



“Lia’s Wings helped
save our baby’s life.
We will never forget
your kindness.”



Hospital
air transfers
for children

Impact Report 2024/25

Helping families whenever and wherever they need us

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Welcome to our 2024/25 Impact Report. This year, we've grown and adapted to meet the rising needs of the families we serve. As demand increases, our determination to step up has never been stronger. Every step forward is possible because of you, our generous and committed supporters. Together, we're ensuring children receive the vital care they need, and that no family has to face their hardest moments alone.

We hope you feel inspired as you read the stories of these brave children and their incredible families, and see the difference your support has made over the past year.

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Charlotte Young
CEO

This year has shown us once again just how vital our work is for families across the UK and beyond. Demand

for our services continues to rise, and we have risen with it — adapting, strengthening, and finding new ways to ensure children and their families have the very best care and support, during some of the hardest moments of their lives. We're proud to have helped more children than ever before.

Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do. We are so grateful to the NHS transport teams and our partners at Skycare Repatriation, IAS Medical, and GAMA Aviation, whose expertise and commitment make it possible for children to reach the vital care they need. To our flight teams, your compassion and dedication shine through every transfer. You work tirelessly, often in challenging circumstances, to bring safety, comfort, and hope to families — the impact you have is truly immeasurable.

At the centre of it all is Lia. She is our guiding light, remembered and celebrated, and known by every family we support. She continues to shape who we are and how we work.



Dean Gillespie
Chair of Trustees

As Chair of Lia's Wings, it is both a privilege and a profound responsibility to reflect on the year gone by.

Our dedicated team has carried out life-changing transfers for children of all ages — from fragile newborns requiring neonatal intensive care, to young people in urgent need of complex surgery far from home. Each journey is unique, but all are guided by compassion, professionalism, and determination to stand with families during their most challenging moments. Our Family Hub has also grown in significance, providing parents with emotional support and practical guidance when needed most.

Our Board of Trustees is inspired by the resilience of families and the dedication of our staff and partners. I also thank our brilliant CEO, Charlotte Young, for overseeing the charity's transformational growth. Together, we are advancing our three-year strategy with the ambition to expand services and reach more families than ever before. None of this is possible without our supporters — to every donor, fundraiser, partner, and friend: thank you. With your support, Lia's Wings will keep flying further, reaching more children, and honouring Lia's legacy.



Charity Overview

Vision

Lia's Wings envisions a future where every child and their family are given the opportunity to access the most appropriate healthcare and support for their immediate and ongoing needs.

What we do

Lia's Wings is the only charity delivering life-saving air transfers by plane both within the UK and internationally. We make sure babies and children receive the vital treatment they need, no matter where they are. Alongside these urgent medical transfers, we provide tailored, wrap-around support for families to help them through a crisis, creating improved long-term health and wellbeing outcomes.

Values

Valiant - We are big-hearted, pioneering and speak up for the families that need our help.

Reliable - We listen and respond to what families need, for however long the need us.

Brilliant - We are passionate and committed, and value every partnership that helps us transform children's lives.

Our year in stats



Each week a
child is referred
to our service

 14k

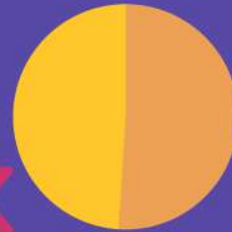
new followers
across our social
media accounts



We completed our
200th
air transfer



Neonatal cases
67.3%
Paediatric cases
32.7%



UK cases
49%
International cases
51%



31 premature babies
and their families
supported


First flight from
the USA



and to Australia


49

families received
help from the
Lia's Wings team



We are now reaching
DOUBLE
the number of children we
were before we became
Lia's Wings

We're proud to represent our
families at these groups:

-  National Transport Group
-  National Council for Child Health and Wellbeing



6

parents were connected
with Lia's Wings peer
volunteers who shared a
similar journey



Impact of our service on families this year



"Andy is absolutely thriving here at home. He is a happy, smiley, chatty boy. We are so incredibly thankful we get to have him home. We couldn't have done it without your help. We are beyond grateful."

- Andy's Mum

"Thank you again for the support - I can't stress how me and my wife are so happy that you guys exist and help families in such difficult times like we went through, and others go through too."

- Freya's Dad



"I was admittedly quite nervous; I don't really enjoy flying and the thought of my tiny baby being flown in an incubator was quite overwhelming. The Lia's Wings team arrived the next day and introduced themselves and quickly put me at ease. They were calm, professional and efficient... The transfer was so smooth; the plane ride was quick and it all felt a bit surreal, but the consultants were fantastic. I am so grateful for everything that Lia's Wings did for my family, and I can't thank them enough'.

