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Who we are

The Royal Marsden was the first hospital in the world dedicated to cancer when it opened in 1851. Its founder, William Marsden, had a vision to create a pioneering cancer hospital dedicated to the treatment and care of people with cancer and research into the underlying causes of cancer. Today we continue to build on this legacy as a world leading cancer centre specialising in cancer diagnosis, treatment, research and education.

Our academic partnership with The Institute of Cancer Research, London (ICR), makes us the largest comprehensive cancer centre in Europe. Through this partnership, we undertake groundbreaking research into new cancer drug therapies and their treatments. We have two hospitals: one in Chelsea, London, and another in Sutton, Surrey. Also in Surrey, we have a Chemotherapy Medical Daycare Unit at Kingston Hospital.
What we do

Research
The complexity of cancer is a constant challenge. The Royal Marsden, alongside The Institute of Cancer Research, utilises an ambitious, patient-centred approach that recognises this complexity and develops smarter, kinder treatments for the benefit of cancer patients worldwide.

Diagnosis
Early diagnosis is crucial to improving survival for cancer patients, and is vital for the research of cancer. Together with RM Partners, we are committed to improving early diagnosis rates, reducing variation in outcomes and increasing capacity to ensure swift diagnosis of cancer for patients.

Treatment
Patients at The Royal Marsden receive personalised treatment relating to their diagnosis. With innovative equipment including the latest in robotic surgery, radiotherapy and genomics, we ensure every patient has access to the very best treatment through every stage of their cancer journey.

Care
It is vital that the emotional and psychological needs of patients are met throughout their cancer treatment, which is why staff at The Royal Marsden treat the whole person, not just their illness with a compassionate, caring approach for them and their friends and family.
The world’s first hospital dedicated to cancer diagnosis, treatment, research and education

In 2018/19, The Royal Marsden saw 59,194 patients – more than in any previous year

The Royal Marsden with the Institute of Cancer Research, is ranked third in the world for the impact of its research

UK institution to install a state-of-the-art radiotherapy machine, the MR Linac

In the Staff Survey 2018, The Royal Marsden topped the national scores and achieved the best result in London for staff engagement and support from managers

The Royal Marsden was ranked in the top three hospitals in England for patient experience in the 2019 Adult Inpatient Survey

Voted as the ‘Best UK employer of the Year’ at the Nursing Times Awards 2018

patients taking part in 600 clinical trials, more than any other specialist hospital
Chairman and Chief Executive joint statement

The Royal Marsden opened its doors in 1851 as the world’s first hospital dedicated to cancer diagnosis, treatment, research and education. While this remains our core purpose, the nature and extent of our work has evolved in all of these areas as set out in our Annual Report 2018/19 and as our Chairman and Chief Executive summarise in their following statement.

Charles Alexander
Chairman

Cally Palmer CBE
Chief Executive

Over the past year, The Royal Marsden has maintained its strong track record of performance on all quality, financial and service standards to ensure patients receive the very best quality of care and leading-edge treatment. The Royal Marsden was delighted to receive an overall Trust rating of ‘outstanding’ from the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in September 2018 and a rating of ‘outstanding’ in the new ‘well led’ inspection. Inspectors commented on the exceptional quality of care provided to patients and their families, the collegiate culture at The Royal Marsden, and the contribution to patients here in England and worldwide, through research into better ways of diagnosing and treating cancer.

Partnerships are vital in achieving a consistent and sustained level of excellence in patient treatment and care across the country. Over the course of this year, the Trust has been working with other trusts in north, east and west London on a new genomics partnership, collaborating with Great Ormond Street NHS Foundation Trust as the lead for one of NHS England’s seven new laboratory hubs for genetic testing.

Working with partners is also vital in the drive to provide cancer patients with an earlier and faster diagnosis to improve survival and quality of care. This year, RM Partners, the Cancer Alliance for west London, hosted by The Royal Marsden, has piloted two schemes to improve diagnosis for prostate and lung cancer, where earlier detection and precision diagnostics can make a significant difference to patient outcomes. The RAPID (Rapid Access to Prostate Imaging and Diagnosis) pathway pilots a new ‘one stop’ clinic to ensure that diagnosis in men with prostate cancer is faster, easier and more efficient. A low dose CT case finding project is also being introduced in west London, to identify lung cancer earlier in patients at high risk, through access to a lung health check and a CT scan in convenient and accessible locations to encourage more people to come forward. The importance of early diagnosis is set out in the NHS Long Term Plan, published in January 2019, which outlines a significant and sustained investment in cancer services, and a renewed emphasis on further improving survival through the earlier detection of cancer, precision diagnosis and treatment, and better support to patients so that care is personalised to the needs of each individual.

The Trust achieved a surplus for the year of £64.6 million, a significant increase on the previous year. A large proportion of this surplus has been the receipt of additional Provider Sustainability Funds (PSF), of £40.5 million, for overseeing the Control Total set by NHS Improvement at the beginning of the year. This was achieved by improved financial performance, both on increased revenue and controlling costs, compared with the original plan approved by the Board. All of the surplus has been earmarked towards improving infrastructure in the Trust over the coming years on estate, equipment and IT, ensuring the Trust can deliver upon its strategic objectives.

Complementing this approach are the plans for a new treatment and research centre at The Royal Marsden in Sutton, the Oak Cancer Centre. A state-of-the-art building, due to open in 2022, it will further improve the effectiveness and efficiency of patient care and increase the Trust’s diagnosis and treatment capacity. The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity aims to raise £70 million to build the new centre and has so far raised over £50 million, including the Charity’s largest single donation to date of £25 million from Oak Foundation, which has generously supported The Royal Marsden in drug development and facilities for children and young people over the last decade. The Trust’s deep appreciation and thanks are due to Mike Slade OBE, Appeal Board Chairman, and to all Appeal Board Members, for enabling the Trust to provide the very best environments for patients and staff, and to care for everyone who needs its specialist expertise.
Our performance

The healthcare environment remains challenging, with a number of external factors providing both risk and opportunity for The Royal Marsden. The Trust recognises that to deliver on the core strategy and maintain a balanced financial position, it must have a strong commitment on clinical and operational transformation and be at the forefront of innovation and development, which includes optimising opportunities across all of its services.

