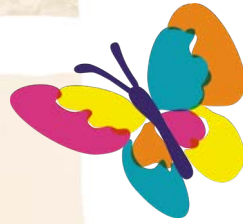


# together for short lives

Our value and impact  
2021-2022







# Welcome!

This has been a challenging year for the families we support. No sooner had the COVID-19 restrictions been lifted than we were plunged into a cost-of-living crisis.

This crisis has caused hardship for many, but none more so than families caring for a seriously ill child. These parents may have given up work to care for their child and were already facing higher energy costs because of the need to run life-saving equipment such as ventilators.

This year we have seen nearly 50,000 visits to our online Family Support Hub and a 40% increase in the number of people calling our helpline.

Together for Short Lives' purpose is to ensure that every child and their family has access to high-quality children's palliative and end-of-life care, when and where they need it. And we aim to reach more of these families over the coming decade.

2021/22 has seen a big step forward for Together for Short Lives. We have secured two multi-million-pound partnerships with Morrisons and The Kentown Wizard Foundation, which will enable us to extend our reach to more children and families within their communities. We will reach more families living in areas of deprivation, and increase access to care and support for families from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds.

Through our partnership with Morrisons we will develop new ways to connect with more families across communities, increasing



access to children's hospices and other vital children's palliative care services.

With funding from the Kentown Wizard Foundation, and through a collaborative programme with Together for Short Lives and the Rainbow Trust Children's Charity, we will deliver a groundbreaking and transformative project to reach the growing numbers of children and young people with life-limiting conditions with the right care and support.

It is shocking that, in the UK in 2022, the care that families of seriously ill children receive depends on where they live – and that much of this is funded by the generosity of voluntary public donations. Together for Short Lives is here to end this injustice.

## “High-quality children's palliative care makes the world of difference”

Across the UK, there are three times as many children and young people living with life-limiting conditions than there were 20 years ago and that number could grow by a further 50% over the coming decade. More seriously-ill babies are surviving, and children and young people with complex conditions are living longer. The highest prevalence of this is in babies under one year old, from Pakistani and South-East Asian families and across the most socially and economically deprived groups of the population.

The health of families caring for a very sick child is also at risk. Eighty-four percent of these families experience negative health impacts. Mothers of these children are more likely to develop serious physical and mental health problems, and shockingly, these mums are 50% more likely to die prematurely.

High-quality children's palliative care makes the world of difference. It begins when a child's illness is diagnosed and continues to their

death and beyond. It is holistic family support that enriches the health, psychosocial and spiritual needs of the child and family. It helps families care for their child and grieve their loss, but also to make the most of every moment they have and create memories that last a lifetime.

But the reality is that many of these services are themselves under huge pressure, under-resourced and inconsistently funded by the NHS and local authorities.

In April 2023 we will launch our new ten-year strategy that will set out our vision for what children's palliative care will look like in 2033. We know that in this fast-changing world our strategy needs to remain responsive to unfolding events, so we will work within shorter-term strategic periods of two to three years, allowing us to refine our priorities annually.

To steer our work over the next decade we have three strategic ambitions for children's palliative care: **access** to 24/7 services, improved **quality** and **sustainability** so that families can rely on getting the support they need when they need it.

We will continue to campaign to make sure seriously ill children and their families can access the palliative care they need 24/7, in hospitals, homes and hospices. We will work with the Government, NHS and others to meet the gaps in workforce, funding and accountability.

And as inflation soars, we will press ministers and officials to support families to meet the disproportionately higher costs of caring for a seriously ill child.

We can't do any of this without your continued support. Thank you.



**Andy Fletcher**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Together for Short Lives**

# Children's hospices in the UK

Together for Short Lives is proud to support all 54 children's hospices in the UK. This is where you can find them...



