

Read about the impact you have made to the lives of patients and staff at **Leicester's Hospitals**.

Spring 2024 Newsletter



**Leicester
Hospitals
Charity**



“Rishi can now find comfort in play at the Children’s Emergency Department”

Inside:

♥ Pages 2-3

You did it! 4000 more chemotherapy treatments a year will soon be made possible

♥ Pages 8-9

Robotic CPR is helping to save lives at Glenfield Hospital

♥ Pages 4-5

Prostate surgery can now be performed more efficiently than ever before

♥ Pages 10-11

Behind the scenes with Hospital Chaplain Kerry Tomblin

♥ Pages 6-7

Interactive toys bring comfort, distraction and relief for families visiting the Children’s Emergency Department

♥ Page 12

Become a friend of Leicester Hospitals Charity

Chemotherapy Suite expansion will soon help to transform cancer care at Leicester Royal Infirmary

Incredible fundraising and kindness from the community means more chemotherapy treatments will soon be made possible for cancer patients



Artist impression of the lounge area

Over the past two decades, many new cancer treatments have been developed and delivered through immunotherapy and chemotherapy. This is excellent news for cancer patients living in Leicestershire and Rutland but has led to a situation where more space is required at the Leicester Royal Infirmary to accommodate more patients.

Thanks to your generosity, we are delighted to announce the fundraising target of £700,000 has been met. This will help to refurbish the entire suite, purchase treatment equipment and six additional chairs to enable 4,000 more treatments each year, giving more people the hope of beating cancer.

Work is expected to commence in June, and we aim to complete the project by late 2024. Thank you so much to everyone who has helped to reach this wonderful milestone for the local community.

The kindness shown from across the community in support of the project has been incredibly heart-warming. You may recall inspiring stories from patients like Jon and Emma who shared their personal journeys, alongside hospital staff who are passionate in the care they give every day.

Rebecca Brennan, Oncology Matron, said, "Thank you to those who have helped to make the project a reality. Because of your generosity, the enhancements to the Chemotherapy Suite will allow the compassionate team to help more people from across the community who are fighting cancer."

One in two of us will face cancer in our lives. Your contribution has been vital in ensuring that every member of our community has the best chance in their fight against cancer. Thank you for being part of this journey – together we've made a great thing happen.

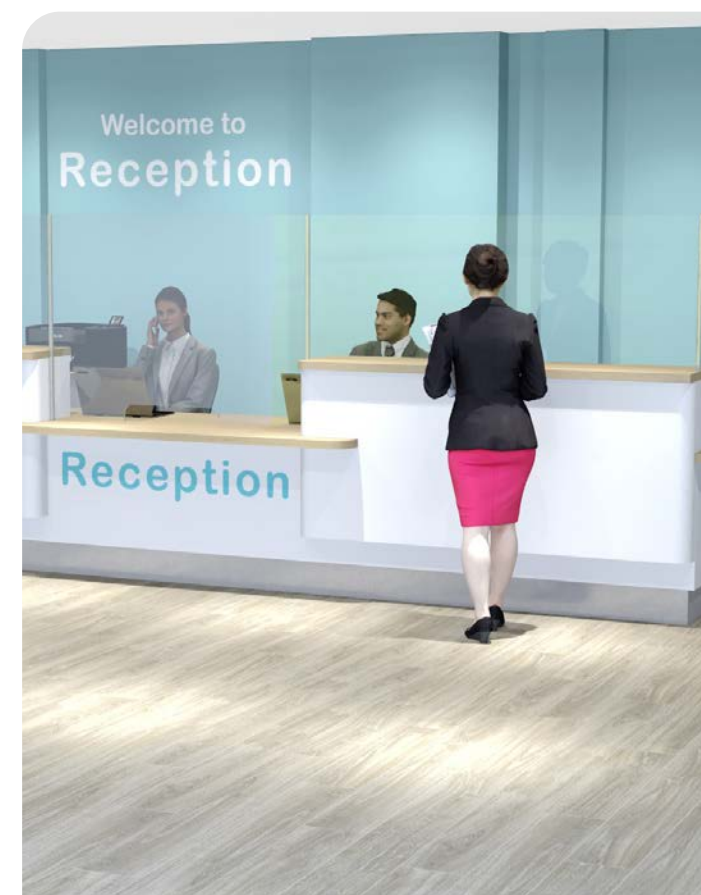
If you want to know more about the Chemotherapy Suite transformation visit our website www.lhcharity.org.uk/chemotherapy

A special thank you...

We've worked with local cancer charity GEMS, who offer support to patients receiving chemotherapy treatment in Leicestershire. They fundraised an incredible £200,000 towards the project, including matching all your gifts received from last year's spring appeal. A huge thank you to GEMS Charity for their continued support and shared vision to transform cancer care at Leicester's Hospitals.

Sally Anderson, Chair of GEMS Charity, said, "When we were asked to get involved by Leicester Hospitals Charity at the beginning of the appeal, it was our biggest project we had undertaken. Sadly, more and more people require treatment and so we felt we needed to help.

