



Annual Review

1st April 2008 - 31st March 2009

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Welcome

Every day in this country, children are diagnosed with serious and life threatening illnesses or have terrible accidents that leave them fighting for life. Often they have to be transferred to specialist hospitals far from their family home to receive vital medical treatment. Life for their whole family is suddenly thrown into complete turmoil.

Each year we strive to help more and more families by providing them with accommodation whilst their child is being treated. Over the last year the number of our UK bedrooms available every night was 96 and our house occupancy for the year was 88%. At The Sick Children's Trust we are here, so that families can be there for each other. We exist to support and promote the child's recovery and further to support the fabric and well being of the family as a whole.



This Annual Review illustrates the way we work and how our 'Homes from Home' benefit the whole family when a child is in hospital. As part of our re-brand we asked our staff, supporters and parents to suggest some words that sum up their experience of The Sick Children's Trust. These words express our values. They guide how we approach our work:

support family home together hope

We are proud to live and work by these values every day as we provide support to sick children and their families in our 'Homes from Home'. This year's Annual Review gives just a few examples of how we put them into practice.

Our vision for the future is that, with your continued support, we can increase our services and ensure that every child who receives treatment in hospital, does so with their whole family by their side.

Claudette Watson

Claudette Watson
Chief Executive

Chairman's statement...



The Sick Children's Trust remains focused on our mission: providing high quality accommodation for families whose children are receiving hospital treatment for serious illnesses.

During the past year, The Sick Children's Trust has been able to help more families, nationally, in need of our support and I am pleased to report that The Sick Children's Trust has completed a very successful year, both financially and operationally.

In Newcastle the extension to Crawford House was completed and opened to families in March 2009. Plans were also put into place in April 2008 for the relocation of Eckersley House in Leeds from St James's Hospital to Leeds General Infirmary(LGI). Leeds NHS Trust has identified a suitable building, where we plan to provide 22 bedrooms and communal facilities.

A refurbishment programme began at our Guilford Street House in August 2008. All bedrooms were given a face-lift, including new decoration, furniture, appliances, curtains and bed linen.

Of course, our ability to help families depends greatly on the generosity of our donors. I am very proud to report that The Sick Children's Trust raised a record £1,420,033 during 2008-9, an amount that allows us to offer even more help to the families of seriously ill children.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all of our donors, volunteers and stakeholders for their generosity and good work during the past year. And we, of course, hope to do even more in the future.

Stephen Catlin

Stephen Catlin
Chairman

The Sick Children's Trust

Our 'Homes from Home'

Rainbow House, London
Great Ormond Street Hospital

Guilford Street House, London
Great Ormond Street Hospital

Eckersley House, Leeds
St James's Hospital

Crawford House, Newcastle-upon-Tyne
The Royal Victoria Infirmary

Acorn House, Cambridge
Addenbrooke's Hospital

Treetop House, Sheffield
Sheffield Children's Hospital

Stevenson House, London
Royal London Hospital

Our President - Michael Crawford, OBE

"The Trust ensures that the very best of all medicines - family love and support - has a chance to work."
Michael Crawford, President



The Sick Children's Trust

About us

The Sick Children's Trust was established in 1982 to provide support and accommodation to the families of seriously ill children at hospitals around the country.

We now provide seven 'Homes from Home' for families across the UK.

Rainbow House, our first Home from Home, opened its doors to families with children undergoing treatment at Great Ormond Street Hospital in 1984.

Since then we have built houses vary in size and layout but the key elements remain the same: homely accommodation close to the children's wards with private family bedrooms and communal living areas.

Objectives

- Promote and further the care, relief and treatment of sick children at any hospital in Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
- Promote the treatment and recovery of children in hospital by providing essential accommodation and amenities for parents, guardians, relatives and friends in need thereof when visiting such children.
- To purchase and provide toys, games and play facilities for children being treated at hospital and any child visiting them.
- To provide facilities and assistance to parents, guardians, relatives and friends of sick children in order to promote the welfare of such children.

