



**The Sick
Children's
Trust**

We're here, so families can be together



The Sick Children's Trust **Impact report** *2022/23*



More than bricks and mortar



The Sick Children's Trust is the charity that provides a welcoming 'Home from Home' where families with a sick child in hospital can stay.



But we're more than bricks and mortar, our friendly, caring staff are there to support families when they really need it. Hospital can be a lonely and scary place for anyone, but especially a child. Providing families with somewhere to stay together just minutes from the hospital means that they can be by their sick child's side and have one less thing to worry about.

Our values

Passionate – We believe passionately that families with a seriously ill child in hospital should be together

Supportive – We care for families when they really need us and we support our staff to be the best they can be

Togetherness – We work together to make a difference

Proud – We are proud to be able to welcome all families that need us to our clean and comfortable 'Homes from Home'

Trustworthy – We are open, honest and transparent in everything we do. We spend our money responsibly ensuring that families are always at the heart of our work



Welcome

In 2022/23 we celebrated our 40th anniversary and as we came out of the pandemic our 'Homes from Home' returned to full capacity, supporting 3,021 families in their time of need.

We were thrilled to celebrate 40 years of supporting families and to recognise those incredible families, funders and volunteers who have helped us along the way. Without them we would not have been able to support over 73,000 families in our 'Homes from Home'.

While we were fortunate to hold in person events again at our Christmas Carol Service and Ruby Slipper Gala to end our 40th anniversary, and be the focus of a BBC Lifeline Appeal, there is still a way to go until we can bridge the funding gap. With the cost of living, not only affecting the cost to run our 'Homes from Home' and the families we are here to support, our services are needed more than ever.

This year we developed a new five-year strategy which sets out our direction for the future, to grow and to ensure we can be there for all the families who need us. The strategy does not represent a sudden change in direction

for the charity but a continued focus on high-quality support for families, a positive working culture and reviewing our funding model to see how best we use our resources to fund our existing services and potential new 'Homes from Home'.

As always, our Impact Report is full of amazing families and wonderful supporters. We hope that their stories inspire you as much as they do us.



Paul Jardine,
Chairman



Jane Featherstone,
CEO

Jacob's story

My beautiful baby boy Jacob was born on 4 July 2022, nearly six weeks early, at our local hospital in Stevenage. He arrived in better condition than expected, but his body temperature began to rise. To our horror, we were told he had possible congenital leukaemia.

Jacob was immediately taken to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge, over an hour away from our home in Hertford. As I was recovering from the c-section, my wife Tracey travelled with him. I arrived at Addenbrooke's the following day as an in-patient, keeping us close to Jacob until I was discharged.

To our relief, we were given a place to stay at Chestnut House, located beneath the ward where Jacob was being treated. It was a place where we could process everything that had happened.

Jacob took a turn for the worse, being rushed to Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) in London for an emergency operation, returning to Addenbrooke's five days later. We were so grateful to return to Chestnut House; we could look after ourselves while the hospital focussed on Jacob.

Jacob was finally diagnosed with Transient Abnormal Myelopoiesis (TAM), a leukemic bone marrow disorder that usually only appears in newborns with Down's Syndrome. Genetic tests showed that Jacob does not have Down's, making him only the 21st reported case worldwide.

After seven shots of chemotherapy and four blood transfusions, he was finally allowed to come home with us.

Laura Stubley Down, Jacob's mum



“

We will always be incredibly thankful for Chestnut House for keeping us close to Jacob.

”

In 2022/23



We supported

3,021

families in our
'Homes from Home'



Average time families
would have spent travelling
from home to hospital

85

minutes



Longest stay

391

nights



Average length of stay

13

nights



We can help

148

families a night



We provided

40,803

nights of accommodation



99%

of families felt staying in
our 'Homes from Home'
helped them cope



100%

of families would
recommend our 'Homes
from Home'



99%

of families felt staying in our
'Homes from Home' helped
their mental wellbeing



99%

of families felt staying in
our 'Homes from Home'
being close to their sick
child helped their recovery



100%

of families felt that the
home had a high standard
of cleanliness



96%

of families felt the support
our house staff gave
was important



Fundraising to make a difference

In 2022/23 we are pleased to say we raised an incredible £2,395,240 to support families when they really need it.