Right: A nurse with a patient.
*For the full performance table, please refer to page 133 in The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust’s Annual Report and Accounts 2018/19.

The Trust is measured against national key performance indicators. Below are just some of our achievements this year.

### Targets achieved in 2018/19

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Achieved (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subsequent drug treatment started within 31 days of decision to go ahead with treatment</td>
<td>98.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsequent radiotherapy treatment started within 31 days of decision to go ahead with radiotherapy treatment</td>
<td>95.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment started within 31 days of decision to go ahead with treatment</td>
<td>96.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsequent surgical treatment started within 31 days of decision to go ahead with surgery</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our financial performance

The Royal Marsden has been an NHS Foundation Trust for 15 years and, in a tough financial environment, over the past year has achieved a record financial performance, predominantly due to accessing incentive Provider Sustainability Funding (PSF) of £37.8 million, as well as the PSF in the original plan of £2.6 million; a total of £40.5 million. The financial accounts for the year 2018/19 therefore show the Trust generated a surplus of £64.6 million. The PSF funds have been ring-fenced for the capital programme into future years and are being used for the IT strategy, including the electronic patient record (EPR) replacement, a project estimated to cost more than £40 million in capital.

Efficiency

In the continued challenging economic environment, the Trust has delivered the total efficiency programme for 2018/19. This programme of efficiency has delivered improvements in order to meet NHS tariff reductions, to support the local health economy and to deliver the Trust’s surplus for the year.

Financing and investment

Despite the financial challenges, the Trust has continued to invest in estate and infrastructure, spending £17.8 million on buildings, equipment and IT. There was £5.2 million funded through charitable donations and £1.7 million from Public Dividend Capital for a new linear accelerator. The remainder of the capital programme was funded through operating surpluses, retained depreciation and free cash.

Income and expenditure

In 2018/19, the overall income was £468.6 million (£428.3 million in 2017/18). This demonstrated strong growth in operating income from both Commissioner Requested Services, as well as in Private Care. In addition, there was a large increase in Provider Sustainability Fund (PSF) income of £21.7 million, as well as growth in income from commercial trials and research income from the NIHR. The Trust exceeded its control total in 2018/19, hence the additional incentive PSF.
The Trust receives the majority of its patient care income from NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups. Patient referrals are centred on the Trust’s sites in Chelsea, Sutton and Kingston, but extend from this local base to cover all of England and beyond, particularly for referrals for rare cancers. NHS patient income is supplemented by income from Private Care to provide infrastructure and support for research and development activity. The margin delivered on our private patient income remains a vital source of support for NHS services to patients.

The Trust’s overall operating expenditure was £401.1 million (£389.4 million in 2017/18), an increase of £11.7 million. The net increase is due to staff and drugs costs increasing for inflation, and additional activity.

### Cash position

The Trust continues to maintain a strong balance sheet and cash position. At 31 March 2019 the Trust held cash deposits of £78.2 million, an increase of £30.9 million from the previous year. The Trust generated £48.8 million from operational activities. The Trust invested £17.8 million in capital expenditure and made a Public Dividend Capital dividend to the Department of Health of £3.3 million, which represented an actual dividend rate of 3.5 per cent.

### Statement of comprehensive income for the year ended 31 March 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>2018/19</th>
<th>2017/18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Income from activities</td>
<td>339,369</td>
<td>312,855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other operating income</td>
<td>129,194</td>
<td>119,449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating expenses</td>
<td>(401,139)</td>
<td>(389,358)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating surplus/(deficit)</td>
<td>67,424</td>
<td>38,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance costs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance income</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance expense</td>
<td>(191)</td>
<td>(216)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Dividend Capital dividends payable</td>
<td>(1,286)</td>
<td>(3,644)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net finance costs</td>
<td>(1,130)</td>
<td>(3,785)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit/(Loss) on disposal of plant, property and equipment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Share of profit in joint venture</td>
<td>280</td>
<td>331</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</td>
<td>64,574</td>
<td>35,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comprehensive (losses)/income</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation (losses) on land and buildings</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in the donated asset reserve due to receipt of donated assets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduction in the donated asset reserves in respect of depreciation, impairment and/or disposal of donated assets</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total comprehensive income/(expense) for the year</td>
<td>64,574</td>
<td>35,539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year pre-impairment and adjustments relating to capital charitable donations</td>
<td>65,618</td>
<td>34,014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated capital income</td>
<td>(5,187)</td>
<td>(8,367)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation on donated assets</td>
<td>5,027</td>
<td>4,630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impairment</td>
<td>1,204</td>
<td>2,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Profit/(Loss) on disposal</td>
<td>-95</td>
<td>-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surplus for the year pre loss on disposal and adjustments relating to capital charitable donations</td>
<td>65,618</td>
<td>34,014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Trust continues to maintain a strong balance sheet and cash position. At 31 March 2019 the Trust held cash deposits of £78.2 million, an increase of £30.9 million from the previous year. The Trust generated £48.8 million from operational activities. The Trust invested £17.8 million in capital expenditure and made a Public Dividend Capital dividend to the Department of Health of £3.3 million, which represented an actual dividend rate of 3.5 per cent.
### Statement of financial position as at 31 March 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>31 March 2019</th>
<th>31 March 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intangible assets</td>
<td>3,813</td>
<td>2,669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tangible assets</td>
<td>179,964</td>
<td>179,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment in Joint Venture</td>
<td>2,709</td>
<td>2,428</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current assets</strong></td>
<td>186,486</td>
<td>184,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inventories</td>
<td>5,966</td>
<td>5,176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other receivables</td>
<td>122,494</td>
<td>92,401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assets held for sale</td>
<td>(29)</td>
<td>(29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>78,164</td>
<td>76,603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td>206,624</td>
<td>144,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade Payables and Accruals</td>
<td>(52,568)</td>
<td>(59,235)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provisions</td>
<td>(493)</td>
<td>(41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrowings</td>
<td>(2,497)</td>
<td>(2,477)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred income and other liabilities</td>
<td>(28,945)</td>
<td>(28,217)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tax payable</strong></td>
<td>(5,164)</td>
<td>(4,739)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>(89,667)</td>
<td>(94,705)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrowings</td>
<td>(13,478)</td>
<td>(11,655)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current liabilities</strong></td>
<td>(13,478)</td>
<td>(11,655)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets employed</strong></td>
<td>289,965</td>
<td>223,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Financed by taxpayers' equity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Dividend Capital</td>
<td>107,113</td>
<td>104,981</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revaluation reserve</td>
<td>8,024</td>
<td>8,024</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income and expenditure reserve</td>
<td>174,808</td>
<td>110,234</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total taxpayers' equity</strong></td>
<td>289,965</td>
<td>223,239</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Cally Palmer CBE**

