



# YEAR WITHUS















### **Forewords**





It is easy to talk about defeating brain tumours. The real challenge is to translate those words into effective action.

This report shows how The Brain Tumour Charity is rising to that challenge.

In 2015/16 The Charity once again invested millions in research, from a clinical trial for children affected by the deadliest form of the disease to a major new project aimed at reducing the time taken to diagnose adults in the UK.

The Charity's Quest for Cures initiative has brought together some of the best researchers from around the globe to share their knowledge and expertise. Its New Ideas awards are funding cuttingedge projects that epitomise The Charity's pioneering approach.

Major milestones in 2015/16 included publication of The Charity's five-year strategy and its two landmark reports on life with a brain tumour, based on the largest ever survey of people living with the disease.

Between them, these three documents provide powerful evidence of both the need for change and The Charity's unswerving determination to bring it about.

As chair of The Brain Tumour Charity, I am proud to say that determination shines through every page of this document.

It has brought about the many achievements that are set out here and it will continue to drive progress towards a better future for all of those affected by a brain tumour.

### Sir Martin Narey

Chair of Trustees, The Brain Tumour Charity



11111

We speak out unashamedly at The Brain Tumour Charity about the need to do things differently.

We know that new ideas and a pioneering approach will propel us as quickly as possible towards our twin goals: to double brain tumour survival and halve the harm caused by the disease.

But we're also passionate about working smartly – about focusing our efforts for maximum effect and minimum waste.

There is no time to spare in our quest to cure brain tumours.

So it's fitting that we've shared our most recent achievements in a way that's both creative and useful.

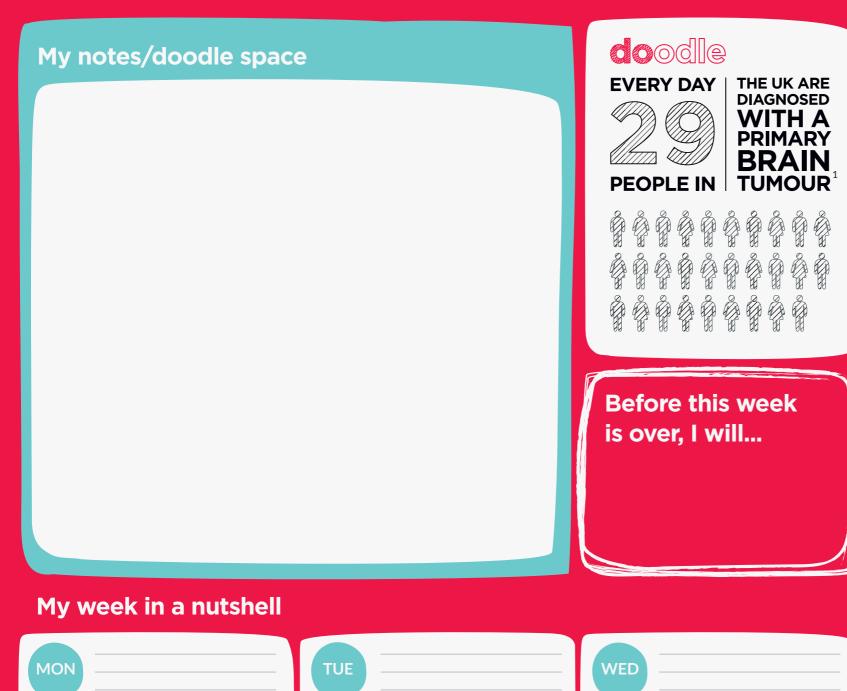
We hope that over the next 12 months, you will take a minute or two each week to read about the progress we have made.

You will find within these pages information about every aspect of our work in 2015/16 and how it is helping people affected by a brain tumour, whether through our research funding or our drive to end diagnosis delays, our support for children and families or our campaign to improve NHS services for those living with the disease.

You will read about some of the people who have united with us, including fundraisers, volunteers and researchers – all of whom share our vision of a world where brain tumours are defeated.

We are inspired every day by their stories and their support. We hope you will be too.

Sarah Lindsell
CEO, The Brain Tumour Charity



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It's the weekend!



### Our strategy launch

With the launch in July 2015 of our strategy, *Defeating Brain Tumours*, we set out the path towards our twin goals: to double survival and halve the harm that brain tumours cause to quality of life.

We pledged to invest in research, to increase patient involvement in clinical trials and to improve the process of brain tumour diagnosis.

We promised to tackle differences in the quality of care offered to brain tumour patients and to improve life today for all of those affected by the disease.

Our strategy has united researchers, healthcare professionals and our supporters in pursuit of our vision: a world where brain tumours are defeated.

"We have made real progress in understanding how certain types of brain tumour form – but we need to go further, faster. Too many lives are being lost. We must do whatever we can, together, to speed up the search for a cure."

Professor Richard Gilbertson, Li Ka Shing Chair of Oncology and Director of the Cambridge University Cancer Centre, who was appointed in February to lead our Grant Review and Monitoring Committee (GRAM).

1. Brain, other CNS and intracranial tumours statistics [Internet]. Cancer Research UK. 2015 [cited 2016 Jun 23]. Available from: http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/brain-other-cns-and-intracranial-tumours



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It's the weekend.

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### The Twilight Walk

In the autumn of 2015, hundreds of people whose lives have been touched by a brain tumour came together for The Twilight Walk.

Our flagship events for the brain tumour community took place in Windsor, York, Chester and Warwick and raised more than £220,000 to support our work.

Overall, 1,100 walkers of all ages united to complete the 10k routes in memory of a friend or relative lost to a brain tumour – or to achieve a personal goal in the face of their own brain tumour diagnosis.

### Did you know?

The Twilight Walk will take place once again in 2016, on 2 October in Warwick, 9 October in Chester and 16 October in Windsor. For more information visit thebraintumourcharity.org/thetwilightwalk





## The Research Involvement Network

Patient-focused research is at the heart of our strategy to defeat brain tumours. Without it we cannot meet our goals of doubling survival and halving the harm caused by the disease. Yet research remains inaccessible to far too many of those affected.

That's why last year we launched our Research Involvement Network. The RIN is open to anyone affected by a brain tumour who would like to play their part in supporting and promoting research.

RIN members contribute in a variety of ways – for example, by helping researchers to design patient-friendly studies or speaking publicly about their own experience.

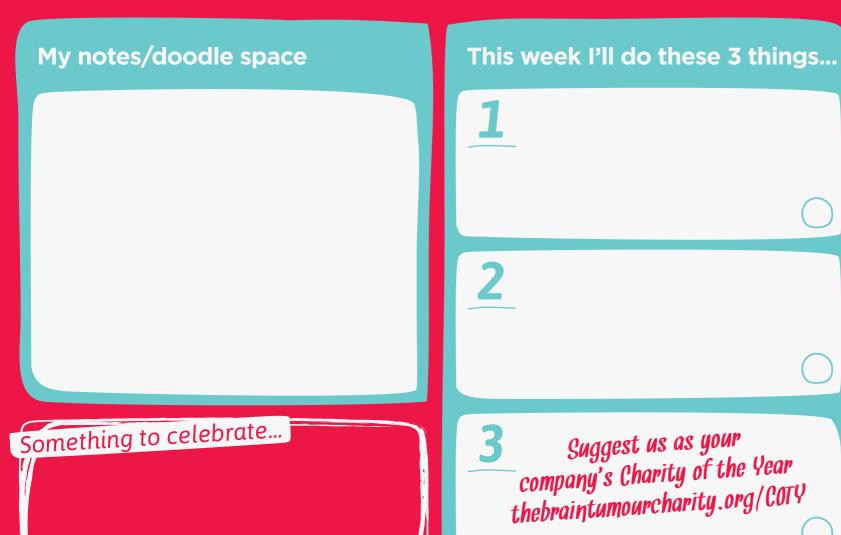
thebraintumourcharity.org/RIN

### Did you know?

Across the UK, less than 3% of people with a brain tumour take part in a clinical trial.<sup>2</sup>

Yet Professor Garth Cruickshank, one of our researchers at the University of Birmingham says, "Across all cancers, this figure is as high as 25% in some centres." This is an achievement we aim to build on, alongside researchers, as we seek to learn more from all of those who are diagnosed with a brain tumour.

2. The National Cancer Research Institute. NCRI Brain Tumour Clinical Studies Group Annual Report 2013/2014 [Internet].









### **ICAP Charity Day**

In 2015 we applied successfully to take part in the 23rd global Charity Day organised by financial services company ICAP.

Our high-profile supporters at the December event – former England rugby captain Lewis Moody, television presenter Matt Allwright and Earl Spencer – joined dozens of other well-known faces on the trading floors of ICAP's London headquarters to help seal some of the day's global deals.

We received £100,000 from ICAP towards our research into adult brain tumour diagnosis times in the UK, taking us a step further towards tackling the delays that affect too many patients with the disease.





# Pushing for change across the UK

People with a brain tumour should receive the best possible care and treatment no matter where they live.

In March 2016 we published a manifesto for each of the devolved nations ahead of elections to the Scottish Parliament, the Welsh Assembly and the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Our manifesto made recommendations to all political parties, including:

- A focus on brain tumours as part of all devolved nations' cancer awareness campaigns;
- Promotion of our HeadSmart campaign to raise awareness of childhood brain tumour symptoms;
- Access to neuro-rehabilitation services for all children and young adults diagnosed with a brain tumour;
- Action to reduce the high proportion of brain tumours diagnosed through accident and emergency departments;
- Allocation of a clinical nurse specialist or key worker to every brain tumour patient.

Our manifesto launch events brought together politicians and people directly affected by a brain tumour, helping to raise awareness of the disease and the steps we know are necessary to improve services and outcomes.

"Being supported and understood by someone else who has been through it means everything."

Harry, Young Ambassador for The Brain Tumour Charity

### My week in a nutshell





### **Family Days**

When a child is diagnosed with a brain tumour, family relationships suffer. Parents and siblings often feel isolated.

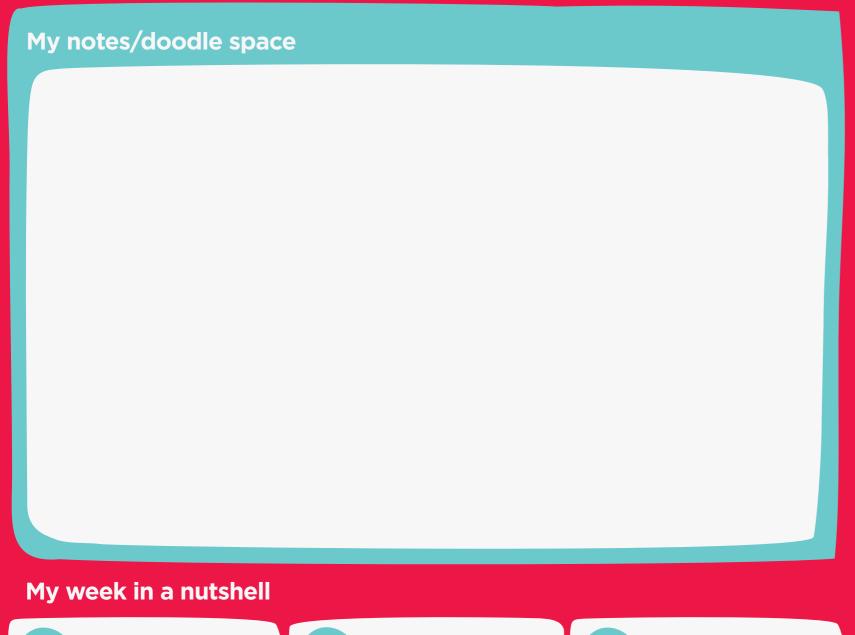
We bring together families affected by a childhood brain tumour in places where they can have fun.

