



Sheffield
Hospitals
Charity



We're the best together

Impact Report
2024 – 2025

sheffieldhospitalscharity.org.uk

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The people of Sheffield are famous for their friendliness, their generosity and their pride in our city. This impact report is clearly evidence of that.



Welcome from our Chair

This report supplements the traditional annual report and accounts.*

Our charity is focused on two overarching priorities. To ensure that the people of Sheffield can say thank you to the NHS in our city for the care they receive, and to help fund facilities, research and projects which go above and beyond those which can be provided within NHS budgets.

Ours is a broad church; the organisations we support cover the entire spectrum of health conditions and in their lifetimes, every resident of Sheffield will make use of NHS capabilities.

We build our work around the things that matter to people in the city and to that end we have brought in high profile expertise to help shape and champion our work. We welcomed Professor Bola Owolabi, Director of the

National Healthcare Inequalities Improvement Programme at NHS England, and Richard Stubbs, CEO at Health Innovation Yorkshire and Humber, as charity ambassadors. Their insights help us to make grants which address specific needs, but which also help the ambitions of Sheffield's NHS.

This year, our profile has risen, and we are developing stronger and deeper relationships across the city. Both our grant making and our fundraising is more focused.

As Chair, I remain inspired by two things – the generosity of the people of Sheffield to support healthcare in our city, and the commitment of our employees and volunteers to build the platform through which that support can be channelled.

Thank you to all who have helped to make our NHS even better this year.

Adrian Stone, Chair of the Board of Trustees

*Annual Report and Accounts can be found on the Companies House website

The first year of our strategy saw us increase our grant giving by almost 40%, supporting more life-changing and life-saving work across Sheffield's NHS.



A message from our Chief Executive

As the official charity partner to Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Sheffield Health Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust, we have the largest healthcare remit of any charity in the city.

Our focus remains to improve patient experience for the people of Sheffield, and indeed the wider region. From technology supporting people with aphasia after a stroke, to research around pre-eclampsia. From a garden at Critical Care in the Northern General to a kitchen on the Spinal Injuries Unit for patients to regain their independence. Our funding has covered the breadth and depth of our NHS.

Tackling health inequity in Sheffield is one of our four funding priorities and underpins much of our work. We committed funding to the British Red Cross to deliver a High Intensity Use service, supporting those who regularly attend A&E to identify and address the biggest challenges in their lives. We also directed money to local charity MAAN to fund two peer support workers helping people in the Somali community to access mental health services. Both examples demonstrate how we can fund the organisations with the expertise to deliver the best support for the people of Sheffield.

Generous, and in some cases brave individuals, groups and businesses across the city donated and fundraised to show their appreciation for our NHS. Having relocated to Leah's Yard in the Heart of the City, we began to build new relationships not least through the Master Cutler's Challenge, which we launched in January 2025 in support of dementia care, thanks to Master Cutler Phil Rodrigo.

My personal highlights this year were our innovative strategy launch, transforming Trafalgar Warehouse into a living, breathing impact report, which was then installed as an exhibition at the Millennium Gallery. We went on to win Brand Campaign of the Year at Sheffield Business Awards for this! Finding the way to Amarillo with our ambassador Tony Christie at our Cathedral Christmas event was another highlight.

My sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us. Whether you ran, walked, climbed, donated, listened, gave feedback, collected at a supermarket, or sponsored your friend to do something silly in our name, thank you.

Together, we have achieved so much with your support this year.

Beth Crackles, Chief Executive Officer

Our Year in Numbers



£3,274,426

given to support
Sheffield's NHS



1,195

people took part in or
attended fundraising events



294

community fundraisers



1,649

Christmas trees recycled



1

surprise appearance from
Tony Christie at our Cathedral
Christmas event



8

stand-up comedians created
through Chuckles for Charity



14,216

tickets played in Sheffield Hospitals
Charity lottery in March 2025



2

Trusts we support*

*Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STH) and Sheffield Health Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SHPU), previously known as Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust

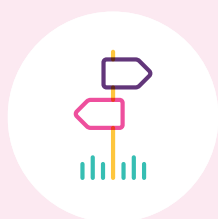


Our Values



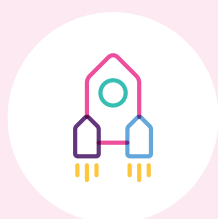
1. We're the best together

We work collaboratively with our beneficiary Trusts and other organisations to have the greatest impact for the people of Sheffield. We help our supporters and volunteers to give back to the NHS in ways that suits them. We employ talented people and encourage each other to be the best we can be.



2. We go the extra mile

Whether you're a patient, NHS staff, supporter or employee, we strive to make people feel uplifted. Our funding is always above and beyond what the NHS can provide, and we ask; how can we fund the best outcomes in this area? We go the extra mile for each other, our beneficiaries and our supporters, and ask; how can we help? As a team, we celebrate our successes and work hard to improve and innovate.



3. We look to the future

We help build a brighter future for the NHS in Sheffield. When funding, we ask; how will this help our Trusts now and in the future? As a charity, we aim to be financially and environmentally sustainable. When investing in our charity, we ask; does this help build a sustainable organisation and a happy, productive team?

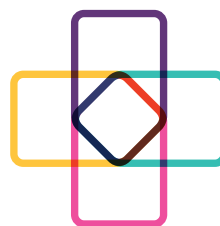
Our Four Funding Priorities

We've given over **£3.2 million** in grants to help patients, their families and NHS staff **thanks to your support.**



Supporting patient
centred experiences

£2m



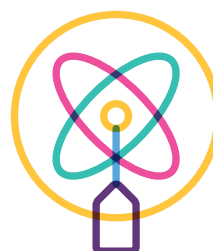
Supporting caring
and cared for staff

£554k



Reducing health
inequalities in Sheffield

£401k



Maximising technology,
research and innovation

£274k

Technology to Support Stroke Patients

Sheffield Hospitals Charity has funded new digital tools to help stroke patients rebuild their communication skills after experiencing aphasia, a language disorder that affects understanding, speaking, reading and writing.

Aphasia is a life-changing condition, and around 350,000 people in England are currently living with it. Around one in three strokes result in aphasia, making access to effective therapy essential for recovery.*

To support patients at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, the charity has funded a lifetime subscription to CueSpeak, a specialist rehabilitation app along with five iPads to ensure patients can access therapy for longer and

more frequently. CueSpeak provides structured, personalised exercises designed to improve language skills and complement the therapy provided by clinicians.

The Speech and Language Therapy Team at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals work with patients who have communication and swallowing difficulties following a stroke. They say the new equipment is already making a meaningful difference.



Jenni Crisp, Stroke Specialist Speech and Language Therapist at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals:

“We use the apps and devices funded by Sheffield Hospitals Charity every day to provide high-quality, evidence-based and individualised therapy to our patients with aphasia. They are a significant part of our toolkit to help with patients’ recovery after stroke.”