Chief Executive

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### Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2018/19</th>
<th>2017/18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows from operating activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total operating surplus</td>
<td>67,424</td>
<td>38,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-cash income and expenses</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Depreciation and amortisation</td>
<td>15,144</td>
<td>15,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impairment</td>
<td>1,204</td>
<td>2,259</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase/(Decrease) in inventories</strong></td>
<td>(790)</td>
<td>(920)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase/(Decrease) in receivables</strong></td>
<td>(29,949)</td>
<td>(16,311)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase/(Decrease) in trade and other payables</strong></td>
<td>(5,376)</td>
<td>14,938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase/(Decrease) in deferred income</strong></td>
<td>(43)</td>
<td>(9,903)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase/(Decrease) in other liabilities</strong></td>
<td>1,031</td>
<td>1,031</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase/(Decrease) in provisions</strong></td>
<td>452</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</strong></td>
<td>48,836</td>
<td>45,181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flows used in investing activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>348</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purchase of intangible assets</strong></td>
<td>(1,057)</td>
<td>(1,732)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Purchase of property, plant and equipment</strong></td>
<td>(16,706)</td>
<td>(14,952)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment</strong></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from investing activities</strong></td>
<td>(18,286)</td>
<td>(16,503)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash flow from financing activities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Dividend Capital received</strong></td>
<td>2,152</td>
<td>3,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Loan received</strong></td>
<td>4,300</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interest paid</strong></td>
<td>(192)</td>
<td>(219)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Loan repaid</strong></td>
<td>(2,477)</td>
<td>(2,477)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Dividend Capital dividends paid</strong></td>
<td>(1,439)</td>
<td>(1,851)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities</strong></td>
<td>352</td>
<td>(2,512)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase/(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</strong></td>
<td>30,902</td>
<td>28,166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents at 1 April</strong></td>
<td>47,262</td>
<td>21,096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash and cash equivalents at 31 March</strong></td>
<td>78,164</td>
<td>47,262</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Statement on quality from the Chief Executive

The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust is the largest cancer centre in Europe and, in association with the Institute of Cancer Research, London (ICR), is responsible for the largest cancer research programme in the UK. The quality of care patients and their families receive, and their experiences, are central to all that we do. Our commitment to meeting the challenges of continuing to provide quality care and experience within a cost-effective framework underpins the following four corporate objectives for 2018/19:

1. Improve patient safety and clinical effectiveness
2. Improve patient experience
3. Deliver excellence in teaching and research
4. Ensure financial and environmental sustainability

Our commitment to improving quality is demonstrated by the achievements listed in The Royal Marsden Quality Report 2018/19.

Cally Palmer CBE
Chief Executive

Governance and membership

Our Council of Governors

Once an individual becomes a member of The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, they have the option to vote for, or stand to become, a Governor of the Trust to represent members views on the Council of Governors. Stakeholders such as Clinical Commissioning Groups and local authorities are also represented on the Council of Governors.

The Council of Governors has a number of statutory and regulatory responsibilities which are reflected in the Trust’s Constitution. These include, but are not limited to, the appointment or removal of Non-Executive Directors, the appointment or removal of the Trust’s external auditor and receiving the Trust’s Annual Report and Accounts as well as the auditor’s report on this publication. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 introduced the following two legal duties: to hold Non-Executive Directors to account for their performance of the Board; and to represent the interests of the members of the Trust and public in their role. Governors are able to canvass the opinion of the members through the Council of Governors meetings and working groups. Members are free to raise any concerns or submit any questions to their Governor and are reminded of this throughout the year in Trust communications.

Governors are invited to have one-to-one feedback sessions with the Trust Secretary to discuss their individual development needs. A collective evaluation of the performance of the Council of Governors was carried out in June 2019.

Composition of the Council of Governors

The Trust has various constituencies for its members, i.e. patients, public and staff. Members vote for their Governors and therefore Governors represent those members under their constituency.

As of 31 March 2019, the Trust had 8,419 members, comprising:

- Public: 3,303
- Patient and carer: 1,944
- Staff: 3,172

For the full Quality Report and priorities, please visit www.royalmarsden.nhs.uk/quality
The Board

The Trust is led by the Board of Directors which has overall responsibility for the running and management of the Trust. This responsibility includes setting the overall strategy for the organisation and monitoring performance whilst ensuring resources are efficiently and economically utilised to meet the needs of our patients and public.

