At The Royal Marsden we deal with cancer every day, so we understand how valuable life is. And when people entrust their lives to us, they deserve the very best. That’s why the pursuit of excellence lies at the heart of everything we do and why The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity exists.

Thanks to our supporters we continue to be there for everyone who needs us, raising money solely to support the hospital. We ensure our nurses, doctors and research teams can provide the very best care and develop life-saving treatments, which are used across the UK and around the world.

From funding state-of-the-art equipment and groundbreaking research, to creating the very best patient environments, we will never stop looking for ways to improve the lives of people affected by cancer.

The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity
For a future beyond cancer.
A year to be proud of

In December 2016, I was honoured to become the Chairman of The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. During my first year, I’ve been particularly impressed by our supporters’ dedication to our charity and their enthusiasm to help patients at The Royal Marsden receive the very best treatment and care.

Without our supporters’ generosity, state-of-the-art equipment such as the UK’s first MR Linac wouldn’t have been installed at our Sutton hospital. This breakthrough machine incorporates the only technology in the world which combines an MRI scanner with a linear accelerator. This unique combination will allow us to constantly image a tumour during radiotherapy as its position inevitably shifts with the natural movements of the body, for example, as we breathe. Clinicians may thus adapt treatment in real time – a significant step forward that has the potential to revolutionise the way we treat many cancers.

Another highlight for the charity and hospital during the past year was the opening of the Ralph Lauren Centre for Breast Cancer Research. Inside this world-class facility, clinicians and scientists are working closely together to identify molecular differences between breast cancer tumours so the best treatment can be selected for individual patients.

Importantly for our younger patients and their families, we also made a major commitment to our Paediatric Drug Development team in 2017. Over the next five years, we aim to raise £3.2 million to help our team develop and evaluate more new drugs which show real promise in the treatment of children and adolescents with cancer.

Looking forward, one of our main priorities for the coming year is our appeal to raise £50 million to build and open The Clinical Care and Research Centre by 2021. This is the biggest fundraising challenge we’ve ever set ourselves. I am confident of our ability to reach this figure because of the unwavering commitment of our tremendous supporters.

Together, we truly are a progressive force which is driving forward new ways to save and improve the lives of people with cancer, here at The Royal Marsden, across the UK and throughout the rest of the world. Thank you for your wonderful support.
You make it all possible

It’s only because of the generosity, passion and commitment of our supporters that The Royal Marsden can continue to make such a significant difference to the lives of our patients and their loved ones, as well as cancer patients across the world. Over the past year, thousands of you did something truly amazing by supporting The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. Thank you for your incredible contribution.

Marching on together

The Marsden March, generously sponsored by Banham, celebrated its seventh year in record-breaking style on Sunday 19 March 2017.

Over 5,500 supporters, including current and former patients and their loved ones, as well as staff members from The Royal Marsden, walked the 14-mile route between our Chelsea and Sutton hospitals or the family friendly five-mile route to raise over £1.9 million. The Marsden March has now raised over £10 million since it started in 2011, providing vital funds which have made a huge difference to the lives of cancer patients.

As always, the success of this event would not have been possible without all our volunteers who helped to make it run so smoothly. We’d like to say a big thank you to every one of the 325 people who donated their time, energy and enthusiasm in 2017.

£10m

The Marsden March has now raised over £10 million since it started in 2011, providing vital funds which have made a huge difference to the lives of cancer patients.

Our supporters’ star power

Last December, our Celebrate a Life event raised a record amount to support the life-changing work of The Royal Marsden.

At our hospitals in Chelsea and Sutton, Christmas trees were decorated with nearly 2,000 stars, each of which featured the handwritten name of a supporter’s loved one. As part of Celebrate a Life, we also held a carol service at both hospitals. The services were attended by many of our supporters, who sang Christmas carols and enjoyed the beautiful and moving atmosphere.

Thanks to our amazing supporters, we raised over £84,000. This money is already being used to make sure The Royal Marsden’s nurses, doctors and research teams continue to provide the best care and develop more life-saving treatments for our patients and people with cancer everywhere.

A close up of our tree showing a supporter’s star with the name of their loved one handwritten in the centre
Emmy and Jake’s story
An amazing partnership

Emmy Coates was just 31 when, in March 2016, she was diagnosed with terminal thyroid cancer. This remarkable young woman decided she wanted to do all she could to help others affected by cancer, as well as raise awareness of rarer cancers. This led to Emmy and her husband, Jake, embarking on an inspiring fundraising journey that has so far raised over £141,000 for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

At the heart of Emmy and Jake’s efforts was an epic 2,000-kilometre tandem cycle from London to Copenhagen, which they dubbed the Tandemonium Tandem Challenge. Emmy and Jake also cut the ribbon at the start line and completed The Marsden March in 2017.

“Emmy and I fell in love with The Royal Marsden. It is the most incredible hospital and I feel so privileged to be able to fundraise for them. Each and every one of them feels like an extended family.”

Sadly, in June 2017, Emmy passed away surrounded by her loved ones. But today we’re delighted to say her legacy lives on. Jake continues to raise money to support our life-changing work, while many others have been so inspired by Emmy’s story that they have started to support our charity too.

