



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**



Moving Forward Together

Executive summary

Thank you for reading this document: *Katharine House Hospice – Moving Forward Together*. We have used that title for one simple reason, which is that – like hospices across the UK – we find ourselves at a point where we are having to think carefully about how we protect the outstanding care we provide for our patients, their families and future generations.

We understand that we are a much-valued and cherished part of our local community, which is why our thinking has been careful and extensive.

This process has led us to explore a potential partnership with Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH), which would result in the transition of our clinical services to be under the management of OUH. The purpose of this document is not only to put the proposed partnership into context, but to tell you in detail about the advantages that such a move would bring, and how it would protect the clinical services that we currently provide.

Because so many people have supported us in many different ways over the years, we wanted to outline what the next stage in our journey would look like. It is also an opportunity to say thank you for your support, both now and in the future, and we look forward to continuing that journey with you in the years ahead.

Contents

Introductory comments	2-3
Working in partnership	4-5
Our services and the difference we make	6-7
What it takes to run the hospice	8-9
The changing face of local needs	10-11
What care will look like	12-13
About Katharine House	14
Our partners	15
Patients and families	16
Fundraisers and our community	17
Supporting the partnership	18
What happens next	19
Contact details	20

A message from our CEO



My connection to the hospice is both deep and personal. When my dad was diagnosed with terminal cancer in 2014, I was devastated.

Although there was no cure, the team at Katharine House helped my family to understand what was happening, to continue to enjoy happy times together, and to continue with life after losing him. The care and support we received made a permanent impression on us, and I joined the hospice in 2016 because I wanted the care available to my family to be there for others. Over the last four years, I have been so proud of the extraordinary level of care that we have been able to provide, and the passion and dedication shown by every single member of the Katharine House team.

In my role as CEO, every day is spent with the best interests of the community we serve at the forefront of my mind. We have worked tirelessly to respond to changing healthcare needs and to address the financial deficit that has challenged us, but we now need to take action to protect our services. Katharine House has long been a partnership between the hospice and the community, and I strongly believe that extending this partnership to include Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH) would provide us with a sustainable future, allowing us to protect existing services and build new ones.

Katharine House and OUH are fully committed to continuing to provide high quality care for people facing life-limiting illnesses and I hope you will continue to support us in the next step of our journey.

Angharad Orchard
CEO, Katharine House Hospice

A message from our Chair



I have been Chair of the Trustee Board at Katharine House Hospice for a relatively short period, having been aware of the range of services available to my patients as a local GP since the hospice opened. I have seen the fantastic services delivered by the hospice over the years.

The excellent service that is provided to all our patients and their relatives and carers is only possible because of the massive contribution of the local community. As a result of this generous support, we have been able to extend the range of services on offer.

There is, however, a major problem in the system that finances hospice care in this country; our costs have risen and the contribution from Government has shrunk over the years. Many other UK hospices are facing similar problems, and partnerships and collaborative working are becoming key to the future of many hospices.

Continuing with our current model will, in the medium-term, result in a loss of services, so to do nothing is not an option.

The proposed partnership will allow the hospice and our community to move forward together. We can ensure a long-term and sustainable future for Katharine House and provide the specialist care that people need when and where they need it most.

Dr Jonathan Williams
Chair of Trustees, Katharine House Hospice

A message from our Founder



Stimulated by personal experience and the lack of any dedicated and financed palliative and end-of-life care services, the idea that Banbury needed a hospice grew in the 1980s. The result was Katharine House Hospice, founded as a charity in 1985, with many people coming forward to offer time, energy and skills, leading to the opening of the hospice in 1991.

Having nurtured the project from the beginning, it seemed natural to take on the day-to-day management of the organisation, which I did for the next ten years. During that time, the hospice grew from a day unit catering for 80 patients a year to one supporting over 500 annually through a wide range of services.

When I retired in 2016, more than 800 people a year were being supported and the total cared for by the hospice in 30 years exceeded 10,000. An amazing achievement by the community.

As well as the changing needs of our community, the current pandemic has also contributed to the need to look at the future in a different way. What is proposed in this paper is, I think, a sensible way to preserve the hospice service for future users.

But the need for funding will continue and I hope the community will go on being supportive in what I believe is an important, symbiotic and mutually beneficial relationship with Katharine House.