*Source - The Stroke Association

Lioness Millie Bright Opened a New Critical Care Garden

Former England footballer, Millie Bright OBE, visited the Northern General Hospital to officially open a new garden at the Critical Care Unit.

The newly transformed outdoor space was designed to provide a peaceful retreat for both patients and staff. Critical Care staff, with help from the charity funded Arts in Health team, created colourful mosaics to brighten the garden walls.

Kathy Yorke, Critical Care Sister and Professional Nurse Advocate:

"This project was two years in the making, with some truly incredible people involved in bringing the garden to life. It's a beautiful, restorative space that brings comfort, hope, and a sense of normality during some of the most challenging moments. A massive thank you to Sheffield Hospitals Charity for their support."

A resin floor in the garden allows easy access for patients in beds or wheelchairs to be taken outside into the fresh air, offering much-needed respite from the ward. Surrounded by greenery and flowers, the garden now provides a safe space enabling patients to see family and friends and even their pets in a relaxed setting.

The garden renovation was funded with support from NHS Charities Together.

A family on the Critical Care Unit:

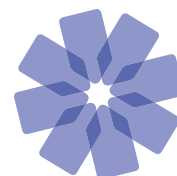
"Being able to step outside into the garden gave us a moment of peace during an incredibly difficult time. The space is beautiful, calming, and full of life. It allowed us to breathe, reflect, and spend precious moments together as a family. We are so grateful to everyone for creating such a special place for patients and loved ones."





Millie Bright:

"I have family members who work within the NHS, and my sister was a member of the Critical Care team here in Sheffield, so it is something I'm very passionate about and the incredible work that everyone does every day. The garden can provide a space to take time away from the unit, have a change of scenery and boost wellbeing overall. I'm proud of what everyone achieved to make this project happen and felt honoured to officially open the garden."



Another Year of Support at Spinal Injuries Centre

Thanks to your donations, we've had a real impact at the Princess Royal Spinal Injuries Centre.

The centre, located at the Northern General Hospital, is the second largest in the UK. It is one of eight centres in England designated to receive and treat patients with spinal cord injuries. Serving a population stretching as far as East Anglia, it is the regional centre of excellence for Yorkshire, North and North-West England, the East, West Midlands and East Midlands, meaning many patients are miles away from their loved ones and their homes.

We've funded another year of therapeutic activities for patients and families. Activities include arts and crafts, cooking, baking, bingo and game sessions, adapted bike rides, gardening and karaoke. Special events have also been organised, such as a Halloween party, a Christmas Fayre, and family BBQs.

A patient from Osborn 3, a rehabilitation ward at the centre, said, **"What a fantastic way of getting lots of patients and families together. I have such a lovely time with laughter and smiles from everyone. There is always plenty of singing, fun quizzes, and even opportunities to cook or bake for our loved ones. We're so grateful to Sheffield Hospitals Charity for making it happen!"**

Patient Assessment Kitchen Transformed

Our funding has given a new lease of life to the Patient Assessment Kitchen at the centre. The kitchen allows staff to assess spinal injury patients in a realistic setting and shows what adaptations can be available when they return home. The original kitchen was fitted in 1994 when the Spinal Injuries Centre first opened and was in desperate need of an upgrade. The space is now also accessible for patients who need wider wheelchairs.





Kim Bateman, Occupational Therapist at The Princess Royal Spinal Injuries Centre:

"The updated kitchen is a huge asset to our therapy department, allowing practice in an adapted and unadapted kitchen environment. It enables us to educate patients on what kind of adaptations they can have at home and offers a safe environment for them to practice ready for their discharge home. It also shows the type of kitchen accessories that are readily available. Without the support of the charity, we would not have been able to achieve such a beautiful set-up with the facility for patients to explore options for their home environment."



Corey, a patient in the Centre:

"Following an accident and long stay in hospital it was good to get into a kitchen again with my dad, make my own birthday cake and decorate this so I could share with my family and friends. It has shown me that I can achieve things that I enjoy, independently."

World's Smallest Heart Pump Technology for Sheffield

Sheffield Hospitals Charity provided over £247,000 to buy 15 new life-saving miniature heart pump devices to improve outcomes for the region's sickest heart patients, including those experiencing cardiogenic shock.

Cardiogenic shock is a life-threatening condition where the heart suddenly can't pump enough blood to meet the body's needs which can often occur after a severe heart attack.

The new heart pump devices are the smallest heart pumps in the world.

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, which is home to one of the largest cardiothoracic centres in the UK, will be the first cardiac centre

in Yorkshire to start using the revolutionary devices.

The devices work by providing short-term mechanical circulatory support to the heart, allowing the heart to rest and recover whilst blood and oxygen is delivered to the entire body when heart pumping function is critically impaired.

As well as assisting heart function during complex procedures to treat severe blockages in the heart's arteries, the device ensures oxygen to the liver, kidneys and other organs is maintained. This can be critical in preventing severe organ damage.

Shasta Ashraf, Director of Grants at Sheffield Hospitals Charity:

"Sheffield Hospitals Charity is committed to funding projects that have an immediate, life-saving benefit to patients. We are truly excited to be supporting this project, which will enable our cardiologists to save even more lives and provide vital evidence to the growing body of data showing us that this intervention can make a genuine difference in helping patients. Supporting patient-centred experiences is also one of our four priority areas where we invest to have the greatest impact for the people of Sheffield."



Dr M Aetesam Rahman, Project Lead at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals:

"We are delighted to have been awarded this funding from Sheffield Hospitals Charity. Traditionally, around half of patients with cardiogenic shock do not survive beyond the first month due to the serious nature of disease process. However, thanks to this investment, we hope to significantly improve survival rates whilst also reducing the length of time patients need to spend in hospital."

Here in Sheffield, we are fortunate to have a highly skilled and specialist clinical team who are at the forefront of advancing outcomes and care for heart patients.

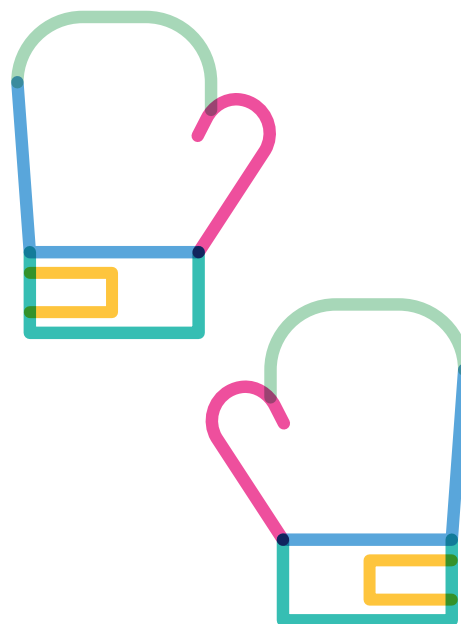
By introducing this new technology, we are even better equipped to deliver cutting-edge, life-saving treatments, making a real difference for our most seriously ill patients."