“Emmy cared very deeply about being able to share her story of how she lived a life so fully with a terminal diagnosis. The hope this might help others in a similar position was part of what kept her going. Through her blog she helped to spread awareness of the symptoms of cancer. It helped people cope or come to terms with a terminal diagnosis in themselves or a loved one. It inspired so many people to be more positive in their outlook, to appreciate what they have and to be kinder to and less judgemental of one another. It brought such light and sparkle to so many people and, perhaps most significantly of all, it encouraged a few to re-evaluate their own health, get a second opinion, push for a diagnosis and quite genuinely helped save people’s lives. It had, and continues to have, a much bigger effect than Emmy could ever possibly have imagined.”

Emmy and Jake pictured in Trafalgar Square at the start of their 2,000-kilometre tandem cycle (2&3) Emmy and Jake cut the starting ribbon of the 2017 Marsden March.
Financial highlights
Together, we achieved an income of £19.2 million in 2016/17. This amount is testament to the incredible generosity and hard work of our dedicated supporters over the past year, and enables The Royal Marsden to continue to plan and fund life-changing projects. We are very grateful for your support.

What we raised together
A. Individuals and trusts £10m
B. Legacies £2m
C. Community and corporate £5.4m
D. Trading £0.2m

Total income
Voluntary income £17.6m
Investment income £1.3m
Other £0.3m
Total £19.2m

How we spent your money

Total expenditure
A. Charitable support of the hospital £30.5m
B. Raising funds £3.3m
C. Investment and property management £0.3m
Total £34.1m

Money raised by our supporters means The Royal Marsden can make a vital difference to the lives of cancer patients. Here’s where we spent that money in 2016/17:

- Research £21.4m
- Equipment £3.6m
- Treatment and care £4.9m
- Patient environments £0.6m

Patient pictured in the West Wing Clinical Research Centre. The centre was entirely funded by legacies. It opened in 2014 for patients on clinical trials and includes a dedicated on-site laboratory.
The difference you make

Pioneering excellence to help more cancer patients

We understand the huge impact cancer has on patients and their families. From the time of diagnosis, throughout treatment and beyond, cancer can dominate all aspects of their lives. That’s why we support The Royal Marsden in the four vital areas of research, equipment, treatment and care and patient environments. This support not only changes the lives of cancer patients at The Royal Marsden, but across the rest of the UK and the world.

Life-saving research

Cancer is a complex disease with hundreds of variations and an incredible ability to adapt and evolve. It’s critical we fund the development of groundbreaking clinical trials which The Royal Marsden can rapidly translate into improved outcomes, quicker recovery times and a better quality of life for its patients.

State-of-the-art equipment

To ensure The Royal Marsden remains at the forefront of improving the lives of people affected by cancer, it’s essential its researchers, clinicians and scientists have access to the very latest equipment. This is why we have a long history of funding state-of-the-art equipment that can carry out the very latest in cancer diagnosis, treatment and research.

World-leading treatment and care

The Royal Marsden cares for the whole person, not just their illness. We support this ethos by funding a wide range of initiatives which ensure every one of the hospital’s patients receives a personalised treatment plan for their unique diagnosis and the emotional and psychological support they need at every stage of their cancer journey.

Modern patient environments

To enhance the wellbeing and recovery of The Royal Marsden’s patients, it’s vital that they are cared for in welcoming, dignified and peaceful environments. We fund the building of new, groundbreaking facilities and the refurbishment of existing ones so they reach the highest possible standards and allow the hospital’s specialist staff to provide even better care.
Pioneering research is absolutely critical to extending, improving and saving the lives of more people diagnosed with cancer. That’s why we are dedicated to helping The Royal Marsden run life-saving clinical trials which give patients at The Royal Marsden, across the UK and internationally, access to the latest breakthrough drugs.

Over the past 12 months, our supporters funded work which allowed The Royal Marsden to continue to rapidly and effectively translate new scientific discoveries into life-changing therapies. We also funded world-class facilities, such as the Ralph Lauren Centre for Breast Cancer Research, which help our clinicians and scientists work together more closely and draw on new advances to identify the best treatments for patients. And we committed to raise £3.2 million to give more children and adolescents access to innovative drugs that show real promise in successfully treating their particular type of cancer.
Based in the Oak Centre for Children and Young People at our Sutton hospital, our Paediatric Drug Development team runs the largest paediatric inpatient drug development programme in the UK and is recognised as a world leader in its field. Its expertise and passion has led to The Royal Marsden increasing its number of phase I and II drug trials for children and adolescents from seven in 2009 to a tremendous 23 in 2016. This growth has led to more than 100 young patients from across the UK gaining access to new drugs which show real promise in treating children and adolescents with cancer; and with 19 trials now open to recruitment, this number is set to significantly rise over the coming years.

The Paediatric Drug Development team also participates in a broad programme of international phase III clinical trials, which involves younger patients at the early stages of treatment receiving the best current treatment or a newly developed treatment. These critical trials not only help to improve the quality of life and survival of our patients, they are also a key step to new drugs being adopted into clinical practice and benefitting children and adolescents globally.

The work of the Paediatric Drug Development team continually enables more children and young people around the world to receive personalised treatments which result in fewer long-term side effects and ultimately save lives.

In the past 10 years, the number of children and adolescents treated in trials run by the Paediatric Drug Development team has increased from just two in 2007 to an average of 30 per year.