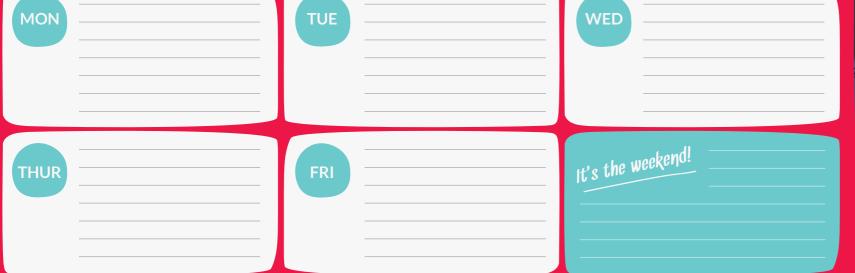
Last year we held four Family Days across the UK, welcoming a total of 180 people who took part in activities including kayaking, climbing, rafting and sensory walks.

"Coming to a family day makes me feel like I'm normal, because I'm not the only kid with a brain tumour. I don't have to explain anything to anyone here because they know what it's like. They get it."

George, 14, who is living with a brain tumour









### **Everest in the Alps**

"The Brain Tumour Charity, in our view, is the most dynamic, thoughtful and effective UK charity leading the charge in the field of brain tumour research."

Rob Ritchie, whose son Toby was diagnosed with a brain tumour at the age of five

Spurred on by his son's incurable brain tumour diagnosis, Rob Ritchie brought together a team of friends and colleagues from Goldman Sachs to climb the equivalent of Mount Everest in the Alps – on skis.

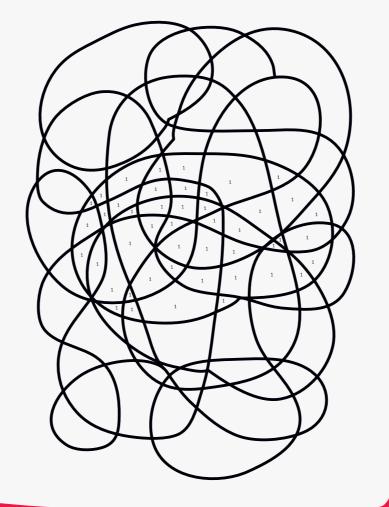
They generated an astounding £2.9 million in donations, allowing us to begin planning in 2016 the largest single investment worldwide into low grade childhood glioma research.

A film about the team's gruelling expedition and the impact we will make with the money they raised, narrated by television newsreader Alistair Stewart, will help us to inspire further major fundraising efforts.

Watch the film: thebraintumourcharity.org/everest









### Tasha's legacy

A severe shortage of brain tumour tissue for research is one of the major hurdles we are working to overcome.

Bereaved families have told us they feel frustrated at the lack of information they were offered about brain donation after the death of a loved one but we also know it can be very hard for healthcare professionals to raise the subject.

When our Young Ambassador Tasha (pictured below) lost her battle with a brain tumour in December 2015 at the age of 24, her parents Graham and Shona honoured her wishes by donating her brain – a decision which researchers said would help to revolutionise their understanding of diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG), the type of tumour which killed Tasha.

With Graham and Shona's backing, we shared their story to help give others the confidence to talk about tumour tissue donation.

### My week in a nutshell















### My week in a nutshell





### **Working towards** earlier diagnosis



"I am very, very lucky to have made a full recovery."

Carol Rutherford

We have heard from countless people with a brain tumour over many years about their struggle to secure a diagnosis.

Among them was Carol Rutherford, who sought medical advice at least five times before she collapsed and was diagnosed with a brain tumour the size of a fist.

Last year, researchers funded by The Brain Tumour Charity began a project to piece together systematically the factors that affect diagnosis times for adults in the UK.

Alongside stories like Carol's, their work will provide the clinical evidence we need to help bring about early and accurate diagnosis for all of those with a brain tumour.





### **Jake**

"In a really difficult time of uncertainty, Jake is someone children can relate to. He has a reassuring way of getting across some scary subjects and helps take some of the fear away."

Parent of a young brain tumour patient

We created our animated character, Jake, to help children and families faced with a brain tumour diagnosis.

In a series of short films available freely on our website, Jake explains to children what to expect at different stages of their treatment - for example when they have a scan, surgery, radiotherapy or chemotherapy.

We built on Jake's success throughout 2015/16 by adding new films about the impact on children of a brain tumour diagnosis in a parent or sibling.

Our films have now been viewed more than 10,000 times. Watch them here: *thebraintumourcharity.org/jake* 

### Did you know?

Our animation videos and our children and family services were part-funded by BBC Children in Need, who supported our work in 2015/16.

## My notes/doodle space **Brainteaser** Can you unscramble the words? mpeoitpntan gsadinsio hraeletcha yhaptaw leuga csceas Hint: all the words are in the article to the right My week in a nutshell MON TUE **WED**

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It's the weekend!



## A benchmark for brain tumour care

"At the initial appointment with the GP, nothing was explained other than that I should get an appointment from the neurologist. The following weeks were agony with worry and stress, as I heard nothing from anyone."

Jane, diagnosed with a low-grade brain tumour

Last year we began work on a document setting out the optimum adult care pathway for people diagnosed with a brain tumour. This will highlight the basic standard of care that all patients should receive, from the point of diagnosis through treatment and end-of-life care planning.

In January 2016 we brought together a steering group of healthcare professionals, patients and carers from across the UK to shape the document.

We plan to launch the optimum adult care pathway in the autumn of 2016 as we continue our quest to secure equal access to the best treatment and care for all those diagnosed with a brain tumour.

"It's vital that we get behind The Brain Tumour Charity's invaluable work for those who are affected and those who could be in the future."

Steve Backshall, TV presenter, naturalist and explorer

### My week in a nutshell







Brain tumours reduce life expectancy by an average of 20 years - more than any other cancer.3

### **New ways of thinking**

Progress towards more effective treatments for brain tumours has been too slow for too long.

In September 2015 we announced our New Ideas Awards to encourage innovation in the field of brain tumour research. We asked researchers to come up with novel approaches that could fundamentally change our understanding of brain tumours, in relation to either diagnosis or treatment or both. The teams who have successfully bid for grants of up to £100,000 each under our New Ideas Award will begin working on their projects in 2016/17.

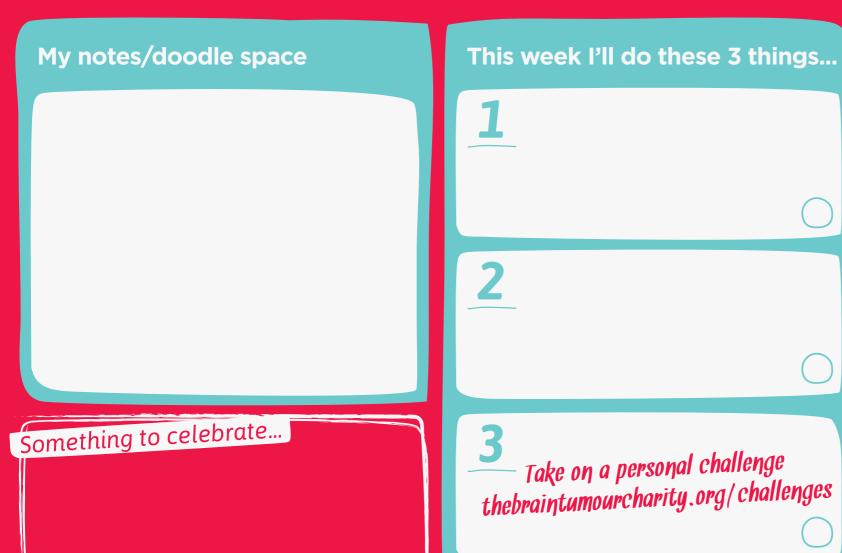
### Did you know?

Whilst survival has doubled on average across all cancers in the last 40 years, ten-year survival rates in adults with brain tumours have improved little.4

3. Burnet NG, Jefferies SJ, Benson RJ, Hunt DP, Treasure FP. Years of life lost (YLL) from cancer is an important measure of population burden--and should be considered when allocating research funds. Br J Cancer. 2005 Jan 31;92(2):241–5.

4. Cancer Research UK. Cancer Statistics Report: Cancer Survival [Internet]. 2014.

Available from: bit.ly/cancer\_survival\_CRUK











"Keep going because I promise you, you will succeed. Any dream you have, just smash it."

Tom (left in the photo above)

# Ocean Valour's record-breaking row

After losing his father to a brain tumour, Tom Rainey was determined to help spare others the pain his family has endured.

Tom described our support in the wake of his father's diagnosis as 'a port in an otherwise unweatherable storm'. In May 2015, he and fellow adventurer Lawrence Walters set out to row across the Atlantic in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity.

The pair broke four world records and raised more than £100,000 – an inspirational feat that is helping us to make a difference for those affected by a brain tumour.





# **HeadSmart: Sharing our success**

In November 2015, our HeadSmart campaign to raise awareness of childhood brain tumour symptoms was the subject of a paper in the journal Neuro-Oncology.

The paper, by researchers at our partner institution The Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre at Nottingham University, confirmed that the campaign had halved the time taken on average to diagnose a childhood brain tumour in the UK – from 14 weeks to less than seven.

The paper attracted national media coverage for HeadSmart, helping to raise further awareness as we seek to cut that average diagnosis time to below four weeks.

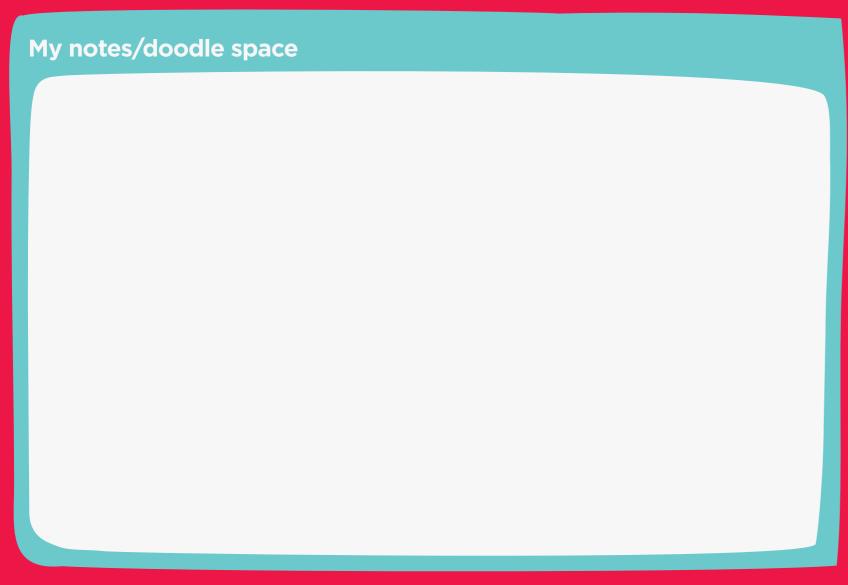
Our Young Ambassadors Jessica and Lauren Pearson were featured on BBC News talking about the impact of the campaign along with Professor David Walker, co-director of the CBTRC and HeadSmart's leading clinician.

### Did you know?

Brain tumours account for one-quarter of all childhood cancers. While five-year survival rates have risen to more than 70%, 62% of long-term survivors of childhood brain tumours are moderately or severely disabled.

<sup>5.</sup> https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/childrens-cancers/incidence#heading-Four

<sup>6.</sup> Table 3.1 Population-based survival of children with cancer in Great Britain diagnosed 1971-2010 by period of diagnosis in this document http://www.ncin.org.uk/view?rid=2133 7. Macedoni-Luksic M, Jereb B, Todorovski L. Long-term sequelae in children treated for brain tumors: impairments, disability, and handicap. Pediatr Hematol Oncol. 2003 Mar;20(2):89–101.



### My week in a nutshell







### **Empowering families**

"It's important for us to learn as much as we can about our son's condition."

Shirleen, whose son Theo is living with a brain tumour

Theo was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour at the age of two. After an 18-month course of chemotherapy, he is doing well – but he will need further treatment at some stage.

In May 2015, he and his family attended our Paediatric Information Day in Birmingham where they were able to learn more from expert speakers about clinical trials, treatment options and Theo's educational needs.

The day also offered families like Theo's the chance to meet others affected by a childhood brain tumour, helping them to feel less isolated.

"No way was
I going to give up.
That determination
keeps you going when
the road gets tough."

