

Annual Report

2021 - 2022



Transport for Sick Children

A volunteer driver scheme helping transport children to hospital and clinic appointments

Transport for Sick Children Limited
Registered Charity No. 1110618 Registered Company No. 5454582



Transport for Sick Children Ltd.

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Directors

Chair George Stenson

Treasurer Gill Heyworth (*until March 2022*)

Company Secretary Pauline Cope

Gaynor Kershaw

Eric Houghton

Staff

Transport Organisers

Judith Oxley

Julie Livesey

Linda Yates

Marie-Anne Eckersall

Office Manager

Laura Chidgey

Funding & Communications Manager (*until November 2021*)

Beverley Hoyle

Chairman's Report



As the financial year began Covid 19 cases were still high with advice being to still work from home if possible and only to meet people outside your household outdoors. Our brave volunteers continued to take families to vital medical appointments while following Covid restrictions and advice. A huge thank you to you all the volunteer drivers for their dedication throughout the pandemic.

During the year the website became the most popular means of contacting the charity by referrers. It has now fully replaced fax machines which have been slowly being phased out of NHS offices. The quality of information provided to us also improved and became more consistent.

Our Trustees continued meeting regularly via Zoom with contributions from Laura Chidgey and Marie-Anne Eckersall. Whilst it felt strange we became quite adept at it and worked together to meet any challenges and ensure charity

business continued as it needed to.

Beverley Hoyle and Gill Heyworth left the Charity. On behalf of my fellow Trustees, I would like to thank them for their contribution to the Charity and I wish them well for the future.

Our Volunteers and office team worked together to take **679** children on **4,592** journeys to hospital/clinics covering **93,407** miles in the process.

During the year we welcomed Maurice Ward, Liz Ogden, Julie Baum and John Ling and who are very welcome to join a committed band of dedicated volunteers.

George Stenson
Chairman

Who we are and what we do

Transport for Sick Children (TfSC) is a charity which operates a volunteer driver scheme. Our team of volunteers drive sick children to hospital appointments throughout Greater Manchester. Our mission is to reduce stress and barriers to a family by enabling children to attend important medical appointments despite any transport, financial or social issues they have.

Over the past 10 years we have helped over 10,000 children, undertaken 60,000 trips and driven over 1,200,000 miles.

Volunteer drivers (who are all checked for their suitability to work with children) use their own cars to collect the child along with their carer and drive them to their medical appointment. They then wait until the appointment has finished and take them home. Some drivers are out on the road most days and others a few times a month. We supply child car seats and drivers are reimbursed for petrol costs on a monthly basis.

What is it like being a volunteer?

'I enjoy helping the children and families. I have a daughter with cerebral palsy so I understand what it's like having a lot of hospital appointments that you can struggle to get to. It's great to be able to give something back years later as I know what a difference it makes to the families'

Keith Edwards, Volunteer driver



'After a 40 year career with a company in the in the Retail Technology industry I decided to retire and spend some time in a volunteer role in the community. After 2 enjoyable years driving for the local ambulance trust I felt I wanted something more community based rather than public sector.

So after some enquiries I found the TfSC volunteer driver role which seemed to be more community focused rather than target driven.

I find the role incredibly rewarding. I've met some really nice families and feel at the end of each drive that I had made a difference to that family and to the wider local community as a whole.

Also the support given by the office team and other driver's means you never feel isolated and are always on hand to support you when the need arises.

Having volunteered for a few local charities since I retired TFSC is by far the most rewarding by a long way'

John Kirkham, Volunteer driver



What do people say about us...

“The service provided to the families we support in Salford is commendable, to have a door to door service to take our most complex and vulnerable children to and from appointments reduces the worries and anxieties for families that they can already be facing when the children are the most complex and poorly, however have numerous appointments to attend to gain the best support from professionals and multiagency teams.