The groundbreaking work of our Paediatric Drug Development team, generously funded by Oak Foundation, gives our younger patients early access to innovative clinical trials developed by The Royal Marsden and its academic partner, The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR). Over the next five years, we are aiming to raise £3.2 million to enable the team to develop and evaluate even more life-changing treatments.

Research
Pursuing breakthroughs that will change how we treat cancer forever

saving the lives of our younger patients

Dr. Julia Chisholm, pictured in the Oak Centre for Children and Young People

“Our world-class Paediatric Drug Development team, led by Dr Lynley Marshall, continues to make leading-edge treatments and ‘first-in-child’ drugs available to children and young people with advanced cancer, bringing hope in very difficult situations and helping to move new treatments forward. Recently we have been extremely encouraged by successful grant awards for two new international early phase clinical trials designed and led by Royal Marsden consultants, which will be opening in coming months.”

Dr. Julia Chisholm
Consultant Paediatric Oncologist

Dr. Julia Chisholm, Consultant Paediatric Oncologist
Groundbreaking research rapidly translates into better outcomes for patients

Research
Pursuing breakthroughs that will change how we treat cancer forever

The Duke, who is the President of The Royal Marsden, and Ralph Lauren toured the £3.9 million leading-edge facility and met some of the world-renowned clinicians and scientists who now work in it. These scientists use the latest in cancer research technology to carry out more rapid and in-depth analysis of samples from breast cancer patients than ever before. The overall aim is to identify molecular differences between tumours so the best treatment can be selected for individual patients, helping to save their lives, prevent their cancer from returning and minimise harmful side effects.

Turning scientific breakthroughs into real life benefits

Over the past year, the generosity of our supporters continued to drive forward research which has the potential to transform the lives of cancer patients at The Royal Marsden and throughout the world.

That’s because in 2013 we committed £9 million to support the hospital’s clinical and translational research programme over three years. The vision of the programme is to help launch and support studies which intend to rapidly and effectively translate scientific findings into improved treatments that are tested in large-scale national trials and subsequently influence clinical practice. This includes drugs and procedures which aim to cure a wide range of cancers, as well as treatments focused on improving people’s quality of life by significantly reducing immediate and long-term side effects.

One of our scientists works on the latest developments in cancer research

Funded by our supporters, including a generous donation from designer and philanthropist Ralph Lauren, the Ralph Lauren Centre for Breast Cancer Research was officially opened by HRH The Duke of Cambridge in May 2016.

HRH The Duke of Cambridge and Professor Stephen Johnston in the Ralph Lauren Centre for Breast Cancer Research

The Ralph Lauren Centre for Breast Cancer Research has analysed almost 30,000 samples taken from more than 4,400 women from 130 different centres as part of the groundbreaking POETIC clinical trial.

Richard’s story
Patient

“I came to The Royal Marsden three years ago and was put on the STAMPEDE trial when my other treatment for prostate cancer stopped working. Professor Johann de Bono and his team are so enthusiastic and committed to getting the best results for me and always explain their decisions for my treatment in great detail.

“Coming to the West Wing is not like going to a normal hospital as it is set up for patients on trials. To have facilities like these, where the hospital can expand their research, is remarkable for patients and staff.

“The West Wing is easy to get to and the staff make every patient feel special which is quite an achievement.

“I don’t think too much into the future but feel happy and lucky to be part of The Royal Marsden’s drug development programme. I am now on my second trial which is an immunotherapy trial and can see first-hand how excited the staff are which gives me a lot of hope.”

Patient Richard Lloyd-Evans in West Wing with Research Nurse Dee Moloney

One of our scientists works on the latest developments in cancer research
Kathryn’s story

Patient

Kathryn was diagnosed with breast cancer in March 2015 and immediately went on to the PALLET trial, one of the most important active clinical trials within the Ralph Lauren Centre for Breast Cancer Research. PALLET is a trial designed by The Royal Marsden and The Institute of Cancer Research whereby patients are given drugs for three to four months before surgery to shrink their newly diagnosed breast cancer.

The trial is investigating a drug that targets the cell cycle (Palbociclib) given in combination with a standard hormone therapy (Letrozole).

“After three months, the drugs had made one tiny tumour disappear and had shrunk the larger one. I then had a lumpectomy and radiotherapy, and have been clear of cancer for two years now. Without the trial I would have needed to have chemotherapy. Instead, I didn’t lose my hair, I was able to carry on working and my lifestyle didn’t change that much.

“But the most important thing is that it worked. I’ve been clear now for two years, it’s changed my life. Research like the work being carried out at the Ralph Lauren Centre for Breast Cancer Research is so important to patients of today, and tomorrow.”

In May 2016, Kathryn met The Royal Marsden’s President, HRH The Duke of Cambridge, and fashion designer and philanthropist, Ralph Lauren, during a visit to The Royal Marsden to officially open the Ralph Lauren Centre for Breast Cancer Research.

“It was such an honour to meet HRH The Duke of Cambridge and speak about my experiences of receiving treatment at The Royal Marsden. It’s such a wonderful place, I can’t speak highly enough of the facilities and the staff.”
Research
Pursuing breakthroughs that will change how we treat cancer forever

The Royal Marsden is the leading centre for cancer clinical trials in the country, running over 600 every year.

25–30 studies are run at any time at the Ralph Lauren Centre for Breast Cancer Research.

Clinical and translational research programmes grant: over 100 applications for scientific projects were approved for funding through our grant and NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) funding.

