

MedEquip 4KIDS

Impact Report
2021-2022



Welcome

In 2021-22 our priority was to get the charity back on track following the disruption of the Covid-19 pandemic so that we could remain in a strong position to support children and young people through their own recovery. We were delighted to host our first event for over a year at our charity golf day in September, followed by our traditional December Christmas Sing-along at Manchester Cathedral. It was wonderful to get together in person and greet our supporters again.

Despite all the difficulties, we have continued our vital work delivering medical equipment to hospitals in the North West, as you'll see in the report. We have also supplied packages of resources such as sensory toys, books and art materials to 37 Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services across the UK and provided much-valued equipment for special schools to empower disabled pupils to participate in learning.

For many months we were unable to teach our Hummingbird Project in schools due to the restrictions, however our project lead Ian Platt maintained continuity by giving remote sessions via Zoom. He is now very pleased to be back in the classroom again and engaging with pupils face-to-face. For the first time this year we are offering the course to primary schools so that a younger audience can benefit from learning about their mental health and happiness.

We would like to wish all the best to our beneficiaries, partners, donors, and volunteers as we rebuild our communities together. Thank you so much for your unwavering loyalty to MedEquip4Kids during the recent challenges.

Brian White, Chairman
Ghazala Baig, Chief Executive



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian White".

Brian White, Chairman



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ghazala Baig".

Ghazala Baig, Chief Executive

Making a difference

Heart monitor supports safe births

The birth centre at Warrington General Hospital is benefiting from a new mobile telemetry unit, which allows the baby's heart to be monitored remotely during birth. Because it is wireless, it gives the mother more mobility during labour. This helps reduce the perception of pain, aids the natural processes of labour and birth, and helps the woman to feel more in control. The feedback has been excellent with mothers feeling the benefits of moving more freely than the NHS's traditional wired machines. As it is waterproof, it can be used in the birthing pool. Having this equipment available for more women will contribute to better birth outcomes in the region.



A better night's sleep for parents

MedEquip4Kids has provided 15 folding chair beds for the children's ward at North Manchester General Hospital so that parents can get some sleep when they stay with their child. These beds will enable parents or carers to stay comfortably overnight and reassure children who are sick, afraid and alone in hospital. The benefit of a parent being by the bedside is invaluable and can lead to a quicker recovery. Vicki Healey, Children's Ward Manager, said: "This has had such a positive impact on the wellbeing of our children knowing their parent or carer is close by, but also for the parent being able to sleep comfortably next to their child. The difference a good night's sleep makes is priceless."

New look for MedEquip4Kids In February 2022 we were delighted to launch the new MedEquip4Kids website, which included a sleek new logo and updated strapline with stylish graphics and font. A massive thank you to Gary, Paul and the team at Cultivate Creative in St Helens for revitalising our charity brand and improving the layout and functionality of our site. We were very excited to be offered a grant towards the new site from the VINCI Foundation. The partnership with the Foundation was achieved through our sponsor Nuvia, a nuclear specialist firm which is part of the VINCI Group.

MedEquip4KIDS

medequip4kids.org.uk



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New Acheeva beds

We have delivered another two Acheeva Beds to Lancasterian School in West Didsbury, a specialist school for children aged 3-16 with a wide range of special educational needs, including physical difficulties, complex medical conditions and communication needs. When we visited the school we met 12-year-old Omari. At the age of two, Omari was diagnosed with a degenerative condition, which caused him to rapidly lose function. Due to his limited mobility he has to lie in a horizontal position and requires supportive postural equipment to ensure that he is comfortable. Omari responds well to voices and he uses a head switch that enables him to communicate his choices.

Omari has used an Acheeva Bed for the last four years. Because the bed is designed to be adjusted and tilted, it makes easier for staff to change his height and angle. This means fewer staff are needed to move him and it is less distressing for him. The Acheeva Bed can also be taken into the bathroom or to physiotherapy sessions. The new beds will enable more children like Omari to participate in lessons in comfort, making a real difference to their wellbeing.



Hummingbird Project reaches primary schools



The six-week Hummingbird Project was developed by MedEquip4Kids in partnership with psychologists at the University of Bolton and the University of Chester to help give young people the techniques and tools to become more emotionally resilient. Last year we were unable to deliver the course in schools due to Covid-19 restrictions, although we kept the provision going with regular Zoom sessions. This year we were pleased to return to secondary schools, and to introduce the course to primary schools as well. The pandemic has had a significant impact on children's wellbeing and is likely to affect them for some time, so it is more important than ever that we help give them the tools and resources to support their mental health and happiness.

