

ROYAL
BROMPTON
& HAREFIELD
HOSPITALS
CHARITY

IMPACT REPORT 2024-25



**Our work is only possible thanks to our amazing supporters.
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The National Foundation for Youth Music

rb&hArts would like to thank

Harefield Hamsters
National Lottery Awards for All
The Brompton Fountain
The Office of the Mayor, Hillingdon Council
Youth Music



CONT

Our Impact	04
Staff Support	07
Equipment and Infrastructure	08
Patient Experience	10
Innovation and Research	14

ENTS

OUR IMPACT

In 2024/25, Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity continued to drive forward our mission: to advance care for people with heart and lung disease, two of the world's biggest killers.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we funded projects that delivered real and lasting change for patients, their families, and the incredible NHS teams who care for them. From pioneering equipment to vital research and patient-centred initiatives, the impact of our work has been both immediate and far-reaching.

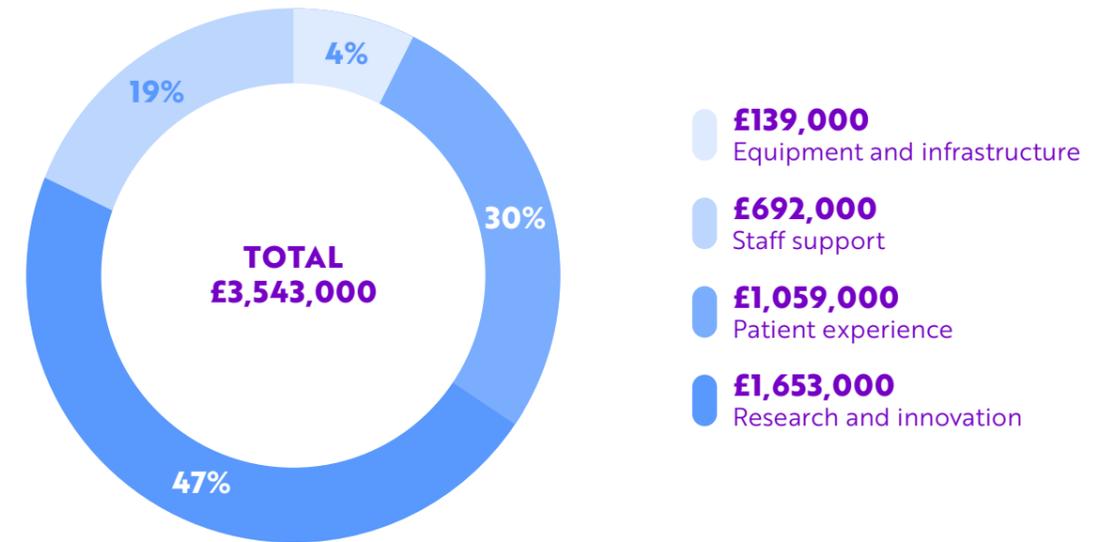
This year, our funding enabled faster, more accurate diagnoses, expanded genetic testing capabilities, and improved care for transplant patients. We supported young clinicians to develop groundbreaking ideas and helped create calmer, more comforting environments for patients in hospital.

These projects go beyond NHS provision, but they are far from optional. They are vital steps forward in the fight against serious heart and lung disease, helping people live longer, healthier lives.

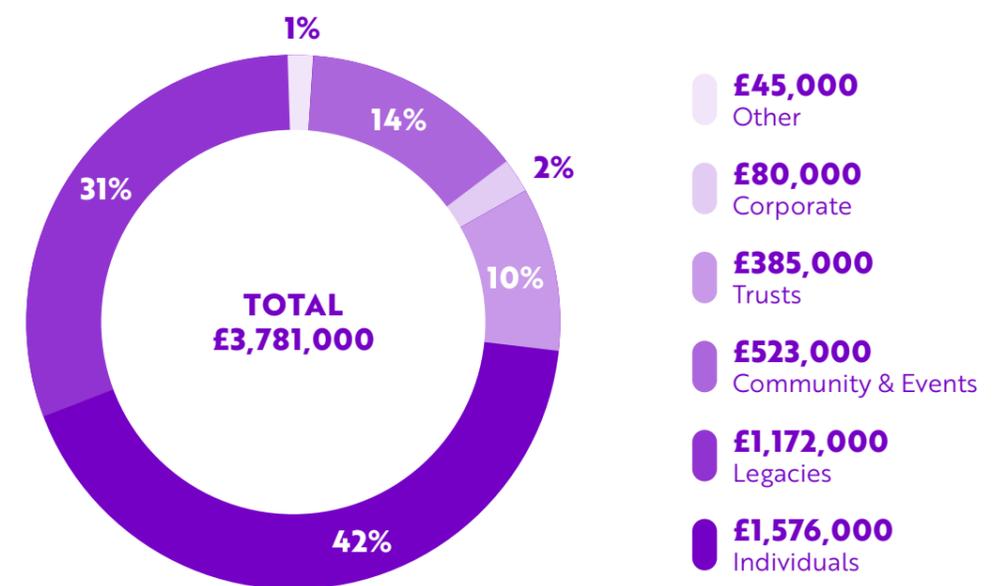
Everything we achieve is made possible by those who support us. Together, we are creating new possibilities for everyone with a heart or lung condition, at every stage of life.



