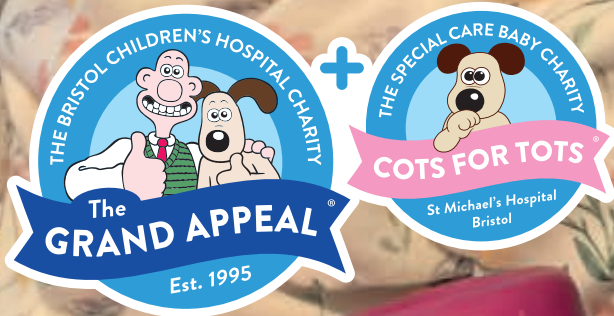


IMPACT REPORT

Spring 2026



THANK YOU

How YOU have helped bring hope, comfort and life-changing care to sick babies, children and their families.



This is all thanks to you...

Making Bristol Children's Hospital and St Michael's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit the very best it can be is only possible because of you. Our supporters, partners, donors and volunteers form a remarkable fundraising family. Your generosity sits at the heart of everything The Grand Appeal makes possible. It helps save and transform lives every single day.

Join us as we celebrate what we have achieved together.

Behind every number are stories of care.

From 2024 to 2025, together, we made this possible:



320 families stayed in our **free accommodation**, just minutes from their child's bedside



Our three accommodation houses **saved families over £1 million** by removing unexpected travel, support and accommodation costs



250 experiences at local attractions helped families make precious memories away from the hospital



Over 2,600 patients supported through our **Arts Unleashed** programme

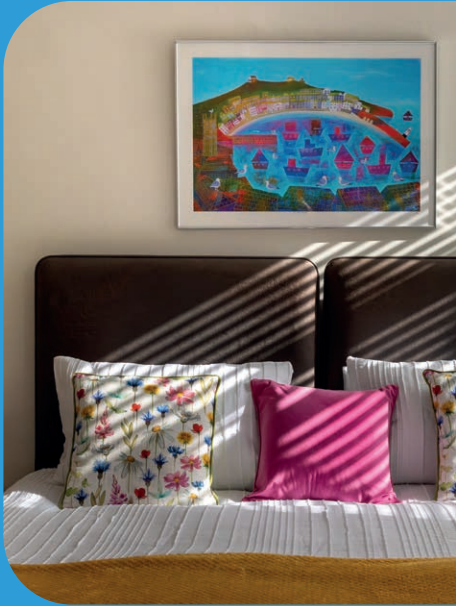


900 Starlight Ward sessions with our **oncology play specialist, Sian**



1,000 music therapy sessions provided joy, distraction and comfort to patients

FUNDING HIGHLIGHTS

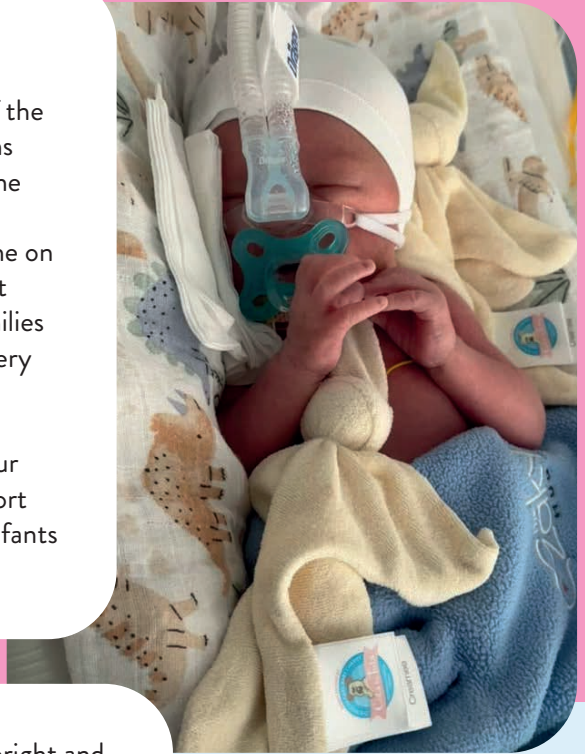


Our three family houses offer parents a safe, warm place to stay just moments from their child's bedside. With 28 en suite rooms, they give families comfort, calm and the space to gather strength during the hardest days. From 2024 to 2025, more than 320 families stayed with us. Together, our homes saved parents an estimated £1.35 million in accommodation and other costs. This year, we refreshed Grand Appeal House with brighter, more welcoming spaces. Thanks to your generosity, families can stay close to their babies and children when they need it most.



