

Update November 2022

Radiotherapy Centre Opens!

We are delighted to confirm that on 11 October 2022, the new OUH Radiotherapy Centre @ Swindon finally opened its doors to cancer patients diagnosed at Great Western Hospital!

Thanks to the support of Chiseldon Parish Council, patients in Swindon and the surrounding areas no longer have to face a tiring round trip to Oxford for daily treatment. We are so grateful to you.



An estimated 13,000 patient journeys a year will be now shortened, meaning that each year 600 patients will have one less stress at such a difficult time. A cancer diagnosis affects not only the patient but ripples out to so many others. Radiotherapy in Swindon will offer much needed support to every patient, but also to hundreds of families, friends and carers as well.

Since the Centre opened 47 new patients have received radiotherapy and 442 treatments have already been delivered closer to home.

On the very first day we received this lovely feedback: **“As one of the patients treated there today, thank you. The unit will make a massive difference to local residents when going through treatment and is beautifully designed to feel non clinical. The staff were amazing today and put me completely at ease. I’ll be back again tomorrow for more.”**

CT Scanner

More recently we set about raising an additional £500,000 so that a specialist CT Scanner could be added to the Centre. Thanks to the support of amazing donors, including Chiseldon Parish Council, we are now close to completing this appeal. We were delighted that because of this progress, the CT Scanner could be installed in readiness for the Centre opening (see picture right).



This means that patients having treatment at the new Radiotherapy Centre can now also have their planning appointments here in Swindon instead of travelling to Oxford. To date 31 patients have received a CT Scan at the new Radiotherapy Centre.

Brighter Futures has been able to fund the transformation of an internal courtyard into a tranquil space for patients (see photo opposite).



Thank you!

Back in 2015 when the Radiotherapy Appeal was launched, the task of raising £2.9 million to help equip the centre with 2 new Linear Accelerators, seemed a huge mountain to climb.

With the help of incredible supporters like you, the original fundraising goal was raised in just under 4 years! This is a huge achievement for our local community and leaves an incredible legacy that will benefit cancer patients for years to come.

Many of those who donated and fundraised did so because they knew from personal experience what a difference having treatment closer to home would make and we will be forever grateful to them.

“For many years Doreen was a great supporter of Brighter Futures and I know she would be very pleased that her money was going to such a worthy cause. She was born in Swindon and lived here all her life. I am so pleased that she chose it too as it all helps towards the Radiotherapy Centre equipment that we have so badly needed here in Swindon.”

A niece talking about the generous gift her Aunt left Brighter Futures in her Will



Dementia Appeal

A stay in hospital can be a bewildering experience for patients living with dementia. Our new Dementia Appeal aims to improvement the hospital environment so that is it less confusing for patients and to provide meaningful activities.

Thanks to generous gifts to this Appeal including your kind donation last December, we are now in the process of ordering and installing hundreds of “Dementia Friendly Clocks” across Great Western Hospital.

The clocks will support with familiarity and display information that is easier to interpret. Often patients with dementia can get easily confused and do not always recognise where they are or what time it is, so these clocks will really help those staying or moving around the hospital.

Great Western Hospital is committed to doing what it can do improve services for patients with dementia. For example, a room on the older person’s ward has been transformed into a dementia-friendly room for patients, complete with artwork displaying a nature scene, an interactive table and a trolley of games, historical memorabilia and other tools designed to jog memory and positive emotion.

We hope our Dementia Appeal will help support improvements in dementia care for years to come.



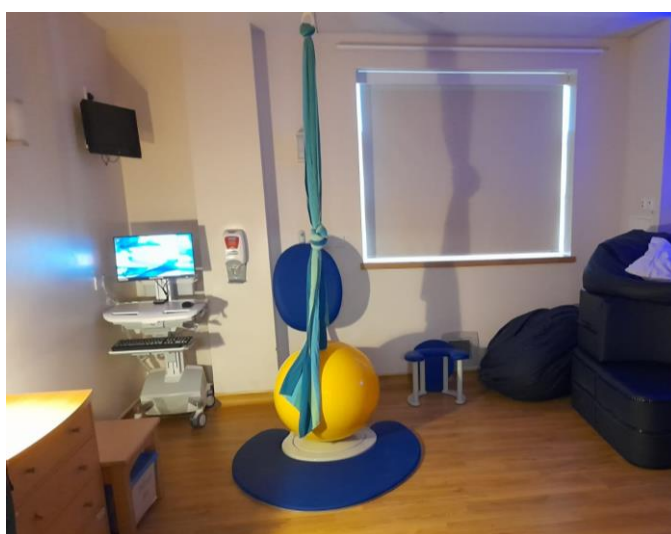
Better Births Appeal

The Better Births Appeal aims to support the purchase of innovative equipment that can improve maternity care to the 4,000 babies born at Great Western Hospital each year and their families.

New mums are already benefiting from 18 variable height cots which allow Mums to have much easier access to their babies in those early hours and days, particularly after a caesarean. Kind donations have also allowed the Maternity team to purchase a “duoette birthing system” (shown in blue and yellow in the photo) which is designed to support upright birthing postures during labour and delivery.

"The duoette has helped to create a warm and welcoming environment in our birthing rooms. The feedback we have had from the woman and birthing people has been really positive, with people pleased to be able to move the equipment around the room to be able to use it as they wanted it."

Lucy Murcott, White Horse Birth Centre
Senior Midwife



Rehabilitation Treadmill

We are thrilled to have our first weight-assisted treadmill at Great Western Hospital for patients who need rehabilitation to help them get home. This is of particular benefit to patients recovering from Strokes in our Swindon Intermediate Care Centre who need help getting up and moving again.

This amazing piece of equipment will help patients get mobile sooner and better support patients who need practise walking.

The purchase of this equipment was made possible by a grant from NHS Charities Together (the charity which benefitted from donations generously given to the incredible late Sir Captain Tom Moore). This is from their final wave of grant funding designed to help with the recovery from Covid. Whilst we emerge from the shadows of the pandemic it has been very special to receive this award to help a group of patients who were particularly isolated during restrictions.



The Way Forward ...

This year we launched our “Way Forward Appeal” to support a major programme of works designed to expand and improve services at Great Western Hospital in response to the growing need in our local community. Our aim is to create a welcoming, calm environment which meets the needs of all our patients, reduces anxiety and gives patients dignity.

One donation, twice the impact!

As part of this, Brighter Futures is excited to have been selected to take part in the **Big Give Christmas Challenge 2022!** The UK’s biggest match giving campaigns takes place for one week only from noon 29 November to noon 6 December. During this time online donations made via the Big Give website (at <https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/campaign/a056900002Ni3jIAAR>)

will be doubled by our generous matched funders who have pledged £10,000 of matched funding!



Donations to the Christmas Challenge will fund play and sensory equipment for thousands of children (like Emily opposite) using our new Urgent Treatment Centre. This support will make a scary and anxious experience for young people less stressful and help them receive care quicker.



“Emily is eight years old and has Global Development Delay. Having a child with complex needs means we’re no stranger to the Great Western Hospital and its Urgent Treatment Centre. I can tell when Emily is feeling anxious or uncertain in this environment. Families like ours already have a large bag full of kit, including change of clothes, drinks and snacks, not to mention a wheelchair or pushchair to manoeuvre. With your help, children like Emily can feel more relaxed and less anxious in hospital.”

Anna Bird, Mum of two and co-founder of Mums on a Mission Swindon

Thank you for all your support!

If you would like to know more, we’d love to hear from you.

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Brighter Futures is the registered charity (no 1050892) of Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

