



The Hospital  
Saturday Fund®

# Charity Reception

**University of Plymouth**  
Wednesday, 25th March 2026

[www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org](http://www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org)



At this event there will be photography and/or filming taking place. The images and footage will be used by **The Hospital Saturday Fund and HSF Health Plan** for the purpose of promotion and may be published on the respective companies' websites and social media accounts.

If you do not wish to appear in the photographs or footage, please ensure that you advise the photographer/camera crew and/or a member of **The Hospital Saturday Fund/HSF Health Plan staff**.

# Programme

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**1 Welcome**  
John Greenwood, Chair, The Hospital Saturday Fund

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**2 Opening Words**  
Professor Richard Davies, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive,  
University of Plymouth

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**3 Introduction of Grant Recipients**  
Mark Davies, Trustee, The Hospital Saturday Fund

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**4 Presentation of Cheques**  
Paul Jackson, Group Chief Executive, The Hospital Saturday Fund  
with Professor Richard Davies, Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive,  
University of Plymouth

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**5 Expression of Thanks**  
Professor Gary Smerdon, Chief Executive & Research Director,  
DDRC Healthcare

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**6 Conclusion**  
Paul Jackson, Group Chief Executive, The Hospital Saturday Fund

**You are invited to stay for drinks and canapes following the presentations. Our Trustees, Grant Making Committee members, and staff look forward to meeting you.**

There are brief particulars on the following pages of all charities receiving grants this evening. The representatives named will be called to receive their cheque in the order listed.

**The Hospital Saturday Fund is grateful to the University of Plymouth for kindly hosting this reception.**



## Charities Receiving Grants

- BASICS Devon
- Beyond Dementia
- Bowel Cancer West
- Care for Kids North Devon
- Children's Hospice South West
- Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Tavistock)
- Dartmouth Caring
- Devon Air Ambulance
- Devon Mind
- Exmoor Search and Rescue Team
- FORCE Cancer Charity
- Headway Plymouth
- Hospiscare
- Hospital Radio Plymouth
- iSightCornwall
- Peninsula Medical Foundation
- Pregnancy Crisis Care (Plymouth & SE Cornwall)
- Royal Devon Hospitals Charity
- Sidmouth Hospice at Home
- South West Blood Bikes
- South Western Ambulance Charity
- St Luke's Hospice Plymouth
- Springboard Opportunity Group
- University of Plymouth
- Expression of Thanks: DDRC Healthcare



## BASICS Devon

**Amie Bull,  
Fundraising Manager**

BASICS Devon are specialist volunteers delivering emergency pre-hospital care and vital life-saving education. They support communities across Devon, making themselves available 24/7.

Comprised of highly trained volunteer medics, BASICS Devon responds to some of the most serious medical emergencies, supporting the South Western Ambulance Service. From road traffic collisions on rural lanes to cardiac arrests, the charity's clinicians bring immediate care directly to the scene — often arriving before an ambulance. As a charity, they respond to around 400 critically ill or injured people a year.

BASICS Devon volunteers were honoured to receive the King's Award for Voluntary Service in 2025. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE. Their work, along with others, reminds us of all the ways fantastic volunteers are contributing to local communities.

BASICS Devon receives no government funding, therefore relies entirely on public donations.

[www.basics-devon.org.uk](http://www.basics-devon.org.uk)



## Beyond Dementia

**Julian Roberts,  
Trusts & Foundations Fundraiser**

Beyond Dementia (formerly Alzheimer's Support) has been supporting people living with all types of dementia and their family carers across Wiltshire for 35 years. As a local charity, we are rooted in the communities we serve, and what we do is quite simple - we support people in their own homes, helping them to maintain as much independence and control over their lives as possible.

We see the person and create and run services from day clubs to one-to-one support, to singing and art groups, where people can be themselves. Where choice and dignity are preserved, and our time together is creative, productive, and meaningful. We provide support and advice to 2,500 people in Wiltshire every year, including companionship and meaningful activities to 328 people in their own homes every week, plus our four award-winning day clubs, which support 188 people a week, giving their families much-needed respite.

[www.alzheimerswiltshire.org.uk](http://www.alzheimerswiltshire.org.uk)





## Bowel Cancer West

**Diane Sheppard,  
Vice Chair & Trustee**

Bowel Cancer West is a small local (southwest) charity which was founded just over 15 years ago. The charity has three main aims which are:

- raising awareness of bowel cancer and its symptoms and screening.
- raising funds to support research.
- raising funds to support NHS staff with training.

Bowel Cancer West is keen to have targeted programmes to support GP practices whose patients have a low return rate of bowel cancer screening. Currently the return rate for the southwest is 75%. Early detection of bowel cancer is key to successful treatment, so awareness of symptoms and what to do if you experience these symptoms along with utilising the bowel cancer screening is key.

[www.bowelcancerwest.com](http://www.bowelcancerwest.com)



## Care for Kids North Devon

**Mair Smith,  
Communications Officer**

Care for Kids North Devon provides financial support to families who have a child diagnosed with a life-threatening illness or disease. This helps with the costs of traveling to specialist appointments outside the area and loss of income whilst caring for a very poorly child.

