

Elevating Devon's NHS Mental Wellbeing Services

open up



Annual Report 2024-25

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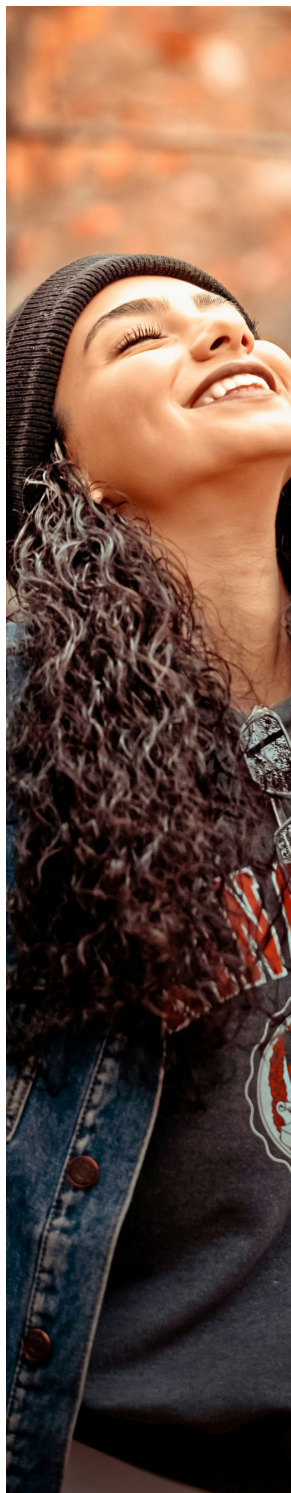
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Welcome

from Dr Venura Perera,
Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee



It is with immense pride that I welcome you to our Annual Report for 2024/25 – a year of transformation, growth and renewed purpose.

This has been a landmark year for our charity as we embraced a bold new identity. Open Up, the official charity of Devon Partnership NHS Trust, is more than just a new name. It represents our commitment to enhancing, improving and bringing innovation to mental health, learning disability and neurodiversity care across Devon and the South West.

Formerly known as the DPT Charity, we have rebranded to better reflect our purpose and values – to open up conversations, possibilities and opportunities for the people we support.

Our refreshed purpose and strategy are rooted in one clear ambition: to make a tangible, visible and lasting difference to the lives of individuals and families affected by mental health, learning disabilities and neurodiversity challenges. By working alongside NHS colleagues, community partners and our incredible supporters, Open Up is building a healthier and more inclusive society – one that listens, values and empowers every person.

This past year has seen incredible progress. With support from NHS Charities Together and our generous donors, we've invested in sustainable projects that transform care environments, enhance specialist therapies and prioritise wellbeing for both patients and staff. We have made a difference in a range of areas, including funding the New Leaf vocational rehabilitation service polytunnel, supporting new mums at Dainton Copse, and improving facilities and creating joyful moments at Christmas. Each initiative reflects our commitment to compassionate, person-centred care.

Equally important has been our work behind the scenes – investing in the future of Open Up through a new website, Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system and vibrant brand that will enable us to connect more effectively with our community and champion our cause far and wide.

As Chair, I'm deeply grateful to our team, our partners and every individual who has supported us this year. You have helped us push boundaries, think differently and bring people together in meaningful ways. Thanks to you, we are not only sustaining essential support – we are reimagining what's possible.

Looking ahead to 2025/26, I'm excited about the momentum we've built. With new tools at our disposal, a growing network of supporters and a strong strategy to guide us, Open Up is well-placed to expand its reach, deepen its impact and continue building a legacy of hope, support and opportunity.

Thank you for being part of our journey. Together, we will keep opening up doors, minds and hearts – and create a future where everyone can live well, feel heard and thrive.

Dr Venura Perera,

Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee for 2024/25

Associate Non-Executive Director of Devon Partnership NHS Trust



Venura has worked in research, software engineering, data science and business intelligence and is passionate about the benefits that can be delivered through technological innovation. Venura is an advocate for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and encouraging organisational cultures that promote diversity.

How your donations and fundraising have helped this year

Building connections in communities

This year saw continued support for the Chaplaincy-led Community Connection roles in two of our community mental health teams. With £100k committed during the pilot phase, the roles are already strengthening ties between services and local communities, particularly for those who feel isolated or struggle to access support.

“These roles are about building trust and offering a consistent presence in people’s lives,” explained Jez Brown, Lead Chaplain at Devon Partnership NHS Trust.



“ By working alongside individuals and communities, we help build the human connections that support recovery and wellbeing. ”

Nature, nurture and perinatal wellbeing

Babes in the Woods, funded through The Little Something Fund, offered new mothers and their babies a calming, restorative space in nature. In partnership with the Trust's Perinatal Mental Health Team, monthly sessions at Dainton Copse Forest School near Newton Abbot combined woodland walks, fireside chats, mindfulness and creativity to reduce anxiety and nurture emotional wellbeing.



“The calming atmosphere, the sounds of the woods and the open space made a huge difference to my mood.”

Selina Dare, Occupational Therapy Lead, added, “This is life-changing work. We’ve created a space for mums to reconnect with themselves and each other in a way traditional services often struggle to offer.”

Many mothers now meet informally beyond the sessions and have formed lasting support networks.

Festive support for young people and families

The annual Children and Family Health Devon Christmas Hamper Project reached a significant milestone this year, marking its fifth anniversary of spreading festive cheer to care-experienced young people across Devon and Torbay. This year, 250 hampers filled with essentials, treats, and thoughtful gifts were delivered to young people who may not have a strong support network at home. Each hamper serves as a reminder that these young people are not forgotten and that their community values them.

“ While a hamper might seem small, its significance is immense. It shows young people they are cared for, and that they are held in mind and supported by a wider community that cares about their wellbeing. ”

Jade Simmons, Clinical Team Manager, Children and Family Health Devon



The project, which began modestly in 2020 with just 100 hampers, has now grown significantly, highlighting the power of community generosity. This year's hampers provided much-needed support during the holidays.