Fitness Sessions and Equipment Aid Recovery

A series of fitness sessions and specialist equipment has been provided to SHPU.

The fitness sessions support community-based patient groups with activities such as Thai boxing, cycling and football, and have welcomed more than 100 different attendees in the past year. Each session is designed to promote wellbeing by offering routine, stability and a supportive social environment where people feel safe to try new activities.



A service user from Burbage Ward:

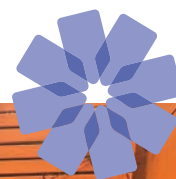
"I think Thai boxing is great. I never would have tried, but I really enjoy it. I want to create my own charity to help women who have experienced trauma, and I want that help to include Thai boxing."

Callum, fitness instructor, says the impact has been remarkable:

"The main benefit has been the social environment they (the fitness sessions) create. Many attendees have told me the football group is the one thing they look forward to each week. Having a space for inpatient service users to try football or Muay Thai for the first time, without judgement, has led to long-term friendships and support within the groups. Some have even gone on to join open football teams or afternoon Muay Thai sessions in the community. We're grateful to Sheffield Hospitals Charity who made this possible."



Calming Artwork and Staff Wellbeing Garden at Jessop Maternity Wing



Thanks to you we have funded the installation of landscape artwork and the creation of a dedicated wellbeing garden at the Jessop Wing Operating Theatres, offering meaningful support to both patients and staff. Large-scale landscape art featuring views of Derwent and Ladybower reservoirs now adorn the operating theatres, helping to reduce patient anxiety and promote a sense of calm. Research has shown that exposure to images of nature can lower stress levels and even reduce blood pressure, benefits that are especially important in this type of setting.

"Mothers coming into theatre are often undergoing surgery under extremely stressful circumstances, either during a delivery or

following one," **said Fleur Roberts, Consultant Anaesthetist at Jessop Wing.** "By offering them beautiful, calming images to focus on, we're helping patients and their birth partners to feel less overwhelmed. It gives them something positive to hold onto during what can be a frightening time."

The impact extends beyond patients. A new garden which has been thoughtfully designed with raised flower beds, vibrant plantings, comfortable seating, and meaningful artwork provides a space for staff in the operating theatre multidisciplinary team to pause and recharge during demanding shifts.



“This garden offers much-needed respite,” said Fleur. “It’s already made a noticeable difference to team morale. It’s not just a place to rest; it’s a powerful reminder to our staff that they are valued. It represents care, remembrance, and hope.”

Sheffield Hospitals Charity has enabled a lasting transformation in both patient experience and staff wellbeing. The team is profoundly grateful to the charity and its supporters for making these enhancements possible.

These spaces are about more than aesthetics; they’re about emotional care. We want every family, and every member of our team, to feel supported during life’s most vulnerable moments.”



Emily Champions Staff Wellbeing

Many NHS staff work in a highly pressurised environment, and their work can be complex, intense, and emotionally challenging. We're proud to fund a Staff Engagement and Wellbeing Coordinator at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals who provides dedicated support to colleagues.

The role of the coordinator is to actively promote the wide range of emotional physical and financial wellbeing support available to staff. They recruit and train Wellbeing Champions to promote wellbeing amongst their colleagues to help reach frontline staff, as well as delivering sessions at inductions for newly qualified nurses, junior doctors, clinical support workers, team meetings, and more.

Research has shown that looking after the health and wellbeing of NHS staff is essential to the quality of care they provide for their patients.

Emily, Staff Engagement and Wellbeing Coordinator:

"The support from Sheffield Hospitals Charity has made a significant difference to the Staff Engagement and Wellbeing Team. It has meant that we have been able to train over 330 Wellbeing Champions who can help us raise awareness of the wellbeing support available to our busy clinical staff, as well as providing wellbeing and resilience training sessions for all staff which we know in turn has a positive impact on patient care."





Staff Shine at Awards Ceremony

The Shine Awards celebrate the incredible work Sheffield Health Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust does every day to improve the lives of people in Sheffield.

The Awards took place at the OEC, and were hosted by Xanthe Palmer, BBC Radio Sheffield

James Drury, Director of Strategy:

"Our staff awards evening was a fantastic opportunity to recognise the incredible commitment and creativity of our colleagues. Every nomination reflected the passion we see across the trust to make a real difference for the people we serve. I'm proud to work alongside such dedicated teams and grateful to everyone who helped make the event so special and to Sheffield Hospitals Charity for their generous support in part-funding the awards."

presenter, journalist and producer.

15 Shine awards were given out recognising the work staff at the Trust do to improve the mental, physical and social wellbeing of the people in Sheffield's diverse communities.



Innovative Staff Training

In the UK, anaesthetists face challenges in gaining hands-on experience due to the nature of their training and the complexity of the procedures they perform.

Simulation training is a valuable learning tool and allows clinicians to practice emergency protocols, improve decision-making skills and receive feedback.

Sheffield Hospitals Charity provided funding to develop an innovative avatar-based (graphical representation) training platform to improve training for anaesthetists managing maternal airway emergencies, a rare but high-risk situation during childbirth.

By providing flexible, accessible training that can be undertaken anytime, this platform will train anaesthetists on how to handle emergency situations. Accessed via a phone or computer it means that training is readily available and repeatable.





New Pharmacy Garden Blooms at the Michael Carlisle Centre

A vibrant new garden space opened at the Michael Carlisle Centre. The space is designed to offer moments of calm, reflection, and respite during busy working days.

A striking feature of the new garden is its hand-painted mural, produced by the SHPU Arts in Health team. Each flower in the mural was illustrated by a member of staff, with many medicinal plants included as a nod to the garden's location next to the pharmacy department.

Alongside the mural, the garden offers new picnic benches, raised beds, shrubs, and a specially commissioned bench installed with a plaque in memory of a much-loved colleague.



Hannah Godfrey, Professional lead for Arts Therapies and Arts in Health:

"We've got before and after photos and it has made a massive difference. This project meant people who weren't used to making art were talked through the process and encouraged to take part, and they really enjoyed it. The feedback was lovely. All the plants have been sourced to have all-year-round colour and interest, so it's an area where staff can come out, relax, and enjoy the outdoor space at any time of year."

Abiola Allinson, Chief Pharmacist at SHPU:

"This will make such a difference – just the opportunity to sit and choose to relax. It's a sanctuary."



Service to Reduce A&E Pressure

Sheffield Hospitals Charity provided funding to create a High Intensity Use (HIU) service in Sheffield to work with patients who attend A&E more than five times in a 12-month period. The service will be delivered by the British Red Cross and is expected to replicate the success of HIU work elsewhere, which includes significant reductions in A&E attendances, non-elective admissions and 999 calls.