- Ruaridh's Mum



"We are really grateful that you have helped our family. It means more than you will ever know, and we were so touched to read Lia's story. We simply couldn't have got Reggie what he needed at GOSH without Lia's Wings. His transfer has enabled him to access the specialist operation and care that he so desperately needed. We will continue to stay in touch and support this special charity through fundraising."

- Reggie's Mum



"Lia's wings were our saving grace and we couldn't have been more impressed by them... They made us feel at ease and reassured us during this stressful and emotional time... Without them we would have been stuck with no idea on what to do next. We are extremely grateful for their service and all the people involved in Lia's Wings charity."

- Lilah's parents



Lia's Wings' Superstars



Thank you to **Patrick, Melissa, John and Lily** for your unwavering support of Lia's Wings and for allowing us to continue in Lia's name.

A heartfelt thank you to our incredible **Ride for Lia cyclists**, who are on track to raise close to £100,000 from this extraordinary event. This beautiful legacy, now proudly named in Lia's honour, celebrates her enduring impact.



Thank you to our **flight teams** for being the heart of our charity. Thank you for sharing your expertise and caring for our children like they were your own.

Houlihan Lokey remains our biggest funder, having raised close to £1 million for our charity since our partnership began in 2018. We are continually amazed by their generosity and deeply grateful for their commitment to championing our small charity.

Thank you to **ISTAT Foundation** for helping us respond to families during our busiest period over the summer. They have supported us every year since 2019, awarding our charity over £50,000!



We are grateful to **Anthony and Diane Kim**, whose annual dinner covered the cost of several flights.

Thank you to wonderful supporters like **Vivek and Pedro**, who have taken on individual challenges to raise thousands of pounds for our charity.



We are amazed by the incredible support from **Thomas's Fulham School**, Lia's school, who chose us as their Charity of the Year. Through a read-a-thon, sponsored walk, staff Santa Run, summer fete and more, they raised over £64,000!



We're grateful to **The Sherling Trust** for making more life-changing air transfers possible — together, we're transforming lives.



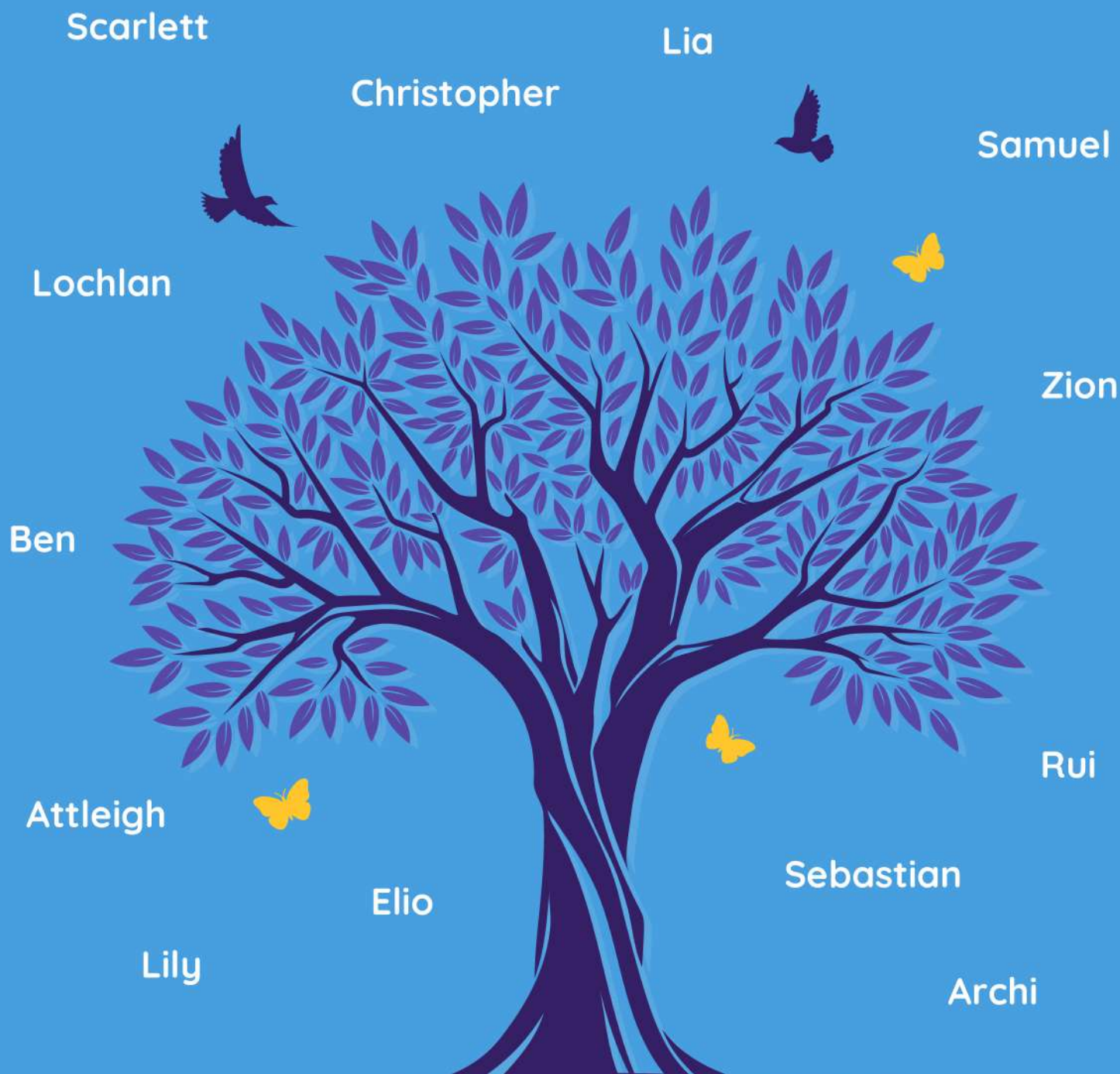
A huge thank you to **our families** and their networks who have gone above and beyond, raising over £96,000 to help other families who need our support.

