Introduction

This annual report shares information about the activities, services, income and expenditure of Mesothelioma UK between April 2017 and March 2018. The charity continues to go from strength to strength; we’re recruiting nurses, establishing services, and funding research and activities dedicated exclusively, to mesothelioma.

Through a grant and guidance from Macmillan Cancer Support, Mesothelioma UK started life as the National Macmillan Mesothelioma Resource Centre in 2004. Once established, the benefits of having a national approach to mesothelioma support and information prompted the launch of Mesothelioma UK as an independent charity. In recent years, with thanks to an amazing army of fundraisers and a team of people with whom I am privileged and proud to work, Mesothelioma UK is now an integral part of our wonderful NHS.

Mesothelioma UK aims to:
• be an essential one-stop-shop for up-to-date mesothelioma support, information and education
• support the NHS to drive up standards and ensure equitable access to world-class treatment, trials and care
• help the UK to lead the way in making mesothelioma history through world-class audit, research and clinical trials
• raise the profile of mesothelioma to help prevent future cases of asbestos-related disease

The Mesothelioma UK team works towards meeting the vision captured in our strategy ‘The Next Five Years Strategy (2016-2021) – Dedicated to Making Mesothelioma Matter’. The strategy follows five work streams.

1 Finance and fundraising
2 Driving up standards and equitable access
3 Support, information and education
4 Research, audit and evaluation
5 Prevention and awareness

Following these five workstreams, this annual report provides insight into Mesothelioma UK’s income, expenditure, successes, team members, partners, activities and supporters.

Mesothelioma UK is indebted to the University Hospitals of Leicester (UHL) which encouraged the establishment of a national resource centre for mesothelioma and accommodated the team from 2004. This NHS base provided the essential structure and the supportive environment necessary to establish a national nurse-led, patient-focused charity. It has also ensured that the charity has a solid foundation for its continued growth and development.

With all the pressures facing a large NHS Trust, UHL inevitably could not continue to provide the space and facilities Mesothelioma UK needed. Consequently, a significant change in the summer of 2017 saw the charity’s operational team move out of UHL into independent serviced offices in a neighbouring suburb of Leicester. Establishing communication channels, office facilities and procurement outside the NHS and gaining our independence, has been a steep learning curve. In addition, to maximise the role of the charity trustees and afford a greater degree of independence, Mesothelioma UK re-registered with the Charity Commission as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. The facilities available to the team at the new location, coupled with the change in charity structure have provided the structure needed for Mesothelioma UK to increase its activities and reach across the UK.

We are delighted to share with you highlights of Mesothelioma UK’s 2017-18 year. I would particularly like to celebrate the growth in our Clinical Nurse Specialist team. By March 2018, the charity has provided funds for 18 Mesothelioma Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNSs). All of them are based within front line NHS services ensuring anyone diagnosed with mesothelioma receives equitable access to the best treatment, support and care that the UK has to offer. There are still large areas of the UK without access to a Mesothelioma CNS and it is our aim to address this; our Five Year Strategy outlines our commitment to achieving this.

This year also saw Mesothelioma UK successfully bid for a government grant. The team recognised that a number of armed forces veterans are affected by mesothelioma. The charity applied for a grant, available from The Treasury through fines levied on the banks. The charity was awarded sufficient funds to begin to establish a service specifically for Armed Forces personnel and veterans.

Thank you to all the Mesothelioma UK team, nurses, operational team, trustees, advisory board, ambassadors and volunteers for all that you do and for your passion, hard work and enthusiasm. To our sponsors, donors, charity and corporate partners, and especially to our army of fundraisers, without you, none of this would be possible.

To anyone living with or affected by mesothelioma, Mesothelioma UK promises to continue to do all that we can to improve treatment, care, support, information and awareness.

