



Bristol Royal Hospital
For Children



University Hospitals
Bristol and Weston
NHS Foundation Trust

Bristol Royal Hospital For Children

Annual Review

2022-23



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Welcome

from the children's hospital leadership team

Welcome to our annual review of children's services at University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust for 2022/23. We are delighted to share updates from many of our services with you, celebrate some of our key successes and share some of our future plans.

We are so proud of all of our teams who work tirelessly to provide excellent care for babies, children and young people. This includes our amazing clinical teams and all the non-clinical staff who support them to deliver care. It really does take a true team effort to provide services to our patients and families and we are nothing without our staff! Workforce has been our top priority this year, with a significant focus on recruitment, retention, and wellbeing of staff. We are especially delighted to give a warm Bristol welcome to our new internationally educated nurses!

Collaboration is key to our success, and we want to take this opportunity to thank our partners in our local area, the wider South West and beyond for their ongoing support. We also want to thank our charitable partners, without whom our services would not be as special as they are. A special shout out to our youth ambassadors and patient/family champions for being brilliant and helping us to see things from different perspectives! We are proud to be part of the national Children's Hospital Alliance, which is working to advocate for children's services across England and beyond, and enables us to share learning and best practice across the country's top children's hospitals.

2022/23 was not without its challenges for health service providers. The NHS is still very much feeling

the impact of the covid-19 pandemic and we are working hard to reduce waiting times for patients. Our financial context continues to be constrained and we know that the cost-of-living crisis is impacting our patients, families and staff. We have also been increasing our focus on mental health services for children and young people to ensure the care we provide is holistic.

Despite these challenges, we are so proud of the achievements of our teams and are excited to share just some of them with you. Thank you for taking the time to read this report – we hope you will enjoy it as we have.

We will continue to do everything we can to provide the best services possible for our patients and their families.

Fiona Jones
Divisional Director
Women and Children's Services



Martin Gargan
Clinical Chair
Women and Children's Services



Rachel Hughes
Director of Nursing
Children's Services



Who we are

.....

We are proud to be your Bristol Royal Hospital for Children

We strive to provide high quality patient centred care for our children, young people and their families. We are one of the leading children's hospitals in the UK providing secondary care to our local paediatric population in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. We are the major trauma centre and the tertiary centre for children across the South West of England. Covering the largest geographical area of any children's hospital in the UK, with a paediatric population of 994,234, our region extends to Cheltenham in the north, Swindon in the east and Truro in the south. We also provide care beyond the South West region for critical care, renal transplantation and congenital heart disease care.

Located in the centre of Bristol city and in Weston, we are proud to be a part of these vibrant and multicultural communities, employing nearly 1900 staff, and striving to always provide the highest quality of care for our patients locally, regionally and nationally. Your children are our priority, and we are here for them from birth to their teenage years and transition to adult services.



Your Bristol Royal Hospital for Children



One of 11 specialist children's hospitals in England

Paediatric Major Trauma Centre for the South West

Only dedicated Children's Emergency Department in the South West

£160.7 million budget with £2.9 million cost improvement target



1897 staff within children's services, including:

354

doctors

873

nursing staff

110

allied health professionals

20

healthcare scientists

52

clinical psychologists

236

administrative staff



179

inpatient, day case and critical care beds



31

neonatal intensive care cots



9

paediatric theatres

We treated 2909 inpatients,

6028 day patients,

undertook 78,476 outpatient contacts,

and saw 48,788 children's emergency department attendances



Our 2022/23 highlights

A new 'soft space' room in the children's emergency department, specially adapted to meet patients' bespoke needs

Many of our teams are providing care closer to home for patients through innovative new services, such as the naso-gastro tube feeding pilot, home haemodialysis and community asthma clinics



As a result of the cancer team's Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) work, WGS can now be offered to all eligible cancer patients including teenage and young adult as standard

The first use of the neuroscience team's halo traction wheelchair. This has allowed patients requiring traction to spend time out of bed and in places such as the school room and playroom whilst staying on traction

A new surgical admissions lounge has been opened and has improved patient experience and flow around our surgical beds



As a result of a nurse education project to facilitate the care of long-term ventilated patients outside of dedicated high dependency unit beds, three further inpatient areas are now able to deliver this care for patients

We have established an in-house clothing and food bank to ensure that families who arrive in an emergency with nothing or those who are experiencing financial hardship, have access to necessary items they need

Welcome to Bristol Children's H

Lift & Stairs to all
Wards and Departments

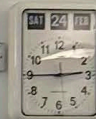


You are on
Level



PAEDIATRIC
CARDIOLOGY

MONITOR DROP OFF



FACE
MASKS

OUR SERVICES

At the children's hospital we offer a wide range of children's clinical services. Across the following pages we would like to share highlights from some of these services in 2022/23.

Paediatric Medical Specialities

Children's Emergency Department

As the only dedicated paediatric emergency department in the South West, our Children's Emergency Department team care and treat patients from all over the region.

Working collaboratively with Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), the team have continued to develop care for children with mental health needs. They have undertaken bespoke mental health training for staff, and have worked to improve communication between hospital and community staff to ensure safer and more appropriate pathways for children in mental health crisis.

2022/23 has seen the creation of a new 'soft space' room in the department. This is a space that can be individualised to bespoke patient requirements. The room holds a hoist, a variety of sensory equipment and a projector.

The Trauma Care Conference, which was held in Bristol, enabled staff to network and learn from others from all over the country. Many of the team were speakers at the event!

The team were delighted to win 'Digital Team of the Year' at the Health Services Journal (HSJ) Digital Awards 2023.



Paediatric Immunology and Infectious Diseases

Our Paediatric Immunology and Infectious Diseases (PIID) multi-disciplinary team provides safe, high quality and family-centred care for children with primary and secondary immunodeficiency, autoinflammatory and dysregulatory disorders, complex infections such as Tuberculosis, HIV, COVID 19 and congenital infections across the South West region.

The team have national and international roles within the British and European Societies of Paediatric Immunology/ Infectious Diseases, Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and act as advisors to the World Health Organisation (WHO) on immunisation.

Once more the service received full 'Quality in Primary Immunodeficiency Accreditation' for regional paediatric immunology service in 2022, making it one of the few paediatric immunology services in the country to receive and maintain accreditation.

The team continues to be heavily involved in a number of research studies as Principal Investigators, including vaccine and therapeutic studies and several international vaccine trials.



Acute Community Children's Nursing

Our children's community nursing service provides excellent clinical nursing care for 0 to 17 year-olds in community settings, assisting rapid discharges from the children's hospital, and supporting children and families across Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

The team are delighted to be supporting the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) naso-gastric pilot project. The project delivers enteral feeds in community settings for young people with an eating disorder, enabling

them to receive care at home rather than in hospital.

The team are exploring virtual wards as an alternative way of caring for children and young people throughout the region and would like to expand their offer in this area.

The team were nominated for Clinical Team of the Year 2023 in the Trust's Recognising Success awards.

Paediatric Renal

Our renal team specialises in the care of children with kidney problems from across the South West. Treatment includes dialysis and kidney transplantation. The service also provides kidney transplantation for children from South Wales.

The team works closely with colleagues from other teams to offer a range of subspeciality clinics including transplantation preparation, renal-endocrine, vasculitis, renal-genetics and transition to adult nephrology.

2022/23 was the busiest year yet for our haemodialysis team with the launch of the Home Haemodialysis Service, enabling children to receive this important element of their care at home rather than in hospital.

The team were excited to participate in the first Annual Young Person's Transition Day. Funded by The Grand Appeal, young people had interactive sessions led by members of the multi-disciplinary team on topics such as emotions, values, kidney transplantation, fatigue and community services followed by a shared lunch and bowling trip.