Neil Gadsby
Founder President, Katharine House Hospice

Working in partnership

Over the last 30 years, we have been privileged to care for so many people in our local community, and we are working tirelessly to ensure we can continue to provide this to everyone who needs us in the future.



We know that the needs of the 156,000 people in our local community served by Katharine House Hospice are different to when we first began our journey. Demographics are not the same, as the population ages, and people are living longer and with more complex illnesses. Patients' and families' preferences for where and how they are cared for are changing, and there are differences in the local health and social care system of which we are part. This



means the hospice needs to reach more people and deliver a broader range of services in the future, and we need to be open to finding ways of enabling this to happen.

Over the last few months, we have been exploring a collaborative partnership which would lead to the transfer of Katharine House's clinical service to Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH).

The aim of the proposed partnership is to work together to maintain and improve services for adults affected by life-limiting illnesses – ensuring that the right care is in place at the right time for those who need it. It is an opportunity for us to drive positive change. Whilst the Covid-19 pandemic has increased pressure on resources, it has also enabled us to think about how we work with others and the opportunities this creates.

Over the coming years, the need for high quality palliative care will increase, and by aligning what we need to achieve into a direct partnership with the NHS, we are establishing the strongest possible platform for end-of-life care for the local community.

The partnership would have a number of advantages:

- All the current clinical services provided by Katharine House will be retained.
- It protects the services and high standards of care that the hospice provides - it is important to stress there will be no cuts to services or closures as a result of the proposal.
- We will remain in the building which means so much to us.
- It puts local people first, meeting the needs of our changing population.
- It enables us to continue to support more than 900 patients, service users and their families every year.
- Over the longer term, it will enable us to reach unmet needs and extend palliative care services for more patients, service users and our local community.

By working closely in partnership with the NHS, we would be strengthening services for patients with life-limiting illnesses whilst, at the same time, meeting the requirements of the changing population.

Along with many independent hospices across the UK, we are also exploring this partnership against the backdrop of an increasingly difficult financial situation. Our current deficit stands at around £500,000 and, whilst this has been funded by reserves in the short term, this is not sustainable in the long-term. By working in partnership with OUH, we will make the best use of our funds and direct these to where they are needed most - meeting the needs of our community.

In the current financial climate, doing nothing is not an option. We draw inspiration from the positive stories we hear every day about the impact that the hospice has had on the lives of so many people in our community, and we are as determined as ever that we will continue to make a difference every single day.

Throughout this process, our number one priority is to maintain the highest standards of care, to give those we support the opportunity to make every moment matter.





Our clinical services and how we make a difference

Through the unstinting efforts of our teams of doctors, nurses, healthcare assistants, allied health professionals, and other staff, and the regular support of some 350 volunteers, we provide specialist palliative care for adults living with a life-limiting illness. Our care is provided throughout the community, in the hospice, and in the Horton Hospital, and helps patients, their families and friends to manage their physical, emotional and spiritual needs.

Our commitment to the community is constantly evolving.

Since we first opened our doors in 1991, we have constantly reviewed what is needed, and adapted and extended our services to reflect that. Over the past year, we have supported more than 900 patients and their families and, over the past four years, have driven a huge amount of positive change to extend existing services and introduce new ones to meet the needs of the local area.

This includes:

- Extending our community nursing service to support patients in their homes from five to seven days a week.
- Delivering the highest possible standards of care to those people who are admitted to our ten-bed Inpatient Unit.
- The expansion of our Living Well Service to reach out to a broader community of day patients, offering activities such as art and crafts, family history, creative writing, mindfulness and relaxation, health walks, support for carers and Dementia Friends training. Additional activities have also included a bathing service, hairdressing and complementary therapies offer.
- Setting up a Covid-19 response centre at the peak of the pandemic, temporarily increasing our bed capacity from ten beds to 24.

- Introducing a volunteer telephone companion service supporting people who feel isolated in their own homes by linking them to dedicated volunteers.
- End-of-life care and support to patients and their families in the Horton Hospital.
- A bereavement support service to help children, teenagers and adults after someone dies.
- A specialist lymphoedema clinic for people with cancer-related swelling.
- The reintroduction of physiotherapy to help patients with breathlessness, mobility, and health.

