



Updates for the Mark Benevolent Fund on hospice grants across England and Wales in memory of HRH Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh in 2021

Thank you for supporting our work to help people living with a terminal illness

I am delighted to share this update with the Trustees of the Mark Benevolent Fund and membership of the Mark Master Masons, following your generous gifts in August 2021 towards our chosen hospices.

This information has been collated to demonstrate the difference support such as yours makes to us and the patients and families we help.

Included is a brief reflection on our recent wider discussion about the sector and the work Marie Curie is currently undertaking to engage with communities across the UK.

An update from across our Marie Curie hospices

With thanks to the generosity of the donations from the Lodges across England and Wales, each of the following hospices has continued supporting people in a variety of ways over the last twelve months.

Bradford

In the financial year 21-22, we supported 373 patients through our services at the Marie Curie Hospice, Bradford. 319 of these people experienced our Outpatient and Day Therapy services.



Following restrictions due to the pandemic, we have been able to start reopening the Day Therapy Unit in our Bradford Hospice, and are running small in-person wellbeing sessions, with four people at a time, as well as one-to-one outpatient appointments with our doctors, and sessions for blood transfusions, physio, and art therapy.

Dr Sarah Holmes and a nurse consult with an outpatient at the Day Therapies Unit.

Cardiff and the Vale

In the financial year 21-22, we supported 732 patients through our services at the Marie Curie Hospice, Cardiff and the Vale. Our staff have seen 547 of these people in the community, through services such as Hospice at Home.

Melanie Kincaid's sister Rowena received support from our Cardiff Hospice at Home service:

"Everyone was great, very professional, on time and nothing was too much trouble. It offered Rowena the opportunity to go home for a little while, and sleep in her own bed and watch her own TV, which was what she wanted. If Hospice at Home had not been in place, there is no way in the world it could have happened."

Hampstead

In the financial year 21-22, we supported 525 patients through our services at the Marie Curie Hospice, Hampstead. 396 of these people received care through our Outpatient services.



We have welcomed volunteers back to our Hampstead hospice for complimentary therapies which are available to all of our patients. Outpatient appointments are available face to face at the hospice, although we are finding more people prefer to have virtual outpatient appointments, and we expect to continue both face-to-face and virtual appointments going forward in order to offer people the flexibility to be seen as best suits them.

Liverpool

In the financial year 21-22, we supported 598 patients through our services at the Marie Curie Hospice Liverpool. Our staff saw 368 of these people as outpatients.

The Wellbeing Unit at our Liverpool Hospice encompasses Outpatient and wellbeing services. We are currently running Outpatient clinics that are a mixture of phone or video consultations and face-to-face appointments with a Palliative Care Specialist Doctor. We also offer facilities for patients needing blood transfusions, infusions, phlebotomy services and paracentesis.

Our wellbeing service is seeing patients face to face for wellbeing days and group sessions. The days offer opportunity for them to spend time with other patients, receive support from staff and have access to Tai Chi, relaxation, and craft activities. We also currently offer Yoga as a virtual group session.

'I'm so glad that Millie was at the hospice when she died. The care and support the nurses give – there's nothing else like it. You're not going to get that personal touch anywhere else. I think she would have panicked if she was in hospital. We wanted her last few weeks to be nice and relaxing, and they were.'

Hope's sister, Millie died of Cancer in our Liverpool hospice, aged just 24. You can read more about Millie's story [here](#)

Newcastle

In the financial year 21-22, we cared for 508 patients through our services at the Marie Curie Hospice, Newcastle. 368 of these were seen through our outpatient services.

'I was very open about going into the hospice, I wasn't frightened at all. 34 years ago, my wife passed away in an excellent hospice, so I knew what to expect – but I was still pleasantly surprised. I recall feeling very relaxed and welcomed from the moment I got there. The first thing I said was that I felt safe.' **Alan Bage, patient, Newcastle**

Although the Day Therapy unit currently remains closed, we have been running off-site group activity including a Bereavement Arts Group at Newcastle Libraires, The Good Life project support by Scotswood Garden, and are in the process of setting up a Carers course, continuing joint working with North Tyneside Carers centre. We are running face to face Outpatient clinics for Physiotherapy, Complementary Therapies, Art Therapy, Hypnotherapy and Sleep/Fatigue Management, while Bereavement support continues to be held virtually.

West Midlands

In the financial year 21-22, we cared for 1,105 patients through our services in the Marie Curie Hospice, West Midlands. Of these, 695 people were cared for as outpatients.

Despite the challenges of social distancing, visitor numbers and coronavirus restrictions until recently, we have now reintroduced in-person Day Therapy, with reduced numbers, including our Motor Neurone Disease Support Group, exercise classes and Fatigue, Anxiety and Breathlessness (FAB) Clinics. We are continuing a hybrid style of support for those who are still vulnerable or less mobile, to access support at home. This means that we can bring together families, loved ones, carers and people living with a terminal illness, both in-person and remotely, depending on their preferences.

The hospice continues to run virtual appointments for various day therapy sessions and consultations, which meant that over 1,050 people have received virtual support so far this year so far. We have also recently set up a virtual young person's group with a view to restarting art therapy in person again soon.

The Mark Benevolent Fund – helping to provide a better end of life for all

Thank you for your incredibly generous support of our hospices. I sincerely hope that from this brief overview, you may be able to share how the kindness of your membership has benefitted so many people across the areas of the UK which they cover.

As we integrate our community, outpatient, inpatient, and volunteer services across each community that we serve, we are looking to embed new co-designed and truly person-centred services, and test single points of access with potential to co-ordinate with external providers/partners. This will provide patients, and their loved ones, with a much smoother, simpler, and more straightforward end of life journey, helping them navigate what is currently a complex system, and enabling them to get the right care, at the right time, in the place they need it – whether that be at home, in a hospice, or through other interventions.

As such, our services will no longer be divided under the umbrellas of 'Hospice', 'Marie Curie Nursing Service', and 'Volunteer Services', but will be a holistic range of Marie Curie Services, designed for specific communities and there for those who need our support through their end-of-life journey.

As we work towards our vision of a future where everyone gets the care and support, they need through dying, death, and bereavement, no matter their background or postcode, we ask the Trustees to consider further support for our work?

Current needs

As we appreciate that the Trustees prefer to fund capital projects, we would be most grateful of the opportunity to develop our relationship with you and offer information on upcoming funding opportunities? This is so that we may deliver the best Marie Curie care to anyone that needs us - whether it be virtually or in person - to the communities who need us, in the place they call home, at our hospice, or in other places in the community.

We would love to develop a partnership with the Mark Benevolent Fund beyond the generous donations that you have already provided.

As such, we would be pleased for the opportunity to maximise the impact of our partnership by continuing conversations around innovations across the sector, and Marie Curie's responsibility as the largest charitable funder of end-of-life care across the UK, in driving these much-needed changes.

On behalf of everyone at Marie Curie, thank you and please do let me know if you have any questions.



Joanne Harvey
Philanthropy Manager
07515 133 700
joanne.harvey@mariecurie.org.uk