1. Acorns Children's Hospice
2. Acorns for the Three Counties
3. Acorns in the Black County
4. Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service
5. Andy's at St Andrew's Hospice
6. Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice
7. Brian House Children's Hospice
8. Butterwick House Children's Hospice
9. Chestnut Tree House
10. CHAS: Rachel House Children's Hospice
11. CHAS: Robin House Children's Hospice
12. CHAS at Home teams, Aberdeen
13. CHAS at Home teams, Inverness
14. Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) - Charlton Farm
15. Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) - Little Bridge House
16. Children's Hospice South West (CHSW) - Little Harbour
17. Claire House Children's Hospice
18. Demelza Hospice Care for Children - Kent
19. Demelza Hospice Care for Children - South East London
20. Demelza Hospice Care for Children - East Sussex
21. Derian House Children's Hospice
22. Dougie Mac Children's Hospice
23. East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) - The Nook
24. East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH)
25. East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) - The Treehouse
26. ellenor
27. Forget Me Not Children's Hospice
28. Francis House Children's Hospice
29. Haven House Children's Hospice
30. Little Havens
31. Helen & Douglas House
32. Hope House Children's Hospices
33. Ty Gobaith
34. Jigsaw, Cumbria's Children's Hospice
35. Julia's House: Dorset Hospice
36. Julia's House: Wiltshire Hospice
37. Keech Hospice Care
38. Martin House Children's Hospice
39. Naomi House & Jacksplace
40. Noah's Ark Children's Hospice
41. Northern Ireland Children's Hospice
42. Rainbows Hospice for Children and Young People
43. Rebecca House Children's Hospice
44. Rennie Grove's Children's Hospice at Home
45. Richard House Children's Hospice
46. Shooting Star Children's Hospices: Shooting Star House
47. Shooting Star Children's Hospices: Christopher's
48. St Oswald's Hospice
49. The James Hopkins Trust
50. The Jessie May Trust, Children's Hospice at Home
51. Ty Hafan
52. Zoë's Place Trust
53. Zoë's Place Baby Hospice
54. Zoë's Place Baby Hospice: Middlesbrough





## “Together for Short Lives made me feel brave again”

Dee is mum to Tilly, who is six and has Rett syndrome. This is her story...

**“When Tilly was one, it was like a light went out. From that day, everything changed. The life that you had – juggling with two kids like anyone else – and the life that you now had were just completely different. Everything changed.”**

“Nothing prepared us for that diagnosis and knowing that she would need 24-hour care. You go into shock. You get all of the bad news thrown at you and you think: is she going to die when she’s really young? How are we going to cope? What are we going to tell her sister?”

Tilly is intellectually completely aware like any other child of her age, but Rett is a progressive condition which means that she is unable to walk, talk or use her hands. She is also fed through a tube. “She has a 73-degree curve in her spine

which is very significant,” says Dee. “She relies on an adult for every single care need – to be fed, to be bathed or even move position – every single need that we take for granted that we can do ourselves such as moving our fingers or getting up from a chair, Tilly needs help with.”

Tilly’s older sister Thea asks why she can’t play with her sister.

“She said recently, ‘Why can’t I play with her like everyone plays with their little sister?’ And what do you say? I don’t have an answer for that.”

One day, Dee saw some information about Together for Short Lives online. She’d recently been off sick from work after finding it difficult to cope while Tilly was having a feeding tube fitted. “I was looking to return to work and I just thought

– how am I going to do this? So I emailed the helpline and it was just amazing. It’s a special skill to speak to the parents of children with life-limiting illnesses, because you want someone who understands the enormity of what that looks like – and not everyone does.”

Dee had several email exchanges with the helpline, who were able to find her support in her local area and help her transition back to work.

“Talking to Together for Short Lives was the catalyst for facing up to what had been a really difficult time – and actually it made me brave enough to feel that I could access help and that it wasn’t all in my mind.”

“Without Together for Short Lives I wouldn’t be feeling as mentally strong as I do now.”

# A year in the Support Hub

Earlier this year a mum who has two children in primary school with PKAN disease called our helpline. She relies on a food bank but is now struggling to afford the bus fare to get to it.

Another mum called our helpline in a panic because she cannot afford to buy new clothes to replace the old ones her son has outgrown. She felt that she should be celebrating that he is getting older, but instead was distraught that she couldn't afford to buy the new clothes he needed.

One mother contacted our Family Support Hub looking for a free holiday, as this will be her last with her son and the last chance to make precious memories.

Finally a dad reached out to us, desperate to find the donation of a bubble kit because these are the best distraction for his daughter when she's frustrated that she can't communicate.

This year has been especially tough for the families we support. With rising energy bills, and very little support from the Government on the horizon, families called our helpline desperate for help to keep their children warm and clean. We've been able to refer them for financial grants and emergency support – working with partners to deliver tumble dryers, washing machines and emergency food shops.

We've been bringing families together online too, through our private Facebook family community group and online workshops. One mum who attended our online Writing Workshop told us: "I really enjoyed the workshop yesterday. I would love for us to meet again!"

Parents and carers have continued to make use of our online chat service too. We've seen a 25% increase in live chats over the last year, with many reaching out from their child's hospital bedside.





