

IMPACT REPORT 2021/22



The Charity

Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity exists to make a life-changing difference for adults and children with the most serious heart and lung conditions.

We support impactful projects, which create new possibilities in care and improve the patient experience. Many of our projects are not just 'nice to haves' but are essential to the lives and wellbeing of patients and their loved ones. We fund small but impactful projects, such as TVs for rooms where patients spend hours receiving their life-saving

treatments, and bigger appeals, such as our Life in Focus and Lifeline Lab appeals, which provided the latest imaging equipment for patients receiving minimally invasive procedures.



How we are making a difference

The Charity is very pleased that in the last year, we were able to grant over £3.7 million on projects to make a positive difference for patients at our hospitals and beyond, now and in the future.

Here, we lay out the impact Charity funded research, medical equipment, the arts programme and projects to improve the patient experience has had over the last financial year.

We have raised funds for these projects via donations, events, trust and foundations and community groups. We want to thank everyone who donated or fundraised for the two hospitals. Your amazing generosity is what enables us to make a difference in the fight against heart and lung disease.



Our hospitals: a year in stats

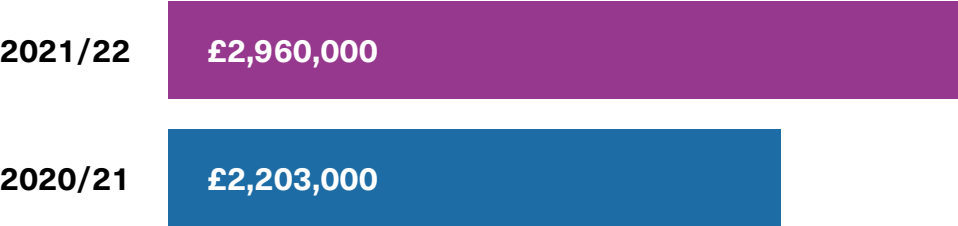
28,944 inpatient admissions	303,947 outpatient appointments	461 beds (which includes 53 paediatric beds and 62 critical care beds)
4,126 members of staff	49 transplants performed	25% of all Covid-19 patients in the country on ECMO, in the first wave, were treated at our hospitals

Our projects

£3 million granted to research	up to 23,000 patients will be treated using the newly funded cath lab scanners in the next ten years	580 cystic fibrosis patients are using self monitoring equipment and having virtual clinics.
540 Covid-19 patients and their families who can benefit from the Road to Recovery: Post Covid Mental Health Programme	15,000 patients benefitted from activities from the rb&hArts service, with over 120,000 indirectly benefiting, including family members, carers and visitors	23 projects received over £56,000 in funding from the Patients' Fund, with over 20,000 patients and their family members, carers and visitors benefiting

Research

The amount we granted to pioneering research



Research leading to tomorrow’s treatments

Research fellowships

The Charity is committed to the development of research and in 2021/22, we provided three research fellowships for allied health professionals.

The recipients were: Karina Lopes, who is working to improve the diagnosis of abnormal aortas in fetuses, Dr Carmel Stock (see page 9), who researches scleroderma and interstitial lung disease, and Andreia Pinto, who studies how Covid-19 infects cells.

Harefield Clinical Research Facility

Research patients require longer appointments than regular clinical patients, so the Charity provided £100,000 for a new Harefield Clinical Research Facility as part of the Heart Science Centre at Harefield Hospital. By providing a dedicated space for these patients, the hospital will be able to conduct research using more patients.

Dr Anna Reed, Consultant in Respiratory and Transplant Medicine, said:

“This dedicated facility is specifically designed to cater to the needs of our patient groups and will enable clinical researchers to open more studies answering important diagnostic and therapeutic questions for our patients with complex heart and lung conditions. This is an exciting first step in the strategic development of research capabilities at the Harefield site and will ensure Harefield remains at the forefront of therapeutic excellence in cardiorespiratory disease.”