Jose, who is living with a brain tumour and who pushed his wheelchair around the 10k route at The Twilight Walk in Windsor

### My week in a nutshell





53%

The proportion of high grade brain tumours diagnosed after emergency presentation.8

### **Tackling late diagnosis**

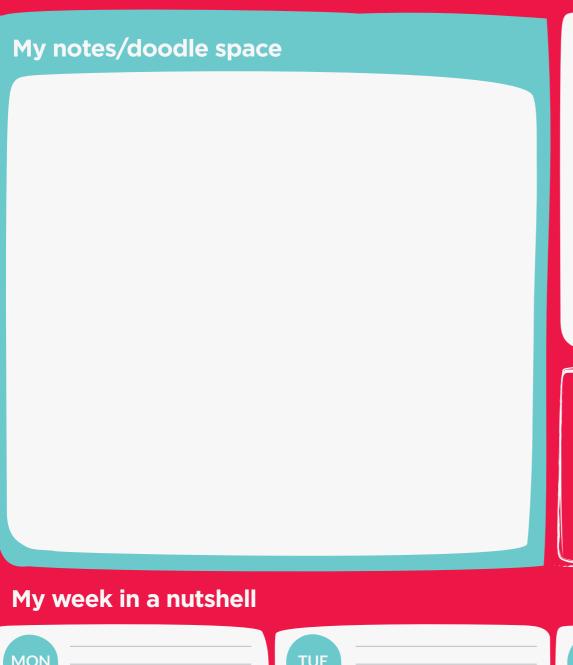
People with a brain tumour are more likely to be diagnosed via a hospital A&E department than those with any other type of tumour.

Patients whose cancer diagnosis happens in this way are less likely to survive and more likely to experience long-term health problems than those whose disease is picked up at an earlier stage through a GP referral.

Last year we announced funding for research led by teams in Edinburgh and Cambridge into the delays that affect adult brain tumour diagnosis and what can be done to tackle the problem.

With their findings we aim to build on the success of our successful HeadSmart campaign, which raises awareness of the symptoms of brain tumours in children.

8. National Cancer Intelligence Network. Routes to Diagnosis 2006-2013 workbook [Internet]. 2015. Available from: http://www.ncin.org.uk/view?rid=3053







Two out of every five people with a brain tumour have difficulty with personal care'

**Before this week** is over, I will...





90% of people with a brain tumour have become more reliant on others.<sup>10</sup>

### **Connecting carers**

Even the strongest relationships can come under enormous strain when ill health leaves a family member or friend in need of long-term care.

In addition to the physical and emotional challenges of coping with any debilitating condition, those caring for someone with a brain tumour may have to deal with distressing personality changes which leave a much-loved partner or parent behaving more like a stranger.

Last year we launched our Facebook support group for carers, in recognition of the unique difficulties they face. Posts are visible only to members of the group, so they can share their experiences freely and build online networks.

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It's the weekend!

9. The Brain Tumour Charity. Losing Myself: The reality of life with a Brain Tumour [Internet]. 2015. Available from: https://www.thebraintumourcharity.org/losing-myself 10. The Brain Tumour Charity. Losing Myself: The reality of life with a Brain Tumour [Internet]. 2015. Available from: https://www.thebraintumourcharity.org/losing-myself

"I love going into The Charity to help out as a volunteer. This award isn't just for me, it's also for The Brain Tumour Charity and the other volunteers."

Paul, winner of the Healthcare Volunteer of the Year award for his achievements with The Brain Tumour Charity

### My week in a nutshell







### **Our volunteers**

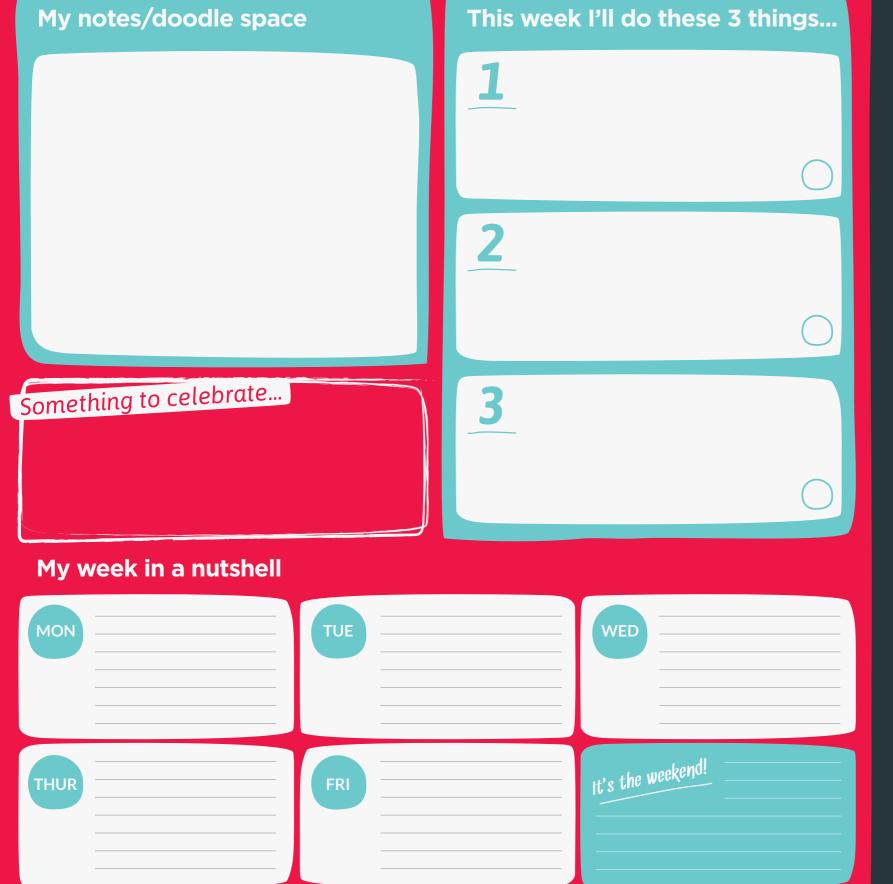
After 22 years of military service, Paul left the Army in 2002 when he was diagnosed with a slow-growing brain tumour.

Along with hundreds of others, he gives his time and energy voluntarily to The Brain Tumour Charity to help us achieve our common goal: defeating brain tumours.

Whether it is with our Farnborough team or at one of our fundraising events around the UK, our volunteers – many of them personally affected by a brain tumour – drive us further and faster than we could travel alone.

### Did you know?

Last year our volunteers sent out more than 7,000 packs of Christmas cards, helping us to raise more than £55,000 in sales from our seasonal shop.





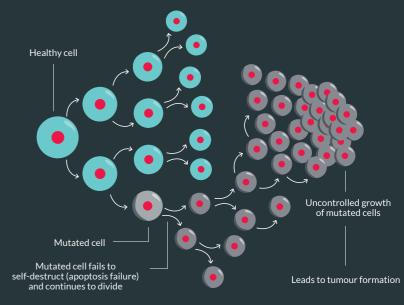
## Seeking new treatments

Last year we co-funded two university posts in partnership with the Medical Research Council, which oversees government spending on medical research.

Both are designed to allow a researcher with an existing medical qualification and experience of treating patients to take a further degree specialising in brain tumours.

- In Bristol, Dr William Singleton is investigating new ways of delivering immunotherapy and chemotherapy treatments to highly aggressive brain tumours in children and adults;
- In Nottingham, Dr Jason Adhikaree is working on a new cancer vaccine with the potential to treat glioblastoma, the most common malignant brain tumour in adults.

These clinical research training fellowships aim to speed up the development of more effective brain tumour treatments, helping us to reach our goal of doubling survival.









### My brother has a brain tumour

Following the success of our animated films about Jake, a young boy who shares his experience of brain tumour diagnosis and treatment in a child-friendly way, we created a new set of characters in 2015 to help families affected by the disease.

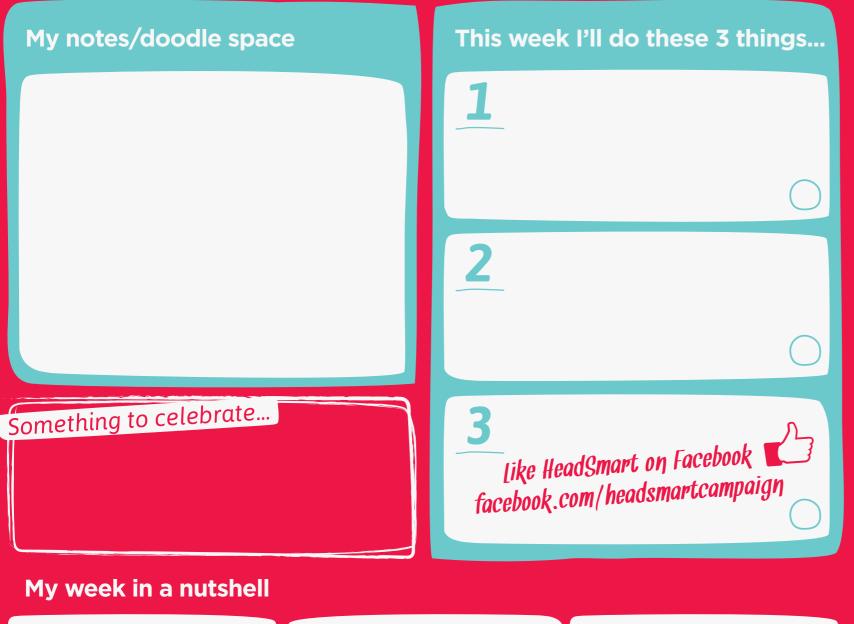
In My Brother has a Brain Tumour, Lily talks about the impact on family life after her brother Noah is diagnosed with a brain tumour.

Showing families they are not alone is a key part of our drive to improve life for all of those affected by a brain tumour.

thebraintumourcharity.org/lily

"The video shows me that I am not alone - there are other kids who have brothers and sisters with brain tumours and sometimes we get treated differently to them."

Sibling of a young brain tumour patient









### Raising awareness, saving lives

"HeadSmart saved my little boy's life."

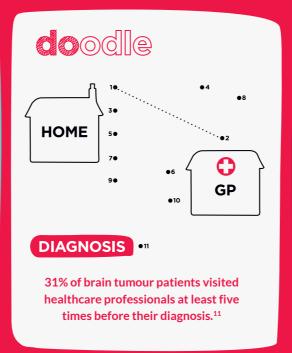
Rosalind, whose son was diagnosed with a brain tumour at the age of three

After Daniel's behaviour changed and he began vomiting occasionally, his complaint of a headache one morning triggered alarm bells.

His mum Rosalind recalled a Facebook post about our HeadSmart card, listing common signs of a childhood brain tumour.

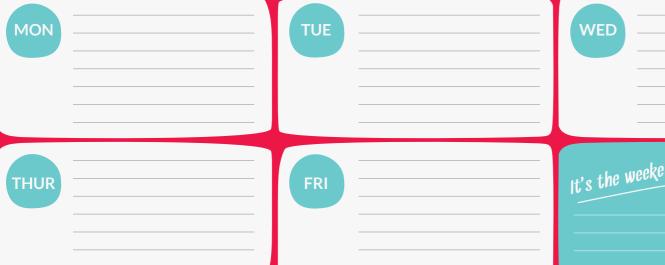
Daniel was referred to a paediatrician but before his appointment he was diagnosed with a brain tumour via A&E. Two years on, following surgery, Daniel is doing well.

In August 2015 his story was featured in national media, helping us to raise awareness of HeadSmart and the importance of early and accurate diagnosis.



Before this week is over, I will...

### My week in a nutshell





It's the weekend!



### Finding Myself in Your Hands: The Reality of Brain Tumour Treatment and Care

We are passionate about improving services for brain tumour patients. To make that happen, we need more than words. We need to prove that change is necessary.

That's why last year we surveyed more than 1,000 people living with a brain tumour about every aspect of their NHS treatment and care.

The results of the survey underpinned our report, Finding Myself in Your Hands: The Reality of Brain Tumour Treatment and Care, which was published in January 2016 and received widespread national attention.