## This year we recruited two Helpline and Support Workers to work closely with ethnically diverse populations

We know that the highest prevalence of seriously unwell children and young adults is among Pakistani and South-East Asian families and

across the most socially and economically deprived groups of the UK population. We want to reach the growing numbers of children and young people with life-limiting conditions; these are communities that our two new Helpline and Support Workers will focus on reaching out to.

Between 2021  
and 2022 we  
have seen...



**40%**

increase in people  
using our helpline

Nearly  
**50,000**

people visited  
our online family  
support hub

Nearly  
**13,000**

people visited our  
online service  
directory

**40%**

growth in members  
of our Family  
Facebook group

We held  
**10**

online workshops  
for families



# Here for families

When Tiffany was born with a serious illness, her mother Stacey called the Together for Short Lives helpline. This is her story...

Tiffany loved all things Disney and was always in a pretty dress fit for a princess. She was four days old when mum, Stacey, was told that Tiffany was expected to have a short life.

Stacey had a very normal pregnancy with Tiffany. But when she was born, doctors realised that she had bleeding on her brain. She had very complex needs and needed round-the-clock care.

"We spent most of her life in hospital. She was tube-fed, had brittle bones and struggled to maintain her temperature," says Stacey.

"She passed away in September 2020 after struggling for so long. Her pain management was so difficult and because her needs were so complex we couldn't take her to a hospice. It was extremely hard after she passed. It really hit me that I hadn't been able to live a full life with her."

"I never left her alone in hospital. I lived there with her for the entirety of her short life. I got so used to being there with her, surrounded by nurses, that I found it difficult to adjust back into a world without her."

Stacey called the Together for Short Lives helpline when Tiffany was two. "I was desperate for any sort of help. She didn't fit



Tiffany with her brother Ricardo

into any particular diagnosis so it was difficult to find help from other charities. When I saw that Together for Short Lives was a charity that supported all families caring for a seriously ill child, I knew I would be able to get the support I needed."

"I didn't feel so isolated and knew that someone was there to listen"

"I was hoping for advice around specialist wheelchairs, but it turned into a conversation. It turns out I needed someone to talk to who understood what it was like to care for Tiffany. I didn't feel so isolated and knew that someone was there to listen."

"It was a great opportunity for me to write some blogs, talk about how I was feeling and connect with other parents going through the same thing. I'm also part of the family Facebook group. I spend time reading other people's stories and comments – it's comforting to know you are not alone."

"It's important to have your voice heard and Together for Short Lives provides a welcoming environment and excellent service for families like mine."



# Children's Hospice Week 2022

The theme for Children's Hospice Week 2022 was #ForTheChildren – highlighting the core purpose of the UK's 54 children's hospices and working to change perceptions of them.

Everything children's hospices do is #ForTheChildren, and this year we wanted to encourage others to get involved to learn about and support their work in providing vital care to children, young people and families.

Throughout the week we shared some really moving family stories that show how important each individual child is to the amazing local hospices who care for them. Families described their hospice as their 'safe place', helping them feel like they were in 'expert hands' to create memories to last a lifetime. One dad said of his local hospice: "Without places like this, our situation would be close to impossible. It needs to carry on, it's so important."

## Pedal Power!

Inspirational Children's Nurse Francesca Lennon (below, centre) kicked off Children's Hospice Week by challenging herself to cycle to every children's hospice service in the UK, clocking up a staggering 3,200 miles. We challenged the public to show their pedal power and join her on their bikes for part of the journey.

Throughout the week, Francesca's challenge reached over 1.3 billion people in press coverage, spreading the word about Children's Hospice Week up and down the country.

Children's Hospice Week gave us a vital opportunity to call on the UK Government and the NHS to protect and extend the Children's Hospice Grant in England.

This followed a report we published showing a wide variation in funding for children's hospices in England from local NHS bodies.

With greater costs stemming from inflation and recruiting and retaining staff, children's hospices told us that care for seriously ill children could be put at risk if NHS England do not commit to providing the grant as a central funding stream beyond 2023/24.

We called for the grant to be protected and extended at an 'All-Party Parliamentary Group for Children Who Need Palliative Care' drop-in for MPs and peers, which we organised. Twelve MPs attended, including the Minister for Care and Mental Health, Gillian Keegan.



# Ending the postcode lottery for end-of-life care

In July we joined parents Claire, Natalie and Kev to officially hand over an open letter to 10 Downing Street, urging the Government to finally end the postcode lottery that surrounds the availability of 24/7 end-of-life care for seriously ill children.

