

Friends^{of} the cancer centre



**When you're here,
We're here too**

Annual Review 2016/2017

Our Mission

To support patients and their families by enhancing the quality of care they receive and contribute to cancer care, treatment and research throughout Northern Ireland.

An Incredible Year

Your kindness and generosity never ceases to amaze us and it's thanks to your wonderful support that the charity has been able to invest over £1.2 million into local cancer services in the last year.

This vital support means that we can be there for people across Northern Ireland when they really need it and over the last year, we have been able to be there for more people than ever before. Our work in patient care, patient comfort and research is continuing to make a direct and positive impact on the lives of patients, their families and staff.

With your support, the charity is proudly funding an additional 31 members of staff who each play a vital role in patient care, research and development. Over the last year we have been able to see the impact our increased nursing workforce is having on patients, particularly in cancer sites which until now didn't have a clinical nurse specialist.

As a charity we truly believe that the little things we do throughout the Cancer Centre make a big difference to patients and their families and we are committed to ensuring that a patient's time at the hospital is as comfortable as it can be. From free cups of tea and coffee, free newspapers and magazines, to providing financial support to those who may be struggling while going through their treatment, it all makes a difference.

As well as working to support patients as they go through treatment, Friends of the Cancer Centre is also committed to finding new ways to treat and beat cancer. Our work in local cancer research is allowing our partners at the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology at Queen's University to recruit more research staff to carry out their vital work. This is allowing them to develop new and improved ways to treat many different types of cancer and to offer more trials to more patients locally.

Our health service is fantastic, but it can only do so much. As it faces even more financial uncertainty in the years ahead, the role of Friends of the Cancer Centre and the work that we do is increasingly important. The charity has become an integral part of cancer services in Northern Ireland and our work can be seen and felt throughout the hospital among patients and staff. Your support is making all of this possible and our work over the next year and beyond won't be possible without your continued support.

On behalf of the charity, hospital staff and patients, thank you for being such a great friend.



Geoff Hill

Geoff Hill
Chairman,
Friends of the Cancer Centre



Colleen Shaw

Colleen Shaw
Chief Executive,
Friends of the Cancer Centre

Patient care

Patient care is the area in which we fund medical staff and equipment within the Cancer Centre, ensuring our patients have the best care available to them when they need it most.



Supporting excellence

A big part of the work of Friends of the Cancer Centre is our investment in additional staff in the Cancer Centre and today, the charity is proudly funding 31 staff members including doctors, specialist nurses, radiographers and researchers. In particular our commitment to funding clinical nurse specialists has had a huge impact on patients. Over the last year we have seen the incredible difference our new nurses working in head and neck, testicular, prostate and lung cancer are having on patients. These posts are vital as many of these patients have not been able to avail of the support of a specialist nurse until now. As well as providing expert care, our nurses are also helping reduce waiting times for some of the most common cancer types in Northern Ireland.

Patient care highlights

£500,000

invested in patient care over the last year which includes funding of 31 additional staff

2,000

hours of additional care provided by each of our nurses in the last year alone, supporting hundreds of patients across Northern Ireland

£200,000

invested in purchasing vital new equipment including an ultrasound probe and observation monitors

4

Winners of our scholarships who will use the charity's funding to avail of extra training which will help support their work with patients

Meet Sarah

18 year old Sarah McCarroll from Lisburn was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma when she was 16 years old. Soon after she was diagnosed, Sarah met our clinical nurse specialist for teenagers and young adults, Renée Reid and she has been by her side ever since.

“When I was diagnosed it was all pretty overwhelming. I also knew that my diagnosis would have a big effect on my family, so I was worried about that too. When we first met Renée I just felt more at ease. It was reassuring to know that she was going to be there throughout my treatment, and she really was.

Renée guided us through every step and she was just a text or a phone call away if I needed anything. I'm really thankful that she was there for me and I was really happy to hear that Friends of the Cancer Centre is now funding another nurse like Renée, which will allow more young people to have that extra bit of support when they really need it.

I can't imagine how different and probably more difficult the last few years would have been if Renée wasn't there, so I'd like to say a really big thank you to everyone who supports the charity as I'm just one of many people you're helping.

”

Sarah and her younger sister Naomi

Patient comfort

Patient comfort is the area in which we ensure a patient's time in the Cancer Centre is as comfortable as it can be for both them and their family.



Little things make a big difference

We know that the Cancer Centre can be a scary place and that is why we endeavor to make it as comfortable and homely as we can by providing thoughtful but practical comforts throughout the hospital. In the last year we have provided thousands of cups of tea while patients wait on treatment, televisions for wards, games for young patients, activity packs for children and much, much more. This area of our work means a great deal to patients as it can help bring a little normality to a very abnormal situation.