There is a high correlation with high intensity A&E attendance and mental health challenges, homelessness, alcohol and substance misuse, and people who have recently spent time in prison. The HIU service takes a 1:1 coaching approach, identifying those who use mental and physical health services more than expected.

Legal and General awarded Sheffield Hospitals Charity £75,000 as part of their Health Equity Fund for the project. The fund supports initiatives tackling the driving forces behind health inequality in the UK.



Chris Powell-Wiffen, Operations Director, Acute & Emergency Medicine and Pharmacy Services, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals:

“The collaboration between the Sheffield Hospitals Charity, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and the British Red Cross marks a major step toward providing more compassionate, coordinated, and proactive care for some of our most vulnerable patients. It reflects our commitment to not just treating illness but improving lives. This service is about seeing the person behind the patient. By building trust and offering tailored support to people who often face complex challenges, we can reduce crises, improve wellbeing, and help people find stability in their health and lives while reducing avoidable hospital visits.”

Rachel Carter, Programme Delivery Manager for North England and Isle of Man, British Red Cross:

“The British Red Cross are delighted to have been chosen to deliver the new High Intensity Use Service, working alongside Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, to offer outreach support for individuals who are accessing urgent and emergency care, more than expected. Sheffield HIU service will join our large national network of HIU services, working to reduce the wider impact of frequent attendance at emergency departments and delivering person-centred, holistic community-based support for individuals with unmet needs.”

Peer Support for the Somali Community

Sheffield Hospitals Charity are proud to have funded a new project that improves access to mental health support for Sheffield's Somali community. The initiative, delivered in partnership with Sheffield Health Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (SHPU) and Maan Somali Mental Health Sheffield, introduced a dedicated Somali Peer Support Worker who works directly with individuals, families and carers.

Maan Somali Mental Health Sheffield provides culturally sensitive mental health support for Somali people and refugee communities through one-to-one help, carers groups and community development.

The new peer support worker role works across community mental health services to improve access and ensure support is easier to reach for those who may face additional cultural or social barriers. They will also work closely with social care partners to help prevent issues that can lead to further mental health difficulties.

This partnership is an important step in reducing long-standing inequalities and ensuring care is designed alongside the communities it serves.

Sheffield is home to one of the largest Somali communities in the UK.

An attendee at the peer support sessions:

"For a long time, I had no one to talk to about my feelings. These sessions gave me a safe space where I can meet people who are going through similar situations. Earlier this year we went to the Peak District and spending time in nature felt healing. They have also helped me with many practical things, including how to get a lawyer, register with a GP, find volunteering opportunities, and access health services. These sessions have changed my attitude toward mental health. Hearing Maan staff talk openly about their own mental health journeys made it easier for me to understand and accept mine."





Missed Appointments Reduced by Funding Bus Travel for Patients

Sheffield Hospitals Charity funded bus tickets to help patients from the Foundry Primary Care Network (PCN) attend vital hospital appointments, reducing one of the key barriers to accessing care for people living in some of Sheffield's most deprived neighbourhoods.

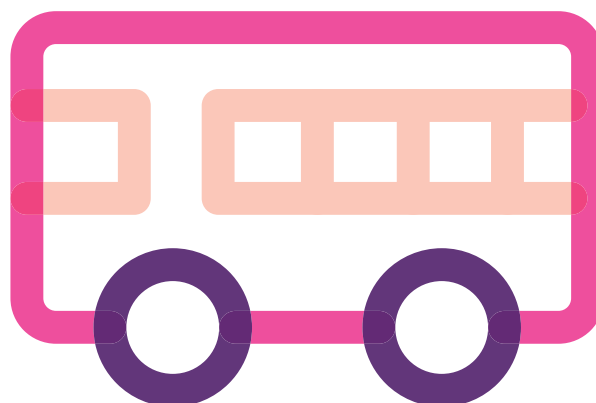
Foundry PCN serves around 60,000 residents across eight GP surgeries. Many people living in poverty don't have access to a car and may not be able to afford public transport, which can result in missed hospital appointments. To help tackle the problem we funded 150 bus tickets to be distributed over a 12-month period to patients who state travel costs as a barrier to accessing their appointments.

The tickets support attendance and include travel for both the patient and, where needed, a family member or carer. A patient shared that she was offered bus tickets to support her with travel. This meant that she successfully attended her Diabetic Eye Screening, as well as her neurology appointments.

Thanks to the charity's funding, Foundry PCN can now offer practical, immediate support to the people who need it most, ensuring that essential hospital care remains within reach for everyone in the community.

Farah Akhtar, Health Inequalities Lead at Foundry Primary Care Network:

"The funding provided by Sheffield Hospitals Charity has been instrumental in supporting some of our most vulnerable patients who face significant financial and transport barriers to accessing secondary care. By covering essential travel costs, such as bus fares, the grant has enabled patients and their families, many living with long-term conditions or financial hardship, to attend vital hospital appointments. This support has directly helped to reduce missed appointments, improve continuity of care, and promote fairer access to NHS services for those most at risk of health inequalities. We are deeply grateful for this support, which has made a measurable difference in ensuring patients receive the care they need, when they need it."



Sensory Equipment at A&E

Two interactive sensory panels have been provided at A&E and the adjacent Acute Medical Unit (AMU) in the Northern General. The new equipment is part of a series of improvements to make the hospital a more neurodiverse-friendly environment.

The panels create snowfall, light and sound effects in response to noise and voice and can help to prevent anxiety in patients who find A&E a particularly difficult setting. The panels aim to help patients be calmer, more relaxed, and better able to cope with waiting and treatment.

Two mobile sensory projectors have also been purchased and will enable sensory support to be available in different locations.

Rebecca Powell-Wood, Learning Disability and Autism Professional Lead:

"A&E can be a particularly challenging environment for people with autism or neurodiversity due to its fast-paced, unpredictable, noisy and busy nature. We hope this equipment will help to provide a calmer experience which in turn will have a positive impact on patients being able to receive their care with as little distress as possible. If it can help to provide a better first experience, then it can improve the whole hospital journey."



Sensory Boxes Supporting People with Learning Disabilities



Sensory boxes have been provided to help people with learning disabilities feel calmer, safer, and more able to participate in their appointments at SHPU. The boxes were created to help reduce anxiety, improve engagement and support better access to care. People who previously struggled to even move from their car into a clinical setting have been helped to better cope with their appointments thanks to the provision of the sensory boxes. Staff at the Trust have used the boxes in training sessions to demonstrate best practice and to raise awareness of sensory needs during appointments.

David Newman, Clinical Psychologist:

"A service user who was recently diagnosed as autistic was given the opportunity to explore some fidget toys and try headphones to give ideas of what she might want to use in her future psychiatry appointments. She found the discussion of being autistic quite hard but once we got the fidget toys out, she started smiling and was better able to engage in the conversation"



Life Story Books for People with Down's Syndrome

People with Down's Syndrome have a higher risk of developing dementia.