Consultant research fellowship

In 2021/22, the Charity announced a new medical fellowship for researchers. The post is a consultancy position, where a clinician can establish themselves as an active researcher at Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals. The fellowship will be a four-year programme, aimed to maintain the hospitals' position as a world leader in heart and lung care.

Research Management Fund

The Research Management Fund allows research teams within the hospitals to apply for a maximum of £100,000 for pump priming research infrastructure or a research project. In 2021/22, we funded five projects with over £261,500 spent collectively on these initiatives.



How Professor Ernst is helping patients with heart rhythm disturbances

Examples of projects funded by the Research Management Fund include research led by Professor Sabine Ernst, which looks at an alternative technique to insert catheter lines in blood vessels in the arms of patients with heart rhythm disturbances.

This new technique should lead to patients being mobile much quicker after the procedure than they would have been following the traditional method of line insertion via the groin or neck.

The team also believe the risks for complications will be reduced with the new method. If the research is successful, it could lead to cost savings due to a reduction in the number of catheters needed.



How Dr Stock is using her research fellowship to better understand scleroderma

Dr Carmel Stock's research aims to better predict the likelihood that a patient with scleroderma will go on to develop interstitial lung disease.

“My research will enable doctors to give patients more accurate information on how their lung disease is likely to develop. Doctors will be able to identify patients who will benefit most from early treatment, thereby reducing their symptoms and enabling them to live longer, healthier lives.”



The difference donations are making

Covid-19 Relief Fund raised



Lifeline Lab appeal raised



Life in Focus appeal raised



Road to Recovery: Post Covid Mental Health Programme raised

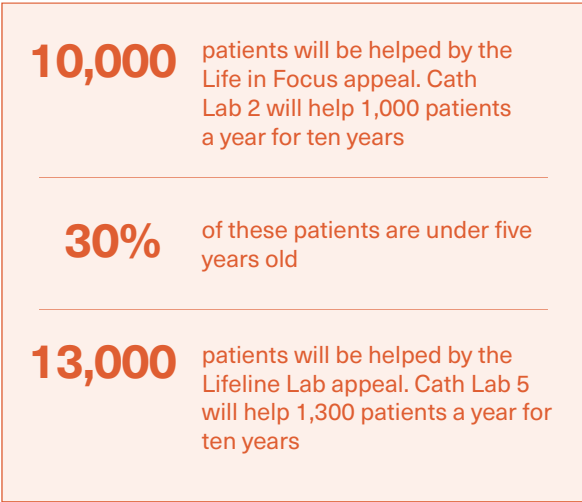


Life in Focus and Lifeline Lab appeals

The Charity helped complete the refurbishment of a catheter laboratory at each hospital through the purchase of the latest imaging equipment. The cath labs at the hospitals save and enhance thousands of lives each year by performing minimally invasive procedures, often on patients too weak for major surgery. Cath Lab 5 at Harefield Hospital will treat up to 1,300 patients aged over 17 each year. At Royal Brompton Hospital, Cath Lab 2 will treat 1,000 patients a year of all ages, but primarily babies and children.

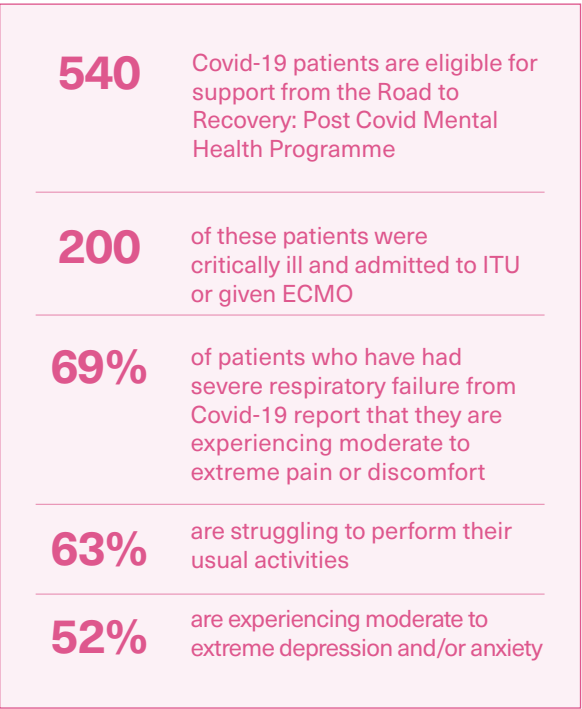
Cath lab procedures are performed on babies who are a few hours old to people in their 90s. These new scanners will allow clinical staff high quality imaging at the lowest radiation levels making procedures safer, quicker and allowing for more effective diagnoses and treatment.

