

# Annual Report

## 2022 - 2023



### 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



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## Directors

**Chair** George Stenson  
**Acting Treasurer** Gaynor Kershaw  
**Company Secretary** Pauline Cope  
Eric Houghton  
Terry Crewe

## Staff

**Charity Manager**  
Laura Chidgey

**Communications & Fundraising Co-ordinator**  
Marie-Anne Eckersall

**Transport Organisers**  
Judith Oxley  
Julie Livesey  
Linda Yates

# Chairman's Report



Following the past years of life affected by Covid e.g. lockdowns, restricted movement etc we finally managed to slowly return to pre-Covid activity. Our volunteers and patients still wore masks and sanitised hands but by the end of the year this became unnecessary.

On 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 the Greater Manchester Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) were abolished, and responsibility was transferred to the Greater Manchester Integrated Care Board (ICB). The effect on the Charity is instead of requesting funding from 10 x CCG's we now deal solely with one commissioner for the whole of Greater Manchester. We have received assurances that our funding will remain until March 2025.

Our service to children and parents/carers concluded this year in 740 children being taken on 4,442 journeys to health appointments covering 88,633 miles in the process. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish to thank all our volunteers and staff for their dedication and diligence in achieving this result. The way we conduct our business affects our reputation which is held in high regard by people whom we come into contact.

We welcome new volunteers Peter Roberts, Helen Burke, Paul Horrocks, Roger Burgess and Ursula Cross.

We hope they have a long and fulfilling period of volunteering with us and that they can be proud of the good their commitment to improving the lives and health of children.

Sadly during the year, we lost Pamela Barnes and Brian Ward. May they rest in peace.

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.

Making the vital link between families, referrers and volunteer drivers is a friendly, experienced team in the office. The Support team assigns drivers to appointments and co-ordinates communication between drivers and carers to ensure trips run smoothly.

## What is it like being a volunteer?

'Volunteering is so important. I wanted to do something different when I retired (I was a Bank Manager for a number of years). I heard about Transport for Sick Children and got involved. I'm now a volunteer driver, driver representative and Trustee for the charity. The role is flexible and I enjoy transporting and getting to know the families. It keeps me busy and is good for my mental health.'

*Eric Houghton*



'I retired 2 years ago and wanted to keep active so after volunteering for the Covid vaccination centres I got in touch with Transport for Sick Children. I'd worked with children a lot during my career and have 2 of my own so the role appealed to me. I enjoy being busy and meeting new people and the parents and carers are so grateful. Hearing a little boy that I'd been taking to appointments for a while talk for the first time after having a hearing implant fitted was just magical'

*Julie Baum*



'I'm comfortably retired and was looking to give back to the community. I really enjoy driving so was looking for a volunteer role that involved this so when I saw the advert for Transport for Sick Children it was an easy decision! I enjoy taking the families, helping to take some of the stress out of appointments for them. Volunteering is so rewarding, just do it!'

*Peter Roberts*



## What do people say about us...

'My name is Dasha Chemo, and I am a Senior Child Counsellor at St. Marys SARC. We work with highly traumatised adults, children, young people and families who have experienced sexual abuse and found themselves in challenging positions in their lives.

We've been working with Transport for Sick Children for a few years now and we wouldn't be able to provide therapeutic treatment to many families/ children without this charity support. I personally find this organisation very helpful because of their prompt responses, empathic approach, and kindness. I often hear gratitude from the parents of our patients for being transported to their treatment, as otherwise, they wouldn't be able to access help at all. I hear that all drivers are kind, funny and empathic, offering their time to support children in need. This has a transformative and therapeutic impact on our patient's beliefs and relationships and helps to rebuild trust. The opportunity to be transported to the St Marys SARC, located in the centre of Manchester, helps families financially, physically, and emotionally by reducing their worries. Therapy is a very painful process that can be tiring, and Transport for Sick Children provides care, compassion, containment, safety and understanding before and after the treatment. All my interactions with the staff have always been professional and kind. I want to thank everyone working for the Transport For Sick Children Charity for making our world kinder and safer.'