Paediatric Gastroenterology

Our gastro team provide the specialist tertiary service for children and young people with gastrointestinal, hepatic (liver) and nutritional conditions across the South West covering 11 different regional centres.

The team has leading roles nationally within the British Society of Paediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (BSPGHAN), Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health (RCPCH) and Royal College of Nursing.

In 2022/23, they were heavily involved in education and research, presenting five posters at a national conference, a plenary presentation at an international conference and publishing six papers in peer-reviewed journals.

With support and funding from The Grand Appeal, the Gastro Investigation Clinical Nurse Specialist, in conjunction with the play team, has developed a new communication toolkit which uses images to prepare children referred for pH-Impedance studies.





Photo provided by IPCRG

Paediatric Respiratory

Our paediatric respiratory team provide specialised respiratory services for patients across the South West of England and the UK, as well as services for our local population.

The team provide a regional service for severe asthma, assessing suitability of biologic therapies.

They are one of only three UK centres to coordinate care for children with spinal muscular atrophy requiring the genetic therapy, Zolgensma.

In 2022/23, the asthma team successfully demonstrated the value of community clinics in bringing high quality care closer to children with asthma.

They also used their learning from a patient engagement day to improve communication with patients and families around asthma treatments and their environmental impact.



Paediatric Haematology, Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant Services

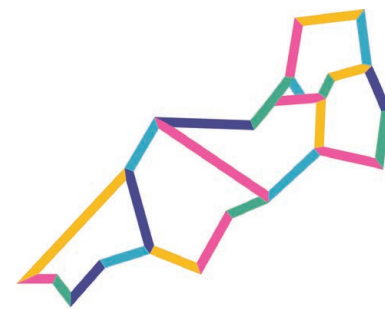
The departments of Haematology, Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) work together to provide care to children, young people and their families with cancer, blood disorders or requiring bone marrow transplant.

2022/23 has seen the initiation of aftercare psychology workshops which support children following the end of their treatment.

As a result of the team's Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) work, WGS can now be offered to all eligible cancer patients including teenage and young adult as standard offer of care.

Children, Teenage & Young Adult Cancer Operational Delivery Network, South West (CTYA Cancer ODN)

The South West CTYA ODN, hosted by the children's hospital, aims to improve care for patients and the experience of care for patients and their families. It provides a platform for shared learning and enables a programme of education and development across the network.



**CHILDREN, TEENAGE
AND YOUNG ADULT
CANCER OPERATIONAL
DELIVERY NETWORK
SOUTH WEST**

Our Network in Numbers



1 PTC for Children



1 PTC for TYA



1 Network Education Event



with **80 delegates** from across the region



7 POSCUs



6 Designated Hospitals



8,176 square miles served



167 miles from our most southerly centre in Truro to our PTC in Bristol



Over **20** virtual & face-to-face meetings and events hosted by the ODN



145 key contacts united across the Network



The Network is nationally acknowledged for offering patients access to a broad range of clinical trials. The Children's Principal Treatment Centre (PTC) service based at the children's hospital, was the first centre to open the new national Acute Lymphatic Leukaemia trial. It is the only centre in the country to meet the ambition of 50% of patients participating in a trial!

In September 2022, members from the PTC joined staff from the wider children's hospital, The Grand Appeal and Bath University to welcome children who have, or who have had cancer to the first 'Make a Move!' event. This new initiative promotes the benefit of movement during and after treatment, for physical and mental wellbeing. Feedback following the event was incredibly positive and indicates it's an event that's here to stay!



Paediatric Dermatology

Our dermatology team provides secondary care to local patients as well as tertiary care for children in the South West region.

The team works collaboratively with other sub-specialties, undertaking joint clinics with rheumatology, allergy, plastic surgery, and laser as well as the multidisciplinary vascular malformations clinic, which cares for children with complex vascular malformations from around the region and beyond.

This year our team of two nurse specialists have gone from strength to strength with nurse-led monitoring of children on systemic medications now established. Our second nurse specialist carries out the role of the non-medical prescriber. They have also developed a dedicated clinic for treating children with infantile haemangioma.

General Paediatrics

Based over our two sites at children's hospital and the Seashore Centre in Weston General Hospital, our general paediatric team provides holistic inpatient, ambulatory and outpatient care to our local population.

The team have continued to strengthen their links with our primary care colleagues, providing monthly education forums and bespoke training for GP practices and primary care networks, as well as delivering simulation sessions for our community team to enable the provision of our community eating disorder service.

The Seashore Centre at Weston General Hospital

The Seashore Centre at Weston General Hospital is open from 0800-2000 Monday to Friday and provides services for children 0-16 years, seeing a combination of planned and acute day case admissions, with a co-located outpatient department.

Following the roll out of Healthy Weston Phase 1, the team now has four general paediatric consultants.

The team was delighted to be nominated for Clinical Team of the Year in the Trust Recognising Success awards.



Paediatric Surgical Specialities

Paediatric Spinal Surgery

Our spinal team of four consultants work closely with a team of spinal surgery and orthopaedic clinical nurse specialists to ensure patients receive the best possible care.

The team carry out a wide range of spinal surgical procedures on children of all ages presenting with spinal deformities, treating patients from across the region.

A highlight of this year was the delivery and first use of the team's halo traction wheelchair. This has allowed patients requiring traction to spend time out of bed and in places such as the school room and playroom whilst staying on traction.



Paediatric Anaesthesia and Pain Management

Our paediatric pain team provide seven day per week patient support and work to improve the management of acute pain for children in every speciality across the hospital and the South West, seeing around 2500 patients per year.

In 2022/23 the team supported staff education by introducing new online and face-to-face training modules. This included establishing and delivering an annual national foundation paediatric pain module.

The team are delighted that this year saw intravenous weaning for children with withdrawal from benzodiazepine or opioids become



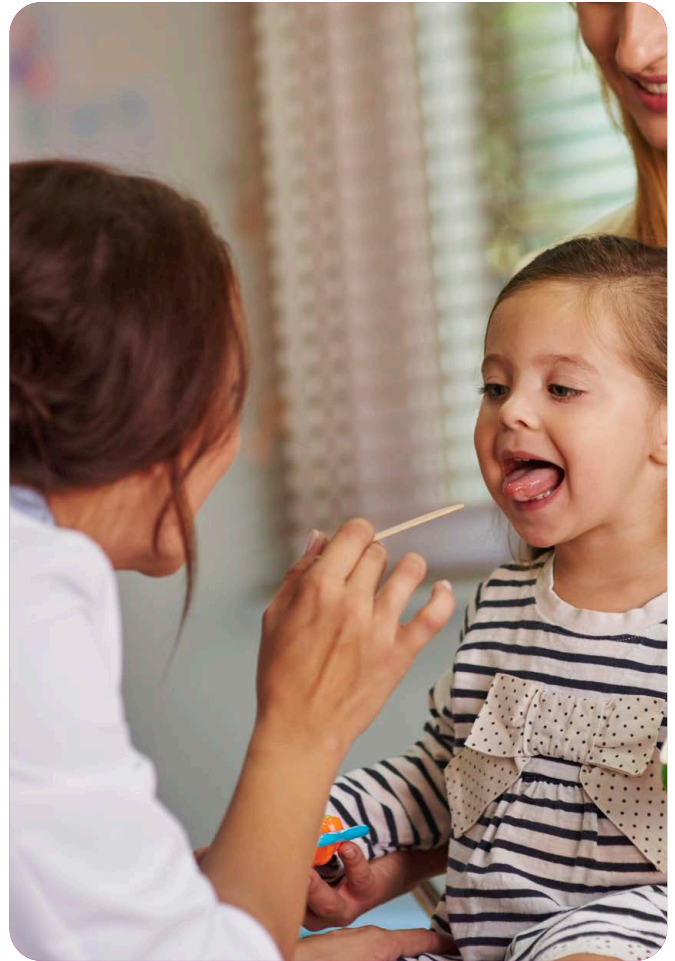
embedded into the pain service management, saving over 100 PICU bed-day stays. Increasing optimisation of regional local anaesthetic techniques has reduced opiate consumption and improve post operative care.