Bereaved mum, Claire, wrote the letter, which was signed by over 1,900 concerned campaigners. Claire's son George died in June 2019, two weeks before his sixth birthday.

"We had no idea how much time we would have with George and the final weeks of his life were

traumatic" says Claire. "But with the support of our local NHS children's palliative care team, we were able to make choices and to control his symptoms. They were at the house when we needed them, day or night, or on the other end of the phone."

"George was able to die at home, and they gave me time to be with him, which was precious. I am really proud to travel to Downing Street to drop off this important letter to the Government."

Sadly, the support Claire received from the NHS is not the reality for families across most of England. Our report, *24/7 Access to Children's Palliative Care in England*, shows that seriously ill children face a postcode lottery for end-of-life care, with less than one-fifth of families having access to the 24/7, at-home support they need.

Time is running out for these families. We call on the Government to ensure that all seriously ill children have access to 24/7 palliative care.



Far left: (L-R) bereaved parents Claire, Kev and Natalie. Right: Claire's son George



# New programme set to reach more families than ever before

The Kentown Children's Palliative Care Programme is a collaborative programme between Together for Short Lives, The Kentown Wizard Foundation and Rainbow Trust Children's Charity...



## Kentown Support

The Kentown Children's Palliative Care Programme is a community-focused children's palliative care initiative in North West England, with three key complementary elements: nursing care, social care and information and awareness, so families can easily access all the help and support they need in their local communities.

It offers a unique approach to families, bringing expert nursing to children at home, together with respite care, social care and wider support they need, as well as accessible information so they

can make informed choices about their child's care.

The Kentown Children's Palliative Care Programme covers Lancashire and South Cumbria. It is a groundbreaking and transformative project to reach the growing numbers of children and young people with life-limiting conditions and to ensure that every family gets the right care and support, when and where they need it.

By delivering care designed around the unique needs of every family at home, families will be able to focus on making the most of their time with their

child. The needs of children and their families are at the heart of the programme.

Accessing the children's palliative care that families need at home, out of hours and at weekends, should never depend on where families live.

The Kentown Children's Palliative Care Programme has a bold ambition to ensure that every child and family get the right care and support, based around their unique needs at home, so that families can make the most of every precious moment that they have together.



### To-Do list

Our ambitions in reach and access

We will ensure that more families know about, understand and are able to access care and support

We will end the postcode lottery for families when it comes to accessing support

We will reach more families from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, linking them to local care services

# The Butterfly Fund

The death of a child is every parent's worst nightmare. The last thing families want to think about when grieving is whether they'll be able to afford to pay for their son or daughter's funeral. Sadly, this is the reality for thousands of families across the UK who end up living in poverty due to the costs of caring for their seriously ill child.

This year we awarded £137,000 in Butterfly Fund grants of £300 each to families whose child had died. This grant can be spent however the family choose.



Eilidh passed away on a Friday aged nine-and-a-half months old. Her mum, Kaitlyn, used money from the Butterfly Fund towards her funeral costs.

Eilidh was a healthy and happy little girl. She fed well, she slept well, she smiled, laughed and rolled about, doing everything that babies should do. She was reaching all of her milestones.

At four-and-a-half months old, Eilidh became extremely unwell. Kaitlyn took her to the hospital where she was diagnosed with complex cardiac conditions.

"We went from having a perfect home life, to living in hospital for five months. I was alone when the doctor explained to me that she wouldn't survive."

Eilidh got an infection before a procedure and didn't recover.

"People don't save money for their child's funeral"

"The Children's Palliative Care Nurse, Caroline, contacted us when we were back home and applied for the Butterfly Fund Grant on our behalf – there was no effort on our part at all. I would never have known about the Butterfly Fund had it not been for the support we received in hospital."

Kaitlyn used the £300 to put towards the cost of Eilidh's funeral. "The money really helped us when we needed it, as it's not something we had planned for. People don't save money for their child's funeral."





“We lived a full life with Ronnie, and we wanted to remember him in the best way we knew how”

Ronnie was a beloved and relaxed boy with a personality that could light up the room. “He made everyone happy,” said his mum Steph. “For a little boy that’s never said anything, he has had such a huge impact on so many people’s lives.”

Ronnie started having seizures when he was eight weeks old and was later diagnosed with a complex and rare gene

mutation known as WWOX. He died when he was six-and-a-half-years old.