*Dasha Chemo, Referrer*



I work for the Early Support Team in Rochdale. Our service works with children with complex needs. Transport For Sick Children is an invaluable service for our families. The volunteers do an amazing job in getting our poorly children to their appointments. The on-line referral process is easy to use and I know they try very hard to find a driver. We are very grateful to Transport for Sick Children in providing a wonderful service.

*Martina Crilly, Referrer*

"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*

'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*

## Volunteer Update

### New volunteers

Welcome to all the new volunteer drivers that have joined us this year:

#### **Peter Roberts**

Peter lives in Crumpsall and covers North Manchester



#### **Helen Burke**

Helen lives in Cheadle, Stockport and covers Stockport and South Manchester



**Paul Horrocks**

Paul lives in Heaton Moor, Stockport and covers Stockport, South and North Manchester

**Roger Burgess**

Roger lives in Heald Green and covers Stockport and South Manchester

**Ursula Cross**

Ursula lives in Flixton and covers Trafford and Salford.





## Long service awards

The charity has a very dedicated team of volunteers. This year we gave out the following long service awards:

**Bill Wood, 5 years**

**John Capstick, 15 years**

**Norman Dale, 6 years**

**Norman Robinson, 15 years**

**Stuart Wilson, 10 years**

**Wayne Kelsey, 15 years**

**Bill Mitchell, 25 years**

Bill Mitchell receiving his certificate at our Christmas get together from George Stenson.



## Pamela Barnes

In April, we were very saddened to hear of the death of Pamela Barnes following a stroke. Pamela was instrumental in starting Transport for Sick Children by asking Sally Carroll to arrange transport for a struggling family from Northern Moor to Wythenshawe Hospital over several weeks in 1977. Sally and Pam were members of the local branch of Action for Sick Children, formerly NAWCH.

Her intervention with this family prevented two little girls from being taken into care or needing repeated hospital admissions. Pam identified the need for and importance of transport for this family and the service grew from here with TfSC becoming a charity in 1994. Pamela was an Advisor at the Department of Health on national standards pertaining to the welfare of children and she lectured nationally and internationally on the needs of sick children and their families. She was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health in recognition of her work in the sector in 2012 and awarded an MBE for services to children's health and education in 2013. May Pamela rest in peace.



*Pamela & Sally Carroll at the 40 year anniversary party*

## Brian Ward

At the end of December, we were very saddened to hear of the death of one of our long standing drivers, Brian Ward. Brian was with us for 15 years until his retirement in 2021 and was always friendly and kind with nothing ever being too much trouble for him. May Brian rest in peace.



## Fundraising & donations

### The Manchester 10k run

In May, Alice and Catherine Carroll (daughters of Sally Carroll, founder of Transport for Sick Children) ran the Greater Manchester 10k run in just over an hour, raising a massive **£2,840** for the charity.

Thank you so much to everyone who sponsored them.



### Vernon Building Society

A big thank you to the Vernon Building Society in Stockport for their generous donation of **£1,000**. This was part of its Community Stars funding scheme to help local charities and not for profit groups across the Stockport borough.



### The Masons

Thank you to Beacon Lodge Mason's and the Masonic charity for their generous donations of £500 and £150.

# Treasurer's report

## Financial review



The Charity's Incoming Resources totalled £162,093 (last year £149,876) in the twelve months to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023. The sources of income were as follows:

|                       | %     |       |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|
|                       | 2023  | 2022  |
| CCG's                 | 92.62 | 98.05 |
| Donations/Fundraising | 6.46  | 1.92  |
| Bank Interest         | 0.92  | 0.03  |

Donations totalled £10,089 from CAF, Vernon Building Society, Guides Belle Vue, Masonic Charity Fund and Pure Innovations. It, again, also includes several donations from our Volunteer Drivers. Interest rates have increased during the year resulting in around £1,400 of investment income. 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 2022 are:

|                  | 2023 £ | 2022 £ | Difference £ |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------------|
| Employment Costs | 67,575 | 62,264 | +5,311       |
| Drivers Mileage  | 45,234 | 40,765 | +4,469       |
| Rent and Rates   | 17,339 | 17,828 | -489         |
| Governance Costs | 2,289  | 4,438  | -2,149       |
| Telephone        | 1,302  | 909    | +393         |