The Royal Marsden Centre for Breast Cancer Research is 307m², which is approximately the size of five squash courts.

The Royal Marsden runs a pioneering drug development programme of clinical trials, currently treating over 42,000 patients – more than any other specialist centre.

Over 8,000 liquid samples and rare haematological cancer specimens are tested in our Centre for Molecular Pathology every year.

Due to the Paediatric Drug Development team’s work, the number of phase I and II drug trials available for children and adolescents at The Royal Marsden has increased from seven in 2009 to 23 in 2016. This has led to more than 100 young patients being recruited to trials since the Oak Centre for Children and Young People opened in 2011.

The Royal Marsden, together with the ICR, is ranked first in Europe and third in the world for the impact of its clinical research, standing just behind the Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston and the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Our Drug Development Unit in Sutton, run in partnership with the ICR, has treated 6,000 patients on phase I drug trials since it opened its doors in 2005.
Equipment
Investing in state-of-the-art equipment to provide patients with more treatment options

For The Royal Marsden to improve the lives of its patients and their chances of survival, it’s essential its clinicians, scientists and researchers have access to the very latest equipment. This is why we fund state-of-the-art equipment which delivers faster and more accurate diagnosis, more effective and less invasive treatments and supports exceptional personalised care. The very best equipment is also key to achieving major breakthroughs in cancer research.

Over the past year, we turned our supporters’ money, time and energy into leading-edge radiotherapy equipment which will benefit cancer patients for many years to come. This includes the UK’s first MR Linac machine at our Sutton hospital, a new TrueBeam linear accelerator at our Chelsea hospital and Agility beam-shaping technology for two of our existing linear accelerators. Last year, our supporters’ fantastic efforts also helped to install diagnostic equipment that will make sure doctors have a clearer understanding of their patients’ cancers and can provide them with more tailored treatments.
Taking radiotherapy to the next level

With help from our supporters, we installed the UK’s first MR Linac machine at our Sutton hospital, ensuring The Royal Marsden’s patients will benefit from groundbreaking equipment that’s set to revolutionise the treatment of many cancers.

The MR Linac was officially opened by Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, in November 2016, alongside senior Royal Marsden and ICR staff, stakeholders and charity trustees. It is the only technology in the world which combines magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) with a state-of-the-art radiotherapy delivery system. For the first time, this allows our radiographers to view a patient’s tumour in real time as they treat it with a radiation beam. This means they can adjust and shape the beam during active treatment to precisely target the tumour, resulting in a more effective treatment and fewer side effects because a patient’s healthy tissue is less affected.

Together with our academic partner, The Institute of Cancer Research, The Royal Marsden is a member of the international MR Linac Research Consortium.

Led by Elekta, the manufacturer of the machine, and a research team at the University Medical Centre Utrecht in the Netherlands, the consortium includes seven centres from around the world that have an MR Linac. They are collaborating to ensure that work with this groundbreaking machine is not duplicated and research is advanced to benefit cancer patients across the globe.

The installation of the MR Linac was made possible by a £10 million grant from the Medical Research Council to the ICR, with additional support from The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity.

To test the image quality of the £10 million MR Linac machine, researchers from The Royal Marsden chose to scan something rather unusual: a dead crab which had been bought for £10 from a farmers’ market in Wimbledon. The researchers selected a crab because it symbolises cancer in astrology and features in The Royal Marsden’s crest.

(1) Dr Alison Tse, Consultant Clinical Oncologist and Professor Uwe Oelfke, Head of the Joint Department of Physics pictured with the MR Linac
(2) Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, at the opening of the MR Linac
(3) Professor Uwe Oelfke and HRH The Duke of Cambridge pictured in the trunk room of the MR Linac
Thanks to our amazing supporters, The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity provided £4.5 million to purchase and install a new TrueBeam linear accelerator in the Radiotherapy Department of The Royal Marsden’s Chelsea hospital.

Operational since December 2016, the TrueBeam is the most advanced technology of its kind in the world. It can deliver all forms of advanced external-beam radiation, including image-guided radiotherapy, intensity-modulated radiotherapy, stereotactic body radiotherapy and volumetric modulated arc therapy. The unit also has a flattening filter free delivery system, which means doses can be delivered faster than other advanced radiation machines.

Given that the number of people with cancer is growing all the time, these features are critical to The Royal Marsden meeting the increasing demand being placed on its radiotherapy services. In addition, the speed and accuracy of the TrueBeam is resulting in improved patient experiences, quicker recovery times and ultimately better long-term results.

Accurate and rapid diagnosis is key to saving the lives of people with cancer. That’s why we invested nearly £1.1 million of the money donated and raised by our tremendous supporters to fund more world-leading diagnostic equipment for The Royal Marsden.

Two new mammography machines, one in Chelsea and one in Sutton, both featuring tomosynthesis technology will use 3D imaging to improve the detection and diagnosis of breast cancers, and especially small and invasive breast cancers which may be hidden to conventional digital mammography. Because of the superb clarity and accuracy of the machines’ images, patients will undergo fewer biopsies and additional tests, start treatment earlier and receive more personalised treatments, all of which reduces anxiety and improves chances of survival.