Patient comfort highlights

£300,000

invested in patient comforts over the last year to make the hospital a more comfortable place for patients and their families

50,000

cups of tea and coffee provided for free as patients wait on appointments and treatment

Over **450** people availed of our financial grants which helped them pay bills, cover travel costs and much more

100s

of Christmas presents, birthday gifts and even wedding presents to help celebrate special days for patients while in hospital

Meet Laura

Laura Parkinson, a photographer from Lisburn, was just 35 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer. During her time at the Cancer Centre, Laura availed of the tea provided by the charity which helped pass the time when waiting for treatment at the Bridgewater Suite.



Laura enjoying a welcome cuppa on her first day of her chemotherapy

“

Coming to the Cancer Centre as a patient is scary, but thanks to Friends of the Cancer Centre and the work it does it's actually a really welcoming and comfortable environment.

The day of my first chemotherapy session I actually posted this photo on my Instagram raving about the fact you get tea and biccies on tap in the Bridgewater Suite. All these things mean so much, as you do a lot of waiting around when you are in for treatment and tests. I've also availed of the complementary therapy funded by Friends of the Cancer Centre at the Macmillan Support and Information Centre and even providing the little tubs of moisturisers after your treatment for use at home is fantastic.

I know the charity does so much important work, but for me these little touches made such a difference and I hope everyone who supports the charity knows just how much patients appreciate it.

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Research

Research is vital in the fight against cancer and Friends of the Cancer Centre is one of the leading local charities funding research in Northern Ireland.



Our £1 million commitment to beating cancer

Northern Ireland has become a world leader in cancer research and Friends of the Cancer Centre is playing a vital role in this.

Over the next 3 years, the charity will commit over £1 million to support the progress being made in cancer treatment locally. Our funding allows the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology at Queen's University and the Northern Ireland Clinical Trials Centre to recruit additional staff who each carry out vital research into new and improved ways to treat different types of cancer. This means that patients here in Northern Ireland can benefit from the latest trials which could improve the outcomes for many.

Research highlights

108

active clinical trials in Northern Ireland with many supported by the staff funded by the charity

9

posts funded by the charity in the Northern Ireland Cancer Trials Network

The charity's R&D radiographer **Karen Crowther** is involved in the latest treatment techniques and is currently involved in a trial investigating the use of high dose radiotherapy for patients with advanced cancer

Our consultant oncologist **Dr Suneil Jain** is heavily involved in prostate cancer research and his SPORT Trial is focusing on reducing radiotherapy sessions from up to 39 to just 5

Meet Jimmy

Jimmy Green, 69, from Cladybeg in Armagh was diagnosed with prostate cancer in August last year. Jimmy took part in the SPORT Trial, which is being led by Friends of the Cancer Centre's consultant, Dr Suneil Jain.



Jimmy (centre) pictured with Dr Jain (2nd left) at the finish line

“

When I found out I had prostate cancer I was really nervous and my immediate concerns were about treatment. I was referred to see Dr Suneil Jain and I was soon put at ease.

When I met with Suneil he initially gave me three options for treatment and one of them was a trial he was conducting called the SPORT trial. The trial meant that I had only 5 sessions of radiotherapy compared to a more standard approach which can consist of up to 39 sessions, which I thought was a great advantage.

At the start of my treatment, I told Suneil that when I came out the other side I'd do a 10K run to raise funds for Friends of the Cancer Centre. He told me that if I did it, he'd do it with me. I also suggested the idea to my own family and my sons Paul and Philip agreed to take part. So on 21st June this year, myself and my sons, Paul and Philip, joined Suneil and his wife, Anita to take on the Lisburn 10k. I did the run in a pretty respectable time and finished in one piece! It was great to give something back for the great care and support I received and I hope the money we raised will allow the charity to support many more people like me through its amazing work.

”

How we do it

Thanks to your support and friendship, it has been another fantastic year for the charity. Everything we do is made possible thanks to the people who donate and fundraise for us. Here are just some of the highlights:

£1.5 million

raised in the last year by our amazing supporters

221

events were held by our amazing supporters in communities across Northern Ireland

£323,455

was raised by our super supporters who hosted their own events for the charity

Over **800**

people took part in the charity's events over the year including abseilers, marathon runners and skydivers

393

collections cans were filled in the last year proving every penny can make a difference to our work

48

happy couples shared their big day with us with donations in lieu of wedding favours

280

people took to the water for our biggest event last year, our annual Dragon Boat Race

Over **100**

volunteers gave up their time to support our fundraising groups, street collections, craft fairs and much more

220

people gave regularly to the charity through committed giving and Payroll Giving

Our partners

We're very lucky to have support from a growing number of local business and organisations across Northern Ireland. This support is vital in raising the profile and funds for the charity.



BDO Northern Ireland

"Friends of the Cancer Centre is a charity that is very close to the hearts of many of our staff as it has been instrumental in helping some members of our team through very difficult times. As BDO is committed to be a responsible business, it is great to be able to support those who through kindness, care and support can make so much of a difference for so many people. The drive to collaborate with the charity comes directly from our staff and their desire to get behind the people who have supported them and their families in their times of need. We take great pride in our roots and our responsibility to make a real and significant difference in local lives."