Paediatric Ear, Nose and Throat

Our Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) team provide tertiary care for regional patients and look after our local population with conditions such as tonsillitis and obstructive sleep apnoea, alongside undertaking complex airway reconstruction, cochlear implantation, and anterior skull base operations.

New specialist equipment has enabled the team to expand its services this year. For newborn babies they are now able to offer Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing (FEES), an advanced way of assessing swallowing safety. Additionally, a new fine chip-tip flexible endoscope has enabled the team to assess and manage airways more accurately.

The team has also been involved in the creation of regional and national guidance relating to day case tonsillectomy for obstructive sleep apnoea.



Paediatric Cleft

Our multi-disciplinary cleft service team is comprised of surgeons, dentists, speech and language therapists, psychologists and clinical nurse specialists dedicated to providing a caring and professional service across the South West region.

In 2022/23 the Cleft Speech and Language team introduced a new training package into schools for teaching assistants working with children who have speech difficulties related to cleft.

The team has continued developing its use of nasal obturators for patients awaiting speech surgery. This allows patients with nasal air escape to proceed with therapy whilst they wait for surgery. This has a national focus and was presented at a national annual craniofacial conference.

Lenny, a patient treated at Bristol Children's Hospital.



Paediatric General Surgery and Urology

Our Paediatric General Surgery and Urology service work together to provide care for paediatric patients across the South West of England.

The service is delighted to have secured funding for a fourth paediatric urologist to support growth in demand for the service.

The service leads the children's hospital Theatre User Group and have been working to improve theatre efficiency and utilisation.

Paediatric Trauma and Orthopaedics

The Paediatric Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery team provide a high quality paediatric major trauma service for Bristol and the surrounding areas, and take complex polytrauma and open fractures from throughout the South West.

The team works closely with colleagues from other specialties 24/7 to manage the multifaceted care of some of the sickest children to pass through our doors (or land on the helipad!)

They also provide specialised elective services covering all aspects of orthopaedics from complex lower limb deformity reconstruction and cerebral palsy to clubfeet and hip dysplasia. They are

one of the few centres in the UK to provide a multidisciplinary specialist osteogenesis imperfecta service for children with brittle bone disease.

The team presented their work on femoral shaft fractures treated with immediate hip spica casting at a regional level and were commended by the Trauma Network for their rapid turnaround time, short inpatient stays and fantastic clinical and patient reported outcome measures.

They have introduced some of the most advanced techniques to treat hip conditions such as Slipped Upper Femoral Epiphysis (SUFE) and Perthes disease.



South West Surgery in Childrens Operational Delivery Network

The Network, hosted by the children's hospital, was set up three years ago and is one of 10 Surgery in Children Operational Delivery Networks in England.

This year the focus has been on:

- Bringing together speciality specific clinical working groups to review pathways and progress service developments
- Facilitating regional restoration and recovery meetings to support teams to restore services and understand challenges to waiting lists
- Establishing multi-professional groups that have come together to facilitate improvements to pre-assessment services and explore opportunities to improve pathways for children undergoing an MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging)

- Building on their communications strategy by launching an 'NHS Futures' page for NHS colleagues, which maps to the network's website (southwestsicodn.nhs.uk)

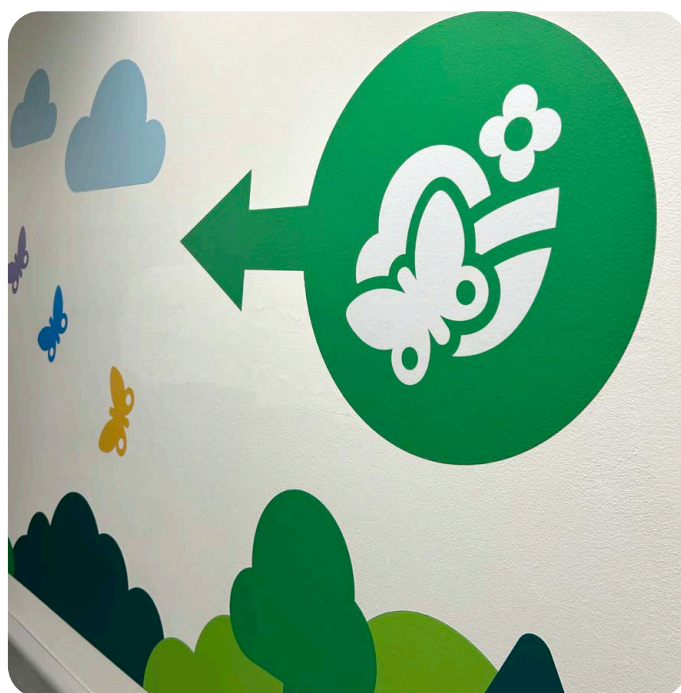
The Network advances education for professionals across the South West. Working with colleagues from the Thames Valley and Wessex Surgery in Children Operational Delivery Network, the team held a nurse study day. They also developed and delivered a Paediatric Pre-assessment Practitioner Course incorporating both a taught element and a competency framework.

Meadow Ward

Our team on Meadow Ward admit day surgical cases from all specialities. They also provide a dedicated pre-operative telephone service where patients are triaged by both nursing staff and anaesthetists thereby saving patients the need to travel to be seen prior to their operations.

Funding was received in March 2022 to set up an admissions lounge. This service has significantly eased the pressures on inpatient beds and maximised surgical capacity.

Over twelve months, 824 patients used the admissions lounge saving 3970 hours of inpatient bed time!



Paediatric Specialised Services

Paediatric Neurosciences

Our neurosurgery service is internationally renowned as one of the most pioneering centres for children's brain surgery in the UK.

Our highly specialist neurosurgeons treat patients with epilepsy, brain tumours, brain injuries, cerebral palsy and movement disorders.

We are one of four centres in England to be nationally commissioned for spinal muscular atrophy gene therapy, and form part of the gene therapy national multidisciplinary team. This year the team successfully infused eight patients.



2022/23 saw improvements to ward facilities including a new bathroom fitted in Bluebell Ward with a fully accessible bath and overhead hoist, funded by our charitable partner Bristol and Weston Hospitals Charity.



Paediatric Cardiac Services

Our paediatric cardiac service provides highly specialised care and treatment for children with congenital heart conditions and those who require complex surgery across Bristol, the South West and South Wales.

2022/23 saw a pilot study carried out between cardiology consultants and cardiac physiologists looking at outcomes on exercise prescription for children with Congenital Heart Disease (CHD).

The cardiac physiology team conducted a project alongside NHS England to upskill sonographers in local District General Hospitals (DGHs), bringing visiting sonographers to the children's hospital and forging further strong links with DGHs, to support improvements in local imaging.

Congenital Heart Disease Operational Delivery Network

The network team works with clinicians, managers, patients, carers and commissioners to support children with heart disease.

The network, which is hosted by the children's hospital, was established in 2016 and is one of 11 Congenital Heart Disease networks nationwide.

The team has championed the development of virtual transition clinics in the children's hospital, the 'transition to adults' pathway work in Truro and

Young People's Open Evenings which introduce young people and their families to adult services.

