

The Archie Foundation

We're here for you



The Archie Foundation Newsletter April 2025

Dear Mel

It's audit time again at The Archie Foundation which is always a great opportunity to review our achievements and impact. I'm delighted to share with you that 2024 was another record breaking year for the charity with growth and improvements across each of our key measures.

I really hope you feel the same sense of pride that I do as you read about Archie's achievements - it's very much a team effort and you are a key part of this! The difference we collectively make for local babies, children and families is genuinely priceless, both at an individual level and much wider as the ripple effects of Archie support help improve the communities that these children will help to grow and shape.

Some of our work is high value, involving lots of long term planning and reams of red tape, but much of what we do is relatively low value intervention - small acts of kindness and support that can result in life-changing outcomes. None of it would be possible without your help and for this we are immensely grateful.

Please share this newsletter with friends, colleagues or family members who might be interested to learn more about Archie's work, whether that is to access our services or to get involved in supporting our fundraising.

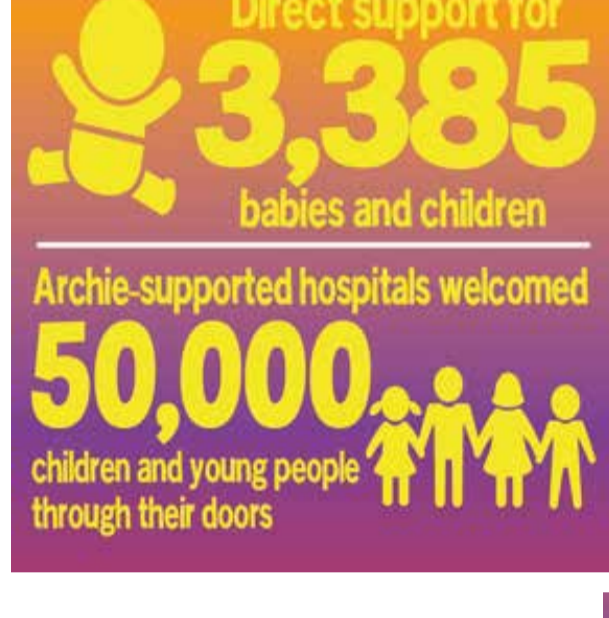
Best wishes

Paula Cormack

Chief Executive

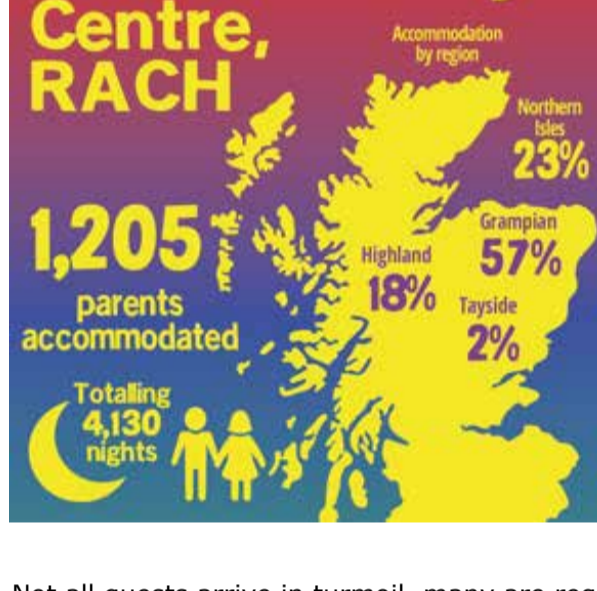


Over the course of 2024 Archie supporters raised and donated over £2million to help us deliver our highest ever levels of direct support for local babies and children with healthcare and/or bereavement support needs.



Thanks to Archie supporters we were here for local families at precisely the times and places when they needed it most. From 2023 to 2024 we recorded a 16% increase in the number of babies and children who directly benefitted from Archie's support. This is undoubtedly a sign of the challenging times we live in but it also points to increased awareness about Archie services, meaning more and more families know who to turn to in their time of need. The hospitals we support welcomed approximately 50,000 children through their doors last year and with a steady stream of new requests for help, Archie support and reach will undoubtedly grow further through the course of 2025.

The appointment of Bereavement Support Workers in Highland and Tayside in 2024 completed the roll out of Archie's Child Bereavement Service across North Scotland and we now offer all aspects of this important service across all regions, including bereavement support training for professionals working with children and regular activity days so bereaved children can build friendships in a safe environment with others who have had similar experiences to their own. Referrals were up on the previous year with an especially encouraging increase in direct requests from families, which points to growing awareness of our service and word of mouth recommendation from families we've helped.