The Life in Focus and Lifeline Lab appeals were completed thanks to an extraordinarily generous donation of £250,667 from The Kusuma Trust UK.



Road to Recovery: Post Covid Mental Health Programme

The appeal is funding specialist one-to-one counselling and support groups, delivered by Dr Anne-Marie Doyle (pictured above) and her team, for patients who have been critically ill with Covid-19 and their family members.





Self-Monitoring and Virtual Clinics for Cystic Fibrosis Patients

Cystic fibrosis (CF) is an inherited, progressive and complex condition, affecting more than 10,800 people in the UK. It causes a wide range of symptoms affecting the entire body and requires life-long hospital care. Established in 1965, Royal Brompton Hospital is home to the UK's first adult CF service, and today, it is one of the largest and most active in Europe.

National guidelines stipulated that CF patients should be seen in clinic every ten weeks to manage and monitor their condition to maximise life expectancy. To cope with growing clinics, the Charity raised funds for self-monitoring equipment for patients to monitor their condition and provide clinicians with a continuous picture of health to enable more effective care. Virtual consultations were also set up to eliminate costly and sometimes unnecessary trips to hospital, which proved particularly successful when the pandemic hit.

580

adult cystic fibrosis patients at Royal Brompton were helped by the Self-Monitoring and Virtual Clinics for Cystic Fibrosis Patients

80%

of patients rated the NuvoAir Home product excellent or good

100%

of patients were highly likely or likely to opt for a virtual consultation again in the future



Covid-19 Relief Fund

Covid-19 was a major challenge for the hospitals in 2021/22 as they treated some of the sickest Covid-19 patients from across London and the South East. The Charity purchased £182,000 worth of equipment to help the hospitals rise to this challenge.

The equipment included new humidifiers, ECMO equipment and i-STAT handheld blood gas analysers, as well as a Moto Med arm and leg, a static bike for ITU patients and new ultrasounds.

25%

Our hospitals treated 25% of all Covid-19 patients on ECMO in the country

CASE STUDY

Vanessa's journey to recovery

Royal Brompton saved Vanessa's life when she had Covid-19, but her journey to recovery has involved more than fighting off the virus.

At the beginning of 2020, Vanessa contracted Covid-19 and was gravely ill. At one point, her family were told she would not survive the night.

A doctor at Royal Brompton suggested that she be given ECMO. Vanessa was one of the first people in the UK to be treated for Covid-19 with ECMO. She responded well and pulled through.

"I woke up not knowing where I was, quite scared because the doctors and nurses were in full space suits. The world had gone into lockdown. Everything had changed."

Being critically ill had a severe impact on Vanessa's mental health. "I have nightmares, and when I talk about them, they are very vivid. When I was dying, the nightmares were quite scary," she said.

Although Vanessa physically recovered from Covid-19, she said that the experience left her with emotional scars. Dr Anne-Marie Doyle at Royal Brompton Hospital has been helping Vanessa with her psychological recovery.

"It's not just overcoming a sickness but overcoming so much more."

Having Covid-19 has affected Vanessa's family as well.

"I am very aware of what my family went through. My body went through a lot, and mentally, I did go through a lot, but often, I feel like they're overlooked. They went through a trauma where they are fully awake and fully aware of potentially losing someone they love."

"I woke up not knowing where I was, quite scared because the doctors and nurses were in full space suits. The world had gone into lockdown. Everything had changed."