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Our House Managers are at the heart of our work. They are responsible for the smooth running of the house and ensuring parents' needs are met so that they can spend more time with their children.

When families first arrive at our 'Homes from Home' it is essential that they are met with a friendly face and a cup of tea. We want families to feel relaxed as soon as they step through our door.

We firmly believe that the House Managers and their assistants are as important to our 'Home from Home' network as the buildings themselves. Each family staying with us deserves as much of our time as they need and it is our amazing house staff who are on hand, so that families can be there for each other.



Ann Wyatt (above) has been House Manager at Treetop House for four years and knows the importance of showing support to families. Ann says:

"We support families in a number of different ways. Needs vary from one family to the next. It's important that we get to know each family and help wherever we can – be it practically or emotionally."

Sometimes all anyone wants is someone to talk to.

"We are often the first non-medical person they have met since their child was admitted to hospital and it comes as a huge relief to be able to talk to someone who understands what they are going through but doesn't bombard them with medical jargon.

Having a child in hospital is a daunting prospect for anyone; we are there for a reassuring word of hope, for a good old moan or just to offer practical advice and help on how to cope with the situation."

Sometimes they just need a shoulder to cry on.

"Families are often trying really hard to be strong for each other and feel they can't let their guard down. Again we are here for anyone that simply needs to have a good cry away from their child or other family members. I recently had a chat and a cry with a dad who had lost one daughter in a road traffic accident, and had another daughter fighting for her life from the same accident.

He said it was so lovely to talk to someone who wasn't 'involved' as he didn't want to burden his family with it all. He felt he had talked as much as he could with them and they would be fed up of hearing it again. Of course, it can be emotionally draining for everyone so we pass the tissues round and have a cry ourselves too."

Sometimes families need practical help and support.

"We help families do their laundry, cook a family dinner, help entertain other children while they have a shower, advise about the nearest shop or bank. We also point families in the direction of other people who can help, such as Patient Advice and Liaison Services or the social work department."

We need to raise £1m this year to keep all our houses open!

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We believe that family is the best medicine.

We enable families to stay close to their sick child at all times making a real difference to their recovery: for the morning kiss, bedtime story and that all important hug in the middle of the night when things seem really scary.

A parent's presence is often worth any amount of analgesia, play distraction, interpreters or therapy - their child's recovery is vastly enhanced by their presence."

John Reid, Director of Nursing and Clinical Operations, Sheffield Children's NHS Trust

Our twins Zara and Kea were taken into hospital at just four weeks old with broncholitis. While Zara recovered well with treatment, Kea became increasingly ill and was rushed into intensive care. It was all such a shock. We had two healthy children already so why was everything going wrong?

My husband Mark was busy trying to keep our eight year old and two year old girls happy. Believe me it's so difficult to explain to children why your mum suddenly isn't at home and why your new baby sisters aren't well.

I was still breastfeeding and although Zara was doing well, I still needed to be close to Kea in those first few weeks of her life. Unfortunately Zara wasn't allowed onto Kea's ward which made things really complicated.

We were at breaking point when the nurses on the ward suggested Eckersley House might be able to help. Although we were from Leeds they thought our situation was serious enough to be put forward to stay there.

It was a godsend for us as a family. It meant that Mark could sit on the ward with Kea while I went to Eckersley to breastfeed Zara. It also meant that our two other children could come and stay with us - and we could be together as a family for the first time in 12 days.

Eckersley House really was a 'Home from Home' - it meant that we could have some privacy as a family away from the wards and take comfort in normal family ways of life, such as eating dinner together and tucking our eldest children into bed.

Kea and Zara are both doing really well now but I can't describe what a huge help Eckersley House was to us at such a distressing time for our family.

Vanessa, Kea's mum

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Home...is where the heart is.