This year three centres, Gloucester, Torbay, and Taunton joined the Transition Peripheral Pilot Project which supports the children's hospital to deliver clinics locally, with specialist nurse support.



Paediatric Critical Care

Paediatric Major Trauma

Our Paediatric Major Trauma Centre covers the largest geographical area of any children's hospital in the UK, with a paediatric population of 994,234.

In 2022/23 the team supported a retrospective study reviewing the use of Contrast Enhanced Ultrasound (CEUSS) in Paediatric Solid Organ Trauma to understand the impact on follow-up. This

study was presented in Birmingham at the British Association of Paediatric Surgeons.

The team also engaged in a project aimed at ensuring all paediatric major trauma cases are seen by a consultant within 5 minutes of arrival.

Paediatric High Dependency

Our Paediatric High Dependency team provide high dependency care for the local population and for patients from across the South West

The team have been working with the South West Paediatric Critical Care Operational Delivery Network to review the service with the aim of expanding capacity.

As a result of a team project which focused on educating nurses to facilitate the care of long-term ventilated patients outside of dedicated high dependency unit beds, three further inpatient areas are now able to deliver this service.



Seahorse Paediatric Intensive Care Unit

Our Seahorse Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) is the lead centre for paediatric intensive care in the South West region of England. The team provides a tertiary service for all paediatric sub specialities and is the sole Level 3 centre within the South West Paediatric Critical Care Network.

The established Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO) programme continues to grow with an expanding team of nurse specialists, ongoing development of training courses and simulation and an increasing number of ECMO bed days provided each year for patients.

The team were delighted to win the Educational

Environment of the Year Award at the PAFTA (Paediatric Awards for Training Achievements) ceremony.

They also received an award for providing outstanding support to the internationally educated nurses who have joined the team. This new workforce has been an important asset to the PICU nursing team, many coming with a huge amount of experience.

Additionally, the team were nominated for the Clinical Team of the Year Award at the Trust Recognising Success awards.



Wales and West Acute Transport for Children (WATCH)

Our WATCH service provides advice and transport for critically ill children from across the South West and South Wales.

This year they took 1482 referrals and were able to keep 642 children in their local hospital by providing remote support and advice.



As well as receiving referrals from 24 district general hospitals in our region, the team received calls from 20 other hospitals and services across the country from as far as Newcastle.

South West Paediatric Critical Care Operational Delivery Network

The network, which is hosted by the children's hospital, was established three years ago and is one of ten Paediatric Critical Care networks in England.

In 2022/23 the team developed core principles for infection prevention and control for inter hospital

transfers to reduce delays and improve the process for children returning to their local hospital.

Working collaboratively with the Adult Critical Care and Neonatal Networks, the team developed resources to support staff decision-making when caring for sick children.



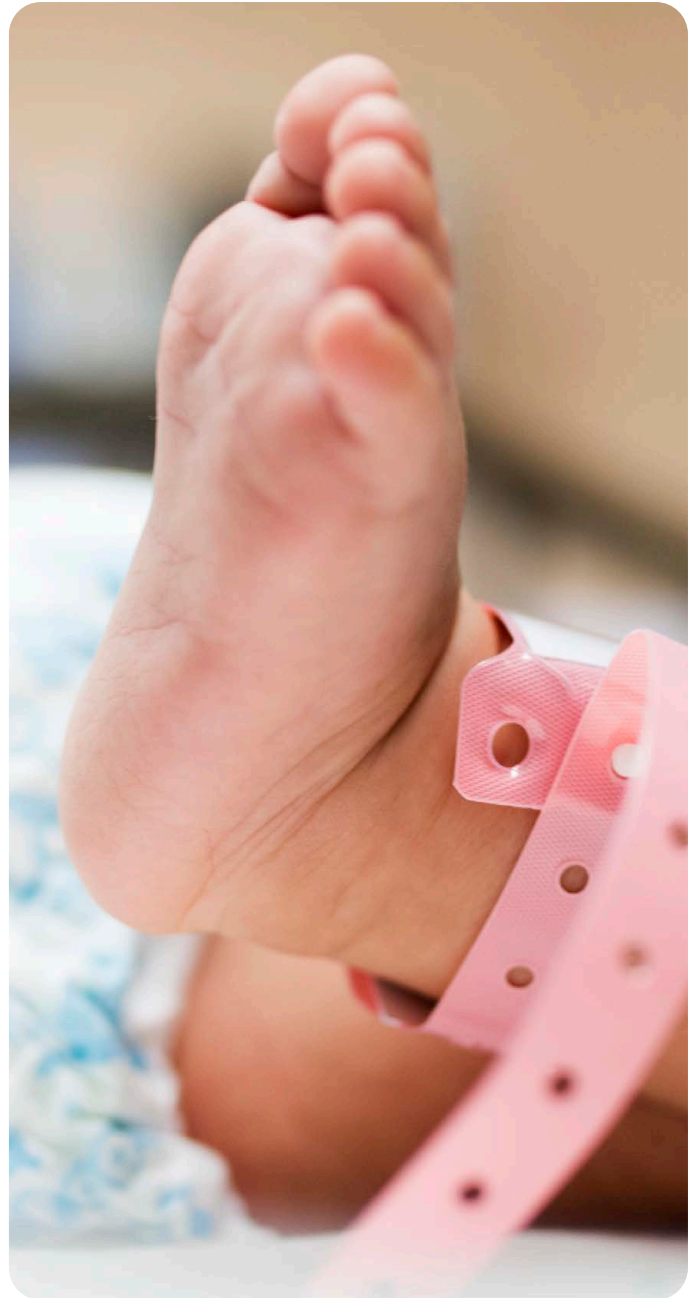
Neonatal Services

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

Our neonatal service includes the regional Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at St. Michael's Hospital, a 31-cot unit which provides care for the smallest and sickest infants across South West England and is the regional referral centre for neonates needing surgical, cardiac, and neurosurgical care.

In 2022/23:

- 581 babies were admitted to NICU
- The smallest baby birthweight was 440g; and the largest baby birthweight was 5.071kg
- 115 babies had surgery
- 79 babies had congenital cardiac disease
- 15 babies had therapeutic hypothermia (cooling)



Newborn Emergency Stabilisation and Transport (NEST)

The NEST team, hosted by the Trust and based in St Michael's Hospital, was busy in 2022/23 transporting over 600 infants.

The longest journey was Peterborough to Truro using the Children's Air Ambulance.

The NEST Team was also excited to make preparations for a merger with the Peninsula

Neonatal Transport Service, to become SoNAR (Southwest Neonatal Advice and Retrieval), which went live in March of 2023.

The new SoNAR Service has a base in Bristol and runs two teams 24/7, and a base in Plymouth running one team 12 hours, five days a week.

NEST was also excited to undertake its first KangooFix transfer, where a parent and their baby are transferred in a kangaroo cuddle position using a special harness and stretcher. This was a UK first, and a great step towards reducing parental separation during neonatal transport.

NEST took receipt of a bespoke aeromedical incubator in March 2023, and has been able to work closely with The Children's Air Ambulance in bringing down journey times for those infants on the edges of our region.





Patient Story

Wilf

Wilf has completed treatment for cancer, and is back at home and school. Wilf's Mum, Phillipa, shared her thoughts with us.

// In May this year (2022) Wilf was diagnosed with an aggressive childhood cancer, Burkitt's Lymphoma. He spent all summer in the great care of Bristol Royal Hospital for Children on Starlight - the specialist Oncology and Haematology Ward. Wilf went through intensive treatment, far away from home, separated from his siblings and friends. The incredible team on Starlight quickly became family.