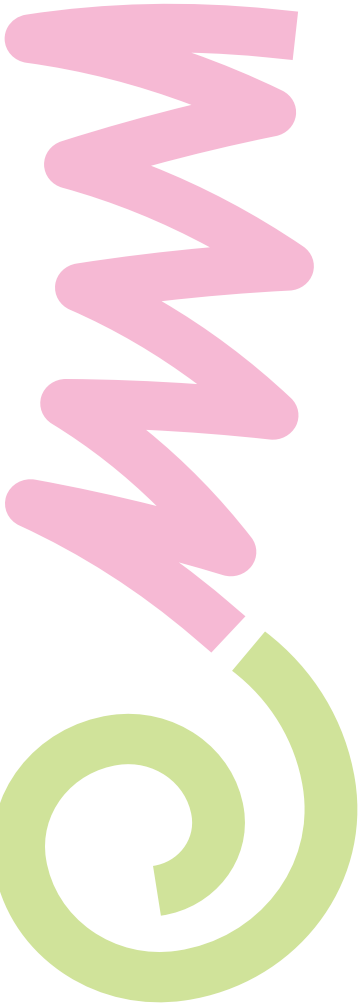
The ongoing success of this project reflects the strong partnerships between Open Up, local businesses, NHS colleagues, and generous donors, and is testament to the collective impact of our community in making a positive difference in the lives of young people.

At Langdon Hospital, the Dewnans Centre hosted a festive Christmas event, bringing together patients, families and staff for a day of workshops, games and even llamas! The event celebrated recovery, creativity and community while fostering a sense of togetherness.

"It was wonderful to see everyone enjoying the day," said Tom Woodd, Lead Forensic Social Worker. "Events like this strengthen relationships and make a lasting impact. They remind us that recovery isn't just about clinical care; it's about connection and joy."



Located near Dawlish, Langdon Hospital provides medium and low secure services for men from the South West who require inpatient mental health care in a secure environment due to the nature and degree of the risks involved, often in connection with the legal system.



Enhancing everyday experiences

At Torbay Health and Wellbeing Clinic, a new recliner chair, though seemingly a small addition, has had a profound impact on patient experience. The comfortable, supportive chair offers patients a much-needed space to relax during their visits, creating a more welcoming and compassionate environment.

“They feel listened to and cared for, which is so important,” shared Helen Williams, Flow Manager. “It’s the little touches like this that make a huge difference to how patients feel during their time at the clinic.”

Similarly, at Abbotsvale in Bideford, the new patient entertainment system has transformed the waiting area. With soothing music and informative displays, it creates a more dignified, calming space that reduces anxiety and makes the wait more pleasant and less stressful. Abbotsvale is used by a range of services, including TALKWORKS and older people’s mental health and learning disabilities. “It’s significantly improved the patient experience,” said Dulcie Chilcott, Business Co-ordinator. “It makes the waiting area feel more professional and welcoming, and it protects patient confidentiality by masking conversations from the reception desk.”

Investing in staff wellbeing

A dedicated £20k fund was launched this year to support staff health and wellbeing, made possible by Charity Lottery proceeds. It has already funded access to a gym at Wonford House and other tailored wellness activities.

“Donations have made a huge difference,” said Steve Smeeth, Head of Staff Health and Wellbeing. “They’re helping us care for the people who care for others.”

Innovative perinatal support

The Little Something Fund, established in memory of Charlotte Morley, a staff member and passionate advocate for perinatal mental health, enabled a perinatal conference that brought together over 100 professionals, peer supporters and individuals with lived experience. The event fostered new collaborations and shared valuable tools for care.

Amanda Taylor, Perinatal Service Manager, shared, “By bringing people together face-to-face, we’re rebuilding networks and improving outcomes for parents, babies, and professionals alike.”

Additionally, twelve staff members completed training to deliver the Parents’ Comfort Zone course, a peer-informed programme that blends practical tools, creativity and connection to reduce anxiety in new parents.

“This course is already helping parents feel less isolated and more confident,” said Selina Dare.

Connection and comfort

At Franklyn Hospital in Exeter, two specialist wards, Rougemont and Belvedere, support older adults with complex mental health needs, including dementia, depression and severe anxiety.

A visit from a therapy Shetland pony brought joy and calm to over 30 patients, creating a moment of connection and comfort.

“Bringing a therapy pony onto the ward gave patients something truly memorable,” said Ward Manager Vicky Shorters. “It boosted wellbeing and lifted everyone’s spirits.”

Sensory sessions, run in partnership with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, offered hands-on experiences with historic objects and themed materials, helping to spark memories and emotional connection.



“These sessions bring the outside world in,” said Harry O’Keefe, Occupational Therapy Technician. “They offer grounding and engagement, especially during long stays.”

Festive gift giving brought warmth and cheer to the wards at Franklyn Hospital. Every patient received a carefully chosen present ranging from toiletries and cosy socks to sweet treats, all wrapped and delivered with care.

The initiative not only brightened spirits but also encouraged positive interaction and strengthened the sense of belonging among residents and staff. It offered a welcome moment of celebration and kindness that made everyone feel seen, valued and connected.



Supporting recovery through nature and purpose

New Leaf, part of Devon Partnership NHS Trust's Vocational Rehabilitation Service, helps adults living with mental health conditions move toward employment through therapy, training and supported horticultural work. The service creates opportunities to build confidence, skills and wellbeing in a structured, nature-based environment.

A £64k investment will fund a new accessible growing structure at New Leaf, replacing ageing polytunnels. This upgrade will extend the reach of their therapeutic horticulture programme and ensure inclusive access throughout the year. Construction is planned for 2025/26, with long-term recovery and environmental sustainability at its core.

As part of its green efforts, New Leaf participants handcrafted 43 habitat boxes, funded by Open Up, to support wildlife at Langdon Hospital. These boxes – for birds, owls, bats and insects – were installed along the Buzzard Trail, enriching outdoor spaces for patients and staff and encouraging biodiversity.



“These habitat boxes are part of building a thriving natural environment that benefits people and wildlife alike. It’s about creating calm and connection across the site.”

Collette Germon, Sustainability and Energy Manager

A new chapter

This year has marked a significant turning point in our charity's journey as we unveiled our new identity – Open Up, the official charity of Devon Partnership NHS Trust. Formerly known as the DPT Charity, our new name represents much more than a rebrand. It reflects a renewed commitment to opening up opportunities, conversations and support for people living with mental health conditions, learning disabilities and neurodiversity challenges across Devon and the South West.