And our houses really do become a 'Home from Home' for families: a sanctuary to gather emotions, a place where the family can remain a tight unit wrapped in love.

We want all families staying with us to feel at home and we work hard to create environments which are warm and welcoming.

'If rested, parents are better able to understand and cope with the difficulties facing them.' Nikki Bennett-Rees, Bone Marrow Transplant Clinical Specialist Nurse, GOSH

Our houses have private family bedrooms so parents can get a good night's sleep and communal living areas so that families can spend time together: enjoying a family meal, playing a board game or watching a favourite film together.

"I felt emotionally tugged in all directions, trying desperately to give each of my children the attention, love and comfort they deserved. Guilford Street House enabled that to happen because my two other little girls were able to come and stay with us; we ate dinner together, watched TV, played games and I tucked them into bed at night."

Victoria, stayed at Guilford Street House



The small touches that make a big difference...

We know that providing telephones in every bedroom directly linked to the children's ward is essential in helping to aid relaxation.

"To have your own bedroom to sleep but remain on the hospital campus with a direct telephone linked to your child's ward is very reassuring; I knew I would be called should anything happen to Mia. And indeed it did. I was called at 1am one night when Mia was having trouble breathing and I was able to be at her side within minutes."

Wendy, stayed at Crawford House



Many of the families we have helped have explained how swapping stories and sharing worries over a comforting cup of tea has enabled them to draw strength from each other; helping to ease the burden of having a seriously ill child in hospital.

"I found it a great comfort to talk with other parents, they knew how I felt – they understood if I needed a shoulder to cry on, a chat or even a moan."

Tamara, stayed at Stevenson House



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Together...families are able to help each other through the worst of times...and we feel that together, with the help of our supporters, we can make a real difference to the lives of children in hospital and their families who are struggling to cope.

Over the last year we have continued to develop a strong relationship with the NHS.

After our initial talks with Newcastle NHS Trust, in January 2008, we are continuing to move forward our bid to provide accommodation at the Freeman Hospital for the families at its Heart Unit. The Centre for Paediatric Cardiac Care is one of four Extra Corporeal Membranous Oxygenation Units in the UK, and one of only two units which use the Berlin Heart - a Ventricular Assist Device that works for the child's heart and/or lungs until corrective or transplant procedures can be carried out.

As catchment areas run from the Scottish Borders, coast to coast to Yorkshire as well as receiving referrals from Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool and Sweden, our role here would be vital to families. The unit consists of a 10-bedded paediatric intensive care unit and an 18-bedded ward. Accommodation currently provided by the NHS on the site will be demolished in a redevelopment programme and consideration is being given for us to provide a new stand alone 'Home from Home' on this site offering a 20-bedroom house.

In Newcastle the extension to Crawford House was successfully completed and opened to families in March 2009. The house now provides 23 bedrooms to families at The Royal Victoria Infirmary and its new Great North Children's Hospital, due for completion in early 2010. We also commenced our refurbishment programme at Guilford Street House in August 2008.

Brushes at the Ready!

As part of a regular volunteering programme run by investment bankers Goldman Sachs International, we received a visit in May 2008 from a team of keen men and women led by Louise Goldberg.

Armed with paint, rollers, brushes, overalls and enthusiasm they were a welcome sight for our Stevenson House Manager, Joan Coker, as the hallway, office and playroom were in need of a fresh lick of paint.



Keeping our houses in excellent condition means a great deal to us as we aim to provide not just bricks and mortar but a real 'Home from Home' environment for the families we support.

The excitement level rose a notch or two during the day when just after lunch the fire alarms at Stevenson House sounded - deafening anyone in a half mile radius. The culprit was a masking spray used a bit too close to the sensor in the playroom.

We were slightly embarrassed but much relieved to see the Tower Hamlets Fire Brigade speeding to our rescue. The fire chief was very understanding and managed to disarm the main switch and reset the alarm before allowing a quick group photo.

