



Annual report

2024-25

Helping to make things better



Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to our Torbay and South Devon NHS Charity Annual Report for 2024/25.

A year in which the power of community, compassion and innovation has truly shone through.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we raised over £383,000, enabling us to deliver projects that have had a tangible and lasting impact on the lives of patients, families and staff across Torbay and South Devon.

From the transformation of the Louisa Cary ward into a vibrant seaside-themed space for children, to the purchase of dual scalp coolers that ease the burden of chemotherapy and the creation of a restorative garden for coronary care patients, every initiative has been rooted in care, dignity, and hope.

Beyond our hospital walls, our charity has supported yoga and art therapy for cancer patients, community wellbeing initiatives and staff development programmes—all designed to enhance health and happiness across Torbay and South Devon.

Thank you for helping us make things better.

These achievements are only possible because of the incredible people who walk alongside us: our fundraisers, donors, volunteers, many local businesses and those who leave us a gift in their Wills.



We recognise the trust that people put in us to use the money they give us wisely, making things better for local people and NHS staff.

Our Torbay and South Devon NHS Charity aims to support the full range of services offered by Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust – adult social care, community services and hospital-based services while working closely with other charities who also support health and wellbeing locally. We are proud to work in collaboration with charities such as Rowcroft Hospice, Devon Air Ambulance, and our eight dedicated Leagues of Friends, whose shared commitment to wellbeing strengthens our people and communities every day.

As we look ahead, we remain focused on delivering projects that make a real difference—projects that go beyond what the NHS alone can provide, and that reflect the values of kindness, inclusion, and innovation at the heart of our charity.

Liz Edwards-Smith, Chair of Charity Committee

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Thank you

At Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust we're proud to be part of a community that consistently steps up to support one another. Our NHS Charity is a vital part of that community – helping us go further, reach wider and do more for the people we serve.

This year, our NHS Charity has enabled us to deliver projects that simply wouldn't be possible through core NHS funding alone, making a huge difference to the care and treatment our services can offer to our people and communities.

We've always believed that care should be shaped around what matters most to people. That's why we were the first trust in England to integrate hospital, community and social care. And it's why we continue to innovate—whether that's through nationally recognised clinical services or through the work of our NHS Charity, which brings added value to everything we do.

The pandemic reminded us just how much the NHS means to people. It also highlighted the inequalities and pressures that still exist.

My reflections on the recent publication of the 10-year health plan for England is that we are well placed to lead the way on many areas here at Torbay and South Devon – we always have integrated and established neighbourhood teams (with more to do), have a digital lab that is leading the way in developing new technology and an integrated approach to prevention that we need to truly build on given the inequalities within our population and the high levels of need in rural and coastal communities.



We need to also build further here on the amazing voluntary sector we work with.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters—and the momentum we've built through partnerships like NHS Charities Together—we're now in a stronger position to respond to our challenges with compassion, creativity and purpose.

To everyone who has donated, fundraised, volunteered or shared our story: thank you. Your support is helping us make things better, every day, for everyone in Torbay and South Devon.

Joe Teape, Chief Executive, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust



Our annual report

Our Torbay and South Devon NHS Charity is here to provide better care for people in Torbay and South Devon from birth to the end of life and everything in between.

Thanks to supporters like you, we gave over £398,000 in 2024/25 to improve the health and happiness of people who use our services, providing specialist equipment, improving the physical environment, supporting the wellbeing of all and reducing health inequalities.

We are delighted to be able to share with you some of the projects and improvements your donations and support have helped us to fund during the year and share the positive impact they have made.



Our vision

Our vision is to provide better care for you, your family and neighbours, from birth to the end of life and everything in between. By supporting us, you are helping to make things better for people in Torbay and South Devon.

Our fundraising mission is to work with Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust to make a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of people who use our services and our dedicated, talented and amazing people. By investing in innovative healthcare initiatives and promoting the wellbeing of all, we strive to create an inclusive culture that benefits all those who come into contact with our charity. Our intent is to ensure equity of opportunity for all our health and social care services to benefit from our charity.

Our NHS values drive us to support excellent care every day, ensuring that the needs of our people and our communities are cared for both now and in the future.



