



Specialist brain injury and neurodisability services

- Neurorehabilitation
- Step-down care from hospital to home
- Specialist education, therapy, health and care services
- Community support
- Short breaks
- Information service



Proud winners of the
'Rehab Outcome of The Year',
Neuro Rehab Times Awards 2024





“

Ralph has made such incredible progress with his rehabilitation thanks to The Children's Trust.

”

Ralph's mum, Tanya



Welcome to The Children's Trust

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

Our key services include:

- Neurorehabilitation
- Step-down care from hospital to home
- Specialist education, therapy, health and residential care services
- Support in the community
- Short breaks
- Information service

Neurorehabilitation programmes at The Children's Trust are flexible and adapt to the needs of each child. We are a centre of excellence, providing the most complex rehabilitation for children and young people outside of an acute hospital setting. Our national specialist centre, located just outside of London in Tadworth, Surrey, is the largest of its kind. We are also the UK's only dedicated paediatric neurorehabilitation provider with a specialised commissioning contract to deliver brain injury rehabilitation in conjunction with NHS England. This means 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 surgical 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 independent special school supporting children and young people aged 2-19 with complex health and medical needs and multiple barriers to learning. Co-located in the beautiful 24-acre site of The Children's Trust's national specialist centre in Tadworth, Surrey, we offer both day and residential placements, as well as a specialist nursery and parent and child support group.

Our innovative **Community Rehabilitation Service** offers online information and resources, as well as support to children, young people, and families through a nationwide Virtual Acquired Brain Injury team. In addition, the team offers an intensive, hands-on therapy service to children and young people living in the South East of England, alongside virtual hybrid packages of support for those further afield.

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 require care delivered or delegated by a nurse.



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 aged 0-18 with a 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 funded by NHS England through national specialised commissioning* and by a number of different funding bodies including health commissioners (such as integrated care boards), social care, education authorities, international embassies, case management organisations, private medical insurers and medico-legal firms.

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, 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 or guardians including medication, gastronomy, tracheostomy and ventilator management as needed. In addition, we can offer on-site accommodation so parents or 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 – formal therapy sessions, rest and 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 assessments 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. We work together with families and local agencies to plan the transition to home and school as quickly as possible. Our therapists, nurses, educational psychologists and placement managers liaise with their community counterparts and attend local planning meetings to support the return home.

Our multidisciplinary team

Our specialist, highly skilled team includes:

- consultants in paediatric neurodisability and neurorehabilitation
- consultant paediatricians
- neurodisability specialty doctors
- specialist paediatric nurses
- clinical site managers
- physiotherapists
- speech and language therapists
- occupational therapists
- health play specialists
- music therapists
- clinical psychologists and educational psychologists
- assistive technology specialists
- multidisciplinary technicians
- children's support assistants
- pharmacists
- radiographer
- dietician
- orthotist
- placement managers

**Our in-patient neurorehabilitation service and national specialist centre is classed as a level 1 facility under national specialised commissioning specification D02/S/a: specialist rehabilitation for patients with highly complex needs.*



“The therapists worked hard to tailor sessions to Millie’s needs so that she could flourish whilst also enjoying her time at The Children’s Trust.”

Millie’s mum, Alice



Millie’s story

In August 2022, three-year-old Millie experienced a stroke resulting in an acquired brain injury. After eight weeks in hospital, Millie was referred to The Children’s Trust for a sixteen-week residential rehabilitation placement split into two blocks of time to allow for further medical treatment.

When setting her rehabilitation goals, it was important to Millie’s parents that she be ready to start mainstream school with her twin brother later that year. To work towards this, Millie had a timetable of speech and language therapy, physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, occupational therapy and

music therapy to work on her communication, cognitive and physical skills.

At the end of her placement, Millie had made progress in all areas. She is able to communicate verbally, has developed her memory and visual sequencing skills through music and is now able to walk with the aid of an ankle foot orthosis (AFO).

Millie was discharged with recommendations for further support in the community, as well as strategies and activities for her parents to continue to support her at home and in her transition to school.

