

**bright**   
**northumbria**  
healthcare charity

# annual report and accounts 2022-23



# head of charity foreword



During the past year, the charity has slowly begun to re-set following the difficult years of the pandemic. Although general donations have been down in comparison with previous years, this has been more than made up for by a substantial increase in legacies, thanks to supporters who left generous gifts in wills. Additional grants from NHS Charities Together also meant that the charity could develop many projects that improved the patient experience and supported staff welfare.

Each year the Northumbria charity delivers programmes that really make a difference to our patients and staff,



Brenda Longstaff, Head of Charity

and we have developed strong links with our local communities to support wellbeing and combat health inequalities.

We could not do, all that we do, without our many supporters who enable us to go that extra mile to enhance our services.

*Thank you!*



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# message from the chair of northumbria healthcare

## I am delighted to introduce to you the Annual Report of our Bright Charity.

It has been another period of challenge and change for the NHS as we continue to recover from the pandemic and recalibrate our services to meet the needs of the public. NHS charities and volunteers across the country played a huge part in the national response and continue to adapt as we move into this new period.

As Corporate Trustees we are very grateful to everyone who makes Bright so successful in supporting local people and I would like to say thank you to everyone who has been working to administer the charity during such a difficult time. However, none of this would be possible without the generosity of all our donors and fundraisers who have done so much for us over the past year.

The funds which have been received will make a great difference to patient care in so many ways across Northumberland and North

Tyneside. Our hard-working NHS teams are always looking at the best way of using these funds so we can add the extra comforts and amenities that are not able to be provided by core NHS funds.

In this period the funding Bright has been able to channel into the healing arts work feels very important as does the investment in staff health and wellbeing support.

The specially designed expressing rooms to support new mums returning to work are another example of how Bright has been able to provide facilities at our hospitals this year. Charity funding has also helped the trust train hundreds of NHS staff in D/deaf awareness which is much needed in our local communities.

The recovery from the pandemic has seen us change the way we operate in many ways but I'm pleased to say that we have now started to see volunteer numbers increase again and would like to thank everyone who gives their time for the selfless and valuable service they provide.

Thank you again to everyone who has raised funds or donated to the Charity and to all volunteers who have given their time to provide improved services for our patients.



Sir Paul Ennals CBE



**Sir Paul Ennals CBE**  
Chair of Northumbria Healthcare

# objectives and activities

The governing documents for the funds consist of a declaration of trust dated 18 May 2000.

The governing document states the charity's principle objective as being:

**"... for any charitable purpose or purposes relating to the National Health Service".**

More specifically, the charity aims to support charitable initiatives, which would not normally be financed by NHS exchequer funding, to enhance and add additional value to the delivery of healthcare to the residents of the Trust area.

## Key Objectives

Categories of spend approved by Corporate Trustee

### **Patient and staff welfare** –

to provide additional comforts, over and above that which would be provided as standard by the NHS, to enhance the patient and staff experience.

### **Medical equipment** –

to ensure that our patients have access to the latest technology and that additional equipment is made available to improve the patient experience and support members of staff who are delivering their care. Charitable funds cannot be used to purchase or replace core NHS equipment.

### **Patient environment** –

to deliver a high-quality healing arts programme in collaboration with patients, staff, volunteers, and the local community, to improve the hospital environment. To use the arts to develop and deliver high quality interior design projects for areas of special need and sensitivity, that help to support the needs of patients and their relatives. To work with architects and designers to integrate the arts to enhance patient and staff experience.

### **Staff education** –

to support professional development of members of staff in terms of attendance at speciality events, and allow access to training that would not normally be funded through standard funding streams. The charity cannot support requests from individuals for funding for professional qualifications.

### **Research** –

to support a continuous programme of research, which aims to improve treatment for thousands of patients across the NHS. To promote innovation and service improvement through providing a platform for staff to share ideas.

### **Health Inequalities** –

to add value to ongoing public health work by the trust to tackle health inequalities affecting our patients.

### **CSR** –

to create opportunities to engage with local communities in keeping with the trust's Community Promise.