GRANTS: WHERE THE FUNDING WENT TO



FUNDRAISING: WHERE THE INCOME CAME FROM



LAURA'S STORY



Thanks to a pioneering maternal health clinic funded by the Charity, Laura – who has cystic fibrosis – was able to become a mum.

When Laura was diagnosed with a complex lung infection linked to cystic fibrosis (CF), she faced a difficult choice: continue the aggressive antibiotic treatment needed to stay well or pause it to try for a baby. For years, it felt like motherhood might be out of reach.

That changed when Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity funded a new fellowship in CF reproductive and maternal health. It was a bold investment that helped establish the UK's first dedicated CF maternal health clinic.

"Having a child was never a definite for us. In fact, my husband and I had accepted that it probably wouldn't happen," Laura said. "We had even started speaking to adoption agencies. That changed when Royal Brompton Hospital started to run a dedicated cystic fibrosis maternal health clinic."

With the clinic up and running, Laura was able to plan her pregnancy with confidence. Dr Imogen Felton, who led the CF maternal clinic, and Rebecca Scott, a specialist midwife, were instrumental in guiding her every step of the way. The clinic offered joined-up, expert care drawing on Royal Brompton Hospital's decades of experience as a leading centre of care for people with CF.

"In March 2022, I found out I was pregnant. After four years of preparation, the sheer joy of finally conceiving was beyond words."

Despite a difficult induction and postnatal treatment that required a hospital stay, Laura describes the experience of becoming a mother as "an extraordinary privilege". Today, her son Lucas is thriving, and so is she.

"I feel deeply blessed to have had access to the care and support that brought my son into this world. I can't express enough gratitude to everyone who walked alongside me on this remarkable journey."



Thanks to our supporters, we can work in partnership with our clinical colleagues to help them change lives of people like Laura. She is just one of the many people impacted by the vital programmes the Charity funds. Every donation to Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity helps change the future for people with heart and lung conditions.

STAFF SUPPORT

In 2024/25, we strengthened our commitment to the incredible NHS staff at Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals – helping them grow, feel valued, and continue delivering world-leading care.



£692,000

Total amount granted to staff support



6,000

Total number of Christmas meals distributed



53

Total number of staff bursaries awarded



£30,000

Total amount awarded in staff bursaries

Behind every breakthrough, every diagnosis, and every moment of comfort for patients is a dedicated team of NHS professionals working tirelessly, day and night. We are proud to stand behind them, recognising their service, investing in their future, and showing our appreciation for their unwavering commitment.

This year, we continued to fund staff bursaries that enabled dozens of colleagues across both hospitals to attend vital conferences and training days. These opportunities give our clinical teams access to the latest thinking and innovations in cardiothoracic care, ensuring patients benefit from world-class expertise. Whether it's a nurse attending a specialist lung disease seminar or a physiotherapist learning fresh rehabilitation techniques, these experiences help our staff bring back new skills, insights, and renewed energy to their teams.

We also proudly honoured long-serving staff through dedicated awards, celebrating the loyalty and contribution of those who have devoted their careers to caring for heart and lung patients. These moments of recognition are a small but meaningful way to say thank you for years, sometimes decades, of exceptional service.

While many enjoy time off during the festive season, hospital staff continue their work, often missing precious time with loved ones. We ensured that those working over Christmas were treated to festive meals as a gesture of thanks.

This support does not just help staff feel recognised, it helps ensure they can keep giving their best to patients. Whether by funding professional development or helping us show heartfelt appreciation, your generosity plays a vital role in sustaining the people who make the hospitals exceptional.

EQUIPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

This year, your generosity enabled us to purchase critical new equipment that is already transforming the lives of heart and lung patients across both hospitals.



At Royal Brompton, a brand-new gamma camera is revolutionising medical imaging. Funded thanks to hundreds of supporters – including a major £200,000 gift from The Joyce and Norman Freed Charitable Trust – this £500,000 piece of equipment is reducing scan times from 55 minutes to just 12, while cutting radiation exposure by up to 50%.