Last year, thanks to funding by the Chancellor of the Exchequer using LIBOR funds, we also bought a state-of-the-art fluoroscopy machine. The fluoroscopy passes a continuous X-ray beam through a patient’s body to provide extremely detailed images of body parts and their movement. Access to this machine means our patients will be able to receive a smaller dose of radiation than before but our experts will see structures such as the bowel, stomach and oesophagus in even greater detail. This will lead to better patient experiences, more accurate diagnoses and the development of more enhanced personalised treatments.
Alison McDonald, a GP and anaesthetist from the Isle of Man, was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer, an adenoid cystic carcinoma of the parotid gland, in 2015.

Alison began her cancer treatment under the care of Mr Peter Clarke, Head and Neck Surgeon at The Royal Marsden. After surgery Mr Clarke explained to her that her cancer was more invasive locally than he had hoped and that, whilst he had removed as much as he could, some was still clinging to her facial nerve and he felt that any remnant should be treated by radiotherapy. Although this rare type of cancer unfortunately responds poorly to chemotherapy, it tends to be sensitive to radiation. Radiotherapy to the surgical bed, where most of the tumour had been removed, would increase her chance of controlling the disease in the long term.

“I had radiotherapy for six weeks, every day Monday to Friday on the TrueBeam, apart from one time when it was having its routine maintenance. Each session would last approximately 20 minutes,” said Alison.

“When you first enter the TrueBeam treatment room it feels like you’re entering Tomorrow’s World! It’s not something that you can easily describe. I felt like I was about to have something new and futuristic.

“I was absolutely fascinated by the machine. My daughter, who is a consultant clinical oncologist at The Royal Marsden, even teased me that I was enjoying myself! In a way she was correct in that, whilst I would have preferred not to have cancer at all, I had much interest and amazement and even some pleasurable moments during my treatment – and a lot of humour.”

“What made the experience most memorable was the passion that the staff had towards the TrueBeam. They were proud and excited to show and explain their processes. Thanks to their enthusiasm I felt that I was receiving the very best care in the leading facility for radiotherapy.”

The TrueBeam has made such a difference to patient care – it is faster and can provide more complex treatment.

It has the ability to visualise anatomy in 3D, which enables us to provide image guided radiotherapy treatments. This has helped make radiotherapy more accessible to various patients, giving patients with certain cancers more treatment options, for example we can treat patients with lung cancer using more complex radiotherapy techniques.

It also helps us to develop techniques for future cancer treatments as we can facilitate more research, including stereotactic radiotherapy. As it’s a new machine it’s very reliable, it’s less likely to break down and the downtime to get it back up and running is less, giving us and the patients’ peace of mind.

Thanks to the improved environments in both the treatment room and waiting area, it is a beautiful and tranquil space, meaning that the patient experience has vastly improved. Comments from patients are always very positive and new equipment, shorter waiting times and good facilities contribute to this. It has also provided us with a nicer and brighter space for radiographers to work.

The support of The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity for the TrueBeam means that more patients can benefit from the expertise and treatment of The Royal Marsden.
Treatment and care
Caring for the whole person, not just their illness

Physically and emotionally, cancer affects everyone differently. That's why we do our utmost to fund first-class patient environments, state-of-the-art equipment and world-leading professionals which enable The Royal Marsden to provide personalised treatments and care which meet the specific needs of every individual patient who walks through the hospital’s doors.

Last year, this included our fantastic supporters working extremely hard to help raise enough money to fund our team of play specialists. As a result, they will continue to provide the tailored support every young patient at our Oak Centre for Children and Young People needs to prepare for their treatment and cope with the impact it will have on their lives. Our supporters’ tremendous efforts also helped to fund a range of care services throughout the past 12 months which have significantly improved the emotional wellbeing of many of our patients and helped them feel more in control of their situation.
Easing children’s fears at such a difficult time

When a child is set to undergo cancer treatment they can naturally be very worried about what the future may hold. But thanks to the support of The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, the fears and anxieties of our youngest patients will continue to be calmed and managed by the care and compassion of its team of play specialists.

Last summer, we launched the Play Specialist Appeal to fund the vital roles of the four expert play specialists who work in the Oak Centre for Children and Young People at our Sutton hospital. Thanks to the outstanding response to the appeal, and funding from the Chancellor of the Exchequer using LIBOR funds, every young patient at the Oak Centre will continue to be assessed by a play specialist to help identify the individual support they need to prepare for and cope with potentially painful and invasive procedures, scans and treatments.

After completing the assessment, a play specialist then uses their expertise in child development, therapeutic play activities and distraction techniques to develop a programme of activities to earn a child’s trust, boost their confidence and self-esteem, and help them understand their treatment. These activities take place in the Oak Centre’s vibrant play room, at a child’s bedside or in insolation, and can involve anything from painting with plastic syringes, to making things with play dough, to acting out situations with puppets and toy figures.

As well as helping children cope with difficult emotions such as anger and frustration, and difficult situations such as lying still for radiotherapy to prevent the need for general anaesthetic, the support of the play specialists is also vital to improving a child’s long-term psychological wellbeing. In addition, the commitment of the team to make sure that every child has their fears eased, no matter how long it takes, is greatly appreciated by their parents, as this support also helps them to feel better at such a difficult time.