A baseline health assessment is conducted by the age of 30 making it easier to spot possible health changes, including dementia, in the future.

As part of this assessment, the Specialist Community Learning Disability Service developed a life story book to proactively engage with adults with Down's Syndrome around their physical and psychological health.

A life story book allows them to complete a person centred, collaborative piece of work around what is important to them, including their history, their family, their skills, likes and dislikes.

The specialist team often meet people with Down's Syndrome in their fifties or sixties who no longer have regular family contact and have had several support workers. Often, their history gets lost and with it the sense of who they are as a person.

The project offers education around physical and mental health to empower young people with Down's Syndrome. It helps them to be more in control of their own health needs and more aware of when and how to seek help.

Suzie Beart, Clinical Psychologist at Sheffield Health Partnership University Trust, said:

"This funding has allowed us to work proactively with people much earlier in their lives. Creating life story books has been incredibly meaningful, not just for the individuals and families, but for us as staff. Knowing that these books can preserve someone's identity and help shape compassionate, personalised care in the future is invaluable. We are so grateful to Sheffield Hospitals Charity for funding this project."





Pre-eclampsia Research

Sheffield Hospitals Charity funded a research project aimed at improving how pre-eclampsia is identified and managed, helping ensure pregnant women receive the right care sooner.

Pre-eclampsia is a serious condition that develops in the second half of pregnancy and can cause high blood pressure, vision changes, abdominal pain, nausea, and swelling in the hands and face. It affects around 1 in 10 pregnancies, and women from ethnic minority backgrounds are four times more likely to die from the condition compared with white women*

If left untreated, pre-eclampsia can lead to life-threatening complications for both mother and baby.

Dr William Parker, NIHR Clinical Lecturer in Cardiology, University of Sheffield:

“Platelets are small blood cells known to produce chemicals that are raised in pre-eclampsia, a dangerous condition of pregnancy. Aspirin, which reduces the function of platelets, is recommended for women at high risk of pre-eclampsia to try and prevent it, but sadly often does not. Our research suggests in many women taking aspirin for prevention of pre-eclampsia, current dosing of aspirin may not be having the desired effect. We are developing further work to improve the effectiveness of aspirin treatment for women at risk of pre-eclampsia in Sheffield and beyond.”

*Source: MBRRACE-UK Maternal Compiled Report 2023



Technology to Improve Wound Care

Normally the skin heals quickly on its own. Wounds that don't heal quickly are called chronic wounds and they require special care to heal. Across the UK, 2.2 million people are currently living with chronic wounds*. These complex wounds often require long-term treatment, can deteriorate quickly without early intervention, and can severely affect quality of life. If not identified and managed promptly, they can lead to complications including infection or even amputation.

Here in Sheffield the charity has enabled the purchase and trial of a Wound Management Application; a cutting-edge digital tool designed to transform monitoring and care. Using a standard smartphone camera, the app captures a short video to create a precise 3D model of a wound, enabling clinicians to track healing progress accurately over time.

This technology supports faster identification of wounds that are not improving, allowing healthcare teams to intervene earlier,

improving healing rates, and reducing the risk of complications. By giving patients clear, visual insight into their own healing journey, the app has also been shown to boost engagement and support better self-management.

Saul Hill, Professional Head of Podiatry:

"Thanks to the generous support of Sheffield Hospitals Charity, we're taking a bold step forward in transforming patient care through technology. Their backing is enabling us to pilot a cutting-edge, AI-powered tool that supports clinicians in the assessment and management of wounds. It ultimately helps deliver better outcomes for patients and early feedback has been incredibly positive.

This isn't just about adopting new tech; it's about reimagining how we deliver care in the community. We're excited to lead the way in digital innovation, and we're deeply appreciative of the charity for helping us bring this vision to life."

*Source: GOV.UK, Advanced Wound Care



Rapid Test for Patients with Chest Pain

A new rapid blood test is set to transform how quickly patients with chest pain can be assessed and safely discharged from Sheffield's Emergency Department.

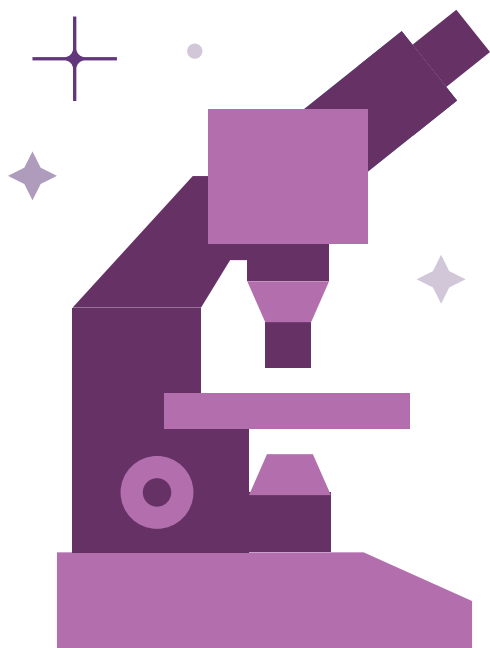
Chest pain is one of the most common reasons people go to A&E in Sheffield. A major cause of delay can be the time it takes to rule out a heart attack. Clinicians do this by measuring levels of troponin, an enzyme that rises when the heart is under stress. Until now, troponin tests had to be sent to the laboratory, and many patients required a repeat test three hours later to confirm they were safe to go home.

With the help of Sheffield Hospitals Charity supporters, a high-sensitivity troponin point-of-care test has been introduced. This small device delivers accurate results in just 10–15 minutes, matching the precision of traditional lab testing but without the wait.

This test will not only improve patient experience by providing reassurance more quickly but will also help reduce waiting times and ensure that those who do need urgent heart care are identified and treated even sooner.

Dr Ahmed Dakshi, Cardiology Registrar:

"Chest pain is one of the most common reasons people attend the Emergency Department however less than 10% are diagnosed with heart attacks. The diagnosis requires blood sampling to measure a marker of heart injury called troponin. Until recently, this has been restricted to central lab testing. Any improvements in efficiency can improve patient care and resource utilisation, facilitating prompt diagnosis and intervention or early discharge. As part of a winning bid in Sheffield Teaching Hospitals Dragons' Den innovation competition supported by Sheffield Hospitals Charity, we successfully implemented a month-long pilot using these devices in our Emergency Department in the Northern General, making it the first centre in the United Kingdom to do so outside a research setting."





Cutting-Edge Technology to Support People Living with Cystic Fibrosis

New, state-of-the-art technology is helping clinicians at the Sheffield Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre better understand and support the changing health needs of people living with Cystic Fibrosis (CF).

CF is a rare, inherited genetic condition that causes breathing and digestive problems. There is currently no cure but there are medicines and supportive treatments that can help. The Sheffield Adult Cystic Fibrosis Centre cares for around 250 people over the age of 16 living with the condition.