The charity also carries out improvement projects at the children's ward of North Devon District Hospital. This includes refurbishing individual bedrooms, the parents' room, and the playroom. They also fund specialist equipment, such as a 3D pain distraction unit, to help children undergoing treatment.

Care for Kids' latest project is refreshing the playroom at the children's ward, providing new blinds, digital art, and creating a bespoke bookshelf. The playroom is an invaluable asset, a haven for families during their time on the ward. It gives comfort to the little patients who use it, taking some of the trauma out of what can be frightening and painful hospital visits.

[www.careforkidsnorthdevon.org.uk](http://www.careforkidsnorthdevon.org.uk)





## Children's Hospice South West

**Sally Gibson,  
Trust & Grants Fundraiser**



Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) is the only dedicated provider of children's palliative and hospice care in the South West of England and exists to make the most of short and precious lives. We put those in our care: babies, children, young people and their families, at the centre of all we do.

Our belief is that the best way we can do this is to wrap our care around entire families who have received the diagnosis that their child has a life-limiting condition and is likely to die before the age of 18.

Our three hospices: Little Bridge House in Devon, Charlton Farm in Somerset and Little Harbour in Cornwall, ensure that families from across the region can be within an easy travelling time of one of our welcoming sanctuaries providing high quality, compassionate care and support.

CHSW's collaborative approach to palliative care, working with hospitals and community teams across our wide geographic region, supports family choices for respite/resilience care, symptom management, end-of-life care and bereavement support. This grant will support the further development of our community-based services to improve our reach into remote and often deprived areas across the region

[www.chsw.org.uk](http://www.chsw.org.uk)

## Dartmoor Search and Rescue Team (Tavistock)

**Alistair Reid,  
Chair**



DSRT(T) is one of four teams that provides an emergency response search and rescue capability for Dartmoor and the surrounding area. The team operates in close conjunction with Devon and Cornwall Police and the South West Ambulance Service. DSRT(T) has approximately 50 badged members and is an entirely voluntary service on call 365 days a year. The team receives, on average, 30-40 call-outs per year. Most are for lower leg injuries but there are more serious trauma and illness casualties, as well as persons in crisis. The team has a number of healthcare professionals as well as qualified Remote Rescue Medical Technicians. The team is funded entirely by donations and fundraising activities. Every penny raised goes directly to keeping the team operational.

[www.dsrt-tavistock.org.uk](http://www.dsrt-tavistock.org.uk)



## Dartmouth Caring

**Nick Hindmarsh,  
Manager**

Our service provides support and advice to individuals and their families. Our worker is a specialist nurse, experienced in palliative and cancer care, and a recent recipient of the Queen's Nurse Award. She visits individuals in their own homes and in nursing/residential homes and develops a plan with each person to meet their individual needs.

The service is available for those whose needs are not complex enough for Hospice support but who are struggling with their diagnosis and management of their situation. It adds to what is available from the GP and Rowcroft Hospice and bridges the gap between the two.

This is a part-time role, working flexibly throughout the week, with contact with clients being made when needed. We now provide 15 hours of specialist support, backed up with 3 hours of support time with administration and patient review calls. In addition, the local GP practice with whom we work now provides 4 hours a week of Nurse Associate time each week.

These two additional staff members allow our nurse to focus on those patients who have the highest specialist need and ensure patient contact on days she doesn't work. This support extends to local care homes and their staff/clients.

[www.dartmouthcaring.co.uk](http://www.dartmouthcaring.co.uk)



## Devon Air Ambulance

**Jo-Anne Rigby,  
Head of Fundraising**



***When seconds count, count on us to save lives.***

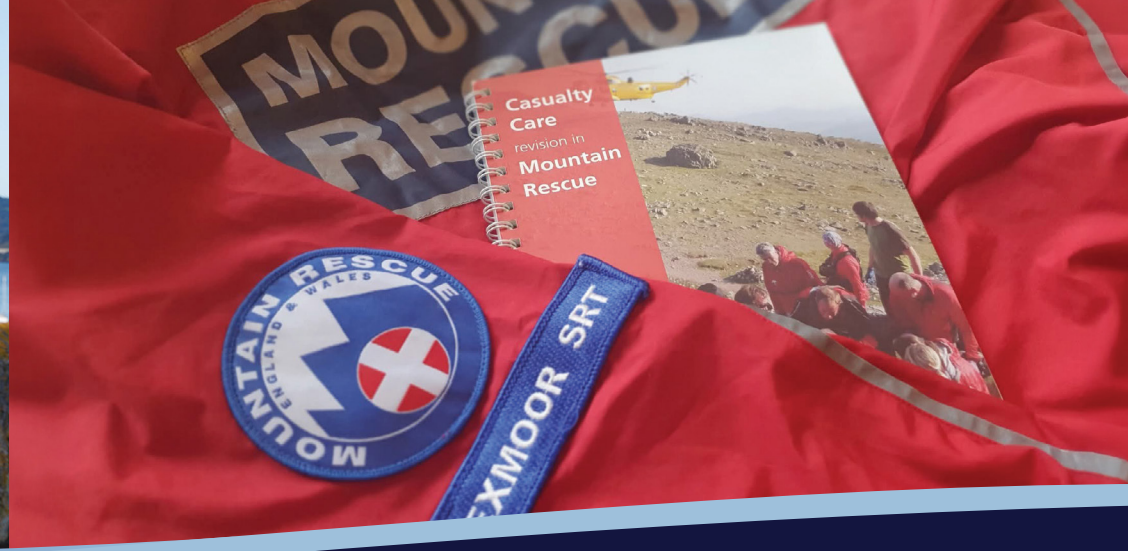
We are the charity that keeps Devon's two air ambulances flying and our Critical Care Cars responding.