Ronnie’s family applied for a Butterfly Fund Grant through Derian House, their local children’s hospice. “We wanted to make a memory chest,” said Steph. “Something to house the essence of Ronnie with all the things that made him who he was and all the things that he loved. We filled it with all of

his favourite things, drawings and pictures he did, cards from friends and family and even some clothes – he was a trendy little dude!”

“It’s hard to know how to remember someone in one particular way. The Butterfly Grant was the perfect amount of money to create Ronnie’s memory chest and allowed us to have him with us wherever we go.”

## A year in the Butterfly Fund

**£137,000**

in Butterfly Fund grants was given to families

**459**

Butterfly Fund applications were made by grieving families

**50%**

of families intended to spend the money paying for their child’s funeral



**53%**

increase in young people surviving into adulthood (2009–2018)

**10**

projects ran over three years

All projects demonstrated 'substantial benefits' for young adults

## Supporting professionals to support change

As young people with life-limiting conditions grow, their services need to adapt to meet their needs

Advances in medical technology mean that the number of young people with life-limiting conditions is increasing, but a shocking number of young people are not getting the support and care they need.

Our ground-breaking Improving Transition for Young People programme, which ran between 2018-21, funded ten key projects across the country that addressed the 'cliff edge' of transition – the point at which young people move from familiar children's services to adult services.

The ten funded projects were diverse, each one presenting a new service to test, or new resources that would help to improve their provision for seriously ill young adults and their families.

These projects have improved the situation for many young people and their families who are transitioning into adult life. They had the following benefits:

1. Improved coordination of care
2. Increased satisfaction with and awareness of services available
3. Improved wellbeing for young people and their families
4. Improved multi-disciplinary working
5. Reduced duplication of effort from staff and organisations
6. Increased familiarity with the adult hospices and staff teams
7. Reduced use of health services by young people and their families.





Molly with Sophie, Transition Nurse, in Ty Hafan's young person space 'The Den'.

## Moving on up

**Ty Hafan's transition service in South Wales is supporting the move from paediatric to adult palliative care**

Ty Hafan's Transition Hubs project began in early 2019 and was one of ten projects that formed our Improving Transition for Young People Programme.

It aimed to provide a holistic one-stop point of contact where young adults could receive support with transition, from paediatric to adult palliative care. The Hubs were facilitated by a transition nurse who provided emotional support to families.

The Project Lead, Tracy Jones, Head of Community Services, said: "Being a lucky recipient of the fund provided Ty Hafan with an amazing opportunity to develop our transition support

offer, and grow from an 'add-on' type service to a holistic, person-centred service with dedicated staff support."

When the project ended, Ty Hafan employed a transition nurse to run the service. "The young people and their families have repeatedly told us what a huge difference having this service has meant," added Tracy.

"It's helped them to feel supported and more confident to embrace the challenges and opportunities that face young adults with life-shortening conditions."

This project continues to support young adults in South Wales.

**368**

professionals attended five Together for Short Lives webinars

**98%**

of professionals said they would share what they had learned

**18**

meetings brought together academics and professionals from children's palliative care

We also launched a new online discussion forum in 2021, for all professionals working in children's palliative care. It gives professionals the opportunity to network, discuss ideas and share opinions.



### To-Do list

Our ambitions for professionals

**We will support services to have the workforce they need to deliver the best care and support for families**

**We will provide data and information to support service development**

**We will identify and share good practice and new models of care**

# A workforce in crisis

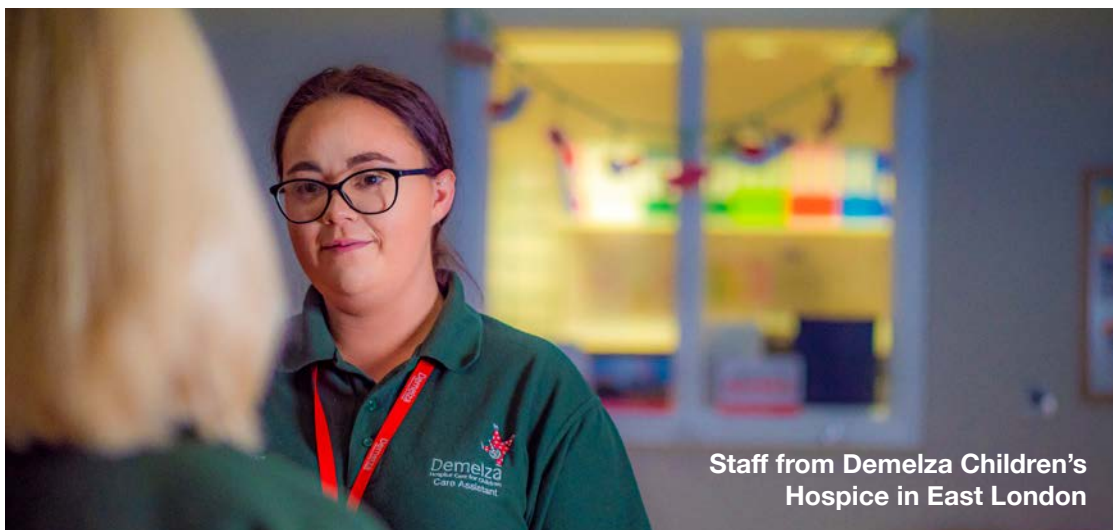
For families, the care they receive from hospices is a lifeline. But as our report in May 2022 found, providing this support is getting harder as children's hospices across England face extreme staff shortages.