# our year in numbers



**300+**

people attended our Haltwhistle Centenary Celebrations



**42,000**

volunteer hours worked



**1000+**

individual medical items donated to Kilimanjaro Medical Centre



**13**

refurbished rooms across the trust



**60**

people ran for Bright in the Great North Run (GNR)



**1000's**

of staff and patients benefited from visits from Wag & Company our doggy on prescription service

**£1,180,000**

amount of donations and legacies Bright Charity received

**333,000+**

customers at our Northumbria Volunteer Service (NVS) café/shops

**£118,742**

total of 82 Charity Development Group (CDG) bids approved

**1000+**

staff, patients and visitors were provided live music performances

**700+**

gifts delivered to patients on Christmas Day

**330+**

volunteers returned after Covid

**346**

members of staff took part in art activities

**150**

patient, staff and community projects delivered in 2022

**150**

members of staff attended Breakfast at Tilbury's event

**100's**

of preloved school uniform collected and delivered to the local community

**100**

children sang in our hospitals

**24**

volunteers engaged in global health projects

**8**

Global health projects delivered including burns, laparoscopic, AMS/pharmacy, first aid, orthopaedics, medical electronics and stroke

# our programmes

## Northumbria Volunteer Service

Our Northumbria Volunteer Service is an integral part of the Northumbria family, with volunteers engaged in a variety of roles to support services, patients, and staff.

Sadly, the pandemic significantly impacted upon volunteer numbers, as all volunteers over 70 years of age were required to step back from duties. At the end of the pandemic, where once there had been almost 1000 volunteers across the trust's 10 hospitals, numbers had reduced to less than 300. However, throughout the year numbers have begun to increase, as members of the public, and their families, become more confident about returning to a healthcare environment.

This meant that volunteers were able to return to the wards once again. Young volunteers recruited from local high schools followed, and corporate volunteers returned to their pre-covid roles.

Patients in oncology were able to access the hair loss therapy service and complementary therapies run by volunteers. The volunteers were back!

Volunteers also helped out at the staff winter vaccination hubs providing a smiling face as meet and greet and ensuring that queues were moving along with a lot of bubbly conversation to ease the process.



Throughout 2022 numbers of customers began to increase across the NVS shops and cafes, once again, generating income to support projects at hospital sites.

Our volunteers provide their time and energy to support our trust. Their contributions are highly valued and each year we make sure they know how much they mean to us by celebrating Volunteer Week, Long Service awards and a Volunteering Evening that enables them to meet up socially for a special celebration.



## Healing Arts Programme

For more than 20 years the Bright charity has managed and developed an award-winning healing arts programme that has transformed our hospitals and provided a welcome distraction for patients, staff, and visitors.

The programme provides a strong connection to our communities too, as we work with local schools, colleges and universities, local artists, performers, and of course our staff and patients.

During the year we worked with staff on a Creativity and Wellbeing project with a focus on mental health. Members of staff astounded us with their talents in painting, sculpture, photography, craft making and storytelling. Their work was professionally photographed to create an exhibition which is proudly displayed on the corridor leading to our Staff Health and Wellbeing Centre at the Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital in Cramlington.



In May, a photography masterclass with award-winning photographer Ikuko Tsuchiya was organised for staff who were shortlisted from a staff photography competition.

In July we celebrated the NHS' birthday with live music performances across the trust and a cream tea for our patients on the wards.

During the pandemic, the charity worked with Berwick Academy to develop a graffiti inspired project based on the theme of health and wellbeing – physical health, emotional health, and mental health. Students worked on the project at home during lockdown and were proud to see their work displayed on the hoardings that circled the hospital under construction.

With covid restrictions easing in public areas, it was possible to re-start the Christmas music programme and enjoy a week-long programme of events across the trust. The first concert was held at Hexham General Hospital on Friday 25 November with children from Prudhoe West Academy singing in the outpatient waiting area and showing off some great choreography to get people in the Christmas mood.

At the beginning of 2023, the top 20 photographs from more than 400 entries to the staff photography competition went on display on the hoarding around the new Health and Care Academy under construction at Cramlington. The contractor, Assura, sponsored the exhibition which is still being enjoyed by hundreds of people each week as they drive past the site.