"It has been an exciting project with different fundraising events happening to raise the money. The people of Leicestershire have been, and always are, very generous with their support and we would like to give a big thank you to all of them."



Artist impression of the new welcoming reception



Artist impression of the treatment area

More patients like David can return to living a life free of discomfort following prostate surgery



David with his wife Mary

Patients at Leicester's Hospitals who need laser surgery for enlarged prostates will now benefit from a state-of-the-art surgical device called a morcellator

Because of supporters like you, this new piece of equipment has transformed surgical techniques used in prostate surgery, allowing for the procedure to be carried out in a far more efficient way, helping to significantly improve patient outcomes.

Now, the full surgical procedure can be completed quicker, meaning patients spend less time in the hospital and can be discharged a lot sooner to recover in the comfort of their own homes. This also means that more patients can be treated on any given day, helping to cut waiting times.

Although an enlarged prostate is not life threatening, the condition can be very debilitating for many, with symptoms that include extreme discomfort and the inability to pass urine normally. Around 5% of men between the ages of 51 and 60 experience symptoms due to an enlarged prostate. That number jumps to 30% among men aged 60 to 69 and around 50% of men over 70.

David, a retired Sales Engineer from Lincolnshire, has suffered with the symptoms of an enlarged prostate since 2014, and has required the fitting of numerous catheters and the use of medication to help with easing the troubling condition over the years.

"Having a catheter strapped to the inside of my leg really reduced my mobility and general comfort, affecting so many aspects of my life," David said.

As the condition progressively worsened, David was pleased to have had surgery in January this year at the Leicester General Hospital.

Following his surgery, David expressed his joy by saying, "I am absolutely delighted that I finally feel comfortable going to the toilet and no longer need a catheter. Being able to

simply bend down to tie my shoelaces with no discomfort is just wonderful. Thank you so much to the charity's supporters."

Now, recovering at home with the support of his wife Mary, David looks forward to getting back to living a normal life.

For staff working in the Urology Department at the Leicester General Hospital, the impact from using the morcellator has already been profound. More colleagues will soon be trained in using the morcellator, equipping an already talented team with a tool that makes such a huge difference to how they can help more patients.

Masood Khan, Consultant Urological Surgeon explained, "Thanks to the new morcellator, the time patients spend in surgery has nearly halved, meaning patients no longer need to be anaesthetised for as long. As the complexities involved with the surgery are less, any possible associated risk has been significantly reduced."

It is only because of the generosity of people like you, staff now have a surgical tool on hand to help more patients like David return to living a life free of discomfort much faster.



Masood is so thankful to supporters of the charity for making such a difference to the lives of both patients and staff

Children like Rishi can now find comfort and distraction in interactive play

Interactive toys have transformed the experience for thousands of children like Rishi who visit the Children's Emergency Department each year



Rishi immersed in play whilst waiting with his family

The staff at the Children's Emergency Department are delighted to have received the delivery of brand-new interactive toys so children can find joy and distraction in play whilst visiting the department with their family.

As one of the busiest children's emergency departments in the country, over 60,000 children visit each year. This means many families can be waiting to see a medical professional during busy periods. Anxious parents can often be seen with restless children in need of a distraction.

Before the new toys were installed, the only form of entertainment available was a basic television, which did not meet the needs for the large numbers of families who could be waiting in the department at any one time.

Thanks to support from the Leicestershire and Rutland Freemasons' Charity, the department has been transformed with a range of wall-mounted, age-appropriate toys that are all wipe-clean for infection prevention. These include a range of interactive play boards and digital play screens that are suitable for children of different ages.

Carmen Casingena has worked as a Play Specialist for Leicester Children's Hospital for the past seven years and is extremely thankful to the community for making a great thing happen for children and their families.

Carmen explained, "The toys allow the Play Specialist Team to encourage the children to play whilst they are in the waiting area. It helps to calm them and build a relationship of trust.

"This is incredibly useful, as children are much more likely to be accepting of their treatment when they already feel comfortable with hospital staff."

Carmen added, "It's so heart-warming to see the social and emotional wellbeing of children being exceeded and how parents can also find some relief knowing their children are able to feel some comfort in play within the department."

For children like Rishi, age two, the benefit of the new toys has been tremendous. Rishi has received care from visiting the department with his parents on several occasions over the past year. Now the new toys have been installed, his most recent experience just before Christmas was a lot different.

Rishi's Dad, Kirti, said, "It's so wonderful to see Rishi smiling and playing with the toys whilst we are waiting to be seen by the doctor.

"Even though he is feeling poorly, the new games on the interactive screens distract him from how he must be feeling, and he is able to play with similar touch screen games like he has at home."

Kirti also added, "Waiting times can sometimes be very long, so the toys are a great help for parents like me with a two-year-old. Rishi can now play with the new toys and socialise with other children, keeping him very well entertained for lengthy periods. And I have peace of mind that he is kept busy whilst we wait. Thank you so much for making my family's experience of the department so much better."