How you can get involved

- Fundraise for us
- Regular or one-off donation (online)
- Offline donation
- Remembering a loved one
- Leaving a gift in your will
- Donate while you shop via www.easyfundraising.org.uk
- Follow us on social media and share our story
- Email: tsdft.charity@nhs.net
- Website: <https://charity.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk/>



How you helped

Thank you are just two small words that often don't seem enough to recognise the time, energy, kindness, commitment and care that you show our charity.

Without you, we simply couldn't do what we do. Any success we have is due to your support and we couldn't be more grateful.

Here are a few examples of the lengths you went to this year to fundraise for us.

“

I've chosen to support the Unit because everyday I meet the most incredible people and I really see the difference that we can make to the patients that we see. Our aim is to accurately diagnose and treat breast cancer, achieving the best outcome possible for our patients. But, if we can also make their journey that little bit more comfortable along the way, we are really doing our job well

Phoebe Sage, Radiographer, Breast Care Unit

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Our year in numbers

74

kilometers cycled over beaches, gravel and backroads by Chris Balch and his sons Sam and Roger



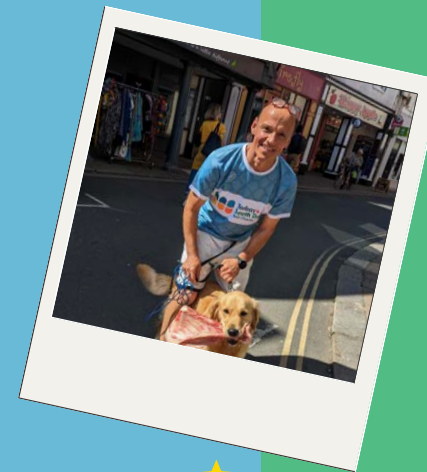
100

miles cycled by Scott and Zoe Davies from Torbay Hospital to Bristol Childrens Hospital



50

different wards, services and areas supported



22.6

miles rowed by the Blades Crew in the Great River Race



£12,840

our largest single donation (excluding legacies)



50p

our smallest single donation



Working together

None of the important and impactful projects we fund across Torbay and South Devon would be possible without the generous support of our fundraisers and donors.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the individuals, families, local businesses, community groups and other organisations who have supported our Torbay and South Devon NHS Charity throughout the year.

We've highlighted just a few on the following pages, but we are grateful for every single person who has supported our charity this year.

Voluntary income

£253,000

Donations

£124,000

Legacies

£6,000

Grants

Grant expenditure

£64,000

Capital equipment

£250,000

Patient care projects

£49,000

Staff training and development

£35,000

Staff welfare

Reducing health inequalities

Building confidence and resilience in our young adult carers

There are hundreds of young adult carers in Torbay and South Devon. Being a young adult carer can affect a young person's health, social life and self-confidence with many struggling to manage their education, working life and caring role, which can cause pressure and stress.

While the Torbay Young Adult Carers Service is funded by Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust to support young people aged 16 - 25 with caring responsibilities, their activities, which give young adult carers a break, time with other young carers and a chance to build vital resilience, confidence and skills, are only possible thanks to donations and funds raised.

A huge thank you to Torquay Rotary, Brixham Sorophomists and to Sports England for supporting our young adult carers in 2024/25.

Thanks to their support, local young carers aged 16-25 were able to access regular drop-in sessions, enjoy activities such as bike rides and bowling, and even challenge themselves with a once-in-a lifetime opportunity of a week's sailing adventure on board an iconic 72 ft Challenge racing yacht for a small number of carers.



Reducing health inequalities

A breath of hope . . .

Thanks to a grant from Torbay Council we were able to partner with our award-winning smokefree pregnancy team to create a film and social media campaign aimed at encouraging expectant mothers to quit smoking during pregnancy.

This initiative, will help the dedicated smokefree pregnancy team to go over and above in their support for mums to be, by addressing a gap in smoking cessation support for mothers before 15 weeks of pregnancy.



Improving experience

Healing through art

Every week, beautiful artwork is created in the Moving On art group—an initiative that offers free creative sessions to people recovering from breast cancer, for up to two years after treatment.

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of our supporters, more than 50 individuals have already taken part in the Moving On art and meditation groups, finding comfort, connection and confidence through creativity.

“

I've always liked art, when you are doing it, you don't think about anything else – it's good for your mental health. My treatment took me to some dark places and when you finish, you worry a lot and think a lot 'will it come back'? Art takes me away from everything and the group is really friendly, it's good to meet people in the same situation who properly understand what you've been through.