There's so much more to treating childhood cancer than chemotherapy. It takes an extraordinary team of dedicated people to heal the hearts of families and children who arrive on Starlight as broken and terrified as we were. With their amazing support and care, Wilf completed his treatment and is back home with his brother, sister and Snoopy the dog. //

For his birthday Wilf has been raising money to go to Starlight Ward via The Grand Appeal to directly help other children and families who are fighting cancer.





SUPPORTING SERVICES

Our Child and Family Support Services

LIAISE Service

LIAISE stands for Listening, Information, Advice, Involving, Support, Experiences and is a dedicated patient and family support service for women's and children's services.

Our LIAISE team have expanded their relationships with external support providers to include more social support for families in need. This includes access to food banks and housing support to help families manage the cost-of-living crisis.

Working with The Grand Appeal, they have established an in-house clothing and food bank to ensure that families who arrive in an emergency with nothing, or who are experiencing financial hardship have access to necessary items as they get established.

Paediatric Psychological Health Services

Our Psychological Health Service (PHS) provide psychological services to specific patient groups within medical, surgical, neurosciences and other specialities.

The service provides evidence based psychological treatments, research, and training to maximise multi-disciplinary service care and patient experience.

This year PHS Staff Support trained 325 staff to use peer wellbeing huddles with 92% of participants saying they now have a clear implementation plan for their teams.

The service received an NHS England Award to pilot a new model of mental health delivery for children, which includes screening for mental

health difficulties and tiered intervention.

Any of our divisional paediatricians can now refer a patient to psychology for 1-3 appointments of focused help. In 2022/23 PHS received 135 referrals that would not otherwise have been offered psychological advice from the hospital.

The Planetary Health and Mental Health: Working Group focused on using psychological expertise concerning behaviour change, climate anxiety and the positive impact of nature on Mental Health. Linking with the Trust Sustainability group worked with Trust psychology to help meet our NHS 2020-2025 sustainability plan.

Music Therapy

Our Music therapy team have worked with the NICU team to establish the 'Baby and Me' programme which gives guidance to new parents on the neonatal unit on techniques to help with bonding.

They supported an undergraduate music therapy student to create the 'Lullaby project', producing bespoke lullabies with families that they can sing to their child.



Play Team

Our team of play specialist and play assistants offer play to most areas of the children's hospital to provide children with general entertainment, preparation, and distraction.

The team have been involved with the planning of a national standard of play in hospital which is being led by NHS England and the Charity Starlight.

They are delighted to have been awarded the Bristol Play Standard for Quality Improvement for Play Provision for the third year running, making them the only hospital play team in the UK to hold this!

Paediatric Palliative Care & Bereavement Support Team

Our Paediatric Palliative Care & Bereavement Support Team (PPCBST) cares for each child and their family holistically, from the point of diagnosis through to end of life care. The team seeks to make a positive difference through life, death, and bereavement, supporting families in their time of need and helping them with the death of their child.

This year the team partnered with PICU colleagues to launch MAPLE – training to enable multi-disciplinary teams to deliver improved paediatric end of life care.

2022/23 saw a huge amount of work go into the planning of the Starling end of life care at home pilot service for children. This innovative and collaborative pilot service enables paediatric palliative care providers to work together to deliver end of life care at home when this is the preferred place.

Pharmacy

Our pharmacy team includes paediatric pharmacists, technical staff, and student pharmacy technicians. They provide inpatient supply of medicines, clinical support, prescribing and much more.

The team are developing a local delivery service to allow patients with Batten's disease to receive their enzyme replacement therapy 'cerliponase alfa' closer to home.

In 2022/23 they became the first hospital pharmacy team in the UK to deliver high strength hydroxocobalamin Intramuscular injections to patients with cobalamin C deficiency, reducing the number of injections that need to be given each week.

The team have successfully adopted a rapid administration rate for delivery of rituximab (just over 90 minutes) in paediatric haematology, oncology, bone marrow transplant patients, thereby reducing the duration of their time a patient is in hospital.

Paediatric Dietetics

Our dietetics team are highly specialist staff providing support for acute and community care in the local area and the South West region, supporting medical specialities.

In 2022/23, members of the department have been part of a national team producing supportive obesity resources for use by dieticians in clinical practice.

Team members co-authored an e-Learning module for health on obesity.

The team have produced multiple clinical guidelines for children on enteral tube feeding.

Additionally, a blended diet guideline and pathway has been developed and finalised, this will make a positive difference to the patient pathway.

Paediatric Disability and Complex Care

Our disability team support patients with physical disabilities and sensory impairment when coming into the hospital to ensure consideration and implementation of reasonable adjustments where possible.

The complex care team work with the wider multi-disciplinary team to support patients with changing complex care needs by co-ordination and discharge planning to enable a safe and sustainable discharge.

The service has improved the accessibility of the Children's Hospital Passport resulting in greater uptake of parents and carers completing this document which is then available for the ward teams to use.

The team has provided extensive training to our registered and non-registered nursing workforce to increase awareness and improve care to this patient group.

Mental health

The hospital has launched a new specialist multi-disciplinary eating disorders service focused on providing dedicated care for children and young people with an eating disorder. The team includes dieticians, a clinical psychologist, a senior nurse lead for mental health and a consultant paediatrician.

The team were shortlisted for the Innovation and Improvement team of the year in the Trust Recognising Success awards.

Our mental health workforce has continued to expand with mental health practitioners now based within the Children's Emergency Department.

The team works with 'We Can Talk' to enable hospital staff access to online mental health training which has been co-designed by young people.

Paediatric Liaison Service

Our paediatric liaison service is a small team made up of a specialist clinical psychologist, a child and adolescent neuropsychiatrist, senior administrator and mental health practitioners.

The team continues to champion mental health as essential to any healthy recovery in the children's hospital and beyond.

The team contributes to training for all staff groups and is currently developing a mental health e-training module for general staff.

Paediatric Speech and Language Therapy

Our team of eight highly specialist speech and language therapists cover a broad range of acute caseloads and specialist services in the children's hospital, St. Michael's Hospital and for the South West region, and now includes new posts in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

The team continues to be the primary centre in the region for referrals for children's voice therapy. This ties in with their work on upper airway disorders and support for children who specifically have an issue with their voice (dysphonia).

The team's Deep Brain Stimulation (DBS) service have been involved with initial monthly assessments for DBS therapy. They have formed

links and shared practice with Evelina Hospital services with the aim of building a national network of DBS therapy services.

In 2022/23 the team delivered training on dysphagia, feeding, communication and acquired brain injury.

Paediatric Audiology

Our paediatric audiology team provide specialist diagnostic hearing assessments and manage treatment of permanent and temporary hearing loss in babies and children aged 0-16 years. They receive approximately 5000 new referrals each year and cover the Bristol, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire area.

The team were proud to win the 'Being Respectful Award' at the Women's and Children's Divisional staff wards.



Paediatric Physiotherapy

Our team of physiotherapists can assess, identify, diagnose and treat physiological impairments within the paediatric population, helping to restore movement and function when a child is affected by injury, illness, or disability.

Our physiotherapy and occupational therapy

teams were both delighted to have been involved in the JIA (Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis) Learn Project, a Quality improvement initiative led by British Society of Rheumatology.

The hospital will be the site for the development of a haemophilia physiotherapy intervention for optimum musculoskeletal health in children (DOLPHIN-II Trial).

Paediatric Orthotics

The team embraced Spinal Muscular Atrophy children undergoing gene therapy as a new cohort of patients under their service.

They successfully provided community clinics for Sirona Community Health, promoting good relationships with community professionals, and improving pathways for patients.

Paediatric Occupational Therapy

Our team of occupational therapists promote patient independence in all aspects of daily life. For children and young people this can include play, education, self-care and socialising with friends and family. The team works holistically to assess and treat any physical, psychological, cognitive, and sensory difficulties that may impact on a young person's ability to be independent. This may involve adapting the task or environment around the young person facilitating independence and improving quality of life.

