



Supporting kidney patients

# LAKPA Annual Report 2022



## Overview

2022 has been a year of consolidation for LAKPA as the country emerged from Covid restrictions, and so uppermost in our planning has been the need for caution with our vulnerable patients. Early in the year LAKPA Trustees agreed the following priorities for its work during the 2022.

## LAKPA Priorities for 2022

1. Provide additional financial support to patients/carers in need in the context of Covid and to increase support for social activities for patients/carers. Provide financial support as appropriate to mitigate the effects of the cost-of-living crisis.
2. Manage and allocate funding from Tom Costello's bequest effectively, taking account of the patient survey and responses from Trust staff. Ensure full accountability for the way in which the money is allocated.
3. Support the Trust in increasing provision for home therapies, including the capital project to renovate the home dialysis centre at Lister Hospital Home Therapies.
4. Continue engaging with the new Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and others in improving patient transport, including access to devolved personal health budgets.
5. Increase the profile of LAKPA by recruiting more members, strengthening communications through existing and new channels (such as social media and networking with local businesses), setting up notice boards etc.

Good progress has been made on all these priorities except for increasing provision for home therapies. Unfortunately delays in accessing capital funding have meant that this project has not started by the Trust; LAKPA remains committed to working in partnership with the Trust and it continues as our priority for 2023.

## Support for Patients

Thanks to the generous legacy from Tom Costello we have been able to provide significant support to kidney patients facing a cost-of-living crisis. Working with the renal social work team we have funded food vouchers, provided support with energy costs as well as provision of household goods for patients in need. An 'in principle' agreement to fund a Money Matters Adviser and Complementary Therapist has been made and we hope to progress these in 2023. At the end of the year Maria da Silva Gane, who had led the social work team for many years and worked closely with LAKPA, retired. We wish her all the very best for the future and we look forward to working with her successor in maintaining the excellent relationships we have always enjoyed with this team.

## Use of the Tom Costello Legacy

In addition to allocating a proportion of the legacy to vital financial support of patients, funds have also been dedicated to organising summer trips, afternoon teas and Christmas events. All the units, including home therapies were offered coach trips to the seaside which were very successful. In the autumn there were several afternoon tea events locally and, at Christmas, each unit was offered funds for Christmas decorations and the opportunity of a meal out or a Christmas party.



There was also significant investment in easier access and improving waiting areas

and in the provision of better furniture and easier access. During the year LAKPA have also provided stress balls, fistula wrist bands and PD fridge magnets at the request of the renal staff.



## Patient Transport

LAKPA has supported Sandra Cruickshank, Deputy Divisional Director of Nursing and Quality for Renal Services in her work to improve the transport services and develop relationships with the two ICB's covering the area. Contract renewals are underway and LAKPA has been asked to identify patient representatives to assist in the assessment of contract responses. This therefore continues into next year.

## Increasing LAKPA profile

2022 has seen a significant increase in membership and LAKPA's website, Facebook and other social media channels have been transformed into an interactive and topical communications tool.

For the first time since Covid we were able to celebrate both World Kidney Day and Organ Donation Week with stands in Lister Hospital and at the Bedford Unit. These were magnificent events with renal staff and LAKPA committee members supporting a range of informative and fun activities.



LAKPA also has significant input into the work of the National Kidney Federation (NKF), with Kirit Modi, LAKPA chair being their honorary president, and Tarsem Paul and Ros Aird on the Executive Committee. LAKPA attended a meeting of the APPKG (All Party Parliamentary Committee Kidney Group) where their report on the campaign to improve Home Dialysis numbers was launched.

### Working in Partnership

LAKPA continues to enjoy excellent relationships with Dr Jeevaratnam, the Renal Clinical Director and his team, Kevin Howell, the Director of Estates, and the Trust Charity. Their support has been invaluable in ensuring that we can deliver the help needed to improve the lives of kidney patients, their families and the renal staff that support them.

Towards the end of 2022 we were delighted to receive a significant donation from the organisers of the Balstock festival, one of whose committee members was a kidney transplant recipient. This came with the proviso that it be used for the benefit of the renal staff and, following consultation with staff, a decision will be made on how it is to be spent.



From an external perspective LAKPA is now a member of three Business Networking Groups: - BNI Endeavour Chapter, BWN (Busy Women's Network) and WIBN (Women in Business Network) which gives the opportunity to spread the word around organ donation etc as well as being the source of significant donations.



### Conclusion

LAKPA continues to thrive, thanks to its committed volunteers and the relationships that exist with Lister hospital. We fully recognise the challenges faced by kidney patients at present and will continue to do all we can to improve the lives of kidney patients and their families in 2023.