Sudden illness or injury can strike anyone at any time, and in 2024, we were tasked to attend 2,459 missions by air and road. Our skilled crew – pilots, paramedics, and doctors – provide critical, time-sensitive treatment on the spot. We serve everyone in Devon, visitors to our county, and even neighbouring areas when needed.

We are entirely funded by donations, your support keeps us flying, responding, and saving lives. Together, we are Devon Air Ambulance.

[www.daat.org](http://www.daat.org)

Supporting better mental health across Devon!



## Devon Mind

**Olivia Craig,**  
CEO

Devon Mind is a local mental health charity dedicated to ensuring that everyone in Devon has access to the support, information, and skills they need to live well. Our mission is to promote recovery, reduce stigma, and empower people to take control of their mental health through compassionate, community-based support.

This project strengthens that mission by providing focused help for people in Plymouth living with serious mental illness who often fall between primary and secondary care. Through 1:1 emotional support, individuals receive personalised guidance, coping strategies, and regular check-ins that help them manage symptoms and prevent crises. Our psychoeducation groups offer practical learning on emotional regulation, understanding triggers, communication skills, and staying well, helping people build confidence and resilience.

By expanding these services, the project ensures more individuals receive timely, meaningful support - helping them stay connected, independent, and better equipped to manage their mental health.

[www.devonmind.com](http://www.devonmind.com)



## Exmoor Search and Rescue Team

**Derrick Reid,**  
Treasurer

We assist the police and ambulance services in locating lost and missing persons, and in treating and evacuating casualties in remote or hard-to-access situations. As well as navigation, search, and technical rescue capability, our primary aim is to help person(s) in need. We offer a comprehensive range of medical interventions, including lifesaving and pain relief drugs.

This grant will cover the cost of our medical gases and some of our drugs for 2026. Dealing with pain and preventing further injury is vital to patient outcomes. We aim to provide a professional service that any casualty would expect to receive either from a voluntary or statutory service.

[www.exmoor-srt.org.uk](http://www.exmoor-srt.org.uk)





## FORCE Cancer Charity

**Kate Few-Singh,**  
CEO

FORCE Cancer Charity provides a vital lifeline for people affected by cancer in Devon. Our mission is to ensure that anyone facing a cancer diagnosis receives the best possible support, close to home.

We deliver a wide range of free services, including counselling, complementary therapies, physiotherapy, group programmes, and specialist information.

Programmes such as Living with Non-Curable Cancer, Moving Forward after Treatment, yoga, and retreat days offer practical and emotional care tailored to individual needs.

Alongside our Centre in Exeter, FORCE provides outreach services in Tiverton, Okehampton, and Ottery St Mary, bringing help closer to people who might otherwise struggle to access support. We extend care to families and carers, recognising the ripple effect of cancer.

Last year, more than 2,000 local people benefited from our services. A grant from the Hospital Saturday Fund will enable FORCE's oncology physiotherapists to deliver breast cancer recovery courses, helping people rebuild strength, confidence, and wellbeing after treatment.

[www.forcecancercharity.co.uk](http://www.forcecancercharity.co.uk)



## Headway Plymouth

**Craig Butler,**  
Chief Executive Officer

Headway Plymouth is an independent charity improving lives after acquired brain injury (ABI) through education, advice, and signposting as well as hospital-based in-patient support, centre and community-based social and rehabilitative activities, home and community re-enablement, and peer group support.

We support the survivors of both traumatic and medical brain injuries as well as families, carers, and the professionals who work with them.

We also work in partnership with colleges, universities, and medical schools to support volunteering, community placements, and research.

This award will allow us to not only continue but also expand our hospital liaison project, ensuring that more patients and families are supported by us whilst in hospital and across their return to their homes and communities.

[www.headwayplymouth.org.uk](http://www.headwayplymouth.org.uk)





## Hospiscare

**Louise Beeken,**  
Head of Philanthropy



Hospiscare is the hospice charity supporting Exeter, Mid and East Devon, caring for more than 2,300 patients annually. We deliver specialist end-of-life care through our In-patient Ward, Community Nursing, Rapid Response, Admiral Nursing and Supportive Care teams. Our vision is that everyone who needs us receives outstanding end-of-life care in the place of their choice.