Steph

”



Improving experience and our environment

Ricky Grant Day Unit now has a dual Paxman Scalp Cooling machine—doubling capacity for this vital treatment. Scalp cooling helps reduce hair loss during chemotherapy, and thanks to this upgrade, every patient who requests it can now access it.



Seven new specialist chemotherapy armchairs have been funded by our Charity, replacing older chairs on the Ricky Grant and Turner wards.

Patients receiving treatment for up to nine hours can now do so in greater comfort.



Young patients on Louisa Cary ward explored music and digital media through a six-week creative programme and delivered by Sound Communities CIC—bringing joy and expression to hospital stays.

New vibrant wallcoverings featuring our amazing colleagues have been installed across Torbay Hospital.

Funded by NHS Charities Together, these eye-catching vinyls raise awareness and celebrate the work of our charity.



Improving experience

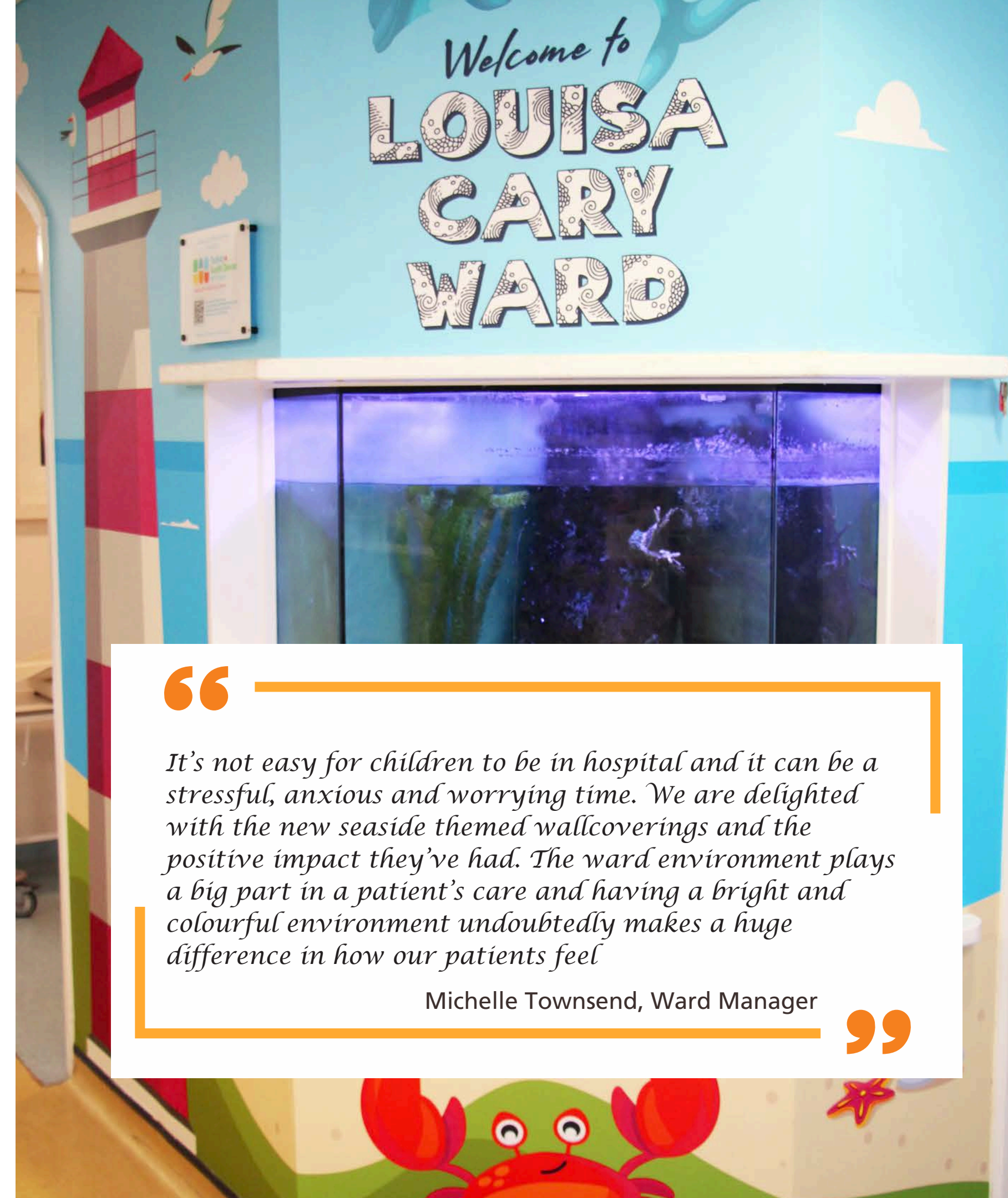
Waves of kindness

Thanks to the incredible generosity of NHS charity fundraisers, Torbay Hospital's children's ward now features vibrant seaside-themed wallcoverings that brighten the space for thousands of young patients each year.

Among the many supporters who made this possible, Scott and Zoe Davies from Torquay raised an incredible £5,000 through a fundraising challenge last July, in heartfelt thanks to the staff at Torbay Hospital and Bristol Royal Hospital for Children who saved their son Dempsey's life in 2023.

The final design was shaped by ideas from children, families and staff, ensuring the space reflects the voices of those who use it. The seaside theme continues into the older children's area, with age-appropriate images like dolphins and turtles.