This year saw the team expand its service. New roles were introduced on both the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and in the team's neuromuscular service.

The team are delighted to have secured ongoing charitable funding for the Forest school project for children within the neurorehabilitation service.

Young Persons Involvement

The Youth Voice programme has continued to develop with greater opportunities for our young people to be heard and to influence how we provide our services.

Our young people have continued to meet online monthly. Sessions have covered both hospital priorities and conversations that our young people feel important. These have included environmental awareness, mental health support both in and out of hospital, and communication with young people most specially transition which is one of the group's long term development interests.

Our Youth Involvement Group have engaged with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) in planning services for children and young people as well as regional opportunities such as the South West Genomics Lab hub.

Several group members have also engaged at a national level, having been successfully appointed to the NHS Youth Forum. This has involved members working on the authorship of the NICE Guideline NG 204, setting standards of care for babies, children, young people and their families.

Our Young Governors enjoyed sharing a verbal update on young people's involvement at Trust meetings and participated in recruitment including Non-Executive Director shortlisting. They are looking forward to developing a young people's focussed Health Matters Event.

Our four Young Ambassadors have continued to bring young people's voice to our Children's Leadership Team (CLT) and Divisional Management Board meetings. This has been hugely successful, and staff positively reflected on the impact that the Young Ambassadors are having.



Grace

Being on the divisional board for over two years now has hugely aided my personal development, encouraging me to articulate ideas as well as building confidence. I feel I have a real voice on the board and all the staff have made me feel welcomed and respected.



Ramarni

I think being a young ambassador is a great experience, as when attending board or CLT meeting, you know that your comments and views are going straight to the people that can help implement your ideas.



Aishah

These roles have been amazing, probably unbelievable to say the least. They've given me the confidence and empowered me to have my voice heard where I didn't think it was possible.

Children's Hospital Facilities Service

We have 150 dedicated staff members in our children's hospital facilities team, who are an essential part of keeping our hospital running smoothly. They provide catering, portering, linen, post, and cleaning services throughout the hospital.

The catering team work closely with dieticians to provide specialist dietary and menu plans for our patients care. This year the team launch a brand-new food service menu and supplier.

They hold a 5-star rating for food hygiene. ★

The cleaning team work hard to deliver great standards of cleanliness in the hospital. In 2022/23 the team introduced a new star award system in cleanliness to ensure the National Cleaning Standards are met.

Research Awards

One of our research sisters was successful in obtaining a National Institute for Health and Care Research funded senior research leader role. This role will focus on increasing nurses research capacity and capability within the children's hospital.

In collaboration with NICU, the research team were awarded a one-year National Institute of Health and Care Research development post, to increase the neonatal research nurse hours, with a focus on expanding the trial portfolio thus improving accessibility of research.

One of our professors was awarded a Fellowship to the Academy of Medical Science.

You are on Level	
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Starlight WardPlanet TherapyApollo 35 Ward
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dolphin WardPenguin WardPsychologyOcean UnitThe Coral Reef
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bluebell WardSunflower WardSchoolActivities CentreCaterpillar WardDaisy WardRainforest OutpatientsNeurophysiologyChanging Places BathroomPuzzle WoodMeadow WardHorizon Theatres
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seahorse (Paediatric IntenCoastguard TheatresMRI Sub WaitThe SanctuaryLighthouse Ward
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Carousel OutpatientsX-Ray (MRI & CT ReceptionThe ObservatoryChildren's Emergency Dep
2 (This Level)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Entrance & ReceptionLIAISE Office

Women's and Children's Divisional Research

Our Women's and Children's Research Unit delivers research, including complex clinical trials and early phase trials, in multiple clinical specialities across the children's hospital and our neonatal unit. They work to help increase patient access to treatment through research trials within the South West region.

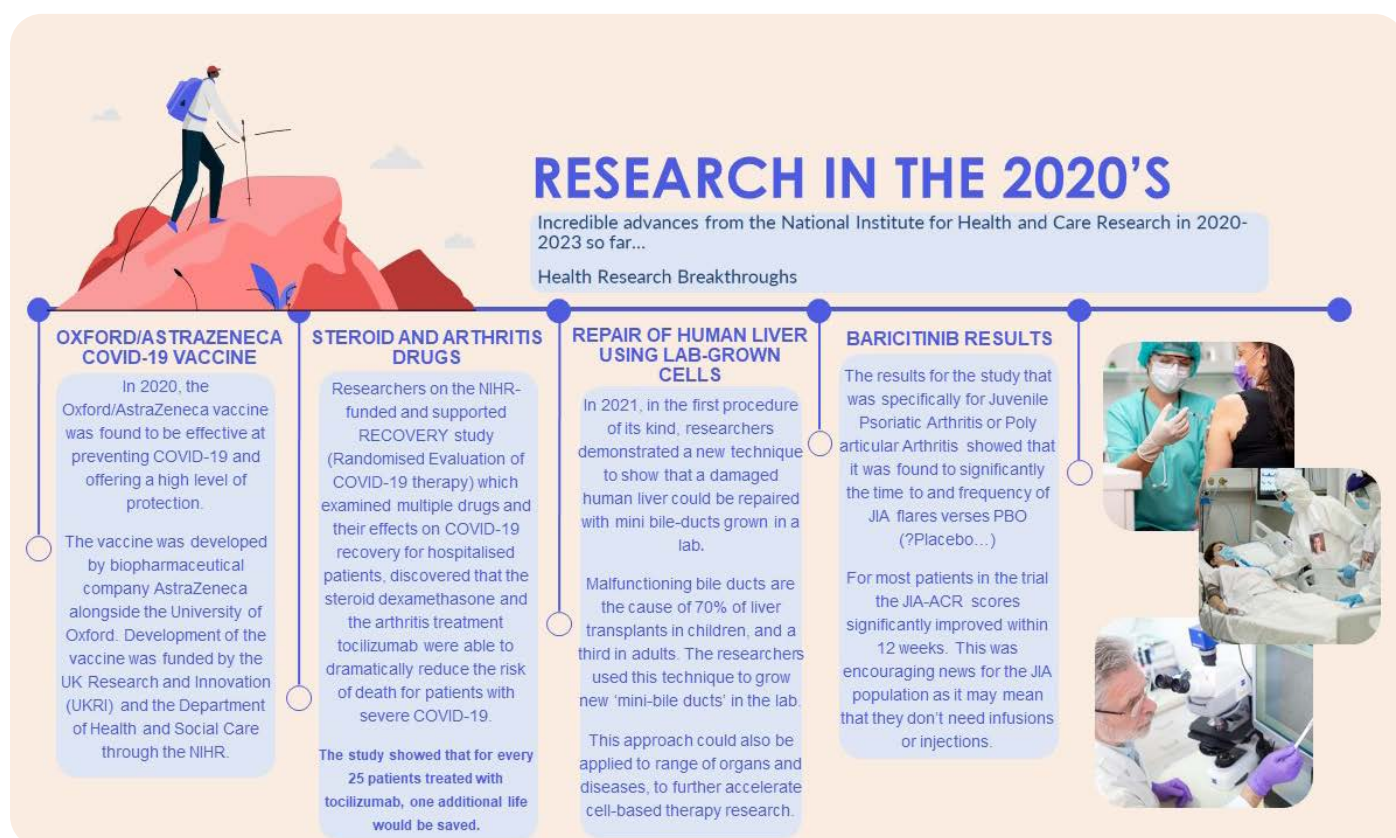
Over the last year all trials which had been suspended over the Covid-19 period have been re-opened.