Volunteering

BDO Northern Ireland employees volunteer in the charity's office, helping support our team.

Events

Taking part in the charity's events and holding their own.



Thank you to all of our corporate partners who helped raise £166,725 this year. Further details can be found on our website

The hospital's view

The Cancer Centre is the place it is today thanks to the wonderful people who support the charity and help us provide vital funding to enhance the care available to patients from across Northern Ireland.

Chair of Cancer and Specialist Medicine, Dr Paula Scullin, sees the difference your support is making every day. Here she explains just how important the charity is to staff and patients.



Dr Paula Scullin
Chair of Cancer and
Specialist Medicine

Every day, over 1,000 people attend the Cancer Centre for appointments, reviews and treatment. It's a huge number, but thanks to the support of Friends of the Cancer Centre we have been able to enhance the care and support we can offer all of these patients and their families. Every year the charity invests over £1 million into local cancer services and the difference this makes is immense. Without that support, we simply wouldn't have the additional staff we vitally need, the new equipment which is used to diagnose and treat patients, the important comforts which make a real difference to their time at the hospital, and we wouldn't be able to make the progress we are making in new and improved ways to treat many different types of cancer. The charity's work is extensive and everything it does has a direct impact on our patients and their families as well as our staff.

The charity's vital work is made possible thanks to the incredible support it receives from people across Northern Ireland. I'm always really inspired to see how patients and families support Friends of the Cancer Centre. For many, supporting the charity is their way of saying thank you for the care and support they

have received throughout their treatment and it's a very meaningful way for them to give something back. The fact that patients are being supported by fellow patients, their families and friends through the charity is really powerful.

We have come a long way in recent years and with the continued support from Friends of the Cancer Centre and the charity's amazing supporters I know we can continue to offer the very best treatment, care and surroundings for our patients.

I feel very privileged to work in the Cancer Centre and to work closely with the charity. On behalf of the hospital management, our staff and patients, thank you so much to each and every person who supports Friends of the Cancer Centre. Everything you do is making a real difference to our patients and we hope that you will continue to support the charity in the years to come.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paula". The script is cursive and elegant.

The Future

The charity has come a long way in recent years and with your continued help and support, 2017/ 2018 promises to be another incredible year for the charity.

Our commitment to supporting more patients than ever before is what drives us forward. In the coming years we will continue in our commitment to support and fund more specialist nurses in Northern Ireland as we have seen the incredible difference they make to patients. We will continue to fund new and better equipment so patients can avail of the best and latest care. We will also continue to ensure that a patient's time at the Cancer Centre is as comfortable as we can possibly make it. Our work to support the latest research into new cancer treatments will also move forward as we strive to help more people survive cancer.

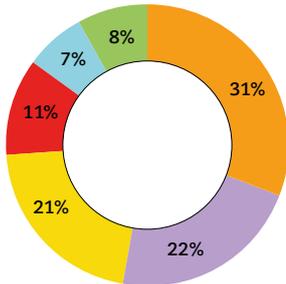
We have a long way to go, but with your support we know we can get there.

*We need you to help us do it.
Together we can make a difference.*

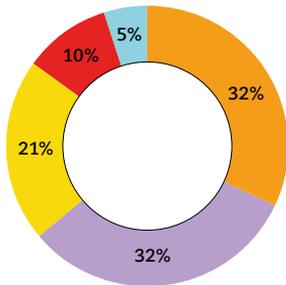
**Over the next
5 years the charity
needs to raise over
£1.5 million a year to
continue our work**

How It All Adds Up

Where our money comes from



How we spend it



What it means

- Thanks to your support, we raised £1.5 million
- We put £1.2 million back into the Cancer Centre through our three project areas
- The amount of money we spend on running costs and expenses is kept to an absolute minimum and 95p in every £1 donated is used to support patients and to invest in the future

Trustees

Geoff Hill

Chairman

Adrian Doran

Honorary Treasurer

Professor Joe O'Sullivan

Honorary Secretary

Dr Jackie Clarke

Jim Gamble

Avril Graham

Damian Heron

Dr Seamus McAleer

Dr Maria Moloney

Turlough Montague QC

Dr Paula Scullin

Dr Anne-Marie Telford

Brian Cave

Management Team

Colleen Shaw

Chief Executive

Cathy Rooney

Finance and Projects Manager

Claire Hogarth

Fundraising Manager

Nuala Bannon

Communications Manager

Ana Wilkinson

Corporate Fundraising Manager

Our Promise

All of this is made possible thanks to you.

We know that every penny you raise tells a story and represents something, or someone, very special. That is why we promise that every penny donated to Friends of the Cancer Centre will be put to the best possible use to support local cancer patients and their families.

**Thank you for being such an
incredible friend to the charity.**

Thank You



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Follow us on Instagram
[friends_of_the_cancer_centre](https://instagram/friends_of_the_cancer_centre)

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