**“It was an excellent experience, very relaxed environment, Ikuko was wonderful.”**



**“I’ve been looking forward to this workshop and meeting Ikuko for a long time. Thanks to Bright and Ikuko for this wonderful experience.”**



## Environment

When our patients, staff and visitors enter our hospitals it is important that they are not overwhelmed by the starkness of a clinical environment. That is why over the years, the charity has developed a healing arts programme to use art as a point of interest and distraction.

During the pandemic it became clear that the oppressiveness of social distancing, visiting restrictions and heightened clinical activity made the quality of the environment much more important for wellbeing. The charity listened to patients, families and staff groups and responded to the need to create special supportive spaces, using warm colours and comfortable furniture, for staff and families to use as a place to reflect and decompress.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and we learnt that with just a few modest changes, rooms could be transformed to become a welcome haven from the hectic activities of a busy hospital.

During 2022 the infant feeding co-ordinator for the trust approached the charity to design and furnish rooms across the trust that had been set aside as expressing rooms to support mothers returning to work following maternity leave. A grant from NHS Charities Together helped this to happen.

Staff using the room have said it's a little piece of heaven which is just for them. Where previously they had to try to find a quiet and private place in a busy hospital, they now have a dedicated space with no fear of being disturbed.

Many wards had tired and unwelcoming family rooms. A series of low-cost refurbishments took place and the family rooms on Ward 4 and Ward 8 at the Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital were the first to receive the make-over. This was particularly important for Ward 4 where patients sometimes struggle with the clinical environment. The only problem then, was getting people to leave the room so that others could enjoy!

When the outpatient department at North Tyneside General Hospital contacted the charity for help with their quiet room in the Breast Clinic, the charity team had a lot to consider. This room is used for counselling and psychological support when patients have initial investigations and follow up conversations after treatment. Staff were keen to provide the very best of care for their patients – but the environment was working against them. Everyone is now delighted with the new look and feel of the room.



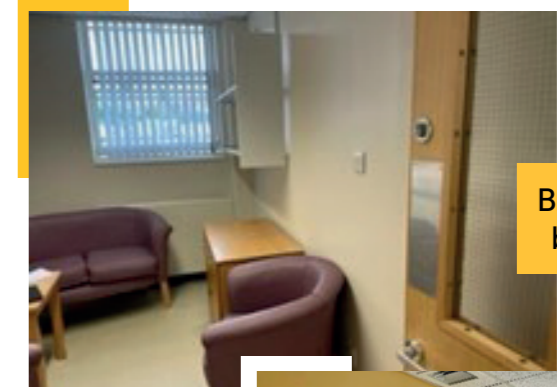
Before and after in Ward 4 at The Northumbria

*The rooms were tired and dated. They offered no comfort or support.*

Feedback has been very positive, and patients and staff feel the environment helps to support them during a difficult time.

Clinical Psychologists, working hard during the pandemic to provide staff counselling sessions, asked for help to update and refresh their consultation rooms. Now staff at three of the trust hospitals can receive support from the psychology team in a more relaxing, comfortable, and supportive environment.

Our staff have also benefitted from an investment by the charity towards the provision of gyms across the trust to support staff wellbeing.



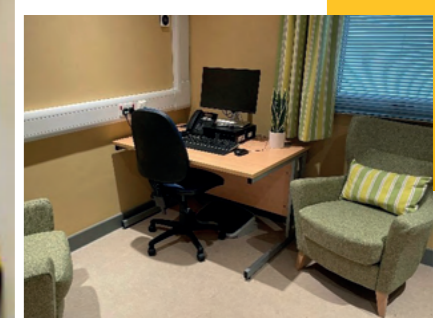
Breast clinic room before and after



Expressing room



Psychology rooms before and after





## D/deaf awareness

Since 2018 the charity has supported an innovative programme to develop the understanding of our staff about the needs of our D/deaf patients. The classes run by Margaret Robertson draw on her own experiences of raising her children, one hearing and one deaf.

As a BSL Level 5 instructor she has also been able to provide an introduction to British Sign Language, and more than 1,000 staff have already enthusiastically taken part in the training. They each receive a special badge to attach to their lanyards, so that when they pass someone who is wearing the badge, they can sign their name and say hello.



During Deaf Awareness week in May, video clips were posted on social media each day to raise awareness of issues faced by our patients, and staff, who have hearing loss. They proved to be very popular and promoted a lot of interest and discussion, not only across the trust, but also within the communities we serve.

