

Imperial College Healthcare Charity

Press Release

Charity at St Mary's Hospital thrilled by Duke and Duchess of Cambridge's support **For immediate release**

Imperial College Healthcare Charity is honoured that it has been chosen by Their Royal Highnesses The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge to benefit from donations from members of the public wishing to celebrate the birth of their second baby at St Mary's Hospital.

The Duke and Duchess supported the Charity in the same way following the birth of their first baby, His Royal Highness Prince George in 2013.

The Charity raises money that funds clinical research and projects, including work that is crucial to improving the care and the environment for women, their new-born babies and their young families across the five London hospitals of Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.

One such project is the expansion and improvement of the birth centre at Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea Hospital. The birth centre gives women who are planning a natural birth the option of a midwife-led delivery in a home-from-home environment with facilities such as birthing pools, birthing beanbags and mats, and space for partners to stay.

Donations to the charity's Birth Centre Appeal will help to create a new birthing room with a third birthing pool, the refurbishment of the existing antenatal/postnatal patient areas as well as an antenatal consultation room with en suite facilities.

Ian Lush, Chief Executive of Imperial College Healthcare Charity, says: "We are delighted that The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge have once again chosen to support us in celebration of such a joyous occasion. The Charity wishes them and their family all the best and every future happiness. Gaining their support is hugely important to us as a charity which strives to improve the care given to patients at the Trust.

"Through the generosity of our supporters, we are able to help make projects such as the redevelopment of the birth centre a reality. We know that our funding has a positive impact on patients, for example by improving attendance rates for breast cancer screenings. Crucially, the lessons learnt from such projects can then be shared with other NHS trusts across the country."

If members of the public wish to mark this special occasion by making a gift to the Charity, they can support the Birth Centre Appeal online through the Charity's website www.imperialcharity.org.uk/birth-centre, by texting **BORN16 £10 to 70070**, or by sending a cheque made payable to **Imperial College Healthcare Charity (4406)** to Imperial College Healthcare Charity, Ground Floor, Clarence Memorial Wing, St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street, London, W2 1NY.

-Notes to editors-

For more information about the charity or the Birth Centre Appeal, contact Bevis Man at Imperial College Healthcare Charity on 0203 312 2061 or email: bevis.man@imperial.nhs.uk. Stay up to date with the latest news through the charity's Twitter feed on [@ImperialCharity](https://twitter.com/ImperialCharity).

Imperial College Healthcare Charity

Imperial College Healthcare Charity raises and manages charitable funds for five London hospitals within Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust: Charing Cross, Hammersmith, Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea, St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals. Since 2009, the charity has awarded over £12million in grants to over 280 pieces of clinical research and healthcare projects across the trust hospitals, all of which aim to improve patient healthcare. www.imperialcharity.org.uk

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust comprises Charing Cross, Hammersmith, Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea, St Mary's and Western Eye hospitals. With more than one million patient contacts each year, it is one of the largest acute Trusts in the country and, in partnership with Imperial College London, was one of the UK's first Academic Health Science Centres (AHSC).