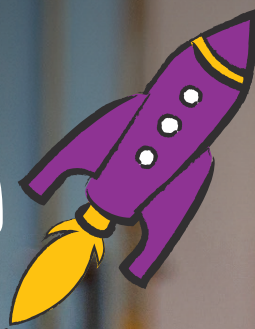


inspire

Your supporter magazine

Autumn 2026



New term, new possibilities

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The Children's Trust
For children with brain injury

Making every space count

Located in Tadworth, Surrey, our national specialist centre offers a peaceful, homely environment. Nestled among 26 acres of beautiful woodland and gardens, our facilities provide a welcoming space for rehabilitation. Here, families can spend time together and children can play after lengthy hospital stays.

Thanks to your support, we're continuing to improve our resources, and we're excited to share that a number of enhancements have been completed recently to develop facilities for children, young people and staff.

New hoists (mechanical lifting devices) have been installed in the New Cheyne Centre. After a severe brain injury, many children struggle with movement and coordination, needing support with everyday things like walking and standing. A new sensory room has also been created to provide a safe, controlled environment which supports sensory needs, reduces anxiety and improves communication.

Supporting children's wellbeing extends beyond our indoor spaces.

We've also renovated one of our playgrounds, creating more opportunities for play, exploration and having fun!

None of these improvements would be possible without your support, thank you.



Elsie engaging in a therapy session



"The Children's Trust changed our life."
Shauna, Seb's mum

Seb's story

Seb was ten months old when a pneumococcal infection triggered a series of health issues that led to a brain injury. Five years on, mum Shauna shares how this has affected Seb and how support from The Children's Trust has made a lasting difference to their lives.

As a result of his brain injury, Seb's development has been affected and he faces significant challenges in his daily life. He is unable to walk, talk, sit independently or feed himself and requires constant support.

"Despite his challenges, he's such a happy child" says mum Shauna.

Seb attends a school for children with disabilities, where he loves his routine, friends and weekly swimming session. Whilst Seb can't communicate with words, he expresses himself through gestures and vocalisations.

His family are grateful for the care and help they received during two rehabilitation stays at our national specialist centre. "They supported us wholeheartedly through the worst time of our family's life."

Our Community Rehabilitation Service continued to support Seb as he transitioned home and to nursery. Our expert therapists worked with the nursery to ensure they understood Seb's needs and how best to support him.

Mum Shauna reinforces why our focus on every child is so important:

"... children with disabilities are still children. They may not be able to talk to you, but they understand and pick up on a lot more than people sometimes realise. You may think they can't do something, like come to a birthday party or take part in an activity, but the experience is just as relevant to them, they're no different."

Meet the team

Laura Buttimer, Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist

Laura has worked in our rehabilitation team for almost three years helping children and young people regain skills, build independence and participate in everyday activities that are important to them. This includes essential daily tasks such as washing, dressing and toileting, as well as returning to education, social activities and personal interests. Our Occupational Therapy team take a holistic, child-centred approach, considering physical skills, cognition, sensory processing, social participation and fatigue.

"I love the problem-solving aspect of my job and an exciting part of my role is integrating neurotechnology and robotic devices into our therapy programmes to help children and young people achieve their goals."



Laura has recently led pioneering pilot at The Children's Trust, introducing new technology and equipment previously only used with adults, and was invited to present her work at the European Academy of Childhood Disability Conference in Galway.

"It was amazing to represent the innovative work we are doing and connect with colleagues across the world".



Leo using the Guldmann hoist, an example of neurotechnology

Creating brighter futures

Growing demand for our specialist services

Every year, 350 children in the UK experience a severe brain injury. When that happens, every moment counts. The earlier rehabilitation begins, the better the outcomes, but right now we can only support a fraction of those who urgently need our help.

Generous donations help our plans to expand our national specialist rehabilitation centre

We're so grateful to all our wonderful supporters who share our passion and determination to transform the lives of more children and young people with brain injury, and their families. Supporters like Peter and Ann Brown whose generous gift of shares has helped fund essential building works to expand our services.

How we're delivering expert care and cutting-edge equipment

To respond to an unmet and growing need, we are renovating and repurposing an existing building adjacent to our existing therapy centre. Thanks to amazing supporters like you, this new, fully accessible space will enable more children to access life-changing neurorehabilitation at a crucial stage in their therapy. Bringing together innovative technology and the expertise of our specialist teams will give more children the support they need on their journey.

