

1

Strategic Aim 1 Family Support

Heart families tell us they appreciate what we do...

"This charity has helped so much, if it wasn't for them I wouldn't have been able to get up to see the little one in a hospital half as much."

"Excellent organisation and support for families."

"Having the stay at the caravan to look forward to really brightened up the last few months and gave us something to look forward to. To be able to get a few days away from everyday life, to relax and grow as a family."

But we know there are still gaps in our support services. We want to change that by growing our core family support services through

- ♥ Creation of bereavement support services
- ♥ Delivering a schools programme
- ♥ Ensuring strong support for families travelling outside of Northern Ireland
- ♥ Development of a Family Support Hub

Strategic Aim 2 Youth Services

2

Our current youth services programme works with young people aged between 12 - 16 and is a relatively recent initiative. We know it is making a difference when our teens tell us...

"I don't feel singled out or "unique" when on Summer Blast, I just feel as part of a group."

"I used to think I was alone in going through worries about my conditions, now I know that I'm not."

"I've done activities on this trip that I would have never thought I could do!"

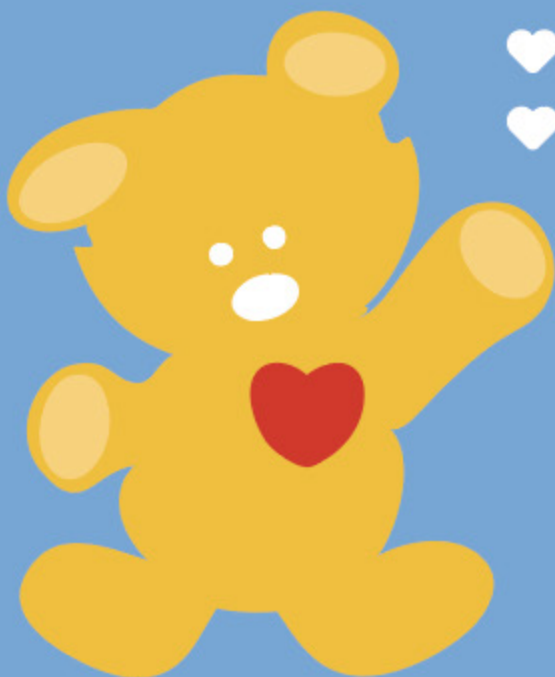
We plan to focus on this area by



Expanding our programme up to 18 years of age



Develop innovative ways to respond to the needs of young people with heart disease, making sure they have the right information to make their own decisions and get on with living their lives



3

Strategic Aim 3 Research

Supporting research initiatives is a priority area that heart families tell us they want us to fund and develop...

"Finding out why and how congenital heart disease happens is so important. I don't want more and more families to have to go through the stress that we did."

"Support should be given to developing new treatments for children with CHD."

Over the next three years we undertake to



Fund and support multidisciplinary research into causes, treatments and other interventions related to heart disease in children



Strategic Aim 4 Representing Heart Families

4



We are proud of our role as a trusted voice for heart families in Northern Ireland...

"CHT genuinely care and have done so much to raise awareness and push for essential services for the people who really need it most"

"They represent us with local government and at any important discussions. They provide us with a voice when we feel powerless!"

"They are passionate about the families getting the best care possible for heart kids."

But we know that in a changing health environment and with the development of the All Island CHD Network we can't rest on our laurels and we don't plan to. Instead we will work hard to...

-  Increase awareness of heart disease and impact on families
-  Campaign for improved detection services and a network solution where children with heart disease are the centre of all decisions

All quotes are gathered from survey responses, Facebook reviews and feedback forms.



**CHILDREN'S
HEARTBEAT
TRUST**

Northern Ireland's
Children's Heart Charity