Our rebrand was made possible through a Development Grant from NHS Charities Together, which enabled us to invest in our future. This vital funding allowed us to shape a bold new visual identity, launch a refreshed purpose and strategy, create a modern website, implement a new CRM system (Customer Relationship Management) and produce engaging promotional materials. These developments have strengthened our operational foundations, improved our communication and positioned us to reach and inspire a growing community of supporters.

We also took a major step forward with the launch of our new purpose statement and strategic pillars, which now guide every part of our work. At the heart of this strategy is a clear ambition: to improve lives by enhancing, improving and bringing innovation to mental wellbeing services, while also championing inclusivity, collaboration and sustainability.

Our strategy sets out five core pillars:

- 6 **Foundations** – strengthening our infrastructure for long-term impact
- 6 **Engagement** – raising awareness and reducing stigma through education and outreach
- 6 **Collaboration and partnerships** – building meaningful relationships that deliver shared value
- 6 **Funding** – securing and diversifying resources to support our vision
- 6 **Grant making** – directing support to initiatives that align with our goals and values

Our work is built on the belief that everyone should feel listened to, cared for and able to live their life to the full. The new strategy ensures that we place lived experience, prevention and community connection at the centre of everything we do. It also ensures that we maintain a strong focus on staff wellbeing and long-term, sustainable outcomes for the people and communities we serve.

To support this new chapter, we've also expanded our digital presence. Open Up is now on Facebook and LinkedIn – platforms that help us connect with our community, share updates and raise awareness of the issues about which we care so deeply. These channels will play a key role in helping us grow our supporter base, promote campaigns and celebrate the achievements of those we work alongside.

With a stronger identity, clearer direction and more ways to connect, Open Up is ready to embrace the future. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported us through this exciting period of change – and we look forward to continuing this journey together as we work to transform lives across our region.

Purpose statement

Our charity enhances, improves and brings innovation to mental health, learning disability and neurodiversity care in Devon, as well as working tirelessly to educate and raise awareness of these issues within our local area.

We exist to change lives and make a difference to the people we support by enhancing, improving and bringing innovation to mental wellbeing services.

Open Up works closely with our partners to provide services for children and adults in the South West, creating better outcomes and building a healthier community.

Our aim, first and foremost, is to have a tangible, visible and positive impact on our patients, their carers and the staff who support them.

The work we do improves day-to-day experiences for all with clear, long-term benefits. We raise funds, support innovative projects, communicate and constantly seek new ways to add extra value to NHS mental wellbeing services and collaborate with other like-minded organisations. We pride ourselves on tackling the future head on and making sure that sustainability is at the forefront of all our projects.

We want to break down the barriers around mental health, learning disability and neurodiversity. We want a society where everyone is valued for who they are. By working together, we know Open Up will spread awareness, offer practical help and fresh opportunities so that everyone we work with feels listened to, cared for and able to live their life to the full, today and every day.



What we do at Open Up



Our focus is to broaden the support available to people receiving care and treatment in Devon and, where appropriate, across the wider South West. While we exist to enhance and add value to the services delivered by the Trust, our support is not limited to activity within NHS settings.

This means we can support a wide range of projects and initiatives both within the NHS Trust and its services, as well as community-based projects, collaborative initiatives and preventative approaches. There must be a clear and lasting benefit for the people who use the Trust's services, the staff who support them or the wider systems that enable care. From community-based prevention work to digital innovation and service development, all align with our purpose and contribute to the Trust's mission. Whether it's improving patient environments, promoting staff wellbeing or funding innovative new approaches, our goal is to complement and strengthen what the NHS can offer.

All funding requests must demonstrate how they elevate, enhance or improve care and must not replace core NHS provision. Our newly revised Funding Requests Guidelines, introduced this year, ensure that every application aligns with our values and delivers real benefit.

We are not able to fund activities that benefit individuals alone, replace lost NHS equipment or services, or cover standard NHS responsibilities. We remain focused on delivering value for money, maintaining public trust and funding projects that clearly benefit the wider community.

Our grants often support:

- 6 Patient-focused initiatives that enhance care or experience
- 6 Improvements to indoor and outdoor environments
- 6 Group wellbeing activities or exercise programmes
- 6 Therapeutic tools and equipment that support recovery
- 6 Pilot projects and innovation not yet covered by NHS commissioning.

Every request we consider is carefully reviewed by our funding panel to ensure that it aligns with Open Up's guidelines and values. By doing this, we ensure that money raised is directed towards the greatest possible impact - for patients, staff and the communities supported by Devon Partnership NHS Trust.

Our broader support allows us to act responsively, creatively and collaboratively. Whether through direct funding or strategic partnerships, we remain committed to building a healthier, more inclusive future for mental health, learning disability and neurodiversity care.



Celebrating our fundraisers

This year, our supporters have truly gone above and beyond to raise vital funds for Open Up through a series of extraordinary and exciting fundraising challenges. From heart-pounding ziplining and skydiving to completing the Exeter Great West Run and navigating the bouncy obstacles of the Exeter 5K Inflatable, our community's passion and dedication has been nothing short of inspiring.

The Little Something Winter Ball, held in November, was a lovely event that not only brought together friends, family and colleagues in a celebration, but also raised an astounding £6.7k for the Little Something Fund. Hosted at the Froginwell Vineyard and Cider Barn, this glittering evening was a tribute to the incredible legacy of Charlotte, a passionate perinatal mental health practitioner who left an indelible mark on those she worked with.

In her memory, the Little Something Fund continues to provide crucial support to women and families in Devon affected by perinatal mental health issues. This vital fund ensures that families receive the care and resources they need, often outside the scope of NHS services. The Winter Ball, which would not have been possible without the generous sponsorship of Kandy Toys, was organised by Charlotte's friends and colleagues from Devon Partnership NHS Trust – Clare, Amanda and Suzie. Their dedication and hard work turned the evening into a wonderful success, celebrating Charlotte's lasting impact and continuing her legacy of care.



Among those embracing their own fundraising challenges was Zoe who tackled the Velocity Zipline, the world's fastest zip line, located in Penrhyn Quarry, North Wales. She described her exhilarating experience: "It was terrifying for a second, and then you feel like you're flying and don't want it to end!" Her passion for taking on challenges comes from her commitment to support animal therapies at Franklyn Hospital, which has been greatly beneficial for both staff and patients.