Our Board of Directors

Mr Charles Alexander
Chairman
R/QAR

Mr Marcus Thorman
Chief Financial Officer
A/QAR

Professor Martin Elliott*
QAR

Miss Cally Palmer CBE
Chief Executive
QAR/ICR

Mr Ian Farmer*
A/R

Mr William Jackson*

Mr Karl Munslow Ong
Chief Operating Officer
QAR

Professor Paul Workman FRS*
QAR/ICR

Mr Christopher Clark*
A

Mr Karl Munslow Ong
Chief Operating Officer
QAR

Dr Nicholas van As
Medical Director
QAR

Mr Mark Andy*
Senior Independent Director
A/R

Mr Eamonn Sullivan
Chief Nurse
A/QAR

Ms Heather Lawrence OBE*
A/QAR

(R) Member of Remuneration and Terms of Service Committee
(A) Member of Audit and Finance Committee
(QAR) Member of Quality, Assurance and Risk Committee
(CR) Member of the Board of Trustees of The Institute of Cancer Research, London. *The Non-Executive Directors which the Board considers to be independent.

For full details of the work of the Board, please refer to pages 28-33 of The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust’s Annual Reports and Accounts 2018/19.

The Leadership Team

1. Karl Munslow Ong
Chief Operating Officer

2. Eamonn Sullivan
Chief Nurse

3. Cally Palmer CBE
Chief Executive

4. Marcus Thorman
Chief Financial Officer

5. Dr Nicholas van As
Medical Director

6. Rachael Davis
Director of Marketing and Communications

7. Nicky Browne
Director of Transformation

8. Antonia Delmouhop
Managing Director of The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity

9. Lisa Emery
Chief Information Officer

10. Sanj Vyas
Director of Projects and Estates

11. Dr Susan Lalondrelle
Lead for Clinical Oncology

12. Nicola Hunt
Managing Director of RM Partners

13. Jon Spencer
Director of Clinical Services

14. Nina Singh
Director of Workforce

15. Steven Francis
Director of Performance and Information

16. Professor David Nicol
Chief of Surgery

17. Shams Mahalwala
Managing Director of Private Care

Not pictured

Professor David Cunningham
Director of Clinical Research

Elisa Saito
Divisional Director, Cancer Services

Mr Thomas Hudak
Divisional Medical Director, Private Care

Dr Gary Wares
Director of Medical Education and Consultant in Critical Care and Anaesthesia
Our highlights

As one of the leading cancer centres in the world, with a track record of developing new and better ways of diagnosing and treating cancer, The Royal Marsden contributes to improved outcomes for patients globally. Our primary aim is to deliver the best cancer treatment through world-leading research, operating a ‘bench to bedside’ strategy with our academic partner, The Institute of Cancer Research, London (ICR).
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
Research and innovation
Leading-edge research changing standards of care
Royal Marsden clinicians presented the latest advances in cancer research and care at the American Society of Clinical Oncology’s (ASCO) Annual Meeting in June 2018. A keynote lecture from Professor Johann de Bono, Regius Professor of Cancer Research and Consultant Medical Oncologist, revealed findings from the first clinical trial to show the benefits of immunotherapy in prostate cancer for some men with advanced, otherwise untreatable disease. Led by The Royal Marsden and the ICR, the international trial could lead to a subset of prostate cancers joining the list of diseases that can be treated with immunotherapy.

Artificial intelligence
At The Royal Marsden, clinicians are exploring the latest advances in artificial intelligence (AI) technology to help diagnose cancer earlier and improve the quality of life for patients living with cancer.

As part of a groundbreaking project, Dr Christina Messiou, Consultant Radiologist, is working with colleagues from Imperial College London to develop machine learning that will assist radiologists in reporting whole-body MRI scans in patients with myeloma.

The new study with Imperial, MALIMAR (Machine Learning in Myeloma Response), funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), will train a computer algorithm to recognise the difference between a healthy scan and a patient with myeloma. Researchers will then examine the time it takes to process and report whole-body MRI scans normally, compared with a radiologist using machine-learning technology.

"Radiology has always been a technology-driven specialism and AI is another really powerful tool to help us do our jobs better.

Dr Christina Messiou
Consultant Radiologist"
Leading breast cancer clinician recognised with international honour

Consultant Medical Oncologist Professor Ian Smith won the 2018 William L. McGuire Memorial Lecture Award for his lifelong work in breast cancer oncology. The award is widely regarded as the highest international honour in this field.

In December 2018, Professor Smith gave the lecture at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium, the main international breast cancer conference of the year, which attracts more than 7,000 attendees. The conference organisers said that Professor Smith had changed the direction of breast cancer treatment in the UK and internationally, with colleagues describing his contributions as ‘formidable’.

World-leading oncologist awarded an OBE

Professor David Cunningham, Consultant Medical Oncologist and Head of the Gastrointestinal Unit, was awarded an OBE in the 2019 New Year Honours for services to cancer treatment and research. One of the country’s pre-eminent oncologists, Professor Cunningham’s pioneering work has significantly changed our understanding of cancer and its treatment, and improved outcomes for patients across the globe. Meanwhile, in education and training, he has shaped the country’s medical oncology training programme and inspired the next generation of clinicians.

Outstanding CQC result

In the spring, The Royal Marsden welcomed a team of inspectors from the CQC, the independent regulator of health and social care services in England. As part of their visit to the Trust, the team evaluated Outpatients in Sutton and The Royal Marsden Community Services. They also assessed whether the Trust is ‘well led’ – a process that was introduced after the CQC recognised a strong link between the quality of the overall management of an NHS trust and that of its services. The Trust was delighted to announce that following these inspections, which built on a previous inspection in April 2016, the CQC rated The Royal Marsden as ‘outstanding’ overall, ‘outstanding’ for being well led, and both Chelsea and Sutton hospitals as ‘outstanding’.

First patient in the UK treated on the MR Linac

In September 2018, The Royal Marsden and the ICR, London, delivered the first ever treatment in the UK and the third in the world using a Magnetic Resonance Linac Accelerator (MR Linac) machine. The MR Linac is the first technology in the world to simultaneously generate magnetic resonance images and deliver X-ray radiation beams — allowing radiotherapy to be adjusted in real time and delivered more accurately and effectively than ever before. The ability to target tumours with radiation beams in real time will be particularly effective for cancers that change position through breathing, bladder filling or bowel changes, and should reduce the side-effects for the patient.

