

PROPOSAL

Headway Acute Trauma Support (HATS) in The Walton Centre

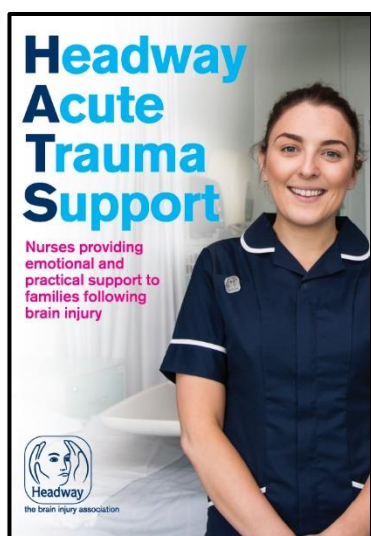


the brain injury association

Introduction

Headway – the brain injury association is the leading UK-wide charity supporting people affected by acquired brain injury and their families.

The support provided by the charity to brain injury survivors, their families and carers begins from the moment the brain injury is sustained and continues throughout their journey to rebuild their lives, relearn lost skills and regain a degree of independence.



In recognition of the importance of supporting families in the immediate aftermath of a brain injury, Headway Acute Trauma Support (HATS) nurses provide assistance and support to families whose loved ones are in acute care.

HATS nurses ensure acquired brain injury patients and their families receive the best possible support, advice and information from the point of admission to hospital.

They complement and strengthen the care provided by clinical teams in recognition that hard-pressed NHS staff do not have the time to provide the intensive support and advice provided by HATS nurses.

HATS nurse in The Walton Centre

The charity launched the HATS service in 2011 with a nurse operating out of three hospitals in the North West of England, including The Walton Centre. This was the first HATS nurse to be appointed.

For the past eight years, the original post holder, Alex Power, has been working alongside clinical staff within The Walton Centre, Salford Royal, and Royal Preston at no cost to the trusts.

This role was initially funded by Headway's own charitable resources. Subsequently, this post and others operating in Birmingham, Hull and Middlesbrough were funded by a grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

This funding has now come to an end and, as a charity with limited resources, Headway is seeking to identify alternative funding in order to continue to provide this vital service.

Shared resource

Currently, the HATS nurse in the North West of England operates out of three hospitals: Salford Royal, Preston Royal and The Walton Centre. Her time is spent equally



the brain injury association

www.headway.org.uk

between all three hospitals, with one set day per week in each hospital and two days to run clinics or meet with families at their request.

Cost

HATS nurses are experienced band 7 nurses with knowledge of acute neurological care. The cost of the HATS nurse in the North West of England is £40,272 per annum. This figure does not include equipment or management costs, which will be met by the charity.

It is proposed that the three hospitals benefiting from the HATS nurse split this cost equally.

The cost to The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust would therefore be £13,424 per annum.