As life expectancy continues to rise, clinicians are looking at how best to support patients who are gaining weight or are suspected to have low muscle mass and high fat mass linked to years of reduced physical activity due to illness and hospital stays.

Thanks to funding from Sheffield Hospitals Charity, patients with CF can now have a detailed body composition assessment using the Bodystat Multiscan 5000, a small, non-invasive device that completes a full body measurement in just six seconds. This technology provides clinicians and patients with clear, personalised reports,

supporting conversations around healthy eating, exercise, and long-term wellbeing.

By allowing patients with CF to see their progress as they work to build muscle mass and adopt healthier habits, the device is expected to play a valuable motivational role.

Ailsa Milne, Specialist Dietitian for Cystic Fibrosis:

“Until now, we’ve mainly used BMI to monitor weight, but BMI can’t tell us how much of a person’s weight is muscle and how much is fat. Low muscle levels can cause problems such as weaker physical ability, a higher risk of falls and fractures, and a lower quality of life.

To understand this better, we’ve introduced body composition checks using the new technology. We’re offering this to every patient at their annual review so we can collect a clear picture of their starting point. We then use this information to talk about how their results might affect their future health, and what steps they can take now to support a longer, healthier life with CF.”



MS Research into Stem Cell Transplantation

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a disease in which the immune system mistakenly attacks the brain and spinal cord. It is the most common cause of long-term disability in young adults.

Around 2 million people worldwide have MS, and 40–65% of them experience some level of cognitive problems, such as difficulties with memory, attention, or thinking*

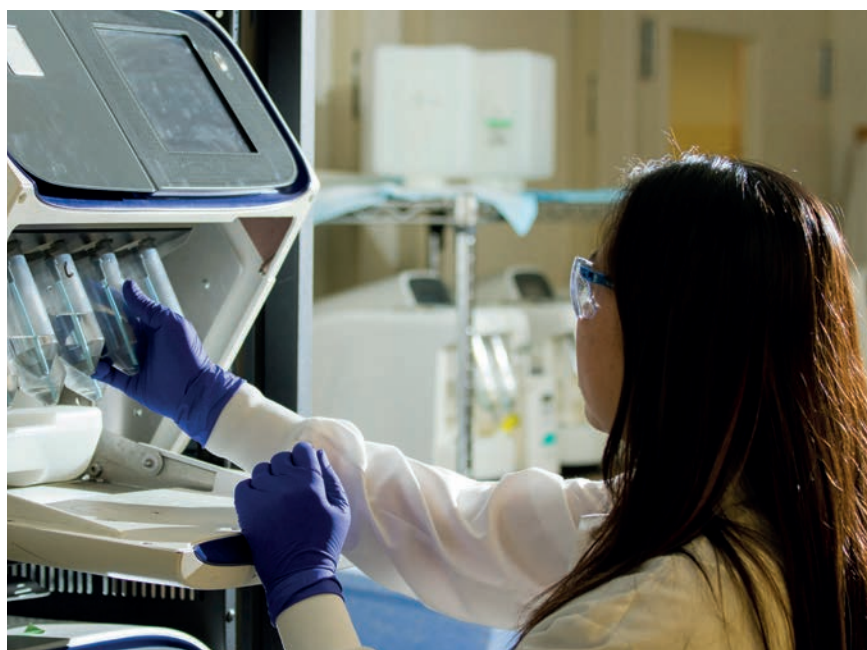
These problems, combined with the other symptoms of MS, can significantly affect a person's health, ability to work, and overall quality of life. Treatments that can improve thinking and memory in people with MS could be hugely beneficial to patients in Sheffield.

Annalena Venneri, Professor of Clinical Translational Neuropsychology, University of Sheffield:

“More than half of the people with multiple sclerosis (MS) struggle with cognitive abilities such as memory and attention. These issues are often overlooked, but they seriously harm a patient's overall health, ability to work, and quality of life. For these reasons, we urgently need better ways to treat the cognitive decline caused by MS.

Stem cell transplantation is a promising new treatment for severe multiple sclerosis that hasn't responded to typical drug therapies. This procedure resets the patient's immune system, which can stop other MS symptoms. However, its effects on thinking abilities aren't yet clear.

Understanding how stem cell transplantation can improve memory and attention in people with multiple sclerosis will certainly have a positive impact on the patients, their families, and their caregivers. Knowing which thinking skills benefit the most will allow us to offer better, more tailored support, especially for patients who are still working.”



*Source: National Library of Medicine

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we are proud to fund the Volunteer Services and Arts in Health team at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals.



Active volunteers

337



Hours logged

24,268

Active Response tasks
completed

2,797



Pharmacy packages
delivered

40,103



Patients and visitors
supported

120,523



Therapy Dogs visits across
26 departments

153



Volunteers that Make a Difference

“We had an incident in Huntsman reception where we needed to call the crash team for a young gentleman that had collapsed in the waiting area. The volunteers helped to locate equipment that was needed and assisted the team in general with caring for the patient. The duty matron wanted to express her thanks for all the help that they had provided.”

Receptionist, Huntsman, Northern General Hospital.

Team Impact

Team Impact is an opportunity for young people aged 16-17 to experience volunteering in the hospital environment. The third group of 16 young people began their programme in December 2024 and have collectively achieved 483 hours of volunteering.

Team Impact was the winner in the PROUD Volunteer of the Year category at the STH Thank You Awards in December 2024.

Volunteer from Team Impact:

“My career goal hasn’t changed; however, it has inspired me more to become a nurse. When I can make others happy with a small thing such as taking them to their appointment and creating conversation, it makes me feel good, making their day better and easier for them.”



Rolling Reads

Rolling Reads is a volunteer-run book trolley which expanded this year to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. Books are donated by staff, patients and their families and are a welcome escape for people spending time in hospital. 461 books were distributed across 23 wards between April 24 and March 25.



Exhibition Exploring Art, Wellbeing and Patient Creativity

Shifting Shapes exhibition at the Northern General features artwork created by patients, alongside the work of artist Laura Obon. The Arts in Health team distributed specially designed 'art packs' to patients for collage-making, inspired by Laura's work.

Showcasing the therapeutic benefits of art and creativity, the gallery is a live example of how patients have been able to support their mental and physical wellbeing through art.

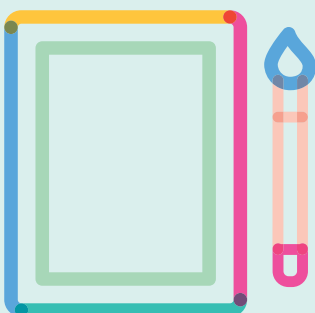
Victoria Gisborne-Land, Arts Coordinator at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals:

"This exhibition is a wonderful example of how creative projects can transform clinical spaces, making them more welcoming and inspiring for patients, staff, and visitors. Seeing patient artwork displayed alongside a professional artist's work highlights the value of creative expression in enhancing wellbeing and the hospital environment."



