

October 2015

King's College Hospital Charity Interim Director Gill Edelman talks about its recent major grants and its new independent status.

The King's College Hospital Charity awards charitable grants right across King's, to sites and services wherever King's cares for patients. We work with doctors, nurses and other staff to allocate grants both large and small, and each year we award around £2 million.

This is only possible thanks to the generosity and commitment of the people of King's and our generous donors. It's your fundraising efforts, co-ordinated by the fundraising team, which enable us to fund new research, state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, staff development and the best patient care.

In the first six months of 2015/16, the Charity awarded four major grants important for the future development of King's:

- £200,000 to support construction of the Alex Mowatt Paediatric Research Laboratories at Denmark Hill over the next two years;
- £141,000 towards developing the Volunteer Programme over the next two years both at Denmark Hill and in the local community, and for the first time at the PRUH.
- The Charity also funds a programme supporting staff and staff development. As part of this, we have granted £98,000 to support a programme of nurse development both at Denmark Hill and the PRUH.
- £27,500 to support the Schwartz Programme over the next two years.

Since March, NHS charities have been able to become independent of the Department of Health, allowing them to operate much more like any other charity. Last month, the Trust Board and the Charity decided to seize this opportunity, and in April King's College Hospital Charity will become independent.

The Charity's mission will not change: we will continue to work for the benefit of patients cared for by King's by making grants such as those I've described above.

Many clinicians and managers have contributed to the discussions around the decision and we will continue to work closely with King's to establish the new charity, and ensure the transfer takes place as seamlessly as possible.