Bespoke classes began to be developed at the request of different departments who wanted their teams to be able to provide the best possible service to their patients. Training was developed after shadowing staff to observe

the work they do. This helps staff to better understand how to communicate with their D/deaf patients, through different stages of their treatment, and put them at ease.

The charity also recognises Usher syndrome day on 2nd March each year, working with leading advocate Jo Milne to raise awareness of deaf blindness. The Bright charity worked with Jo to produce an educational film about Usher syndrome which has now been shared across the NHS.

A staff survey, undertaken to consult with our staff who have hearing issues, raised one important question: how do staff identify themselves as deaf or hard of hearing? Following the survey, D/deaf cards were designed and produced for staff to be able to show to other staff, and patients, so that they could understand their needs. Staff now contact the trust's D/deaf awareness officer for advice and support about various issues in relation to D/deaf awareness that are being presented to them by both colleagues and patients throughout the trust.

Working with the D/deaf Awareness Officer, the charity was able to pilot a remote video interpreter for the emergency department at Cramlington. The unit was able to give quick and easy access to an interpreter to enable D/deaf patients to understand what was happening and what the attending doctor was saying. At a time of great personal stress, instant access to an interpreter was essential to guide discussions and obtain patient consent for treatment.



## International

For more than 20 years, Northumbria Healthcare has worked in partnership with Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre, helping to develop healthcare services for the people of Tanzania.

The partnership brings many benefits back to the NHS in terms of cultural awareness, leadership development and global health knowledge.

Each year our volunteers, who use annual leave to visit Tanzania, focus on projects that have been selected by the hospital directors as areas for development.

For the past few years, funding from the Fleming Fund and UK Aid has enabled us to participate in the Commonwealth Partnerships for Antimicrobial Stewardship project. This important project enables sharing of skills and knowledge between countries to combat the global challenge of antimicrobial resistance. The project currently brings pharmacists together across five hospitals and universities in Tanzania.

At the end of 2022 we returned for the first time following the pandemic to continue development of the burns service. Plastic surgeons Jeremy Rawlins and Chris Lewis worked alongside KCMC surgeons and registrars to undertake life-changing reconstructive surgery cases which returned mobility to patients with severe burns.

The team also delivered first aid and fire prevention training to local school children to build knowledge and awareness of burn injuries in the community. The children loved getting involved in the role play, chasing each other with the fire stick and bandaging their make believe burn injuries.

Intensive Care nurse Peter Smith, was also invited by the Regional Police Commissioner, to provide First responder training for motorcycle taxi drivers (boda boda) in rural accident hotspots. The skills learnt would enable the drivers to undertake basic care of people at accident spots, in preparation for a long journey to obtain medical support.



For Chris Halcrow, the trust's Chief Medical Engineer, it was to be his first visit. He worked alongside KCMC engineers to service medical equipment and was absolutely amazed at their skill in developing workaround solutions when spare parts could not be found. The teams were delighted with the new tool boxes donated by the Bright charity.



## our partners

Over the years the trust has developed strong working partnerships with a number of organisations, which bring added value to our communities.

### Newcastle Eagles

We are partners with the Newcastle Eagles basketball team who, through their successful Hoops4Health programme connect with more than 150 schools across Northumberland and North Tyneside. We link with their programme to gain access to more than 1,000 children each year with important health messages. Over the years the team has been able to discuss a variety of topics with the children including diabetes, dental health and mental health using materials provided by Northumbria Healthcare. It's a great way to connect with children – and who wouldn't want to listen to a professional basketball player, especially if he's 6'10!

As part of the programme, children are invited to take part in an arts competition to provide some fun artwork for our hospitals. The dental health theme was particularly amusing, especially the size of teeth drawn on the pictures of doctors.



### Wag & Company

We also partner with the dog befriending charity Wag & Company. For a number of years, the charity provided volunteers and their dogs to visit elderly patients at home, especially those who used to have a dog and were no longer able to look after them. The regular visits, recommended by community healthcare staff, bring great joy to those who are often socially isolated and lonely.