Our partnership just keeps getting stronger, delivering more impact and even more fun! Employees across **Impellam Group** have taken part in Shark Dives, half marathons, golf days and even a Dragon Boat Race. Our 3-year partnership has raised over £100,000.



Our Memory Tree

We honour the babies and children gone too soon, and hold their families close in our hearts. They are forever part of the Lia's Wings family. Their love has left an indelible mark on our charity.



“There is no foot so small that it cannot leave an imprint on this world”

Meet Rio

When baby Rio was born eight weeks early while his family were on holiday in Cornwall, his life was immediately at risk. Complications during pregnancy meant he urgently needed specialist renal care at St Thomas' Hospital in London, over 280 miles away.



Thanks to Lia's Wings, Rio was safely flown from the Royal Cornwall Hospital to St Thomas' Hospital, avoiding the dangers of a long road journey. Our air transfer provided a quick and safe solution that ensured he reached the expert team waiting to provide the treatment that could save his life.



By stepping in at such a critical moment, we removed a huge burden from his parents and gave Rio the best chance to thrive. His parents told us the relief they felt when our team arrived, knowing they would no longer face the journey alone.

Today, Rio is receiving the specialist care he needs and showing great strength for the future. For Rio and his family, Lia's Wings made the difference between fear and hope, ensuring urgent access to

life-saving treatment when it was needed most.



We are incredibly thankful to Lia's Wings for removing one of the many burdens we were carrying. Their support meant Rio could get the urgent specialist care he needed without delay or risk... Thank you, Lia's Wings, from the bottom of our hearts. You helped save our baby's life, and we will never forget your kindness.

- Adam and Milda, Rio's parents

Air Transfers and Innovation: We're now helping a child each week!



In just two years, we've doubled the number of children we support. Today, we're receiving a new referral every single week.

This milestone is both a celebration and a challenge. We're proud to be reaching more families than ever before, ensuring that babies and children can travel safely to the specialist care they need. But the demand is growing every day, and every referral represents a child, a family and often an incredibly complex situation requiring medical and logistical expertise, as well as wraparound support.

What this means for families

- Children can reach the vital treatment and care they urgently need.
- Parents feel relieved and supported, knowing Lia's Wings manages every detail of the journey.
- By bridging long distances, families can be kept together when it matters most.
- For those stranded overseas, Lia's Wings is a lifeline, offering both practical help and emotional support.
- For families already facing large medical bills and air ambulance fees, we help ease the financial burden.

What this means for Lia's Wings

- We're facilitating more transfers than ever before, and the cases we support are becoming increasingly complex.
- Complex journeys mean families need greater emotional and practical support, and we are here to provide it.
- Rising demand is stretching our capacity, and we need more support to ensure no child is turned away.

Why referrals to our service are increasing

- **We are the UK's only air ambulance charity dedicated to children that operates internationally.** When families face a medical emergency abroad, they often have nowhere else to turn.
- **Trusted for safety & excellence.** Leading neonatal consultants recommend Lia's Wings, recognising our reputation for safely transporting premature babies.
- **International recognition.** Lia's Wings is recommended by embassies and was invited to present at neonatal conferences, including REaSoN, and directly to NHS transport teams.

Air Transfers and Innovation: Medical Escort Flights

When a child falls ill overseas, the only thing families want is to bring them home safely to the UK. But for many, that journey can feel impossibly far away. Sometimes a full air ambulance is essential. Other times, when a child is medically stable, there is another way — one that is safe, compassionate and keeps loved ones together.