To be picked up from home ensures a reliable service for families without the worry of having to use public transport often with equipment such as larger buggies, portable oxygen or pumps to feed the child and the service completely takes away the worries of getting to and from appointments on time”

Helen Rothwell, Designated Key Worker

“There are many families that regularly visit the Royal Manchester Children’s hospital and without the charity’s continued support would find it difficult to attend vital appointments for medical interventions, blood transfusions or x-rays. As a regular referrer I have found the team to be so accommodating and supportive and I know it means so much to the families we care for”

Janette Watson, Paediatric Haematology Social Worker

‘I would like to thank the programme for supporting us with transport, I have no words strong enough to express my gratitude really. The volunteer drivers are very humble, respectful and trustworthy. I’d like to express my appreciation to them and let them know how they are contributing massively to the life and wellbeing of somebody’

A parent/carer

“Transport for Sick Children is an incredible service, they take the ordeal of getting to and from appointments away and making what can be an already stressful situation a lot easier”

A parent/carer

“The transport is a fantastic service that makes what can be a stressful time getting your child to a hospital appointment a significantly easier process, we really appreciate the service. The drivers are always friendly, polite and professional and have been a life saver for us as we don’t drive and would really struggle otherwise. We think it’s an amazing service and are so grateful that this is available”.

A parent/carer

Volunteer Update

New volunteers

A big welcome to the volunteer drivers that joined us this year:

Maurice Ward

Maurice lives in Leigh and covers the Leigh and Wigan area.



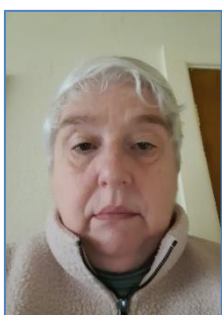
Liz Ogden

Liz lives in Sale and covers Sale and South Manchester.



Julie Baum

Julie lives in Bury and covers Bury, North Manchester and Rochdale.



John Ling

John lives in Audenshaw and covers Ashton under Lyne and East Manchester.



Long service awards

Congratulations to Norman Dale and Bill Wood who have now completed **5 years** of volunteer driving with the charity.

Congratulations to Stuart Wilson who has now completed **10 years** dedicated service to the charity.

Congratulations to Norman Robinson who has now completed **15 years** of volunteer driving for the charity, a huge achievement!



Covid 19

In 2021 we continued to be affected by Covid 19 infections and restrictions. Volunteer drivers continued to transport families while following the restrictions and NHS guidelines. All drivers had their second Covid vaccination in April and May and wore PPE until restrictions were relaxed in the Autumn. Trips only took place if family members and the driver were well and families were informed if a driver tested positive and isolation rules followed.



Treasurer's report

Financial review



The Charity's Incoming Resources totalled £149,876 (last year £149,168) in the twelve months to 31st March 2022. The sources of income were as follows:

	%	
	2022	2021
CCG's	98.05	99.80
Donations/Fundraising	1.92	1.22
Bank Interest	0.03	0.17

Donations totalled £2,198. It, again, also includes several donations from our Volunteer Drivers. Interest rates in the year have continued to be low. The Charity's need to retain liquidity has precluded long term investment, i.e. one year or more, because of income uncertainty due to changes in health care budgets and the requirement to ensure sufficient, ongoing operational funding.

Expenditure has also continued to be well controlled and is reviewed at every Board meeting. Key changes in the year compared to 2021 are:

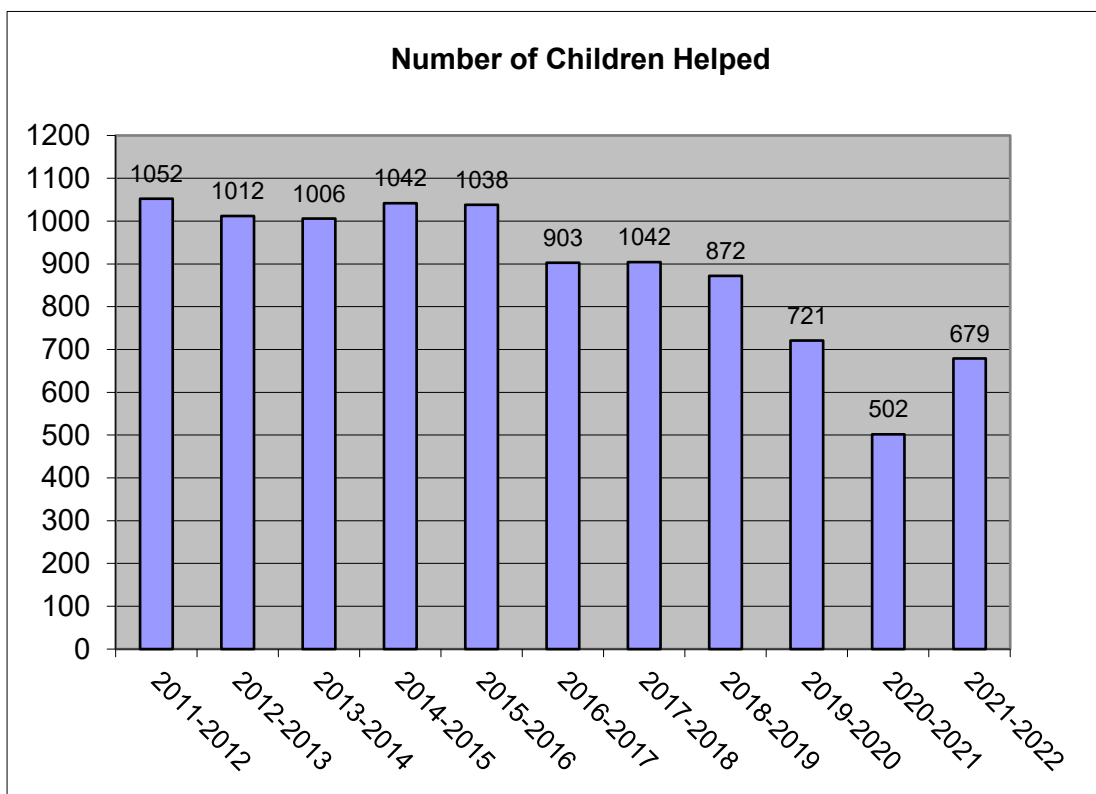
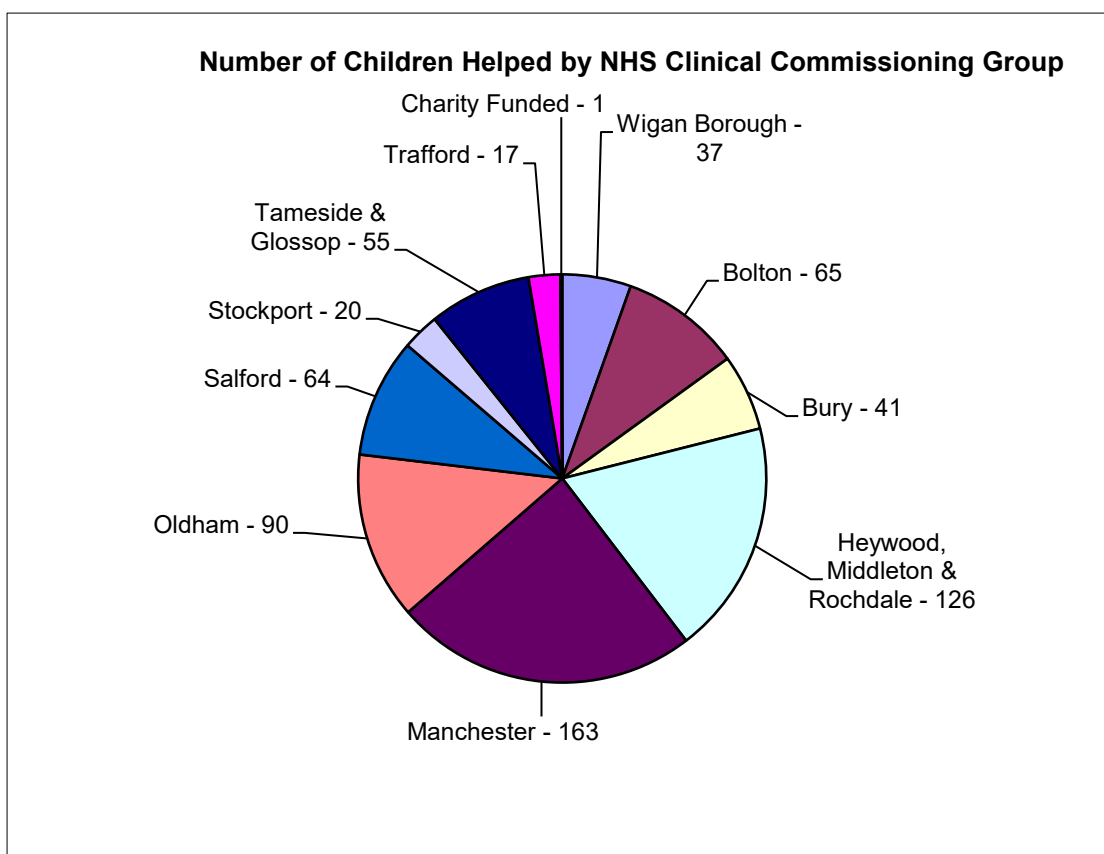
	2022 £	2021 £	Difference £
Employment Costs	62,264	59,729	+2,535
Drivers Mileage	40,765	21,194	+19,571
Rent and Rates	17,828	17,494	+334
Governance Costs	4,438	2,627	+1,811
Telephone	909	825	+84