We also regularly work together with care homes, hospitals, district nurses, GPs and other local healthcare providers, collaborating to maintain the highest standards of care for patients and their families. We share ideas and best practice with other hospices, commissioning groups and professionals to ensure the service we provide is as efficient as possible.

While our care has been exceptional, we're always striving to do more, to develop our thinking, and tailoring our services so that what we provide is the support that our community needs. The proposed partnership is the next step on our journey to continuing to provide the services that are right for our community.

The difference we make

When Ronnie was diagnosed with cancer, she and her family learned that it had already spread and there was little that could be done to treat it. After being admitted to hospital, they feared Ronnie would spend the rest of her life there. That is, until they learned that Katharine House was able to help.

Walking into the hospice, Ronnie and her family instantly felt at peace. It was the perfect setting for her and the family, who could bring in the grandchildren to say goodbye to their Nana.

During her stay, Ronnie spent time with our Chaplain talking about her life. She was also delighted to be able to book a session with our volunteer hairdresser so she could look and feel more like herself in her final days.

Our bereavement team supported the whole family and enabled the adults to talk to the young children about what was happening.

Ronnie's daughter said: "I don't think I could articulate just how incredible the staff were. Everyone was so caring and kind and it made the whole experience so much easier."



In the days before she died, Ronnie still found the humour in any situation and, in the peaceful setting of Katharine House, the family laughed and shared stories until the end.

Ronnie died in the way the family had all hoped for - peacefully, with dignity, and surrounded by love.





We are proud that we have been meeting the needs of patients and their families over so many years. To do so has been possible not just through the skill and dedication of our staff and volunteers, but because of the enormous efforts of our local community too.

What it takes to run the hospice

Whilst our care is provided free of charge, supporting our patients and their families every year comes with a significant cost.

We have continued to make good progress in providing high-quality, patient-led care to people who need it. Katharine House has always been the community's hospice, and the generosity of the people within our community amazes us every single day – yet the cost of helping to provide end-of-life care continues to rise year on year. With the help of our community, we have worked hard to continue to raise the vital funds needed to deliver services.

The success of the proposed partnership also relies on the funding we currently receive continuing, and nowhere is this felt more sharply than in our association with our local Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG), on whom we are completely reliant in terms of ongoing funding. The money they provide goes directly to helping us deliver vital services.

Since the hospice was launched, millions of pounds have been raised to fund care, and countless hours given by our local community. We are enormously grateful to everyone who has supported Katharine House Hospice through volunteering, fundraising, donating, and using our shops. That support will continue to be essential as an integral part of what we do going forward, and we will need to increase our voluntary income if we are to help fund future service improvements.

But we still face a significant funding gap, and the environment in which we operate continues to be challenging. To put into context, this year it will cost us £4.8 million for us to provide individualised care to those who need it. That's £13,000 every day, £9 every minute, to ensure our patients receive specialist end-of-life care.

We are not alone in facing these challenges. Hospices across the UK are operating in similar circumstances and are increasingly exploring how working collaboratively can help them to protect the services they provide.

The national picture

The hospice sector supports more than 225,000 people facing life-limiting illness each year, and around 125,000 volunteers nationally are a crucial part of what hospices do.

Independent hospices, of which Katharine House is one, raise the majority of their funding through the local community, whether that's through participating in our events, leaving the gift of a legacy, playing our lottery or visiting our shops. Katharine House Hospice receives only a quarter of the funding required to support our services from the Government – the rest comes through our fantastic supporters, fundraisers, our shops, local businesses, and trusts and foundations, and we would simply not have survived all this time without the support of our community.

A recent Hospice UK survey found that two thirds of hospices were facing a financial deficit and were considering changes to address this.

However, the need for hospice services is increasing, with people living longer and people also living with diseases such as cancer for longer.

Despite the current deficit, we know we will need to do more to continue caring for patients and their families in the future. The needs of end-of-life patients are becoming more complex, so we need to protect and build services for the years to come.



Current trends suggest that 25 per cent more people will die each year in England and Wales by 2040. If this trend continues, the numbers requiring palliative care will grow by much more than this because there will be a sharp rise in those dying from chronic illnesses such as cancer and dementia. Therefore, over the next 20 years, the number of people needing end-of-life care in the UK is predicted to increase by up to 42 per cent.*

National funding is in crisis, yet we are going to need to provide more high-quality services to more people for longer.