Neurotechnology is helping children rebuild their lives

When a child sustains a brain injury, essential communication networks in the brain that coordinate speech and movement can be disrupted. Neurotechnology harnesses neuroplasticity – the brain's ability to create new pathways and strengthen others. Robotics allow children to practice limb movements precisely and intensively, rebuilding and strengthening the pathways in the brain, helping them to relearn vital skills like standing, walking and using their hands again.

Your support matters

Our project team has been working throughout the summer to ensure the refurbishment is completed on time, and we look forward to welcoming children and their families into this new space for neurotechnology very soon. This is only the beginning. Along with the therapy areas and educational spaces we have created, we aim to raise an extra £130,000 in the next year to upgrade equipment, systems and to create much-needed storage. We also plan to create a family room to provide a welcoming area for families to meet and relax whilst their children are in therapy sessions.

Your continued help will make this vision a reality, so please donate today.



thechildrenstrust.org.uk/donate-inspire



Outstanding volunteers



Huge thank you

The Graham family – Diane, Bill and Dom from Watford – are special volunteers, generously giving their time to help raise awareness and vital funds to support our work. As well as regularly leading visitors on tours of our national specialist rehabilitation centre in Tadworth and giving speeches at fundraising events, Diane has taken on some impressive challenges over the years. One of her most memorable was completing the UK's highest free-fall abseil from the ArcelorMittal Orbit, in London's Olympic Park – and her son Dom joined our London Marathon squad.

“Volunteering gives me a sense of wellbeing, of pride to be associated with such an amazing, caring organisation and knowing that in a small way, I'm helping families with the support they need at a difficult time in their lives”. Diane Graham

The Graham family have a deep connection to our work. Their son Nicholas, who passed away in 1999, had multiple disabilities and received respite care at The Children's Trust as a child from 1986 to 1993.



We hold an annual evening of remembrance to support bereaved families. “It's a lovely evening”, says Diane “and it shows how much The Children's Trust cares. It reminds parents that the charity will never forget our children existed and that we, their families, are not forgotten.”

Join our volunteer team

Find out more:
thechildrenstrust.org.uk/volunteer



Enrichment activities

Your donations help ensure children and young people with brain injury and neurodisability experience moments of fun, freedom and adventure that support their wellbeing and create lasting memories for them and their families.



Laura receiving support to water the plants



Miles enjoying an animal experience



Xander gently stroking Marco, our Pets As Therapy (PAT) dog



Cruising along the River Wey



Keira taking part in ceramic painting

Your donations help children enjoy all the fun of childhood. Please donate at:
thechildrenstrust.org.uk/donate-inspire

Support our work

Your donations make a difference

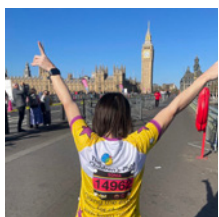


As the seasons change and children quickly outgrow clothes, toys and books, it's the perfect time to support The Children's Trust shops with your preloved items. Last year, 67,500 incredible supporters donated more than 127,000 bags of quality stock, helping to raise vital funds.

Last year alone, we sold 50,000 children's books, raising £60,000, while toys and games generated a further £273,000. Many of these much-loved items are donated back once they're outgrown, creating a wonderful cycle of giving. Thank you for your continued support.

Find your local shop: thechildrenstrust.org.uk/shops

London Landmarks Half Marathon 2027 – 4 April 2027



Take on one of London's most spectacular running events and make every mile count for The Children's Trust. This half marathon is a unique closed-road race through the heart of the capital, taking runners past world famous sights, such as Big Ben, St Paul's Cathedral and the Tower of London.

Register your interest today and join our Squad by completing an application form:
thechildrenstrust.org.uk/landmarks
Or to find out more, email sports@thechildrenstrust.org.uk



A lasting legacy on the road

Gifts in Wills are extremely important to us, meaning we can provide continued support for children, young people and families for many years to come. Thanks to a very generous gift left by the late Mr Jim Bush, we've been able to buy a new minibus which will help children with brain injury travel safely to hospital appointments, family outings and other activities in comfort and security.



Jim volunteered with us for more than 20 years, building lasting friendships and finding renewed purpose through his role. Jim's son, David, reflects:

"When [Dad] retired, he jumped at the opportunity to volunteer – not only was he touched by the plight of the families and was prepared to help in any way he could, but he also was very grateful to The Children's Trust because he developed friendships, worked in a team, and it gave him a new purpose in life."

In 2025/26 we received an amazing £839,260 from Gifts in Wills left by our incredible supporters.

The best gift you can give a child with a brain injury is the gift of the best life possible. And when you



consider The Children's Trust in your Will, that's exactly what you'll do.

Visit thechildrenstrust.org.uk/legacy to find out more information.