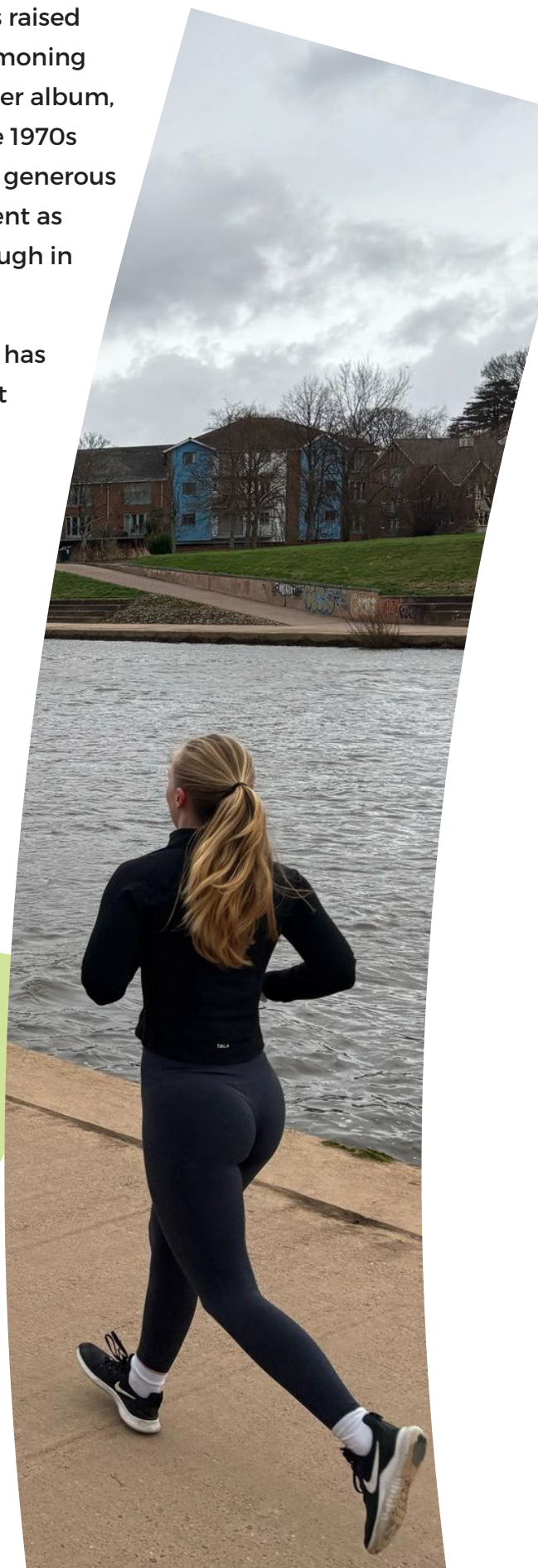
Meanwhile, Paul reached new heights, by completing a 15,000ft tandem charity skydive with Skydive Buzz at Dunkeswell Airfield in Devon. Reflecting on the experience, He said: "It was great to raise money for Open Up while checking something off my bucket list. The freefall was breathtaking, and once the chute opened, the view was incredible and so peaceful." His support for children's mental health and its vital services for young people was a driving force behind his challenge.



In the music world, Tracy, known as Sonic Method, has raised an impressive £1k through the sale of her album, *Summoning of the Paradigm Spark*, released in September 2024. Her album, inspired by the zodiac and nostalgic sounds of the late 1970s and early 1980s, has captivated listeners and garnered generous donations, contributing to Open Up's work. Tracy's talent as a musician and her dedication to the cause shine through in every note.

The Coombehaven Ward Team at The Cedars in Exeter has also taken the initiative to raise funds for a new patient gym through their ambitious 'GymHaven' campaign, and they are already making encouraging progress on their fundraising journey.

We are incredibly proud of all our supporters who have dedicated their time, effort and passion to these amazing fundraising initiatives. Your generosity truly makes a difference to the communities we serve, and we are grateful for every one of you.



Other sources of fundraising



We continue to work in partnership with Your Charity Lottery, now with a renewed focus on enhancing staff wellbeing across Devon Partnership NHS Trust. The lottery offers participants the chance to win 82 cash prizes every week, including a weekly jackpot of £1k and a rollover prize of up to £10k. From just £1 per week, people can play responsibly while making a real difference to the wellbeing of NHS staff and, in turn, the care provided to patients.

This year, the Charity Lottery raised £1.8k and contributed to our growing efforts to support a positive and healthy working environment for our dedicated teams.

Find out how to join here:

www.openup.org.uk/ways-to-support-us/lottery



We are proud to be a member of NHS Charities Together, whose continued support has been instrumental in strengthening our charity's capacity and sustainability. As part of a national network of NHS charities, we benefit from shared learning, campaigns, training opportunities and vital funding, all made possible through public fundraising for the NHS.

During 2024/25, we successfully completed a significant programme of development work thanks to a £30k grant from NHS Charities Together. This investment has allowed us to enhance our brand identity, develop a new website and implement a modern customer relationship management system.

These improvements have already made a tangible difference - streamlining our operations, strengthening our communications and enhancing our ability to connect with supporters, partners and the wider public. This support is helping to ensure we are well-equipped for the future and better able to serve our communities across Devon and beyond.

Leaving a legacy of hope

While we didn't receive any personal legacies this year, we're still passionate about raising awareness of this thoughtful and lasting way to support our work.

A gift in your will is more than a donation – it's a meaningful way to continue helping others beyond your lifetime. Legacy giving allows people to support the areas that matter most to them, whether that's mental health support, rehabilitation or community outreach. Every gift helps us have more impact and improve more lives across Devon and the South West.

By choosing to remember Open Up in your will, you're helping to build a brighter future. Your legacy can ensure that the support and care we provide today continues for generations to come.

If you'd like to find out more about how a legacy gift could make a difference, we'd be happy to talk with you.



Next steps for Open Up



As we reflect on a transformative year of progress and innovation, Open Up is looking firmly to the future. With strong foundations now in place, we are well-positioned to expand our reach, deepen our impact and continue working closely with our partners, patients and supporters across Devon and the South West.