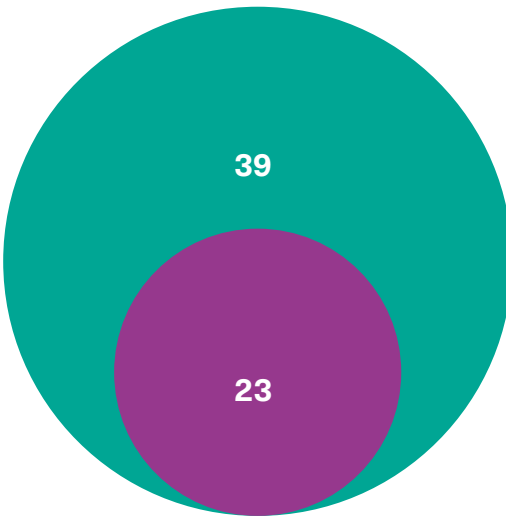


Patients' Fund

The Charity helps make hospital life a little more like home life via the Patients' Fund. Last year, we received 39 applications from staff for small projects to enhance the experience of patients. We funded 23 to a total of £56,601. The average size of a grant was £2,753.

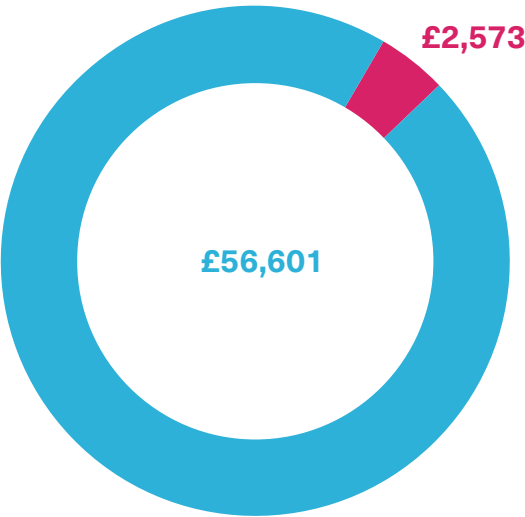
Projects funded included Senior Staff Nurse Lorraine Harper's project to provide palliative comfort boxes for critical care patients at Harefield Hospital, Catering Services Manager Yolande Smuts-Gardner's suggestion of china coffee mugs for patients' hot drinks, Clinical Nurse Specialist Joanne Senior's plan to provide televisions for patients in the Apheresis Unit, and Lead for Arts and Patient & Public Engagement Karen Taylor's Peaceful Night Pledge to help patients sleep better.

Number of applications / projects



- Total applications received
- Number of projects awarded

Total funding



- Total amount awarded
- Average size of grant

Over
20,000
patients benefited from the Patients' Fund

Over
1,000
transplant patients benefited from the Transplant Care Trolley, giving them access to items to make their stay at the hospital more comfortable

30
china mugs were provided, so patients in the ward can have a proper cuppa

Around
13,000
outpatients a year at Harefield Hospital will benefit from a new tea trolley and mobile phone charger in the waiting room

CASE STUDY

Joanne's Patients' Fund project

Joanne Senior is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Harefield's Apheresis Unit. She applied to the Patients' Fund for a television that patients can watch during treatment.

Lipoprotein apheresis is similar to renal dialysis but is used to remove cholesterol from the blood stream. It is used for patients with very high cholesterol due to a genetic condition or those who have not received adequate cholesterol lowering from traditional cholesterol lowering medications and who experience recurrent cardiovascular events.

The procedure takes two to three hours and involves having two cannulas inserted (often one in each arm), which means they are unable to move for the duration of the treatment. Joanne applied for a TV so that the patients could be entertained whilst receiving their apheresis treatment.

“Patients cannot move when they’re receiving treatment due to having a cannula in each arm. The TV is a brilliant addition. Everyone loves it.”





Vocal Beats

Vocal Beats continued adapting and evolving in response to young patients' needs, bringing music to patients at Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals. Vocal Beats engaged young patients online through a series of short courses, such as their three-week singing course that led to a festive song for the Vocal Beats YouTube channel. Singing and beatboxing returned to the Paediatric ward for one afternoon per week with Heather McClelland and beatboxer Alex Hackett.