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Our Vision for the Future

We believe that no child should be separated from their family while in hospital receiving treatment for serious illness.

Plans for 2009/10

Looking to next year, we are currently developing plans to work on a number of projects with different working partners to create new services. This reinforces our purpose and will lead to more families being supported during what is often a traumatic time.

We will continue to strengthen our relationship with the NHS Trusts as we look to improve our existing houses, and build new 'Homes from Home'.

The launch of our Big Chocolate Tea Party campaign was met with a positive response. This has been created to provide a platform for all supporters to get involved in fundraising for us and also encourage the general public to participate. The goal is to help build our brand awareness as well as contributing to the annual fundraising target.

Our public relations will take a more proactive approach with research on potential media opportunities thus securing coverage in a variety of publications in order to build brand awareness and encourage support for the charity.

The goal is to help build our brand awareness as well as contributing to the annual fundraising target. On a PR level, this will be more proactive with research on potential media opportunities thus securing coverage in a variety of publications in order to build brand awareness and encourage support for the charity.

With the ever increasing development of social networking sites the charity will obtain a larger online presence encouraging support and awareness. This will be achieved through our Facebook page and also Twitter. New lines of branded merchandise will be introduced to raise money through sales and again enhance brand awareness in the public domain.

The Sick Children's Trust had the most successful fundraising year in its history, with good income growth in many areas of fundraising and we will look to on this in the future. The fundraising department will establish a new three year plan for all activities by implementing a strategic review.



Our Big Move appeal to relocate our existing 'Home from Home' in Leeds to LGI will continue into 2010. We will also aim to increase total income to allow greater financial flexibility and planning by developing existing income streams and creating new ways for supporters to contribute to our work.

We will seek to cultivate existing corporate relationships and create new long-term ones by seeking Charity of the Year Partnerships. We will also continue to encourage families who have stayed in our houses to become more involved in fundraising for the charity and support the two new regional fundraising committees created last year to promote more awareness and presence of The Sick Children's Trust in Sheffield and Leeds. It is hoped a new fundraising committee will also be established in Newcastle.



Our volunteers...

There are many people who kindly volunteer hours of their time to support The Sick Children's Trust. This is how Shelley and Patsy help...

"I've been volunteering for The Sick Children's Trust in their fundraising team for nearly a year and I love it!

"I have gained a lot of experience, had some amazing opportunities and I've been involved in some incredible events – such as working with the celebrities at the Stars Behind Bars event and taking part in the Mazda London Triathlon as part of The Sick Children's Trust team.

"Through volunteering at The Sick Children's Trust I have gained additional work skills and gained confidence in the working environment which has been fantastic for my personal development. The fundraising team are really friendly and provide me with an array of tasks to get my teeth into. I really feel like I'm able to put something back into the community by volunteering and feel especially proud to be doing it for a charity that helps so many families in their time of need.

"I initially chose to volunteer with the charity as I wanted to gain more fundraising experience, but my commitment to The Sick Children's Trust now far exceeds my personal career growth as I really believe in what the charity does.

"My time spent working with the fundraising team has helped to develop a deep understanding of how The Sick Children's Trust help and support a family who has a sick child in hospital – and I'm proud that I can be a part of the team behind that support. I feel privileged to be a part of The Sick Children's Trust."



Patsy Glazebrook with Peter Cunard, Trustee of The Sick Children's Trust, at the Acorn Ball

Patsy Glazebrook is Vice President and Events Organiser of the Cambridge Fundraising Committee, which raise funds for Acorn House at Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Patsy started the committee in 2000 having worked as a nurse and midwife for many years. Patsy understood the pressures that families are under when a child is seriously ill in hospital and the importance of the family staying together nearby - and felt compelled to help.

Since then the Cambridge Fundraising Committee has raised over £250,000 through their programmes of events which run throughout the year; such as fashion shows, coffee mornings, lunch and evening talks with special guest speakers and collections outside local retailers.