With your continued support, we aim to raise further funds to transform the short stay assessment unit and paediatric emergency department—creating hospital spaces that are not only functional, but also welcoming, engaging and full of hope for children and their families.



“

It's not easy for children to be in hospital and it can be a stressful, anxious and worrying time. We are delighted with the new seaside themed wallcoverings and the positive impact they've had. The ward environment plays a big part in a patient's care and having a bright and colourful environment undoubtedly makes a huge difference in how our patients feel

Michelle Townsend, Ward Manager

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Supporting our NHS people

Thanks to the generosity of our corporate sponsors, Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust were able to hold their annual our people celebration event.

More than 180 NHS award winners came together for a night to remember (and a classic disco) so that we could recognise and reward them for their dedication and commitment, care and compassion and innovation and achievements.



As part of the evening we awarded our first ever Charity Champion Award, given to a member of staff who has gone above and beyond for our charity.

We were delighted to have three winners in the 2024 Awards. Jane Read, Cheryl McKinnon and Gill Walach, recognising the hard work of three members of staff in our Special Care Baby Unit, our young adult carers service and on Templer ward.



“

It was a real pleasure to be part of such a special evening, and SDS was proud to support the event through sponsorship.

Thank you and congratulations to everyone involved. It was inspiring to see the recognition given to so many deserving individuals.

