

2 in 3 people report having experienced a mental health problem in their lifetime, so it's more important than ever that patients and their families get the right support and care.

NHS hospitals across the UK are going back to the future to help patients with dementia and mental health conditions, creating calming, familiar environments to reduce anxiety and distress.

We aim to transform the currently unused central courtyard in to garden that will support our patients, families and friends by creating a new safe tranquil environment.

Work to commence  
Spring 2021 with a  
planned opening  
in Summer 2021



How you  
can help

# The Alexandra Hospital Wellness Garden Appeal

By providing access to fresh air and a relaxing, less formal environment we aim to create a very special place for our patients to be engaged in meaningful activities and mental stimulation.

Visitors will be able to access to hands information on local services for relatives living with dementia or a mental health condition and through the support of community volunteering, we will continue to improve the overall hospital experience for everyone.

The project will provide lifetime support for patients, families & friends with an area to reduce anxiety, stress & help their overall mental wellbeing.



Target to  
raise £150,000



# How you can help

Our appeal aims raise funds to purchase an additional two new Graf Baby Sonofix units, that detect early signs of hip displacement in babies.

The state of art equipment is a carrier frame and base for babies to lie in while they are having an ultrasound hip scan. This keeps them in the correct and comfortable anatomical position for the scan to enable us to record accurate measurements of the hip on ultrasound.

The reason for these scan is through PHE screening (physical health examination) is that 1 to 2 babies in every 1000 has DDH (dysplastic dislocating hips) that requires treatment.

Undetected or delayed treatment of DDH can result in complex surgery or long term disability.

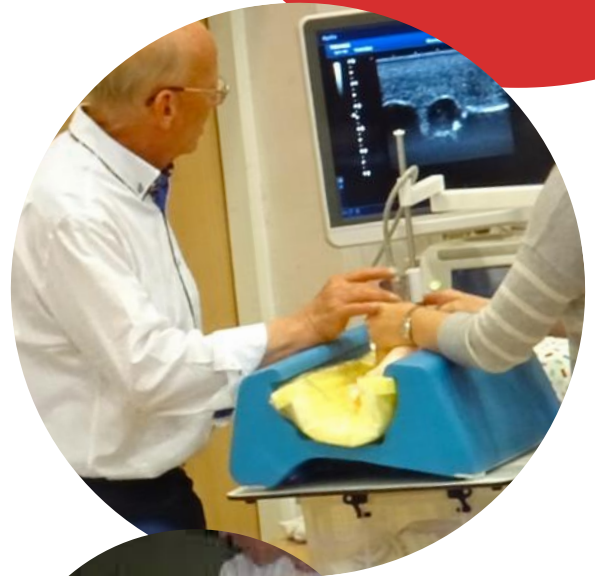
At present we scan high risk babies such with a family history of DDH, breech, twins and any concerns at the NIPE physical exam at birth or 8-week check.

We aim to scan these babies as outpatients ideally between 4-6 weeks of age, which gives enough time for further assessment and referral to children's hospital by 12 weeks of age. However some scans are performed up to 9 months of age if justified.

The new units will be based at Princess of Wales Xray Dept in Bromsgrove and in Worcestershire Royal Hospital.

Over 600 babies will use the equipment each year and the additional locations will help us to prevent long term disability and reduce the travelling time for families across the county, therefore reducing their anxiety and distress.

## Target to raise £10,000



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# Worcestershire Neonatal Charity Fund



How you can help

## Worcestershire Neonatal Unit Parents Room

The Worcestershire neonatal unit provides special care for newborn premature babies across the county. The team in the unit have a vision to update their parent rooms.

The current rooms are used for end of life care but more commonly for getting families ready to take their baby home or of families that don't live locally to the hospital and need to be with their baby.

The parent rooms are a place where you can doze, catch up with emails, watch TV or even just read a book.

This enables parents to stay with their newborns 24-hours a day, allowing them to play a central role in the care of their child. Each room is staffed according to the baby's needs providing 24/7 support to parents.