ITV News covered the story, focusing on the workforce challenges faced by Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, and the impact these challenges are having on the care and support they are able to provide to families.

The research we carried out with children's hospices in England revealed that:

- The average vacancy rate in children's hospices is higher than the NHS nursing vacancy rate in England in quarter three of 2021/22
- Within this, one in four (26%) band 5 posts in children's hospices are vacant
- Over two thirds (70%) of children's hospices report higher vacancy rates for care and support professionals compared to April 2019
- Among the children's hospices experiencing a higher vacancy rate, over half (58%) say that this has led to them cutting or stopping their short breaks for respite for families of seriously ill children
- Sixty-seven per cent of vacant non-medical care and support roles in children's hospices were proving hard to fill (vacant for three months or more).

We called on the Government, the NHS and other partners to urgently assess the gaps in the children's palliative care workforce in hospitals, children's hospices and in the community. We asked them to better understand the number of professionals available – and the additional numbers needed to ensure families can access sustainable services, wherever they live.



Staff from Demelza Children's Hospice in East London



# Out in the cold

Terrified by the prospect of not being able to afford rising bills, families have been looking for support and advice to see them through the colder months. This is the story of Sophie, mum to Isabel...

**Sophie is mum to Isabel, age 11, who has Batten disease. "Isabel is bed-bound and palliative. She isn't able to leave our home, and is completely dependent on others for all of her care."**

Isabel relies on a great deal of equipment to keep her comfortable and alive: "We are running a mini intensive care unit in our home," says Sophie.

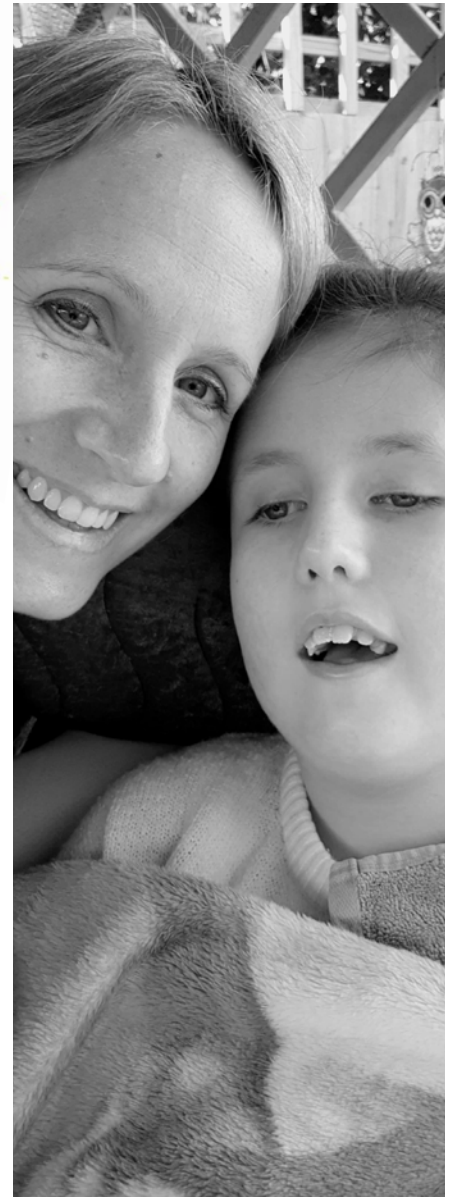
The machinery includes a profiling bed, SATS and heart monitors, suction, nebulisers, a hoist and a pressurised air machine. Isabel requires suction both day and night to stop her from choking. She isn't able to control her own temperature and so heated blankets keep her warm, and the heating in the house must be on to keep her temperature at a safe level. In addition, Sophie has to regularly run the washing machine to clean Isabel's bedsheets.