Liz Darlison
Head of Services and Consultant Nurse
INTRODUCING THE TEAM

Meet the Mesothelioma UK team*

Operational Team:
The team is based at Unit 116 Greenacres, The Sidings, Leicester, LE4 3BR

Liz Darlison,
Head of Services
Caroline Barry,
Benefits Advisor
Lisa Booth,
Benefits Advisor (Armed Forces)
Ghislaine Boyd,
Business Development Manager
Tracey Calvert,
Finance Officer
Jill Lemon,
Fundraising Manager
Debbie Neale,
Helpline Co-ordinator and PA
Rubina Sheikh,
Administration Assistant

Communications Team:

Sandstar Communications
Dock, 75 Exploration Drive,
Leicester LE4 5NU

Mesothelioma UK Ambassadors
We currently have five ambassadors covering different parts of the country in East Anglia, Norfolk, Manchester, Gloucester, London, Yorkshire and Wales. They support the charity and give their time selflessly, promoting our services and raising awareness at events they attend.

Board of Trustees:

Alida Coates
Ruth Davies
David Hetmanski
Dawn Mckinley
Professor Mick Peake (chair)

Clinical Nurse Specialist Team
The Clinical Nurse Specialists are based in NHS hospitals across the UK.

Liz Darlison,
Consultant Nurse, Leicester

Clinical Nurse Specialist Team Leaders:

Anne Moylan,
Portsmouth
Lorraine Creech,
Manchester

Clinical Nurse Specialists:

Hannah Ball,
Oxford
Simon Bolton,
Yorkshire
Carolyn MacRae,
Scotland
Christine Jones,
Plymouth
Karen Lord,
Leicester
Kate Slaven,
Cambridge
Leah Taylor,
North East
Helena Stanley,
Sheffield
Rachel Thomas,
London
Joanne Hargraves,
London
Louise Gilham,
Kent

Sarah Morgan,
Wales
Mairead Dixon,
Manchester
Maria Guerin,
Liverpool
Helen Wilkes,
Southampton

*As at 30.03.018
## 1. Finance

### Total Income for the Year Ended 31 March 2018:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>% of Income</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Donations and Grants</td>
<td>86.1%</td>
<td>907,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacies</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>130,584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sponsorship Income</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>14,760</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment Income</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td>1,277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income for the Year</strong></td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>1,053,741</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the total above, a balance of £162,964 was unused restricted funds carried forward.

### Expenditure in the Year Ended 31 March 2018 Expressed as a Percentage of the Total Income Generated:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>% of Income</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research and audit</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>208,845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical staff</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>351,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational team</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>78,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounting &amp; finance</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>18,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising team and costs</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>26,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefit advisor</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>71,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web and marketing team</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>15,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information expenses</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>27,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funded projects and services</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>87,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information events, training and conferences</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>36,736</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office costs and maintenance</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>42,673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditure for the Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>965,895</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Income for the Year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>87,846</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fundraising

Fundraisers are the largest financial contributors to Mesothelioma UK and we are extremely grateful for their support in helping us to meet our aims and objectives, and raise the required income.

Our fundraisers are very important to us and are all given the support they need to help them achieve their goal in whatever event or challenge they choose.

Our corporate donors also support us through donations, fundraising events, and funding travel and educational grants for nurses. Their financial support amounts to 12% of our total income and is essential. Just as important, though, is their commitment to helping to raise awareness of our services and the dangers of asbestos.

424 Fundraising Events

424 fundraising events took place in 2017/2018 and 873 people ran, walked, cycled, swam, danced, baked, grew moustaches, shaved their heads and jumped out of aeroplanes!
Mesothelioma UK fundraising initiatives

We currently run five annual fundraising initiatives – Miles for Meso in Spring, Muffins for Meso in May, Meso August Ramble, Go Sober in September and Grow a Mo in November.