The evidence we uncovered in our survey will be crucial as we fight for equality of access to the best treatment and care for everyone with a brain tumour.

Read the report: thebraintumourcharity.org/finding-myself



"Lifting the spirits of families going through challenging times, seeing them able to communicate, off-load and share their stories, is humbling and the impact is instant."

Annie and Lewis Moody, November 2015

### My week in a nutshell





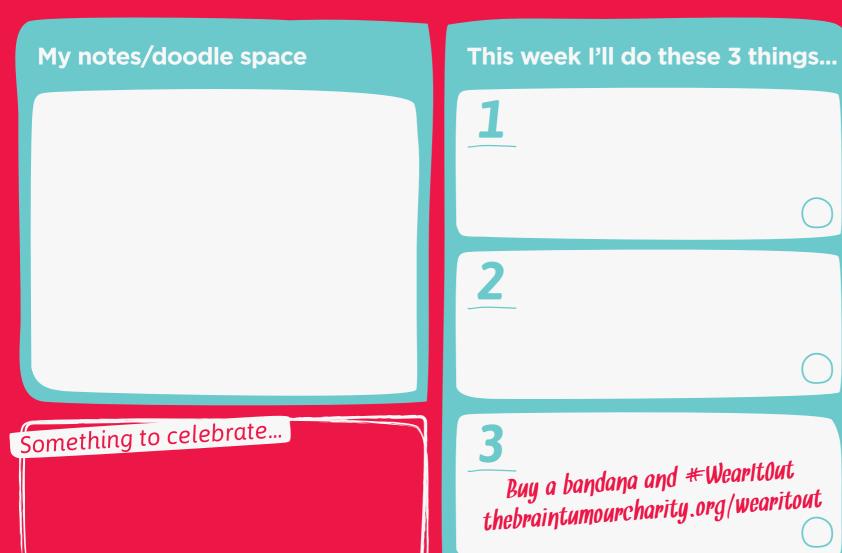


The Lewis Moody Foundation was set up by the former England rugby captain and his wife Annie to touch the lives of families affected by serious illness.

As well as raising more than £260,000 in 2015/16 for The Brain Tumour Charity's research projects, Lewis and Annie helped to create precious memories for children and parents affected by a brain tumour through their support for our Family Days.

Their experiences inspired them to work with our team on similar days out for families with a parent diagnosed with a brain tumour.









### #WearltOut

On March 4, 2016 our annual Bandanas for Brain Tumours Day united thousands of people affected by a brain tumour, including our research community.

Hundreds of our supporters across the UK chose to #WearItOut and share their pictures on our social media, reaching more than twice as many people as in the previous year and improving awareness of brain tumours.

We raised £80,000 towards our research into early diagnosis.

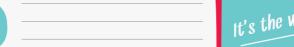


### My week in a nutshell

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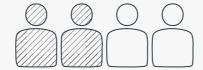






It's the weekend!



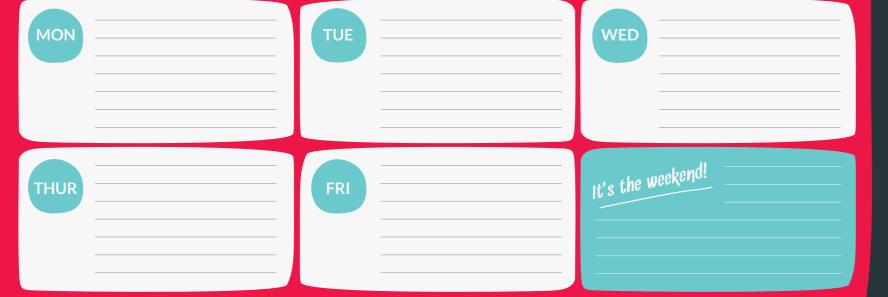


Walf of those living with a brain tumour experience a negative impact on their relationship with their

children or grandchildren

Before this week is over, I will...

### My week in a nutshell







### **Mummy has a Brain Tumour**

A brain tumour diagnosis often throws up more questions than answers. If you're a parent, one of the first is likely to be: "What shall I tell my children?"

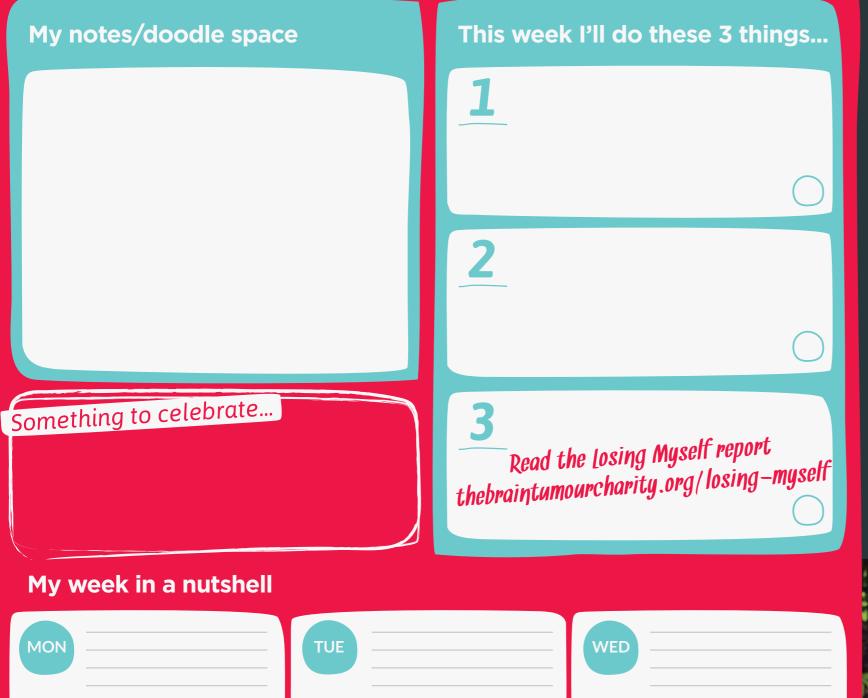
Last year we added a new film, *Mummy has a Brain Tumour*, to our series of family-friendly animations explaining the disease and its effects.

The film is told through the eyes of Charlie, who explains how his parents broke the news of his mum's diagnosis and what happened afterwards.

By talking straightforwardly about the effects of a brain tumour – including tiredness and personality changes – Charlie is helping other families cope in stressful circumstances.

thebraintumourcharity.org/charlie

12. The Brain Tumour Charity. Losing Myself: The Reality of Life with a Brain Tumour [Internet]. 2015. Available from: https://www.thebraintumourcharity.org/losing-myself



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It's the weekend!



# Losing Myself: The Reality of Life with a Brain Tumour

We hear every day about the frustrations and challenges faced by those diagnosed with a brain tumour. We want to help make their voices heard, so that others – including healthcare professionals – have a better understanding of their lives.

Our survey last year of more than 1,000 people living with a brain tumour uncovered some difficult truths about the problems which unite them.

As we reported in our subsequent publication, *Losing Myself:* The Reality of Life with a Brain Tumour, these include fatigue, financial problems and feelings of severe isolation.

The report received national media coverage and gives us a powerful evidence-based tool as we strive to halve the harm caused by brain tumours.

thebraintumourcharity.org/losing-myself



# My notes/doodle space "The Brain Tumour Charity is driving real change to tackle this devastating disease." Mel Giedroyc, TV presenter

### My week in a nutshell





# A pioneering partnership

"The Brain Tumour Charity and its leadership are real visionaries."

Professor Chas Bountra, chief scientist of the SGC at the University of Oxford

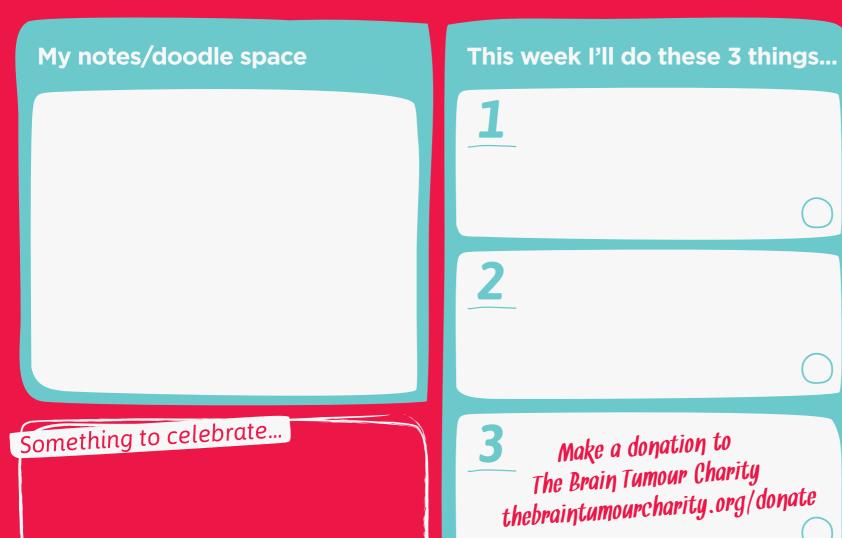


In March 2016 we announced our partnership with the Structural Genomics Consortium (SGC), an international group of researchers using cutting-edge science to accelerate the discovery of potential treatments for incurable diseases such as brain tumours.

We will fund two research posts at the SGC. The aim is to discover the shape of proteins which play a part in causing brain tumours, paving the way for the development of drugs that 'lock on' to specific parts of those proteins and change their behaviour.

Crucially, any findings with potential benefit are shared immediately and freely with other researchers around the world - regardless of whether they are part of an academic organisation or a pharmaceutical company.

Our agreement with the SGC is a pioneering and collaborative step towards our key goals – to double survival and to halve the harm caused by brain tumours.











### **Amelia, Pride of Britain**

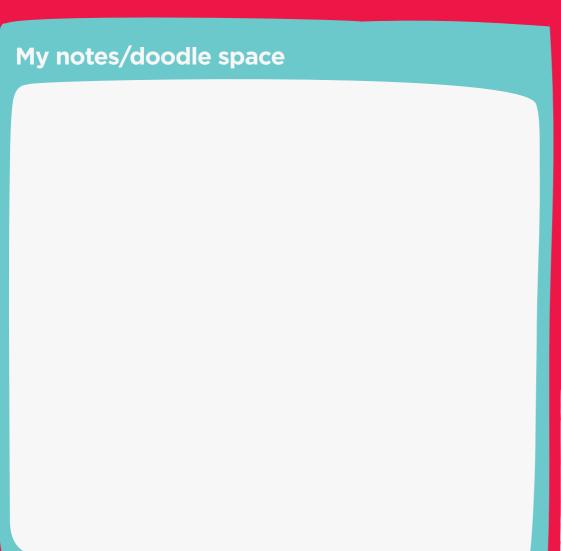
"Amelia, we think you are probably the bravest person we have ever met."

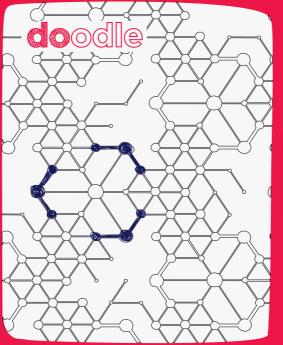
Simon Cowell on our young fundraiser Amelia

Millions of people saw ten-year-old Amelia receive a Daily Mirror Pride of Britain award for her fundraising achievements.

Amelia lost her dad Peter to a brain tumour in February 2015, shortly before her younger brother Josh was told he had a lifethreatening condition which puts him at risk of having a stroke.

She went on to raise thousands of pounds for causes including The Brain Tumour Charity, helping us to invest in vital research and support for families like hers, whose lives are changed forever by a brain tumour.





Before this week is over, I will...

### My week in a nutshell







### **Bandanas for Brain Tumours**

Our supporters are as passionate as we are about raising awareness of brain tumours and the need for early diagnosis.

On Bandanas for Brain Tumours Day in March 2016, we shared the stories of just some of those whose symptoms could have been picked up earlier.