Deepening impact

In the year ahead, we will focus on how we measure and share the real difference our work makes. We are committed to developing a clear impact measurement framework that tracks outcomes across fundraising, communications, partnerships and projects. This will help us continuously improve, celebrate successes and ensure every pound raised is making a meaningful difference to people's lives.

Strengthening communications

Our refreshed branding, CRM system and website now offer powerful platforms to share stories, raise awareness and engage the community. In 2025/26, we will increase our presence across social media and email. We aim to bring our purpose to life in accessible, inspiring and inclusive ways – ensuring that more people know who we are, what we stand for and how to get involved.



Innovating fundraising

With key fundraising structures now in place, our focus is on innovation and sustainability. We will explore new giving opportunities including legacy giving and ethical corporate partnerships, while growing our digital fundraising capabilities. At the heart of our approach will be authentic storytelling, engaging campaigns and community events that reflect the values and needs of those we support.

Embedding inclusion and lived experience

We are proud to support people living with mental health challenges, learning disabilities and neurodiversity – and we believe in co-producing our work wherever possible. In the coming year, we will explore new ways to bring lived experience to the forefront, through collaborative projects and inclusive governance practices that reflect the diversity of our community.

Activating partnerships

Partnership working remains central to our approach. We will look to formalise regional collaborations with like-minded organisations and NHS charities, co-delivering initiatives and campaigns that benefit our communities. We also hope to engage more with local councils and businesses around shared wellbeing and social value goals.

Future-proofing

Looking ahead, we are committed to ensuring Open Up remains a sustainable, agile and resilient organisation. We will begin shaping a three-to-five-year plan focused on income growth, resource development and navigating the evolving healthcare landscape. We know the challenges are significant but with the continued support of our community, we are ready to meet them.

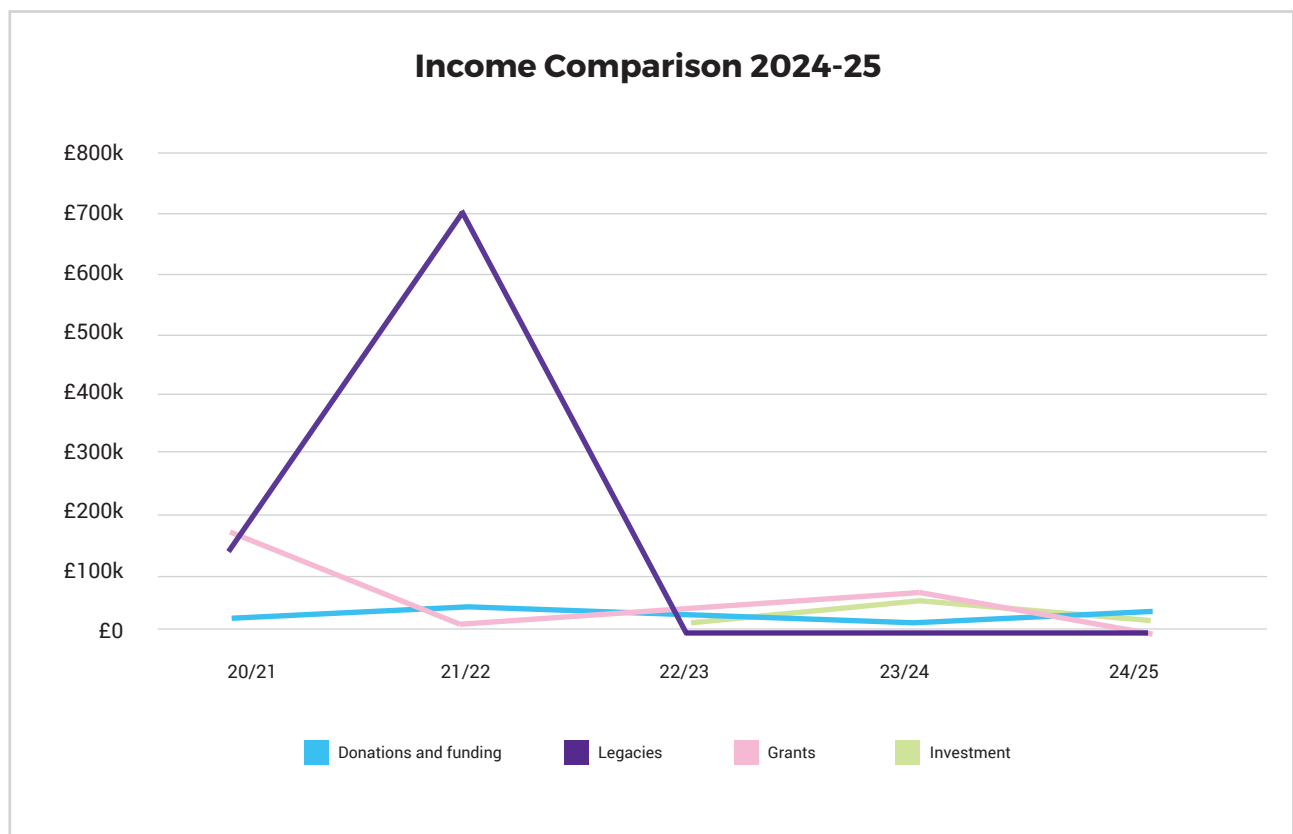
Finance report

Income for the year ended 31 March 2025

In the 2024/25 financial year, the Charity had an income of £43k made up of:

- £2k received through Just Giving and donations.
- £19k received from investments.
- £22k in fundraising events.