If we are to drive positive change in an era of unprecedented challenges, then we need to look at how we deliver what we do. Collaborative partnerships are key to our future, at a time when the NHS and the social care sector need to work closer together.



* Etkind SN (2017), Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London.



Changing face of the local area and its hospice needs

The reason we exist is simple – to meet the needs of our local community when someone within it is diagnosed with a life-limiting illness.

The healthcare needs of our area have changed though, and will continue to change in the coming years, so we need to adapt to enable us to continue to meet local need.

The population is increasing and aging and the nature of the care we need to provide must reflect this. As more effective treatments for life-limiting illnesses such as cancer have been developed, people are living longer with their illness, which can lead to more complex care needs. Treatments for non-cancer life-threatening conditions are also improving. Increasing rates of dementia and frailty also require us to think differently about how best to support people. Patients often have more than one condition and this makes their care needs more complex. As individual care needs become more complicated, there is a greater need for us to work jointly with secondary, primary, and palliative care services.



Specialist palliative care recognises that patients are often part of family and friendship groups and that the care of the whole person, and their family and friends, is an integral part of what we offer. This need has not changed and will continue to be a priority in any future partnership.

We also need to ensure we can recruit and retain the very best healthcare professionals. Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we have seen extraordinary care and dedication from frontline doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals - something that has been provided by the hospice team for many years. We need to continue to build our team so that we can provide the right levels of care.

Healthcare in Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, and West Berkshire is changing as Clinical Commissioning Groups have come together to form an integrated care system. This creates opportunities for us to better work with other providers and commissioners to jointly assess need, resource allocation, and plan care services.

Against this backdrop of change, the hospice has remained a constant – being there when we are needed by the patients and families we support. Both ourselves at Katharine House Hospice and colleagues at Sobell House Hospice and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH) recognise it is vital we continue to provide specialist end-of-life care within our area, including inpatient beds, community services, and hospital care and our Living Well and bereavement services. By working in partnership with OUH, we will

create a more sustainable palliative care model, and one that meets the needs of our community now and in the future.

We want to make this positive choice now in order to meet the needs of the current generation and those generations to come. We believe that local collaboration and partnership with OUH is key to the provision of local hospice services in our catchment area. The driving factor for our existence in the beginning, to be there when needed for anyone with a life-threatening illness and to support their family and friends, is still our priority today, and we need to ensure that we are best placed to support this founding and continuing aspiration.

A recent survey by Hospice UK reflects the situation we face locally:

- 85 per cent of hospices believe they should consider local collaboration and partnership to become more effective and financially sustainable
- Securing more statutory funding is seen as the biggest hurdle that hospices need to overcome
- The largest blockage to overcome was a lack of openness to consider forms of collaboration





The hospice exists to provide high-quality care for people with life-limiting illness by recognising and supporting their individual needs.

What care will look like under the proposed partnership

We are passionate about offering the right support at the right time to an increasing number of people in our community who could benefit from our care. This is why the proposed partnership is so important. It will enable Katharine House to progress with stability and confidence, making sure high levels of care remain accessible to all, sustainable and ready for the future needs of our communities.

If confirmed, the partnership with Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH) will come into effect in Spring 2021. This coincides with a time when hospices across the UK are exploring collaborations, and it will also allow us to work more closely with Sobell House, our neighbouring palliative care centre in Oxford. Our combined services will support people living across our catchment area.

All of our current clinical services – both in our hospice, in the Horton Hospital and in the community – will continue in the event that the partnership goes ahead, helping individuals aged 18 and over, their carers, families and loved ones.



What does this mean?

The capacity of our ten bed Inpatient Unit will remain unchanged, as will the caring, welcoming and friendly environment that means so much to those who spend time with us. We are extremely proud of our amazing staff and of the dedication of our medical and nursing teams. The clinical team in our Inpatient Unit, led by consultants in palliative medicine and experienced nurses, will continue to offer Katharine House's outstanding level of care, bolstered by the added clinical support that comes from greater integration with the local health services.