£1.59m

In December 2016, we were thrilled to be awarded a £1.59 million LIBOR grant from the government. We will use it to help fund our teams of play specialists, psychiatrists and physiotherapists, as well as vital equipment, at the Oak Centre for Children and Young People until 2021.
Overcoming emotional challenges

One of the services we supported at The Royal Marsden in 2016/17 was a psychological care and pastoral support service to help individuals and families cope with the effects of their diagnosis and treatment. This involved the service’s specially trained team using their expertise to treat conditions such as depression and anxiety, as well as teach people techniques to self-manage psychological issues that were affecting them. In addition, the grant was also used to provide psychological support training to staff across The Royal Marsden, helping them to identify emotional issues earlier, refer patients to the specialist support they need, and treat people with appropriate sensitivity, respect and dignity.

Money raised and donated by our supporters also made it possible for The Royal Marsden’s Family Support Service to continue to provide vital care and information to cancer patients who are the parents of children under the age of 18. The only service of its kind in the UK, it helps family members overcome communication issues and talk to each other about how they’re feeling; teaches parents how to speak to younger children about cancer and treatment; helps adults, teenagers and children come to terms with a wide range of difficult emotions; and provides information and advice regarding financial worries, job insecurities and other practical issues.

750+

Over the past year, The Royal Marsden’s adult psychological support team received over 750 new outpatient referrals and provided over 3,000 individual therapeutic sessions.
To have the expertise of The Royal Marsden's cancer specialists. We knew it was a cancer hospital so immediately knew it was serious but it was a relief to finally have a diagnosis.

"After arriving at the wonderful Oak Centre for Children and Young People, we were introduced to the play specialists. Everyone at The Royal Marsden has been fantastic but the play specialists are particularly amazing, and really kind with all the children.

"Pippa used to enjoy going to school so she loves the play room and school room. The play specialists are always willing to do what the children want so Pippa will get them to play Uno and cards even while hooked up to chemotherapy."

Play Specialist Kate Hodgkiss is very passionate about the difference play can make. “At such a challenging time in their lives, it is so important that our young patients receive the best treatment and care, and their needs are met. Play can really have a positive effect on the child and their experience”.

Pippa Vickers was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia (ALL) in May 2017 after being transferred to The Royal Marsden. Pippa’s mother talks about her and their family’s experience at the Oak Centre for Children and Young People.

"Having visited our GP with my daughter several times with a tummy ache and leg pain, we were relieved to have the expertise of The Royal Marsden’s cancer specialists. We knew it was a cancer hospital so immediately knew it was serious but it was a relief to finally have a diagnosis.

"After arriving at the wonderful Oak Centre for Children and Young People, we were introduced to the play specialists. Everyone at The Royal Marsden has been fantastic but the play specialists are particularly amazing, and really kind with all the children.

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Patient environments
Enhancing the wellbeing and recovery of patients with the very best environments

We know that welcoming, dignified and peaceful patient environments can significantly enhance the physical health and emotional wellbeing of The Royal Marsden’s patients and their families. That’s why we continue to fund the creation of new, high-quality environments and the refurbishment of existing spaces so they meet the very best standards.

Over the past year, this included refurbishing the Parents’ Room at our Oak Centre for Children and Young People and the waiting room for children and adolescents in our main radiotherapy department. Both of these refurbishments are resulting in significant benefits for our younger patients and their families.
Patient environments
Enhancing the wellbeing and recovery of patients with the very best environments

Taking care of parents

Parents of The Royal Marsden’s younger patients can spend many hours at our Oak Centre for Children and Young People during their child’s treatment. This can be an extremely stressful and emotionally exhausting time for them, which is why we constantly look for ways to improve their wellbeing and help them provide the best possible support to their family.

Last summer, we transformed the Parents’ Room at the Oak Centre for Children and Young People with a sparkling makeover. Opened by radio and TV presenter Lisa Snowdon at a special event, the creation of this home-from-home environment would never have been possible without the generous support of the jewellery manufacturer and retailer Pandora.

Today, the Parents’ Room is a quiet and calm space which allows parents to take a short break from the wards at the Oak Centre without being far away from their child. It also provides an area for parents to meet and chat about their similar experiences, which can be extremely beneficial during such a difficult time. And it offers those who visit the room the simple but often valuable pleasure of being able to sit back and relax and watch some TV.

A real gem

Lewis Houghton was diagnosed with stage 4 Burkitt’s lymphoma in 2015, just two days before his sixth birthday. After intensive chemotherapy at The Royal Marsden, he went into remission a year later.

To say thank you for the care and support he received, his family and friends did an incredible array of fundraising for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. Wonderfully, the amount they raised was then matched by Pandora, after Lewis’ Aunt Bethan, the Vice President of Human Resources at the company, told the wider team at Pandora about Lewis and the care he’d received.

Yanjmaa’s story
Paediatric patient parent

“My son Michid, aged 3, was diagnosed with leukaemia in June 2017 and has been receiving treatment in the Oak Centre for Children and Young People. “I spent a lot of time at the hospital when he was an inpatient and regularly used the dedicated room in the centre for parents. The room looks really nice and is very relaxing and comfortable.

“When Michid was really poorly I didn’t want to cry next to my son so the special parent’s room gave me some privacy. It’s also a nice space to just gather your thoughts, to watch some TV or to meet other parents going through the same thing.”