Over 420 patients have already benefitted since its installation in August 2024, and 100% of respondents have reported a positive experience. More than just faster and safer, the gamma camera is also shaping the future of nuclear cardiology, with Royal Brompton now offering a national training course to share expertise and drive innovation.

Meanwhile, for patients in the most critical condition, a new extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) console funded by the Charity is giving the hospital's most seriously ill respiratory and cardiac patients a vital lifeline.

ECMO provides life-saving heart and lung support for those with no other treatment options. The new console adds a crucial layer of resilience, ensuring a backup is always available in emergencies.

As Lead Nurse George Georgovasilis said: "[A second console] gives us more versatility. By having two consoles, we're more resilient. If one of the two fails, for some reason, we can follow up with the second one and support our patients." He added:

"We were unable to purchase the new console without the Charity's help. ECMO is a highly specialised service. The population of patients that end up on ECMO are probably the sickest patients in the country. It's a very intense procedure."

At Harefield, our Haemodialysis Appeal raised over £165,000 to install six new machines, dramatically improving the experience for patients whose kidneys are affected by heart or lung conditions. The new machines reduce treatment time from 12 hours overnight to four hours during the day, allowing patients to rest better and recover faster. The improvements will also save more than 75 days of nursing time each year, freeing up vital NHS resources.

From faster diagnoses to extended lives and improved comfort, your support is making an extraordinary difference. Thank you for helping us provide the tools our clinicians need to deliver world-class care.



VERITON-CT
SPECT/CT 64



£139,000

Granted on equipment and infrastructure



7

Pieces of equipment were bought



400+

People who will benefit each year from the gamma camera



PATIENT EXPERIENCE



£1,059,000

Total amount granted out to patient experience



35,000

Patients directly supported by the patient fund



300

Gifts given to patients on Christmas Day



55,000

Staff/families/carers indirectly supported by the patients' fund

Patients' Fund



£100,000

Across 25 awards over two funding rounds

rb&hArts



568

Workshops

rb&hArts



7

Exhibitions

rb&hArts



108

Concerts

rb&hArts



5

Commissions

rb&hArts



11,207

Participations

In 2024/25, your generosity helped improve life in hospital for hundreds of heart and lung patients by funding the non-medical improvements that make a big difference to a visit to hospital.

Patients' Fund: Little improvements that make a big difference

Thanks to your support, our Patients' Fund continued to deliver meaningful improvements across Royal Brompton and Harefield hospitals. Every year, we pledge £85,000 to support staff-led projects that make hospital life more comfortable, calming, and easier for our patients.

From small touches like disposable headphones for inpatients who want privacy while watching TV, to new phlebotomy chairs designed to make blood tests easier and less distressing, the projects we fund help bring dignity and comfort to often difficult hospital stays.

This year also saw transformative upgrades to shared spaces, including a complete makeover of the Paul Wood Day Room at Royal Brompton, turning it into a welcoming and therapeutic environment for patients and families. Another innovative project brought together patients and staff to co-design a recovery journal, helping patients track their progress and feel more in control of their care.

These projects go beyond what the NHS funds, but they are vital in supporting patients' emotional wellbeing, easing the hospital experience, and showing patients that they are cared for in every sense.

rb&hArts: Bringing the healing power of art to patients

rb&hArts runs an innovative programme of creative health across our hospitals, including performance, participation, and visual arts.

This year, we continued our acclaimed Singing for Breathing groups – singing sessions for improved lung health and quality of life; Vocal Beats – music making and beatboxing with patients aged 0 – 16 years; and our regular programme of arts and crafts activities.

We expanded our programme of live music to include more concerts in public spaces as well as hospital wards and bedsides. We commissioned five new visual artworks to improve the hospital environment, provide distraction, and promote wellbeing.

At Harefield Hospital, we hosted a special exhibition by heart transplant patient Ian Hilliard. Ian spent two years as an in-patient on the transplant list, and during this time, he started taking photographs of the grounds and gardens of the hospital.

Ian said that doing something creative helped him to maintain a sense of self in the midst of all his medical treatment. rb&hArts was proud to work with Ian to curate an exhibition of his photographs, including two pieces for permanent display in the transplant ward.



JEREMY'S STORY



From life-saving treatment to fundraising for other patients

On 27th July 2023, Jeremy and his partner Hannah were celebrating her birthday. Less than 48 hours later, Jeremy was fighting for his life.