Among them was Louis, who lost vision in his right eye after surgery to remove a late-diagnosed tumour. Louis and his family are determined to help spare others a similar experience and we were privileged to welcome them on board as we launched Bandanas for Brain Tumours Day.

"After our experience with Louis, we wanted to help raise awareness of brain tumours. Supporting Bandanas for Brain Tumours Day was a great opportunity for our whole family to do that."

Darren, Louis' dad

"Research gives us hope that our children will not be affected by this devastating disease."

Mark, diagnosed with a low grade brain tumour.

### My week in a nutshell







### A landmark achievement

This will allow us to invest more than ever before in vital research and support those whose lives have been affected by a brain tumour.

As well as working so hard to inspire donations from others, our fundraisers across the UK help to spread the word every day about our vision and our goals.

We are profoundly grateful to every one of them for uniting with us in pursuit of our goal: to defeat brain tumours.

### Did you know?

Gifts in Wills make up less than 3% of our income. Last year we shared with our supporters the stories of some of those who have chosen to leave us a legacy, to show how even a small donation of this kind can make a big difference to our work.

### **Brainteaser**

N M S C I L N O F B F D W Y Z
O O P P S F A I W R J R U L U
I B I M O F U N E L C X P Q W
S I H T L Z S D G Y J E I C Q
I L S G A W Y E C U R C W H A
V I N F T C T P R S A O E O N
W T O V I E I E O U F G M R Y
G Y I S O B L N E J Z N E E S
L W T E N A A D U U F I E S M
H E A C E L N E W M G T E K V
Z P L N C A O N E F M I K S A
D V E A Q N S C U D I Ø T Z O
M N R N V C R E V P W N C A V
L E U I Q E E E G F D O M M F
S W Z F A Z P O N T A D A Y S

### **WORK**

BALANCE
CHORES
COGNITION
COMMUNICATION
FATIGUE
FINANCES
INDEPENDENCE

ISOLATION
LANGUAGE
MEMORY
MOBILITY
PERSONALCARE
PERSONALITY
RELATIONSHIPS
SEIZURES
VISION

### My week in a nutshell





### **Shaping services**

We believe everyone diagnosed with a brain tumour should have access to a clinical nurse specialist (CNS) – someone who understands the disease and can act as a single point of contact with the rest of a patient's care team.

Last year, our survey of more than 1,000 people living with a brain tumour found that those with access to a CNS were likely to report fewer severe symptoms and experience better mental and emotional health than those without.

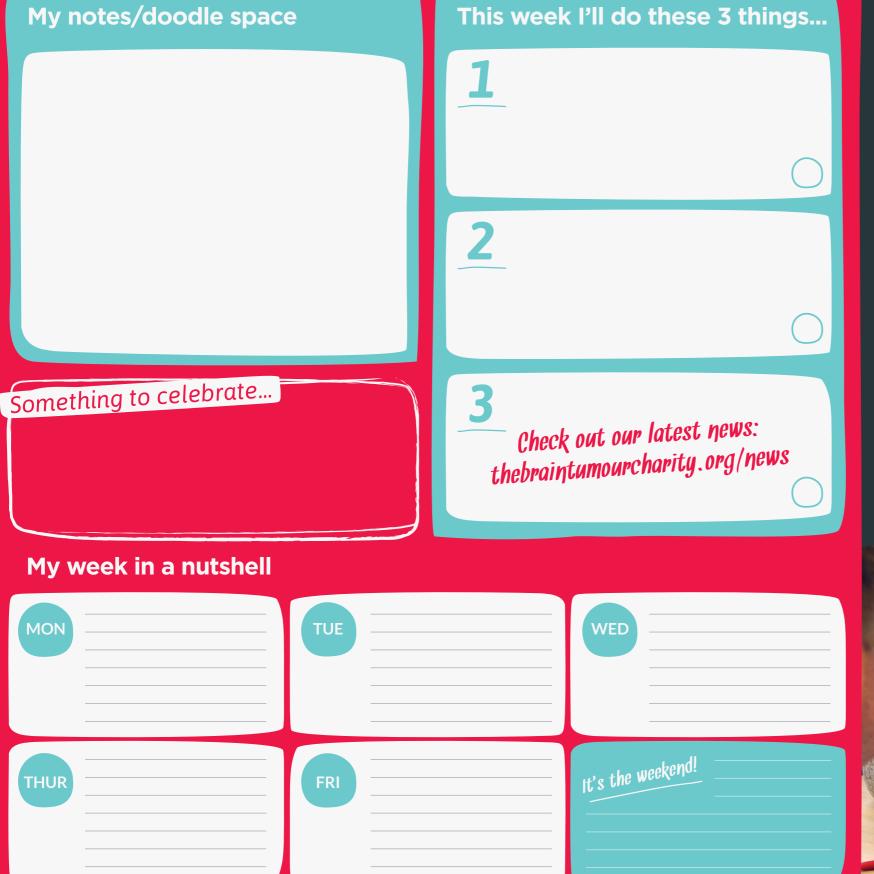
The survey, which underpinned our report, Finding Myself in Your Hands: The Reality of Brain Tumour Treatment and Care, was featured prominently in journals including Cancer Nursing Practice and the British Journal of Nursing.

It has provided us with powerful evidence as we continue to work towards equal access to the best treatment and care for all brain tumour patients.

### Did you know?

Overall, 32% of brain tumour patients who took part in our survey said they had no single named point of contact, such as a clinical nurse specialist, within their healthcare team.<sup>13</sup>

13. The Brain Tumour Charity. Finding Myself in Your Hands: The Brain Tumour Charity [Internet]. 2016 [cited 2016 Jan 15]. Available from: https://www.thebraintumourcharity.org/finding-myself





### Our new website

In September 2015 we launched our new website.

Improvements included:

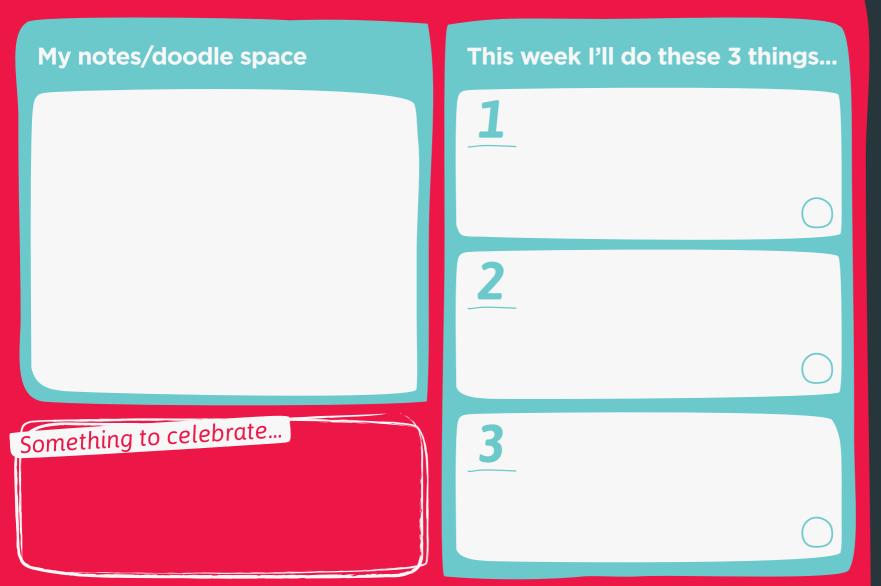
- Clearer signposting towards our information and services;
- More accessible information about the research we fund;
- Better coverage of brain tumour policy and research developments globally.

Use of the website has increased significantly following these changes. In March 2016, for example, the number of sessions recorded was 23% higher than during the same month in 2015.

We put in place a system that allows us to track the number of times each of our factsheets is downloaded, so we can respond to the needs of our community.

The changes we introduced have helped us reach out more effectively to everyone affected by a brain tumour, enabling us to improve lives today.





### My week in a nutshell







### **United against brain tumours**

Our Supporter Groups are set up either in memory of someone who has lost their life to a brain tumour, or by a fundraiser who is living with the disease.

All of the money they raise is invested through The Brain Tumour Charity into vital research, support services and raising awareness.

In 2015/16, 27 new Supporter Groups were created, taking the total number to 245.

\* This figure includes all money raised directly by Supporter Groups as well as that generated by individuals associated with Supporter Groups in events such as the London Marathon.





TUE

FRI

**WED** 

It's the weekend!

My week in a nutshell

MON

**THUR** 





Research | Awareness | Support



### **Virgin Money London Marathon**

"It's been very inspiring to run for The Brain Tumour Charity – to be part of a group of people who are running for someone they love and so determined to make a difference."

Xavier, co-founder of Peak (a brain training app developer) and one of our 2015 London Marathon runners

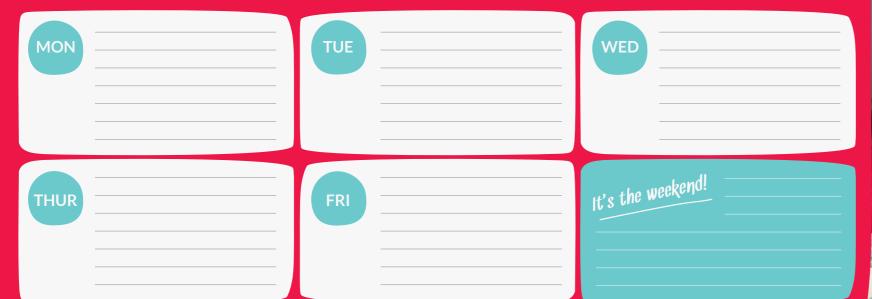
Between them, our 118 runners in the 2015 Virgin Money London Marathon raised more than £250,000, as well as enhancing awareness of our cause through local and national media coverage of their efforts.

Thanks in part to their inspirational stories, we attracted a raft of new runners to enter the Virgin Money London Marathon in 2016 – helping us to sustain the fundraising we rely on to work towards defeating brain tumours.

"I know first-hand, from the incredible support The Brain Tumour Charity gave my family during my dad's illness, how important it is for families to have that network."

Tom Daley

### My week in a nutshell





### **Information Days**

Our Information Days in London, Manchester, Brighton and Glasgow offered an opportunity for people living with a brain tumour and their families to learn more about treatments, coping strategies and support services.

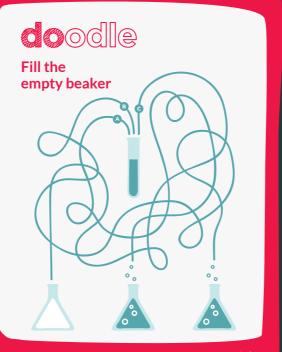
More than 260 people heard from speakers including neurosurgeons, clinical nurse specialists, carers and those personally affected by the disease.

More people attended our London Information Day in June 2015 (91) than any similar event we have hosted.

We held Paediatric Information Days in Southampton, in partnership with University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust and in Birmingham, in partnership with Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. More than 35 families came along to hear from experts in the field of childhood brain tumour treatment and care.

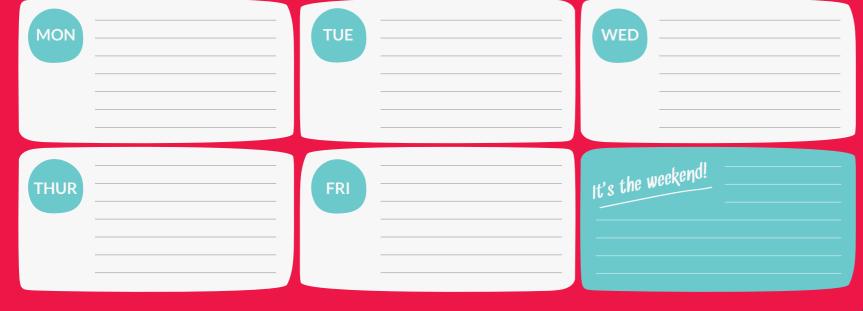






Before this week is over, I will...

### My week in a nutshell





### **Building global** teams

Collaboration is key in the hunt for more effective brain tumour treatments.

In September 2015 we announced our Quest for Cures initiative to bring together brain tumour researchers from at least two institutions in the UK or globally.