Families now find solace in knowing that, even in challenging times, moments of joyful play and relief are made possible through the kindness of support from the community.



Carmen is delighted with the range of brand-new toys in the department

Robotic CPR is helping to save lives at Glenfield Hospital

Every second counts for the team at the Cardiac Angiocatheter Suite. Thanks to your gifts, new life-saving equipment is helping staff to gain crucial seconds that help to save lives

A state-of-the-art robotic cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) device, known as LUCAS 3.1 is now transforming care at Glenfield Hospital's Angiocatheter Suite. The LUCAS chest compression device delivers high-quality compressions with fewer interruptions than manual CPR. This enables staff to focus on treating the patient's underlying conditions, saving precious time that could be crucial to the welfare of the patient.

Many different heart related tests and procedures take place within the Suite, including angiograms and the fitting of pacemakers. In the rare event of a cardiac arrest, the LUCAS device is now on hand to support the team in providing lifesaving treatment. Having the device in the suite allows the team to treat patients faster, improve patient outcome and move patients more easily during CPR.

CPR is an emergency procedure and essential in maintaining blood and oxygen flow around the body whilst a person is unconscious and not breathing during a cardiac arrest. The transfer between manual CPR to the LUCAS device can happen within seconds, ensuring a continuity of compressions.

The device can then carry out compressions for as long as needed, giving the team the ability to carry on with their tasks unhindered. Plus, X-rays can be taken whilst the device performs essential CPR, saving time and reducing unnecessary radiation exposure to staff.

Thankfully, cardiac arrests are not a regular occurrence, but staff now feel reassured in knowing the device is on hand if an emergency situation arises.

Megan Kenny, Ward Sister, said, "The LUCAS device is a game changer. Previously, members of the team would often need to take it in turns to perform manual CPR, as the procedure is physically tiring. The new device is so easy to use, and allows staff to focus on quality patient care."

Thanks to generous gifts that the community give back to Leicester's Hospitals, Megan and the team have more time to provide the quality care that we all want for our loved ones when they need it most.



Megan (third from the left) and the team now have the LUCAS device on standby

By giving back to Leicester's Hospitals, you can help to fund lifesaving equipment such as the LUCAS 3.1, impacting the lives of people from across the community.



To find out more about supporting Leicester's Hospitals, please visit, www.LHCharity.org.uk or scan the QR code

Kerry provides spiritual and emotional care to those in need

BEHIND THE SCENES...

After a 35-year career in adult social care, Kerry Tomblin became one of the NHS' first non-religious chaplains and has been based at the Leicester Royal Infirmary for the last two years. We sat down for a chat with Kerry to find out more about her role



Can you explain the humanist perspective?

As a humanist, my goal is to leave the world a better place than I found it. The approach adopts morals and values based on science, fact and reason and, like other religions, there is a focus on treating others with warmth, understanding and respect. This framework provides the basis to my approach as a Hospital Chaplain.

Why is your role important?

Whilst every chaplain treats all our patients and families with compassion, dignity, and respect, it's important for us to offer a broad spectrum of religious and non-religious world views, to support as many people as possible. Those who are non-religious still have needs, they may have questions, worries, or concerns, and talking to a chaplain who shares the same worldview as them could help them feel at ease and comfortable in troubling times.

Tell us a bit about you.

I'm an atheist and a humanist and I provide a non-religious approach to Chaplaincy Services across Leicester's Hospitals. I am a member of Humanist UK and have been a celebrant for the last 15 years, conducting weddings and funerals for those who share a humanist perspective. I even conducted the marriage ceremonies for both of my sons.



Who might need a non-religious chaplain?

Leicester is home to a growing population who don't feel they belong to any religion, so our chaplaincy services have adapted accordingly. This includes recruiting non-religious chaplaincy staff to deliver and accommodate non-religious care and well-being support for those who need it. At present, there is no designated space for non-religious people to go for relief, which is why Leicester Hospitals Charity's Spiritual Care Centre Appeal is so important.

What do you think about the plans for the new Spiritual Care Centre?

I think they're wonderful. I'm in full support of the plans for the new Spiritual Care Centre, especially the creation of a space which is open for everyone to use that is neutral, peaceful and welcoming. Incorporating this, alongside the plans for the brand-new St Luke's Chapel and refurbished rooms that accommodate Leicester's major religions, will make sure so many more people have a place to go when they need it most.



Kerry with other colleagues from the wonderful Chaplaincy Team



Find out more about the Spiritual Care Centre Appeal by visiting www.lhcharity.org.uk/spiritual-care or scan the QR code

Have you considered becoming a friend of Leicester Hospitals Charity by making a monthly gift?



Your gift, no matter how large or small, will make great things happen for local patients and their loved ones who are going through their most testing of times.

£10
A MONTH

could help to fund new surgical devices that help more patients like David get back to a life free of discomfort faster.

£15
A MONTH

could go towards funding a brand-new interactive play board for children like Rishi who visit the hospital with their family.

£50
A MONTH

could help purchase additional life-saving equipment for emergency patients in need of CPR.



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