During and after the pandemic Wag & Company's volunteers, and their dogs, visited our staff in the restaurants at our hospitals, providing a welcome ray of sunshine at a difficult time. Their visits continue to be popular and are great for staff morale. Whitley, the cockapoo, even has his own Instagram page.



### Charlotte Tillbury

Our staff are also very lucky to enjoy regular opportunities to have Breakfast at Tilbury's at Fenwick's store in Newcastle. The Charlotte Tillbury beauty chain approached the trust to offer breakfast and make up advice, to say thank you to NHS staff. Each month, hundreds of staff enter a prize draw to win a place.

Through NHS Charities Together we also partner with two local Starbucks stores and regularly meet with them to discuss fundraising opportunities.



## our community

With the launch of Northumbria Healthcare's Community Promise in 2021 [www.northumbria.nhs.uk/about-us/our-community-promise](http://www.northumbria.nhs.uk/about-us/our-community-promise) the charity renewed its focus on community reach and impact, adding value to the trust's Promise.

Throughout the year we interacted with our local communities, across our large geographical footprint of 500 square miles, linking with fundraisers, community groups, artists networks and people in need.

Our communities are creative and through our award-winning healing arts programme we have been able to work with some incredible artists, amazing schoolchildren and community groups who do so much to support the NHS.

In the former mining village of Ashington we were delighted to work with the Ashington Veterans and Elders Institute. Throughout the year, and during the pandemic, they had made and sold brightly painted wooden flowers and butterflies, raising several thousands of pounds which was donated to their local hospital, Wansbeck General. As Ashington is the home of the famous Pitman Painters, it was lovely to see the tradition continuing.



As summer approached, we launched our school uniform appeal, linking in with Northumberland and North Tyneside Councils to donate pre-loved uniform to be distributed across our area.

Collection boxes were set up across all of our hospital sites and within a couple of weeks were brimming with donations. The charity team ensured that our staff were also able to benefit from the appeal, which helped to lessen the financial burden of the new school year on families across our region.



On 26 August, Haltwhistle Memorial Hospital celebrated its centenary. The charity worked with hospital staff and the League of Friends to organise a day of celebration.

Members of staff, past and present came together to reflect on the achievements of the hospital and the important role that it had played in the community. Many stories were told, including how before the hospital came into existence, a miner with a crushed leg had been taken to the local rail station to wait for the next train to Carlisle! A fete was also arranged within the park below the hospital and hundreds of local schoolchildren and their families enjoyed a day of fun – and free ice cream. It was a real community celebration.

At Hexham General Hospital staff were delighted with generous gifts of plants by Wylam Nursery, which brightened up the flower beds. The nursery also generously provided hundreds of individual plants as a thank you to staff. This was such a lovely gesture and really boosted staff morale.



At the end of 2022 we were fortunate to be able to display a light installation made by local artist disability group Northern Butterflies. The artworks had been previously featured in Durham's Lumiere festival and were installed at our Northumbria Specialist Emergency Hospital for staff to enjoy during the dark winter days.



# charity development groups (CDG)

Our site Charity Development Groups were set up in 2001 to provide a focal point for general donations to our hospitals, funding from legacies, and the profits from our Northumbria Volunteer Service (NVS) cafes and shops.

Each of our acute hospitals has a site CDG that provides an opportunity for staff to ask for funding for projects, or ideas, that can make a difference to our patients. The concept is very similar to Dragon's Den, although it's much friendlier!



## Hexham CDG

Physio equipment to treat continence dysfunction.

Headsets to improve communication with deaf patients.



Recliners for the wards.



## Northumbria Specialist Emergency Care Hospital CDG

Endoscopy unit to assess patient swallowing.

Sleep pods for quiet rest areas.



Newborn baby training mannequin.



## North Tyneside CDG

Vein finder to aid the taking of blood samples.

Sensory items for Learning and Development.



Crash mats for patient fall prevention.



## Wansbeck General Hospital CDG

Specialist feeding equipment for speech and language therapy.

Children's library books.



Muscle stimulation machine.



# Finance Review

The net assets of the Charitable Funds as at the 31st March 2023, were £4,674,000 (31 March 2022 £4,097,000).

Overall net assets increased by £577,000.

Unrestricted funds decreased by £114,000 to £2,248,000 whilst restricted funds increased by £691,000 to £2,426,000.

