



Emily Harris Foundation  
Annual Report July 2016 to June 2017  
Registered Charity No: 1127191

Another year passes and our 9<sup>th</sup> year comes to a close. There have been exciting changes to the direction of the charity this year in fulfilling our objectives and ensuring we can be as efficient as possible and raise the profile of the charity. As ever, we remain forever humbled by the support that we get; the families that we can help; and the beautiful comments and feedback that we get from families and staff that we support.

### **Objectives**

The objectives of the charity remain as before:

- 1) To provide financial support for the King's Mill Hospital Neonatal Unit staff members who wish to undertake further training and where the funding is not supported by the NHS.
- 2) To provide relief for families with babies on the King's Mill Hospital Neonatal Unit.

### **Use of Funds**

For a few years there has been a feeling of frustration at the AGM that, due to work and family commitments, we have been unable to follow through all of the ideas that we have had to raise our profile and increase our spending on projects such as counselling. At a meeting of trustees earlier this year, a discussion took place as to whether to agree to keep the charity running as it is and not pursue further spending due to capacity, or to invest in someone to advance the charity and enable the delivery of many more projects. The trustees were unanimous in wanting to advance the charity. Consequently, Clare (Emily's Mum) resigned from her job and has taken up an initial 1 year agreement to run the Foundation. Clare started this role on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017 and already lots of things are progressing.

This year we have spent a total of £7,005. This compares to last year when we spent a total of £9,758 and £6,267 in 2014/2015. The welcome packs are the main provision for families. This year 171 packs have been provided to families on the unit. 66 Vouchers have been provided to families to have a

meal together at the local pub as a bit of respite from the Neonatal Unit (one family wrote to say they used the voucher for a celebration meal the night before they were returning home with their baby). 46 different sets of bus vouchers have been provided for families to be able to access transport to be with their babies. We have purchased 2 more nursing chairs this year for by the cots in our aim to provide one by every cot.

With reference to supporting the staff, we are delighted that we have been able to fund two members of staff to attend the Reason Conference this year. This conference is one of the largest annual neonatal conferences in the UK. Without our support, the Unit wouldn't be able to send any staff members to attend. We have also purchased another 9 Neonatology books for staff members to have their own personal copy.

We have made progress with reference to providing a counsellor to families on the unit and a meeting is being set up with some potential candidates, Clare and a senior staff member on the Unit.

We are feeling extremely positive that we will be able to ensure we are using the generously donated funds in an effective way, both to help the staff do their job and to make life as easy and comfortable as possible for the families with babies on the unit.

## **Fundraising**

This year we have received funds of £10,473. This compares to a total of £10,603 last year and £21,182 in 2014/2015.

Our annual fundraising event this year is a curry night in October at the Mangrove in Mansfield.

There have been many people and groups who have raised money for us, together with donations from people who have had children / relatives on the unit and sent donations to thank both ourselves and the staff on the unit. There have been too many of these to mention them all personally in this report. In addition, some of these personal donations have been sent without information so we have been unable to thank them personally. We would like to take this opportunity to express our very sincere thanks to all those people.

A very special thank you also, to all those who generously make ongoing donations by standing order. This way of giving is vital in us being able to plan our regular support to the unit. If you wish to set up a standing order, please get in touch with us.

## **Awareness**

There has been some increase in people who follow us on Facebook. We're now up to 968 followers. We have a new website which is now live and has received a very positive response. Twitter is also used and many tweets are shared by the Sherwood Forest Hospital Trust.

Raising the profile of the Charity is a clear focus of Clare's work this year, both in the local community and through the hospital networks.

## **The Trustees**

As Clare is now working for the Charity, she has had to resign from her position as trustee. There are currently 4 trustees, all who have given their time voluntarily and have not drawn any funds away from the Foundation for any expenses. All the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. A big thank you also to the families of the trustees who also provide essential help and support.

## **Kings Mill Hospital**

The Foundation would like to continue to praise the wonderful care, attention and support that families receive whilst on the Neonatal Unit. The staff often go way beyond what they are expected to do to ensure the best for the babies they care for. A particular thanks to Sue Croydon and Sue Selby for the time they give in communicating with us and helping us to carry out our work.

## **The Future**

In 2018, the Charity will celebrate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It has achieved much more than any of us ever dreamed of thanks to the support of so many wonderful people. We are already planning a series of events to really celebrate the achievements. The introduction of Clare's role is an exciting development for the charity which is already having a major impact. As Emily's parents, we thank you all for keeping Emily's memory alive.

Neil Harris (Chair of Trustees)