While our current rooms have the basic needs, they do not have areas for the simple things like washing of cutlery, and the furnishings are in need of replacement too.

Our vision is to renovate these rooms, install new facilities and give them a makeover so they become warmer and more welcoming and add some brightness that will make a tremendous difference to the wellbeing of our young families.

## Target to raise £20,000



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# How you can help

## WORCESTERSHIRE ISLET RESEARCH LABORATORY

The Islet Research Laboratory (IRL), based within Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust conducts a programme of research to develop cell-based treatments for diabetes.

The Islet Research Laboratory is the only purpose-built unit in the West Midlands for the isolation of human insulin-producing cells (islets). We have ongoing, active collaborations within the Trust, with researchers at Aston University and University of Birmingham, and work with industry through the provision of human islets for use in diabetes research/drug discovery.

Diabetes is on the rise across the UK: Data for 2016-2017 indicate that diabetes affects over 34,000 adults (above the age of 17) in Worcestershire (that's 7% of the population), with an increase in prevalence above the National average over the previous 5 years.

Diabetes is the leading cause of blindness in people of working age, the commonest cause of end-stage kidney failure and limb amputation, and it increases the risk of heart attacks and strokes.

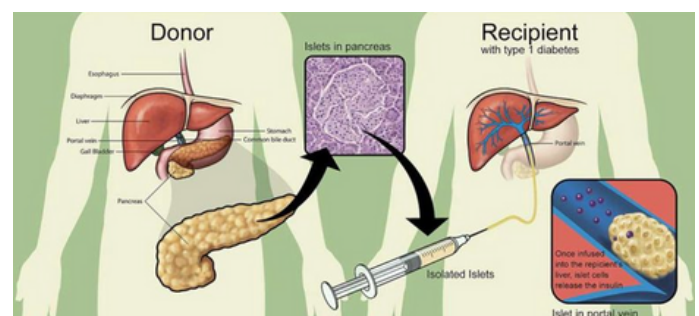
Poorly controlled diabetes can be life-limiting, preventing those affected from engaging in daily/routine activities, i.e. full-time employment, driving, travelling independently which negatively impacts both them and their families.

Studies in the UK suggest that following an Islet transplant patients are often able to restore many of these activities and have a reduced risk of developing secondary complications.

The Islet Transplantation is an alternative method of treating diabetes and involves the replacement of islets, which have been damaged or destroyed by an inappropriate auto-immune response.

Donor islets are infused into the liver of the diabetic individual and after several hours begin to produce and release insulin, effectively restoring normal glucose metabolism.

The use of islet cell transplantation for the management of diabetes has yielded encouraging results, with clinical trials reporting a clear improvement both to glucose regulation and quality of life.



"Our research will, in time, lead to more effective treatments of diabetes resulting in improved long-term health benefits for all those living with the condition"

The laboratory is involved in three main areas of islet transplant research:

- Enhancing islet graft survival, adopting pre-transplant techniques to support islet integrity and encourage islet cell proliferation, involving the use of bio-scaffolds and dynamic cell culture systems
- Improving islet engraftment by examining alternative transplant sites and devising clinically applicable interventions which promote rapid revascularisation (blood vessel formation)
- Reducing the need for anti-rejection drugs, with strategies that offer "natural" protection to islet grafts by co-transplanting immune-suppressing stem cells

In 2018 NHS expenditure on blood glucose-lowering drugs was over £1bn. When combined with diabetes-related inpatient, outpatient and social services and the cost of managing secondary complications, diabetes-related spending in the NHS amounts to £9bn per year.

We propose that diabetes could be managed differently. Whilst it is a life-long condition the best approach would be to tackle the underlying cause i.e. the loss of the insulin-secreting cells (islets) from the pancreas. This is what islet transplantation does.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has approved the use of islet transplantation within the NHS but only for a select group of patients. We propose that it could be used more widely, notably as a treatment for children with Type 1 diabetes.



Professor Richard Downing Laboratory Director



Dr Hilary Murray  
Lead Research Scientist

Dr Michelle Paget  
Research Associate



Before this can happen we must ensure that the technique is as safe as possible and also ensure that it has long-term effectiveness.