Red Diamond Executive Headhunters were one of those supporters, with the global headhunting agency completing ten fundraising pledges to support The Sick Children's Trust to celebrate their ten-year anniversary.

We supported company founders Emma and Simon when their son, Jasper, was born prematurely ten years ago and needed specialist care at Leeds Children's Hospital. For six months we provided them with a 'Home from Home' at Eckersley House, which is located just a stone's throw from the children's ward, before Jasper sadly passed away.

Emma, Simon and their dedicated team have been fundraising to support us by completing another ten fundraisers. The team climbed Mount Snowdon, hosted their own 'Come Dine With Me', completed walking challenges, bike rides, hosted cake sales and in November hosted the Red Diamond Ball which raised an incredible £15,000.

Emma said, "Eckersley House was a lifeline for us. Living next to Leeds General Infirmary while our poorly baby was in intensive care meant we could be with him every day of his short life. Ten years later we still feel strongly that other families should have the same opportunity we had. We can never repay such kindness, but we can contribute to the financials that are so badly needed."



We're so grateful to our fundraisers who have taken on courageous challenges including:



Skydive

38 jumpers raised
£20,600



London Marathon

8 runners raised
£25,000



Great North Run

62 runners raised
£44,000

Our appeals

We are so thankful to all of our supporters for fundraising, donating and spreading the word about our charity. We are proud to have achieved so much over the last year, enabling us to continue providing a lifeline to families in need.

Our 40th anniversary

March marked the end of our 40th anniversary appeal, which was packed full of fundraising activities. Supporters dared to take on thrilling skydives and dressed up for our glamorous Ruby Slipper Gala event. We were delighted to announce that thanks to many generous donations and a buzzing fundraising calendar, we raised a wonderful £208,000 from the appeal.



40TH ANNIVERSARY

Together at Christmas

The Whalley family took center stage in our Christmas appeal, appearing in a video about the festive period they spent in Magnolia House, after their son Killian was rushed to hospital. We sold virtual Christmas stockings and celebrated the gifts of warmth, care, rest, wellbeing and time spent together. Overall, the Christmas appeal raised £12,000, which can provide 300 nights of accommodation for families with a sick child.



BBC Lifeline

We were fortunate enough to be selected by the BBC and we teamed up with Anton Du Beke to run a BBC Lifeline Appeal. We were thrilled to announce that we raised over £30,000 from donations. After filming with Anton, we were very excited to welcome him on board as an Ambassador for The Sick Children's Trust.



Celebrating 40 years of supporting families



In our milestone year, we are proud to have raised an incredible total of £124,347 through our special events, providing over 600 nights of accommodation to families in need.



We hosted a 40th anniversary awards night, sponsored by AXA, to honour our incredible supporters who go above and beyond to fundraise for us. We were delighted to award the Bowyer Family with our Inspirational Family award, after receiving an incredible 3,200 online votes from our supporters.



Our annual Carol Concert treated an audience of more than 300 to an evening of festive cheer, raising over £15,000 for our 'Homes from Home'. The evening was sponsored by Balderton Capital and filled with festive readings and performances from coloratura soprano Christina Johnston, The

Tootsie Rollers, Tim Downie, Emilia Fox, and Alice Beer. Tom Martin gave a moving speech about his stay in Rainbow House while his daughter Annie underwent open heart surgery at Great Ormond Street Hospital, reminding everyone of the support we provide for families just like his.