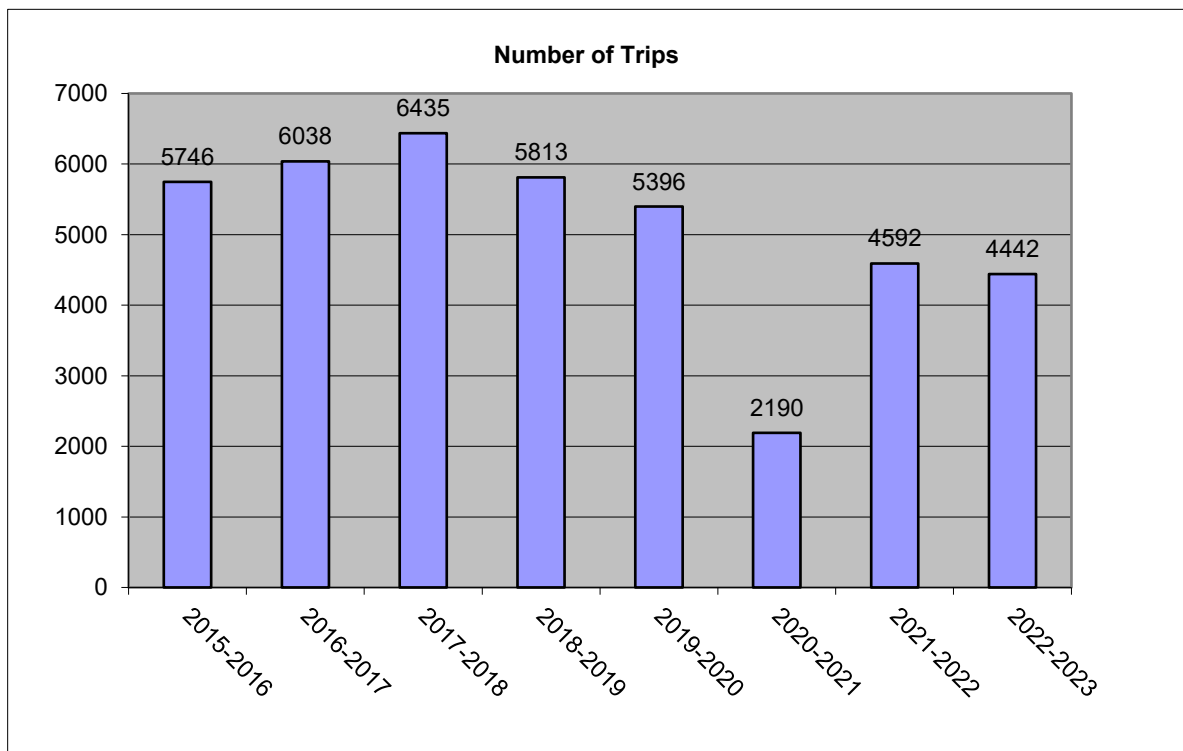
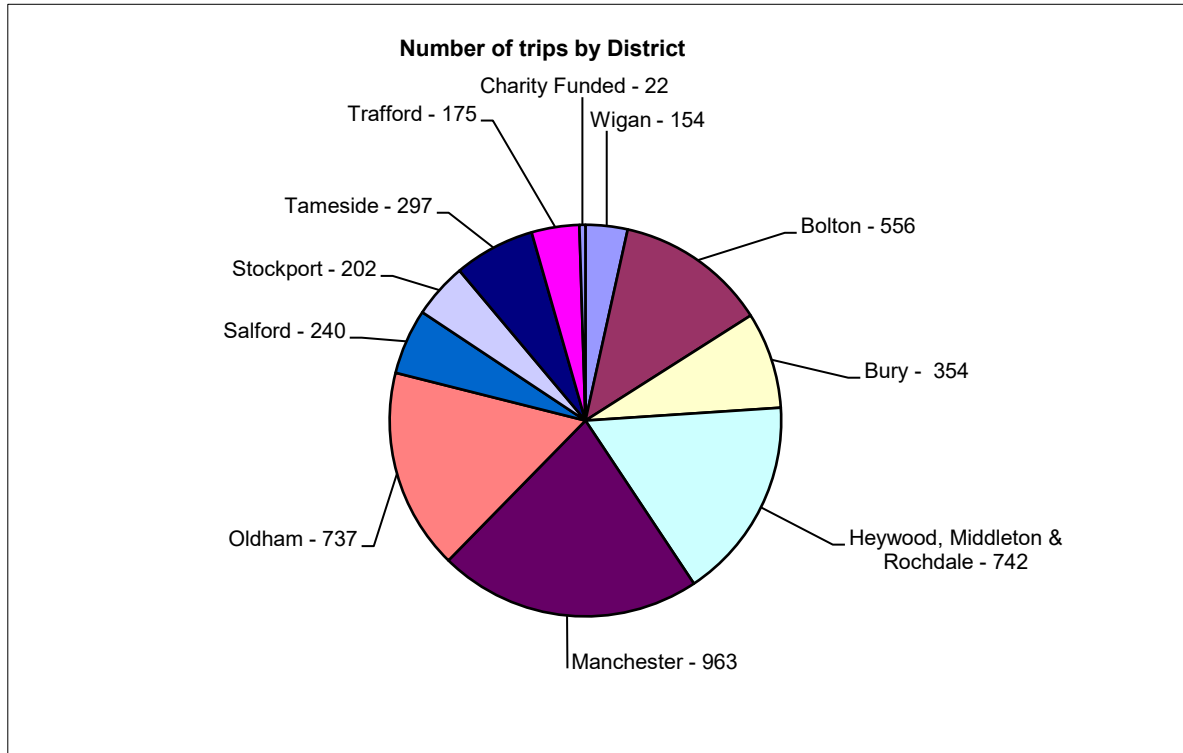
The charity has made a surplus of £4,217 compared with last year of £7,965. There has been an increase in mileage costs to reflect the rate change due to increased fuel costs and activity during the year.