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. These placements typically follow surgical procedures, prolonged stays in intensive care units or where the child might be staying in hospital due to discharge barriers.

We support children of all ages, from babies to teenagers, with neurodisability and complex health needs 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. gastrostomy, jejunostomy)
- parental nutrition/TPN via a central line

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

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

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

Round-the-clock care

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.

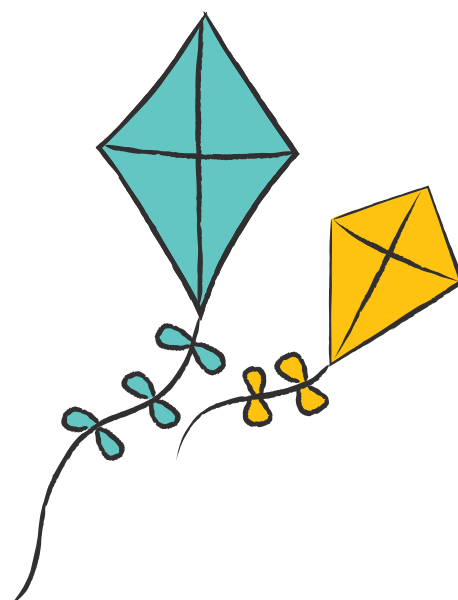
Transitioning home

Planning for a child's return home begins before they even arrive. We work collaboratively with the child's family, local agencies and our community counterparts to make a child's transition home as quick and as safe as possible.

For children and young people who are unable to go home immediately for medical or social reasons, we help to identify the most appropriate care provider.

Supporting families

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 or guardians can stay close by and take an active role in their child's care and development as they would at home.







Here you have specialist, professional staff members that really put the children at the heart of everything they do.



Josiah's mum, Sylvia

Josiah's story

Josiah has cerebral palsy and dystonia. He joined The Children's Trust School in March 2020 and has quickly become an integral member of the class, developing positive relationships with staff and peers alike. His enjoyment of school is infectious.

As part of his residential placement at the school, he receives 24-hour therapy and care support to facilitate most aspects of his daily life. At school, a sensory curriculum and total communication approach supports him in his learning. He has made progress in all areas of the curriculum, particularly

in his cognition and communication skills. Josiah works hard on these skills throughout all areas of his school day, and his progress has exceeded all expectations.

Josiah's teachers have loved watching his understanding of the world around him grow and how he has developed his own tastes and interests. Josiah really enjoys his weekly yoga session, where he has learned to anticipate activities within the session and started using his voice to respond when it is his turn.

Specialist education, health, therapy and care provision

The Children's Trust School is a non-maintained independent special school for children and young people aged 2-19 with complex health and medical needs and multiple barriers to learning. All pupils are supported through personalised multidisciplinary programmes, created in partnership with their families and carers, delivered in beautiful grounds, set within a 24-acre site at The Children's Trust national specialist centre in Surrey.

Our aim is to provide specialist, high-quality, multidisciplinary education and care to meet each pupil's individual needs. We recognise and celebrate all achievements in a safe and happy environment, with access to a wide range of onsite professionals including teachers, specialist support staff, therapists, consultants, doctors and paediatric nurses.

Who we support

As a regional school we admit children and young people from a wide catchment area across the South East of England and further afield. We are able to support children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) where neurodisability, including complex needs, require an integrated approach from a team of multidisciplinary professionals.



With both day and residential placements available, our School is regulated by Ofsted Education and rated as 'Outstanding'. Our residential houses are located on our 24-acre site and registered as Children's Homes, regulated by Ofsted Care and rated a 'Good' provider.

We operate a 39-week educational curriculum with extended social and leisure activities during half terms and holidays. We are able to provide a flexible programme for residential pupils of up to 52 weeks, with flexibility for weekend visits home where suitable.

Early years

Tadworth Tots, our on-site specialist nursery is available for children aged two years and above. We also aim to support children aged 0-5 with additional health and educational needs through Taddies, our early years parent and child group which takes place weekly.

“Pupils flourish at this school. Their individuality is recognised and nurtured. One parent told us “this school opens up a whole new world for its pupils.”