The charity has made a surplus of £7,965 compared with last year of £39,112. Covid-19 has continued to impact service activity but there has been a noticeable increase on the previous year as lockdowns were lifted. This can be seen in the significant increased spend for drivers mileage, as we head back towards pre-pandemic activity.

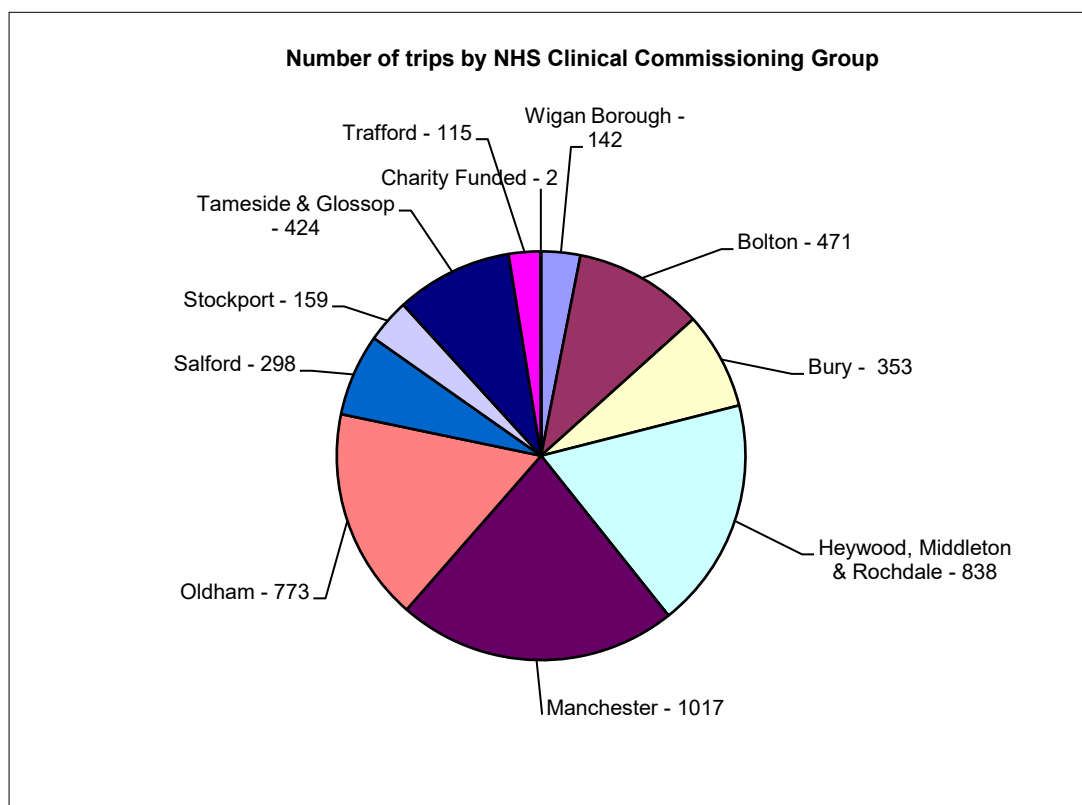
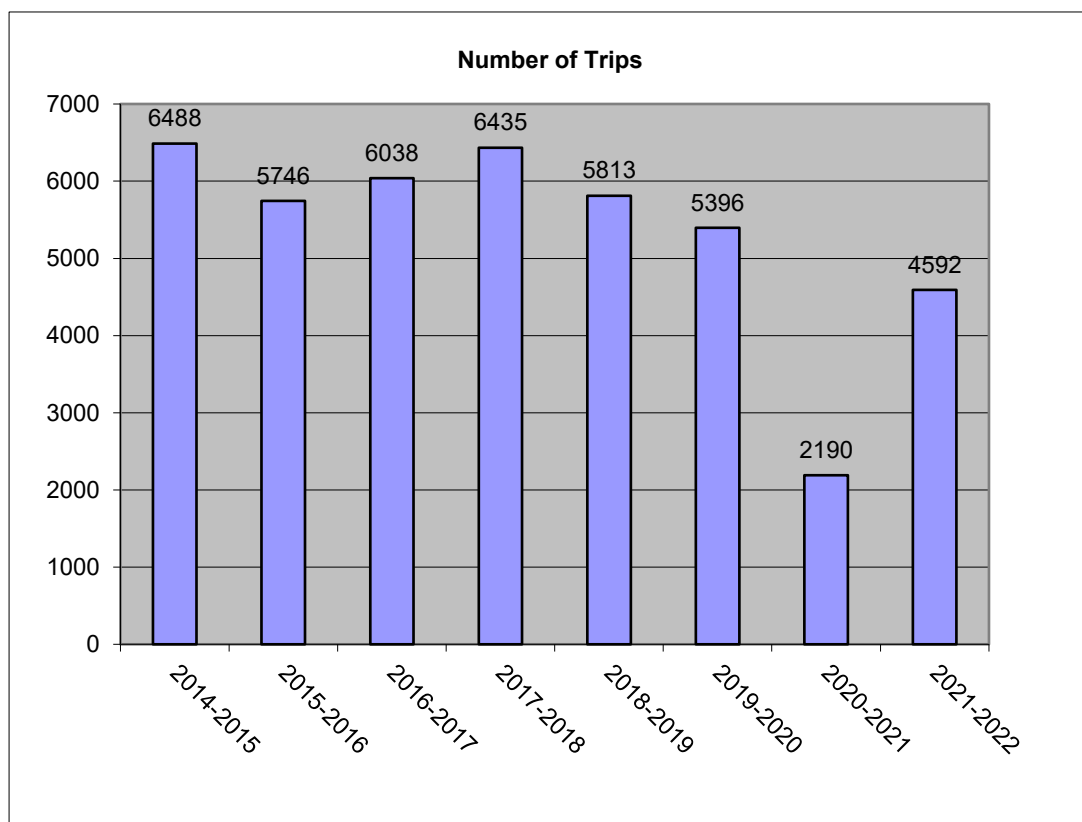
No further spend has been allocated from the £26,168 restricted funds for the Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale area for project development and administrative costs. In order to make best use of this funding, which is outside and additional to our Service Contract in the area, work commenced to undertake a travel training project for older children, so they can become more independent for certain journeys. Whilst the preliminary work was encouraging, the impact of Covid-19 has resulted in a pause in this proposed activity.