Employment costs also increased in line with the NHS Agenda for Change published pay scales for all staff. The charity has increased spending around publicity and promotion in order to recruit more volunteer drivers, this has been desperately needed and will continue into next year.

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, 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. The Board will review this during 2023/24.

Gaynor Kershaw  
Acting Treasurer

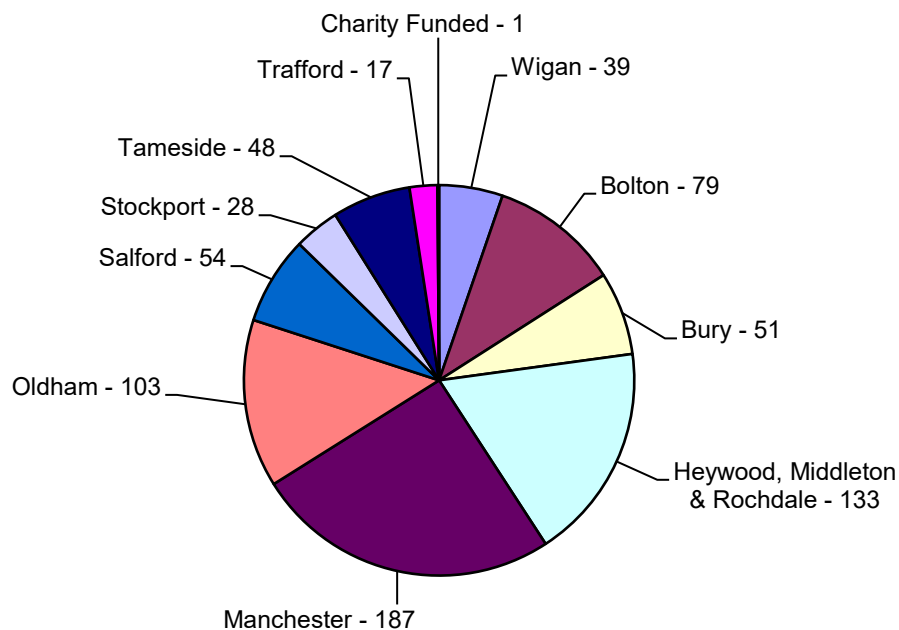
## Activity Statistics



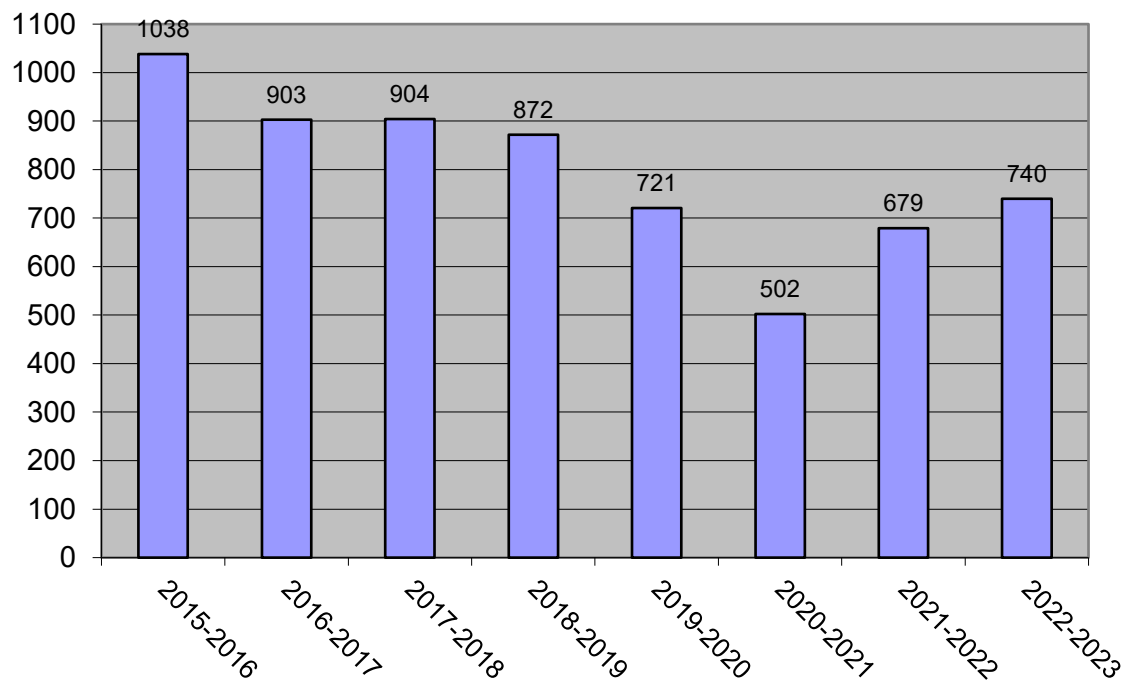


## Activity Statistics continued...

**Number of Children Helped by District**



**Number of Children Helped**



# Our Thanks To

## **Volunteer drivers**

Christine Brown  
Daniel Caldon  
John Capstick  
Norman Dale  
Keith Edwards  
Brian Harman  
Norman Hignett  
Eric Houghton  
Wayne Kelsey  
John Kirkham  
John McCullagh  
Bill Mitchell  
Beryl Richmond  
Norman Robinson  
David Smithers  
Mike Warner  
Stuart Wilson  
Bill Wood  
Peter Roberts  
Helen Burke  