Christmas cards and event collections

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-line sales</td>
<td>£3,796.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cards sold at events</td>
<td>£2,784.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Tins at events</td>
<td>£317.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total income</strong></td>
<td><strong>£6,898.35</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legacies

Legacies (gifts in wills) are an important source of income for many charities, with some receiving millions of pounds per year, making up more than one quarter of their income. Mesothelioma UK is keen to increase its legacy income. In 2017/18, we received £130,584 which is just 12.4% of our total income.

In 2018/19, we will be raising the profile of legacies in the hope that we can increase the number of people who choose to gift to use in their wills.
2. DRIVING UP STANDARDS AND EQUITABLE ACCESS

Mesothelioma UK Advisory Board

The Mesothelioma Advisory Board is an expert advisory group that meets to discuss and make recommendations concerning the needs of mesothelioma sufferers. The Advisory Board was established and an inaugural meeting was held in April 2015. Meetings are held twice yearly. Members include: nurses, clinicians, patients, carers, asbestos group representatives and Mesothelioma UK Operations Team members. One of the key recommendations made by the board was the introduction of travel expenses for patients attending centres for treatment. This was approved by the Board of Trustees and the initiative was launched from 1 April 2017.

Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) Team

Mesothelioma UK appointed five new CNSs this year (in Kent, Southampton, London x 2 and Liverpool) and now supports a total team of 18 CNSs across the UK.

We eventually intend to support 30. Each Mesothelioma UK CNS is employed in an NHS hospital that agrees to a service level agreement (SLA) with Mesothelioma UK. The SLA outlines local, regional and national responsibilities for each post holder, all focused on ensuring equitable access to the best treatment, care and support available, irrespective of a patient’s location.

As at April 2018, 18 Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) have been appointed across the UK in the following locations:

- Leicester - 2
  (1 Nurse Consultant)
- Portsmouth
  (Team Leader)
- Manchester - 2
  (1 Team Leader)
- Sheffield
- Newcastle
- Oxford
- Glasgow
- Wales
- Yorkshire
- Plymouth
- Cambridge
- London x 2
- Kent
- Southampton
- Liverpool
Mesothelioma UK CNS Achievements 2017/18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team Leaders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This year was the first full year in which there were two team leaders.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New Posts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Five new posts were established in Kent, London, Southampton and Liverpool.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Patient Contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This year, the nurses saw 784 new patients – over 300 more than last year. This reflected the growth of the nursing team throughout the year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Helpline Contacts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>445 patients were given advice and support via the Mesothelioma UK helpline. This is a decrease from last year due to more nurses able to see patients in person.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meetings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Throughout the year CNSs represented Mesothelioma UK at 539 meetings including specialist/regional Multidisciplinary Team Meetings. This is more than three times the number of meetings they were able to attend last year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Presentations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>143 presentations were given locally, regionally, nationally and internationally – more than double the number given last year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support Groups</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CNSs attended 150 support groups – twice the number they were able to attend last year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Examples of patient and carer feedback

- “Jo, the Mesothelioma UK nurse specialist at St. Bart’s was blooming marvellous.”
- “Thank you Mesothelioma UK for the work you do to raise awareness, fund research, and provide specialist nurses. You are a glimpse of light in a tunnel of darkness.”
- “Laura McNaughton, the Mesothelioma UK specialist nurse in Glasgow was outstanding, she was with the family the whole way.”
3. SUPPORT, INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Helpline Calls

Our freephone helpline is available from Monday to Friday with an answerphone facility for out of hours calls. Both Operational Team members and nurses answer the calls. The helpline received 3,557 calls in 2017/18 – fewer calls than previous years, possibly due to the expanded team of nurses across the country dealing with queries directly.

Calls came from the following groups:

The contacts received by the Helpline from April 2017 to March 2018 were as follows:

- Doctors/GPs: 19
- Fundraising enquiries: 2308
- Nurses: 156
- Others: 265
- Patients: 252
- Relatives/Carers: 577

When the calls are taken they are allocated accordingly:

- Benefits Advisor: 125
- Business Development: 6
- Fundraising & F/R: 1787
- Nurses: 384
- Sent Information: 576
- Signposted: 695
- Benefits Advisor: 2
Information Distribution

452 Mesothelioma UK information packs were requested and sent out in 2017/2018. An unknown quantity were also distributed through the CNS team, at conferences and through members of the National Lung Cancer Forum for Nurses.