A pioneering **MRI guided laser** has been installed at Bristol Children's Hospital. This new Visualase system means some children with brain tumours and other neurological conditions can now receive minimally invasive treatment instead of open brain surgery. It offers precise laser surgery, less pain and new hope for patients. Thanks to generous support from the Mark Benevolent Fund, Bristol is now one of only four centres in the UK able to offer this procedure. It will help transform treatment for some of the most complex conditions.

Cots for Tots has funded a new **CPAP machine for the NICU**. Breathing difficulties are one of the most common reasons newborns need intensive care. This machine gives gentle breathing support, helping the tiniest babies breathe on their own without a ventilator. It eases discomfort and keeps families close to their newborn when every moment matters. Since it was funded in 2025, it has already helped 80 babies. Thanks to your generosity, it will go on to support many more, giving vulnerable infants the best possible start in life.



Arts Unleashed has become a bright and joyful part of life at Bristol Children's Hospital, helping children and families cope with the worries of being in hospital. Each week, our artists, musicians and entertainers bring colour, calm and creativity to the wards. From harpists to drumming, animation to painting, these sessions help children relax, have fun and feel like themselves. Many activities involve parents and siblings too. From 2024 to 2025, the programme supported more than 220 patients each month, with special events reaching nearly 100 more.



THE INSPIRATIONAL

“ In June 2024, life as we knew it changed. What started as a general illness for our three-year-old son, Freddie, descended into our darkest moments as he went into complete heart block.



Before he became unwell, Freddie was a happy and healthy little boy. He loved to sing ‘I Can Sing a Rainbow’ at the top of his lungs.

A couple of trips to the GP had diagnosed Freddie with a virus but the following day, he suddenly declined and we rushed him to our local hospital in Merthyr, South Wales. There, we learnt multiple aggressive viruses had made their way to Freddie’s heart, ravaging his body. He received two shocks from a defibrillator to regularise his heartbeat.

The Grand Appeal supported Wales and West Acute Transport for Children (WATCH) team met us as Merthyr and explained the need to get Freddie to Bristol, where he could access specialist cardiac treatment. Freddie was in total heart block. There wasn’t enough oxygenated blood getting to his internal organs, and he was in complete liver, kidney and heart failure. He was put on full life support before they loaded him into the ambulance.

He spent three and a half weeks on life support in the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). While on the unit, Freddie was put onto an extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) machine, which acted as his heart and lungs. He was the first patient in the UK to go on a ECMO circuit of this type, which Bristol Children’s Hospital has recently housed. The ECMO machine gave Freddie the most precious thing it could – time. The right decisions were made at the right times by the staff in PICU, and without these decisions being made, there is no doubt we’d have lost Freddie.

He suffered a global hypoxic brain injury when he was really poorly, which means the brain damage caused by his heart block has significantly impacted his functions. But, through neurorehabilitation, we’re working hard to get him as close as possible to the little boy he was before. He still doesn’t have his lovely voice back, but every day, we see progress.

If it wasn't for the WATCH team, the PICU staff and ECMO machine, we'd have been left without our little boy and our daughter, Millie, would've been left without her little brother.

We will forever owe them everything.

Since that terrifying time, we've been driven by a deep desire to give back, to say thank you, and to ensure that other families facing the unthinkable receive the same extraordinary care Freddie did.

Through the incredible generosity of our community, we've proudly raised over £15,000 for Freddie's Sunshine Fund. These vital funds are already supporting further staff training for the ECMO machine and PICU, helping to ensure that this lifesaving equipment, and the experts who use it, are always there for the children who need them most.

But this isn't just our achievement, it's yours too. Every step forward, every child helped, every ounce of hope restored is possible because of people like you. Your kindness is woven into the very fabric of Bristol Children's Hospital and The Grand Appeal. It's the reason families like ours still have their children in their arms.

And the need doesn't end here. We'll keep doing everything we can, and we hope you'll continue to stand with us. Because together, we can change lives.

Vickie, Freddie's mum



Gromit UNLEASHED³



HIGHLIGHTS

In 2025, Gromit Unleashed 3 returned with our most ambitious sculpture trail yet. As we celebrated 30 years of partnership with Aardman and Bristol Children's Hospital, the trail once again brought people together in an extraordinary show of creativity, generosity, and community spirit.