This is where medical escort flights are transforming what's possible for families. These journeys use commercial airlines, with two neonatal or paediatric nurses travelling alongside the child to provide the care and monitoring they need. It's a lower-cost, lower-intensity solution that gives families another way home, and lets parents and siblings stay close every step of the way.



Growing our impact

11

medical escort flights arranged between September 2024 and September 2025 - more than double the previous year's total of 5.

18

children brought safely home with medical escorts since the service launched in 2023.

76%

less costly than a full air ambulance - meaning our charity can help more families.



Innovative solutions

We were founded as a fixed-wing air ambulance charity, but our mission has always been bigger than just an aircraft. We're innovating transport solutions to be adaptable to every child's needs and every family's situation. By increasing our use of medical escort flights, we're reaching more families, more effectively, giving children the chance to come home sooner, and helping families regain the comfort and stability of being together.

Q&A with our Neonatal Flight Coordinator



Clare Miller

Lia's Wings Neonatal Flight Coordinator and Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

What does a Neonatal Flight Coordinator do on a typical day?

It can be incredibly varied: talking to families overseas to establish their needs and work out how we can best support them, helping parents to understand the treatment their child is receiving (my role in the NHS as an Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner facilitates this). Liaising with overseas doctors, Emergency Travel Document Officials, air ambulance providers, insurance companies and UK hospitals to secure cots for babies when they reach the UK.

When there are no live missions, I am involved in training, developing care pathways, presenting at conferences and

study days for NHS transport providers around the UK, as well as working on projects to help medical assistance companies improve care for families. Evaluating the experience of the transfer by talking to parents and staff to see where we can improve is also a vital part of my role.

What goes into preparing for a neonatal transfer by air, and what are some of the biggest challenges?

There is a lot of work that goes into the preparation for an air transfer. After speaking to families, we need to obtain medical reports and open lines of communication with the hospital. Next, the family has to obtain an emergency travel document to allow the newborn baby (who has no passport) to travel. The baby needs to be accepted into a cot by a hospital in the UK, depending on their postcode and clinical needs. We then have to make sure the baby is clinically stable for transfer, book an air ambulance and team, and facilitate discussion between all parties. If an air ambulance is not a viable option, then families have to wait until the baby fits the criteria to travel on a commercial airline. This then involves more logistics, such as travelling with oxygen and lithium batteries that need authorisation from the airline in advance. In either case, ground transport must be arranged both to and from the airport so that a cot-to-cot service is provided by the medics undertaking the transfer. On the day of transfer, there is consistent communication between all parties to ensure all of the factors come together to provide the most comfortable, stress-free experience for our families. The language barrier is by far the biggest challenge in communicating with clinicians overseas, as well as the misconception around neonatal transfer held by insurance companies.



How do overseas transfers differ from UK-based ones?

UK transfers follow a recognised pathway where there are procedures and systems in place; this is what we are familiar with in the NHS. Explaining to clinicians in UK hospitals that it works differently overseas can be a bit of a challenge at times. With overseas transfers, the path is often untrodden, and we have to be more flexible and think outside the box. Although we have many years of experience, every family has a different set of circumstances, and every country, embassy, and hospital has a different process.

What are the main differences between a neonatal transfer by air ambulance and by medical escort, and how do you decide which is right for a baby?

In an air ambulance, we have control over the environment and can create a mini hospital in the sky, meaning babies can be transferred sooner (once stable), even if they require high levels of clinical support. For a commercial medical escort flight, there are different criteria to be met, and the babies have to be almost ready for discharge, ie needing minimal clinical support. Although we can still deal with emergencies if they arise, we take far less equipment and have less control over the external environment of travelling on a

commercial airline. The decision between the two is based on a number of factors and is not made by one individual. The circumstances of the family as well as the clinical condition of the baby are discussed between the treating clinicians overseas, the consultant of the air ambulance company, as well as the clinicians in the receiving hospital, myself, Charlotte and most importantly the parents, to make sure we find the most suitable solution for each family.



What impact have you seen Lia's Wings flights have on babies and their families, and is there a particular family or moment that stands out to you?

Sometimes families are in absolute despair when they find us, unable to obtain documents due to lack of support from embassies, not being able to visit or hold their baby in hospital, sometimes uninsured, or finding out they are not covered by their insurers for their specific situation. They might be struggling with finances and/or accommodation, have partners who need to return to the UK to work, or other children who have had to go back to school. Lia's Wings has a huge impact on making sure these parents feel supported and not alone until we can fly their baby home and reunite them with their wider family and support networks.

Every family and their unique story holds a place in my heart. We become so invested in their journey that it is an absolute privilege to be able to help. If I had to pick a stand-out moment, it would be: 20-plus family and friends at the airport at 5am, holding banners, cheering as we came through arrivals after 23 hours of flying, to welcome a family back after almost four months away.