Patsy relishes the challenges that come with organising three programmes of social events every year. She says: "Along with the rest of the volunteers in the committee, I work hard to pull together an inspiring set of events every year and it brings huge personal satisfaction to see them come to life in front of my eyes. We all feel immensely proud to be able to help The Sick Children's Trust by doing something we all enjoy and it's a lovely way to feel part of the community."

The Cambridge Fundraising Committee events are packed with originality. There really is something for everyone – the latest programme is listed on The Sick Children's Trust website. We are very grateful to the committee for the tremendous effort they put into fundraising for Acorn House and we'll be helping them every step of the way towards that £½ million mark! A big thank you to Patsy and everyone at the Cambridge Fundraising Committee.

Fundraising...

The Sick Children's Trust had the most successful fundraising year in its history, raising £1,420,033.

Community Fundraising

One of the most significant increases in income was the tremendous support The Sick Children's Trust received from its loyal supporters who organised fundraising events in their area on behalf of the charity. Many of these individuals and families stayed in one of our 'Homes from Home'. Their support is particularly precious to us as it is a testament to the quality of support offered in our houses. In 2008-2009, this dedicated and inspirational group of people raised £191,643.

Salmon family – Christmas Lights Event

On 13th December 2008 Tony Salmon and Samantha Marston, regular users of Eckersley House, raised an amazing £1,034.89 through organising a Christmas lights event at their local village of Thornhill, complete with seasonal stalls and a tombola. Tony and Samantha stayed at Eckersley House while their five year old daughter Bethany was at St James's Hospital with liver problems. They have had to return to hospital many times throughout Bethany's life and, as a result, the whole family, including Bethany's younger sister Eloise, have come to see Eckersley House as a real 'Home from Home'.



An additional £57,469.56 has been raised through people taking part in various sponsored events.

Gordon Thomas – London Marathon 2008

Gordon Thomas from Berkshire was one of 11 people to take on the London Marathon in 2008 for The Sick Children's Trust and he raised a fantastic £6,665.57!

Gordon decided to run on behalf of The Sick Children's Trust after the parents of his granddaughter Emily Stopps made use of our two houses at Great Ormond Street hospital.

Emily was admitted to Great Ormond Street with a faulty immune system when she was just a baby and has returned several times since, so her parents, Mandy and Kevin, have stayed at either Guilford Street or Rainbow House on numerous occasions.

Gordon's donation, which was mostly raised through sponsorship from the members of his local line dancing club, was one of the largest of the London Marathon for 2008, contributing to a grand total of £50,690.35.

Fundraising

Special Events

The Sick Children's Trust was pleased to further extend our events programme this year. The 6th 'Stars Behind Bars' took place in September 2008 and more than 240 guests helped us raise £5,730. The event received fantastic press coverage in TheLondonPaper and Closer magazine.

As in 2008, the single most successful fundraising event was 'A Magic Moment' held at The Magic Circle Headquarters in February which raised a fantastic £51,000 for The Sick Children's Trust.

The evening commenced with a champagne reception and close-up magic, before guests settled down to watch a performance with two very talented and hilariously funny stage artists and an array of mind boggling tricks.

With everyone in great spirits, guests enjoyed a delicious three course dinner by Mosimann's before a lively auction took place. Bidders once again impressed the charity with their generosity helped along by the very persuasive auctioneer, James Freedman. An afternoon of children's entertainment in our local hospitals proved once again to be the favoured prize, raising an impressive £25,000 for the charity.

The event was a great success and very much enjoyed by all those who attended. Special thanks go to all our guests, along with our sponsors Abstract Securities, Bordeaux Index and the Michael Crawford International Fan Association. We are already busy planning another intimate evening of world class entertainment for 2010, when we will be hosting our third magical event in this unique and special venue.



Our Local Fundraising Committees

Two new fundraising committees formed in 2007 continued their wonderful support in 2008.

