



Headway Preston and Chorley receives £152,000 in National Lottery funding to support major trauma patients at the Royal Preston Hospital

A total of £152,000 in National Lottery funding has been awarded to local charity Headway Preston and Chorley to continue a voluntary support service for patients who have suffered a major trauma injury.

The money will be used to provide support on a daily basis, helping more than 2,000 patients per year for the next 3 years.

Last year, the charity ran a pilot project for patients who have suffered a major trauma injury to find out if their service could be beneficial to other patients going through life-changing injuries. The outcome was staggering, with all 257 patients who accessed the service rating it 'very good' and 'excellent'.

Liz Bamber, Project Manager at Headway Preston and Chorley, has led the charity since it began after her eldest son sustained a severe traumatic brain injury through a road traffic collision. She realised from her own family's experience that the community was struggling to provide support to local families when they needed it the most.

Liz said: "We're delighted that The National Lottery Community Fund has recognised our work in this way. Now, thanks to National Lottery players, we will be able to increase our service to patients and help them overcome practical problems after a major trauma injury including brain injury. This funding will make a huge difference and is vital because it helps families to deal with a sudden change to their lives. The service is available to patients and their families as soon as they need it, and most issues can be dealt with before they are discharged from hospital."

Karen Partington, Chief Executive at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are thrilled that Headway Preston and Chorley has received funding to expand and continue what is a fantastic source of support. The lives of the patients and their loved ones using this service have often changed dramatically and rapidly, and this daily service means there will always be help, support and advice whenever they need it. We are extremely grateful to the team and all that they do for our community."

Headway Preston and Chorley was formed in 2010 and has been supporting local adults through their voluntary hospital service and community sessions for the past 10 years.

Thanks to the National Lottery Community Fund, the Major Trauma Patient Support Service will now be developed further, providing help to patients at the bedside with welfare benefits claims, access to free legal information, support with housing and employment issues -all of which may arise as a consequence of a sudden life-changing injury.

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Notes to Editors: For further information contact Lana Fashioni, PR and Communications Officer, Lana.Fashioni@lthtr.nhs.uk 01772 522727.

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust provides district general hospital services to a local community of 390,000, and specialist services to 1.5m across Lancashire and South Cumbria. Services are provided from Royal Preston Hospital, Chorley and South Ribble Hospital and the Specialist Mobility and Rehabilitation Centre, as well as a wide range of services in community settings and at other hospitals in the region.

The National Lottery Community Fund is the largest community funder in the UK – we're proud to award money raised by National Lottery players to communities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Since June 2004, we have made over 200,000 grants and awarded over £9 billion to projects that have benefited millions of people. We are passionate about funding great ideas that matter to communities and make a difference to people's lives. At the heart of everything we do is the belief that when people are in the lead, communities thrive. Thanks to the support of National Lottery players, our funding is open to everyone. We're privileged to be able to work with the smallest of local groups right up to UK-wide charities, enabling people and communities to bring their ambitions to life.

Headway Preston and Chorley began in 2010 and focuses on community support and a hospital service for adults with acquired brain injury. It has 800 members who receive support through the community rehabilitation sessions, one to ones or receive regular information to aid rehabilitation. In addition the Headway Preston and Chorley's information and advice service (including the MTPSS) supports newly injured patients and their families from the injury day and for as long as they need help.

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