Young patient with nurse Rosie Formella in the Oak Centre for Children and Young People corridor

Yanjmaa Nyamsuren pictured in the Parents’ Room

When a child finishes treatment their parents or carers take them to the Parents’ Room where they climb the grey steps and ring the bell in celebration.
Reducing children’s anxiety before radiotherapy

Previously, children and young people about to undergo radiotherapy treatment at The Royal Marsden had to wait in a designated area which wasn’t meeting their needs in a variety of ways. But today, because of our supporters’ efforts, a truly welcoming, child-friendly waiting area is available within our main radiotherapy department.

Patient, Jack Lloyd enjoys spending time playing with toys in the radiotherapy playroom in Sutton

Walk into the completely redesigned space and you are immediately struck by the beautiful, calming art covering the walls which depicts countryside and beach scenes. There are also new drawers and cabinets of familiar toys; a sofa for patients, mums and dads and siblings to sit on; a TV corner with an Xbox and games; and a freestanding doll’s house and toy kitchen for our young patients and their siblings to play with.

On the walls, children can also keep their special, custom-made radiotherapy sticker charts, which allows them to add a sticker every time they’ve had their radiotherapy. Being able to perform this simple action not only rewards a child, it also creates a sense of belonging that calms worries and fears, provides a visual reminder that they’ve ticked off another session and shows them they’re making progress towards their end goal.

Overall, the new room has made an enormous difference to how children and young people feel when they have to wait in the hospital’s radiotherapy department, which they may have to do many times during their treatment journey. They feel calmer, more relaxed and are so distracted by the toys and games available to them that they often forget about their forthcoming treatment. In addition, the positive effect of the room on our younger patients is also greatly benefitting their parents and siblings, who often wait with them before treatment.

5,000

Every year we treat 5,000 day patients at the Oak Centre for Children and Young People

Jack’s story
Paediatric patient

“My son Jack, 10, was diagnosed with a rare pineal tumour in his brain in September 2016 and, following major surgery, was transferred to The Royal Marsden for chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatment. “He has autism and Type 1 diabetes and by the time we were referred to The Royal Marsden he had developed posterior fossa syndrome which made him unable to speak. His lack of communication skills was extremely frustrating for him and every medical procedure was difficult and a stressful time for us both.”

“Radiotherapy was always going to be a challenge as it required him to stay absolutely still. It’s fantastic that The Royal Marsden provides the radiotherapy playroom, a dedicated space for children to be able to play and relax before their treatment. It is such a nice child-friendly environment. There’s no time for anxiety to build because Jack can come in and play and doesn’t feel like he’s waiting for treatment. We are comforted not only by being in our own space, but knowing that we’re not disturbing other, adult patients.

“It’s also lovely to be able to wait for treatment alongside Kate, our play specialist, who accompanies Jack on every visit to radiotherapy. Thanks to her support, he’s got through the treatment without needing a general anaesthetic.

“To get him prepared, she showed him pictures of what would happen, helped him make a radiotherapy mask for his toy dinosaur so he wouldn’t be scared and created a sticker chart in the radiotherapy playroom – these tiny things all add up.”
Looking ahead
Our plans to create a better future

In 1851, Dr William Marsden founded The Royal Marsden with a vision to create a pioneering cancer hospital dedicated not only to the treatment and care of people with cancer but also research into the underlying causes of cancer. This is a vision which continues through to the present day as The Royal Marsden continues to push standards even higher, so it can continue to improve the lives of more people affected by cancer.

Over the next 12 months we will continue to support the hospital to develop life-saving research and provide world-leading treatment and care, modern patient environments and state-of-the-art equipment.
The next step forward
More people than ever before are told they have cancer, and 1 in 2 of us will be diagnosed with some form of cancer in our lifetime.

However, the good news is that scientific breakthroughs continue to provide The Royal Marsden with new opportunities to carry out pioneering research to significantly improve the treatment and care of cancer patients. We are now doing our utmost to make sure its researchers, clinicians and scientists have even greater access to world-leading facilities and state-of-the-art equipment to take full advantage of these advances.

At the heart of these efforts is our biggest fundraising appeal to date: a £50 million appeal to build The Clinical Care and Research Centre at our Sutton hospital. As you can read overleaf, this incredible centre will increase our clinical capacity by 40% and speed up the translation of world-leading research into breakthroughs that improve patient treatment and care. The Royal Marsden’s research teams in Sutton are spread out across the hospital, in buildings which date from the 1960s. This means they can’t easily collaborate, which is hindering their ability to confront some of the most pressing challenges.

We also need to increase capacity in our Outpatient Department, Medical Day Unit and Haemat-ono-cology Unit; while our clinics are at maximum capacity, causing increased waiting times and overcrowded waiting areas.

We need a brand new, ultra-modern centre that brings our expert researchers and clinicians together. We need to grow and improve our patient facilities and give more people the best chance of recovery. That’s why we’re opening The Clinical Care and Research Centre (CCRC) in 2021.

A world-class centre
When it opens its doors in 2021, the CCRC will bring together over 300 of our clinical researchers alongside our patients, many with some of the most challenging and rare cases of cancer. This will nurture collaboration between research colleagues at every level, and will help to speed up the translation of scientific breakthroughs into real-life treatments that benefit cancer patients at The Royal Marsden and beyond.

