

**ASSOCIATION for the
WELFARE of
CHILDREN in
HOSPITAL**



Cefnogi plant gwael a'u
teuluoedd yng Nghymru

ADRODDIAD BLYNYDDOL 2010/2011

Rhif cofrestru elusen: 222294

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supporting sick children
and their families in Wales

ANNUAL REPORT 2010/2011

Registered charity No: 222294

AWCH AIMS

AWCH aims to raise awareness of the needs of sick children and their families in Wales, and to provide help and support to children, young people and their carers.

AWCH works with professional and voluntary organisations, parents, children and young people themselves to promote quality health care for sick children in hospital, community and home.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Caroline Crimp

As we look forward to our 50th anniversary the many changes which we will be able to celebrate are obvious to anyone working in or using the NHS. However, I'm afraid reports within the following pages make depressing reading - while requests for help increase our means for giving help are rapidly diminishing.

Every child or young person in the family can be affected not just the sick, disabled or injured one. Just recently, someone told me of her disrupted education, and the loss of attention she suffered, while her sister was in hospital for some time. Although just old enough to understand the reason, it was nevertheless traumatic for her.

The cost of having a child in, or attending, hospital must remain AWCH's top priority. We will continue, by every means at our disposal, to bring the unacknowledged needs of this group of children and their families to the attention of the relevant authorities. Our special edition anniversary newsletter will focus on the problems encountered by families.

AWCH worked very hard in its early years, particularly through the efforts of Ann Watkins, for recognition of the need for play in hospital. The Play Specialists' reports show that their role is being preserved in this present climate although, in some cases perhaps, being deployed to other tasks. We are very pleased to congratulate Allison, in Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny, on gaining her Play Specialist certificate.

We are still trying to keep abreast of the proposed future move of paediatrics to more appropriate facilities within Morriston Hospital. The joint parent and child survey there is now reaching it's conclusion, with some of the early findings already being used to improve facilities.

Many thanks are once again due to the Trustees, acting as the Executive Committee, for their commitment.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Clare Lamb

AWCH would like to thank everyone who has supported us during the year 2010. We rely totally on voluntary contributions and fund raising so we hope you will continue to support AWCH by renewing your membership, also by telling your friends about us and the work we do. Anyone who works for AWCH does so entirely voluntarily. Your subscription is vital to us. This year we have had more requests than ever for financial help from families visiting their children in hospital, due to the economic crisis and parents having less money to use for travelling and visiting their sick children.

Our colourful information leaflet continues to be well received by both official organisations and families, as well as the AWCH Newsletter, keeping our members up to date. There is also more information on our Web Site www.awchwales.org.uk with links to other organisations.

Subscriptions remain £10 for individual members or £12.50 for the whole family or groups. If you are a tax payer, we would be grateful if you would sign the enclosed gift-aid form. AWCH is then able to claim back the tax from the Government, thus increasing our funds.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ennis Roberts

As feared, we have had a very difficult year financially, and have had to drastically dip into our reserves. Again, thank goodness we have reserves to dip into but, obviously, we cannot continue to do this on this scale for much longer.

The two Swansea Charitable Trusts who have been such a support in the past have come up trumps again this year, donating £900 between them. Also, Margaret and Alan Fabb held not just one, but two book sales which realised over £376, the Teddy Bear's Picnic, organised by Bamardo's NPT Parent Network and held in Gnoll Park, realised just under £175 and our plant sales brought in almost £233.

As you will see from the following report, our concentration again this year on our Travel and Emergency Funds, with requests for help from all over, has meant us dipping deeply into our reserves. There is no doubt that the problem of the cost of visiting children in hospital is a very serious issue and, as promised we are campaigning for more statutory help as part of our imminent 50th Anniversary celebrations. As a preliminary to this we went to the expense of sending out more of our leaflets and also the very much welcomed "I'm a Star" badges which are such a favourite with children in hospital. We hope that by reminding people we are here we will highlight the problem of visiting costs.

We are, of course, very grateful to all who help us, but we cannot continue to keep up our work to the extent we have this year unless we can raise more funds. So if anyone out there has any bright ideas to help us, *please, please* let us know.

We keep our costs to the absolute minimum, in fact, this year our Officers' expenses were only £118.35, of which £99.01 was returned as donations!