Right: Radiographers using the MR Linac.

A moving target presents a real challenge in radiotherapy. The MR Linac has been designed to overcome this challenge and really could be a game-changer in radiotherapy.

Professor Robert Huddart
Consultant Clinical Oncologist

Treatment and care

Outstanding CQC result

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Right: Radiographers using the MR Linac.
Patient survey scores
The Royal Marsden has been ranked as one of the best places in England to receive care, according to recent results published by the CQC. In their annual Adult Inpatient Survey, which looks at the experiences of adult patients in all NHS trusts, The Royal Marsden was ranked second in England for patient experience, rated 9.1 out of ten. The Trust received consistently high scores from almost 600 inpatients who completed the survey in September 2017.

First robotic pelvic exenteration
Surgeons at The Royal Marsden carried out what was believed to be the UK’s first robotic total pelvic exenteration in autumn 2018. A patient with advanced rectal cancer underwent the radical procedure, which involves the removal of all of the organs from the pelvic area, and is now cancer free and doing well.

London North Genomics Laboratory Hub
The Royal Marsden was chosen as the lead for one of NHS England’s seven new laboratory hubs for genomic cancer testing. The Trust is collaborating with Great Ormond Street NHS Foundation Trust (GOSH) in the North, East and West London partnership (NEW London), with The Royal Marsden leading on cancer and GOSH on rare diseases. Genomic testing has revolutionised the study of cancer genomes. It promises better diagnoses for patients, and more effective treatments with fewer side-effects. Using the Illumina NovaSeq 6000 next generation sequencing machine means it is possible to simultaneously search for cancer-causing variants in 200 genes from more than 200 patients in less than a week.

Next-generation sequencing has revolutionised the study of cancer genomes and dramatically increased our understanding of how cancers evolve, develop, and what might be tomorrow’s drug targets.

Dr Mike Hubank
Joint Head of Clinical Genomics (Research)
Modernising infrastructure

Oak Cancer Centre

Due to open in 2022, the Oak Cancer Centre will provide state-of-the-art patient facilities and dedicated spaces for researchers, embedding the care and treatment of our patients with our research.

Currently, most of our research teams are spread out across our Sutton hospital. The Oak Cancer Centre will bring them together under one roof, enabling greater collaboration and accelerating the translation of treatments from one cancer type to another. Bringing our researchers alongside our patients and health professionals will give us greater patient insight, completing the loop of ‘bench to bedside’.

The centre, which is being made possible by The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, who are raising £70 million, will include:

Outpatients Department

By consolidating the Outpatients Department on a single level, patients will be able to undergo blood tests, see their consultant and collect a prescription without having to visit different floors. For patients who are elderly, frail or feeling unwell this will make their visit easier and shorter.

Medical Day Unit (MDU)

By locating day cases in the MDU on the second floor, away from the busier outpatients department, patients will enjoy peace and quiet while receiving chemotherapy.

Centre for Urgent Care

By improving and expanding the Centre for Urgent Care, patients becoming acutely unwell will have a state-of-the-art facility where they can be assessed and treated without needing to be sent to a local A&E department, greatly improving patient experience.

Rapid Diagnostic Centre (RDC)

The new RDC will utilise the very latest technology and will be able to diagnose more cancers at an earlier stage when treatment is more likely to be successful. A brand new endoscopy suite on the same floor will also improve early diagnosis.

Research

The first floor will bring together more than 400 researchers currently dispersed across the site, in spaces designed to encourage communication across different tumour specialties so they can share their latest findings and innovations with other research colleagues, helping to speed up the development of new treatments.

Left: The Oak Cancer Centre (artist’s impression).

A key feature for any ambulatory cancer centre serving the local population, who are affected by cancer, is to have all the relevant facilities easily accessible on one floor.

Professor Stephen Johnston

Lead Clinical Advisor for the Oak Cancer Centre

A key feature for any ambulatory cancer centre serving the local population, who are affected by cancer, is to have all the relevant facilities easily accessible on one floor.
Sutton site modernisation
The Royal Marsden in Sutton has shared a site with the ICR since the early 1960s. Over the past four years, The Royal Marsden has been a supporting partner in the London Cancer Hub, an exciting project that will further enhance the world-leading facilities on the Sutton site for cancer research. The London Cancer Hub aims to create a vibrant community of scientists, doctors and innovative companies, supported by state-of-the-art research and community amenities including a secondary school. The hub will attract innovative life science companies to work alongside the ICR and The Royal Marsden’s world-leading scientists and clinicians, and is aiming to create 13,000 jobs and is projected to ultimately contribute £1.2 billion to the UK economy each year.

Also on the Sutton site, due to open in autumn 2019, the new Maggie’s Centre will allow The Royal Marsden to extend its support services to reach more patients in London, which sees more than 28,000 cancer diagnoses a year. The new centre, designed by Ab Rogers Design and built by building company Sir Robert McAlpine, marks another step forward in the redevelopment of The Royal Marsden’s Sutton hospital.

New private care facility in Cavendish Square
The Royal Marsden’s private care service is due to open a dedicated outpatient, diagnostic and treatment centre located on Cavendish Square in summer 2020. In the heart of London’s independent healthcare district, the facility will have the clinical expertise and technology to provide a leading private care service and offer CQC outstanding standards of care.

The new centre will provide increased capacity for private patients across a number of tumour types, and will include consultation rooms, chemotherapy chairs, a minor procedures suite and imaging facilities.

Maggie’s at The Royal Marsden will provide free cancer support and information for people with cancer, further enhancing world-leading treatment and care.