Magazine Distribution

In 2017/18, 16,700 printed copies of the magazine, Mesothelioma Matters, were distributed. Electronic copies and a link to the electronic version were circulated to in excess of 10,200 contacts through the networks of partner organisations such as the British Thoracic Oncology Group, the National Lung Cancer Forum for Nurses and the charity’s own circulation list.

Patient & Carer Day

In October 2017, Mesothelioma UK’s annual Patient and Carer Day conference was attended by around 111 people, mostly patients and their family members/carers. With world-class speakers also attending, the day was a chance for patients to meet and share experiences with others, get the latest updates on mesothelioma treatments and ask questions of the healthcare professionals.
Benefits & Finance Advice

Mesothelioma UK employs a Citizens’ Advice Bureau Benefits Advisor as part of the operational team. In 2017/18, the advisor supported 178 clients to make claims.

Benefit/Lump Sum Payments 2017/2018

Year to Date Summary By Quarter as at Quarter 4: January to March 2018

1. Helpline/ Direct Contact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>Q2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr-Jun</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lump sum payments identified</td>
<td>£326,263.00</td>
<td>£465,772.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated annualised benefit</td>
<td>£191,453.60</td>
<td>£300,408.70</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Casework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Q1</td>
<td>Q2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr-Jun</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lump sum payments identified</td>
<td>£159,273.00</td>
<td>£77,514.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated annualised benefit</td>
<td>£124,994.80</td>
<td>£97,762.31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Year to Date Totals: April 2017 to March 2018 (Helpline/Direct Contact + Casework)

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of clients</td>
<td>178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lump sum payments identified</td>
<td>£1,966,926.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated annualised</td>
<td>£1,449,166.21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As part of our Armed Forces Project (see page 15), Mesothelioma UK applied for funding to recruit a dedicated Benefits Advisor to help veterans and military personnel with the complex system of benefit entitlements for those from the Armed Forces. Lisa Booth was appointed in September 2017 and has helped 11 clients claim £1,540,000 benefits/compensation.
Patient Travel Expenses

Mesothelioma UK acknowledges that people affected by mesothelioma do not always have access to specialist care at their local hospitals.

Following a proposal submitted by MUK Advisory Board, from 1 April 2017, Mesothelioma UK launched a new initiative to support patient travel. This ensures that all patients have the opportunity to gain equitable access to specialists, treatment and trials without the worry of high travel costs if those options aren’t available locally.

In 2017/18, we received a total of 205 claims from 68 individuals.

Centres attended included:
London - St Bartholomew’s, Guys, Royal Marsden
Leicester
Royal Brompton
Sheffield
Plymouth
Basingstoke
Addenbrookes

An annual budget of £25,000.00 was set aside. The service proved very popular and the total expenditure at year end equated to £29,184.00.

The budget for the year 2018-2019 is currently being reviewed.

Armed Forces update

Supporting Our Armed Forces Project

Mesothelioma UK’s Supporting Our Armed Forces project was launched in April 2017 with funding through a grant from the chancellor using LIBOR funds. LIBOR funds have been raised by the government through fines levied against the banks for manipulating the London Inter Bank Lending Rates (LIBOR).

