

Specialist brain injury and neurodisability services

Neurorehabilitation • Step-down care from hospital to home • Community support • Specialist education • Short breaks • Information and resources •

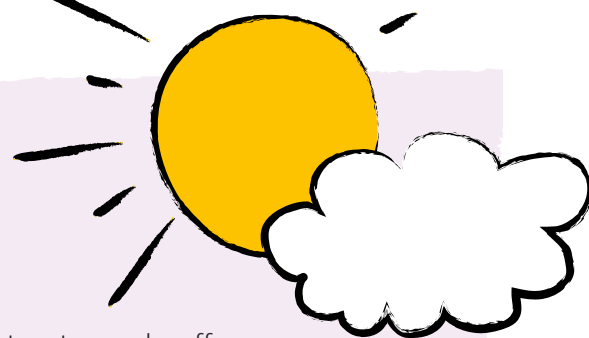

The Children's Trust
For children with brain injury



“I don’t know where we’d be without the support we’ve had from the staff at The Children’s Trust”

A parent

The UK's leading charity for children with brain injury



The Children's Trust is the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury and neurodisability. We work with children and young people aged 0-18 from across the UK with acquired brain injury (ABI), neurodisabilities and complex health needs.

Our key services include:

- Neurorehabilitation;
- Step-down medical and nursing care from hospital to home;
- Special education;
- Specialist assessment and clinical support in the community;
- Short breaks (respite);
- Online information and support.

Neurorehabilitation programmes at The Children's Trust are flexible and adapt to the needs of each child. We are one of the only paediatric facilities in the country outside of an acute hospital setting that can provide the most complex rehabilitation in the UK and our national specialist centre is the largest of its kind. We are also the UK's only dedicated paediatric neurorehabilitation provider with a national specialist commissioning contract to deliver brain injury rehabilitation in conjunction with NHS England. This means that funding flows automatically for children and young people who meet the criteria. Where NHS England does not fund placements, we have a dedicated team who work with commissioners and other parties to secure funding.

Our multidisciplinary team offers an integrated approach to assessment and clinical intervention. We combine medical care, therapy, education, play and family support to help children achieve their goals and maximise their ability to live the best life possible.

From our national specialist centre we also offer **step-down placements**. These placements support the transition from hospital to home for medically-stable children and young people aged 0-18 with complex health needs. These placements normally follow neurosurgical procedures or prolonged stays in intensive care units where children might otherwise be staying long-term in hospital.

The Children's Trust School is a non-maintained special school supporting children and young people with a wide range of special educational needs including neurodisability, complex medical needs and learning difficulties aged 3-19. We offer specialist education, therapy and care through both day and residential placements, working in partnership with families and carers. The Children's Trust School is co-located in the beautiful 24-acre site of The Children's Trust's national specialist centre in Tadworth, Surrey.

Our multidisciplinary **Brain Injury Community Team** provides therapeutic support to complement local services and give children and young people the best chance of succeeding at home and in school following an illness or injury. With **Brain Injury Specialists** located in four of the UK's major trauma centres, we also provide support to children and young people with a confirmed or suspected brain injury after they return home from hospital.

Our residential **short breaks** offer flexible, nurse-led care for children and young people between the ages of 0-18. The service is for those with complex disabilities and health needs, who may be vulnerable to acute changes in health which necessitate 24-hour care, and whose complex needs require care overseen by a nurse.



Our team includes:

- Director of clinical services;
- Medical director;
- Consultant in paediatric neurodisability;
- Consultant paediatricians and registrars;
- Specialist visiting consultants (many of whom run clinics on-site including neuropsychiatrists, ophthalmologists, audiologists, complex epilepsy specialists, and movement disorder specialists);
- Paediatric and learning disability nurses;
- Acquired brain injury nurse specialists;
- Clinical psychologists;
- Educational psychologists;
- Occupational therapists;
- Physiotherapists;
- Speech and language therapists;
- Play specialists;
- Music therapists;
- Social workers;
- Family therapists;
- A dietician, radiographer, and pharmacist;
- Teachers and teaching assistants.

Neurorehabilitation

Our national specialist centre is home to the UK's largest rehabilitation centre for children with acquired brain injury. Located just south of London in Tadworth, Surrey, we work with children with a wide range of physical and cognitive disabilities (including children with complex health needs) from across the UK as well as children from overseas.

The service was established in 1985 and is now primarily funded by NHS England through national specialist commissioning*. We also work with a number of different funding bodies including health commissioners (such as clinical commissioning groups), social care, education authorities, international embassies, case management organisations, private medical insurance and medico-legal firms to enable children to receive support from The Children's Trust.