Thanks to all the Gromit Unleashed artists, partners, schools, businesses, volunteers, and hundreds of thousands of visitors who embraced the trail with such enthusiasm. We are deeply grateful for every moment of support.



A City Transformed

- Over 50 unique sculptures across Bristol and beyond
- Film-themed creations of Wallace, Gromit, Feathers McGraw and Norbot
- Designs by an extraordinary mix of global creative icons and local artists
- A spectacular launch featuring a steam train arrival at M Shed
- Our incredible volunteers dedicated 1,533 hours to keeping the sculptures clean and helping at the exhibition

Your enthusiasm turned the city into a celebration of imagination.

Boosting Bristol

- **Over 3 million people** visited the sculptures during the trail
- Venues across the city saw substantial rises in footfall and revenue
- Parks and attractions welcomed thousands of additional visitors
- New partnerships flourished across the region



International Reach

Visitors travelled from across the UK and around the world – including Europe, Africa, North America, the Far East and Australia.

The Greatest Dog Show on Earth

Our biggest exhibition to date **brought 35,000+ visitors in just 15 days**

**£2.1 million
raised to date**

- Over £400,000 was raised through fundraising and donations
- £1.6 million raised at auction, led by Helena Newman of Sotheby's Europe



A Legacy of Hope

Since 2013, Gromit Unleashed has raised over £22 million for The Grand Appeal - something made possible only through the kindness and generosity of people like you. Every sculpture, every partnership, every donation and every visitor helps create brighter futures for the families who need it most.

Thank you for being part of something truly special.



THEIR THANKS

“ Eilidh has always been a creative girl and is often crafting, painting, drawing or writing. During her visits back and forth to Bristol Children’s Hospital for checkups and procedures, we needed to keep her entertained. It was great that during her stay she could have moments of normality and take part in Arts Unleashed sessions. It gave her an area of focus, taking her mind off being in hospital. The sessions are so valuable to both children and their parents. The artists allow children to have some fun and put their imagination and creativity to use, producing beautiful pieces of art. And best of all, it put a smile on Eilidh’s face. After all she’d been through, I hadn’t seen a smile since before her surgery. It was a very special moment for me.

Desiree, mum to a Bristol Children’s Hospital patient

“ I even got to enjoy a Reiki session once a week – it helped to ground me on those particularly hard days. We can’t thank The Grand Appeal enough for making those things available to us because they truly are invaluable.

Claire, mum of a cancer patient at Bristol Children’s Hospital

“ Archie used a Halo Traction wheelchair every day in the run up to his spinal surgery. The wheelchair is a treatment for curved and twisted spines – it pulls at it with weights to straighten the spine so that the surgery is more likely to be a success. For Archie, he had 6kgs of weight pulling his spine straight, and he was amazing throughout it. For four weeks, he was in it for 22 hours a day. Without it, he’d have spent those four weeks confined to a bed in ‘traction’ instead. So, the wheelchair has been an absolute life changer. It gave him more movement in his neck and head, and meant he could still do the things he enjoys – visit the activities room, get some fresh air in the Oasis garden – all while undergoing treatment.

Hayley, parent of a former spinal patient at Bristol Children’s Hospital



WHAT THIS NEXT YEAR HOLDS

Even after such a trailblazing year, we never stand still.

There is always more that can be done, to continue to pioneer, innovate and support Bristol Children's Hospital and NICU.

As we go to print on this report, we have just broken ground on the UK's first purpose-built Patient Hotel for sick children and babies.

This significant development will allow patients to stay with their families and receive ongoing outpatient therapy and rehabilitation once they no longer require around-the-clock in-patient care. This new facility will gift families privacy, togetherness and some normalcy after long and repeat hospital stays.

It is with deepest gratitude that we say thank you to our long-standing partner, Jingle Jam for supporting this project for nine years, raising £2.66 million of the £4 million needed to make this project a reality.

This year is also a moment to look back and recognise just how far we've come. In 2026, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Bristol Children's Hospital, a milestone made possible by our very first capital appeal, which raised £12 million to build the hospital we know today. And the celebrations don't end there. Our extraordinary partners at Aardman mark 50 years of creativity, compassion and collaboration, they power so much of what we do and their impact lives within the very walls of the hospital.

THANK YOU

for helping make everything in these pages possible, for lifting one another up, and for standing with the children and families who need you most.

