

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

### **ABOUT EDINBURGH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL CHARITY (EHC)**

Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity (EHC) believes that nothing should get in the way of being a child. We exist to transform the lives of children and young people in hospital so they can be a child first and a patient second.

As a result of what we do, we know that:

- Children and young people's lives are less interrupted by illness
- Children and young people are less scared of hospital and have a positive experience
- Children and young people's families are better supported and comforted
- Children and young people have an improved experience of healthcare in their own community

We provide:

- **A Grants Programme**  
We distribute grants to the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People (RHCYP) and other children and young people's community healthcare settings. This could be for enhancement to facilities or for life saving equipment. Most recently we enhanced the RHCYP with a £3.1million art and therapeutic design programme to create spaces that support recovery, engagement in treatment, provide distraction and reduce anxiety. We also recently brought life-changing laser surgery to the hospital, only the third of its kind in the World, which will mean children with epilepsy will be seizure free.
- **The Children's Wellbeing Service**  
The Children's Wellbeing Service supports babies, children and young people of any age who are visiting the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People (RHCYP) or the Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Melville Unit, also housed within the RHCYP.

We deliver a range of activities and supports to help children and young people to have a positive experience in hospital. We work with the child or young person to identify the issues they are facing whilst in hospital; and agree and deliver a range of activities and interventions to support them.

- **A Volunteer Programme**  
We rely on EHC volunteers to help us transform the hospital experience for children and young people. We also fund the NHS Volunteering Service within Children's Services and arrange volunteering opportunities for businesses within the hospital.
- **The Hospital Shop**  
Not only does this raise vital funds and awareness of the charity but provides a service for children, young people and their families while in hospital.
- **Play and Family Support**  
We provide distractions to enhance hospital visits including play areas, tablets at every bedside, landscaped outdoor areas and overnight accommodation for parents.

The hospital environment is unique. We might work with children who may have experienced a sudden illness or injury; and others who may have a life-long condition or disability. We see the child not their condition and find creative ways to build trust and communicate.

The Children's Wellbeing Team identify and support the non-clinical needs of a wide range of children and young people in the hospital, and provide a range of focussed activities, in an age appropriate, engaging facility, called The Hub. The Hub, located in the hospital, is a unique facility in a children's hospital setting which provides a safe space away from clinical areas for children, young people and their families where they can receive a range of support and take part in activities which support wellbeing and build resilience. We also work across all wards and departments of the hospital, supporting children and young people to engage with treatment and feel less anxious or stressed. We work with numerous partner organisations to link children and young people to support in their local communities.

Our Arts Programme is a year-round programme of activities, workshops and projects which bring distraction and fun to the wards and Melville Unit. We also work with clinical teams to provide creative solutions to support children's clinical goals. One great example of this was our Step by Step project which partnered Dancebase with the physiotherapy department, to encourage children to take part in their physio as dance classes. At any one time, we are partnering with over 30 organisations across Edinburgh and beyond, including Edinburgh Theatres, The Book Festival, Fruitmarket Gallery, National Galleries, Dynamic Earth and Edinburgh Dungeon.

We work creatively to support children and young people to have the best possible experience of hospital and healthcare.

ECHC is currently working towards the LGBT Youth Scotland Charter Silver Award.

ECHC relies entirely on charitable donations to fund its work. The charity has a fundraising team who generate income from a range of income streams including individuals, community groups, events, sports challenges, companies, trusts and foundations. The charity is also supported by a team of volunteers who help in the hospital, in our shop, in our offices and with fundraising. We could not do what we do without the incredible support of the public and our volunteers.