To ease the pain of Isabel's stiff and painful muscles, with a grant, the family bought a special hot-tub to provide at-home hydrotherapy. "We can no longer meet the rising costs

of running this, and so we will have to switch it off. This means that Isabel will no longer be getting the relief she needs."

"Every part of Isabel's life relies on the use of machinery, which obviously runs on electricity. Our bills are rocketing and we can't manage for much longer. It's terrifying and it just feels out of control. The reality is that Isabel will only live for a few months, or a year or two more if we are really lucky. And what will we be left with? Overwhelming grief and debt."

Sophie says she feels like they are constantly living in survival mode. And now, the family are facing the reality of winter blackouts: "Isabel cannot leave our home as she is totally bed-bound. An ambulance doesn't have the right equipment to move her. What will we do if our power goes out? Everything we run relies on gas and electricity, so it's terrifying. Isabel would be at risk of choking, and dying. What are the Government and energy providers going to do for us? My daughter won't live much longer – we need help now."



**"Every part of Isabel's life relies on the use of machinery... what will we do if our power goes out?"**

# Making precious memories through partnerships

Remarkable organisations like Center Parcs, Gravity Active Entertainment and Hobbycraft have helped us achieve more for families and children's hospices across the UK. They are the perfect partners to help us achieve our goal of helping families cherish their time together and make memories to last a lifetime.

## Quality time together

Since 2016, Center Parcs have raised £1.5 million and have gifted over 100 free breaks to families. One bereaved family had the chance to spend much-needed time together at Center Parcs on the anniversary of their daughter's passing: "It was just the healing time together we needed in her honour. We had so much fun and made lovely new memories, holding Margot's memory close."

## Jumping for joy

Our partnership with Gravity Active Entertainment has raised over £100,000 and helped families make memories with exclusive use of their venues. Ava Lily's family were treated to a morning of bouncing at the Bluewater site: "They were able to have fun,



make memories and meet other families who are going through similar things," said Ava-Lily's mum.

## A decade of support all sewn up

Hobbycraft has supported Together for Short Lives and the UK's 54 children's hospices for ten years. We have a shared belief in the therapeutic power of art and play to help improve lives and enable families to spend quality time together. Hobbycraft colleagues have made these incredible achievements in that time:

- Over £2.2 million raised – that's 88,000 hours of art therapy for children
- Thousands of colleagues and customers involved in 90 in-store fundraising events
- Since partnering with Pennies in 2016, Hobbycraft customers have raised over £500,000 through donations at till point.



Colour-In Cardboard Teepees were kindly donated to all 54 children's hospices

## Hobbycraft helps children like Oliver express themselves through art

"Oliver enjoys all types of arts and craft activities – he takes pride in sharing his finished masterpieces! Having the opportunity to take part means so much to him." **Oliver's mum, Lorraine**



# Together with Morrisons

We were delighted to launch a brand new corporate partnership with supermarket giant Morrisons in February 2022, with the aim to raise £10 million by October 2024. The partnership will...



## Raise **vital funds** for **children's hospices** across the country

Morrisons stores and sites are 'twinned' with their local children's hospice so that they can see the direct impact their in-store fundraising events will make to families in their local area caring for a seriously ill child.

Morrisons suppliers are able to get involved in raising funds through the Every Pack Gives Back promotion, with a donation being made to Together for Short Lives across hundreds of products. Colleagues can also take part in individual challenges and apply for match funding from the Morrisons Foundation.



## Help families caring for a seriously ill child to **make precious memories** together

Our partnership will help families make more memories in the time they have together, whether that's years, months or just hours. The Making Memories Together grant launching in September 2022, will allow children's hospices to bring special experiences and activities to children who are receiving hospice care.

We also plan to launch a Building a Legacy Together grant, enabling children's hospices to apply for larger grants up to £50,000 to help with building and outdoor facility projects.



## Help us **be there** for **thousands more families** who need support

In the UK, 99,000 children are living with life-limiting illness and this number is rising with families from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds disproportionately affected. There are huge numbers of families who are falling through the gaps in services, with many unaware of what is available to them. Funds raised by the partnership will be used to pilot a community outreach project to connect with some of those communities and families, linking them with their local hospice and community palliative care services.