Receipt of restricted legacies was the main factor behind the increase in restricted fund balances.

Income Source	2022/23	%	2021/22	%
Donations	£197,000	9	£232,000	20
Legacies	£983,000	43	£105,000	9
Charitable Activities	£966,000	43	£753,000	64
Investment Income	£117,000	5	£83,000	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,263,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>£1,173,000</b>	<b>100</b>

Expenditure during 2022/23 totalled £1,533,000 and the "Contribution towards the NHS" in the form of charitable grants totalled £480,000. This expenditure relates to medical and other equipment purchases such as IT and furniture to enhance patient and staff welfare.

The remaining expenditure comprised the costs of purchasing goods to be resold in the charity run on site hospital shops and administrative and support costs.

Total Expenditure	2022/23	%	2021/22	%
Purchase of new equipment	£74,000	5	£81,000	7
New building and refurbishments	£14,000	1	£43,000	4
Patient education and welfare	£337,000	22	£153,000	14
Staff Education and welfare	£30,000	2	£24,000	2
Information technology	£4,000	0	£0	0
Grants to other charities	£21,000	1	£16,000	1
Support costs and overheads	£186,000	12	£79,000	7
Fundraising Costs	£75,000	5	£56,000	5
NVS Shop purchases and overheads	£792,000	52	£650,000	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,533,000</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>£1,102,000</b>	<b>100</b>

## Reserves and Investments

The Trustee has established a Reserves and an Investment Policy to achieve its aim of supporting a healthy future by assisting the long-term future of Bright Charity.

The reserves policy has the objective of retaining sufficient funds to cover the known commitments and future plans of the Charity. Trustees consider that in the medium term it should be the aim that reserves should be not less than 12 month's non-committed expenditure and not greater than 18 month's non-committed expenditure. This would currently equate to reserves of approximately £800,000 to £1,200,000.

The Trustees consider that this level of reserves is consistent with applying income on a measured, planned and coordinated basis. The level of reserves is reported to the charitable funds committee on a quarterly basis. In the short term the Trustees consider that a level of reserves significantly greater than this amount is acceptable as it provides the charity with an appropriate level of investment income.

Appropriate action to establish or maintain reserves at the required level will be decided upon by the committee. The Charities Development Lead conducts an annual review of the spending strategies of individual funds in order to monitor and ensure these funds fit in with overall reserves policy.

The current level of reserves is £2,902,000 which is an increase of £801,000 from 2021/22. The increase was attributable to the level of legacy income received in the year. Plans are being made to spend these legacies in line with the donors' wishes.

The investment policy which the charity operated during 2022/23 was established in July 2013 and last reviewed by the Charitable Funds Committee in March 2023.

The main objectives of the investments are;

- To achieve sufficient income to cover the administrative costs of the charity
- Only use deposit funds with institutions with a AAA or equivalent short-term risk rating
- Use funds not held on deposit to achieve medium to long term capital growth whilst minimizing risks

The Charity seeks to invest ethically and ensure that its investments are not opposed to the objects of the Charity. Therefore, the investment policy eschews, as much as practicable, investments in tobacco and alcohol related holdings.

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust has no authority over the investments which the Charity holds.

Investments	2022/23	2021/22
COIF - historical book cost	£2,899,000	£2,199,000
Opening Unrealised gain	£711,000	£492,000
Additions in year – book cost	0	£700,000
Unrealised gain – in year	0	£219,000
Unrealised loss – in year	(£153,000)	£0
Closing Unrealised Gain	£558,000	£711,000
<b>Market value at 31 March</b>	<b>£3,457,000</b>	<b>£3,610,000</b>

Investments are recorded at market value as at 31st March 2023. No other investments are held.

The Charitable Funds Committee meets annually

with a representative from CCLA to discuss the general investment climate and outlook, and reviews the charity's investments accordingly.

## Risk Management

The Corporate Trustee has identified the major risks to the charity which can be summarised as:

1. That the charity is not operating within its objects as defined in the charity's governing document
2. That accounting transactions are inappropriately or inadequately reported.
3. Expenditure is inappropriately high resulting in a faster depletion of funds than approved by the Corporate Trustee.
4. That expenditure is inappropriately low resulting in lost opportunities for charitable funds
5. Investments are not properly safeguarded, resulting in loss of funds.