Once again, we are most grateful to Mr M J Beckett, CPFA(PT) AAT for auditing our accounts. After our AGM, a copy of the full accounts may be obtained from me or is available on the AWCH website: www.awchwales.org.uk.

PLAY IN HOSPITAL

Cardiff & Vak University Health Board

SueReardon

Once again it hardly seems possible that another year has gone by. The past year has been stressful, very busy, challenging and rewarding.

Many of the play team have moved into decant playrooms so that their existing rooms can be demolished to make way for phase 2 of The Children's Hospital. It has been a difficult time of change but through the

support of their fellow play specialists, they are making the best of their new play rooms until some of them have to move again in August.

In September we had fun celebrating play in hospital week, where we organised lots of activities for the children to enjoy. In October Sue Simpson was given the position of senior I on the team, replacing Jean James who retired the previous year. We have been visited by royalty and sporting celebrities during the past year and we have also met the "real" Mickey Mouse.

We look back on the past year and wonder where the time went and we look ahead to the coming year with all its uncertainties and aim to provide a high quality service to all our patients.

Aberdare Hospital Kenshole Children Centre *Julia Williams*

Kenshole Children Centre, treating 0-19 year-olds with a wide range of conditions that affect all parts of their development, is based in Aberdare Hospital, Aberdare. In the centre we have Consultants, Physiotherapists, Occupational and Speech and Language Therapists as well as a Child Psychologist and Hospital Play Specialist. I work with all members of the multi-disciplinary team as well as on my own in individual play sessions.

In the Consultant's clinic I observe the children who are attending and relay information back about the child that I might have observed, that might be affecting their development. I work with other therapists on certain aspects of a child's development that they are focusing on using play as a tool, making the therapy session fun. Patients are also referred to me for individual play sessions as well as messy play sessions. Messy play can help children who have sensory problems as well as difficulties around food.

I have been working at the centre for over 3 years and still find the position interesting and challenging learning about new techniques and skills. Study days on Autism have given me more insight and some practical ideas of working with children with the condition. Later in 2011 the centre and the rest of the hospital will be relocated to a new build called Ysbyty Cwm Cynon.

Bronglais Hospital Angharad Ward

Paul Harries

Despite the sometimes uncertain future of some services at Bronglais Hospital over the past year, my role as the Hospital Play Specialist in the Trust has continued to move forwards. I have been continuing to strive to find better and more effective ways of providing quality play on the children's ward, as well as continuing to affirm my role in other areas of the hospital such as outpatients, casualty, radiography and theatre.

Several of the preparation sessions that I have undertaken this year have had very positive outcomes, further increasing my confidence and enabling me to see ways of moving things forward in the future. There have also been an increasing number of positive comments about the playroom from both parents and children this year; I am now working on ways and means of recording and encouraging feedback to help further improve the play service in the future.

West Wales Hospital, Carmarthen Cilgerran Ward *Mari James*

As of last year I am the only member of the Playroom as the other two Play leaders have started new roles in Paediatric clinics.

I work four days a week Mon - Thurs and cover various things. I still escort children to theatre and do some distraction in the anaesthetic room, distracting and preparing children for various procedures and treatments. I occasionally work in the clinic to cover sickness and holidays where I do some chores and help the Doctors.

I hope to develop new projects to help me and the multidisciplinary team.

Nevill Hall Hospital, Abergavenny

Bev Trinder

There are currently 2 Play Specialists providing a quality play service at Nevill Hall, rotating between the Children's Ward and the Paediatric Outpatients Department.

Bev has now been working at the hospital for 20 years maintaining the ever changing services. Allison has provided new techniques and enthusiasm as she has just successfully completed the HPS course (in Scotland

December 2010). The hospital is now part of the newly named Aneurin Bevan Health Board, which incorporates the Royal Gwent Hospital where Allison is currently providing maternity leave cover.

Morrison Hospital

Ann Jones

Our Christmas festivities were somewhat curtailed this year. Our Christmas party in the Liberty Stadium was cancelled due to blizzard conditions and our regular visits from the pantomime cast and Osprey players was cancelled due to the ward closures with the winter vomiting bug. Our Christmas party was re-scheduled for the week before Easter, with a visit from the Easter Bunny and the Swansea City football players. A great time was had by all.