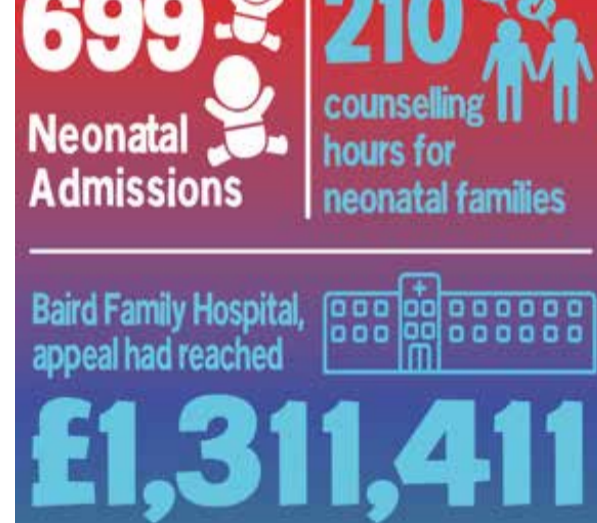
The Archie Family Centre is one of the most appreciated services we offer, providing a home from home for parents with children in RACH or babies in Aberdeen Neonatal Unit. Archie Support Manager, Gillian, keeps the Centre running like clockwork but also finds time to offer a supportive listening ear (and sometimes even a shoulder to cry on) for anxious parents. She regularly welcomes in emergency arrivals - shocked and terrified parents who are desperately trying to put on a brave face for their child are instantly reassured by her calm and welcoming manner. Gillian keeps a small stock of pyjamas and toiletries for families arriving with just the clothes they stand in and she also has a big stock of knitted toys in her office so she can invite nervous and shy siblings to choose a companion for their stay.

Not all guests arrive in turmoil, many are regular visitors who spend a couple of nights here before attending regular check-ups or who attend for relatively simple elective procedures. Some of our guests stay with us for weeks, even months, while their child is cared for. Regardless of the circumstances, any hospital admission is a time of heightened emotion and having a home from home like the Archie Family Centre makes the world of difference during challenging times. The fact we can offer this is all thanks to Archie supporters - thank you so much for caring.

The number one aim of our 2022-24 business plan was to help ensure that every child with healthcare needs receives the support they deserve. A key part of this has been helping address the financial barriers that too many families face in accessing help and resources for their child. For many this starts with the absolute basics like funding the bus fare into hospital. For others it includes funding life-changing "extras" that could never be funded by the NHS. Some of these items are used in hospital to support hundreds of children over the course of a year while others are individual applications for use on a daily basis at home and in school. We also funded quite a number of "extras" that most people expect and assume are provided by the NHS - things like funding wheelchair hire for children post-surgery or for young patients enduring long-term treatment like chemotherapy who are too physically weak or exhausted to bear their own weight.



Last year we saw a 43% increase in the number of funding applications received and awarded. In value terms however the increase was just 11%. While this might at first glance appear odd, it reflects our focus on direct support to families for whom relatively low value support and small acts of kindness make the world of difference, while holding steady on our higher value support for NHS paediatric services.



Also within our top 3 priorities for the period 2022-24 was supporting neonatal services. This encompasses Archie's Baird Appeal, which aims to deliver the difference at the new Baird Family Hospital in Aberdeen, together with a stated aim to extend our support for neonatal services into the Highlands and Tayside. We still have some way to go to achieve our £2m target for the Baird but through close working with our NHS colleagues we've ensured that the majority of funds raised to date have been put to immediate use in Aberdeen Neonatal Unit. Specialist equipment purchased with Baird Appeal funds is now in use and has already helped to save the lives of countless babies. We've also now funded some specialist kit for Raigmore's Special Care Baby Unit and Ninewells NICU, and we're working with

both teams on future plans and opportunities.

The Magical Space Where Fundraising and Supporting Children & Young People Meet!

Fundraising is key to everything we do and we're incredibly lucky to have the support of some really passionate and committed supporters who give up their free time to organise events and activities for us across the regions. This weekend sees the return of Archie's Variety Show at the Tivoli Theatre in Aberdeen, which this year is being run by an amazing volunteer committee. The event, which showcases the tremendous courage and resilience of children supported by The Archie Foundation and NHS Grampian, is tremendously therapeutic and uplifting both for the cast and audience and I really can't recommend it enough. If you've not got your tickets yet book them now while you still can. This photo of the encore at last year's event sums up the energy and atmosphere beautifully!



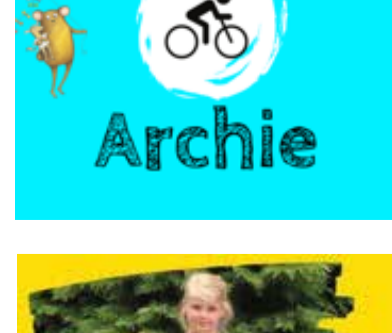
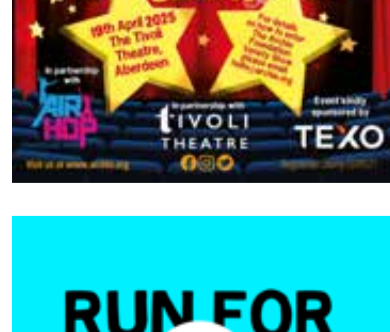
Together Let's Make The Archie Foundation's 25th Year Our Best Ever!



We're really fortunate to have supporters right across North Scotland, supporting Archie events and delivering their own "in aid of" events. In Grampian, volunteers are delivering the Variety Show and we also have a brilliant volunteer committee supporting the delivery of our Disco Ball in August. In Highland we have an amazing fundraising committee who are staging another of their legendary Prosecco Picnics in June and in Tayside we have groups and friends and colleagues putting their best foot forward

in the Kiltwalk. Fundraising comes in many shapes and sizes with opportunities for all. Get in touch today if you'd like to bounce any fundraising ideas around or check out our A-Z of fundraising ideas!

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Please donate today



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