A family that we managed to get home three days before Christmas despite every barrier that was thrown at us during the months we were supporting them. There were even storms and flash floods in the country they were in on the day of the transfer, leading me to wonder if I'd spend Christmas overseas with them!

But perhaps the most poignant is a family we transferred that had given birth to twins prematurely, very far from home. After many months, we were able to bring one twin home, but sadly, her twin had passed away when she was just a week old. Throughout the transfer, as well as caring for the surviving twin, I carried her ashes, transiting through a number of airports and boarding several planes. When we reached the UK, their grandparents were waiting at the airport to meet their grandchild for the first time. After they had welcomed her and her parents home, I handed them the ashes of the other twin. It was such a bittersweet and incredibly moving moment that is etched in my heart forever.

Finally, what message would you like to share with donors and supporters who make this work possible?

Please don't underestimate how life-changing this service is for families. Even when families are brought home by their

Their grandparents were waiting at the airport... After they had welcomed her and her parents home, I handed them the ashes of the other twin. It was such a bittersweet and incredibly moving moment that is etched in my heart forever.

insurers, the testimonies from parents are about the invaluable support they get from Lia's Wings — especially overseas. Language and culture barriers, sometimes not being able to visit or hold their baby, not understanding what is happening to their child in hospital or how to obtain the documents to get home, is incredibly frightening, and families often feel very isolated away from the support of their wider family. We give them the space to be able to celebrate the birth of their baby without being completely overwhelmed by the stress of their circumstances. Knowing we are alongside them for the journey, sometimes being able to talk to other parents who have been through similar experiences and being supported by Lia's Wings make all the difference.



Meet Sienna-Rose

A family holiday in Cancun turned into a nightmare when 19-month-old Sienna-Rose suffered a sudden brain haemorrhage and swelling, requiring emergency surgery to remove a blood clot. Her family were thousands of miles from home, facing overwhelming emotional and financial pressures.

Lia's Wings stepped in immediately. We coordinated the complex logistics of her air ambulance transfer, provided 24/7 support to her family while they were in Mexico, and contributed £20,000 towards the transfer costs. Working alongside the incredible generosity of the public, who raised over £150,000, we ensured that within just five days Sienna-Rose was flown safely from Cancun to Liverpool.



Our role didn't end on arrival. We worked closely with the NHS to guarantee a smooth transition into Alder Hey Children's Hospital, where she is now under the care of a specialist neurosurgical team. With the support of the hospital's dedicated staff, her treatment plan was put in place immediately. After her first night back in the UK, Sienna-Rose was already showing signs of comfort and beginning to return to her smiley self.

She was discharged after thorough investigative testing and a period of rehabilitation. Since bringing her back to the UK, Sienna-Rose is now thriving and developing as a healthy child of her age should. Her parents have been able to look after their other children, connect with support networks, and return to work.

The outcome of the air transfer for this family was truly life-changing. It not only ensured Sienna-Rose had access to world-class care but also gave her parents the chance to focus on their whole family again and rebuild a sense of normality.



New and evolving services: Clothing Bank, Toy Library and Legal Support

We are committed to evolving our support to meet the needs of our families. That's why we've introduced a Toy Library a Clothing Bank and started offering legal support and advice. Together, these initiatives mean we're not only helping children with treatment journeys but also standing beside families in the day-to-day challenges of having a child in hospital.

The Flying Toy Library

From fidget toys that ease anxiety to storybooks that soothe babies, every item in our Toy Library is chosen to meet the unique needs of the children we fly. For parents of newborn babies, these books create precious bonding moments, supporting early development during what is often their first chance to share storytime together. Older children can escape into games and adventures, reminding them they are more than just patients - they are fun, creative, sparky kids. Each toy and book will be loved by many families, creating joy for years to come.

This initiative was born from Lia's own love of storytime. We've included some of her favourites - *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*, *The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse*, *Mr Brown Can Moo! Can You?*, so that her joy can be shared with families.



The Clothing Bank

When a baby arrives early or a child becomes critically ill while abroad, parents are often unprepared. Our new Clothing Bank provides baby grows, hats, scratch mittens and clothes from preemie to 12 months. Each item offers comfort for the baby and reassurance for parents during a stressful time. We are so grateful to the families we have previously supported, who generously help us build this bank of clothing.

Family Legal Support and Advice

We are proud to be working with three of the UK's top law firms, Fletchers Solicitors, Horwich Cohen Coghlan, and Hugh James, to provide expert legal advice for families when they need it most. We know that when you are focused on caring for your child, dealing with legal matters can feel overwhelming, so our role is to make the process as simple, reassuring, and stress-free as possible. Through our partnership, families can access a free, confidential phone call with a trusted solicitor who will explain legal options clearly and offer practical advice.