This grant will fund our new Transition Nurse Lead role, supporting young people aged 18-25 who are moving from children into adult hospice care and who may feel lost or overwhelmed by the transition. Young patients need consistent emotional, social and medical care, tailored to their unique stage of life. Without support, patients and their families may experience intense emotional distress and mental health challenges.

Our Transition Nurse Lead offers continuity, dignity and support shaped around each young person, giving those not far from childhood the understanding and security they deserve, in addition to deepening our links with NHS and community services.

[www.Hospiscare.co.uk](http://www.Hospiscare.co.uk)

## Hospital Radio Plymouth

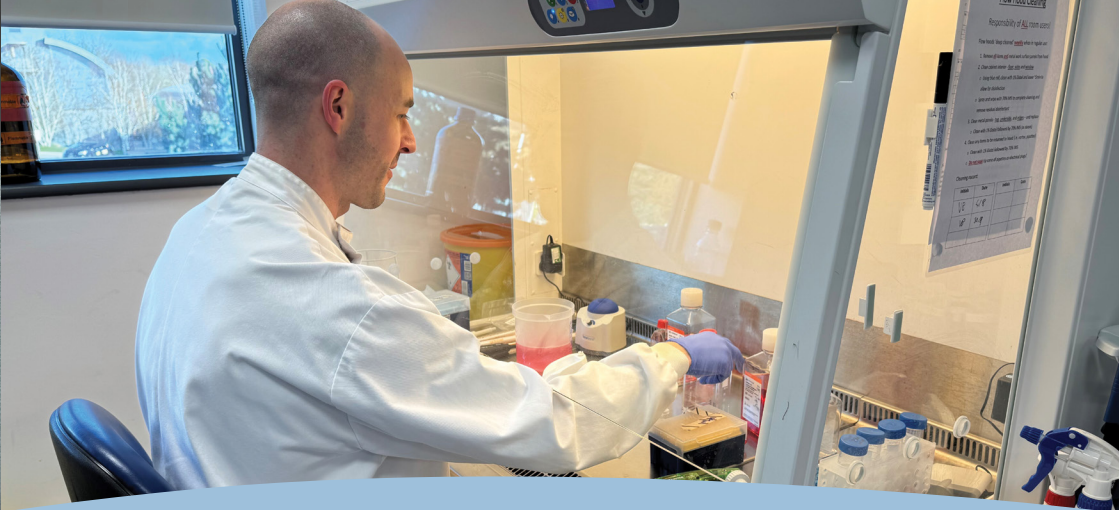
**Keith Jolley,**  
Station Manager



Hospital Radio Plymouth is a volunteer-led charity providing free radio entertainment to patients across hospitals in Plymouth and the wider community. Our dedicated team delivers live shows, music requests, health information and uplifting content that helps patients feel connected, informed and supported during their hospital stay. Beyond entertainment, we offer a friendly voice and a sense of normality, helping to improve patient wellbeing and reduce feelings of isolation, through ward visiting.

The grant awarded to us, will make a real difference. It ensures we continue to bring comfort, companionship, and a sense of community to patients when they need it most. The money will play a huge part in supporting the daily running costs of the station and replace any damaged equipment. Thank you.

[www.hrplymouth.org.uk](http://www.hrplymouth.org.uk)



## iSightCornwall

**Carole Theobald,**  
Chief Executive

iSightCornwall is Cornwall's leading sight loss charity, supporting over 3,800 people each year with practical, emotional, and life enhancing services. Working in close alignment with local health and care pathways, we complement NHS provision through our low vision clinics, hospital based Eye Care Liaison Officer, and strong partnerships with optometrists and community health teams. Our services ensure people receive the right support at the right stage—bridging gaps between diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and ongoing community care. Through our technology centre, benefits advice, home visiting support, social groups, and early intervention outreach, we help prevent isolation, unsafe living situations, digital exclusion, and loss of independence. Our Prevention Manifesto reflects what residents rely on us for: timely, expert guidance that reduces the wider impact of sight loss and supports people to remain connected, confident, and safe. With annual running costs exceeding £400,000, grants are essential in sustaining these vital services and expanding early, community based support.

[www.isightcornwall.org.uk](http://www.isightcornwall.org.uk)



## Peninsula Medical Foundation

**Martin Brooke,**  
Trustee

Peninsula Medical Foundation (PMF) is a UK charity dedicated to supporting high quality medical research, education, and innovation across the Peninsula Schools of Medicine and Dentistry and partner hospitals. Its mission is to advance healthcare in the Southwest by funding projects that improve scientific understanding and lead to better patient outcomes.

Among its recent initiatives, PMF is funding three PhD projects in brain tumour research, including work examining how certain brain cancer cells enter and emerge from dormancy—a process that allows them to hide from treatment and return more aggressively. This cutting edge research aims to unlock new therapeutic possibilities and improve long term outcomes for patients.

Through targeted grant making, PMF continues to drive progress in areas of urgent clinical need, strengthening regional research excellence and supporting the development of future medical researchers.