Our team of clinical nurse specialists will continue to support patients in their own homes, maintaining the close working relationships we have with local GPs and district nursing teams. It is our aspiration to build our community provision still further. Over the longer-term, we want to work collaboratively with Sobell House, OUH and commissioners to secure the resources needed to address unmet need in different disease groups and harder to reach communities, and to increase the availability of care that enables patients who want to, to remain at home.

Our outpatient and Living Well services will continue to provide flexible support to those able to visit the hospice and build on their online offer, which is currently being developed further. This gives access to our multi-

disciplinary team including physiotherapy, social work, chaplaincy, bereavement and lymphoedema services. We are delighted that not only will this service continue once the partnership is in place, but that the greater integration with our local health and social care services will help us to extend these activities to support people at different stages of their care journey.

Patients admitted to the Horton Hospital in Banbury with a life-limiting illness will continue to be supported by specialist nurses and doctors from our Hospital Palliative Care Team. Katharine House and OUH have already worked in partnership for a number of years to provide this service and improve the quality of end-of-life care within the hospital. Working more collaboratively with OUH and Sobell House will not only strengthen our own teams through access to greater learning and development opportunities, but will also allow us to extend the provision of education in palliative care skills to other health staff in the Horton Hospital and our local community.

A closer working relationship with OUH will mean increased access and visibility of patient records to those that care for the individual patient, and shared systems which all add up to more responsive services and co-ordinated care for those we put first – our patients and their carers, families and loved ones.



About Katharine House Hospice

Katharine House Hospice provides specialist palliative care for adults living with a life-limiting illness. If you have a life-limiting illness, the hospice will support you to ensure you are given every opportunity to live fully with your illness. You will be cared for sensitively through to death, and your friends, family, and carers will be helped to continue with life after loss.

The journey of each individual matters, and we recognise that everyone with a life-limiting illness has their own story, their own friends and family, and has lived a unique life.

Over the years, we have worked hard to understand what people with a life-limiting illness need, and how we can help to ensure those needs are met. We want everyone in our care to feel they have every opportunity to live life to the full and to be able to make the most of every moment.

For those who are facing a limited time with loved ones, we are also there – for them, their families, friends and carers, to help guide them through life after loss.

People often tell us that when they become one of our community, they genuinely feel part of something special. They know they will be looked after with sensitivity and love, and their care is tailored precisely to their needs.

The hospice building itself is set amongst beautiful gardens, set on the border of Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire.

We want people to feel:

Supported

Life is for living, right up until the last moment. At Katharine House, people can do so alongside others who recognise what they're going through. Our individualised approach to care gives people the opportunity to continue to make choices and to live as fully as possible and our friendly team helps people to access the range of support they need.

Respected

Every person's situation is unique. We help to identify the care that patients and their families find most helpful, as well as the different places and times they most appreciate support. We listen, we respect people's choices, and we keep people informed so they can feel confident about the help they're receiving.

Reassured

All our patients are cared for by competent, knowledgeable and sensitive nurses, doctors, healthcare assistants, and other allied healthcare professionals who fully recognise individual situations and respect privacy. We have strong partnerships with a variety of both local and national healthcare providers, making sure that we can offer high-quality and holistic care.

A brief history

The hospice was the vision of one man – Neil Gadsby – with the wholehearted backing of a supportive community. Together with a small but determined group of people, Neil saw that vision become reality. The hospice was named after Neil's daughter, Katharine Gadsby, who died from cancer aged just 20.

Together with his friends, Neil spent five years raising enough money to see their vision realised, and the building itself was completed in 1991. But they wanted it to be more than a building – they saw a place of life and laughter, where everyone is cared for according to their needs.

Almost 30 years on, the legacy of that small group of people is there for us all to see – delivering vital care, free of charge to people with life-limiting illnesses living in our community.



Our partners

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH) is a world-renowned centre of clinical excellence and one of the largest NHS teaching trusts in the UK.

Their core values are excellence, compassion, respect, delivery, learning and improvement, with a vision to deliver and develop excellence and value in patient care, teaching and research. They do this through a culture of compassion and integrity, and by working in partnership and through networks locally, nationally and internationally.

OUH employs almost 12,000 staff at four hospitals including the Churchill Hospital in Oxford – which is home to a regional cancer centre and Sobell House Hospice – and the Horton General Hospital, in Banbury. As a regional cancer centre, their staff provide holistic care for people living with cancer in not only Oxfordshire, but across the Thames Valley and beyond.