Set in 24-acres of beautiful woodland, our centre is completely child and family focused to ensure that the child's needs are appropriately supported. Facilities include a modern aquatics therapy pool, therapy centre, gym, nature trail, soft play areas, wheelchair-accessible treehouse, and purpose built accommodation. In addition, we also offer specially-adapted equipment and transport, as well as access to self-drive vehicles for parents.

Supporting families

We encourage parents to play an active role in their child's rehabilitation. We offer brain injury education and training for parents including medication,

gastrostomy, tracheostomy and ventilator management as needed. In addition, we can offer on-site accommodation so parents/guardians can be close to their child during this crucial time.

24-hour rehabilitation

Under our 24-hour approach, a child's rehabilitation goals underpin all of their daily activities – from formal therapy sessions, their sleep routine, going to school and engaging in play.

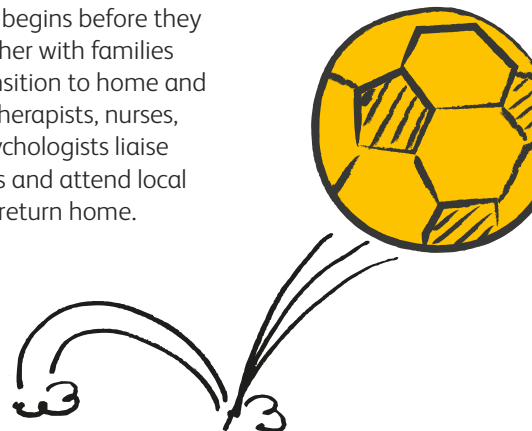
Our multidisciplinary team offers an integrated approach to assessment and clinical intervention. We combine medical care, therapy, education, play and family support to help children achieve their goals and maximise their ability to participate in family life and education when they go home.

For children and young people who may have a disorder of consciousness, our team undertakes specialist assessment and works to improve their quality of life by managing any issues they have with pain, posture, reflux and sleep.

Going home

Planning for a child's return home begins before they even arrive with us. We work together with families and local agencies to plan the transition to home and school as quickly as possible. Our therapists, nurses, social workers and educational psychologists liaise with their community counterparts and attend local planning meetings to support the return home.

*Our centre is classed as a level 1 facility under national specialist commissioning specification D02: specialist rehabilitation for patients with highly complex needs.





Step-down medical and nursing care from hospital to home

We offer step-down placements supporting the transition from hospital to home for medically-stable children and young people aged 0-18 with complex health needs after neurosurgical procedures or prolonged stays in intensive care units who might otherwise be staying long-term in hospital.

We also support children and young people with a range of degenerative and life-limiting conditions. We are able to support babies who may need transitional support from neonatal intensive care to home.

Children receive round-the-clock, specialist care in a beautiful home-from-home environment, supported by 24-hour nursing, care teams and daytime on-site medical provision. The service is enhanced by clinical assessments, a wide range of therapies, education and opportunities for play and family outings.

Planning for a child's return home begins before they even arrive with us. We work collaboratively with the child's family, local agencies and our community counterparts to make the transition of children to their homes as quickly and as safely as possible. For children and young people who are unable to go home immediately for medical or social reasons, we will help to identify the most appropriate care provider.

We support children of all ages, from babies to teenagers, with severe brain and spine injuries requiring complex neurodisability management including:

- Long-term invasive and non-invasive ventilation;
- Tracheostomy management (including weaning to de-cannulation);
- Severe/complex epilepsy;
- Disorders of consciousness (e.g. minimally conscious);
- Enteral feeding (e.g. gastronomy, jejunostomy);
- Parenteral nutrition/TPN via a central line;
- Dysphagia.

We can also support children following major neurosurgical procedures and those experiencing prolonged intensive care stays for non-neurological conditions.

The step-down service includes comprehensive training for parents or carers and a period of familiarisation for the community team who will take over care supported within our service. We have on-site accommodation which means parents can stay close by and take an active role in their child's care and development as if they were at home.

Each child will be considered on an individual basis on our ability to meet their needs in a setting similar to home so the above list is not exhaustive.



Specialist education, therapy and care

The Children's Trust School is a non-maintained special school where children and young people with complex medical needs and complex learning difficulties are supported through personalised education, therapy and care, in partnership with their families and carers.

We are able to support children and young people aged 3-19 with a wide range of special educational needs (including neurodisability, complex medical needs and complex learning difficulties) through day and residential placements. We also support children aged 0-5 with additional health and educational needs through Taddies, our early years parent and child group.

