* NHS Big Tea - template press release

**Join a national outpouring of love to raise money for your local NHS heroes**

**NHS CHARITY** is urging people in **AREA/TOWN/CITY** to join the nation’s biggest tea break on 5 July and help raise money for the incredible people in our NHS who’ve done so much to help everyone get through the pandemic.

Following a year like no other, **NHS CHARITY** wants as many people as possible to get involved in a national outpouring of love and thanks for NHS staff and volunteers on its birthday by hosting or taking part in an NHS Big Tea at 3pm on 5July.

Each event can be in person or virtual, with the community, friends, family or at work, and is a chance to reflect and say thank you for everything that NHS staff and volunteers have done and continue to do, by taking part in the nation’s biggest tea break to raise money for **NHS CHARITY.**

People can host their own event or they can show their support by taking 5 minutes to enjoy a tea break, texting £5 to support NHS charities and tagging five friends on social media and calling on them to do the same.

QUOTE FROM **NHS CHARITY**

Ellie Orton, CEO of NHS Charities Together, which is behind the NHS Big Tea, said:

“Many of us have a lot to be grateful to NHS staff and volunteers for following the year we have had. They have been at the forefront of the response to one of the biggest challenges our country has ever faced. NHS Big Tea is chance to show our support for them by joining a national outpouring of thanks this July. For many, this will be an outpouring of joy, celebrating the vaccine and all that it is allowing us to do again. For others, it will be an outpouring of thanks, for everything that our NHS champions have done for us. For some, sadly, it will be a moment of reflection for the loss of loved ones. Whatever the emotion, please join the nation’s biggest tea break to raise money for the

incredible people in our NHS.”

Thanks to the support and generosity of the public over the last year, NHS Charities have been able to be there for NHS staff, to ensure they can continue with their vital life-saving work, whether through funding counselling and mental health support, or support with practical needs, like food, drink and a place to rest.

NHS CHARITY has used the funds they have received to XXXXXXXXXXXXX and are urging the public to take part in the NHS Big Tea and enable the charity to continue supporting NHS staff, volunteers and patients.

Thousands are expected to host events and NHS Charities Together has produced a pack to help those events go with a swing, To take part and get your pack, please visit XXXXXXXXXX.

**ENDS**

**About NHS CHARITY**

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**About NHS Charities Together**

NHS Charities Together is the national charity caring for the NHS. We are the independent national charity partner of the NHS and an umbrella organisation made up of 241 NHS member charities based within hospitals, mental health trusts, ambulance trusts, community health trusts and health boards across the UK.

The funds raised by NHS Charities Together enable the health service to go above and beyond what would otherwise be possible. Through our member charities we fund projects that improve services for patients and we help NHS staff and volunteers both practically and emotionally so that they can continue with their vital life-saving work.

We believe our collective mission is more important than ever as the NHS faces the most challenging time in its history. And we have been overwhelmed by the heartfelt support from across the nation to get behind the NHS during this critical time.

A huge thank you to our amazing supporters – your help is making a huge difference to NHS staff, volunteers and patients.

More information is available on: [www.nhscharitiestogether.co.uk](http://www.nhscharitiestogether.co.uk/)

**NHS Charities Together – About grants and funding allocations**

NHS charities are the legal way to raise, manage and distribute charitable funds in the NHS, to enable services to go above and beyond what would usually be possible.

Over the last year NHS Charities Together has been making grant awards to its member charities in three categories: COVID-19 Urgent response grants, Community Health and Social Care Partnership Grants and Recovery Grants. All grants are approved by NHS Charities Together’s grant assessment panel, made up of independent representatives from across the health sector.