The Corporate Trustee has established systems to ensure that these risks are kept at a minimum. Namely:

1. A Charitable Funds Strategic Committee which reviews policy, financial activity and investment performance. The members of the committee are all Executive and Non-executive directors of the Trust.
2. The existence and compliance with Standing Financial Instructions.
3. An adequately qualified and resourced finance function
4. The establishment of internal financial control systems which are reviewed annually by an Internal Audit department.
5. Reporting and review of audit findings to an Audit Committee.
6. Annual audit of systems and accounts by external auditors.

During 2023 CFSC commenced work on the development of an updated Risk Register which follows the format used by the Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust. This work will be completed in the 2023/24 financial year.

## Our future plans

The charity plans to continue to build on its partnerships within the community to help support our patients and staff. It will also look to continue strengthening its work in relation to health inequalities/public health and corporate social responsibility.

The charity also plans to review its governance procedures including its committee structures, to ensure that they continue to meet the charities needs and are fit for purpose.

The charity's charitable expenditure will continue to be determined by the needs of the Trusts hospitals and community services and will be monitored by categorising expenditure into the following areas of spend:

- Purchase of Medical equipment
- Environment Improvement
- Patient and Education Welfare
- Staff Education and Welfare
- Research
- Health Inequalities/ Public Health
- Corporate Social Responsibilities

Based on the Accounts for the financial year the Trust Board, on behalf of the Corporate Trustee, believes that the Charity can meet all its current and future foreseeable commitments.

## Charity Information

### Governance and Management

The Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust Charity was registered with the Charity Commission as an NHS Umbrella Charity by Declaration of Trust in May 2000, Charity number 1083122. In 2011 was decided to adopt the brand name of "Bright Northumbria".

The Charity has a Corporate Trustee: Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Bright is a registered member of the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the Codes of Fundraising Practice.

Members of the Trust Board who have acted on behalf of the Corporate Trustee are members of the Charity Board of Trustee with voting rights. In 2022/2023 these members were:

Name	Title
Sir James Mackey	Chief Executive
Birju Bartoli	Executive Director of Performance and Improvement
Paul Dunn	Executive Director of Finance
Kate Thompson	Executive Director of People and OD
Jeremy Rushmer	Executive Medical Director
Marion Dickson	Executive Director of Nursing and Midwifery
Alistair Blair	Executive Medical Director – Clinical Innovation
Claire Riley (to 22nd April 2022)	Executive Director of Communications and Corporate Affairs

Name	Title
Alan Richardson	Chair (to 31 August 2023)
Paul Ennals	Chair (from 1st September 2023)
Margaret Rowe	Non-Executive Director (from 4th September 2023)
Martin Knowles	Non-Executive Director (to 1st September 2022)
Moira Davison	Non-Executive Director
Bernard McCardle	Non-Executive Director
Sir Alan Craft	Non-Executive Director
Ruth Connorton	Non-Executive Director
Andrew Besford	Non-Executive Director
Stephen McKinlay	Non-Executive Director
Philip Lobb	Non-Executive Director
Richard Dale	Non-Executive Director (from 1st August 2022)

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

The Corporate Trustee of the charity acts through the decisions and actions of the executive and non-executive members of Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Board. Where statute permits, the Board delegates authority for the review of strategy, activity and compliance to a sub-committee of the Board called the Charitable Funds Strategic Committee, the 'CSFC'.

In particular the CSFC is required to:

- Control, manage and monitor the use of the fund's resources;
- Provide support, guidance and encouragement for all its income raising activities whilst managing and monitoring the receipt of all income;
- Ensure that 'best practice' is followed in the conduct of all its affairs fulfilling all of its legal responsibilities;
- Ensure that the Investment Policy approved by the Corporate Trustee is adhered to and that performance is continually reviewed whilst being aware of ethical considerations; and,
- Keep the Corporate Trustee fully informed on the activity, performance and risks of the charity.

In order to ensure the committee always acts in the interests of the charity rather than the NHS corporate body, representatives of both staff and public governors are co-opted onto the committee in a non-voting capacity to observe and to contribute to the decision-making process.