Sobell House Hospice, on the Churchill Hospital site, is a key element of this holistic care. It is a comprehensive specialist palliative care service, jointly funded by the NHS and Sobell House Hospice Charity, and staffed by a dedicated and expert team of staff who are employed by OUH.

A major expansion of Sobell House, completed in 2019, means that the hospice now has a two-storey extension housing a specialist outpatient facility (the Sobell Clinic) and a six-patient ward (the Garden Annex) to support patients with more complex care needs, such as dementia.



Oxford University Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust



Jason Dorsett, Executive Director lead at OUH for the new partnership with Katharine House Hospice, said: "As an organisation we are committed to working in partnership in order to provide the best possible care for patients

in Oxfordshire and beyond. We look forward to the benefits which our new partnership with Katharine House Hospice will bring to patients and to the staff who care for them. Our culture of compassionate excellence is a perfect fit with Katharine House's reputation for high quality hospice care which is so valued by the community."





What the proposed partnership would mean for our patients, service users and their families

The proposed partnership between ourselves and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (OUH) is an opportunity for us to drive forward change which would directly benefit our patients, service users and their families. All of the clinical services we provide within the hospice as well as in the community and hospital will continue once the partnership is in place, and we will continue to care for patients from our hospice building in Adderbury.

Importantly, those using our services will not see a difference in their care. We are proud to have spent so many years creating an environment which means so much to those who spend time with us. That environment will remain the same – caring, welcoming and friendly, with high quality palliative care at the heart.

Anyone currently being supported by Katharine House Hospice will continue to receive their treatment from the same team.

The services that we provide, through our Inpatient Unit, Living Well service and outpatients appointments, our community nursing team and hospital palliative care team at the Horton Hospital in Banbury will continue and we will work together to build services in the future.

There are more details about what our care would look like on pages 12 and 13.

By entering into this partnership, we will not only be able to continue to supply compassionate and individualised care that our patients currently receive, but we will also secure the future delivery of our services for our community.



What the proposed partnership would mean for our supporters and our local community

Our local community and those within it who help us to raise much-needed funds for the hospice are always close to our hearts. As we go forward together in the future, those relationships will only become stronger.

We understand that any change brings with it concerns and questions, but any steps we take will be done with the welfare and best interests of the community we serve as our number one priority.

Over the past 18 months, we have worked tirelessly to reach out into our community more than ever before and have subsequently built up a number of fundraising initiatives. Although that has generated a tremendous amount of support, we are currently around £500,000 short of being able to keep our services going at the levels at which they currently stand.

Our costs continue to rise, and consequently doing nothing is not an option. We have, therefore, chosen to explore the development of a partnership between Katharine House Hospice and OUH.

Under these proposals we would still, of course, remain a charity, and fundraising will continue to be a vital part of what we do during an era of collaboration. Although the proportion of costs covered by fundraising and our shops' income will decrease, we still need to raise £3 million every single year to help run Katharine House Hospice.

The need for fundraising remains undiminished and, if we are to see further enhancements to our clinical services, it will need to increase.

Therefore, fundraising and earning income from our shops remains key to the future of the hospice; we will remain dependent on that income, and all funds will go directly to where they are needed most – to supporting our patients, service users and their families.

We will still be running our annual Midnight Walk and Santa Fun Run and will continue to offer a whole range of different activities and fun ways to get involved with fundraising to support your hospice. Fundraising ideas will continue to be shared on our website and on our social media channels. We will still really need our community to undertake their own fun and innovative fundraising activities, and to continue supporting the hospice by donating to our appeals, taking part in our weekly lottery, or even remembering Katharine House in their will.

The local community has always been, and will remain, a crucial part of our partnership through their fundraising activities and support for our shops. We have only been able to care for patients over the last 30 years thanks to the generosity of the community, and we will continue to need your support going forward.



Lending their support

Our community supports us in many different ways, and that support is invaluable to us as we move forward. A number of our supporters have asked us to share, in their words, the advantages of us exploring a collaborative partnership which would lead to the development of a joint clinical service between Katharine House Hospice and Oxford University Hospitals (OUH).