The following chart shows a comparison of income for this year against the previous four years:

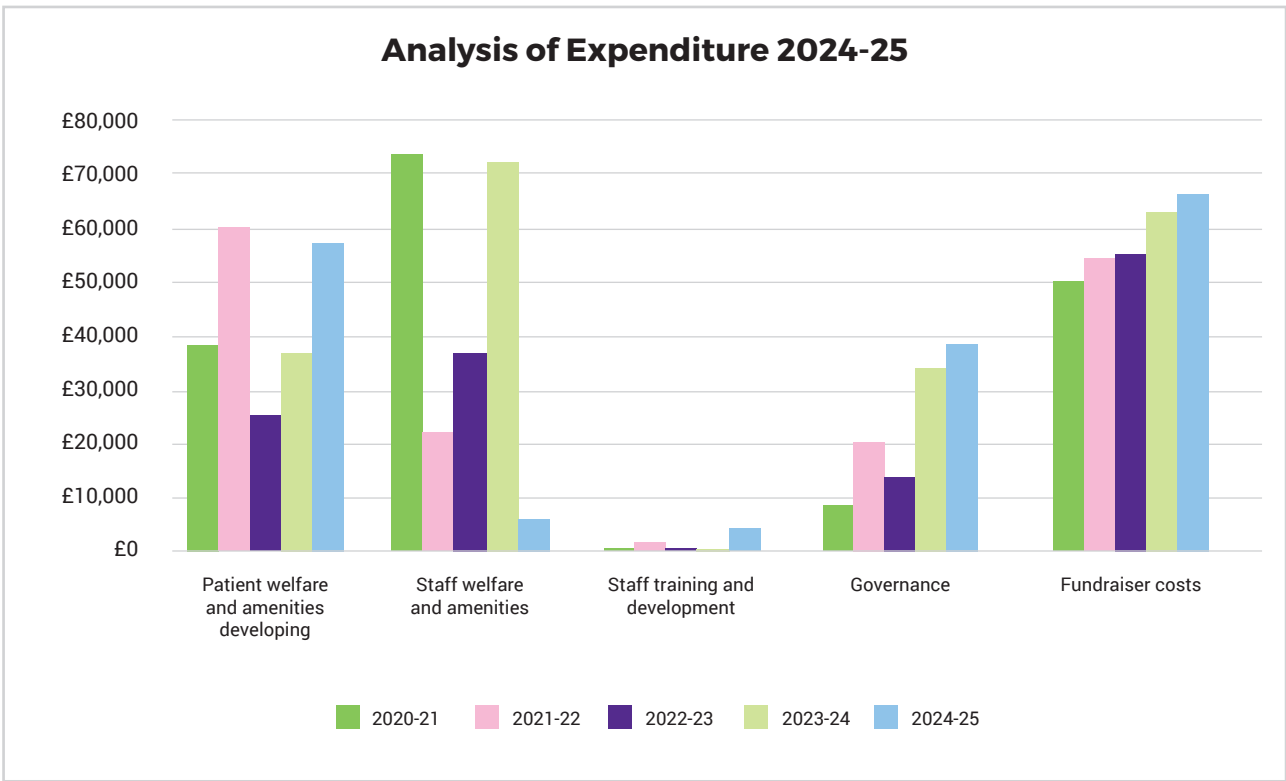


Expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2025

During 2024/25, the Charity spent £68k on charitable activities supporting patients’ and staff welfare and amenities. Examples of this can be seen within the ‘How your donations and fundraising have helped this year’ section of this report.

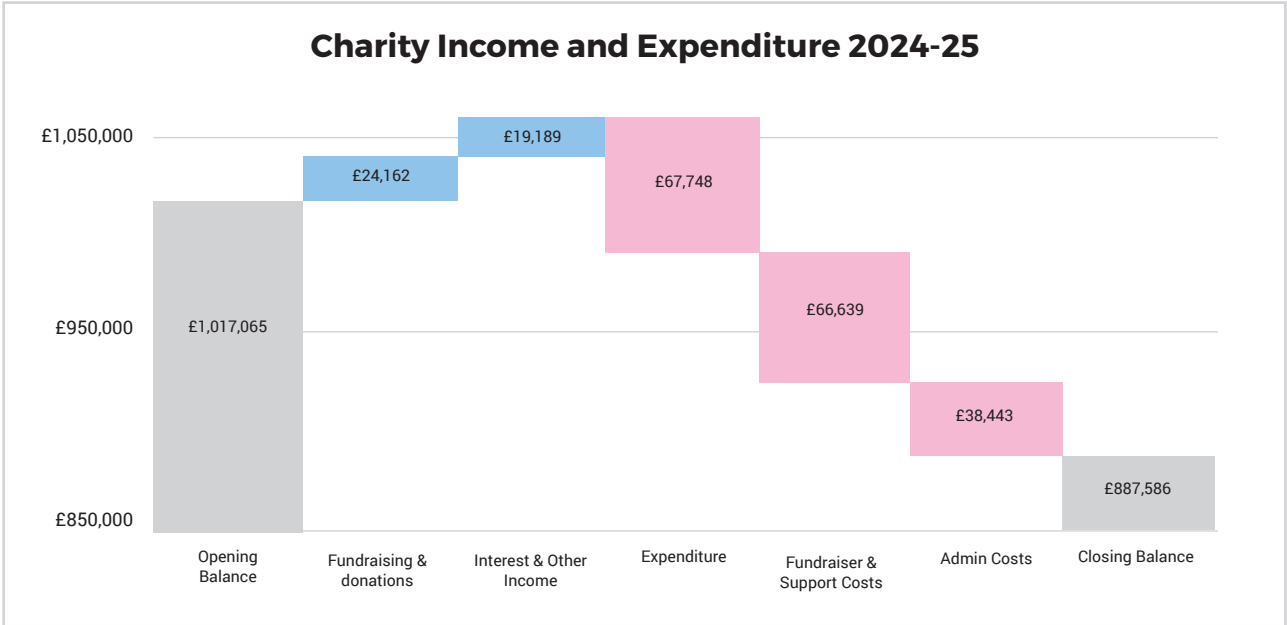
The Charity spent £105k on administration, governance and support costs including the Trust’s administrative charge for services provided, a contribution to the NHS Charities Together membership and audit fees.

The following chart details an analysis of expenditure between 2020/21 and 2024/25.