New and evolving services: Supporting families alongside their travel insurer



When families face a medical crisis abroad, their needs often go beyond transport. Increasingly, we are working alongside travel insurers, not just to assist with logistics, but to ensure families have the emotional and practical support they need during an incredibly difficult time.

In the last year, over one in five families we supported overseas (22%) did not require a flight. Instead, they turned to us for guidance, reassurance and help navigating complex insurance processes, showing that our impact is not only measured in how many flights we have facilitated, but also in the comfort, clarity, and confidence we provide when families need it most.

As our reputation grows, families increasingly search for us as a trusted source of information and support. They come to us with questions, seeking someone who will listen, respond, and stand alongside them. And we are there, ensuring that every family has access to the care and guidance they need, whether or not they need to fly with us.

Looking ahead, we are actively building partnerships with more insurers so that families facing these situations can access our expertise more quickly and reliably.

Frankie was born at just 28 weeks while her parents were on holiday in Spain. Although they had travel insurance, delays and mixed messages left the family under huge stress. Lia's Wings supported them every step of the way, advocating with the insurer to make sure Frankie could return home safely by air ambulance. As her grandmother shared: "This has been an extremely worrying and stressful time... every time they [Frankie's parents] phoned us at home, they were in tears and frightened. This made us feel so helpless... causing us extreme stress and trauma... I sincerely hope that others do not have to endure the same distressing service." She also expressed her thanks to Lia's Wings:

Without your care and support through this traumatic time I'm not sure how any of us would have coped... from a grandmother's side the reassurance you provided was immense; we had every faith in you all... none of us will ever forget your care and kindness throughout.

- Danielle, Frankie's Grandma

Partners in flight



We work with a trusted network of air operator partners whose skill and reliability make safe, efficient transfers possible. Their support enables us to be highly responsive, providing state-of-the-art aircraft, skilled pilots, and, when needed, medical staff and equipment wherever and whenever they are required. Together with NHS transport teams and our family support, we make sure babies and children receive the vital treatment they need while families are supported through crisis. Thank you to our partners for being part of our 15-year journey.



Skycare Repatriation

Skycare Repatriation became a partner in 2025 and, in just a short time, has already proven essential to our work. Based at Biggin Hill Airport, their proximity to London makes them a critical partner for flights into the capital. Together, we have already flown ten children, including three critical paediatric transfers in partnership with the CATS team from Great Ormond Street Hospital. Among them were Rio and Spencer, whose stories you can read about in this report.



IAS Medical

Our partnership with IAS Medical began in 2017, and since then we have flown more than 40 children together to reach the care they need. In the past year alone, we have completed seven air transfers with their support. IAS Medical's flexibility and adaptability set them apart — they work seamlessly with a wide range of NHS transport teams, making them highly responsive to the complex and often urgent needs of our charity.



Gama Aviation

We first partnered with Gama Aviation in 2020, and in 2025 they expanded their role in our network by acquiring Capital Air Ambulance, one of our longest-standing partners. Together, across both

operators, we have flown more than 150 children to specialist care. Our partnership with Capital Air Ambulance also marked a milestone in our history, as we completed our very first medical escort flight with their team. Today, we continue to benefit from their base at Bristol, which remains an important hub for our work.

Meet Elsie

Elsie was born at just 28 weeks while her parents, Jo and Kyle, were on holiday in Corfu. With no neonatal care available on the island, she was urgently airlifted to a hospital on the Greek mainland.

For over two months, Jo and Kyle faced an exhausting and uncertain journey, far from home and unsure how they could ever bring their fragile newborn safely back to the UK.

That's when Lia's Wings stepped in. We handled everything – medical clearances, paperwork, and travel logistics – so Jo and Kyle could focus entirely on Elsie. Most movingly, we worked with the hospital team to make sure her parents could hold her for the very first time, the day before her flight home.

Kyle shared:

The support we received from the first phone call to the aftercare felt so personal. It's not just a job to them; they really care about us as parents and our baby. We couldn't have done it without them. Thank you so, so much.

Two of our neonatal flight nurses, Sanjeev and Josie, flew to Greece to escort the family home. They supported Jo and Kyle



with Elsie's care during the journey, helping them gain confidence as new parents.

Back in the UK, Elsie was transferred to Salisbury General Hospital, where she continued her recovery, and Jo and Kyle could finally be fully involved in her care. Just five days later, the family went home together. Jo reflected:

The relief we felt when we finally touched down on British soil, all of us together and safe, is immeasurable. Lia's Wings didn't just provide a service; they provided peace of mind and made what seemed like an impossible journey smooth and stress-free. We are eternally grateful.