What Jeremy thought was a hangover quickly escalated into something far more serious. Jeremy developed a high fever, an unrelenting cough, and severe sickness. Alarmed by his rapidly deteriorating condition, Hannah called an ambulance. Jeremy was admitted to A&E at West Middlesex Hospital in the early hours of July 29th and transferred straight to intensive care.

Despite the ICU team's best efforts, Jeremy's organs began to fail. He went into septic shock and struggled to breathe. Doctors made the difficult decision to sedate him and urgently contacted the extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) team at Royal Brompton Hospital.

At 2 AM on July 30th, Royal Brompton's ECMO retrieval team arrived with specialist equipment to stabilise Jeremy and bring him to the hospital for life-saving treatment. ECMO is a highly advanced therapy that takes over the function of the heart and lungs, giving critically ill patients the best possible chance of survival. Only a few hospitals in England can offer ECMO, and Jeremy's proximity to Royal Brompton was a stroke of luck that saved his life.

Jeremy, a fit and active cyclist, had unknowingly contracted Invasive Strep A, which led to his sudden decline. He spent eight days on ECMO and 15 days in a coma. During this time, he also developed Compartment Syndrome, a rare but serious complication of ECMO that required urgent surgery to prevent the loss of his leg.

When Jeremy finally woke up, he was surrounded by loved ones. However, he faced a new challenge. He had to learn how to breathe, speak, eat, and walk all over again, but his determination and resilience were unwavering.

To thank the hospital that saved his life, Jeremy, Hannah, and their friends took on a 110km group run at the Richmond Autumn Riverside event. They raised more than £10,000 for Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospitals Charity – funds that went directly to supporting the ECMO service that made Jeremy's recovery possible.

"We wanted to give back to the team that saved Jeremy," said Hannah.

Thanks to supporters like Jeremy and Hannah, the Charity can continue funding the specialist equipment and care that critically ill patients rely on. Their fundraising has not only helped save future lives but has also shared a vital message about awareness and early action.

"[Jeremy] had to learn how to breathe, speak, eat, and walk all over again, but his determination and resilience were unwavering."



RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Research and innovation, funded by our supporters, is transforming care and improving outcomes for heart and lung patients.

In 2024/25, your generosity helped back groundbreaking research which is directly improving the lives of people with heart and lung conditions. Under the leadership of Professor Tom Wilkinson, the chair of our new grants committee, we have channelled funding to projects with great potential to improve patient care. This includes Universal, a major study into why some people are more vulnerable to serious respiratory infections and how we can better treat them.

Professor Wilkinson is passionate about supporting the important early stage research projects that, without the Charity's support, would be difficult to establish. He said: "Often, when you have a bright idea, the initial stage of funding can be very difficult to achieve if it's quite innovative, and then once it's shown to be worthwhile, that can leverage later funding at a much greater scale."

He added that he wanted to work with early career researchers to help them develop and become the next generation of leaders in their field.

We also invested in vital research into chronic lung allograft dysfunction (CLAD), a common cause of death following lung transplantation. Our funding has enabled researchers to explore the link between infections and the onset of CLAD, critical to developing new treatments that help transplant recipients live longer, healthier lives.

Our commitment to innovation has been equally bold. From supporting vital data-driven care to leading international research collaborations, you are helping us lay the foundations for the future of heart and lung care.

At Royal Brompton, we advanced the UK's first Cardio-Oncology Centre of Excellence, a unique initiative designed to stop the cancer patient of today becoming the heart patient of tomorrow. This field is increasingly vital as cancer survival rates improve, and the long-term side effects of treatment, including damage to the heart, become more evident.

Funding from the Big Heart Foundation is enabling the Centre to scale up its work, including:

- Developing AI tools that will help clinicians detect Cardiotoxicity earlier and personalise treatment
- Building the UK's first Cardio-Oncology Biobank, generating a powerful data resource for researchers worldwide
- Creating app-based decision tools for oncologists, ensuring timely, guideline-based care for patients
- Supporting international collaboration and the training of future Cardio-Oncology specialists

By supporting early-stage ideas and championing clinical innovation, we are helping ensure that patients with heart and lung conditions not only survive but thrive. Our donors make this possible. You are helping to create the future of care for people with heart and lung conditions. Thank you for your incredible generosity.



£1,653,000

Total amount granted out to research



12

Number of seed grants for research given out



ROYAL BROMPTON & HAREFIELD HOSPITALS CHARITY

Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospitals Charity,
1 The Courtyard, 151 Sydney Street, SW3 6NT

 020 3988 5982  fundraising@rbhcharity.org  rbhcharity.org

Charity Number 1053584