The Charitable Funds Strategic Committee comprises the following members:

Three Non-Executive Directors (One member is nominated as Chair and a second is nominated vice-chair of the committee)

- Executive Director of Finance or their nominated deputy
- Head of Charity
- Executive Director of Nursing or their nominated deputy
- Representatives from the Council of Governors

No member of the Trust Board received remuneration from the Charity during the year. The Trust Board is remunerated by the Trust for their role as Executive and Non-Executive Directors of the Trust.

The charity is constituted of approximately 233 individual funds (2021/22: 232) as at 31 March 2022 and the notes to the accounts distinguish the types of funds held and disclose separately all material funds.

Operating below the Charitable Funds Committee are nine Charity Development Groups (CDGs) dividing the Trust's area into six geographical areas plus a group for research funds, a group for Trust wide charitable initiatives managed by the CFSC and a group for Community based initiatives.

There is a central budget for administration (including finance, publicity and audit costs) which is funded from investment income.

CDGs have funds allocated from reserves and from any unrestricted donations, fundraising proceeds and legacies that are received. Any member of staff is invited to bid for funds to finance equipment or projects which meet the objects of the charity. CDGs are an open forum with all staff and other interested parties e.g. voluntary groups, invited to attend and contribute. Each group meeting is chaired by a non-executive director. After discussion, funds are allocated to bids on a consensus basis.

For day to day operational and management purposes the charity is further divided into some 220 funds. The notes to the accounts distinguish the types of accounts held and disclose separately all material funds. These are managed by Trust officers such as Heads of Service and Ward Managers who have delegated authority to apply the funds within the objects of the charity.

The Corporate Trustee does not set detailed budgets for the charity's activities except occasionally in the case of specific projects. Instead, responsibility is delegated to the managers of each fund. Upon request managers of funds are required to submit annual fundraising and spending plans for review by the Charitable Funds Committee.

The CFSC regularly monitors fund balances to ensure that funds do not go into deficit, or if they do, to ensure that funds are brought back into surplus as soon as possible. In addition, the Charitable Funds Committee monitors the funds that are available for Charity Development Groups to expend and arrange for the timely deployment of these funds.

## Activities

Bright ensures that all activities carried out to raise funds are in line with the Fundraising Regulator and Codes of Practice and the Charity's internal processes and policies. The Team are aware of donor's wishes ensuring that these are honoured and communicated with the donor. In the year 2022/23 we received no complaints. The Charitable Funds Team have mandatory training each year on safeguarding for vulnerable adults and this is then integrated into supporting vulnerable donors to ensure they are protected.

## Public benefit

The Trustees confirm they have paid due regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in deciding what activities the Charity have undertaken during the year and have continued to support a wide range of charitable activities. These include charitable grant funding for the Trust and fundraising across a number of platforms to raise more funds.

In awarding grants the Trustee is aware of its responsibilities under charity law in ensuring the maintenance of public benefit in all aspects of its work. Funding patient and staff welfare, improvements and amenities is, by definition, meeting public benefit.

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust is the main beneficiary of the Charity and is a related party by virtue of being the Corporate Trustee of the Charity. However, when the Trust Board is making decisions regarding the Charity it does so with the best interests of the Charity in mind and with consideration of Charity Commission guidance, Charity law and the expressed wishes of donors. By working in partnership with the Trust, charitable funds are used to best effect for the benefit of patients and staff. When deciding upon the most beneficial way to use funds, the Corporate Trustee has regard to the main activities, objectives, strategies and plans of the Trust.

## Reference and Administrative Details

### Registered and Working Name

Bright Charity

### Registered Charity Number

1083122

### Registered Address

North Tyneside General Hospital Rake Lane  
North Shields NE29 8NH

### Auditors

Robson Laidler Accountants Limited  
Fernwood Road  
Jesmond  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE2 1TJ

### Bankers

Government Banking Service  
c/o Royal Bank of Scotland  
200 Bishopsgate  
London  
EC2M 4NR

### Legal Advisors

DAC Beachcroft LLP  
Central Gallowgate  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE99 5AA

### Investment Managers

CCLA  
St Alphage House  
2 Fore Street  
London





**thank  
you to  
all our  
supporters  
who made it  
possible for us  
to do so much**