[www.peninsulamedicalfoundation.org.uk](http://www.peninsulamedicalfoundation.org.uk)





## Pregnancy Crisis Care (Plymouth & SE Cornwall)

**Jane Frajbis,**  
Centre Manager & Counsellor

Pregnancy Crisis Care is a local charity in Plymouth, set up in 2008, to support individuals and couples who face any kind of pregnancy-related crisis or loss. This includes unexpected pregnancy, pre- and post-termination, baby / pregnancy loss (stillbirth, miscarriage, neonatal death, ectopic pregnancy, failed IVF, fertility issues), and pregnancy support for those struggling with anxiety and depression within a current pregnancy. We see over 220 individuals and couples per year, who attend for multiple sessions of counselling over several months. Our service is run by 4 part-time paid staff who are also trained Counsellors, as well as 8 volunteer Counsellors. We feel so proud and privileged to support our clients at very difficult times in their lives, and help them to find recovery, hope and healing for their futures. We are so grateful for HSF's support, which helps us to keep on helping many others facing a pregnancy-related crisis or loss. Thank you so much.

[www.pregnancycrisiscare.org.uk](http://www.pregnancycrisiscare.org.uk)



## Royal Devon Hospitals Charity

**Deborah Allen,**  
Community Fundraising Officer

The Royal Devon Hospitals Charity is raising funds for a new state-of-the-art operating theatre that will enable the hospital to treat around 1,200 extra patients a year in Devon.

Ultra-modern equipment will mean fewer procedures, reduced risk of complications, faster recovery times after surgery, and less time in hospital. It will be a game-changer and help us deliver the kind of modern care that we want to give to our patients.

The NHS is facing significant challenges with waiting times and once the new theatre is up and running, it will free up space in the RD&E's existing 10 theatres. This will help reduce waiting times for everyone, including cancer patients.

[www.royaldevoncharity.org.uk](http://www.royaldevoncharity.org.uk)





## Sidmouth Hospice at Home

**Alasdair Cameron,  
CEO**

We are proud to be the Sid Valley's own specialist hospice service, providing specialist care to our patients, in the comfort and familiarity of home.

Patients of the Sid Valley Practice are able to access our services via a referral from their GP or specialist Consultant if they are living with a life limiting illness, regardless of diagnosis or complexity, and are considered to be in their last year of life.

The 'Sidmouth Integrated Model for Specialist Palliative Care' puts patient needs at the heart of our purpose and aims to provide a 'wrap around' range of services to provide support, practical help, guidance and for loved ones, respite during challenging times and support with recovery following loss. It's our privilege to do so.

This innovative approach to hospice care now sees us support patients for far longer than the national average for such services and provides a consistency of care that patients and loved ones notably appreciate, giving them an ability to have control over their end-of-life decision making.

[www.sidmouthhospiceathome.org.uk](http://www.sidmouthhospiceathome.org.uk)



**Sidmouth  
Hospice at Home**  
REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 115338

## South West Blood Bikes

**Steve Dower,  
Volunteer Chair of Trustees & Volunteer Rider**

South West Blood Bikes is a volunteer-led charity providing a vital, free-of-charge medical courier service across Devon. We proudly support all four main hospitals in the county—alongside community hospitals and hospices—under formal service level agreements with Devon's three major NHS Trusts. We also represent Devon as part of the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes.

We run 365 days a year, primarily out of hours, and in East & South Devon, we provide a 24/7 service depending on volunteer availability. Every journey we make is completely free for the NHS and hospices we serve, saving them over £800,000 in transport costs since our charity was formed.

We receive no government funding or payment from our service users and have no paid staff. Our work is powered entirely by the generosity of the public and the passion of our volunteers—the true lifeblood of our charity.

[www.swbb.charity](http://www.swbb.charity)





## South Western Ambulance Charity

**Louise Walsh,  
Fundraising Manager**

South Western Ambulance Charity is delighted to have the support of The Hospital Saturday Fund in our mission to work alongside the South Western Ambulance Service and South West communities, to help enhance care and support for patients and staff in critical moments.

Your donations are helping to support our Community First Responders and Community Training Volunteers to deliver lifesaving CPR and defibrillator training to help improve cardiac arrest survival rates in communities.

Support ensures that each Community Training Volunteer is trained, equipped, and supported to help people develop their lifesaving skills and confidence to act, if someone in their home, workplace, or community has a cardiac arrest. Immediate action matters whilst an ambulance is on the way. We can save more lives together.

[www.swambulancecharity.org](http://www.swambulancecharity.org)



## St Luke's Hospice Plymouth

**Emily Paton,  
Trust, Legacy & Operations Specialist**

We are incredibly grateful to The Hospital Saturday Fund for their generous donation of £4,000. This gift will make a profound difference to families in our local community at the most difficult time of their lives. To put this into perspective, your support is the equivalent of providing four families with a complete package of hospice care at home - ensuring they receive expert medical care, emotional support, and dignity in the place they feel most comfortable. Every pound you have given helps us deliver compassionate care where it matters most, and we never take that kindness for granted. Thank you for standing with St Luke's and helping us continue our mission to ensure no one faces end of life alone.