Lizzie, a patient at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals:

"As a patient in hospital a lot of your freedoms are compromised or removed altogether. Especially your freedom to make choices. For a short while the art project flipped that on its head and enabled a situation where the only choices that mattered were mine and I had complete control. The art pack I was given included some instructions, some inspiration and all the materials I needed. I was able to act on impulse and create something. The activity reminded me that I was more than a patient in hospital. It brought me back to myself."



Musicians Bring Harmony to Patients

250 music sessions took place across 23 wards thanks to the generous funding from Sheffield Hospitals Charity supporters, Trusts and Foundations. Ongoing support from the charity helps to ensure these small but profound moments continue to flourish in hospital wards across the city.

Staff member, Chesterman 2

"The music session was absolutely amazing. My patient was very agitated and refusing his medication and as he heard the music, he had a mood swing and started singing the song. Very good session."

One musician told us:

"A visitor told us how her husband didn't understand the conversation, but he used to play a big drum in the Boys' Brigade. His face lit up while we were playing, and during You Are My Sunshine she sang to him, holding his hands and moving to the music together. A lovely moment of connection."



Raising a Tree-mendous Amount

Over £29,000 was raised through our Christmas tree recycling initiative!

The annual project saw more than 1,600 real Christmas trees collected from homes across the city, all of which were responsibly recycled thanks to the combined efforts of our dedicated volunteers, partners, and supporters.

Despite facing challenging weather conditions, our amazing volunteer drivers worked tirelessly, navigating Sheffield's steep and slippery roads to ensure every registered tree was collected. Their commitment, along with the vans they supplied, was vital in making the operation run smoothly.

Trees were collected in exchange for a voluntary donation and the chippings from the trees went on to be used as bedding at Mayfield Alpacas Farm & Animal Sanctuary and Heeley City Farm.



United in Helping People Live Better with Dementia

Sheffield Hospitals Charity were once again announced as an official charity partner of Sheffield United Football Club.

As part of ongoing efforts to raise funds and awareness for dementia care we held a charity takeover day at Bramall Lane. At the game against Plymouth Argyle, we were joined by some very special guests in the 'Blades Care box', a box usually reserved for TV commentary and reporting.



Guests included Master Cutler Phil Rodrigo, dementia carers, volunteers and people living with dementia from across Sheffield, who received a tour of the Lane before being treated to a bird's eye view of the game from our VIP box.

Sheffield United produced an emotive video of the day which was shared publicly on Christmas Eve.

The charity is committed to helping people live better with dementia in Sheffield. From providing specialist training and improving in-hospital experiences to helping people in local communities stay independent for longer.

The total raised on the day was £962. Thank you to the volunteers, Sheffield United Football Club and their fans for making this possible and for their support of Sheffield Hospitals Charity.



Amber Danks, Dementia Quality Improvement Lead at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals:

“I went with my Grandad who’s living with dementia. Football is everything he loves. He was over the moon, and he couldn’t believe the view. It was just nice to see him so happy.”



Immersive Exhibition Showcases Support for Sheffield's NHS

Sheffield Hospitals Charity showcased the ongoing impact of supporter donations and charity funding through a unique event at the Trafalgar Warehouse that went on to be a week-long exhibition at Millenium Gallery.

The immersive exhibition showcased the breadth and depth of support given to Sheffield's NHS and was used to launch the charity's three-year strategy.

It featured high impact pieces funded by our supporters such as a hyper-realistic manikin used for specialist training for frontline emergency response teams, demonstrations of a bone drill device used for bone marrow biopsies and a moving representation of the worries people go through when receiving a cancer diagnosis and how emotional and practical support is made available.

The warehouse was completely transformed, and guests were immersed into a clinical world with 10 hospital bays featuring physical representations and thought-provoking information about vital projects that would not have happened without charitable funding. Interactive sessions at the exhibition included making handprint cards - a memory making activity offered to patients in the palliative care unit at the Northern General Hospital.

The exhibition went on to win Brand Campaign of the Year at the Sheffield Business Awards 2025.



Beth Crackles, Chief Executive at Sheffield Hospitals Charity, said:

"Most people won't know that NHS Charities contribute over £1.5 million every single day to the NHS. Thanks to our generous supporters, Sheffield Hospitals Charity continue to fund the most incredible life-changing and life-saving work. We have the largest healthcare remit of any charity in the city and by quite a stretch. We want to show people what is possible with their help and to be clear that together we can achieve even more remarkable things. Our free to view exhibition at the Millennium Gallery was a really different way for us to show people just how important we are to Sheffield's NHS."



Comedy Novices Sell-Out the Leadmill

Sheffield Hospital Charity's new comedy night 'Chuckles for Charity' had it all.

From a David-Bowie-costumed singalong to on-screen flowcharts and a gruelling tale involving a brush with airport security, the comedic timing from our fundraisers on the night was impeccable.

Eight brave comedians took to the stage in front of a sold-out crowd. Complete newbies to the world of stand-up, they each received five training sessions with professional comedian Anthony J. Brown over the course of three months, culminating in their debut at the iconic Leadmill.

Raising a total of £17,400, our brand-new event not only put smiles on faces for the International Day of Happiness but raised plenty of money for our dementia appeal.

Anthony J Brown said on the night:

"I feel like a proud parent! It's testament to everyone putting the time in, and they really did. All eight have really committed to the cause."



**Chuckles
for Charity**





Surprise Appearance from Music Legend Tony Christie

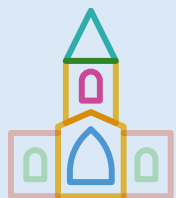
In an unforgettable moment, Tony Christie made a surprise appearance at a Sheffield Hospitals Charity fundraiser in the Cathedral, leaving the audience stunned.

The event was hosted by Reverend Kate Bottley who rose to fame on Channel 4's Gogglebox, presents Good Morning Sunday on BBC Radio 2 and is a regular on BBC Songs of Praise.

Tony is an ambassador for the charity and backed our campaign to help people in Sheffield

live better with dementia. He delivered an impressive performance of his classic songs, including "Avenues and Alleyways," which featured in the charity's Christmas campaign video. He also sang a heartfelt rendition of "Silent Night," and brought the entire audience to their feet when he performed an acoustic of his hit record (Is This the Way To) Amarillo.

The performance was especially poignant, as Tony revealed his own dementia diagnosis in 2023.



Tony Christie said:

"When I received my diagnosis of early onset dementia it was a shock...it's not something you think will ever happen to you. I was worried I wouldn't be able to carry on performing and that's all I've ever known. But with a few adjustments, like an onstage monitor with the lyrics to my songs, I'm still singing as good as I ever did.

Music is such a powerful trigger for improving symptoms associated with dementia. Music is in my soul, and it still gives me happiness on the darkest of days.

I'm so grateful for the care my family and I have received from our NHS over the years and that's why I'm such a proud ambassador for Sheffield Hospitals Charity."