CAMHS resources benefit families

Once again we have supported Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) across the UK, including a community service at Royal Bolton Hospital, which works with over 300 young people with difficulties including neurodevelopmental problems, anxiety, depression, PTSD and family issues. We provided felt pens, paper, flip charts and whiteboards, and toys and games including wooden blocks, people figures, playdough, a train set. Assistant Psychologist Charlotte Neal told us: "One mum when given some felt tips and a self-care poem was overwhelmed and became teary. She explained the token of this gift really helped deliver the message that she needed to look after herself before she could look after her children."



Projects completed 2021-22

- Children's Outpatients Equipment East Lancs NHS Trust **Burnley**
- **Warrington and Halton** NHS Trust Mobile Telemetry Unit
- **North Manchester** General Hospital Croyde Fold Away Beds
- **Preston**, Acorns Primary School Switch Adapted Technology
- **Manchester**, Lancasterian School 2 x Acheeva Graduate Stations
- Royal **Preston** Hospital Daycase Ward Vein Finder
- **Tameside & Glossop** ICFT Neonatal Unit Medical Respiration Monitor for Apnoea
- **Tameside & Glossop** ICFT Children's Unit Airvo 2
- **Furness** General Hospital Emergency Dept. Distraction & Equipment for Paediatrics
- **Bolton**, Green Fold Special School 6 x Acheeva Work Stations

CAMHS: Resources including books, toys and games to support Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services were supplied to services nationwide including:

Accrington

Alexandria-

Dumbartonshire

Blackpool

Bolton

Bury

Eastleigh

Flintshire

Glasgow

Hampshire

Helensburgh

Kent

Lancashire &

Morecome

Leeds

London

Mansfield

Newcastle-

Under-Lyme

Oxford

Pontypridd

Poole

Preston

Prestwich

Sefton

Sheffield

Stoke on Trent

Tameside &

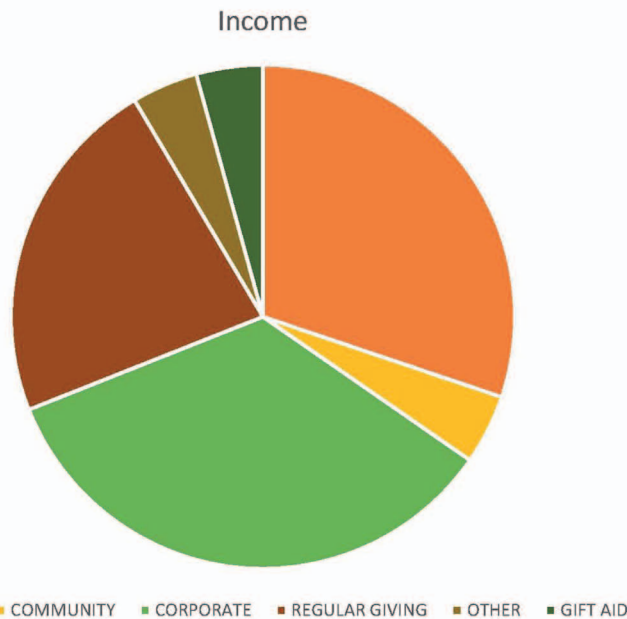
Glossop

Wrexham

York

Achievements!

- 42 Hospitals helped
- 37 CAMHS teams helped
- 47 Projects delivered
- 94282 Number of children to directly benefit from our work



This year we saved £10,028.92 through charity discounts and savings

Thank you

We are always grateful for the support we receive from companies, trusts and foundations, but this year it has been appreciated more than ever. We would like to mention the following:

- The Trafford Centre have given us another year of support through our charity partnership. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped us count coins from the Trafford Centre's fountains.
- Tesco Bags of Help have funded a wide range of medical equipment around the North West.
- Co-op Local Community Fund have continued their generous support of our local projects.
- The Zochonis Charitable Trust enabled us to purchase folding beds for parents at North Manchester General Hospital.
- The Eric Wright Charitable Trust supported both our medical projects and our mental health work through the Hummingbird Project.
- The Theodore Maxxy Charitable Trust, the Nadezda Foundation, and the Pierrepont Charitable Trust were all new donors this year who helped us fund equipment at Tameside General Hospital.
- The Grey Court Charitable Trust kindly made a final donation to us as the trust was winding up.
- The Cotton Industry War Memorial Trust funded an Acheeva Bed for Lancasterian School.