Paul Horrocks  
Roger Burgess  
Ursula Cross

## **Trustee Volunteers**

Gaynor Kershaw  
Pauline Cope  
Eric Houghton  
George Stenson  
Terry Crewe

## **Domestic volunteer**

Brian Ridgway

## **Donors**

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)  
Vernon Building Society  
Beacon Lodge Masons  
Masonic Charitable Fund  
Guides Belle Vue  
Pure Innovations  
Rosedale Funeral Home  
EasyFundraising  
Convenzis – Daniel Snape  
Adele Litchfield  
Mrs Toft  
Matthew Jenkinson  
Dr Rachael Ntongho  
Jannah Hayah  
Brian Harman  
Keith Edwards  
Norman Robinson  
John Kirkham  
John Sagar  
Brian Ridgeway  
Stuart Wilson  
David Smithers  
Norman Hignett  
John Ling  
Wayne Kelsey  
Julie Baum  
Helen Burke  
Daniel Caldon  
Peter Roberts  
Bill Wood  
Donations in memory of Pamela Barnes  
All donors via GoFundMe for Manchester 10k

## **Special Thanks to:**

Jannah Hayah and family  
Alice Carroll  
Sally Carroll MBE  
Karma Creative  
Astrava Media  
EasyFundraising  
Emerge Recycling



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