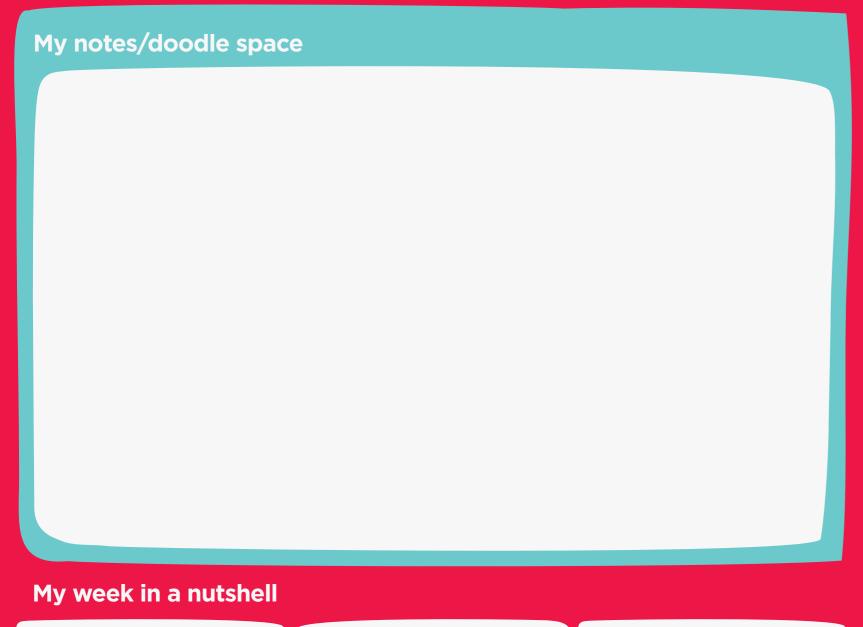
These grants were designed specifically to support laboratory-based research that has the potential to lead quickly to benefits for patients.

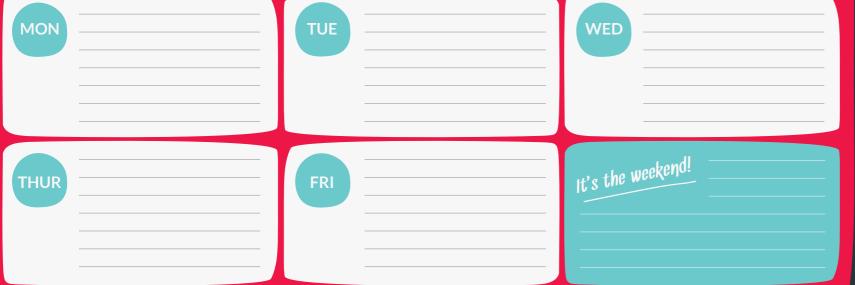
Our funding of up to £1.5 million for applicants under Quest for Cures enabled scientists and clinicians to share expertise and ideas, accelerating progress towards a cure.



### Did you know?

Most of our grants are awarded for research initiatives lasting more than 12 months, so we need to know that our funding is sustainable from one year to the next. That's why last year we took steps to show how simple it is for supporters to leave a legacy gift to The Brain Tumour Charity, and what a difference that can make to our future.







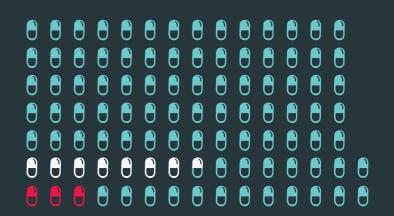
### **Trialling new treatment options**

One of the key obstacles to treating brain tumours more effectively is the difficulty of delivering drugs across the blood-brain barrier.

Last year we co-funded research by Professor Susan Short at Leeds University into the use of viruses which destroy cancer cells without killing healthy cells.

Early results show these viruses can reach tumour cells in the brain via a simple injection into the patient's bloodstream.

Professor Short and her team are now trialling these injections in people diagnosed with glioblastoma, the most common form of malignant brain tumour in adults, helping us progress towards our goal of improving survival.



Less than  $3\%^{14}$  of brain tumour patients take part in a clinical trial, compared to an average of  $7.5\%^{15}$  of patients across all cancer types.

<sup>14.</sup> The National Cancer Research Institute. NCRI Brain Tumour Clinical Studies Group Annual Report 2013/2014 [Internet]

<sup>15.</sup> The NIHR Clinical Research Network: Cancer. Annual Report 2013-14 [Internet]. NHS; 2014. Available from: http://www.crn.nihr.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/Combined%20 Annual%20Report%202013-14.pdf



**WED** 

It's the weekend!

TUE

FRI

My week in a nutshell

MON

**THUR** 



### HeadSmart: reaching out across the UK

In 2015/16 we sent out more than 295,000 of our pocket-sized HeadSmart cards, which list the main signs and symptoms of childhood brain tumours.

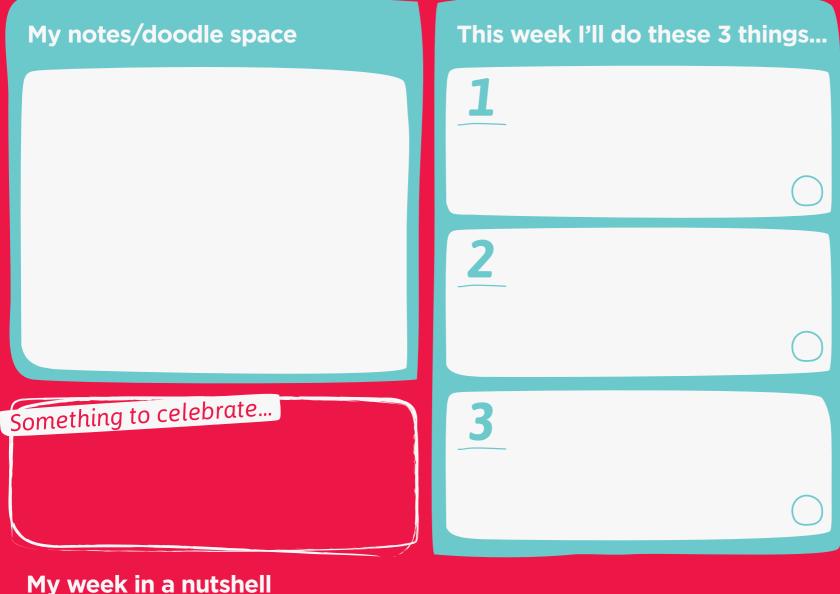
This took the total number of HeadSmart cards distributed in the UK to almost two million, improving awareness of brain tumours in children and helping our progress towards early and accurate diagnosis of the disease.

Key achievements included distributions to:

- All GP practices in Northern Ireland;
- All schools in Bournemouth;
- 40 schools, 20 GP surgeries and the main hospital on the Isle of Wight.

We also produced a new Welsh language version of the HeadSmart card.







### Listening, learning, sharing

In January 2016 our report, Finding Myself in Your Hands: The Reality of Brain Tumour Treatment and Care, received widespread national media attention.

The report was based on a survey of more than 1,000 brain tumour patients which found that:

- Women were more than twice as likely as men to wait over a year for a diagnosis after first seeking medical advice for their symptoms;
- Patients in low-income households were more likely than those in better-off households to see a doctor more than five times and to wait for more than a year between their first visit and their diagnosis.

Our findings were reported by newspapers including The Times, The Guardian, The Independent, The Daily Mail and The Sun, raising valuable awareness of our drive to secure equal access for all brain tumour patients to the best treatment and care.



### My week in a nutshell

MON

THUR	



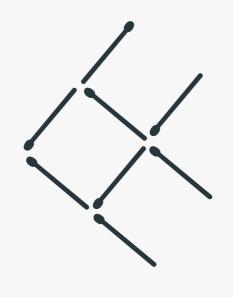
FRI



It's the weekend!

### **Brainteaser**

Can you turn this fish around by moving only three matches?





Research | Awareness | Support

### A trusted voice

A brain tumour diagnosis opens up a world no-one wants to visit.

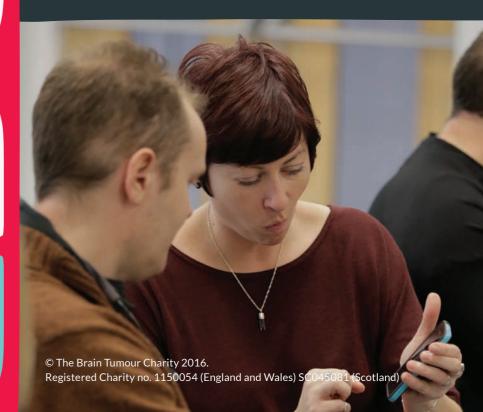
To help reassure those affected that they are not alone, last year we produced support and information videos on subjects including:

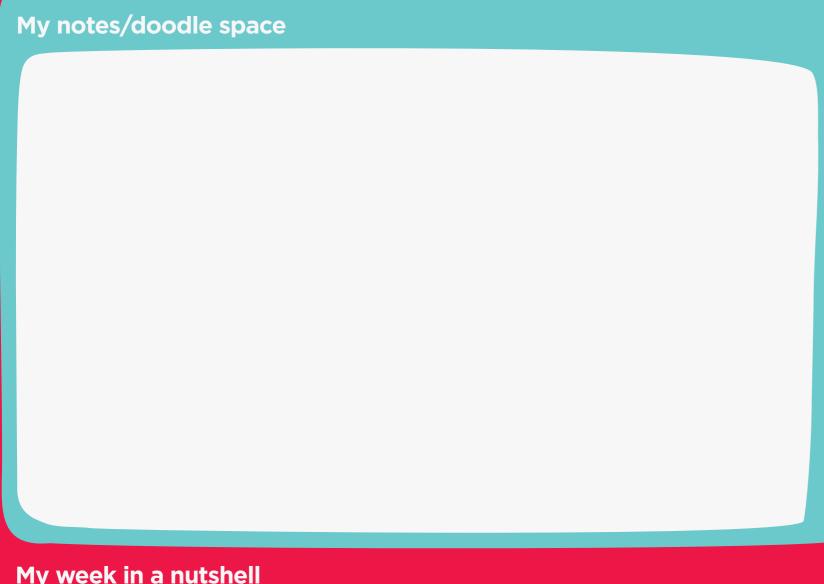
- Being a carer
- The side effects of a brain tumour
- Depression
- Seizures

By sharing the stories of others who have found a way to cope with problems like fatigue and the loss of their driving licence, we are working to reduce patients' sense of isolation and improve their lives today.

### My week in a nutshell

MON	TUE	WED
THUR	FRI	It's the weekend!





### My week in a nutshell





### **International** collaborations and partnerships

No-one working alone will defeat brain tumours.

That's why last year we continued to build productive partnerships with other organisations in the UK and around the world.

We forged links with the US National Brain Tumor Society and other not-for-profit bodies around the globe, as well as continuing to co-fund research with charities including Cancer Research UK, Children with Cancer UK and Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity.

By pooling our knowledge and expanding our global networks, we maximise our impact for the benefit of all those affected by a brain tumour.







### The Alex Bolt Fund

"Your fundraising efforts will help me and my team find better treatments for children, starting today."