The project seeks to:
1. Raise awareness of mesothelioma amongst armed forces personnel and veterans
2. Improve information and support provision for those living with mesothelioma who have a connection with the armed forces
3. Strengthen and promote working relationships between NHS health care professionals and the armed forces, armed forces charities and support agencies

This year we have:
• established a project team and structure
• appointed a dedicated Benefits Advisor who understands the complexities of benefit and legal implications for armed forces personnel and veterans
• appointed a Clinical Nurse Specialist to ensure that individuals receive appropriate support and information
• forged connections with other agencies such as Veterans UK and COBSEO
• negotiated a contract with the University of Sheffield for a research study into the incidence and experience of armed forces mesothelioma patients
• created a Facebook group for armed forces personnel and veterans to connect and share experiences
• developed a brand and identity for the project including a logo
• identified appropriate patients and interviewed them to create case studies
• achieved national media coverage about the project and the two appointments
• produced information leaflets for patients
4. RESEARCH, AUDIT AND EVALUATION

National Mesothelioma Audit

Mesothelioma UK was the sole funder of the second National Mesothelioma Audit. The report is carried out by the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) London to raise the profile of mesothelioma and make recommendations to improve the outcomes for patients.

The collection and review of this data is invaluable for highlighting the issues faced by patients and has identified some encouraging patterns in survival rates, but also regional variations in quality of treatment. Mesothelioma UK considers this report as just the start of what we hope becomes a very productive collaboration that enables ongoing improvement in the treatment, care and more importantly the outcomes of those living with mesothelioma.

Research funding

Mesothelioma UK is committed to supporting research into mesothelioma, especially in the areas of basic science, clinical trials and quality of life studies. We provide the funding for the projects but, as we do not have the facility to peer review applications, we partner with the British Lung Foundation (BLF) and the National Lung Cancer Forum for Nurses (NLCFN) to facilitate the projects.

Working with the BLF, we have funded three studies to date. The fourth is currently being peer reviewed:

**A new approach for personalising therapy**
Professor Dean Fennell was awarded a grant in January 2016 for two years to study a targeted, drug-based strategy to identify which drugs may work better for different types of mesothelioma. The study has been extended and will conclude in December 2018.

**Addressing Hypoxia**
In February 2017, Professor Luciano Mutti was awarded a two-year grant to investigate the role of oxygen deficiency (hypoxia) and its related biomarkers (hypoxamirs) that are related to a poor prognosis and treatment resistance in malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM). The study will conclude in January 2019.

**MEDUSA**
A two-year grant was awarded to Dr Edward Hollox at the University of Leicester for his study which aims to find the achilles’ heel(s) of mesothelioma by interrogating genomic evolution. This study will help the discovery of new treatments that will exploit these vulnerabilities. The study began in January 2018 and will conclude in January 2020.

Each year, Mesothelioma UK funds nurse-led research with a grant of up to £25,000. In 2017, we awarded two grants through the NLCFN:

**RADIO Meso**
RADIO Meso is research project which looked at the patient experience of receiving their mesothelioma diagnosis. The study was carried out by researchers at the University of Sheffield and aimed to improve the experience for patients and their families. Using the information gathered from patients, carers and healthcare professionals, the team was able to develop recommendations which will be used to shape best practice when giving a mesothelioma diagnosis.

**Non-surgical diagnosis**
Amy Kerr, Senior Thoracic Surgery Research Nurse at the Medical Innovation Development Research Unit (MIDRU) at Heartlands Hospital, Birmingham, secured funding from Mesothelioma UK and Pat Stone Meso Support for a study into non-surgical diagnosis of mesothelioma. The procedure uses structured light plethysmography (SLP) which will enable faster and less invasive diagnosis for patients.
5. PREVENTION AND AWARENESS

UK Mesothelioma Alliance

The UK Mesothelioma Alliance was established in 2017 to bring together mesothelioma stakeholders as one voice to raise awareness of mesothelioma through agreed projects. Members include mesothelioma patient/carer advocates, campaigners and charities, and asbestos charities and support groups, campaigners and trade unions.

Communications & PR

Since February 2016, Sandstar Communications has supported Mesothelioma UK with its communications and PR needs. Sandstar manages the charity’s social media accounts and website content, keeping them up to date and engaging. We have used traditional PR to raise awareness of the charity and build a strong reputation resulting in local, regional and national press coverage. The quarterly magazine, Mesothelioma Matters, is also produced by Sandstar.