The Sheffield Fundraising Committee held two events, raising £10,000 for Treetop House. The Friends of Eckersley House (Leeds) raised £1,905 through a raffle and event (right). We are very grateful for their support despite their children's continuing health



The Cambridge Fundraising Committee continues to be a vital source of support for Acorn House in Cambridge, raising important local awareness and an impressive £25,000 through a programme of local events. We were sorry to see Carole Myer leave the Committee after many years as a member, and more recently as the Chairman. We were delighted to see the return of the Founder, Patsy Glazebrook, in a new role of Coordinator. The Cambridge Fundraising Committee has now raised more than £250,000 since it was established in 2000.

Fundraising...

Capital Appeal – ‘Raise the Roof’

In May 2008, with the help of football legend Alan Shearer, we launched a new capital appeal - 'Raise the Roof' - to extend Crawford House, our 'Home from Home' at the RVI in Newcastle upon Tyne.



The move follows a major reorganisation of children's health service in Newcastle which will see a brand new specialist children's hospital opening at The RVI in 2010. The extension was vital for us to keep pace with the growing demand for accommodation for families across the North East.

We successfully raised the £470,000 needed to cover the cost of the building work. We are immensely grateful to all those who supported our 'Buy a Cube' appeal and as a result have been able to add seven more bedrooms, bath/shower rooms and a small lounge - enabling us to support up to an

Corporate Fundraising

We are fortunate to have the loyal and valued support of a number of companies such as Catlin, Barclays (right) and GMS Estates. We also entered into an open-ended partnership with Veolia Environmental Services which was officially launched in July 2009. Bibby Distribution and Morley Bedding Co in Leeds also came on board in 2009 leading to a huge saving on the cost of beds for the Big Move appeal.

Goldman Sachs and John Lewis both helped to brighten up Stevenson House in London whilst our friends at Northumbrian Water Ltd did a great job decorating the 3rd floor extension at Crawford House in Newcastle.



Coutts Lunch

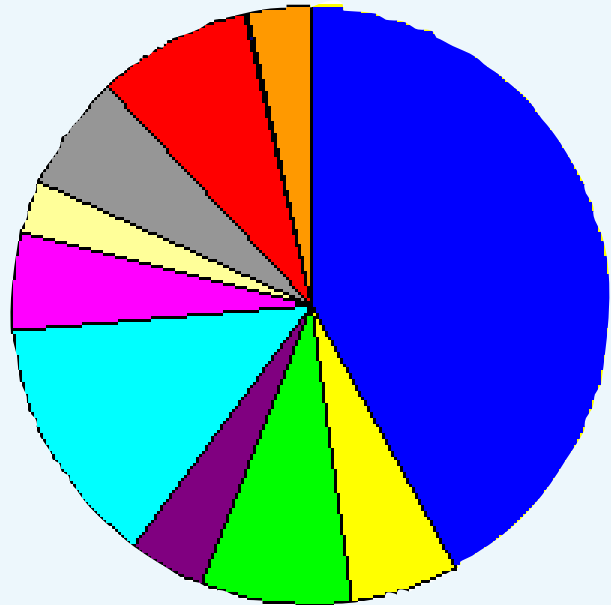
A very successful lunch was held at Coutts in March 2009 to thank key supporters and introduce others to the work of the charity. The lunch was very well attended with 18 guests enjoying delicious food and wine in the salubrious private dining room of Coutts. The Hatchman Family gave a very moving speech highlighting the huge difference Stevenson House made to them when their son Jonathan was very sick and receiving treatment at The Royal London Hospital.

We would like to thank John Barwick of Coutts for hosting a fantastic lunch which has already proved to be very successful, with many of the guests having already pledged their support. We hope to be able to offer similar events in the future to further cultivate successful and meaningful relationships with some of our most valued supporters.

Facts & Figures...