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Supporting our people

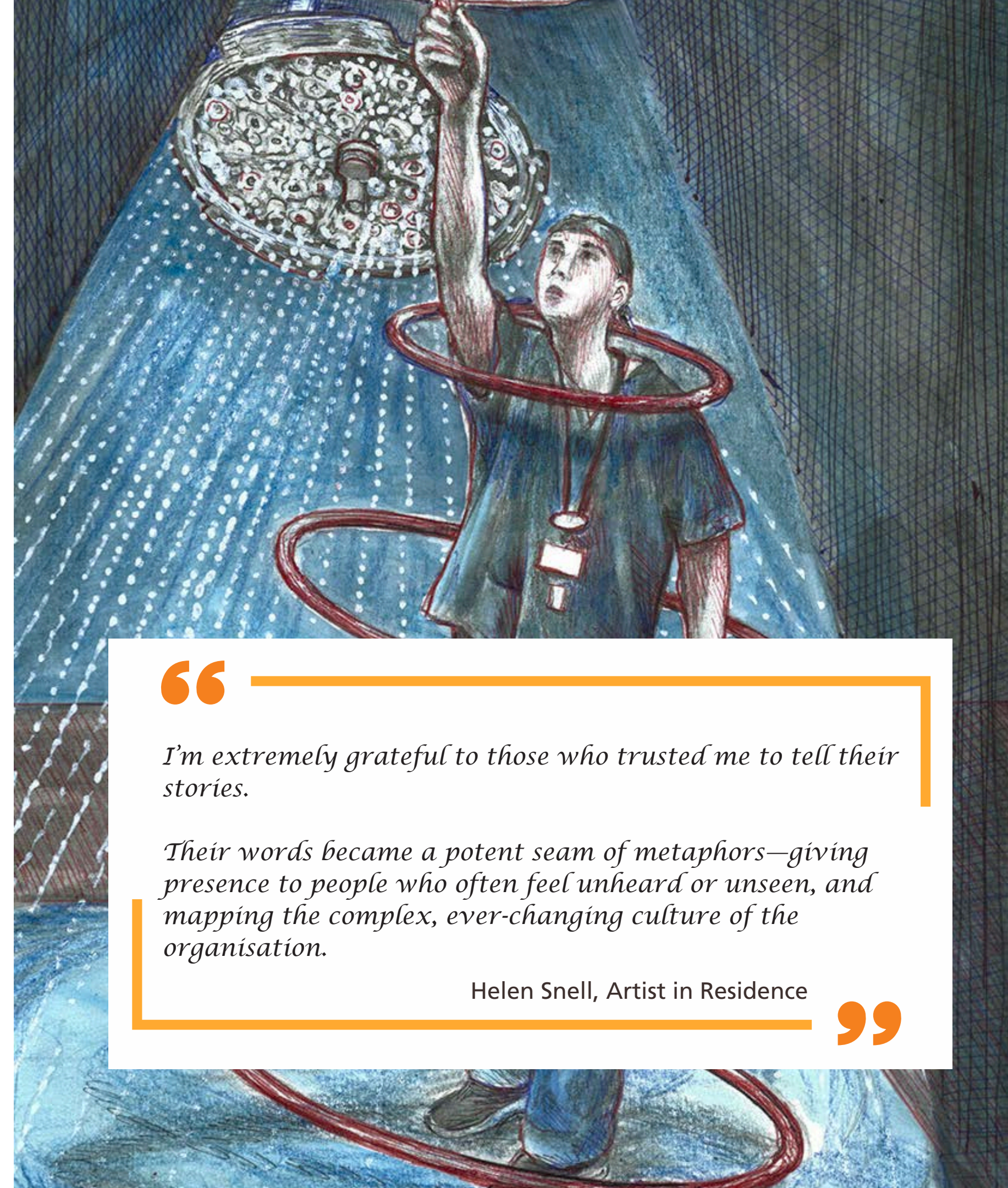
From silence to canvas

For the past three years, artist Helen Snell has worked closely with people who work for Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust to explore themes of wellbeing and burnout through art—capturing the emotional journey of those who cared for others during and after the pandemic.

From the early days of lockdown to the long road of recovery, clinical and non-clinical staff gave everything to support patients at home and in the community.

To mark the fifth anniversary of the first lockdown, our charity proudly funded a permanent exhibition in the Board Room at Torbay Hospital titled *And breathe, said the machine*. This powerful collection reflects the thoughts, emotions and lived experiences of NHS staff during one of the most challenging periods in healthcare history.

Appointed artist-in-residence in 2022 through funding secured from NHS Charities Together, Helen shadowed staff in a wide range of roles—from cleaners to surgeons, pharmacists to scrub nurses—inviting them to reflect on their work environments as metaphorical spaces and to share their views on wellbeing within the NHS.



“

I'm extremely grateful to those who trusted me to tell their stories.

Their words became a potent seam of metaphors—giving presence to people who often feel unheard or unseen, and mapping the complex, ever-changing culture of the organisation.