[www.stlukes-hospice.org.uk](http://www.stlukes-hospice.org.uk)





## Springboard Opportunity Group

**Sonya Cassidy,  
Lead Ambassador**

Since 1986, Springboard Opportunity Group has provided a trusted, specialist environment for very young children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), in North Somerset. Our approach combines professional expertise with compassionate care, ensuring families feel supported, informed, and never isolated in their journey. We give children the best possible start in life through tailored education, delivered in partnership with families, cultivating lifelong learning experiences and strong support networks.

With valued support from The Hospital Saturday Fund, more children in our SEND early years sessions will now have access to specialist Speech and Language Therapy. This targeted support can be truly transformative, helping children develop vital communication skills, increasing their confidence to engage with others, and enabling them to participate more fully in learning and everyday experiences. For many children, this intervention opens new ways to express themselves and connect meaningfully with the world around them.

[www.springboardweb.org.uk](http://www.springboardweb.org.uk)



## University of Plymouth

**Professor Richard Davies,  
Vice-Chancellor & Chief Executive**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
PLYMOUTH**

Brain Tumour Research: Low Oxygen Incubator for New Tumour Cell Models and Therapies.

A low oxygen incubator is a specialised piece of equipment that enables scientists to grow and maintain cells under controlled, reduced oxygen levels, conditions that closely mirror the environment inside the brain. This is crucial for understanding how brain tumour cells behave in real physiological settings.

Funding from The Hospital Saturday Fund will allow the University of Plymouth's brain tumour research team to purchase this incubator, unlocking new avenues for discovery. It will enable researchers to develop new tumour cell models and study tumour types that are currently impossible to investigate under standard laboratory conditions. Critically, it will also allow the team to test emerging therapies directly on patients' primary tumour cells, increasing the likelihood that promising findings will translate into improved treatments and better patient outcomes.

Standard incubators maintain normal atmospheric oxygen levels, which do not reflect the low oxygen conditions within many brain tumours. Oxygen levels influence tumour cell growth, metabolism, and treatment resistance. By replicating these conditions, the new incubator will support more accurate research into challenging tumours such as glioma and ependymoma, helping scientists to better understand their biology and identify effective therapeutic strategies.

This investment will have immediate impact. New treatment models already in development can be rapidly tested using the low oxygen incubator, accelerating progress and advancing the search for effective therapies for brain tumour patients.

[www.plymouth.ac.uk](http://www.plymouth.ac.uk)



## Expression of Thanks

### DDRC Healthcare

**Professor Gary Smerdon,  
Chief Executive & Research Director**

DDRC Healthcare is a registered UK charity based in Plymouth. The charity was formed in 1980 and has developed a worldwide reputation as specialists in diving medicine, hyperbaric oxygen therapy and medical training, with an enviable range of highly specialised staff, facilities and knowledge. DDRC delivers 24/7 diving and hyperbaric medical emergency services and hosts the British Hyperbaric Association Diving Emergency Helpline. We conduct research into altered pressure and gas environments in relation to diving injuries, therapeutic uses of hyperbaric oxygen, and, more recently, the effects of oxygen and other gases on the human brain.