Lia's Wings guided Elsie's family through a time of crisis, and now they are embracing life with their thriving little girl, confident about the future and surrounded by the support they need.

Fundraising: Record-breaking support for families

Thanks to your generosity, Lia's Wings raised more funds this year than ever before. Together, we are ensuring more children can access the life-saving air transfers they so urgently need.

Our strongest community of regular givers

We are proud to have our largest ever group of regular supporters – **56 people who give every month** and play a part in every child's journey. Their commitment allows us to plan for the future with confidence and make an even greater impact. If you'd like to join this growing community, you can find out more on our website.

Challenge events – our biggest year yet!

Challenge events raised more than ever before:

- **London to Paris Bike Ride** raised an incredible £149,000.
- **Royal Parks Half Marathon** and **London Landmarks Half Marathon** sold out, with our biggest ever team at London Landmarks.
- Our **Shark Dives** saw twelve fearless participants raise over £8,000.



- **Santa in the City:** 30 supporters from Thomas's Fulham and Gleacher Shacklock raised £3,000.
- **"Stair Miles" Virtual Event:** 72 participants joined the pilot, including teams from Impellam, Gleacher Shacklock, HCC, Fletchers, and community fundraisers.

Inspiring support from schools

Schools played a remarkable role this year, raising both funds and awareness:

Thomas's Fulham chose Lia's Wings as their Charity of the Year, raising an extraordinary £64,000 through creative events such as a sponsored read-a-thon, movie nights, and their hugely successful summer fete.

Hurlingham Academy selected us for their "First Give" Challenge, securing an extra £1,000 prize for Lia's Wings.

Glendower Preparatory School raised over £9,000 through fetes, markets, and even lemonade stands. Several pupils even asked for donations instead of birthday presents.

We are incredibly grateful to all the schools, staff, parents, and pupils who dedicated time and effort to support Lia's Wings.

Multi-year partnerships

Long-term partnerships give Lia's Wings the stability and sustainability we need to plan for the future. We are deeply grateful to the organisations who stand beside us year after year, helping to ensure that more children can reach the care they need.

Houlihan Lokey

Our biggest and longest-standing corporate supporter, now entering their eighth year of partnership with us. We are truly grateful for their extraordinary commitment. Through fundraising events and corporate initiatives, Houlihan Lokey has raised close to £1 million to fund life-changing transfers. Their unwavering support is a cornerstone of our work, and we cannot thank them enough.



Impellam Group

We are proud to work with Impellam Group and its brands, SRG, Carbon60, and Lorient, who continue to support us with enthusiasm and dedication. This year, we were also delighted to welcome new backing from Guidant Global and Comensura. We are especially grateful to Impellam for once again hosting their much-loved annual Dragon Boat Race,

taking on our first ever 24-hour Three Peaks Challenge which raised over £10,000, as well as other creative fundraising events. Their commitment has raised almost £100,000 for Lia's Wings, having a direct and life-changing impact on the children and families we support.

Caprinos Pizza

Since 2022, Caprinos Pizza and their customers have been valued supporters of Lia's Wings, raising funds through checkout donations and collection tins. Their ongoing commitment is helping us reach more families in need, and we are proud to continue this journey together.

Welcoming new ambassadors

We are honoured to have Tosin and Tony championing our mission and helping us reach even more families.



Tosin Adarabioyo -

Premier League footballer and Chelsea defender. Tosin has been connected to Lia's Wings since shortly

after Lia's passing, and has already shown extraordinary commitment. As an ambassador, he will help raise awareness so every child can access our support.



Anthony Kim - Global Head of Metals Trading at Goldman Sachs. Tony and his wife, Diane, are long-standing supporters.

Their annual Bordeaux Vintage Tasting and Dinner funds multiple life-changing transfers each year. Their ongoing support means the world to us.

Fundraising: Together, our families have raised over £98,000

One thing that never fails to amaze us is the incredible “pay it forward” spirit of our families. After facing incredibly difficult circumstances and experiencing life-changing journeys with Lia’s Wings, so many parents tell us, “I want to raise funds to help other families.” That determination to support others, even while navigating their own challenges, is nothing short of remarkable. Here are just some of the amazing ways our families and supporters have raised funds this year:

Seamus Mullins Racing Open Day – Elsie’s family organised this fantastic event at Jo’s workplace (Elsie’s mum). The day brought together colleagues, friends, and the racing community, raising an amazing £3,000 to support other families through Lia’s Wings.



Glendower Preparatory School – We were chosen as Charity of the Year, after Jess, Wilf’s mum and a teacher at the school, nominated Lia’s Wings. Thanks to the amazing efforts of pupils, families, and staff, they raised an incredible £9,000!