Sara Lister
Head of Pastoral Care and Psychological Support
Improving patient treatment with new radiotherapy machine

The Royal Marsden’s third Varian TrueBeam radiotherapy linear accelerator has been installed in Chelsea, ensuring even more patients can be treated using the latest technology. The TrueBeam delivers all forms of advanced external-beam radiotherapy: image-guided radiotherapy (IGRT); intensity modulated radiotherapy (IMRT); stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT); and volumetric modulated arc therapy (VMAT).

Adding another unit means that the Trust can now treat up to 40 patients with various tumour types – including breast, lung, head and neck, prostate, gastrointestinal, and gynaecological cancers – every day. This doubling of capacity is thanks to an investment by NHS England to upgrade radiotherapy equipment across the country, and a £1.5 million donation from The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity towards the installation and infrastructure of the machine.

Greater accuracy means that fewer healthy cells are damaged, which, in turn, means higher doses can be given, making treatment more effective and reducing side-effects.

Sarah Helyer
Radiotherapy Services Manager

Left: The Varian TrueBeam radiotherapy linear accelerator.

Every year, 5,000 patients are treated in the Royal Marsden radiotherapy department.
Financial sustainability and best value

Introduction of biosimilars leads to cost savings for the NHS

The Royal Marsden, working with RM Partners, has introduced a national cancer medicines optimisation programme, which is leading the introduction of biosimilars (copies of biological drugs) in the NHS. Biosimilars achieve the same result for patients but are up to 60 per cent cheaper compared with the originals.

Within months of the introduction of the biosimilar rituximab, an important drug for blood cancers including lymphoma, 80 per cent of eligible patients across England had been switched to the biosimilar. If used nationwide, this biosimilar alone could save the NHS up to £100 million a year. The success of this project demonstrated the scale and impact of RM Partners to great effect.

80%

Within months of the introduction of rituximab, 80 per cent of eligible patients across England had been switched to the biosimilar.

The Royal Marsden Private Care

The Royal Marsden’s private care service won four prizes at the 2018 LaingBuisson Awards, including the award for best private hospital for the second year running. Now in their 13th year, these prestigious awards recognise excellence in private healthcare and social care. The finalists were chosen by independent judges from more than 350 nominations, and The Royal Marsden was the only organisation to win four awards.

These awards are a testament to The Royal Marsden’s unique private care and NHS integrated model, which ensures it can offer all patients the highest standard of environment and facilities and continue to be worldwide leaders in the field of cancer care.

Biosimilars offer a rare opportunity to help manage rising costs in the NHS, while maintaining the same clinical impact for our patients. This means we can treat more patients, and the money saved can be reinvested into the NHS.

Jatinder Harchowal
Chief Pharmacist
Five-Year Strategic Plan

In summer 2018, we launched our new Five-Year Strategic Plan which detailed our core themes and objectives for the period between 2018/19 and 2023/24. A year into our plan, the key highlights from our core themes and cross-cutting themes are outlined below.

Core themes

Research and innovation

In late 2018 we treated the first patient in the UK, and third in the world, on the MR Linac as part of a clinical trial. As a specialist provider, The Royal Marsden has a responsibility to innovate and ensure that it can act as a test bed of best practice for the NHS. The Trust has a long history of trialling new technology and research, and the MR Linac is a great example of how we are continuing to do this for the benefit of patients all over the world.

We were also commissioned to provide Cellular Therapies and started our first CAR-T therapy trial earlier this year, an incredibly promising new type of immunotherapy, and are working with our partners at Imperial College to drive forward research using artificial intelligence in full-body MRI scanning for myeloma.

Treatment and care

This theme focuses on the importance of partnership working to improve treatment and care for all cancer patients, as well as developing new systems of care so patients can be treated closer to home. Over the past year we entered into a partnership with Great Ormond Street Hospital for the North London Genomics Hub, one of seven such hubs in the country to centralise genomic testing.

We are also building on our successful work through RM Partners to continually improve the pathways and best practice across west London. RM Partners was the only cancer alliance across England to achieve the 62 day target consistently during 2018/19 and, amongst other achievements, launched the Lung Health Check project pilot, providing low dose lung CT for patients at risk.

Modernising infrastructure

Over the past year we have been continuing with the exciting plans to significantly develop large parts of the Sutton site including the Maggie’s Centre (due to open this autumn), the Oak Cancer Centre (currently in planning stages), working with Epsom and St Helier on their redevelopment plans, and collaboration with the ICR and Sutton Council on the ongoing plans for the London Cancer Hub. Plans are also underway to install a second CyberKnife radiotherapy machine, at Sutton. We are also heavily investing in a major IT modernisation programme, including a new Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system.

Financial sustainability and best value

We have continued to maintain a balanced financial position, exceeding our targeted surplus to enable the continued investment in our workforce and infrastructure. We have put specific focus on increasing productivity, meeting the agency cap and ensuring each department controls their expenditure. A key theme for 2019/20 is on the transformation of our clinical and support services to deliver improved experience for patients through more efficient use of our resources as well as preparing for the implementation of our new EPR.
Cross-cutting themes

Workforce

In the most recent NHS Staff Survey, we achieved the highest scores for staff engagement and support from managers across all acute specialist trusts. We also won Best UK Employer of the Year at the 2018 Nursing Times Workforce Awards. We are continuing to focus on four key areas:

- Workforce supply
- Workforce planning for Cavendish Square and the Oak Cancer Centre
- Workforce transformation
- Education and training.

Quality

We performed strongly against quality measures over the last year, and were proud to be ranked as one of the best places in England to receive care. In the CQC’s annual Adult Inpatient Survey, we were also rated second in England for patient experience. Last year we were rated by the CQC as ‘Outstanding’ and received accreditation from JACIE, ISAS (radiography), MHRA, and the British ISO standards for radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity

The Charity had its best ever year, raising £36.1 million from donations and legacies. Over the past year, donations supported The Royal Marsden in becoming the first hospital in the UK to use the MR Linac, and also continued to support the Trust’s exceptional work in research, through the funding of the world-leading Oak Paediatric and Adolescent Drug Development Unit, and a £15 million, five-year grant for translational research. The Charity has also raised £52 million towards the £70 million target for the Oak Cancer Centre appeal.