# Percy Pig's Dreamland Ball

Together for Short Lives proudly presented Percy Pig's Dreamland Ball last November, in partnership with M&S Food and sponsored by OK! magazine. In honour of the ball's namesake, the red carpet turned pink for one night only, as Percy and Penny Pig joined the stars for their first ever ball.

Funds raised from the evening totalled a record £430,000 – all to help families like Adam's, who spoke on the night about losing his daughter Emily, and how Together for Short Lives supported them.

"This may sound very odd to those that have not experienced the death of a child, but Emily's death could not have been any more perfect. She was snuggled between her mummy and me while we all slept. My wife Amy

and I even shared the same dream of Emily singing and dancing, free from the bounds of her broken body. We were gently awoken by the compassionate nurse who told us that Emily has taken her final breath."

"There are many unsung heroes that thread throughout our family's story and our life with Emily, like Together for Short Lives. They are here for families like mine, and the thousands of other families facing the unimaginable – a life without their beloved child. Whether it was the resources Amy and I accessed to help inform the worst types of decisions any parent should have to make, or knowing there was a compassionate person on the end of a telephone, we knew that Together for Short Lives were there for the whole family – and that support is invaluable."



"After a year away from this amazing ball, and loss of income from events, it's more important than ever to help Together for Short Lives."

– Simon Cowell, Patron

3.39  
billion

the press coverage  
reach of the  
2021 Ball



Photos by Mark Moody with the exception of Percy Pig and friend (bottom left) and Simon Cowell (top of page) by Tim Merry



Right: Mason visits Shooting Stars Children's Hospice in London

# Man of the match

Superstar footballer **Mason Mount** writes about how special it's been for him to become our Patron



What a year it's been! I received the best birthday present last January, when Together for Short Lives made me a Patron of the charity on my 22nd birthday. I'm so proud of the work they do to support to children with life-limiting conditions and their families.

Together for Short Lives is a lifeline to families, helping them get vital support – and I've been privileged to see first-hand the truly amazing work they do.

I loved meeting families and staff at one of the hospices supported by Together for Short Lives, Shooting Star Children's Hospices. It was so different to what I expected – the atmosphere was so upbeat and to see the smiles on families' faces there was awesome.

We had such a good time - from drawing to playing a bit of football outside. I heard I surprised everyone with my crafting – painting's not my best attribute but luckily I had a little help from the

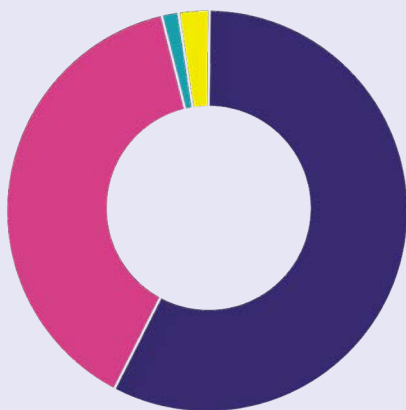
children I met, who were able to express themselves through their art.

I've made so many incredible memories already, and I hope I've helped families to do the same – from swapping my boots for a controller as part of a special online gaming session on Christmas Eve with four really special opponents; a keepie-uppie-challenge to raise awareness for Children's Hospice Week and even running a custom MOUNTchandise pop-up shop that's raised tens of thousands already!

I've loved helping the charity make an impact this year. Looking back is when it really hits you. We've had loads of fun and it means so much to know I'm making a difference. I can't wait to get stuck in and do even more for children and families next year.

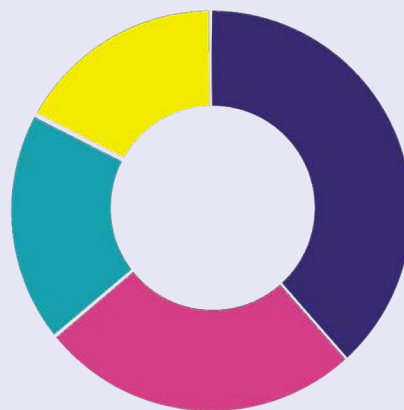
Best wishes  
Mason

## Financial summary



**Income:**  
**£3,153,150**

■ Fundraising income	<b>£1,782,741</b>
■ Funds for members	<b>£1,272,054</b>
■ Income from membership	<b>£34,066</b>
■ Income from investments	<b>£64,289</b>



**Expenditure:**  
**£3,366,311**

■ National work	<b>£1,143,226</b>
■ Raising funds for national work	<b>£834,725</b>
■ Funds shared with members	<b>£707,276</b>
■ Fundraising work with hospices	<b>£681,084</b>





# Thank you

## to all of our supporters

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