Our aim is to provide high quality education and expertise to meet each pupil's individual special needs, celebrating all achievements in a happy environment. We offer personalised learning opportunities relevant to each pupil to support the development of their communication, language and literacy skills, their cognitive development, physical skills, environmental control and social, emotional and personal well-being.

"A school that is rapidly going places. High standard of accommodation, quality décor, good level of staffing, appropriate facilities, good use of high quality specialist therapeutic equipment"

Surrey County Council, February 2017

As a regional school, we admit children and young people from a wide catchment area across the South East of England. With day and residential placements available for up to 44 children, our residential placements are across three houses, co-located in the beautiful woodland of the 24-acre site of The Children's Trust's national specialist centre.

We operate a 48 or 52 week residential programme of which 39 weeks are educational and nine are based around extra-curricular and social activities during half terms and holidays.

Our team includes:

- Teachers, including those qualified in visual impairment and multisensory impairment;
- Therapists, including occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, music therapists, and play therapists;
- Medical staff, including consultants, registrars and nurses (paediatric or learning disability);
- Support staff, including specialist teaching assistants and care staff;
- Educational psychologists.

Our multidisciplinary team work closely with our School and residential care teams. All pupils are entitled to access clinics that are relevant to them or that they may be referred to such as orthopaedics, orthotics, audiology, ophthalmology and dentistry.



Support in the community

The Children's Trust also works in communities across the UK to support children with acquired brain injury and their families.

Specialist services are particularly effective in supporting children who may have made a good physical recovery after an accident or illness and are expected to make a successful return to mainstream school, but are left with 'hidden' difficulties that can seriously affect their home and school life.

Brain Injury Community Team

Our Brain Injury Community Team provides comprehensive inter-professional assessments to identify children's needs following a brain injury and flexible, goals-led support programmes delivered in the child's home, school or other community settings.

We work collaboratively with local services to help children overcome their difficulties in cognition, communication and behaviour. We also support the network around a child (e.g. their parents, siblings and school) to help them understand and find ways to manage any difficulties.

Children can be referred if they are of school age and medically stable. Their brain injury may have happened recently or they may need support with long-term difficulties some years after their injury. The service is usually funded via clinical commissioning groups or case managers.

Brain Injury Specialists

Our Brain Injury Specialists are experienced clinicians based in a number of NHS hospital across the UK.

This wholly voluntary-funded service supports children and families from six weeks after discharge from hospital. We offer early identification of need, specialist advice, education and signposting in order to minimise the difficulties associated with returning to home and school following a brain injury.





Short breaks and information

Short breaks

Our residential short breaks offer flexible, nurse-led care for children and young people aged 0-18 allowing them to enjoy time away from home or hospital whilst continuing to be cared for by trained staff. It also enables parents and families to take a break. Packages are available for children and young people from a wide geographical area who:

- have complex disabilities and health needs;
- are vulnerable to acute changes in health which necessitates 24-hour care;
- have complex needs which require them to be managed by a carer or nurse.

In addition we also offer holiday/Saturday clubs for children with complex health needs.

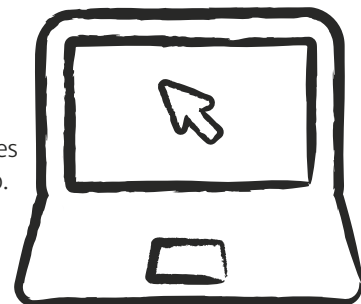
Information for parents

The Brain Injury Hub, our award winning information service provides information and support to parents, families, carers, and teachers involved in the life of a child with acquired brain injury.

