

bright futures

Your City & Metropolitan Hospitals Charity
Newsletter Spring 2025

Your City & Metropolitan Hospitals
Charity
Enhancing healthcare in our community



Welcome to BrightFutures, Your City & Metropolitan Hospital's Charity's brand new newsletter! We are proud to be the independent registered charity of Sandwell & West Birmingham (SWB) NHS Trust, who care for over 530,000 people through our 4 hospitals and 150+ community healthcare services.

As Director of Charity, I felt extremely honoured to be part of our recent launch and showcase events where we introduced our new charity strategy and brand. We were also delighted to successfully close our £2m 'We Are Metropolitan' fundraising campaign, and are so grateful to our wonderful supporters for celebrating this fantastic milestone with us. You can read more about this and our work, including our groundbreaking art in hospital programme in this newsletter. To learn more about our new charity vision please visit our website: <https://www.swbh.nhs.uk/charity-fundraising/>

This last year we saw our total charity income pass the £1m mark, which we have now achieved in 4 of the past 5 years. As well as raising further funds in the future, we'll also ensure that we spend our income to generate the best possible impact we can, as we support our patients, people, population and partners in the years ahead.

To all our donors, supporters, and the enduring commitment of those in the community, I'd like to say a massive thank you! Your ongoing efforts really help us to transform lives, which we will continue to do as an independent charity.

Johnny Shah, Director of Charity

COMMUNITY GARDEN & ART GALLERY OPENS AT THE NEW HOSPITAL

On 8 April High Sheriff West Midlands, Doug Wright and Chair of Your City and Metropolitan Hospitals Charity, Steve Allen officially opened Midland Met's two new exciting community spaces:

The new Midland Metropolitan Hospital opened in autumn 2024

The Commons: the hospital's very own community garden, designed and built by, neurodiverse arts company, Spectra with and for local people. It features an array of creative installations, resting places, biodiversity and sensory-enriching planting dotted throughout, all designed to promote well-being by encouraging people to rest, reflect, chat and make new connections.

The People's Gallery: a unique adaptable gallery, spanning the length of the Winter Gardens. The opening exhibition features artworks by patients, staff and local residents working with local arts organisations and artists including: photographs celebrating City Road Hospital and Sandwell General Hospital by artist Tom Hicks, MMUH Near Neighbours group and staff; a large textile artwork designed and crafted by migrant mothers with Mothership, which reflects on discussions around accessing Sandwell's maternity services, and artworks created by patients and people from the local community with arts organisation Spectra.

NHS CHARITY REVEALS NEW NAME

The name for the newly created independent charity for Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust has been unveiled as Your City and Metropolitan Hospitals Charity.

The charity will continue to support the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital, the UK's newest healthcare facility, and the Trust's other sites – Sandwell, City and Rowley Regis Hospitals as well as GP practices and community services.



Your City & Metropolitan Hospitals Charity is also celebrating the successful closure of the £2 million 'We Are Metropolitan' fundraising campaign for the Midland Met, opening on 6 October.

"Your City and Metropolitan Hospitals Charity's vision is improved live chances and better outcomes in our communities and care systems. The successful



We can do even more to enhance the experience of everyone using our hospitals

fundraising for Midland Met, which is now the nearest adult hospital to the centre of Birmingham, has started this very important work and we are so grateful to every supporter who helped us reach our £2 million target in our previous charity form."

'We Are Metropolitan' raised £2 million towards the new hospital

Johnny Shah, Head of Your City & Metropolitan Hospitals Charity, added: "Becoming an independent charity for the Trust means we can do even more to enhance the experience of everyone using our hospitals and healthcare services. The work we have funded at Midland Met are great examples of this, but it is important to remember that both Sandwell and Birmingham remain within the top 10 most deprived local authorities in the country.

The new name was revealed at an official launch event held in Birmingham City Centre on 3 October.



The People's Gallery at Midland Metropolitan Hospital



The Commons Community Garden

SPORTY NHS TEAM GET MOVING FOR CHARITY

The team of 18, who included trainees, consultants, managers, occupational therapists, and a specialist asthma nurse took on the Stratford Sprint Triathlon and raised nearly £2,000 for equipment that will be used by patients.

Leading the charge, was consultant Dr Maria Atkinson. She said: "I think we all found the course tough but all enjoyed the experience and team spirit.

Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust runs the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital, in Smethwick, where inpatient wards for children are based. Outpatient appointments for youngsters take place at Sandwell and City Health Campuses. The money raised, £1,835, will be used across the different areas.

The team began a programme of training for the event four months ago and carved up some of the activities between them, whilst others took on the entire challenge.

The charitable funds raised will be spent on a sensory chair



A THRILLING WAY TO RAISE FUNDS

Andy is undertaking this challenge in memory of his dear friend and Army colleague, Mr. Jeff Whittaker, a former member of the Parachute Regiment and Airborne Forces.

Please support Andy who is participating in a Solo/Tandem Parachute Jump to raise funds for the local NHS Trust Charity. This initiative aims to enhance green spaces and gardens, which will significantly improve the patient experience for those who are hospitalised, visiting for outpatient services, or working in our facilities.

Every donation, big or small, will contribute to creating a more peaceful and enjoyable environment for patients and staff alike.



Please donate generously! Your contributions will go a long way in making a difference

SCAN OR CLICK
HERE
TO SUPPORT
ANDY'S JUMP



THE FANTASTIC FOUR RUN FOR CHARITY

This year, the traditional trio of Jamie Grainger, Luke Smith and Quinn Smith were joined by the brave Elliot Browne to make the fantastic four from Bristnall Hall Academy!

They ran the Birmingham Half Marathon for charity on Sunday 4th May 2025.

This year they raised money once again for the Your City and Metropolitan Hospitals Charity (SWBH formerly Your Trust Charity).

Their donation page is still open so please support them by donating anything you can!

Thank you.



SCAN OR CLICK
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday 8th June - 160ft Bungee Jump

Take part in the bungee jump challenge and make a difference!

The Birmingham bungee jump takes place in the Cliff Lakes Watersports Park, Birmingham.

Friday 20th June - National Three Peaks Challenge

Take part in this 2 day challenge and raise funds to make a difference!

National Three Peaks Challenge involves climbing the three highest peaks of Scotland, England and Wales within 24 hours. An iconic challenge and is one of the UK's toughest mountain events.

Saturday 19th July - Scafell Pike Walk

Join this amazing walk and raise funds for a worthwhile cause.

Avoid the crowds and take on Scafell Pike via the Corridor Route. You'll get full support along the way to ensure that you get the very best out of this experience.

MORE
INFORMATION

PLEASE FOLLOW THE CHARITY ON:

- **X/Twitter & Blue Sky:** @swbhcharity
- **Facebook:** Your City and Metropolitan Hospital Charity
- **LinkedIn:** Your City and Metropolitan Hospital Charity

CONTACT US:

- **Email:** trustcharity@nhs.net
- **Web:** www.swbh.nhs.uk/charity

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