

Report title	Chertsey Museum wellbeing project – St. Peter’s Hospital Untold
Report author	Emma Warren, Curator
Department	Community Services
Exempt	No

Purpose of report:

- **For Information**

Synopsis of report:

Chertsey Museum has worked in partnership with St. Peter’s Hospital (ASPH) to obtain a grant of £14,950, to fund an intergenerational project to gather, archive and tell the community and heritage story of St. Peter’s Hospital, Chertsey. This report provides an overview of the process and the intended delivery plan for the project.

Recommendation(s):

None. This report is for information

1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 This report outlines a recent grant funding opportunity identified, a project identified through a partnership approach with Ashford & St Peters Hospital (ASPH), which has resulted in the successful award of grant funding for a project to be delivered over 2024/2025.
- 1.2 As stated in the Museum’s 2021-2024 Forward Plan, Chertsey Museum is seeking to increase its offering to the Borough and be more proactive in the way it delivers community engagement.

2. Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended

- 2.1 Over the last couple of years, small amounts of grant funding have been obtained to undertake new community focussed heritage projects.
- 2.2 As part of our research into the need for more museum community engagement, we approached ASPH in the Spring of 2023 to determine what we could offer their patients. It is through this initial contact that we met with ASPH’s Arts & Healing Manager, who asked us to work with them to tell the story of ASPH from the founding of the NHS in 1947 to the present day. The intention was to tell the story through the eyes of staff, patients, and the wider local community.

- 2.3 Having agreed a project outline, a grant application was submitted to *The New Stories New Audiences* scheme from the Association of Independent Museums (AiM). The total amount of funding sought was £14,950.
- 2.4 *New Stories New Audiences* grants are available to small museums for activities that widen participation to groups that are currently under-represented. Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, eligible museums can apply for up to £15,000, and are expected to have identified a new story to tell and to work with a new partner.
- 2.5 In December 2023, confirmation of the grant application being successful was received, and now, in partnership with ASPH, Officers are planning the commencement of the project in 2024.
- 2.6 As an overview, the project will look to achieve the following:
- collect the personal histories of SPH through staff past and present, volunteers, patients, and those in the wider community in the form of oral and video interviews and transcribe them for accessibility and future archives.
 - workshops for NHS staff, patients and the community to create artwork/crafts that explore the hospital's heritage.
 - use the personal histories and archive to assemble creative art boxes to share with the community who may be unable to access the museum or are in hospital.
 - create a temporary exhibition at Chertsey Museum incorporating community voices using the video/oral histories, objects from our archive, artwork created by staff and the local community, and the art boxes created by patients.
- 2.7 The project outcomes include:
- a wider range of people involved in heritage through oral/video histories, creative boxes, craft classes and opportunities to help assemble the temporary exhibition.
 - giving participants opportunities to learn new skills.
 - add a new story to the museum archives.
 - boosting participants' feelings of wellbeing and community. Participants will be able to be involved with the project, including co-creating an art/craft project and craft events.
- 2.8 The grant will be used to fund additional hours for the Museum's Education Assistant enabling a commitment of time to work with colleagues at ASPH, and to engage with members of ASPH staff, past and present, and record their memories of their time at the hospital.
- 2.9 The oral histories collated will either be recorded as audio or video accounts, working with a professional videographer to edit together to create a short film. The testimonies will also be transcribed and, together with the audio/video files, become part of the museum's collection.
- 2.10 In addition, the funding will be used to support engaging new residents/patients into the work of the Museum through contributing to this project. Ways of doing so will include:

- Members of SPH staff will be invited to create a memory book, an ornate scrapbook of their time working for the NHS, embellished with photographs and personal mementoes.
- A group of up to 40 long-term in-patients will be invited to create a piece of art representing their time in the hospital, whilst also reflecting the oral histories recorded for the project.
- The local community will be invited to the museum to help make a patchwork quilt that will be created to thank the NHS for their work and record the community's memories of ASPH.

2.11 All these items, and objects already in our collection, will also be displayed in an exhibition about SPH at the museum planned for January 2025. The exhibition will also offer those who have taken part in the project the opportunity to assist with mounting exhibits and installing the objects.

2.12 Given the project intends to work with several long-term patients at ASPH, there is the opportunity to assess the impact that being engaged in such a project has on the personal wellbeing of individuals. Therefore, working with the Graduate Trainee, within Community Services, who is leading a piece of work on Wellbeing Activation Measures, it is intended that an appropriate measure will be identified and used, in the hope of demonstrating the positive impact that engagement in local history and culture. Such outcomes may provide further opportunities for the Museum to work with health in the future.

3. Policy framework implications

3.1 The project supports the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, in particular priority 2, to support healthy communities, through the provision of museum and heritage services. Priority 3 of the strategy focuses on working in partnership and this first opportunity to work with ASPH on local history projects is an opportunity to establish new partnership working arrangements.

3.2 The project also supports Chertsey Museum's forward plan, previously approved at Community Services Committee, in particular the priority to increase levels of community engagement.

4 Resource implications/Value for Money (where applicable)

4.1 This project has been fully funded and will be delivered within existing resources at the Council.

4.2 A summary of the budget for the project is as follows:

Activity or Purchase Description	Total
Videographer to record oral histories and make final product	£5,850
Sound recording of oral histories and transcription x 20	£3,000
Engagement officer	£2,250
Well-being art project	£1,500
Memory/creative boxes	£900
Artist ideas	£500
Exhibition panels/design	£950
Total	£14,950

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 No legal implications flow directly from this report, although ownership of any art created may need to be considered and any agreements with third parties will need to follow the Council's Procurement Rules.

6. Equality implications

- 6.1 The project in which we are participating is owned by St Peter's Hospital. It is anticipated that it will have a positive impact on people of all ages and others who may or may not share a protected characteristic.

7. Timetable for Implementation

- 7.1 The project will start February 2024 and be completed by November 2024 with the exhibition planned for January 2025

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 St Peter's Hospital represents a significant part of our local community and is an organisation that the Museum has been keen to develop more formal and mutually beneficial links with for many years.
- 8.2 This project is the first opportunity to work together, and it is hoped that through a successful project, further opportunities to work together across patients of all ages, will be possible.

9. Background papers

None stated.

10. Appendices

None.