Helen Snell, Artist in Residence

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Improving experience

Big smiles, small moves

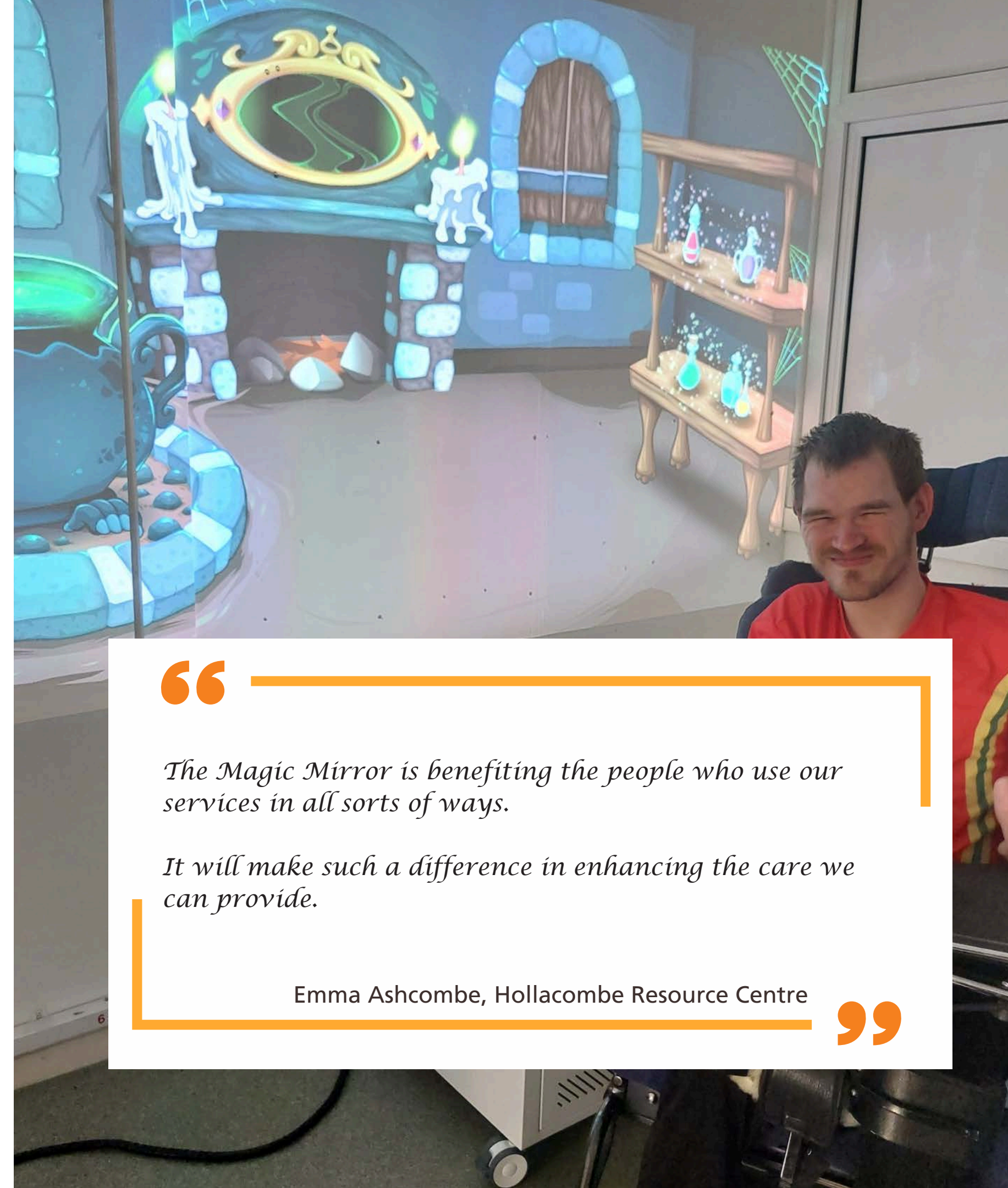
Thanks to a generous grant from the Claire Milne Charitable Trust, adults living with profound disabilities at Hollacombe Resource Centre are now enjoying the benefits of a new Magic Mirror—an interactive screen that responds to even the smallest movements.

The Magic Mirror projects images and games onto a screen, allowing users to engage in fun, sensory experiences that support physiotherapy.

Whether playing games solo or as part of a group, participants are encouraged to move, interact and enjoy.

The benefits go far beyond play.

The Magic Mirror helps improve mobility, cognitive behaviour, and memory—especially for younger adults, who now have access to familiar technology that has supported their development since school.



“

The Magic Mirror is benefiting the people who use our services in all sorts of ways.

It will make such a difference in enhancing the care we can provide.

Emma Ashcombe, Hollacombe Resource Centre

”



Our star fundraisers

April 2024

David Jones ran the London Marathon to support our Special Care Baby Unit following the care his son Luka received.

Their work is truly commendable, and it's heartwarming to know that Luca received such dedicated care in the first weeks of his life.



May 2024

Seven people ran half marathons or 10Ks for our charity, braving hills and torrential rain in the Great West Run in Exeter.



June 2024

Young Katie Wreyford walked 28 miles in the 'Moors to Moreleigh' challenge raising funds for Louisa Cary ward at Torbay Hospital. Katie was keen to ensure the money raised helps fund craft and art kits to help support older children on the ward.