Our research will, in time, lead to improvements in our understanding of diabetes. In doing so, more effective treatments will be developed, resulting in improved clinical outcomes for our patients and long-term health benefits for all those living with the condition.

To fund our ground breaking research it costs in excess of £200,000 per year.

Pay expenditure

- Healthcare Science Practitioner Principal
- Healthcare Science Practitioner Advanced
- Healthcare Scientist Assistant/ Associate Practitioner

Total pay costs: £163,078

Non-pay expenditure

Items of non-pay expenditure include:

- Small equipment
- Research reagents
- Service and Maintenance Contracts
- Overheads (incl. Estates and Facilities)

Total non-pay costs: £49,800 (approx.)

**Target to raise  
£200,000**



# How you can help

## Worcestershire Baby Hearing Screening Programme

The newborn hearing screening test helps us to identify babies who have permanent hearing loss as early as possible. This means parents can get the support and advice they need right from the start.

One to two babies in every 1,000 are born with permanent hearing loss in one or both ears. This increases to about 1 in every 100 babies who have spent more than 48 hours in intensive care.

Most of these babies are born into families with no history of permanent hearing loss. Permanent hearing loss can significantly affect babies' development.

Across Worcestershire we perform diagnostic testing on babies referred through from the newborn hearing screen and manage the treatment pathway needed including fitting hearing aids.

For 10 years we have performed these tests at Alexandra Hospital Redditch, Worcestershire Royal Hospital and Kidderminster Hospital. Unfortunately, the equipment at the Alexandra Hospital has been condemned and is in urgent need of new advanced replacement equipment.

Babies who reside in the north of the county are currently offered appointments at Worcester or Kidderminster but some families find it difficult to travel and are declining the test. The charity aims to fund the replacement equipment in the Alexandra Hospital Redditch, to ensure no deaf babies are missed.



The Interacoustics Eclipse ABR System – EP25 has been identified as the replacement equipment. The cost includes annual servicing and should last up to 6 years.



## Target to raise £25,000



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# Worcestershire Prostate Robotic Surgery Appeal

How you can help

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust Charitable Fund launched the £1 million Rory the Robot fundraising appeal in March 2014.

Since then over £490,000 has been raised towards the cost of a state of the art da Vinci robotic surgical system.

The system itself will primarily be used to treat patients with prostate cancer but has the potential to be utilised by other surgical teams in the future.

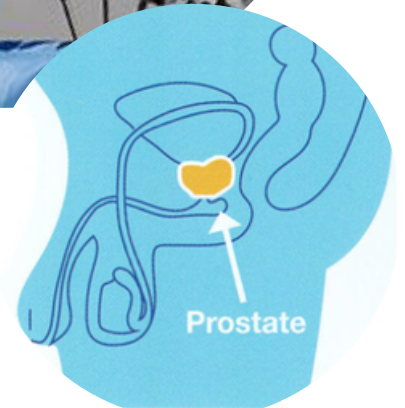
In Worcestershire alone there are between 125 to 150 radical prostate cancer operations carried out each year. Approximately 2,500 men in the region are surviving prostate cancer at any one time.

Prostate cancer unfortunately will be the most common cancer by 2030.

Robotic assisted surgery for prostate cancer is a keyhole procedure to remove the prostate gland using a state-of-the-art system. The robotic equipment enables a more precise procedure. Instead of open surgery, the procedure involves making five small incisions.

The benefits of robotic surgery include:

- Faster recovery time
- Smaller incisions
- Reduced blood loss
- HD and 3D operative view
- Discharge 24 hours after surgery
- Securing the future of cancer care



## Target to raise £500,000



Mr Chris Anderson, consultant Urological Surgeon - St George's Hospital London, has been performing robotic-assisted prostate surgery for five years. His unit undertakes over 150 robot assisted operations per year:

"The introduction of our robotic programme reduced the hospital stay. We saw 43% of our patients being discharged the next day. I immediately noticed that my patients had less pain and recovered faster."



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