

Children's Air Ambulance NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 3

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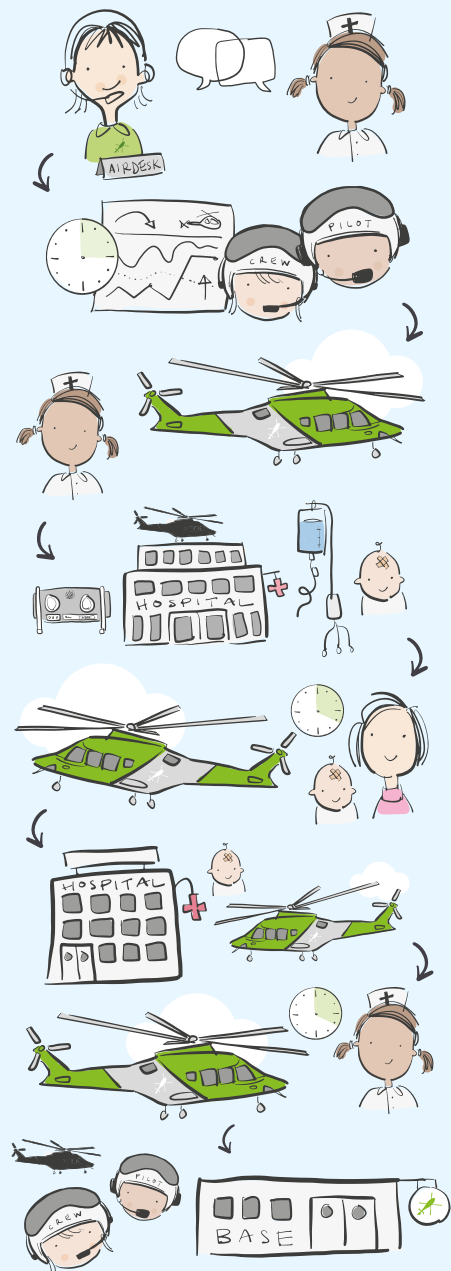
STAY IN TOUCH

Discover more about the amazing work of the Children's Air Ambulance. Meet our fabulous Crew Member Nichole and much more!

SKYWARD JOURNEYS

HOW DOES A CHILDREN'S AIR AMBULANCE TRANSFER WORK?

To complete a Children's Air Ambulance transfer, there are a number of steps involved:



1. **TASKING REQUEST:** The AirDesk receives a request from a Clinical Partner Team (CPT) to transfer a critically ill child.
2. **PLANNING:** Within 15 minutes, TCAA crew and pilots plan the mission, considering weather, weights, locations, landing sites, timescales and fuelling stops, and report back to the AirDesk and CPT.
3. **CPT PICK-UP:** Our crew travels to the agreed pick-up location. They have 20 minutes to bring the CPT onboard and load all their equipment onto the aircraft, secure everything, and provide a safety briefing.
4. **REFERRING HOSPITAL:** Upon arrival, there's a 90-minute window to stabilise and prepare the patient for transfer, including attaching necessary equipment and monitoring systems.
5. **TRANSFER:** The team then bring the patient and family member onboard and make sure all equipment is loaded and secured. A briefing then takes place, all this happens within 20 minutes.
6. **RECEIVING HOSPITAL:** After landing, there is another 90-minute window to stabilise the patient and hand over to the hospital ward.
7. **CPT DROP-OFF:** Our crew then loads all the equipment, secures it, and provides a safety briefing, then flies to the drop-off point where there is a 20-minute window to unload the CPT and their equipment.
8. **RETURN:** Our crew then returns to base ready for the next mission.

ENHANCING SKILLS ENSURING EXCELLENCE

Our Children's Air Ambulance Gold Training Days are carefully designed to enhance the skills and deepen the understanding of the CPTs we work with.

These sessions include diverse and realistic scenarios, from managing medical emergencies to providing emotional support to families, such as helping anxious parents who accompany their children on board. This holistic approach prepares our teams for various situations, ensuring the highest level of care and support.



We believe in being thoroughly prepared for any situation, and our comprehensive training ensures we have clear, reliable policies and procedures in place. Covering both clinical and aviation aspects, our training days bring together consultants, doctors, advanced nurse practitioners, and educators, fostering a collaborative learning environment that enhances the skills of all participants.

The outstanding feedback we receive confirms that our training meets the needs of our teams and supports our commitment to continuous improvement and excellence. These training days highlight our dedication to preparedness and comprehensive care, ensuring that we provide the best support to our CPTs and, ultimately, to the children and families who rely on us.