2022/23 saw lots of work go into the planning and development of a new Clinical Research Facility for the children's hospital.

The unit were delighted to be able to deliver the first clinical trial of a cellular therapy ATiMP (Advanced Therapy investigational Medicinal Product) as a treatment for adenovirus post Bone Marrow Transplant. These are complex trials to set up and involve the collaboration and alignment of many hospital-based teams including pharmacy and NHS Blood and Transplant, who prepare the ATiMP.

One of our professors was the first author and Chief Investigator of a juvenile idiopathic arthritis study using baricitinib as a new treatment. The study showed that the drug was safe and effective, and offered an oral treatment for those children who had previously had an inadequate response or intolerance to standard therapies.

To celebrate the NHS 75TH Birthday: Research through the ages - the 2020s



Education

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At the children's hospital we pride ourselves on the delivery of high quality, innovative education for a wide range of health care professionals on a local, national, and international level. We are delighted to support our people in their learning and development of new skills.

Faculty of Nurse Education

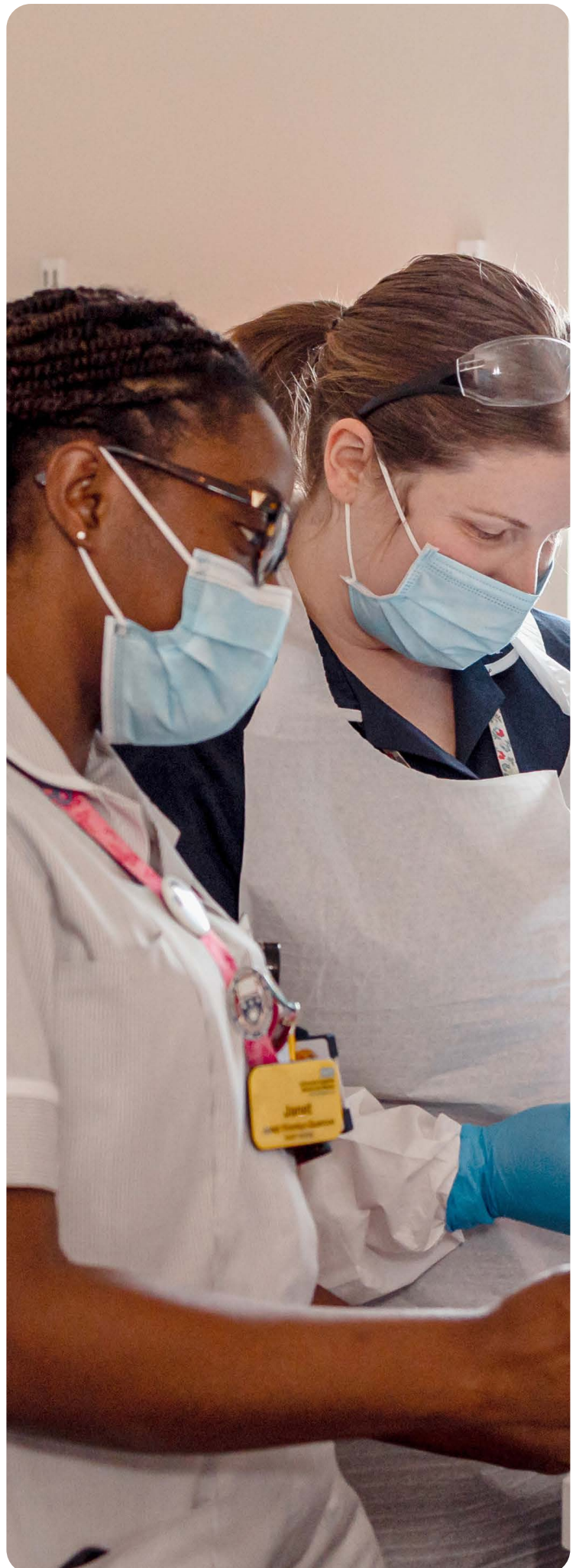
Our faculty of nurse education, established 11 years ago, is a dedicated department that supports nurses with their professional development and learning, and offers a range of opportunities to our nursing workforce.

The faculty has maintained its 4.85/5 for course satisfaction in the last year!

In 2022/23 the number of study events run by the team has expanded considerably: including regional cardiac event; critical care networking day; children and young people's mental health; neurosciences; contributing to the yearly national adolescent masterclass; regional long-term ventilation and renal nursing.

Over 600 registered nurses and around 60 healthcare support workers have attended events run by the team in the last year.

The team are delighted to have been working closely with the ABLE + team to ensure the team is inclusive for diverse learners and are thinking about the use of augmented reality packages to enhance our clinical skills teaching along with learning about Artificial Intelligence from Weston College.



Quality and Patient Safety

Our Quality and Patient Safety team's role is to monitor governance standards relating to Quality and Patient Safety (QPS), advise and educate teams within the hospital and, should an incident meet certain criteria, conduct and investigation and share any learnings from the process.

The team continue to work hard to support our wider hospital teams work within a transparent, open, and just culture.

The team are working with the Trust's Patient Safety Team to plan and implement the new NHS Patient Safety System.

The introduction of our Patient Feedback hub will supplement existing feedback mechanisms to help inform us of how we are doing.

Safeguarding

Our safeguarding service delivers support to all aspects of safeguarding patient care as well as promoting education and training of safeguarding across the whole division.

July 2022 saw the start of the Trust's in-house paediatric duty safeguarding consultant service. This service works alongside the well-established and accomplished safeguarding team to ensure there is a robust safeguarding service for all children.

Named medical champions for each team offer colleagues specific training, education and support relevant to their specialty.

This year the team has been working towards the implementation of a new system that will allow individuals to self-report on their safeguarding training.



Our charities: 2022/23 highlights

Bristol and Weston Hospitals Charity

Bristol & Weston Hospitals Charity have been supporting children's services for almost 50 years, bringing moments of joy, comfort, and hope to those who need it most.

In the year 2022/23, they funded some amazing projects at the children's hospital, from refurbishing the Bluebell Ward bathroom to a pioneering new project funding period products for young patients in hospital.

In total, 104 grants were made for children's services, with a total value of £187,872.



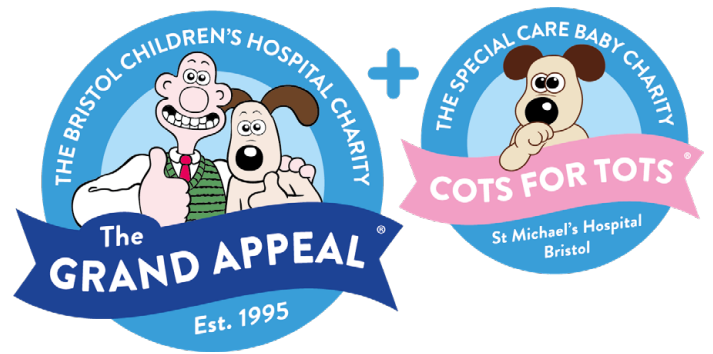
**BRISTOL
& WESTON
HOSPITALS
CHARITY**

They provided period packs for patients who may experience their first period in hospital or don't have appropriate products on them.

Bristol & Weston Hospitals Charity have continued their partnership with Deloitte to provide a holistic learning programme for young patients spending long periods in hospital. This has included drama, music and singing lessons which 233 children benefitted from across 2022/23.



Our charities: 2022/23 highlights



The Grand Appeal is the dedicated charity for Bristol Children's Hospital and the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU).