53 people ran for our charity in the Inflatable 5k event. The seven teams included staff and supporters from Templer ward, Torview midwives, Emergency Department, Radiology, Health and Social Care, Communications and Site Support Services.



Without this help, the patience, understanding and kindness of the doctors and nurses on the ward and the ongoing support I am still receiving, I wouldn't be here today

Our star fundraisers

July 2024

Zoë and Scott Davies undertook an epic 500km bike ride from Torbay Hospital to Bristol Children's Hospital raising funds to give back to the teams that supported their son Dempsey.

“

To say thank you is basically impossible. There's not a word in the dictionary that describes our feelings towards all the teams that were on shift that day, and there on after with Dempsey's incredible care, even to this day.

If there was I would definitely be shouting it from the rooftops

”

August 2024



Torquay teenager Lottie Bryon-Edmond has raised more than £15,000 for a memorial to ensure local organ donors, are not forgotten. In August, Lottie, who received a liver transplant at 5 weeks old, undertook a sailing challenge as part of her fundraising efforts. The memorial will be installed in Torbay Hospital in autumn 2025.



Our star fundraisers

September 2024

Ten brave people from Compass House Medical Centre, Brixham jumped out of a plane at 15,000 ft to support local people undergoing treatment for breast cancer.



“

This cause is dear to all of our hearts at Compass House, and we are very grateful for all the amazing work the Torbay Breast Care Unit have been doing over the years supporting dear colleagues, friends and family and our patients in Torbay.

This is our way of saying thank you and helping to give something back to the Unit and future patients

”



25 people signed up to run the Torbay half marathon our behalf, unfortunately due to weather condition, the event was cancelled. Rather than letting the charity or their sponsors down, all our runners then ran the route 'their way' ensuring that the charity still received the vital funds raised.

We cheered on the Blades Crew as they took part in the Great London River Race, rowing 21.6 miles along the River Thames and competing against 400 boats.

The team's raised funds for Ricky Grant Day Unit which provides chemotherapy and associated treatments, plus education and advice for those living with cancer.



Our star fundraisers

October 2024

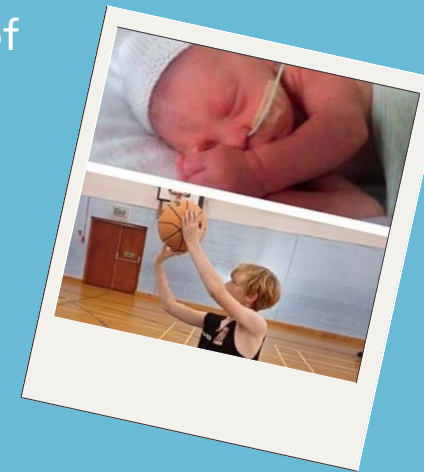
During national Baby Loss Week, Tamsin Field jumped out of a plane at 15,000 feet in memory of baby Oscar.

Oscar was born sleeping in February 2024, and since then Tamsin tirelessly raised funds for Torbay's maternity bereavement suite and to raise awareness of baby loss.



November 2024

Elliot started his hoops challenge for part of his primary school Civic award. Setting himself a challenge of shooting 200 basketball hoops each month Elliot had a very personal reason for choosing to fundraise for the special care baby unit



December 2024

We were overwhelmed by the generosity of local businesses and the kindness of our supporters and fundraisers who all wanted to help make life a little more joyous, festive and fun for people who use our services.



“

I was born prematurely at 34 weeks to my mum and dad's surprise.

The team on the Unit took great care of me and reassured my mum and dad.

”

Whether it was donations of gifts for people in hospital or Christmas stockings for young adult carers, NHS staff taking part in our Big Christmas Cake Bake or people lighting up their houses, it felt like the whole of Torbay and South Devon came together to help make things better.

Our star fundraisers

January 2025

David from Dirtbag Waste Disposal kindly collected and recycled local people's Christmas trees while supporting our special care baby unit.