Our appeal to date
As of March 2016/17 we’re delighted to report that, thanks to the incredible generosity of our supporters, we’ve raised £6.5 million to fund the building of the CCRC. Over the course of the past year, we also assembled a CCRC Appeal Board that is comprised of 16 highly regarded leaders from a variety of industries. Along with our staff members, the Board will play a key role in driving our appeal forward and connecting the charity with more supporters and major donors, helping us to reach our £50 million target.

Plans for the future
Over the next year, we will continue to work with our Board members to engage new supporters with the appeal and our wider work, including securing a leading eight-figure gift. We will also receive 1:100 scale plans of the centre and establish how we can best recognise and celebrate the generosity of our donors within the centre. We’ll also continue with our PR plan, as we aim to raise awareness of our appeal and the Charity as a whole.
Looking ahead
Our plans to create a better future

Revolutionary surgery and groundbreaking clinical trials

Clinical research delivering vital breakthroughs

For many years, our supporters have funded environments, equipment and scientists which have enabled The Royal Marsden to carry out pioneering, and often world-first, clinical trials.

Clinical teams at The Royal Marsden are currently running two trials in oesophageal and stomach cancer incorporating novel immunotherapy treatments. Survival rates for these two cancers remain poor and new treatment approaches in both the early and advanced disease setting are urgently needed. The PLATFORM trial aims to recruit over 770 patients with advanced oesophageal or stomach cancer, in up to 90 centres across the UK, to test the use of novel immunotherapy, blood vessel targeting and DNA damage repair agents in the treatment of patients with advanced disease. The ICONIC trial will investigate adding an immunotherapy drug to standard chemotherapy in the early treatment of potentially operable gastric and oesophageal cancer to understand if this improves the efficacy of treatment in these patients.

Clinical researchers in The Royal Marsden's Breast Unit are also currently conducting a phase II trial which may help prevent breast cancer patients from needing invasive biopsies. Its aim is to determine whether a liquid biopsy that analyses circulating tumour DNA in the blood is as reliable as a needle biopsy that removes cells from the body.

Pioneering the development of robotic surgery

In 2007, our supporters funded a state-of-the-art da Vinci S robot for The Royal Marsden. It was the first of its kind in the UK and was trialled by the hospital to treat prostate cancer patients. Since then, the da Vinci S robot has been installed by over 20 NHS trusts and has treated more than 1,200 prostate cancer patients at The Royal Marsden alone.

Then, in 2015, we were extremely grateful to receive a £1.5 million donation from long-time supporter Don McCarthy and his family to purchase the latest da Vinci Xi robot. It allows our surgeons to operate with even more precision, treat a wider range of cancers and use its dual console to train and educate the next generation of robotic surgeons. To help The Royal Marsden make the most of this fantastic opportunity and offer world-leading surgery to more of its patients, we have committed to fund the training of up to 10 robotic surgeons through the Robotic Surgery Fellowship scheme.

Supporting a better future

So far, our generous supporters have raised enough money to fund the training of two robotic surgeons as part of The Royal Marsden’s, and the UK’s first, Robotic Surgery Fellowship scheme.

2 Surgical robots are in use at The Royal Marsden: the da Vinci S and the da Vinci Xi

12 Robotic surgeons work at The Royal Marsden across five cancer types: urological, gynaecological, upper gastrointestinal, colorectal and sarcoma

2,008 Robotic surgical procedures have been performed at The Royal Marsden since January 2007

10 Robotic surgeons will be trained through The Royal Marsden’s Robotic Surgical Fellowship

93 The age of the oldest person to have robotic surgery at The Royal Marsden
Why your support is so important

Thanks to our supporters’ unbelievable generosity, commitment and passion, The Royal Marsden continues to improve the lives of thousands of cancer patients every year. But because more and more people are being diagnosed with cancer, the demand on the hospital’s services, and the need for it to achieve more research breakthroughs, is growing all the time. This is why The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity needs your support more than ever.

Please read about all the ways you can support The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity at royalmarsden.org
All of us at The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity and The Royal Marsden are immensely grateful to everyone who has supported us over the past year.

Because of your incredible generosity, energy and commitment, we continued to change the lives of thousands of people with cancer and their loved ones, here at The Royal Marsden, across the UK and around the world. We would especially like to thank the following supporters, as well as those who have chosen to remain anonymous.

**A huge thank you**

**Philanthropist**
The David Adams Leukaemia Appeal Fund
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Cassie Watson

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Kate’s Lymphoedema Fund
Kensington Mayor’s Fund
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The Alternative Hair Charitable Foundation
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The Conrad family
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The Adrian Swire Charitable Trust
Katie Travers
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Cassie Watson
Get in touch

The work we fund is revolutionising cancer treatment, but we just couldn’t do it without you. Our supporters help us to continue to pioneer new ways to save or improve the lives of patients with cancer, both here at The Royal Marsden and across the world.

There are lots of ways you can work with us to help people with cancer. Take part in an event, sign up to The Marsden March, make a donation, volunteer, leave a gift in your Will or get inspired to do something completely different.

Your support means we can continue to be there for everyone who needs us.

Get in touch

Find out more
royalmarsden.org
020 7808 2233

Fundraise
royalmarsden.org/support
020 8770 0279

Volunteer
royalmarsden.org/volunteering
020 8661 3391

Donate
royalmarsden.org/donate
020 7808 2233

The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity

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The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
Ex-officio Trustee
(stepped down 30 November 2016)

Charles Alexander
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