

Why are we needed?

Contrary to popular belief, TB has not gone away and is currently on the increase in the UK - the Specialist TB Unit based at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital still deals with many cases each year.

Patients with TB may be unable to work for lengthy periods due to their illness. Some are homeless and need help after accommodation is found for them. Some patients are not eligible for state benefits.

Where do we operate?

We help patients who live in the BH postal area.

Who do we help?

Patients mainly with TB, but also COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease), who are struggling to cope with the financial problems caused by their illness and who have been referred to Doctors, Consultants or Specialist Nurses at the Thoracic Units of the Royal Bournemouth and Poole Hospitals.

How do we help?

We pay for deliveries of milk, eggs, butter, cheese and fruit juice - nutrition that is essential for a TB patient's recovery. We can also provide a winter heating allowance and help with the cost of telephone rental for professional contact where appropriate.

Occasionally, special provision is made, according to the individual need of the patient.

How are these payments made?

In most cases, directly to the dairy, energy or phone company.

How long do you support the patient?

Wherever possible for the length of the treatment, usually six months, but not generally longer than a year.

How else do you help?

We can pay for taxis from Night Shelters to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital, where homeless patients can be screened for TB. We have donated nebulisers to the Thoracic department at RBH for use by elderly patients suffering from COPD and to help with TB education programmes, we have purchased training equipment.



Who runs CHESTHELP?

There is a small Committee of around ten members, all volunteers, with the Mayor of Bournemouth as our President.

We have hardly any overheads or administrative costs, so nearly all funds go to help disadvantaged patients.



Our Chairman with the Mayor of Bournemouth

We receive no grants or public funding. We survive on donations from individuals, companies or other charities, events and collections run by the Committee and from our limited reserves when desperately needed.

How can you help?

Many people are aware of TB and COPD, some of you may have had a family member in the past who was affected by TB or COPD.

If you would like to help us to make a difference to patients affected by these diseases in this area, please complete the form on the next page.

THANK YOU SO MUCH