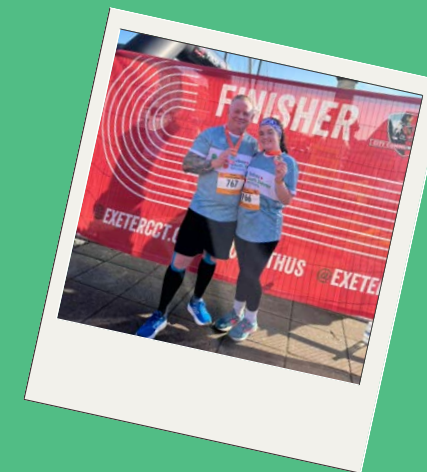
We think it's wonderful that he was able to support and care for the next generation while helping to save the planet for them.



February 2025

Duncan and his daughter Alaska ran the Exeter Half Marathon to raise funds for Ricky Grant Day Unit following the care his wife received on the Unit in 2024.

They raised a staggering £16,000!



March 2025

Radiographer Phoebe Sage, a staff member in our Breast Care Unit, took on an epic trek in Cuba to raise funds for patients supported by the Unit.



“

We want to give something meaningful back to the Unit and future patients.

They need to replace treatment chairs for the comfort of those receiving chemotherapy which can last for hours over many months.

”



Spotlight on . . .

Some of our NHS people really do give new meaning to going the extra mile when it comes to fundraising for our charity.

Consultant in Anaesthetics and Pain Medicine, Douglas Natusch ran the Torbay Half Marathon to raise funds for new virtual reality (VR) equipment, designed to help reduce pain and discomfort for people living with chronic pain.

“

VR alters the sensory input to your brain, the programming can help people relax if they are feel stressed and afraid, to learn to move again gently. People sometimes find they can do sophisticated movements, as part of activities and games in VR, that they may be too afraid to considering trying without the headset on. The ability to learn to move without fear is an important step in helping people change their relationship to pain and suffering. Having more equipment allows us to reach more people and also to allow people to practice at home.

”



Leaving a legacy

This year, generous gifts left in Wills have helped us raise £124,000, supporting areas such as our coronary care unit.

By including a gift in your Will, you can help ensure your loved ones are looked after, while also making a lasting difference to future generations in Torbay and South Devon.

A gift in a Will received by the unit transformed a previously unloved outside space, adding plants, flowers and garden furniture to benefit both patients and staff. Sister Jackie had the vision and is working hard to make this space into a beautiful garden.

“

This is just the beginning; I've planted spring bulbs today and hope in the spring to paint the garden furniture and add climbing plants, trelliswork, poetry and hopefully even a water feature. I love gardening and it has been fantastic to see how this project has made such a difference to everyone

Ward manager, Sam, is over the moon with the outcome:

When the plants arrived the whole ward was buzzing, now patients have a space to sit outside and you can see green plants and flowers through the windows. We'd like to say a huge thank you to the amazing person who left a gift in their Will.

”

Please get in touch at tsdft.charity@nhs.net to find out more about leaving a gift in your Will, or visit: www.charity.torbayandsouthdevon.nhs.uk



Looking forward to making even
more of an impact next year!





Our future

We have set an ambitious fundraising strategy for the next five years that puts people at the heart of everything we do and is aligned to the vision of the Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust for better health and care for all.

Our vision is to provide better care for you, your family and your neighbours, from birth to the end of life and everything in between. By supporting us, you are helping to make things better for people in Torbay and South Devon.

For the next year, we have identified the following priorities for spending the monies raised through donations, legacies and grants:

- improving the health and wellbeing of our staff, in the context of ongoing operational pressures
- purchasing of medical equipment
- purchasing items to improve the experience of people who use our services and their carers
- staff training and development
- reducing health inequalities
- supporting health education.

Our fundraising mission is to work with Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust to make a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of people who use their services and the dedicated, talented and amazing people and volunteers who deliver care and services.

Over the next year, we will focus on:

- developing our trust and grants fundraising to bring new and additional monies into Torbay and South Devon through projects which are aligned to our fundraising principles
- ensuring excellent governance and ethical standards of charity practice
- launching a staff lottery to provide a dedicated income stream to support the wellbeing of our teams, enabling them to deliver better care
- as we build our unrestricted funds, delivering an effective and accessible microgrants scheme to support improvements aligned to our fundraising principles
- developing our brand to ensure that our ability to deliver impact is understood
- building and strengthening partnerships with key health, VCSE and charity organisations locally to deliver greater impact
- generating financial support for Torbay and South Devon NHS Foundation Trust's recognition and awards programme.





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