George's Story

PATIENT STORY

"I think it is safe to say that without the combined efforts of the Children's Air Ambulance and the WATCH team, George may not still be with us today so 'Thank You' seems like such a small thing to say but we will always be incredibly grateful for services like these and hope that they will still exist for many years to come to help all the children that need them."

When our baby George was just eight weeks old, I was told that my son needed to undergo an urgent echocardiogram. He had been diagnosed with a heart murmur and was referred to the hospital by the local GP. To my shock, it was discovered that he was in severe heart failure.

The paediatric consultants at Barnstaple told us that George's best chance was specialist treatment over 100 miles away at Bristol Royal Children's Hospital. We were still trying to get our heads around George's diagnosis, but then we met the pilots from the Children's Air Ambulance, and they were so supportive and reassuring. They reassured us that a transfer by air ambulance was considered the safest and quickest way of taking George to Bristol, given his very young age and serious condition. We felt in such safe hands and knew that getting George to the treatment he needed was all that mattered.

The helicopter had flown from Coventry to pick up a specialist retrieval team from Wales and West Acute Transport for Children (WATCH) and then to Devon to collect George and accompany him back on the flight to Bristol.

When the helicopter touched down in Bristol, George was taken for an echocardiogram, and it confirmed he had severe Dilated Cardiomyopathy and Mitral Regurgitation. The muscles and valve in his heart were weak and it meant he couldn't pump blood around his body.



George underwent further tests and X-Rays to try to determine the underlying cause of his condition. He was connected to several monitors and given medication.

It would have been a very long and stressful journey by road which could have taken more than three hours. If George's condition suddenly deteriorated during that time who knows how it may have ended.

Thankfully George responded well to the treatment. He fed well and gained weight and was allowed to come home after a week in hospital. This was great news for us all, especially my other son Jack who had missed his new baby brother and his mummy.

Sadly, there is no cure for George's condition, so he will have regular check-ups throughout his life and will always be on medication. In September 2022, George's dad, Chris, and I got married, and we had a lovely day as a family celebrating. Unfortunately, shortly after this, George's heart condition deteriorated rapidly and he went back into severe heart failure. After several visits to different specialist hospitals and a 6-month wait at Great Ormond Street, he received a life-saving transplant in February 2023.



George is recovering well, and it's still early, but all the signs show that George will go on to live a happy and active life with his new heart. After undergoing several medical interventions and meeting many wonderful doctors and nurses in the last few months, George has expressed an interest in becoming a doctor when he is older. Although, driving a digger is also quite high up on his list of aspirations!

Janita, George's mum.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Name: Nichole Cawthorn (AKA Coley)

Job Title: Children's Air Ambulance Crew Member

How long have you worked for TAAS?

I've proudly worked at The Air Ambulance Service since April 2023

What does a typical day look like for you?

A typical day for me involves preparing the aircraft in the morning, ensuring it's equipped and ready for urgent medical flights by 8:00am. I coordinate with pilots, attend briefings, and swiftly respond to taskings from AirDesk. Throughout the day, I provide care and support during flights, communicating with medical teams onboard. Between missions, I engage in training, collaboration, and community outreach. At day's end, the team and I ensure the aircraft is properly stored and equipment is maintained ready for the next day.

What has been your highlight so far?

Overall, the impact of the service we provide, knowing our efforts contribute to saving the lives of vulnerable children, highlight amongst all else. It can be a demanding yet fulfilling role that requires a blend of medical knowledge, creativity, teamwork and unwavering compassion.

What would you like to say to our supporters?

Thank you! Your unwavering commitment fuels our mission to provide critical care transfers for seriously ill children and babies. Your generosity enables us to soar higher and reach more young lives in need. Together, we are making a profound impact, ensuring that every child receives swift and specialised medical attention. Your support is the wind beneath our rotors, and we are immensely grateful for your compassion and belief in our cause.

Tell us a fun fact about yourself...

I was born temporarily deaf until the age of six, suspectedly due to being born two months premature and I'm a huge adrenaline junky.



STORE OF THE FUTURE WEST BRIDGFORD



Earlier this year, the Children's Air Ambulance launched its innovative 'Store of the Future' in West Bridgford. This unique store aims to raise crucial funds for lifesaving missions for critically ill babies and children across the UK.

The store's construction was made possible through a partnership with OAK Project Management, an award-winning, ethical and sustainable contractor based in Ireland.