The Rt Hon Sir Tony Baldry DL

I count myself enormously privileged to have been able to witness first-hand the outstanding work that Katharine House does within our community. Having been involved with the hospice since it opened, and a Patron of Katharine House since 2015 when I stood down from Parliament, I know how fortunate we all are to have the hospice on our doorstep.

The outstanding hospice movement in this country has long been close to my heart; when I first entered the Commons more than 30 years ago, I became the Founder Secretary for what was to become the All-Party Parliamentary Group of Hospice and Palliative Care, which has enabled hospices to have a voice around issues such as sustainable funding.

Being closely involved helped me understand that from the essential role played by volunteers and fundraisers, to the brilliant clinical and nursing teams, Katharine House is fundamentally about one thing – people. The people in their care, their families and service users are the very reason the hospice is there, and it is vital that the services

the hospice provides are protected on behalf of those being cared for now, but also for future generations.

To do so, we should seek out, amongst the options open to the hospice, the best route to a sustainable future. The partnership with OUH which is being proposed offers a means of protecting those wonderful services. It is an opportunity we should grasp firmly to provide a platform for the years ahead.

Like every community, we have been hit hard by Covid-19, but it has also provided an occasional pocket of light and positivity. One such example is the number of volunteers who have continued to commit their time, energy and dedication to Katharine House. We owe it to them, and to everyone involved in the hospice in whatever role, to ensure they will be able to continue doing what they do so selflessly.

So yes, I feel privileged, yes I feel proud and yes I feel passionate about protecting our services, and I look ahead with optimism to moving forward together.

Victoria Prentis, Member of Parliament for North Oxfordshire

For almost 30 years, Katharine House Hospice has been our local hospice, providing care and support for so many families in and around Banbury. The coronavirus pandemic has brought out the very best in our health service

and demonstrated how working together can deliver the best results for patients and their families. Now is the right time to build on this firm foundation. These proposals are a natural and sensible progression to protect and secure the future of Katharine House so it can carry on its invaluable work in our community for many more years.

Lindsey Bowser, Trustee and former patient family member

It was my personal experience of the hospice that first gave me an insight into the difference they make to patients and families every day. It inspired me to become a volunteer and Trustee.

My husband, Quentin, was diagnosed with bowel cancer aged 49, and Katharine House was of immeasurable comfort to us both. Some of my most treasured memories are sitting laughing together, with our dog at our feet, on a July

evening full of colour and birdsong. Real laughter and lightness at the darkest of times, made possible by the incredible people who make the hospice so special.

It's a privilege to be a Trustee, and we have a responsibility to continue to serve our community far into the future on a sustainable basis. This partnership will secure the future of Katharine House and enable the hospice to continue to deliver exceptional palliative care services for those with life-limiting illnesses and their families.



How to feed back and comment

It's easy to get in touch to share your comments with us, or to ask any questions you feel are yet to be answered.

We have a dedicated email address, which will be monitored regularly, and from which we will also be able to respond to your questions. The email address is: feedback@khh.org.uk

We will also be sharing updates on our website as we have them at www.khh.org.uk/movingforward. Our website also contains a wealth of other information about our work, our fundraising activities, and how you can continue to support us going forward together.

You can also write to us at **Katharine House Hospice, Aynho Road, Adderbury, Banbury OX17 3NL.**

What happens next

We are mindful that there is a good deal of information to digest within this document, but it is necessary for us to explain in detail the advantages that the proposed partnership would bring. At this stage, it is just that – a proposed partnership – and is now subject to a period of due diligence. This involves both parties, Katharine House and the OUH, sharing information on clinical services and governance, staffing, finances and infrastructure.

At the same time, we will be consulting with staff about the proposed transfer of our clinical services to OUH, and sharing our plans with our patients, volunteers, supporters and the public.

Our legal advisors are working with us to ensure the charity's assets are adequately protected and utilised. We will continue to work closely with commissioners to share our plans and ensure statutory funding levels are maintained.

The information gathered in the coming months will allow us to evaluate the proposal in more detail to arrive at the best, most informed decision, which is in the best interests of Katharine House's beneficiaries.



**KATHARINE
HOUSE
HOSPICE**



Moving Forward Together

Katharine House Hospice
Aynho Road, Adderbury,
Banbury, OX17 3NL.

www.khh.org.uk

Email: feedback@khh.org.uk