Private Care

The Royal Marsden Private Care was awarded Best Private Hospital at the LaingBuisson Awards, along with three other awards for its work in the sector. Our unique integrated model, underpinned by outstanding research, allows us to invest income and continue to provide the very best services, treatment and care for all our patients. Over the past year, The Royal Marsden Private Care has grown by 17 per cent, despite the continuing difficult economic climate. Our new diagnostic and treatment centre in Cavendish Square is on track to open in autumn 2020.
Education and training

Building Educational Excellence (2016–2019) is The Royal Marsden’s multi-professional education strategy. The Trust’s vision is that through excellence in education The Royal Marsden will continue to achieve the very highest levels of patient care, service delivery and research across cancer care and be recognised as a leader in multi-professional oncology education and training. This will enable the Trust to maintain its reputation as a best-in-class employer.

There are five key objectives in the strategy linked to the Trust’s strategic priorities:

– Ensure staff have the skills for safe, effective and compassionate care
– Pioneer the delivery of the new multi-professional workforce aligned to new models of cancer care, community care and precision medicine
– Enable robust values-based leadership and management at all levels
– Grow the Trust’s national market share and develop its international role as a leading supplier of multi-professional education
– Continuously develop the research awareness and capability of the workforce.

The 2019 annual Excellence in Education conference celebrated achievements against these objectives, including the CQC commendation that the Trust’s approach to supporting education and training demonstrated ‘outstanding practice’.

Wide-ranging leadership programmes are on offer including the Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) Leadership Programme, in partnership with Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Foundation Trust and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. In the General Medical Council (GMC) Trainee Survey 2018, the Trust ranked first in London on eight indicators, including induction, educational governance, educational supervision, regional teaching and study leave.

As part of our commitment to education, 979 staff were given financial support and study leave to undertake a range of education pathways and training courses, including 346 staff supported to undertake degree pathways and PhDs.

The Royal Marsden School remains the UK’s leading specialist cancer school, with the largest portfolio of specialist cancer education nationally. The School is the main provider of education for Macmillan Cancer Support and 1,659 students were taught in formal modules, either as part of a degree/MSc or as a stand-alone student last academic year.

The School’s degree pathways include BSc (Hons) Cancer Practice, BSc (Hons) Supportive and Palliative Care and MSc Cancer Care. Degrees and formal academic awards are validated by the School’s academic partner, the University of East Anglia. The School has consistently met 100 per cent of Health Education England’s quality contract performance and monitoring requirements.
Our staff

We were proud to celebrate The Royal Marsden’s exceptional staff at our 2018 Staff Achievement Awards kindly funded by the Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. The 2018 award winners are:

Above and Beyond – Clinical
Grainne Brady, Clinical Lead for Speech and Language Therapy
Grainne has presented on the national and international stage and has been elected to chair a national group advising governmental policy, as well as keeping her clinical skills up to date and supporting her team’s development.

Dr Angela George, Consultant in Oncogenetics
Dr George has set up a number of international collaborations and brought together the procurement of genomics for north, west and east London. Her efforts will ensure that patients everywhere will continue to benefit from the high-quality genetic testing offered by the Trust.

Above and Beyond – Non-clinical
Louise Hakem, Medical Secretary, Lung Unit
Louise has been described as a “remarkable colleague” with whom it is a privilege to work. She has revolutionised pathways and systems, ensuring a smoother process for the entire team and, most importantly, our patients.

Bob Slater, Porter
Bob assists in any situation he can with good grace and was described as an exceptional member of the Sutton hospital team by everyone who works with him. He was nominated for this award by several departments, which shows how much he is valued.

Working Together
Nurse Recruitment Project Team
This cross-organisational team has been vital in helping The Royal Marsden to reduce the nursing vacancy rate, develop ways to reach out to new audiences, and increase training opportunities.

Head and Neck Nursing and AHP Team
This team enabled the roll-out of a world-leading new surgical service. They introduced innovative techniques, developed their skills in complex procedures and liaised with international colleagues on best practice to ensure that patients could benefit from these life-changing procedures.

Lifetime Achievement
Jill Cooper, Head of Occupational Therapy
With 25 years of service at The Royal Marsden and an MBE for her contribution to cancer care, Jill has paved the way for occupational therapy in cancer care. She is renowned nationally and internationally for her experience and knowledge, and always puts the patient and their family first.

Professor Mitch Dowsett, Head of the Ralph Lauren Centre for Breast Cancer Research
Professor Dowsett is one of the world’s most respected translational scientists in breast cancer. He has won two of the highest awards in international breast cancer research and his lifetime of work in aromatase inhibitors is now a standard of care worldwide. His contribution to improving treatment for women with breast cancer is simply immeasurable.

I would like to congratulate the winners on their outstanding contributions and achievements, as well as all those who were nominated for an award.

Cally Palmer
Chief Executive
The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity

The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity exists solely to support the work of The Royal Marsden. Thanks to its supporters, the Charity continues to be there for everyone who needs support. The Charity ensures the nurses, doctors and research teams can provide the very best care and life-saving treatments, which are used across the UK and around the world. From funding state-of-the-art equipment and groundbreaking research to creating modern patient environments, the Charity will never stop looking for ways to improve the lives of cancer patients.

Right: A patient at the Oak Centre for Children and Young People.
Oak Foundation’s major gift

The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity has received its largest single donation to date, with Oak Foundation pledging £25 million towards the construction of our brand-new £70-million facility designed to speed up the development of new treatments and to improve early diagnosis.

Previously referred to as the Clinical Care and Research Centre, the building will now be known as the Oak Cancer Centre. The £25 million pledged takes the total amount donated by Oak Foundation over the 15 years it has supported The Royal Marsden to an exceptional £43 million, which has made an enormous difference to our patients.