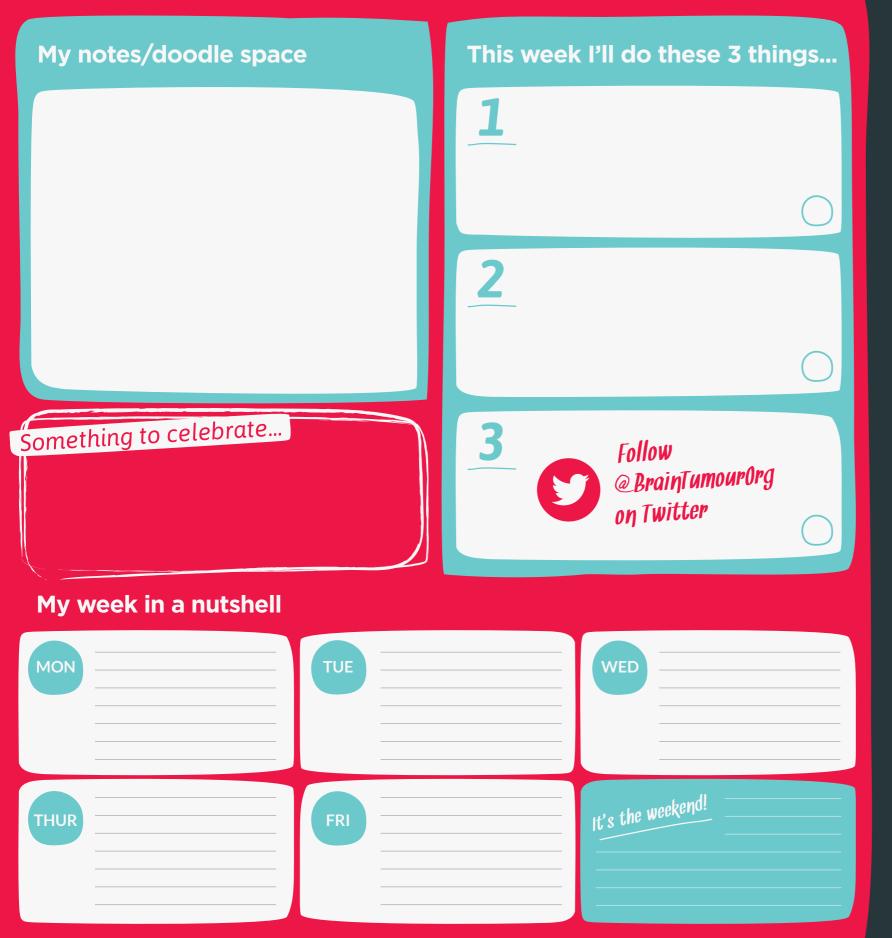
Professor Chris Jones of the Institute of Cancer Research on the work made possible by our Supporter Group, The Alex Bolt Fund

When Alex Bolt died from a brain tumour at the age of just 16, his family pledged to do all they could to help others diagnosed in the future.

Last year, thanks in part to a 6th successful golf day and gala dinner at Wentworth hosted by former England cricketer Darren Gough, the total amount raised by The Alex Bolt Fund for The Brain Tumour Charity since 2011 passed £600,000.

Money from The Alex Bolt Fund directly supports two research posts at the Institute of Cancer Research.







### **Making waves**

We achieved significant national and regional media coverage in 2015/16, featuring in newspapers including The Times, The Guardian, The Daily Telegraph, The Mirror, The Sun and The Daily Mail.

Our spokespeople appeared on broadcast outlets including BBC News, the Today programme and numerous local and regional radio stations.

By enhancing our digital and offline reach during 2015/16 and beyond, we continue to raise awareness of our work and inspire support for our goals.



Between 2015/16, our Twitter followers increased from 8,422 to 11,531 and our Facebook followers increased from 17,417 to 23,655, over a 30% rise on both social media sites.







29% of people living with a brain tumour feel severely isolated.<sup>16</sup>

### **Quality of Life**

We are working to halve the harm caused by brain tumours.

To achieve that goal, we need to understand what most affects the quality of life experienced by brain tumour patients.

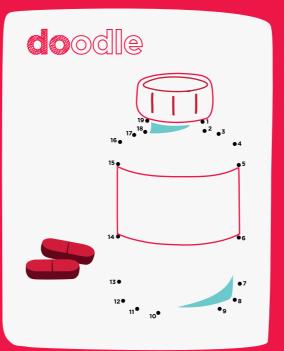
In 2015 we announced plans to fund research projects focusing on this issue, with suggested topics including:

- Symptom management
- Treatment side effects
- Emotional and mental health
- Relationships

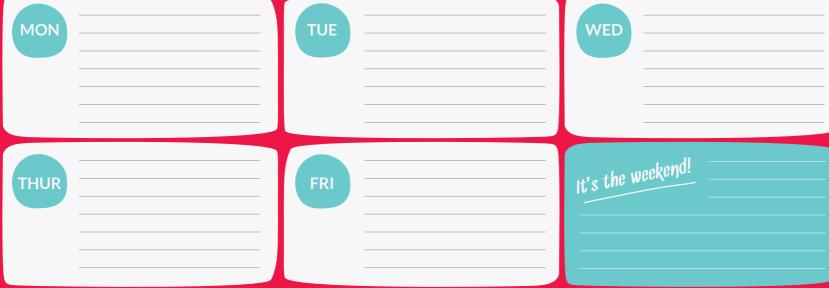
Our funding call was for projects lasting up to three years, with grants of up to £300,000, which will help to improve life for brain tumour patients at any stage from diagnosis onwards.

16. The Brain Tumour Charity. Losing Myself: The Reality of Life with a Brain Tumour [Internet]. 2015. Available from: https://www.thebraintumourcharity.org/losing-myself

### My notes/doodle space My week in a nutshell



Before this week is over, I will...





### Trialling new treatments for childhood brain tumours

In April 2015 we granted funding for a clinical trial into potential new treatments for diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma or DIPG, a highly aggressive and incurable childhood brain tumour.

The five-year trial, which we are co-funding with Cancer Research UK, will involve 150 children diagnosed with DIPG. Each patient will be given one of three existing anti-cancer drugs, depending on an analysis of their tumour and its molecular make-up.

All of the children will undergo radiotherapy in combination with their targeted drug treatment.

A research team led by Dr Darren Hargrave at Great Ormond Street Hospital will compare the results of the trial with those achieved using the standard DIPG treatment of radiotherapy alone, with the aim of making progress towards one of our key goals: improving survival.



"Meeting other kids through The Brain Tumour Charity makes me feel better about myself. I don't feel like the outsider who's got a brain tumour. I feel like I belong and that people get me."

Bailey, who is living with a brain tumour.

### My week in a nutshell







### Alfie's legacy

"We know how much brain donations are needed to drive forward research. We find some comfort in knowing that a part of Alfie is still here helping others."

Zoe and Danny, who lost their son Alfie to a brain tumour

Alfie died in 2014 at the age of six, less than a year after he was diagnosed with an incurable brain tumour called diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma (DIPG).

Determined to bring hope to other families facing a DIPG diagnosis in future, his parents made the pioneering decision to donate Alfie's brain for research. They also set up a Supporter Group, Alfie's Journey Fund, which in 2015/16 reached a milestone £50,000 in funds raised for The Brain Tumour Charity.

Their donations are helping us to move further and faster towards effective treatments for children like Alfie.







people diagnosed every year with a brain tumour in the UK.<sup>17</sup>

### **Creating support networks**

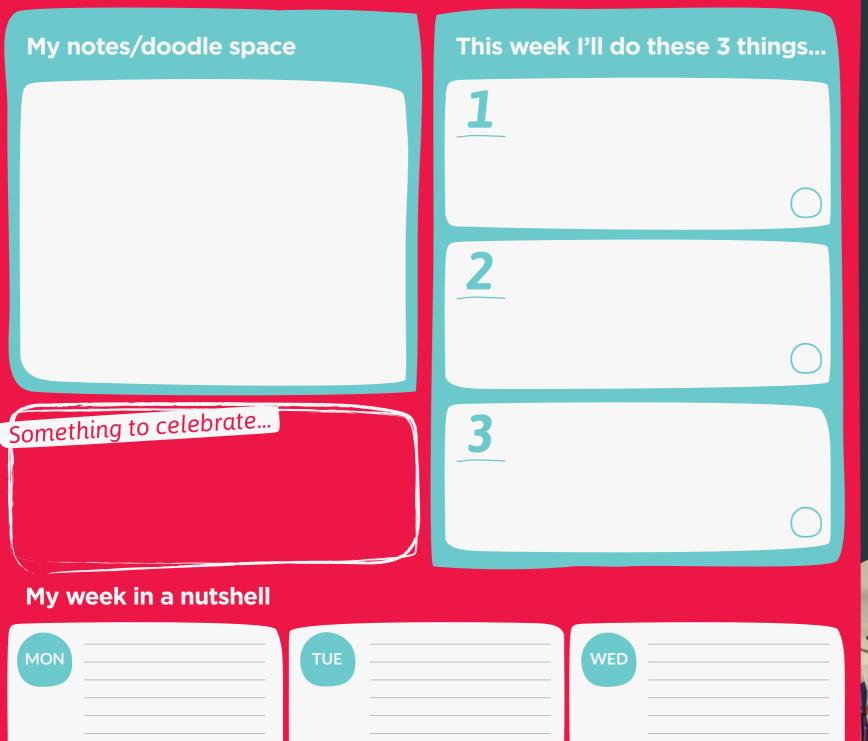
Few parents know the shock of being told: "Your child has a brain tumour."

And few parents know personally the impact that diagnosis can have on every aspect of life – from family relationships to workplace choices, from financial decisions to sleeping habits.

That's why last year we launched our Facebook support group to unite parents and carers of children who have been diagnosed with a brain tumour.

Members can share their fears, seek support and offer solidarity within a secure online environment, helping to improve the lives of families affected by a brain tumour.

 $17. \, Cancer \, Research \, UK. \, Brain, \, other \, CNS \, and \, intracranial \, tumours \, incidence \, statistics \, [Internet]. \, [cited \, 2015 \, Apr \, 7]. \, Available \, from: \, http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/brain-tumours/incidence$ 



FRI

**THUR** 

It's the weekend!



### Young Ambassadors: pressing for change

In February 2016, eight of our Young Ambassadors travelled to Brussels to call for more action to defeat brain tumours.

The group – all of whom have either been treated for a brain tumour or have lost a close relative to the disease – met Emma McClarkin, Member of the European Parliament for the East Midlands, to discuss their experiences.

Along with our CEO, Sarah Lindsell, they also visited the office of the European Cancer Patient Coalition (ECPC).

By sharing with policymakers and campaigners their experience of brain tumours and the impact of the disease, our Young Ambassadors helped garner support for every part of our strategy – from our work towards early and accurate diagnosis to our call for greater global research collaboration.



### **Brainteaser**

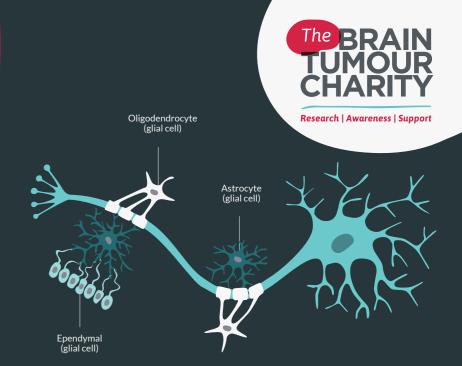
G X P A M J A N G G V X A U R R G O B M X M T N K N M K A A A A N L H T O O Y B O O J B H D M I P I K I T W H T M I F I I O U I U O Y S Y S E U S N L O I H T G C B A A C Y A X X K T G D B H E I L I H O Z Y V F H N N R T W B B A R E R V G W E I T U O O S O O S E T T S D R N K X E P A L S G T L T S L A E W N V D U L R R G O O P A P M I C H Q E U K V Y U M H J Y P I W J I S D D I P G T A V E Z W O Y D L E X X O Q N X F O X E H C H E M O T H E R A P Y