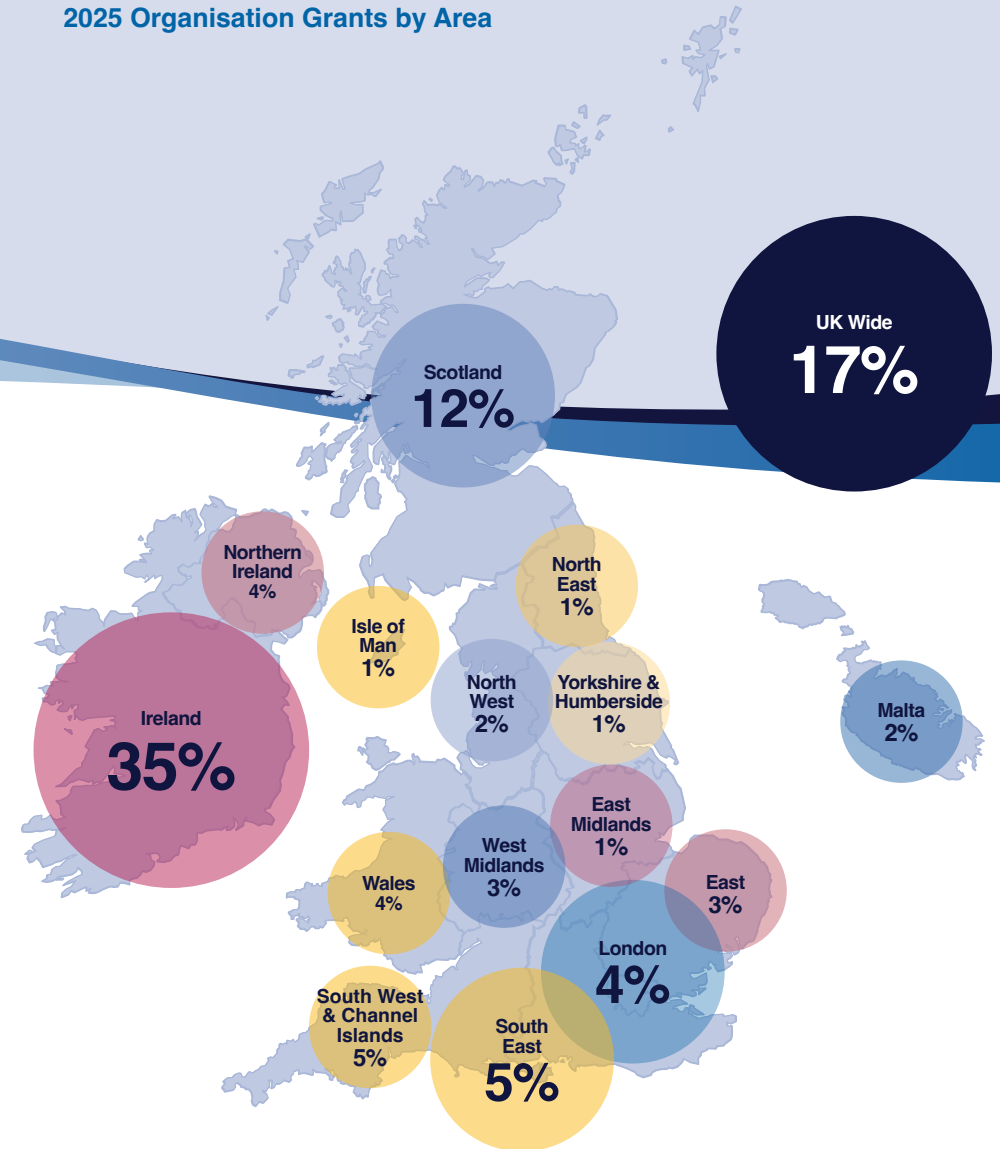
Whilst we are best known for treating divers with decompression illness (the bends), divers only account for around one third of our patients, as we also use Hyperbaric Oxygen (HBO) therapy to treat an array of conditions where it has been internationally evidenced that HBO is effective or as part of a registered research trial. Our medical training is renowned for its quality, and this grant will allow us to purchase a new state-of-the-art mannequin to ensure the most realistic training can be provided to our wider team and the recreational scuba diving community.

[www.ddrc.org](http://www.ddrc.org)



## Our Work

### 2025 Organisation Grants by Area

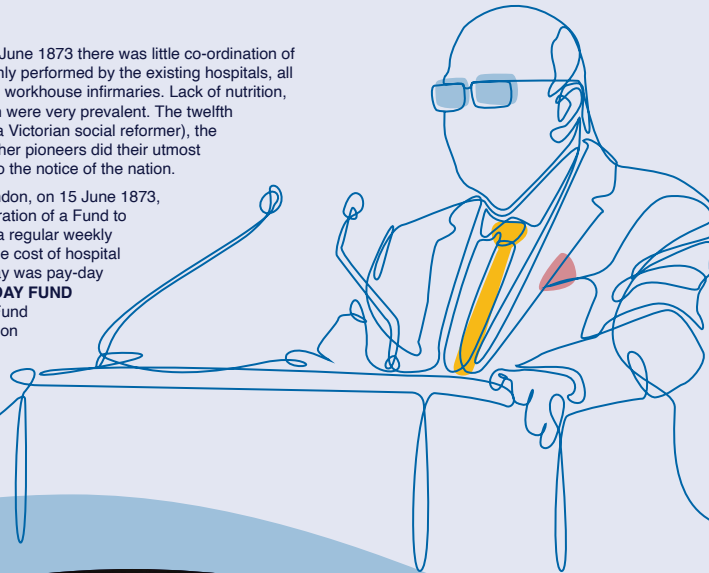


# The Hospital Saturday Fund

## Founding

When the Fund was founded on 15 June 1873 there was little co-ordination of health services and these were mainly performed by the existing hospitals, all of which were voluntary - except the workhouse infirmaries. Lack of nutrition, over-crowding, poverty and ill-health were very prevalent. The twelfth Earl of Meath (Reginald Brabazon, a Victorian social reformer), the principal founder of the Fund and other pioneers did their utmost to bring these appalling conditions to the notice of the nation.

At a meeting held in Hyde Park, London, on 15 June 1873, they made an appeal for the inauguration of a Fund to which all in employment would pay a regular weekly amount which would help to meet the cost of hospital maintenance. In those days Saturday was pay-day and so the title **HOSPITAL SATURDAY FUND** was chosen. In February 1890 the Fund received its Certificate of Incorporation under the Companies Act.



## Complimenting the NHS

Since the advent of the National Health Service The Hospital Saturday Fund has 'tailored' its benefits to suit modern needs. Its trading company HSF Health Plan is one of the leading health cash plans in the UK and Ireland and provides a wide range of health benefits to help people cover the cost of their everyday health care.

HSF Health Plan works with over 1,700 organisations in the public, private and charity sector in providing its health cash plan schemes as an employee benefit. Unlike other forms of health insurance the schemes are very low cost (from £1.00 per week) and cover things like dental check-ups and treatment, eye tests, glasses and contact lenses, physiotherapy and osteopathy.