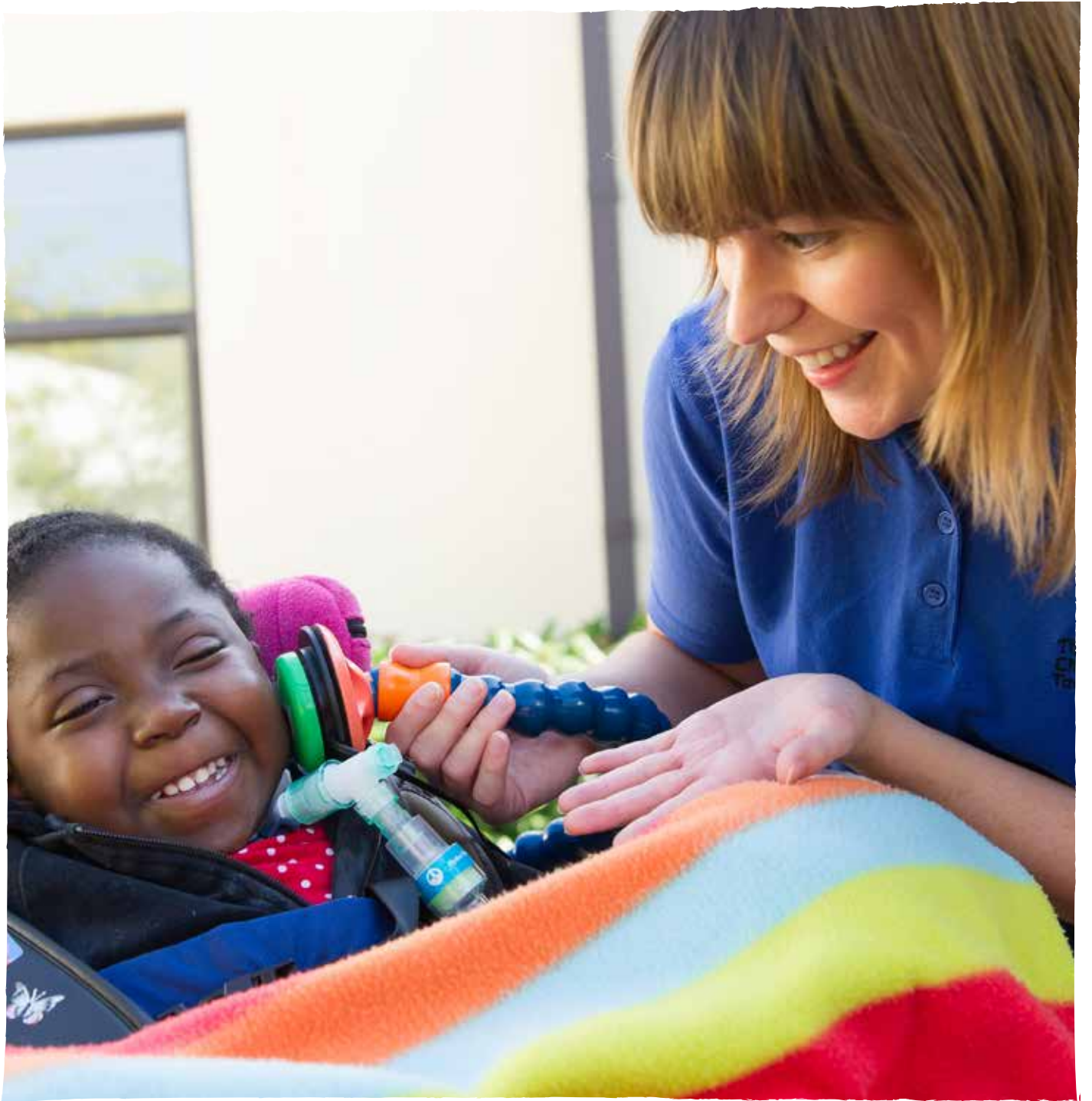
braininjuryhub.co.uk

The Brain Injury Hub offers clinically-approved information, news and blogs, alongside videos and the opportunity to share experiences on our discussion forum. The site has been awarded the Department of Health's Information Standard kitemark.

We have also published a range of books to help parents understand and talk to their children about brain injury. These free** resources are available to order from The Brain Injury Hub.



** Postage and packaging fees apply



Enquiries and referrals

If a child meets a set of specified criteria, our neurorehabilitation service is funded by NHS England through national specialist commissioning funding.

Alternative funding options are available for rehabilitation placements where this criteria isn't met, and for our other services. This is through local health commissioners (such as clinical commissioning groups), social care, education authorities, international embassies, case management organisations, private medical insurance and medico-legal firms.

Our services are also supported by voluntary income raised through fundraising activities – each year we have to raise over £8 million to continue supporting children with brain injury and neurodisability.

Our dedicated Placements & Commissioning team work closely with commissioners and other parties to secure the funding.

For further information on any of the services provided by The Children's Trust or to make a referral, please contact our Placements & Commissioning team:

☎ +44 (0)1737 365 080

✉ placements@thechildrenstrust.org.uk



The Children's Trust is the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury and neurodisability. Every year thousands of children acquire a brain injury; with our expertise and your support we can give them the opportunity to live the best life possible.

 placements@thechildrenstrust.org.uk

 thechildrenstrust.org.uk

 **01737 365 080**

 braininjuryhub.co.uk

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The Children's Trust is committed to the protection and safeguarding of children and young people.

Charity Registration Number: 288018. The Children's Trust is a company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales 1757875. TCT_109_V1_May 2017.

The logo for The Children's Trust features three overlapping circles in blue, green, and yellow, with a small red dot at the top right intersection.

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