Jakki and her soulful family of fundraisers

"I've loved the Soul Scene since I was 15. I danced quite literally all night long. When I was diagnosed with MS at 32, whilst working as a Neurology Secretary of all things, the dancing gradually became harder, and eventually impossible. But I never stopped being part of the scene. I kept going with a walking stick, and now on my mobility scooter, because the Soul family really is just that: a family spread across the country."

When one of my DJ friends suggested we put on an MS charity event, everyone jumped at it. Six hundred people came to the very first event, and we raised over £5,000. One event became two... then three... and in 2024 we decided on one final push to reach a total of £30,000 for MS research. A target we exceeded!

MS is a dreadful neurological condition that affects every part of life. I know that first-hand so raising money for research felt like something I could do. It was a way to turn my experience, and the incredible support of the Soul community, into something positive. It was a way of raising money and having fun with friends at the same time."

Jakki's 'Whole of Soul' events have raised an incredible £31,040 for Multiple Sclerosis (MS) research.



600

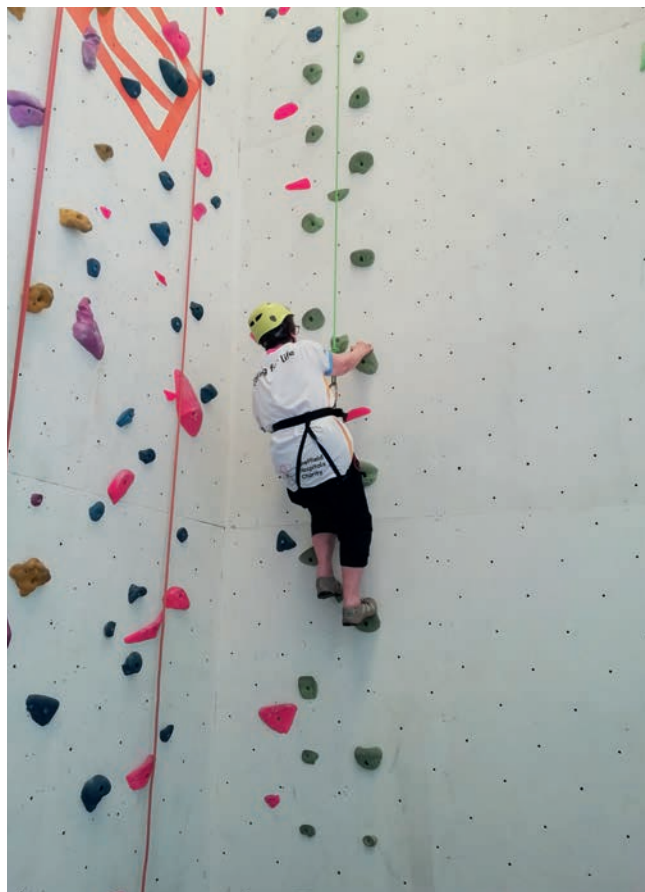
"Six hundred people came to the very first event, and we raised over £5,000!"

Daredevil Pauline, 82 Abseils in Memory of Her Husband Jack

82-year-old Pauline popped her helmet on and rock climbed up a 33-foot-high wall and then abseiled back down to raise funds for Sheffield Hospitals Charity.

Pauline first heard about the charity when she signed up to be a volunteer for Sheffield Teaching Hospitals after losing her husband, Jack. As she approached her 82nd birthday, Pauline wanted to fundraise for her next challenge.

“When my daughter mentioned Sheffield Hospitals Charity, I just knew it was right. My husband had been treated in the Northern General and the Royal Hallamshire.



I was also treated by Charles Clifford Hospital after experiencing stress-related issues following Jack’s passing. I knew if I did anything for charity, I’d want it to be for the hospitals in Sheffield. They took such good care of Jack.”

Pauline and Jack met as teenagers at an Army Depot in Didcot in 1959. They were engaged within six months, married 18 months later, and spent 54 years together.

“I wanted to marry a tall, dark, handsome man and I did! Without the Depot, our paths may not have ever crossed. I believe things happen for a reason and he was meant to meet me. I knew and he knew that we had met our soulmate.”

They lived a good and happy life together with their two children until Jack sadly passed away in the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in 2016.

“I feel comforted in a way, knowing that I’ve done this and given even just a little bit back to Sheffield’s NHS and the people that took care of Jack. I still miss him every day.”



Firefighter Walks 62 miles for Charity After Defying the Odds

Jamie and four of his fellow firefighters walked from their station in Rotherham to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield.

Jamie was told he may never walk again following a traumatic motorbike accident that led to him needing his knee entirely rebuilt. He was transferred to the Northern General Hospital where five operations later, he defied the odds, stood up and hasn't looked back since.

In their full firefighter uniform Matt Jordan, Callum Mountain, Paul Marshall, Addison Stores, and Jamie Hartnell walked from Dearne Community Fire Station, through to Rotherham Centre, past the Magna and Meadowhall, to Sheffield City Centre and then finished at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital. Throughout the journey they even used their breathing apparatus.

Jamie, firefighter and 62-mile challenge fundraiser:

"When my surgeon said I wouldn't walk again, I was devastated. After that final surgery, there came a point where I put my legs out and just stood up in front of them. I had to. Two years later I became a firefighter. They got me where I am now and I'm so grateful."

My Nan received end of life care at the Northern General Hospital and two of my children were born 13 and 10 weeks early and were cared for on the Jessop Wing. My family are so grateful to Sheffield's NHS and this challenge seemed like the perfect opportunity to give back."



Katya Overcomes Rare Neurological Disorder to Run the London Marathon

Determined Katya achieved her ambition of running the London Marathon one year on after she was paralysed from the neck down and placed in an induced coma.

Katya has a rare disorder called Guillain-Barré Syndrome which is usually triggered by a virus and starts in the lower limbs causing muscle weakness or paralysis. She fell ill in 2023, was placed on a ventilator and spent a week in an induced coma at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital.

Doctors informed Katya that it could take three to four years to regain some sense of normality in her life. Despite her daunting prognosis and with the support of the NHS team, Katya began her rehabilitation.



Just one year on and defying all odds, Katya ran the London Marathon in 2024. She raised over £1,600 for Sheffield Hospitals Charity and raised awareness about Guillain-Barré syndrome, even appearing live on BBC One!

Katya told us,

“It affects everything you take for granted in life. You have no control over anything with Guillain-Barré syndrome, and I’ve had to relearn how to do absolutely everything. At the time, I wondered whether I would ever be able to move again, walk again, let alone run.

When I was in the Neurological Intensive Care Unit and I woke up from my coma, it was almost like a reset. That’s where a new chapter of my life started. I have a new gratitude for just being alive and I see life so differently now. I owe my life to the team at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals which is why I wanted to run for the charity.”





**We couldn't do
it without you**

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