Our unforgettable Snowflake Ball, sponsored by Paragon Customer Communications, was filled with festive food and live performances, raising a fantastic £35,000 through ticket sales, donations and a live auction on the evening.

We concluded our birthday year in March with our extra special Ruby Slipper Gala, hosted at the breathtaking Goldsmith's Hall in central London. The Wizard of Oz themed evening was generously sponsored by CDW, whose Vice President has a very personal connection to Acorn House. In 2021, we supported Carl Lawton while his daughter Chloe was in Addenbrooke's Hospital receiving life-saving treatment. From magicians to spectacular theatrical performances, the Gala was jam packed full of entertainment, and guests enjoyed a superb dinner, heartwarming family stories and jokes from our hosts Tim Downie and Roni Ancona.

Guests on the evening, including our dedicated President Michael Crawford and newest ambassador Anton Du Beke, helped to raise an incredible £107,000 from a live auction, hosted by Alfie Joey and from purchasing our pledge of courage lions, that were gifted to children in hospital.



RUBY SLIPPER GALA



Creating a haven: ISG transforms the Stevenson House kitchen

World-renowned construction company ISG, generously donated a brand-new kitchen to Stevenson House, our 'Home from Home' at The Royal London Hospital.

The company raised over £30,000 in goods and labour from their supply chain, including nearly £6,000 worth of kitchen products from department store John Lewis with numerous contractors from East London volunteering their time and resources. The team then spent eight days bringing the project to life, complete with new units, induction cooker, fridge-freezer and more. This refurbishment will ensure that families staying at Stevenson House can continue looking after themselves with home cooked meals for many years to come.

ISG Project Manager, Danny Joy stayed at Guilford Street House when his son Henry was

being treated at Great Ormond Street Hospital. He said: "We didn't want the kitchen to feel clinical or like a sterile hospital café, it had to feel homely and comforting. When families are spending months in and out of hospital, they want a sanctuary away from the lights and the noise of a hospital ward to cook nutritious meals.

When I knew we had the opportunity to give something back to The Sick Children's Trust I was only too happy. I looked at the visitor's book and read a few messages left by recent guests. The first one I read said: 'Words cannot explain how grateful we are for having us. Thank you so, so much'. I knew exactly how they felt."



“

We now have a space that feels modern, cosy, and relaxing for families to not only spend time with each other, but to also connect and find solace with other families in a similar position to themselves. We can't thank ISG enough, it's truly amazing.

Charlotte Webster,
Corporate Partnerships Manager

”

“

Being able to stay in Scott House was such a huge relief for us, being over 200 miles away from home. We couldn't believe how lovely it was, and the staff there were so kind. The direct phone line from the room to the ward gave us real peace of mind when we needed some rest, knowing we could be immediately reached.

Ella Watt,
Lola's mum

”

Our 'Homes from Home'

Our generous supporters and house teams have worked throughout the year to make sure every 'Home from Home' has what it needs to be a safe haven for families with a sick child in hospital.

From updated furniture to painting and new carpets, all of our 'Homes from Home' have been consistently improved over the past year, meaning they can provide families with the warm, inviting and comfortable home they deserve.

Staff at Scott House hosted a summer party with treats and entertainment for the families staying with us, hospital staff and past families to enjoy, raising £500 in the process.

The team at Rainbow and Guilford Street Houses delighted the public who passed by our 'Homes from Home' by surprising them with homemade goodies on the doorstep. Each parcel had a sweet treat and information on how people can support us by donating vital funds.

A brand-new kitchen and laundry room were installed at Guilford Street House thanks to an amazing £60,000 grant from The Band Trust, who covered all the installation costs as well.

The team at Crawford House hosted their annual Christmas event following a two-year break due to COVID restrictions. There were carol performances, a live band and plenty of festive treats at our 'Home from Home' to bring some festive joy to our resident families while raising £500.