Lead musician Heather McClelland co-authored a new book titled "How to Uke," launched in partnership with GOSH Arts, to be gifted to patients with ukuleles generously donated by the UKE Kids Club. rb&hArts contributed a series of complementing video tutorials.

Nature and wellbeing

rb&hArts continued its emphasis on mindfulness activities for staff throughout the year with workshops making scented candles and drawing nature in the new gardens. Our year-long gardening programme encouraged volunteers to care for the new gardens.

The Peace Gardens – completed with funding from the Mayor of London Greener City Fund, Heathrow Community Trust and HS2 Community and Environmental Fund – positively impacted the Patient Experience across the seasons. The Healing and Rowan gardens have improved the experience for patients, their families, and staff. All of whom enjoy going out for walks in the new gardens for fresh air or to take a break.

Signage in the new gardens offers snippets of information on the art, heritage and nature around Harefield Hospital, as well as wellbeing tips and guided walks through the grounds.

Almost
15,000
patients benefitted from activities from rb&hArts

Over
120,000
indirectly benefitted from activities

101
workshops took place in the last year

12
exhibitions took place

27
performances, presentations and publications

The arts in our hospitals

Our charitably funded rb&hArts programme is an instrumental component of the care offered to patients at our hospitals. This year, our cultural offer focused on the health of our people and planet. Artists and musicians delivered quality arts, craft and music opportunities online before gradually returning to the wards when possible.

Return to the wards

Our musicians-in-residence programme, supported through the Patients' Fund, continued to create lasting positive memories for patients, particularly on the transplant and critical care wards, where long-stay patients suffer from isolation and loneliness.

Clinical staff benefited as well. Adrian Garratt, comedy violinist, offered staff a welcome breather from the intensity of their work, with an hour of music on demand delivered via Zoom initially and at times around the outdoor spaces.

On hearing Mark Levin's Celtic harp playing outdoors in the new garden, inpatients would open their windows to let the floating, gentle melodies seep into their bedrooms.

During the pandemic, rb&hArts gifted themed activity boxes to patients with arts and craft materials, games and quizzes for the summer and festive seasons. The return to the ward of our arts and craft activities was also celebrated with a ground-breaking 15-week programme of workshops, offering a range of creative weekly sessions.



How rb&hArts improved Katie's wellbeing whilst in hospital

By the time rb&hArts met Katie, who was awaiting a heart transplant at Harefield Hospital, she had already been an inpatient for six months with hardly any visitors due to Covid-19 restrictions and the complex medical care she needed.

In a bid to support her health and wellbeing and that of other inpatients, the psychology team called on rb&hArts to offer regular creative activities. Ranging from painting to pottery, rb&hArts facilitated weekly artistic activities over the course of six months. Katie shared that the sessions were "the most interesting part of her week." They were: "A relief from sitting in my room and a great way of socialising as well as learning new skills."

Katie's favourite session was cubism. Once they had been introduced to cubism, patients were tasked to paint a cubist portrait. She showed her portrait to every member of staff, and it was proudly displayed in her room.



"These two sessions have put a feeling of great joy in me as we were able to express the act through using a variety of colours and shapes to show a picture which has a look of openness and cubism to the design,"

Get in touch

If you want to find out more about the work of Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity or get involved, then you can reach us via the numbers below or find more information on our website and social media channels.

Find out more

Website: www.rbhcharity.org

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/rbhcharity](https://twitter.com/rbhcharity)

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rbhcharity

Instagram: www.instagram.com/rbhcharity

Royal Brompton fundraising hub

Call: 0203 988 5994

Email: Lisa.Watts@rbhcharity.org

Harefield Hospital fundraising hub

Call: 0203 988 6671

Email: Sallinder.Rai@rbhcharity.org

The Charity

Call: 0203 988 6671

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Charity number: 1053584

Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity

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Find out more

Website: www.rbhcharity.org

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