Income Sources 2008-9

■ Charitable Trusts/Liveries: £597,592
■ Corporate/Corporate Foundation: £80,933
■ Individual Donations & Gift Aid: £113,410
■ Sponsorship £60,804
■ Supporters' Events: £191,643
■ Events by The SCT: £74,297
■ Legacies: £40,886
■ Donations in 'Homes': £89,463
■ Hospitals: £120,722
■ Merchandise Sales: £3,004
■ Bank Interest: £47,278



Fast Facts:

- During the year the charity generated income of £1,420,033; £354,543 more than last year. This equates to an increase of 33 %.
- More than £191,643 was raised through a variety of events, which is 47 % more than last year.
- Over £597,592 was raised through generous donations from Charitable Trusts and Liveries which is an increase of 211 %.
- Also over £80,933 was raised through corporate fundraising - a decrease of 51 %.
- Unrestricted income was higher than last year and restricted income was 79 % higher also than in 2007-2008.

Facts & Figures...

Expenditure

Expenditure increased overall by 17%. This was mainly due to property costs and furniture expenditure relating to charitable activities. The Crawford House extension accounted for most of this. The property costs of the 'Homes from Home' increased from £223,319 the previous year to £245,775 this year. A rise of 10%.

Capital Costs

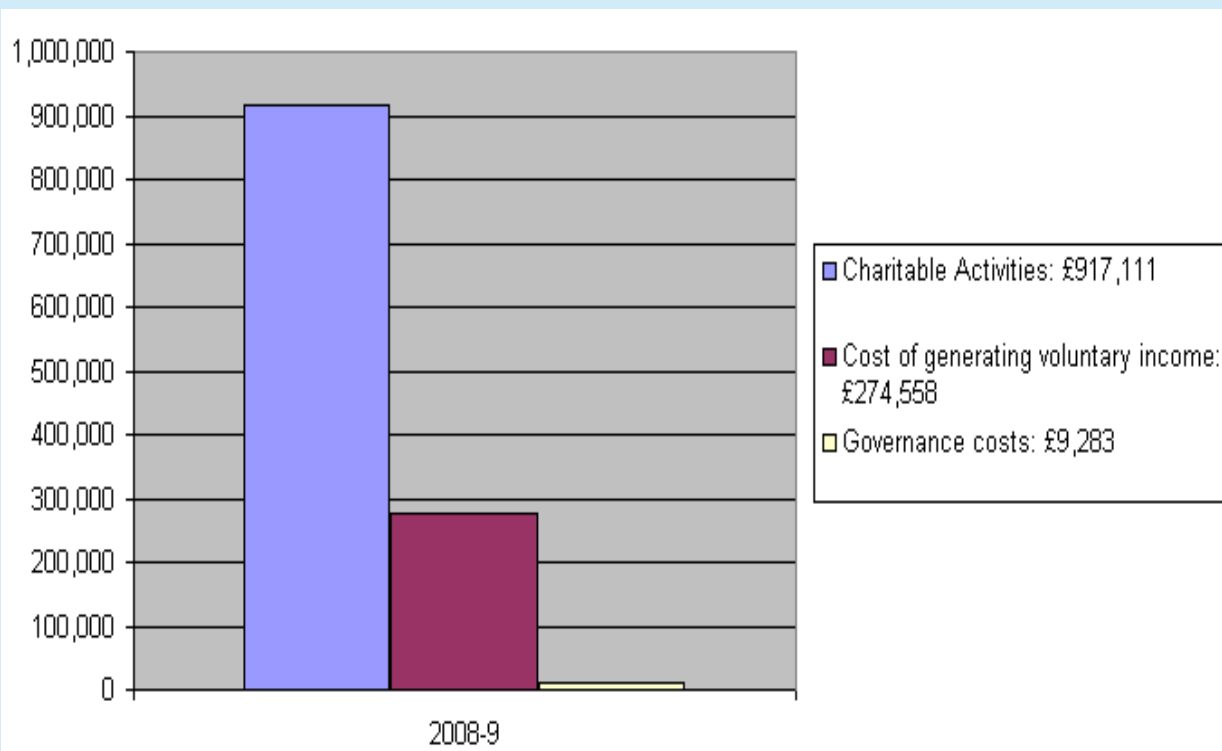
Capital expenditure increased this year by £389,749, totalling £409,290. These costs were attributed to the Crawford House extension.