Our long-standing supporters Merril and Dolores Halpern donated a very generous gift that enabled us to renovate our Liver Transplant flat at Eckersley House in Leeds and to keep our 'Homes from Home' running and available for families that need them.



“

We are always so deeply touched reading about the families who have stayed in the 'Homes from Home' and their incredible bravery at such a difficult time. We know how vital the work of the charity is and hope our donation will help many more families in the future.

”

Dolores Halpern



“

We would never have coped as well as we did without Stevenson House and the warm, welcoming support of everyone there.

”

Oliver's story

Born in 2019 at 30 weeks via emergency caesarean in Ashford, our son Oliver had an issue with his oesophagus, with medical staff unable to pass a feeding tube down his food pipe.

He was taken to the Royal London Hospital in London where he was diagnosed with a rare congenital condition of his wind and food pipes.

Being stuck in hospital myself, panic set in. How was I going to get to my son? Luckily my partner Kane went with Oliver to London, not leaving his side.

Kane was approached by Imtiaz from The Sick Children's Trust, who offered us a place to stay at Stevenson House while Oliver was in hospital. I joined Kane at Stevenson House four days later, relieved to be staying in an amazing place so close to our son.

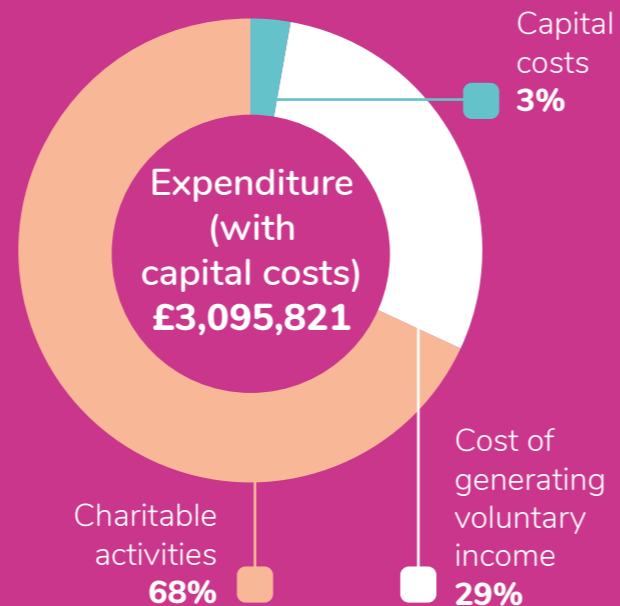
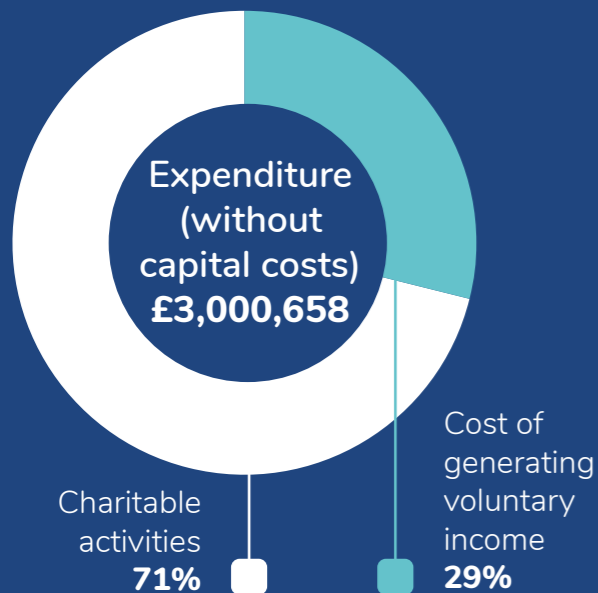
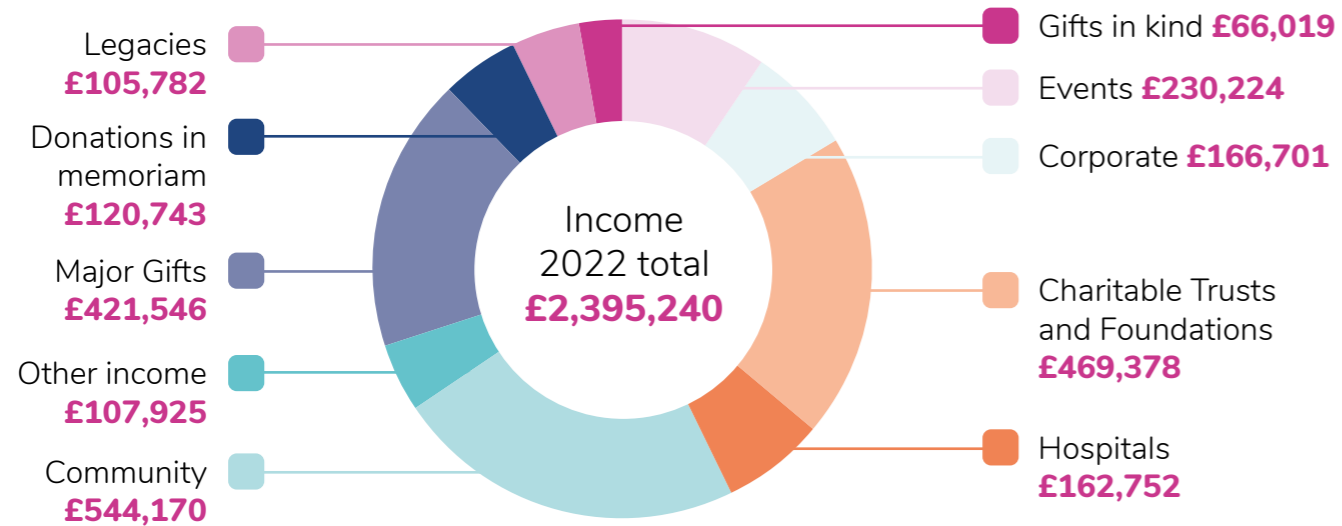
We spent three traumatic months at Stevenson House, with Oliver dealing with various operations, obstacles, and setbacks while in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. We were thrilled when Oliver was discharged, but a complication stopping him breathing while eating meant another operation and lengthy stay. We contacted Imtiaz who again came to our aid, putting us back in our old room.

