



Glasgow  
Children's  
Hospital  
Charity

# Impact Update

Spring/Summer 2021

# A message of thanks

**I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who has supported Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity in the past 12 months.**



While the past year has been filled with uncertainty, the generosity of our supporters has never been in doubt. Despite the impact that the restrictions had on fundraising events, thanks to our steadfast supporters, we have committed more than £1.9 million of support for Scotland's most seriously ill children.

In those first few frightening days and months of the pandemic, our emergency response team brought welcome respite to children, families and NHS staff from the relentless pressures they were facing.

As the year progressed, our focus turned to new ways of helping children and families, both in the hospital and at home. The Covid-19 crisis has changed healthcare as we knew it, and we are proud to have funded innovative new ideas and projects that were simply impossible just one year ago.

We yearn for a return to the wonderful fundraising events we have missed so much, and hope that these brighter days are just around the corner.

Until then, I know that with the resolute backing of our supporters we will continue to make a life-changing difference to the children, families and NHS staff we are so privileged to serve.

Thank you,  
**Kirsten Watson, CEO**

# Thank you from Eilidh

At the peak of the first lockdown, Eilidh was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia.

"Having a child in hospital for weeks on-end is bleak and scary - even more so during Covid-19. Thanks to funding from the charity, the Play Team were with Eilidh for 49 consecutive days in hospital. They made her smile, brought her toys and activities, and helped her come to terms with her treatment."

Inspired by the support she received, Eilidh's mum Pauline ran the equivalent of three marathons in October, raising £7,000.

**"Cancer and other illnesses don't wait until children are strong enough. The least I could do was haul myself out for runs to give something back to a very special hospital and charity, doing amazing things for so many families like mine during a global pandemic."**

Pauline | Eilidh's Mum







Together with your support,  
we stood shoulder to  
shoulder with front-line  
NHS staff during their most  
challenging year.



**"Dealing with critically unwell children creates highly pressured and stressful situations. This takes its toll on staff, with high rates of moral distress and burnout. The pandemic affects our usual coping mechanisms, like seeing our family and friends, leaving us more vulnerable to feeling overwhelmed. Having a supportive, non-judgemental listening ear when we are struggling is all the more necessary."**

**Dr Peter Donnelly**  
Paediatric Intensive Care Consultant



## **NHS Peer Support Network**

We granted £12,000 of funding to provide timely and structured emotional support to care for the mental health of our NHS heroes, working around the clock with critically ill children.

## **Respite & Wellbeing**

With help from our volunteers, donors and partners, our Emergency Response Team worked through the crisis to support the relief effort across NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, funding wellbeing rooms, respite support and care packages for NHS teams.

# Playing Through the Pandemic

The pandemic didn't stop our charity-funded Play & Events Programme. We were once again able to invest more than £500,000 in our Play Programme, funding play staff, toys and technology to give every child the opportunity to have fun in hospital.



**"We've had to adapt our Play Programme to keep all of the children safe during this time, and technology has played a key part in making that happen. Thanks to the iPads funded by Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity, we can play Zoom bingo, have quizzes, enjoy storytelling and have surprise visits from superheroes – all through the iPads."**

**Claire Kennedy** | Senior Health Play Specialist



## Coping During Covid

3 out of 4 parents say that play has helped their child cope with the pandemic.\* Our Play Programme provides a vital source of fun and distraction for children in hospital, alleviating worries about their stay and upcoming procedures.

**"Oscar enjoys seeing his friends on the iPads and winning prizes. The Zoom games and calls have made a massive difference to our days as it gives us something to look forward to."**

Oscar's Mum



## Virtual Fun for Everyone

Through the pandemic, we organised and hosted virtual parties, family days and visits for both young patients on the wards, and for those shielding at home. Children and their families enjoyed entertainment, the chance to meet their favourite sport stars, dancing, singing and even cook-a-longs!



We cared for families of seriously ill children both at home and at the hospital, when the pressures of the pandemic became overwhelming.



## **Accommodation & Care Packs**

When travelling to and from home to visit was simply not an option, and the availability of nearby temporary accommodation was limited, we worked in partnership with the hospital to source, coordinate and fund local accommodation for families from across Scotland.

Families were also given Care Packs with essentials including breakfast, refreshments and support service information to help them through their temporary stays.

## **Immediate Financial Aid**

Our Emergency Grants helped families overcome urgent financial difficulties, covering travel costs and their basic everyday needs at the hospital.

We also provided 76 Family Grants to support the wellbeing of young patients in the community, whose normal social routines were halted while they shielded. This funding covered a range of sensory toys, equipment and technology, making their prolonged time at home easier to cope with.