Ofsted, September 2023



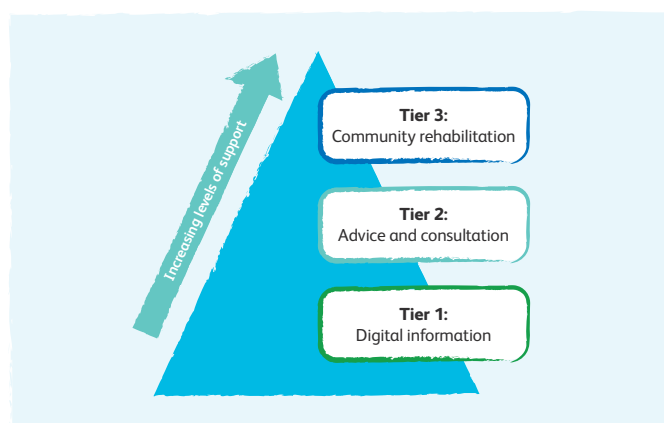
For more information and to download our prospectus, visit thechildrenstrust.org.uk/school



Support in your community

Our Community Rehabilitation Service offers online information and resources, as well as support to children, young people, and families through a nationwide Virtual Acquired Brain Injury team. In addition, the team offers an intensive, hands-on therapy service to children and young people living in the South East of England, alongside virtual hybrid packages of support for those further afield.

The Community Rehabilitation Service provides a range of support across a tiered model, with increasing levels of intervention based on the level of need and identified goals.



Tier 1: Digital information

Bumps Happen

Bumps Happen offers information and advice to support a child's recovery and return to activity following a concussion. The aim is to ensure that families can access information in a timely manner. Bumps Happen is split into 8 different information modules. Each of these deliver information at different stages of the recovery journey, covering advice in the immediate aftermath of a head injury, through to the days and weeks that follow. The website is designed to be self-service, meaning users should be able to get the information they require without needing to interact with a clinician. The site also has a dedicated chat bot feature. Curated by a fictional head injury specialist, Zoe, she guides users to the information they require via a series of simple multiple-choice questions. If users still feel they need to speak with a member of our team, they can submit a short contact form.

Visit bumps-happen.co.uk for further information.

Tier 2: Advice and consultation

Virtual ABI team

The Children's Trust's Virtual Acquired Brain Injury team provide a free, goal-directed digital rehabilitation support service for children, young people and families living with acquired brain injury across the UK. Referrals are accepted from parents, families, and professionals. Support offered is directed by clinical need; families will be invited to join a virtual goal setting meeting where a plan is established to set meaningful participation-based goals. Specific advice, signposting and consultation can also be provided by one of our clinicians.

The service model promotes and encourages self-management of needs in the long-term, however it is anticipated families may need a number of intervention periods in the years that follow their child's initial injury, due to the lifelong developing nature of acquired brain injury. The team offer coaching and guidance to young people, their families, and others in their network to help them work towards their goals. It is recognised that some goals may be long-term in nature and the team will therefore aim to identify short term goals that can be addressed within the service offer.

Our ABI clinicians also offer a long-term register which provides support and follow-up to children with acquired brain injury at key educational transition points, in view of the possibility of emerging needs as a child gets older, and the changing expectations of school stages. Support is offered when a child enters reception age, secondary and post-16 education. The service will work flexibly to support families to access a virtual service if digital support is required.

“

I heard how amazing
The Children's Trust was
before I got here. We
were praying for miracles
and we got them.

Riley's mum, Emma

”



Riley's story

Twelve-year-old Riley experienced a major bleed on the brain in January 2023. Two days later it was discovered he had an aneurysm. He was fitted with an aneurysm coil and spent five weeks in hospital.

After a sixteen-week residential rehabilitation placement at The Children's Trust, he was referred to The Children's Trust Community Rehabilitation Service for a further eight-week placement of two sessions of physiotherapy and hydrotherapy a week.

During his placement the multidisciplinary therapy team worked with Riley and his parents to set goals including for Riley to be able to walk and swim independently and to be able to climb stairs with supervision.