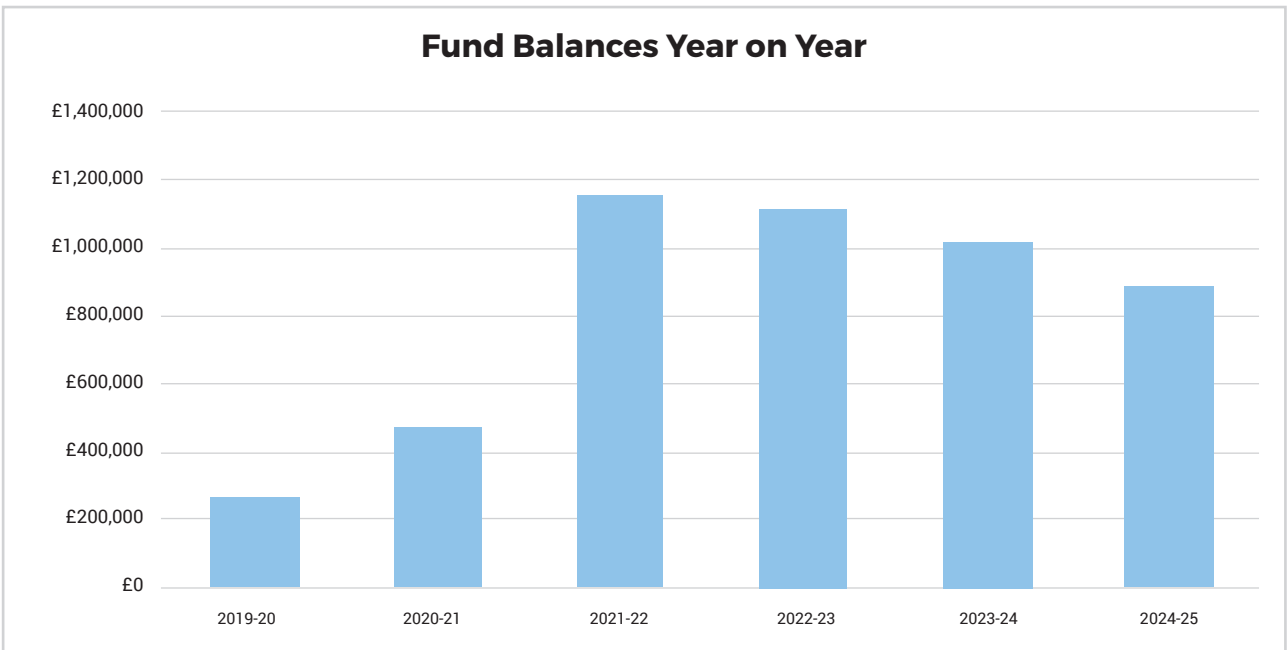
The Charity owed a balance of £40k (£204k in 2023/24) to the Devon Partnership NHS Trust for transactions undertaken through the Trust accounts payable function, including £4k for an independent examination fee at the end of the financial year.

The Charity’s overall income and expenditure for the year is displayed in the graph below:



Charity fund balances

The Charity Fund balances at 31 March 2025 were £888k (£1.017m in 2023/24), a net decrease of £129k (£91k decrease in 2023/24) from the end of the 2024/25 financial year.



Structure, governance and management of the charity

History and organisation of Open Up

The charity, Devon Partnership NHS Trust Special Charity (registered charity no. 1056669), was established by Trust Deed on 25 June 1996 as the Exeter & District Community Health Service Charitable Funds. It became the Devon Primary Care Trust Charitable Fund and Other Related Charities in February 2009, and transferred to Devon Partnership NHS Trust in March 2013, when the Trust became the Corporate Trustee. The charity was renamed to its current registered name in April 2013.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, a working name - DPT Charity - was introduced in April 2020 to support emergency fundraising efforts. Following further development, the charity adopted Open Up as its registered working name in November 2024, reflecting its vision to innovate and enhance mental health, learning disability and neurodiversity care across Devon.

The charity includes several designated funds linked to specific wards, teams and services. These are managed by Fund Managers in line with agreed authorisation limits and the Standing Financial Instructions, Standing Orders and delegated authority of the Corporate Trustee. The Trustee may revise or merge funds within agreed thresholds.

Devon Partnership NHS Trust acts as the Corporate Trustee, with responsibilities shared between its Executive and Non-Executive Directors. Non-Executive Directors and the Chair are appointed by NHS England, and Executive Directors by the Trust Board.

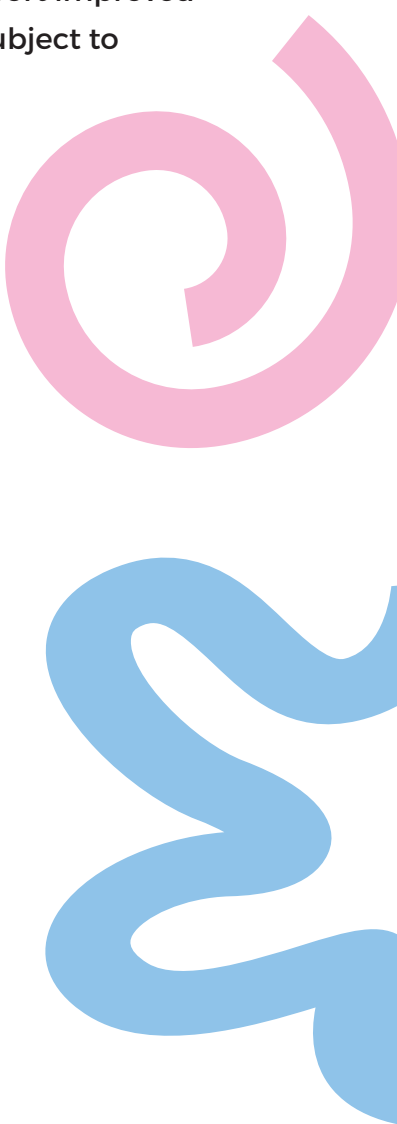
Day-to-day management of the charity is delegated by the Devon Partnership NHS Trust Board to the Charitable Funds Committee, which may also establish sub-committees, including a Fundraising Committee, as required. The Director of Corporate Affairs, as the Executive Lead for the charity, is responsible for overseeing administration, ensuring spending aligns with charitable objectives and priorities, maintaining accurate financial records, and upholding delegated governance arrangements.

The Charitable Funds Committee assures the Trust Board that funds are effectively managed, deployed and invested in line with legal and ethical standards. It oversees the stewardship of donations and grants, ensures alignment with the charity’s purpose, and reviews the charity’s Investment Strategy, ensuring all investments support improved health and care outcomes. Expenditure exceeding delegated limits is subject to Committee approval, in line with the Terms of Reference.