Twitter: Number of tweets: 405 with an average of 34 each month.

Impressions: 543,100 with an average of 45,000 each month.

Number of Twitter followers:
580 new followers – giving a total of 2018 followers which is a 40% increase over the year with an average of 48 new followers each month.
A heartfelt blog written by a young woman about her experience of losing her mum to #peritoneal #mesothelioma with the aim of letting others know they are not alone. Thanks for sharing Charlotte x

Retweets:

2,707

with an average of 225 retweets per month – a 40% increase in the average number of retweets in 2016/17.

Number of Likes:

479 new likes – giving a total of 1,314 which is a 56% increase over the year with an average of 40 new likes each month.

Number of posts:

280 with an average of 24 posts each month.

Top post (biggest reach):

March 2018

Reach: 6.9k
The Peritoneal Mesothelioma Group, created in June 2016, saw an 86% increase in members. It’s a private Facebook group that people have to request to join – this means that we can ensure the group is for those affected by this specific type of mesothelioma only. It now has 56 members, from the UK, USA, France and Australia, who are free to chat with each other, ask questions, share experiences, etc.

Website

153,925 total page views.

Press releases

19 press releases were produced and distributed, resulting in 31 pieces of coverage in the media including national and local newspapers, publications for healthcare professionals, television, radio and online.
Over 15 events took place up and down the country at the beginning of July to mark Action Mesothelioma Day – an annual day to raise awareness and pay tribute to those affected by mesothelioma. Mesothelioma UK promoted all events on social media and the website.

In Leicester, Mesothelioma UK commemorated the day with a service of reflection and hope at Leicester Cathedral, attended by more than 100 people. Guests were invited to place paper doves with personal messages on the tree of reflection before the speakers began their informative and heartfelt talks. Healthcare professionals talked about new research and clinical trials and a patient shared her experience.

The service was followed by a symbolic dove release and a strawberry tea.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to organise or attend one of the events. Action Mesothelioma Day is important for honouring those who are living with the disease, remembering those who have died from it and for raising awareness of it among others.
THE YEAR AHEAD - PLANS FOR 2018/19

The Year Ahead

In the year ahead, the whole Mesothelioma UK team will continue to work towards 'The Next 5 Years: Dedicated to Making Mesothelioma Matter', the charity’s 2016-21 Strategy.

To achieve the goals outlined in our strategy, income generation will be a major focus for all members of the team. Preparing an income generating strategy, exploring new streams of income, and developing and increasing the fundraising team are going to be essential components of this.

The Clinical Nurse Specialist team is increasingly recognised as the charity’s ‘tour de force’. Its number has grown rapidly over the last two years and we have successfully introduced team leader positions. Structure, standardisation and sustainability will be addressed by the team leaders as we continue to develop this major aspect of the charity’s work.

Growing the funds available for research and increasing the number of mesothelioma research projects are core aims for Mesothelioma UK. A Mesothelioma UK Research Fund will be launched in the year ahead to support this. The charity is also delighted to continue working with the Royal College of Physicians to publish a second National Mesothelioma Audit report and to plan ahead for further improvements in the audit.

The Mesothelioma UK ‘Supporting Our Armed Forces’ project has been very successful in its first year. The project team has been overwhelmed by how positively the work has been received by our armed forces partner organisations. Awareness initiatives have taken place in Wessex and the East Midlands, and 2018/19 will see these rolled out, through the Meso UK Nursing team, across the UK. The research side of the project will also commence along with the recruitment of a PhD student.

The charity is excited to continue evolving, expanding and reaching more people affected by mesothelioma. None of this would be possible without the support of our amazing fundraisers, donors and partners.

Mesothelioma UK is extremely grateful for all that you do and wants to assure you that we continue to be totally dedicated to making mesothelioma matter!