# Support for Shielding Families

Chloe is one of only six children in Scotland with the rare genetic condition Mowat Wilson Syndrome, which affects 1 in 100,000 births.

Chloe and her family have been supported by our charity-funded Office for Rare Conditions, and also received an emergency grant to purchase a 'Tuff Tray', so that Chloe can continue her physio and development while shielding at home.

**"Chloe needs constant attention as she is unable to do things without one-to-one support. She needed a lot of stimulation to ensure her cognitive, physical and social development didn't regress while being kept in such a small bubble for so long. The Tuff Tray is great as it combines a little physio with fun outdoors."**

Claire | Chloe's mum



# Making Precious Memories

## Bereavement Support

Demand for our charity-funded bereavement service soared during the pandemic, with heightened feelings of grief and anxiety felt by bereaved families and NHS staff. We saw:

- **double the number of family referrals during COVID-19;**
- **a fourfold increase in the number of families and staff members who had finished support, returning for further intervention;**
- **over 380 NHS GGC employees accessing support - more than 3 times the number during the previous year.**

We are proud to have granted £100,000 of funding to continue this vital service delivered by Child Bereavement UK through 2021/22.

## Memory Making

When the unimaginable happened, families had the chance to create precious keepsakes and memories with their little ones during their final moments.

**"Everyone else spoke about him as if he had already died. She let us talk about him as a wee person – for a little while each week we could almost forget that he was going to die. That was precious."**

Mum







## Helping Little Hearts

With the help of our corporate supporters Barclays Scotland, we banked £100,000 to fund the latest, ultra-high-resolution ultrasound equipment to enhance Scotland's national Fetal Cardiology Service at Glasgow's Royal Hospital for Children.

**"The little hearts that we look at are about the size of a thumbnail, only millimetres in size. This new scanner will provide the highest level of detail to make sure we can give an accurate diagnosis and put the appropriate treatment plans in place. We're proud that this new and enhanced equipment will make Scotland a leader in fetal medicine, allowing us to trial new techniques and ways of working to provide even better care for our families."**

Dr Lindsey Hunter | Consultant Fetal Cardiologist

# Helping Beyond the Hospital

Throughout the pandemic we provided support to children, families and NHS staff across the country.

## Volunteers Deliver a Lifeline

Our dedicated volunteers continued to play a crucial role in supporting our work in communities across Scotland.

Our Volunteer Drivers continued to care for our most vulnerable premature babies by collecting and delivering donor milk, and supported young patients living with Crohn's disease by delivering their specialist diet – CD Treat – straight to their homes.



**"As a Volunteer Driver, I've been making essential trips throughout lockdown to make sure vulnerable babies still have access to the donor breast milk. The people you get to meet are incredible and I'm really proud to be a part of such an important team during this pandemic."**

Jonathan | Volunteer Driver

# Support Across Ayrshire

Crosshouse Children's Fund is our dedicated fund that supports children and families in Ayrshire and Arran. Throughout the past year, donations have helped to fund resources to support the incredible Speech and Language Therapy team and fun virtual visits for young patients. Thanks to Morrisons in Troon and Stevenston, we also proudly provided emergency family packs and replenished staff wellbeing rooms for our NHS heroes.



## PRM, RAH & RHC Neonatal Units

For families of babies in Intensive Care, every moment spent away from their side can feel like a lifetime.

We are proud to fund the video-messaging service vCreate in all of Glasgow's Neonatal Units, helping parents stay connected to their little ones throughout the pandemic.

**"It was scary going to bed not knowing if your baby would make it through the night, but for your own sanity, it's vital you get some sleep too. I honestly can't thank Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity enough for funding the vCreate video sharing system – thanks to this, we woke up each day to a wee moment of joy, captured on the iPads by the incredible nursing team who were looking after him. All that worry would disappear and you knew the team had been giving him the very best care."**

**Karen | Mum to Lewis**





# Thank You!

Throughout the past year, despite everything that was thrown at them, our incredible supporters rose above the challenges of Covid-19 to raise vital funds by taking part in all sorts of wonderful fundraising activities. On behalf of everyone at the charity and the hospital, we'd like to say **THANK YOU** to all of our donors, fundraisers, partners and volunteers.







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Charity**

## GET IN TOUCH

As we continue to feel the impact of Covid-19,  
every pound raised is priceless.

To make a personal donation, take part in fundraising or to learn how  
your business can support Glasgow Children's Hospital Charity,  
please contact our team:

**0141 212 8750 | [info@glasgowchildrenshospitalcharity.org](mailto:info@glasgowchildrenshospitalcharity.org)  
[www.GlasgowChildrensHospitalCharity.org](http://www.GlasgowChildrensHospitalCharity.org)**



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