



Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Charity

Helipad Appeal – Statement of Need

The Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (CMFT) launched an appeal to raise £3.9m to fund the creation of a dedicated helicopter landing pad at the Trust's central Manchester hospitals' site. Four of the Trust's eight hospitals are based on this site, including Saint Mary's Hospital (SMH), Royal Manchester Children's Hospital (RMCH) and Manchester Royal Infirmary (MRI). Between them these three hospitals will see over a million patients every year and will look after patients from birth through to the end of life. Each offers an extensive and internationally recognised range of specialist services for critically ill patients which are not available at other hospitals within the North West region, and in some cases the UK. This makes the creation of a dedicated landing site an urgent requirement.

The Care That We Provide to Our Patients:

Emergency Care: Both MRI and RMCH have dedicated 24 hour Accident and Emergency departments and both belong to the Greater Manchester Major Trauma Centre Network. This means our hospitals provide rapid access to treatment and rehabilitation for adults, children and babies following a life threatening or life changing physical injury. This might include injury requiring amputation of a limb, severe knife and gunshot wounds, major head injury, multiple injuries to different parts of the body, spinal injury and severe burns. When an adult or child receives a major trauma injury, the speed with which they can get specialist medical help can be the difference between life and death or between recovering and recovering well. The first 60 minutes after sustaining such an injury is known as the 'Golden Hour' and is crucial in determining to what extent that person can be saved. Any delay, however slight, can result in significantly increased chance of permanent injury, such as paralysis or brain damage, or maybe even death. *In emergency care, truly every second counts.*

Specialist Care: Our hospitals provide a wide range of highly specialist services which save the lives of seriously ill children and adults every day. These include:

- A Paediatric Critical Care Unit which is second to none nationwide, treating around 1,400 children aged 0-16 years old every year
- A Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) which treats around 1,000 very sick pre-term or term newborn infants every year, all of whom need complex and intensive medical or surgical care
- The regional centres for a variety of organ transplants, including being the only hospitals in the North West to carry out both adult and children's kidney transplantation

With highly skilled staff providing the very highest level of care in a modern hospital providing the very latest in medical treatment and technology, Central Manchester Hospitals offers unparalleled treatment and services to people from throughout the North West region and beyond.

Why We Need This Appeal:

Travelling by air ambulance rather than by road can dramatically reduce the time it takes patients to reach major trauma or specialist treatment centres but CMFT does not currently have a dedicated landing pad.

Currently, the Trust relies upon a secondary landing site in a nearby park, an arrangement which means that patients must then be transferred the final mile of their journey by land ambulance. This second transfer, often undertaken on muddy or uneven ground, significantly adds to the risk of complication, particularly in children, due to additional handling of the patient and environmental factors, whilst also adding precious minutes to the overall transfer time. Every moment's delay can greatly increase the risk to life.

Additionally, the park is unsuitable for night time landings due to insufficient lighting, whilst frequently being unavailable as a landing site due to public events. These factors combined have led the North West Air Ambulance Service to declare that the site is not fit for purpose and to give notice that the service will no longer land there, meaning all such patients must be transferred to alternative receiving hospitals or travel by land ambulance. In many cases this will mean a greatly increased wait until specialist medical care can begin, putting the patients' chances of recovery at great risk.

How This Appeal will Save Lives:

- Our Helipad Appeal will enable the creation of a brand-new 24-hour access primary helicopter landing site, the first in central Manchester. The facility will enable faster and safer access to specialist services co-located at our Central site. This facility will enable our hospitals to save many more lives and increase the chances of a full or improved level of recovery for a great many seriously ill or injured patients, both children and adults.
- The new facility will also enable our specialist trauma teams to access trauma incident sites and administer life saving care directly at the scene of a major trauma. This will provide patients the best chance of recovering and recovering well. Both adult and children's trauma teams will be able attend a scene at the same time allowing for better communication from the scene ensuring more informed preparation when our hospitals receive major trauma patients following transfer.
- To date our clinical teams are often required to make difficult, and sometime fatal decision in terms of a patients transfer from our hospitals. Often it is decided not to transfer gravely ill patients to other specialised hospitals because their condition is considered too critical to travel by land ambulance. This currently applies to all patients which including newborn babies and transplant patients. With this new facility patients will be able to be transferred to alternative specialist hospitals quicker and more safely, and those previously considered too high risk will be given the chance to receive the best treatment available across the UK.

The Project Cost:

To date our fundraising efforts have secured £1.7m of the overall £3.9m target. In addition to this in January 2016 we received a pledge of a further £400k but this was made on the proviso that the Charity secure match funds for the same amount. Therefore the Charity currently requires an additional **£1.8m** to complete the Appeal in full. **This sum, whilst significant, is comparable to the cost of providing continuing life-long care to just one brain damaged child.**

The Appeal does not include the purchase or operating costs of the air ambulances. The helipad will allow patients to be brought for treatment at the Central Manchester Hospitals by the North West Air Ambulance, the Great North Air Ambulance, Wales Air Ambulance, Midlands Air Ambulance, the Children's Air Ambulance and search and rescue (SAR) helicopters, providing the quickest possible access to specialist and emergency care for people from across a broad geographic area.