Living with other families that were going through similar situations helped all of us. Knowing each other's stories, they all became like family to us.

Rae and Kane, Oliver's mum and dad



Finance 2022/23



We can't Thank you enough

We would like to thank everyone that has supported us over the last year – without you we wouldn't be here for all the families who need us.

Our Trustees, hospital partners, individuals, trusts and foundations, sponsors and corporate partners have so generously funded our work.

Thank you to our amazing ambassadors and celebrity supporters for their kind and generous support throughout the year, and a warm welcome to our newest celebrity ambassador Anton Du Beke.

Our President

Michael Crawford CBE

Our Board of Trustees

Paul Jardine, Chairman

Fiona Blakemore

Vicky Carter

Tim Craig

Stephen Masters

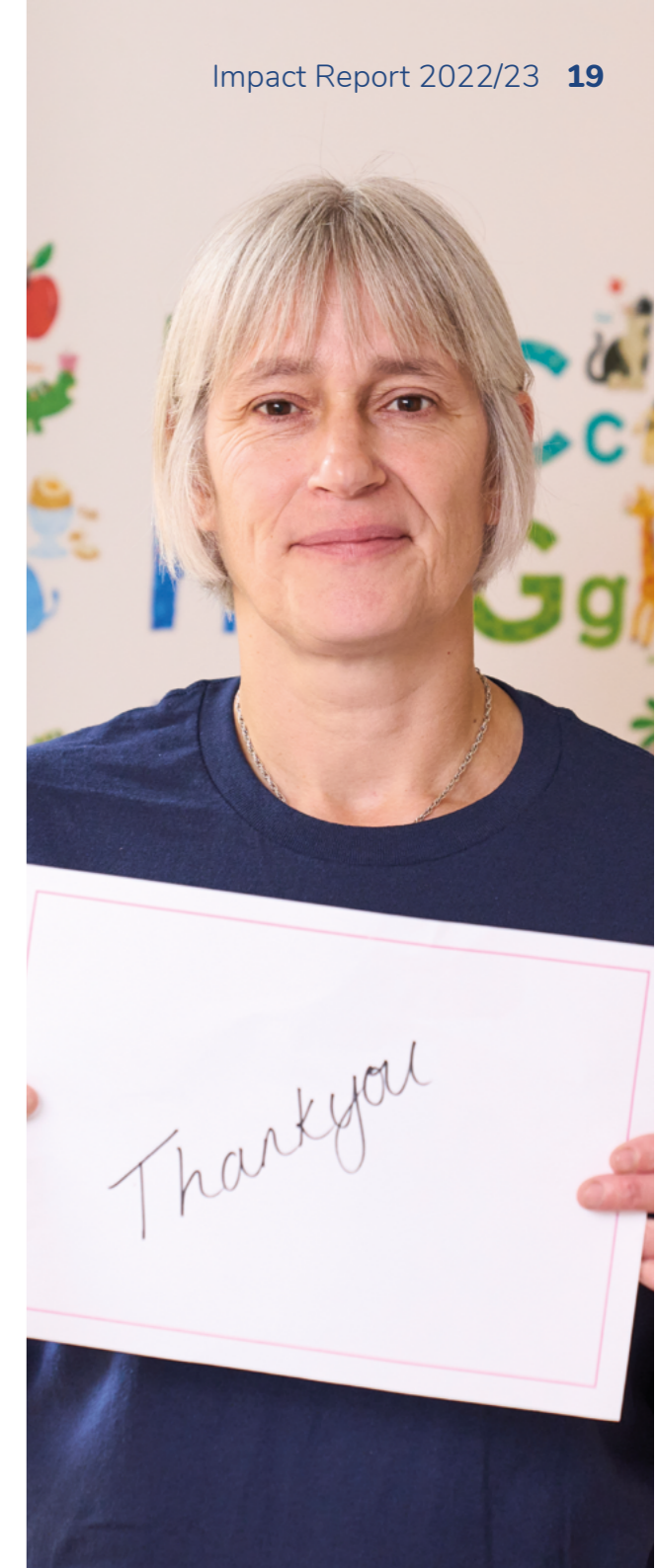
Abbie Pokorny

James Rigby

Michael Robinson

Dr Jack Singer

Polly Staveley





**The Sick
Children's
Trust**

We're here, so families can be together



Treetop House, Sheffield
Sheffield Children's Hospital

Magnolia House, Sheffield
Sheffield Children's Hospital

Guilford Street House, London
Great Ormond Street Hospital

**Scott House,
Newcastle-upon-Tyne**
Freeman Hospital

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

Eckersley House, Leeds
Leeds Children's Hospital

**Acorn House,
Cambridge**
Addenbrooke's Hospital

**Chestnut House,
Cambridge**
The Rosie Hospital

**Stevenson House,
London**
Royal London Children's Hospital

Rainbow House, London
Great Ormond Street Hospital



**The Sick Children's Trust,
4th Floor, 28–30 Worship Street,
London, EC2A 2AH**

 [thesickchildrenstrust](https://www.instagram.com/thesickchildrenstrust)

 [thesickchildrenstrust](https://www.facebook.com/thesickchildrenstrust)

 [TheSCT](https://twitter.com/TheSCT)

 [SickChildrensTrust](https://www.youtube.com/SickChildrensTrust)

[sickchildrenstrust.org](https://www.sickchildrenstrust.org)

Registered charity
number: 284416