Oak Foundation donated the lead gift of £8 million for The Royal Marsden’s Oak Centre for Children and Young People, which opened in 2011; it also supported the Oak Foundation Drug Development Unit and has funded the Oak Paediatric Drug Development Unit for 15 years.

Professor David Cunningham, Director of Clinical Research at The Royal Marsden, said: “I’d like to thank Oak Foundation for this incredibly generous gift. The work carried out in the Oak Cancer Centre will benefit patients not just at The Royal Marsden, but throughout the UK and beyond.”

The Oak Cancer Centre Appeal, chaired by property expert Mike Slade OBE, has also been supported by the Kuok Group Foundation, the Charles Wolfson Charitable Trust, the Garfield Weston Foundation, Richard Oldfield OBE, Alex Beard and Emma Vennetti, G&K Boyes Charitable Trust the McCarthy family and many others.

The Oak Cancer Centre will enable us to treat more people in a facility that has been designed to enhance their world-class care.

Dr Nicholas van As
Medical Director

The Oak Cancer Centre will bring together more than 400 of the Trust’s pioneering researchers

400+
A royal thank you to our supporters

Our President, HRH The Duke of Cambridge, attended a dinner at Buckingham Palace to celebrate the work of The Royal Marsden and The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. Hospital staff and Charity supporters attended the event, including Alan and Jette Parker from Oak Foundation. Oak Foundation, a long-term supporter of the Charity, have pledged the lead gift of £25 million for the Oak Cancer Centre Appeal (see page 48).

The Duke, who was joined by Chief Executive Cally Palmer CBE, Chairman Charles Alexander, and Director of Clinical Research, Professor David Cunningham, thanked the valued supporters of the Charity, whose generosity has taken the fundraising appeal past the halfway mark.

Guests included Charity trustee Lady Helen Taylor, Appeal Board Chairman Mike Slade OBE, actors Olivia Colman and Tom Hiddleston, and tennis star Grigor Dimitrov. Kylie Minogue sang for guests before they enjoyed dinner in the Palace’s Picture Gallery. Oak Cancer Centre Appeal Board members Roger Orf and Andrew Fisher, who also attended, generously funded the evening.

Leading the way in robotic cancer care

The Royal Marsden has pioneered radical progress in the field of robotic surgery, none of which would have been possible without the support of The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. Now, the Charity has continued this work with the introduction of a Robotic Surgery Nurse Fellowship, the first of its kind in the UK. During robotic surgery, the surgeon is located at the da Vinci robot console, rather than by the side of the patient. The patient is still surrounded by an expert team, which includes a scrub nurse. Under the fellowship, the scrub nurse will be trained with enhanced knowledge and capabilities to support and work alongside the surgeon as an expert partner. The surgeon will act as dedicated mentor throughout the fellowship.
Vicki and James ‘Woody’ Woodall, decided to start George and the Giant Pledge to fundraise for The Royal Marsden after their son George was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. Their goal was to reach £1 million, and they have now smashed that target. In summer 2018, Google chose George and the Giant Pledge, a fundraising initiative to help beat childhood cancer with The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, as its inaugural UK Charity of the Year. Donations to the Woodalls’ campaign will fund much-needed research into childhood cancer as well as fund support for children and their families at The Royal Marsden’s Oak Centre for Children and Young People.

In the run up to Christmas, 27 members of staff from Google UK visited The Royal Marsden to deliver 50 luxury Christmas hampers to show their appreciation for their hard work throughout the year.

The volunteers were from Vicki Woodall’s team, who she worked with at Google.

Shining stars
Supporters gathered at our Chelsea and Sutton hospitals in December for our annual Celebrate a Life services.

Thousands of stars were displayed on the Christmas trees outside both hospitals, each one with the name of someone special handwritten in the centre. Supporters who made a donation and named a star also received a gold star lapel badge to wear or give as a gift, and watched as the Christmas lights were turned on as the front of both hospitals were beautifully lit for the services.

Supporters, patients and staff enjoyed hot chocolate, mulled wine and mince pies and were treated to performances by local choirs and brass bands. Thanks to our supporters, we raised over £96,000 with almost 3,000 stars named for loved ones.
Thanks to a generous donation from the Denise Coates Foundation to The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, the Molecular Diagnostics team at The Royal Marsden has recently invested in the latest DNA sequencing machine, the Illumina NovaSeq 6000.

The NovaSeq 6000 is capable of sequencing six trillion bases of DNA in a single run, and can simultaneously search for cancer-causing variants in 200 genes from over 200 patients, all in less than a week.

The technology will help us transform the diagnosis and treatment of cancer for so many more patients, both now and in the future and will help us to develop new personalised treatments based on the genetic make-up of individuals’ cancers, meaning more effective treatments with fewer side-effects.

In November 2018, The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust was announced as the lead for genomic cancer testing in one of seven new genomics laboratory hubs following an NHS England procurement exercise to centralise genomic testing throughout the UK. Working in partnership with 10 NHS Trusts including UCLH, Barts, Imperial and the Royal Free Hospital, The Royal Marsden will soon begin to transition the majority of genomic testing for cancer patients in north east and west London to its labs over the next two years. Great Ormond Street Hospital will be responsible for genomic testing for rare diseases.

The purchase of the Charity funded NovaSeq 6000 next generation sequencing machine proved fundamental to The Royal Marsden’s bid.
At The Royal Marsden, we deal with cancer every day so we understand how valuable life is. And when people entrust their lives to us, they have the right to demand the very best.

That’s why the pursuit of excellence lies at the heart of everything we do. No matter how much we exceed expectations, we believe we can exceed them still further.

We will never stop looking for ways to improve the lives of people affected by cancer. This attitude defines us all, and is an inseparable part of the way we work. It’s The Royal Marsden way.

Our values

- Pioneering Change
- Pursuing Excellence
- Working Collaboratively
- Showing Kindness

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