CHEMOTHERAPY
ASTROCYTOMA
DIPG
GLIOBLASTOMA
MEDULLOBLASTOMA

MENINGIOMA PBT PINEOBLASTOMA RADIOTHERAPY SURGERY

### My week in a nutshell





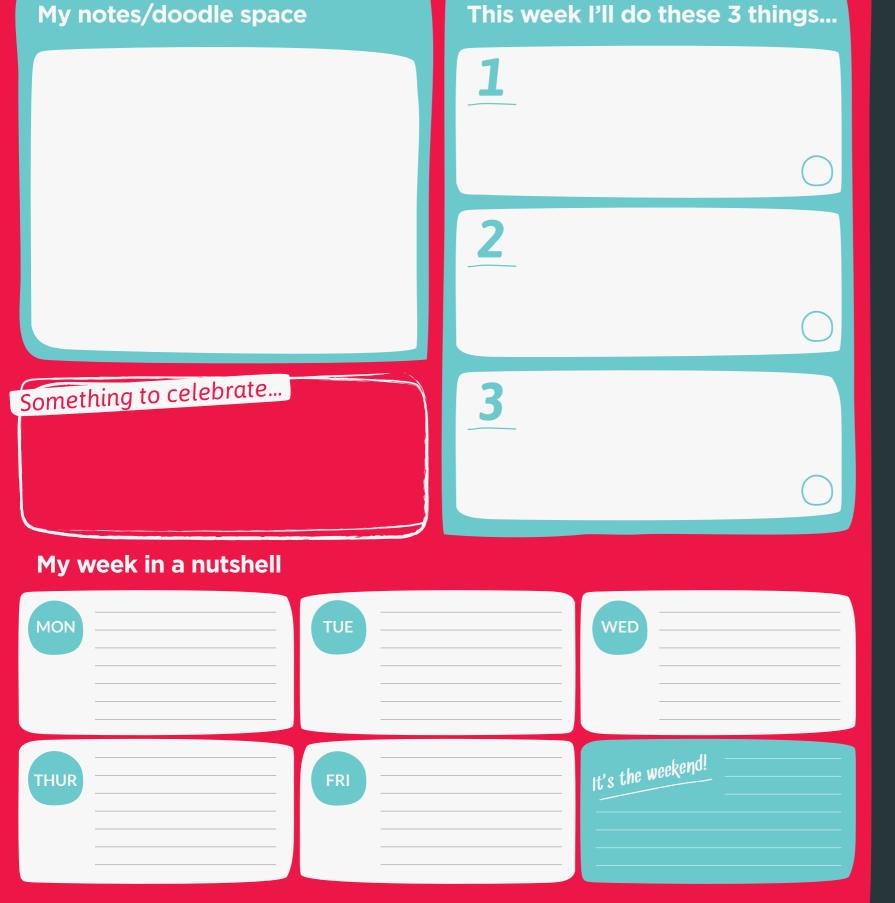
### Offering quality information

We produced eight new factsheets about brain tumours in 2015/16, taking our total to 46.

In addition, we revised five of our existing factsheets as part of our ongoing efforts to ensure the information in all of our publications is accurate and up to date.

Once again we were awarded the Information Standard quality mark, following a process of review by neuro-oncology experts and a panel of patients and carers.

By providing clear and accurate information, we helped give patients and their families the knowledge and confidence to make their voices heard.





### **CTN Communications**

The benefits of our 2015 partnership with CTN Communications were many and far-reaching.

CTN provided us with valuable media training, equipping more of our team with the skills necessary to raise awareness of brain tumours, and worked with us to produce a unique video promoting Bandanas for Brain Tumours Day 2016 to help unite our community.

"CTN and The Brain Tumour Charity are a similar size and both punch well above their weight. From media training to creating engaging films, CTN are delighted to have the opportunity to help increase the impact of The Charity's communications."

Donna Burtchaell, Account Director

### Did you know?

Our successful partnerships during 2015/16 included Bluecube, the technology services company which provides us with IT support free of charge, and recruitment consultants Hays, whose staff raised more than £200,000 for us in total over two years.

### **Brainteaser**

9	1	7		3			5	
8	5	4	6	2	1			
3		6				8		4
4		3			7	6		
				4	8			5
7	8		3	1	6	4	2	9
	7	2	4			1	6	8
6		9					7	
	3	8			5	9		





**172** 

cycled across all terrains in the UK and around the world marathons and other events



1,031

ran in marathons, half



1,100

walked together to stamp out brain tumours in The Twilight Walk



9,397

joined us to #WearItOut for Bandanas for Brain **Tumours Day** 



338

trekked up mountains, through deserts and across the UK

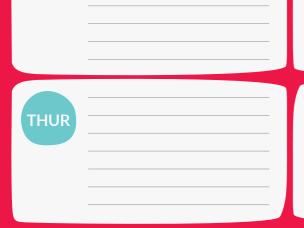


1,359

organised their own fundraising events across the UK

### My week in a nutshell

MON



TUE

FRI

WED

It's the weekend!

### OVER 55,000° PEOPLE ARE CURRENTLY LIVING WITH A BRAIN TUMOUR IN THE UK



This year, over 5,000 will lose their lives to a brain tumour.



Of those who survive, most will have a reduced quality of life.

### thebraintumourcharity.org

18. Brainstrust. Living with a brain tumour. Prevalence of intracranial tumours - September 2013. [Internet]. Available from: bit.ly/brain\_tumour\_infographic 19. Cancer Research UK. Brain, other CNS and intracranial tumours mortality statistics [Internet]. 2014 [cited 2015 May 21]. Available from: http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/cancer-info/cancerstats/types/brain/mortality/

20. HeadSmart was developed in collaboration with the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre at The University of Nottingham and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.



Since 1996 we have been at the forefront of the fight against brain tumours. We know how vital it is to find a cure.

Laboratory-based research is essential, but on its own is not enough. That's why we fund every phase of research.

WEWORK with researchers to find the cause of brain tumours, to diagnose the disease more accurately and to understand what prevents early diagnosis.

WE INVESTIGATE new ways to find a cure and support clinical trials to improve treatment and care.

WE COLLABORATE with leading researchers across the world, as well as Cancer Research UK, to ensure we maximise all opportunities.

Alongside research, we do everything we can to improve life for those affected.

WE HELP people affected by a brain tumour every day through our Support & Information Service.

WE CAMPAIGN for early and accurate diagnosis. Our HeadSmart campaign has halved the average diagnosis time for childhood brain tumours in the UK.



Our VISION is a world where brain tumours are defeated.

Our GOALS are to double survival within 10 years and halve the harm caused by the disease to quality of life.

With **YOUR HELP** we can go further, faster.

Please, pass this page on to one person who can lend us their support – whether it's as a fundraiser, a volunteer, a corporate partner or a researcher.

Share with them the difference we are making together.

### THANK YOU

A space for your own message

### **Our finances**

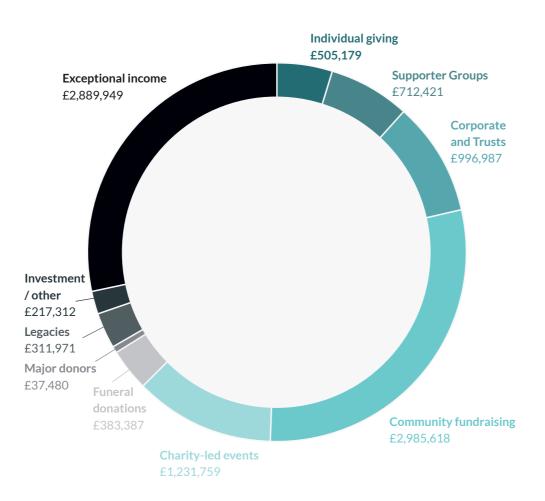
The Charity's incoming resources jumped by 43% to £10,272,063 from £7,158,946.

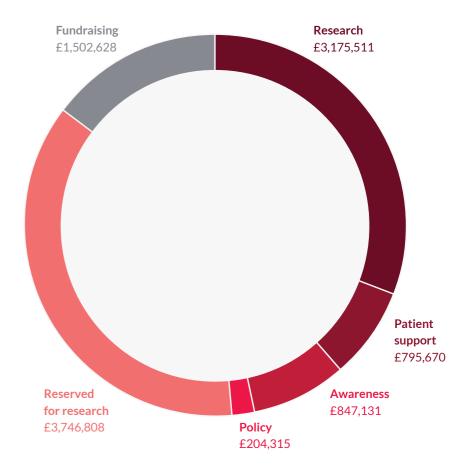
Underlying income, which excludes exceptional income, was £7,382,114, an increase of 3% over the previous year.

Income in the year included exceptional restricted income of £2.9 million generated by one of our major donors. The scale of income from this source is not expected to recur each year.

All of our services are free of charge for anyone affected by a brain tumour. This, coupled with our research and awareness work, is only possible thanks to our dedicated supporters, as we receive no government or statutory funding and rely 100% on voluntary funding.







### Income - including exceptional income

Individual giving	£505,179				
Supporter Groups	£712,421*				
Corporate and Trusts	£996,987				
Community fundraising	£2,985,618				
Charity-led events	£1,231,759				
Funeral donations	£383,387				
Major donors	£37,480				
Legacies	£311,971				
Investment/other	£217,312				
Exceptional income	£2,889,949				

£10,272,063

Reserved for research Fundraising

Expenditure

Patient support

Research

Awareness

Policv

£3,175,511 £795,670 £847,131 £204,315 £3,746,808 £1,502,628

£10,272,063

<sup>\*</sup>This figure is the amount raised directly by Supporter Groups. It excludes money generated by individuals associated with Supporter Groups in events such as the London Marathon.

### **Highlights**

Thanks to every one of our supporters, 2015/16 was a landmark year for The Brain **Tumour Charity. Your fundraising** efforts enabled us to invest further in groundbreaking research and support more people affected by a brain tumour, as well as stepping up our campaign to raise awareness of the disease.

So whether you ran, cycled or trekked, organised your own unique event or joined us as a corporate partner, you helped us to raise an incredible £10 million last year in pursuit of our vision: a world where brain tumours are defeated.

Here's a taste of what we achieved together in 2015/16.









### April 2015

More than 200 supporters ran the Virgin Money London Marathon in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity, raising over £250,000 for our work.



### August 2015

The Ocean Valour duo, Tom Rainey and Lawrence Walters, arrived in the UK after a record-breaking transatlantic row that raised more than £100,000 for our research into brain tumours.



Research | Awareness | Support

### **July 2015**

We published Losing Myself: The Reality of Life with a Brain Tumour, the first in a series of reports based on our unique survey of more than 1,000 people living with a brain tumour.

**July 2015** 

We launched our strategy,

**Defeating Brain Tumours,** 

setting out the path towards

our twin goals: to double

survival within ten years

and halve the harm caused

by brain tumours.



We announced two major research initiatives: **Quest for Cures, to enable** researchers from around the globe to share their expertise, and New Ideas, to encourage innovation in brain tumour research.



### March 2016

Thousands of people across the UK joined forces to #WearItOut! on Bandanas for Brain Tumours Day, raising awareness of the disease and funds for research into diagnosis delays.



### January 2016

We launched Finding Myself in Your Hands: The Reality of Brain **Tumour Treatment and Care**, the second report to come out of our groundbreaking survey of more than 1,000 people living with a brain tumour.



### June 2015

May 2015

We held two Paediatric

**Information Days for** 

families affected by

a childhood brain tumour,

in partnership with healthcare providers.

We announced funding for new research into the delays that affect adult brain tumour diagnosis in the UK.



### October 2015

The Twilight Walk united 1,100 people to #WalkWithUs in Warwick. Windsor, York and Chester. raising more than £220,000.



### March 2016

We published our manifestos for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, setting out our recommendations to ensure all of those with a brain tumour have access to the best possible treatment and care.



### **Thanks**

In addition to our thousands of dedicated supporters, we are grateful to many companies, charitable trusts and foundations. both in the UK and internationally. which are having a significant impact across all areas of our work. These investments are making it possible for us to fund the best research to help find a cure, support everybody affected by this devastating disease and raise awareness of brain tumours to save lives.

If you'd like to know more about The Brain Tumour Charity and the work we do, please get in touch:

thebraintumourcharity.org 01252 749990 enquiries@thebraintumourcharity.org

Registered office: Hartshead House, 61-65 Victoria Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7PA

### Trusts

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Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity

Medical Research Council

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Naseem Manx's Brain Tumour Charity OSCAR's Paediatric Brain Tumour Charity Pippa Jones Little Treasure Trust

We also extend our huge thanks to our high profile supporters who have worked with us and helped us generate greater awareness of The Charity. A special thank you to:

Alastair Stewart OBE Caroline Lucas MP Chris White MP Dr Chris Jones Dr Paul Brennan Emma McClarkin MEP

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### Governance

The Charity has an independent Grant Review and Monitoring Committee (GRAM) and is also supported by over 300 international reviewers from around the world who undertake peer review assessments of research grant applications and make recommendations to the GRAM.

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