



Volunteer Newsletter



Update from Chair of Trustees



Dear Team Derian,

As promised, I am writing to update you on discussions at our recent Trustee board meeting.

It was really pleasing that we had the opportunity to discuss a number of areas where we are performing exceptionally well. We were delighted to note the financial position at the year end. We are in a strong position and, for this year, and despite some challenges, we are hopeful that we will retain a good level of statutory funding. We were also pleased to note that we have seen significant improvements in our retail offer

and performance. Thanks to the efforts of the team, we now feel in a position where we can start to further develop and build our retail offer. This is a significant shift from where we were twelve months ago.

Our performance in marketing, retail and income generation remains strong and I have been delighted to see our Derian advert on television for the first time.

We were delighted to read a number of impact stories that were presented to us. It is important that we continue to understand the significant difference that the smallest thing can make to our children, young people and their families. The impact stories are a good way of reminding us what we are here for and the board takes great pleasure in recognising the achievements of our teams.

At Derian House, our families deserve no less than the absolute best. They deserve safe, compassionate care and in every contact should expect to experience our teams' professional and 'over and above' response. Which is why we are progressing with a care improvement plan, shared with us by Catherine, Chief Nurse.

It is for this reason that following the board meeting, I took the decision with Karen our Chief Executive to suspend our in house overnight care services for a period in order that we can ensure our services and staffing fully meet the needs of our families.

In the meantime, thank you for all you continue to do to support our children, young people and their families.

Karen Swindley
Chair of Trustees

Leadership Update

Following a review of the Derian House strategy for the next 3 years to look at how we grow and develop the hospice to be the best children's hospice in the country, a decision has been made to strengthen the clinical leadership on my team of Directors.

As of the 1st August, the Chief Nurse and Director of Clinical services role (currently 1 role) will split. Catherine will continue in the role of Chief Nurse and will be responsible for the strategic clinical commissioning with oversight of CQC regulation. She will focus on building external relationships and positioning Derian as the children's hospice of choice.

Bridget Thomas will step into the Clinical Director role and will be responsible for the day to day clinical and operational leadership of the hospice and the strategic direction within our agreed strategy of the care and services that we deliver.



Celebrating Our Volunteers: An Afternoon of Tea, Music, and Appreciation



To celebrate our incredible volunteers, we turned the tables and treated our volunteers to an afternoon of fun, relaxation, and thanks in a special afternoon tea.

Volunteers' Week is celebrated annually across the UK and it was our way of saying a heartfelt "thank you" to our volunteers who give their time and skills so generously.

Our afternoon tea saw our volunteers pampered as Derian staff served up tea and an abundance of sandwiches and cakes. There was a lot of laughter as everyone took part in a music quiz, which had everyone reminiscing about their favourite TV shows.

To all our volunteers: thank you for your passion, your commitment, and your unwavering support. You make a difference every day, and we are incredibly grateful for everything you do.



Volunteer Fact - Volunteers donated over 16,994 hours in 2024, that's a staggering 708 days.

Volunteer Val hit the news after visit to future King's garden party



Val Sharp has volunteered for Derian House for over 30 years, in recognition of such dedication and to say thank you, Val was nominated to attend the future King's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Despite having wet feet in her sandals, Val and her husband enjoyed the rainy afternoon, watching the arrival of Prince William and sampling one or two of the lovely finger sandwiches and cakes available.

New Volunteer Maureen Makes a Big Impact!



Maureen hit the ground running as our new volunteer, and has already helped us raise £3,000.

With her friendly phone manner, Maureen has been busy reaching out to our supporters to ask if they would like to Gift Aid their donations.

Donating through Gift Aid means Derian House can claim an extra 25p for every £1 it receives – amplifying the value of each donation.

Sarah Proctor, Lottery and Individual Giving Manager said "In just two weeks, Maureen's efforts have been nothing short of remarkable. Through her dedication and beautiful telephone manner, she has raised over £3,000! This impressive achievement demonstrates the power of volunteer contributions and the difference one person can make. By simply confirming that their donations qualify for Gift Aid, donors help us receive extra funds from the government. Maureen's role is crucial in ensuring we maximize this benefit."

Walk This Way for Derian House!

Challenge yourself, your family and friends to take part in our brand new event - Walk This Way. You can choose to walk across hot coals, glass, lego – or maybe even all three – to raise money for Derian House.

- **Fire Walk:** Feel the heat and conquer your fears as you walk across burning coals.
- **Glass Walk:** Steady your nerves and step carefully over shattered glass.
- **Lego Walk:** Relive childhood nightmares by braving a path of those pesky Lego bricks!

We wanted to give Team Derian a heads-up so you can secure your spots early! If you're interested in taking part in this unique and thrilling event, all we ask is that you raise a minimum of £50 per person, per walk.

Event details:

Location: The pony field across the way at Derian House

Date and Time: Friday, September 20th, from 5 PM

Audience: Suitable for all ages, families, corporates, and communities — everyone is welcome!

Participants: We are hoping to have approx. 300 people to join us on this exciting night.

For more details, please contact our Fundraising Team.

Fundraising Events



GREAT JOB!



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