Costs of Generating Voluntary Income

This cost has increased by 39% on last year due to the creation of two new fundraising positions within the team. A Corporate Fundraiser and Major Gifts Fundraiser were appointed to develop these two key areas which both have significant potential for increasing income for the charity in future years. Additional investment was also made in community and special events, most notably for BUPA 10,000 places and A Magic Moment.

Reserves

The level of reserves has increased during the year as a result of increased income in a number of areas.



Facts & Figures...

Income and expenditure account and statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2009

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2009	Total 2008
	£	£	£	£
Incoming Resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds:				
Voluntary income	572,294			
Activities for generating funds	3,004	-	3,004	4,047
Investment income	45,825	1,453	47,278	54,840
Other incoming resources	-	-	-	743
Total Incoming Resources	621,123			
Resources Expended				
Costs of generating voluntary income	274,558	-	274,558	197,314
Charitable activities	353,773		917,111	822,791
Governance costs	9,283	-	9,283	9,606
Total Resources Expended	637,614			
Net Incoming Resources before Transfers	(16,491)		219,081	35,779
Transfers between funds				
Net Movement in Funds				
Funds at 1 st April 2008	5,060,198			
Funds at 31 st March 2009	5,043,707			

Facts & Figures...

Balance Sheet at 31 March 2009

	2009		2008	
	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets				
Fixed assets				4,031,436
Current assets				
Debtors and payments	96,778		108,897	
Cash at bank and in hand	1,240,408		1,158,267	
	1,337,186		1,267,164	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(50,664)		(46,283)	
Net current assets				1,220,881
Net assets				5,252,317
Represented by:				
Designated Funds				4,031,436
General Unrestricted Funds		858,831		1,028,762
Restricted funds		427,691		192,119
Total Funds				5,216,538

Summary Financial Statements

The Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet are not the full statutory accounts but are a summary of the information which appears in the full accounts. The full accounts have been audited and given an unqualified opinion. The full accounts were approved by the Trustees on 21st September 2009 and a copy has been submitted to the Charity Commission and Registrar of Companies.'

Auditors' Statement

Independent Auditors' Statement to the Trustees of The Sick Children's Trust

We have examined the summarised financial statements of The Sick Children's Trust.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The trustees' (who are also the directors of The Sick Children's Trust for the purposes of company law) responsibilities for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) are set out in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

We report to you our opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view and are properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985. We also report to you whether, in our opinion, the information given in the Trustees' Report is consistent with the financial statements. In addition we report to you if, in our opinion, the charitable company has not kept proper accounting records, if we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit, or if information specified by law regarding trustees' remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed.

Basis of opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgements made by the trustees in the preparation of the financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the charitable company's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with the United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice applicable to Smaller Entities, of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2009 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company for the year then ended; and
- the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 1985.
- the Trustees' Annual Report is consistent with the financial statements.

Thank You...

We would like to thank all our donors without whose support our work would not be possible. We are very grateful to all the individuals, charitable trusts and companies that supported our work in 2008-9.

Raise the Roof

Barry & Faga Speker Fund
Georgia's Benefit Trust
Harrison Foundation
Kirby Laing Foundation
Mackintosh Foundation
Michael Crawford's Children's Charity
Newcastle Healthcare Charity
North East Promenaders Against Cancer (NEPAC)
Patricia & Donald Shepherd Charitable Trust
Rothley Trust
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Donations of £5,000 or more

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The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
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The Merchant Taylors' Consolidated Charities for the Infirm
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