Gaynor Kershaw
Acting Treasurer

Activity Statistics



Activity Statistics continued...



Our Thanks To

Volunteer drivers

Christine Brown
Daniel Caldon
John Capstick
Trevor Crookell
Norman Dale
Keith Edwards
Brian George
Bob Gregg
Brian Harman
Norman Hignett
Eric Houghton
Wayne Kelsey
John Kirkham
John McCullagh
Bill Mitchell
Beryl Richmond
Norman Robinson
David Smithers
Bernard Ward
Mike Warner
Stuart Wilson
Bill Wood

Trustee Volunteers

Gaynor Kershaw
Pauline Cope
Eric Houghton
George Stenson
Gill Heyworth

Domestic volunteer

Brian Ridgway

Donors

Convenzis – Daniel Snape
Adele Litchfield
Edward Brunt
Dr Rachael Ntongho
Matthew Jenkinson
Trevor Crookell
Emma Patterson
Sally Carroll
Gemini Blinds - Mark Jenions
J McDonald
F&R Davies
J Newhill
B L Gregory
S Tase
AW Lymn
Handelsbanken
AP Roscoe
L Chidgey

Special thanks to

Alice Carroll
Sally Carroll MBE
Karma Creative
EasyFundraising
Emerge Recycling

Thank you to all of our supporters



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