



New incubator gives lifesaving care to Wigan's most vulnerable babies

Matthew was born early at 27 weeks in a critical condition at Wigan Infirmary. Sadly his twin brother Mark died the following day due to a complicated illness. Matthew remained very ill in the neo natal unit for weeks before he was able to go home. Thankfully he recovered well and is now a happy and mischievous four-year-old.

The twins' father Andrew told us about the wonderful care provided by the team. He says: "After 72 days Matthew was finally able to come home and that will always be one of the happiest days of my life. Like so many, I should owe the NHS tens of thousands of pounds; however I get to thank them for a lifetime of priceless memories."

Andrew has run in a number of races, including the Manchester Marathon, to raise funds for the neo natal unit at Wigan. MedEquip4Kids recently donated a Drager Isolette incubator, which will give lifesaving support to sick or premature babies like Matthew. Thank you to Medicash and the Zochonis Charitable Trust, who made it possible for us to fund the equipment.

Julie Armstrong, Lead Nurse, says: "This new incubator has the addition of scales to weigh the baby with the minimum of disruption. It also has integral oxygen, which minimises kit and clutter around the incubator space. We will be able to control the temperature, humidity and oxygen to suit the baby's individual requirements."



Pictured Julie Armstrong, Karen Glover, Cath Chiocci, Claire Hayward, Matthew and Andrew Hibbert

New resources give young people better mental health

MedEquip4Kids funds resources including games, toys, books, and communication aids for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) across the UK.

Having these resources available can really enable CAMHS to support and care for young patients, as you'll see from their stories below.

Case Study: CHLOE,

14-year-old Chloe* was treated by CAMHS for anorexia. Chloe and her family took part in a multi-family therapy group for anorexia, along with three other families.

CAMHS used resources provided by MedEquip4Kids including a table, chairs, plates, glasses, and cutlery to act out a role-play of a family meal. The aim of this role-play was to reverse the roles and for the family to help the young person to eat. Chloe took on the role of a parent, and chose other young people to play the roles of another parent and siblings. Chloe also chose one of the parents to play the role of a young person with anorexia.

A clinician stood behind the parent playing the part of a young person with anorexia. "Anorexia" told the young person to ignore her parents. "Anorexia" also warned her that they wanted to make her fat. The rest of the families in the group watched this process.

Community psychiatric nurse Paddy says: "Chloe was able to see anorexia from a parent's perspective and how hard it is, and the emotions that arise. It was a powerful activity and the resources that were sent made it possible to carry it out."



Case Study: ARCHIE,

10-year-old Archie* has autism and sensory processing difficulties. He came to CAMHS because he was really struggling in the evenings at home when the rest of the family were watching TV. Archie was concerned that something would come on the TV that scared him, and he didn't like his family watching any programmes or films he hadn't seen before.

CAMHS lent Archie's family some ear defenders, which he used in the evening to block out the sound of the TV while he played on his iPad. This really helped the family spend quality time together and allowed his parents to have some time in the evening relaxing, which they had been unable to do for a long time.



Clinical psychologist Louise Piper says: "It is really useful to be able to show families resources, use them in sessions and lend them equipment to try at home. It's been really helpful to offer some practical strategies and tools rather than just suggesting them."

**The patients' names were changed to protect their identities.*

St James's Place Foundation supports CAMHS



Thank you to St James's Place Foundation for a grant of £2,500 to help us provide books, toys, games and other resources for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in Greater Manchester. A special thank you to Richard Goodier from Capstone Financial Management who kindly endorsed our application (pictured with MedEquip4Kids Chief Executive Ghazala Baig).

We need your help!

Special beds for disabled pupils to learn in comfort

Lancasterian School in West Didsbury caters for children with special educational needs, including physical difficulties, complex medical conditions and communication needs. The school has asked for our help to provide an Acheeva Graduate Bed, a special bed which allows physically disabled pupils to work in a supported, balanced lying posture, giving them relief from sitting in a wheelchair all day.

We will also be funding an Acheeva bed for Park Lane School, Macclesfield.



Leaving a gift to a charity in your Will is one of the most wonderful and significant ways you can continue to transform the lives of others beyond your lifetime. For more information call 0161 798 1600

Reliable equipment to check vital signs

The medical team at the paediatric inpatient ward at Royal Bolton Hospital have asked us to supply six Mindray VS900 blood pressure monitors. Children need to have their vital signs checked when first admitted and regularly throughout their stay to pick up any underlying problems. The new monitors are more reliable and easier to use and will ensure the best care for young patients in Bolton.

Help children stay dry at night.

Bedwetting is distressing and can affect a child's behaviour, emotional wellbeing and social life. Enuresis (bedwetting) alarms are proven to be effective in overcoming night time continence problems. We want to provide new alarms for the Paediatric Continence Service in Blackpool so they can support more children to gain control of their bladders.



If you can help us fund any of these projects, visit www.medequip4kids.org.uk

Fundraising news

Football legend Sam Allardyce hosts business breakfast

We were delighted to welcome nearly 100 guests from the local business community to the opulent surroundings of the Manchester Hall for a networking breakfast hosted by Sam Allardyce, one of English football's most well-known names. Sam gave us some fascinating insights into his career in sport and the breakfast raised a fabulous £10,000 for the charity. Thank you to Sam and to Henry Moser for sponsoring the cost of the breakfast.



Ducks get quacking for charity race

Hundreds came out again this Easter to enjoy the brilliant sunshine and family fun at the MedEquip4Kids Quays Duck Race 2019. We're thrilled this has been our most successful Duck Race to date, raising over £10,000! Thank you to our event sponsor, Lowry Outlet, our eighteen MegaDuck sponsors, and all our wonderful volunteers who helped on the day. A special mention goes to Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (pictured below) who help us every year to get the ducks off to a quacking start.



Golf teams raise £5,000 A great day was had by all at the annual MedEquip4Kids Golf Day at Bramall Park Golf Club, which raised an amazing £5,000 for local hospitals. Nineteen corporate teams supported the event, battling all weather conditions from rain and hail to brilliant sunshine. Many congratulations to the winning team from STANLEY Security! Thank you to Bramall Park for the fantastic food and service and to everyone who donated prizes.

Thanks also to:

- **Eric Wright Group** for a donation of £10,000
- **Help for Health** for a grant of £10,000 for an adjustable bath for Kings Mill Special School
- **Next** for a donation of £2,500
- **Tesco Macclesfield** for choosing us as the beneficiary of their token collection

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Registered charity number 1102830