Charitable Funds Committee

During the year ended 31 March 2025 the membership of the Charitable Funds Committee (CFC) was made up as follows:

Dr Venura Perera	Associate Non-Executive Director, CFC Chair
Tanya Barron	Non-Executive Director
Ian Turner	Non-Executive Director
Laura Hobbs	Director of Corporate Affairs



Corporate Trustee

The Corporate Trustee for the DPT Charity is Devon Partnership NHS Trust.

The Non-Executive and Executive Directors who served Devon Partnership NHS Trust during the financial year ended 31 March 2025 were as follows:

Andy Willis	Chair, Non-Executive Director, third term agreed (ends on 28/02/26)
Phill Mantay	Acting Chief Executive/Chief Executive, acting Chief Executive role until July 2024 due to extended period of absence for substantive Chief Executive. Substantive appointment to Chief Executive June 2024.
Melanie Walker	Retired July 2024
Dr Sonja Manton	Director of Strategy and Partnerships. Appointed also as Deputy Chief Executive Officer in September 2024 on a tenured basis of three years.
Dr Fintan Larkin	Chief Medical Officer
Liz Perry	Chief People Officer
Chris Burford	Chief Nursing Officer and Allied Professions Lead, period of extended absence from August 2024
Aideen Tucker	Acting Chief Finance Officer, acting up role commenced continued to assist with interim Chief Executive arrangements and until substantive recruitment takes place
Taps Mutakati	Chief Operating Officer
Clare McAdam	Interim Chief Nursing Officer and Allied Professions Lead, Appointed Interim Chief Nursing Officer due to extended period of absence of substantive Chief Nursing Officer
Dr Jason Fee	Medical Director for South West Provider Collaborative
Dr Colm Owens	Medical Director for Devon Mental Health, Learning Disability and Neurodiversity Provider Collaborative
Laura Hobbs	Director of Corporate Affairs
Anne Forbes	Director for South West Provider Collaborative
Jacque Mowbray-Gould	Director for Mental Health, Learning Disability and Neurodiversity (MHLDN) Provider Collaborative
Tanya Barron	Non-Executive Director
Ian Turner	Non-Executive Director
Martin Beaman	Associate Non-Executive Director, final term concluded 30 June 2024
Simon Hamilton	Non-Executive Director
Dr Venura Perera	Honorary Non-Executive Director (NED), Honorary NED term concluded once appointed as Associate NED on 1 July 2024
Miriam Maddison	Non-Executive Director
Dinah Cox	Non-Executive Director, resigned from Trust 6 May 2024

Relationships with related parties/external bodies

Open Up is proud to be a registered member of NHS Charities Together, the Fundraising Regulator, and the Healthcare Financial Management Association, ensuring we operate to the highest standards of transparency, governance and financial accountability.

The Charitable Funds Committee and Corporate Trustee roles are held by members of the Trust Board of Devon Partnership NHS Trust. While these individuals have responsibilities relating to both exchequer and charitable funds, the business of Open Up is managed and recorded separately from NHS Trust finances to ensure clarity and compliance.

At the start of each Charitable Funds Committee and Trust Board meeting, all members are required to declare any personal interests. These declarations are a matter of public record and can be accessed by request through Devon Partnership NHS Trust or via the Trust's website www.dpt.nhs.uk/publications.

No payments, expenses, honoraria or emoluments were made from charitable funds during the year to any member of Devon Partnership NHS Trust or the Charitable Funds Committee.

Trustee induction and training

All members of the Charitable Funds Committee are supported in their role through access to external training opportunities and are guided by best practice resources, including those published by the Healthcare Financial Management Association. Committee members also receive regular updates on charitable funds management and fundraising policy through scheduled meetings and can seek professional advice where appropriate.

Induction training is made available to all new Executive and Non-Executive Directors in their capacity as Board members of the Corporate Trustee of Open Up. This includes a comprehensive introduction to the objectives, scope, and policies of Open Up's charitable work, as well as broader training relating to the governance and administration of NHS charitable funds.

Investment Policy and Performance

The Charity’s investment powers are broad but subject to a restriction that no speculative or hazardous investments, specifically futures or traded options, are allowed.

The Charity reviews its investment decisions annually. Currently the approach is risk averse and includes placing monies on deposit for one year.

Reserves Policy

The Corporate Trustee calculates the reserves as that part of the Charity’s unrestricted income funds that is freely available after taking account of designated funds that have been earmarked for specific projects.

Unrestricted reserves on the 31 March 2025	
currently stand at	£837k
Less designated funds	(£190k)
Total free reserves	£647k

The Corporate Trustee regularly reviews balances held in designated funds. Where it is decided that the designation is no longer necessary or the fund has been inactive for a significant period of time, the funds are closed and transferred to reserves.

The trustees have no material recurring commitments for which it would be prudent to hold reserves against uncertainties.

Grant Making Policy

The Charity has issued restricted grants previously. Where relevant these are disclosed under ‘Relationships with Related Parties/ External Bodies’ section. The Charity has not paid any grants during 2024/25.

Risk Management Policy

The Corporate Trustee Risk Management Policy is detailed in its R03 Risk Management Framework. This Framework details the process to be used in identifying risks and controls, assessing risks and evaluating the actions required. This information is consolidated onto a Risk Register.

The major risks, to which the Charity is exposed to have been reviewed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. The Charitable Funds Committee on behalf of the Trustee has established review processes to review, monitor and mitigate these risks.



Charity details

Open Up

Wonford House
Dryden Road
Exeter, EX2 5AF

Email: dpt.openup@nhs.net

Registration number: 1056669

Finance Team

Amanda Woodward – Capital and Charitable Funds Accountant
Melinda Moore – Assistant Accountant

Fundraising Team

Daniel Robson – Head of Charity Fundraising

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC
3 Bedford Street
Exeter, EX4 3LL

Independent Examiners

Bishop Fleming Audit Ltd
Salt Quay House
4 North East Quay
Sutton Harbour
Plymouth, PL4 0BN

You can view a copy of our Special Charity Annual Report 2024/25 at **www.dpt.nhs.uk** If you would like a hard copy, please call **01626 884544**.

If you require this report in a different format or language please ask a member of our staff. If you would like to provide feedback about our service please contact:

Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)
Devon Partnership NHS Trust
Wonford House
Dryden Road
Exeter, EX2 5AF

Tel: 01392 675 686

Email: dpt.pals@nhs.net