It means people can embark on a course of treatment knowing they can always claim back at least some, if not all of the cost. HSF Health Plan also pays cash grants for hospital admissions and has a range of helplines including a GP advice line and a private prescription service, a counselling helpline and other services which are there 365 days of the year to give support to employees and their families whenever it is needed\*.

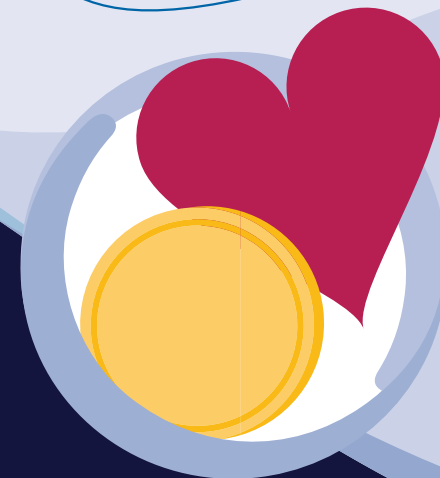
There are currently over 105,000 HSF Health Plan policyholders from all parts of the United Kingdom, Ireland and Malta, but when family members are added the real figure is around 200,000. Its head office is in London, and there is a national office in Ireland (Ennis, Co. Clare) and Malta.



## Patron, President & Vice Presidents

In 1896 the Prince of Wales became the Fund's first Patron and on accession to the throne continued to act in that capacity. Since that era, each Sovereign has accepted the office of Patron, including Her Majesty Elizabeth II, who relinquished this when she made a considerable reduction to her Patronages in the late 1990s.

Since the early years of the last century each successive Lord Mayor of London has acted as President of the Fund and the Fund has had the privilege of holding its Annual General Meeting at the Mansion House. The present Earl of Meath, the Lord Provost of Glasgow, the Lord Mayor of Dublin and the Lord Mayor of Belfast are all Vice Presidents. **Our current Patron is the internationally acclaimed opera singer, Lesley Garrett CBE FRAM.**



## Charitable Grants

### Every Penny Of Profit To Good Causes

The aims and ideals of the founders have never been forgotten and we are proud that these are still very much in evidence today. All profits made by HSF Health Plan are channelled to its parent charity, The Hospital Saturday Fund through which grants are made to all kinds of medically associated charities throughout the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and Malta each year. Assistance is also given to individuals whose illness or disability has caused difficulties. In 2026, grants totalling £2.5m will be given.

\*Full details of all the benefits HSF Health Plan provides can be found at [www.hsf.eu.com](http://www.hsf.eu.com)  
Details of The Hospital Saturday Fund charity can be found at [www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org](http://www.hospitalsaturdayfund.org)

# HSF Health Plan



## Empowering Health and Wellbeing for Over 150 Years

For over a century and a half, HSF Health Plan has been dedicated to making healthcare accessible and affordable for individuals, families, and organisations across the UK. As a trading company of The Hospital Saturday Fund, our mission is to provide comprehensive health cash plans that support the wellbeing of your employees and volunteers.



## Comprehensive Coverage for Everyday Health Expenses

Our flexible health cash plans offer cashback on a wide range of healthcare services, including:



**Dental and Optical Care**  
Reimbursements for routine check-ups, treatments, and corrective appliances.



**Specialist Consultations and Investigations**  
Cover for outpatient consultations, diagnostic tests, and health screenings.



**Complementary Therapies**  
Support for services like physiotherapy, osteopathy, chiropractic, acupuncture, and more.



**Hospital Stays and Day Case Surgery**  
Financial assistance during inpatient admissions and day surgeries.



**Birth and Adoption Grants**  
Support for growing families within your organisation.



### Added Extras, At No Extra Cost

Every plan includes access to HSF Assist, our comprehensive support service offering 24/7 GP advice line, virtual doctor consultations, confidential counselling, and expert helplines for legal and medical matters. Policyholders also benefit from HSF Perkbox, giving them access to a wide range of everyday savings, perks, and a wellness hub – helping you support your team's health and happiness both in and out of the workplace.



### Affordable Plans Tailored to Your Organisation

With premiums starting from as little as **£1 per week**, HSF Health Plan offers cost-effective solutions to enhance your employee benefits package. Our plans are designed to be inclusive, with no medical underwriting required, ensuring all members of your team can access the support they need.

### Join a Trusted Network

Thousands of organisations trust HSF Health Plan to support their teams' health and wellbeing. By partnering with us, you not only invest in your employees' health but also contribute to our charitable mission, as profits are reinvested into medical grants and support across the UK.



### Discover the Benefits for Your Organisation

Enhance your employee benefits and demonstrate your commitment to their health and wellbeing. Contact us today to learn more about how HSF Health Plan can support your organisation.

Visit [www.hsf.co.uk/corporate](http://www.hsf.co.uk/corporate) or call 0800 917 2208 to speak with our team.






The Hospital  
Saturday Fund®


# Contact Us


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We're Here to Help


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 24 Upper Ground, London, SE1 9PD

 020 7202 1365

 [charity@hsf.eu.com](mailto:charity@hsf.eu.com)