During the past year we have been helping in conducting the Parent and Patient survey. AWCH, along with the NPT Barbados' Parent Network, compiled questionnaires about their stay in hospital. We gave these out on discharge and are looking forward to hearing the results.

Jan and Ann have been part of the Trusts Patient Experience group looking at the views of our Adolescent patients; they hope to set up a focus group which includes past patients to look into the present adolescent facilities in the hospital, and possibly information obtained will be used in any future developments.

TRAVEL & EMERGENCY FUND

Nicole Taylor

Morrison Hospital

Ffion Slorsen, Team Leader

This year we supported 16 families coming from Swansea, Cardiff, Carmarthenshire, Newport, Ceredigion, Neath and Pontypridd. The ages of the children ranged between two weeks and thirteen years. The reasons for admission were burns, lacerations, bronchitis and trauma. The amount of grant given varied from £10-160. Almost all the children were emergency admissions. When parents arrive in hospital with their child, in an

emergency situation, they are often unprepared with very little money on them. The parent has to stay in hospital with their child and needs money for food and sometimes transport to get home, so 11 grants were given for emergency.

The requests for grants were greater this year than last year, which resulted in a request for further funds to the AWCH committee in December 2010. An additional £250 was granted. All the families supported this year were grateful for the financial support they received from the AWCH Fund.

Individual Grants

Ennis Roberts

In addition to our Travel and Emergency Fund based in Morrison Hospital, we help families from all over Wales who are finding it difficult (and in some cases impossible) to afford to visit their children in hospital. These cases are referred to us by social workers, health visitors, community nurses and other professionals who are dealing with families who are experiencing real financial hardship due to the escalating cost of visiting children in hospital, particularly when a lot of children are transferred to centres of excellence which may be hundreds of miles away. In the last year we have given just under £3900 to help such cases and this is only a drop in the ocean.

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE FOR AWCH 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Tessa Atherton

The first meeting of AWCH was held 50 years ago next February. Our celebrations will concentrate on raising awareness of the enormous financial problems many families are finding themselves dealing with.

Initially, we will contact Welsh MPs and AMs, and then statutory and professional bodies and charitable organisations. We are also planning an Art Competition for all hospitals in Wales where there is a children's unit. It has been suggested that this could be around Christmas time. Adam Jones, Ennis's grandson, will design a poster for us. The competition will

involve three groups of children - up to 8 yrs, 8 to 12 yrs and over 12 yrs. Any medium may be used to create their picture. Entries will be collected at a central place where they will be judged. Prizes will be chosen appropriate to the age group. We shall ask the winners' hospitals to hold a party, funded by AWCH, when the prizes can be presented. This is on condition that the hospital publicises it in their local press, acknowledging AWCH.

Our survey, being carried out at Morriston hospital, is nearing completion and we are hoping to be able to announce the results at a fund raising event next year.

AWCH PLAY AMBULANCE

Clare Lamb

AWCH Play Ambulances loan scheme has again been fully booked this year, St Helen's Primary and Parkland schools have had the ambulance for a second time, St David's Primary and Sketty Primary have participated in the scheme for the first time. All the schools incorporated the ambulances into their curriculum topics "ourselves" and "people who help us".

Letters informing schools of the scheme are sent to The Foundation Phase Co-ordinator of Primary Schools, which results in a good response, leading to bookings. Details can also be found on our Web Site: www.awchwales.org.uk and in our Newsletter.

If anyone has children or grandchildren attending Swansea schools, please would you ask the school if they would like to borrow a Play Ambulance. They are suitable for both Reception and Nursery children and there is only a small charge of £5 for an entire term. AWCH will deliver to and collect from your school.

For further information or to book the Play Ambulance for your school;

Clare Lamb 01792205880

e-mail: thelambs17@hotmail.com

Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital

www.awchwales.org.uk

email: awchwales.org@tiscali.co.uk

Registered Charity No: 222294

Trustees/Executive Committee

Caroline Crimp MBE - Chairman

Ennis Roberts - Hon Treasurer

Judy Evans - Hon Secretary

Clare Lamb - Minute secretary

Mary George - Jan Williams - Ann Jones - Tessa Atherton

If you would like to join us the subscription rates are;

Individual membership £10.00

Family/Group Membership £12.50

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