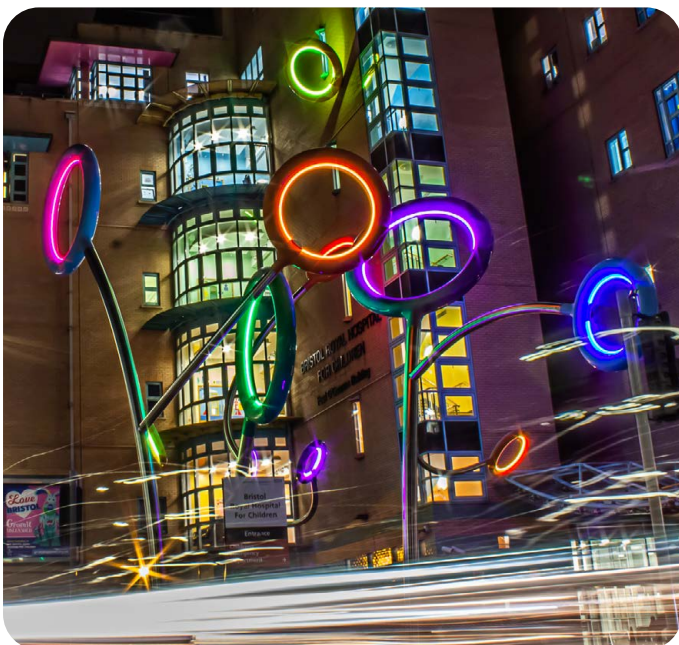
Since 1995, The Grand Appeal has worked in partnership with the hospital to provide accommodation for parents; pioneering and life-saving equipment; funding for research, innovation and medical healthcare; support and wellbeing for staff as well as comforts such as arts, music and play which play a vital role in the wellbeing of patients in their day to day life in the children's hospital.

Through a pioneering partnership with Aardman, the iconic characters Wallace & Gromit spearhead The Grand Appeal's fundraising. Thanks to Aardman's magnificent support, and the generosity of hundreds of thousands of donors throughout Bristol, the South West and the whole of the UK, The Grand Appeal has generated **over £85m** to support the children's hospital and NICU.

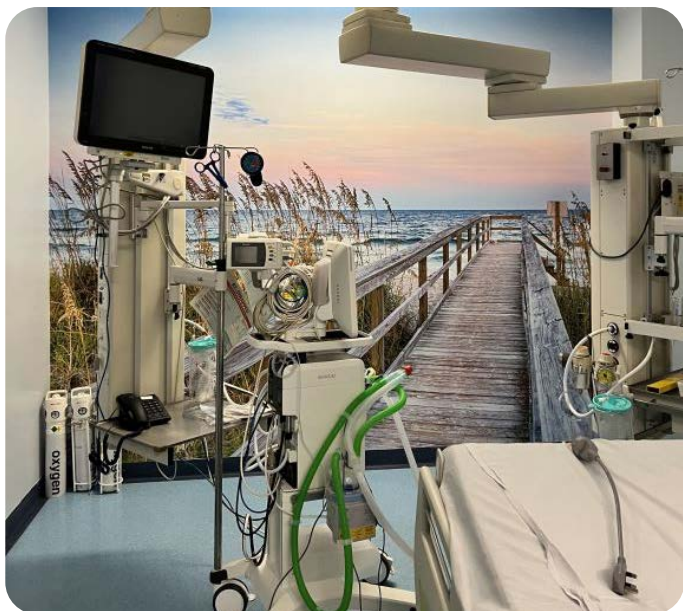
grandappeal.org.uk

In the year under review, The Grand Appeal has provided funding with a value of around **£1.5 million** for a wide range of individual projects. Highlights include:

- The Grand Appeal operates **three family accommodation houses – Cots for Tots House, Paul's House and Grand Appeal House** – all situated within a minute's walk of the hospital. The Grand Appeal provides 28 en-suite rooms for the families of patients in the children's hospital and NICU completely free of charge. The houses provide accommodation for parents and families from all over Bristol, the South West of England and South Wales for as long as they need it. Over the last few years, over 3,000 families have benefited from this provision.



- **Lollipop Be Bop** – the iconic sculpture situated outside Bristol Children's Hospital is a landmark for many people visiting Bristol and the children's hospital. The Grand Appeal funded the sculpture in 2001 when the current hospital building was opened by the then HRH The Prince of Wales. In the year under review, our charity, The Grand Appeal restored the sculpture and illuminated the brightly coloured hoops and control panel inside the children's hospital for patients to interact with the sculpture.



- **Four isolation rooms within the Seahorse Paediatric Intensive Care Unit** have been transformed with help from The Grand Appeal. With a new calming colour scheme and fresh artwork, these once outdated rooms are now more comfortable and appropriate to treat children who are critically ill, infectious, or receiving cancer treatment.
- **The Neonatal Intensive Care Unit** is home to two new ventilators and incubators thanks to Cots for Tots, the unit's dedicated charity. This equipment will not only help the NICU provide two more intensive care cots but also give critically ill and premature babies the best chance in life.



Dr Vanessa Garratt, Consultant Clinical Psychology Lead for Cardiac and Critical Care

● **The Grand Appeal's programme of arts, music and play can be seen and heard throughout Bristol Children's Hospital:**

- Play is an essential part of child development and is an effective way for children who are in pain or anxious about their stay in hospital to express themselves. The Grand Appeal funds two roles within the Play Department – a Sensory Play Practitioner and an Oncology Play Assistant. Both deliver imaginative and fun sessions to support a wide range of children.
- Two Grand Appeal music therapists deliver sessions to over 30 children a week at both Bristol Children's Hospital and St Michael's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Music therapy helps these brave young patients express their feelings and emotions during their hospital stay.
- From immersive theatre sessions and painting workshops, The Grand Appeal's arts programme, 'Arts Unleashed' extends across Bristol Children's Hospital, aiming to ease the stresses and fears that come with hospital life for patients and their families.

“ *As a psychologist, families often tell us what helps them feel supported and safe. Every project we have taken to the charity, they have welcomed and worked hard to make it happen. Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal has always been clear: their focus is the experience of families, and each one of the projects they have worked with me on has received beautiful feedback from families to say the difference they have made.*

Looking to the future

Our challenges

Whilst we are proud of our many achievements and successes over the past year, we also recognise that it has not been without its challenges. Working within a changing and often complex context, there are a number of significant challenges we continue to work hard to address.

These include:

- Reducing elective waiting times for patients, as part of recovery from the covid pandemic
- Financial sustainability of our services
- Meeting growing demand for our services
- Responding to skills and supply gaps in our workforce, and protecting the wellbeing of our staff



Our key strategic aims

Whilst working hard to deliver the best care we can for children today, we also look to the future, working to continuously improve the care and services we provide, and to make them the best they can be in the future.

Our key strategic aims for our children's services are to:



Be an employer of choice, invest in the wellbeing of our staff and diversity of our workforce



Build our reputation nationally and internationally as a centre delivering world class care for children, and explore new areas of growth



Lead outstanding specialised paediatric care in our region through existing networks



Provide holistic care for children and families (psychological and physical health) in partnership with other providers



Enable greater and more creative working with primary and community services to improve care for children and families



Continue to focus on recovery of people and services following the COVID-19 pandemic



Encourage active participation of patient and family representatives at all levels, and create opportunities for co-design of services



Modernise our facilities and increase our physical capacity for children's services



Continually strengthen our approach to quality and patient safety



Further embed research within the culture of our division: every team, at every level is involved and every child/family is invited to contribute



Develop our services offered in Weston, providing care closer to home for the local population



Reduce pressure on the children's Emergency Department through innovation and collaborative working across our local region



Continue to improve palliative, end of life and bereavement experiences for children and families



To manage our environmental impact in a more sustainable way

Designed and funded by

