

REPORT TO ENVIRONMENT AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE  
**CONSERVATION OF STATUETTE**

**Report Reference** EN-22-16  
**Meeting Date** 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023  
**Agenda Item** 7  
**Prepared by** Town Clerk

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## **1.0 BACKGROUND**

Prior to the British Red Cross vacating the Knutsford and District War Memorial Hospital, the statuette of a mother and child was removed from the alcove in which it was fitted to save it from demolition. Following enquiries with the British Red Cross, the statuette was handed to the Town Council for conservation. The statuette is made of plaster and is not freestanding, having been attached to a plinth within an alcove in the foyer of the hospital. The statuette has been painted over a number of times, likely when redecoration took place at the hospital, losing some of its detail and showing a different colour on the front from back.

## **2.0 PROPOSED CONSERVATION**

It is proposed to have the statuette professionally conserved through the removal of overpainting and consolidation of the surface. It would then be mounted onto a plinth to be freestanding and plaque fitted to the plinth to note its provenance.

Quotes have been obtained from companies specialising in conservation of plasterwork and the estimated cost is £500. The committee has budget for this under Environment Projects/External Contractors.

The proposed contractor is Edge Conservation, which the council has previously engaged to restore the plaster relief of Elizabeth Gaskell which is on loan to Knutsford Heritage Centre.

It is then suggested that the statuette be displayed in the war memorial chapel of St John's Church. The chapel contains other memorial items and should ensure the statuette is kept safe whilst being on public display. Being displayed within the church means it remains part of the annual remembrance services.

## **3.0 DECISION REQUIRED**

The committee should consider approval of the conservation of the statuette as outlined.

**APPENDIX: PHOTOGRAPHS**



*The statuette in position in the Knutsford and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital  
(Courtesy of David Bryant)*