Our grand opening featured the charity's ambassador, Jennifer Brady, also known as 'Charity Shop Girl'. She is a social media influencer with a passion for sustainability and charity shopping. Jennifer officially opened the store, inviting the local community in to explore the revamped space and discover some great bargains.

She expressed her excitement, saying "The store brings a new style and vision to charity retail, giving everyone a more enjoyable shopping experience, without removing the essence of why we love charity shopping. It has a brand-new donation station and by donating to the charity shops we are keeping the items out of landfill and in turn supporting a deserving charity with vital funds to keep saving little lives."

For more information about our 'Store of the Future', visit our website or scan the QR code below.



<https://airamb.co/45Hwyow>

WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

JUMP ON BOARD AND JOIN #THECREW THIS SUMMER!

#TheCrew is our exciting club for children and young people where they can learn new skills and support the vital work of the Children's Air Ambulance. It's completely free to join and easy to sign up. All we ask is that each member tries to raise £25 for each year they are with us. If they do a great job by either raising funds or spreading awareness, they could achieve Silver, Gold, Platinum or Highflyer membership levels, which each come with additional rewards. For more details or to find out more about our exciting #TheCrew activities, including our Seasonal Badge Challenge, please email thecrew@childrensairambulance.org.uk.



CALLING ALL SHOPS, PUBS, CAFES AND EVERYTHING ELSE IN BETWEEN!

Can you host a free collection tin for us? Collection tins are a free, easy, and flexible way of fundraising for us. Simply pop one in a secure area of your venue and let spare change gather over time! For more information on our collection tins, please use one of the contact methods provided on the back page.

YEO VALLEY ORGANICS

From the 1st July, the Children's Air Ambulance has been part of the Yeo Valley Organics customer vote whereby customers can donate their 'Yeokens' to us. For more information and to donate your 'Yeokens' please visit this website: <https://www.yeovalley.co.uk/yeokens/donate>



IT'S FREE TO SIGN UP AND YOU GET 10 YEOKENS TO DONATE!



HOW REGULAR GIVING SUPPORTS THE CHILDREN'S AIR AMBULANCE

To maintain the bespoke aircraft and ensure the best care is available to children across the UK, we need to be able to plan. Knowing that our supporters have committed to giving every month, even just £1, allows us to keep our service the most effective as possible.

For those who already give regularly... THANK YOU SO MUCH!

If you would like to become a regular supporter, or would just like to find out more, please scan the QR code with your smart phone camera or call our friendly supporter experience team on 0300 3047 697.



FANTASTIC FUNDRAISERS

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all our fantastic fundraisers! Your time and effort are crucial to our mission... **THANK YOU!**



Alice



Cold Ashby Golf Centre



South Yorkshire District Assoc., Camping & Caravanning Club



High Level Guilds Group



Hollym Airfield



Holme Valley Young Farmers Club



Western Region, Royal Sun Alliance Pensioners Assoc



Crescent School

More details on how to 'fundraise your way' can be found on the back page.



YOUR SUPPORT MAKES IT POSSIBLE

£3,600

COULD FLY ONE COMPLETE MISSION FOR CHILDREN'S AIR AMBULANCE.



PLEASE SCAN ME TO DONATE



OR DONATE ONLINE AT

theairambulanceervice.org.uk/childrens-air-ambulance



A MONTH COULD PAY TO FLY ONE OF OUR AIRCRAFT ONE MILE EACH AND EVERY MONTH.

£40

COULD HELP BUY A PAIR OF EAR DEFENDERS TO PROTECT LITTLE EARS.

£24

COULD HELP PAY FOR 2,400L OF OXYGEN TO BE CARRIED ON BOARD OUR HELICOPTER.

£10

FUNDRAISE YOUR WAY



Whether you're a seasoned fundraiser, planning your first event, or want to join us at one of our events to help raise awareness and vital funds for the Children's Air Ambulance, our team is here to help. For more information, please visit our website, airamb.co/fundraise, scan the QR code with your smart phone camera or call our friendly Supporter Experience Team on **0300 3045 999**.



STAY IN TOUCH



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The Air Ambulance Service
SAVING LIVES



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Part of The Air Ambulance Service.
Registered Company No. 4845905.
Registered Charity No. 1098874.

Donations gratefully received enable The Air Ambulance Service to meet the clinical needs of patients by covering the operational costs to ensure all our vital services are ready to respond.

This newsletter cost 9p to print.