Riley has achieved those goals and increased his mobility still further by lowering himself to the floor safely and independently and bringing himself back up to a standing or seated position.



Tier 3: Community rehabilitation

The Children's Trust Community Rehabilitation Team covers the South East of England providing specialist assessment and goal-directed intensive rehabilitation for children and young people living with acquired brain injury or neurodisability.

Rehabilitation is functional and context-based to address areas impacted by the child's brain injury, including but not limited to:

- mobility
- self-care
- cognition
- communication
- emotional wellbeing
- return to education
- leisure activities, hobbies, and family life
- friendships

Intervention is holistic and focused on activities that are relevant and meaningful to the child, and delivered in the most appropriate setting which may include the child's home, school or in the community. Outpatient therapy at The Children's Trust is also available, enabling access to on-site facilities such as aquatic therapy and robotics. Specialist assessment is available when there is a gap in local provision; outcomes of the assessment will support the child's ongoing rehabilitation and participation in activities within their own environments.

Hybrid or virtual delivery may be considered to support rehabilitation for children outside of the South East of England.

There is evidence that neurorehabilitation is most effectively delivered by a coordinated team of professionals from the relevant disciplines. Where clinically appropriate, the Community Rehabilitation Team will take an interdisciplinary approach. This means the team works together in a co-ordinated way towards an agreed set of goals to assist the child to reintegrate into school, achieve their desired level of independence and enable their participation in chosen activities and ultimately in society. Some other aspects of service delivery may require a different approach i.e. when the therapy requirement is from one discipline.

Core specialisms offered include:

- psychology
- speech and language therapy
- physiotherapy
- occupational therapy
- rehabilitation technician

Delivery is in collaboration with the child's local community services where possible and is subject to funding. Intervention can be provided at any stage in a child's rehabilitation journey post the acute phase, including support to children who are many years post injury.

Who we support

Our Community Rehabilitation Service supports children and young people who:

- have a confirmed or suspected diagnosis of an acquired brain injury, either recently or some years ago
- are medically stable
- are 18 years or under at the time of referral
- are registered with a UK GP

Funding is typically secured via the child's integrated care board (ICB), and our dedicated commissioning team will work with funders on behalf of the referrer or family. Self-pay and private funding are also accepted.

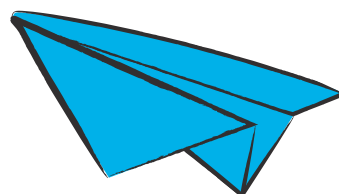
For further information or to make a referral email tctcommunity@thechildrenstrust.org.uk

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. They also enable 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



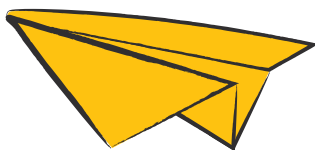
Information service

thechildrenstrust.org.uk/brain-injury-hub

If you are a parent of a child with a brain injury, or are somebody involved in their care, our information service provides a variety of resources for children, young people and families as well as professionals.

If you're looking for advice and support online, our Brain Injury Hub provides clinically-approved information on every stage of acquired brain injury, from being in hospital to going home and returning to school.

Developed by doctors, therapists, brain injury specialists and educational professionals, the Brain Injury Hub also provides real-life stories and signposting to our online support group, helping families navigate life after a brain injury.



Enquiries and referrals

If a child meets a set of specified criteria, our neurorehabilitation service is funded by NHS England through national specialised 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 integrated care boards), social care, education authorities, international embassies, case management organisations, private medical insurers and medico-legal firms.

Our dedicated placements team work closely with commissioners and other parties to secure funding. We also accept self-pay by those wishing to fund a placement themselves.

Our services are also supported by voluntary income raised through fundraising activities to continue supporting children and young people with brain injury and neurodisability.

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

☎ **+44 (0) 1737 365 080**

✉ **placements@thechildrenstrust.org.uk**

✉ **childrenstrust.tctplacements@nhs.net**
(for those working in the NHS and using secure mail)

Alternatively, referral forms for all of our services are available from our website. Please visit:

➡ **thechildrenstrust.org.uk/our-services**



The Children's Trust is the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury.

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.

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