Angela & Clive’s coffee morning – Evan’s grandparents hosted a local coffee morning, bringing friends and neighbours together and raising £937.

In memory of Attleigh – Donations made at Attleigh’s funeral helped raise vital funds for other families.

Eva & Nic’s fundraising – Elisa’s parents raised an astonishing £37,000 by rallying support from family and friends through a JustGiving page.

Sponsored bike rides – Wilf’s dad, Louis, joined seven of his colleagues from Savills to take on the iconic London to Brighton ride, raising over £1,700 for Lia’s Wings.

Meanwhile, Sarah’s dad, Ricardo, and Evan’s dad, Simon, tackled the epic London to Paris cycle, together raising an incredible £2,887 (Richard) and £3,082 (Simon) in support of Lia’s Wings.

Jacob's family events – Jacob's family raised over £6,000 through a community event at Ballymoney Town Hall, as well as generous donations in memory of loved ones: Hannah's funeral (£870), Jacob's grandma; and Peter's funeral (£1,166), a close family friend.

Atlas FM partnership – Atlas supported us as one of their charity partners for the year, after we transferred their CEO's daughter, Penelope. They hosted Pink Tea Parties across their offices, raising over £4,000. Carl, their Regional Director, went even further and completed the gruelling 64-mile London to Brighton Ultra Challenge in just 16 hours, raising £2,482!



Premier Contract Supplies Golf Day – Organised by Jade, Daisy's mum, her company's golf day raised an incredible £7,000.

London awareness poster campaign – Millie's aunt generously donated ad space on the London Underground to raise awareness for Lia's Wings.

Josh's Ultra Challenge – Millie's uncle, Josh, battled 106km of tough terrain in the Isle of Wight Ultra Challenge, raising an amazing £2,131.

Lotte's 427-Mile challenge – Ruairidh's mum is running the distance of his air transfer and has raised over £900 so far.

Kobe's family challenges – Kobe's friends and family walked 10 miles from Cadoxton Station to the Principality Stadium in just over three hours, and his uncles, Jevon and Stafford, took on a daring shark dive, with no cage and only courage, swimming alongside 13-foot sharks. Through all their efforts, the family raised £10,987.



Black Cab fundraiser – Ben, Lilah's grandparent, is a London black cab driver. At the Heathrow taxi rank, drivers run charity collections, and Ben has chosen Lia's Wings as the next charity to support.

Abbey's 10K – Archie's Auntie took on a local 10K run and raised over £1,200.

The Lap fundraiser – Robert, Ste, and Alex, friends and relatives of Spencer, took on The Lap, a 47-mile trail ultra around Lake Windermere with over 8,500ft of elevation, and raised £2,741.

Hayley and Richard's fundraising – Lilah's parents raised £846 by bringing together family and friends in support through a JustGiving page.

Together, these efforts, alongside many others, including some incredibly generous donations, have raised over £98,000 this year. Every pound ensures we can continue supporting families when they need us most.

Fundraising: A special thank you

Our charity was built on a foundation of partnerships, and working collaboratively is at the heart of everything we do. We value these relationships enormously,

and we're proud to recognise the amazing companies, trusts, and foundations whose support has helped us raise vital funds and reach more families who need us.



- Houlihan Lokey
- The Impellam Group: Carbon60, Lorien, SRG Talent, Comensura and Guidant Global
- Golley Slater
- Caprinos Pizza
- Pula Aviation Services
- Gleacher Shacklock
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car
- Warburg Pincus
- Apollo Global Management
- Goldman Sachs
- Savills
- Linklaters
- Aversa Capital
- The Air Charter Association
- Sport Society
- ISTAT Foundation
- NEXT
- The Sherling Trust
- Souter Charitable Trust
- The PF Charitable Trust
- Leslie Smith Foundation
- Thomas's Fulham
- Glendower Preparatory School
- Hurlingham Academy
- Fletchers Group
- Horwich Cohen Coghlan Solicitors
- Hugh James
- Premium Care Solutions
- Complexus Care
- Atlas FM
- Passyunk Avenue
- McDermott, Will and Emery LLP
- Golub Capital
- St James' Place
- Altior Group Ltd



Meet Spencer

Eleven-year-old Spencer, from Skelton, is bravely facing Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia. His best chance for remission lay in a specialist treatment at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, but with a dangerously compromised immune system and feeling very unwell after a week in hospital, a seven-hour car journey or public transport were simply not safe.

That's when Lia's Wings stepped in. Working with Skycare Repatriation and CATS, the specialist transport team from GOSH, we arranged a safe air transfer from Newcastle to London, providing the infection-controlled environment Spencer needed. This flight gave him access to the treatment that would otherwise have been out of reach.



Alongside the transfer, we wanted to bring Spencer a little joy during such a difficult time, so we arranged a surprise video message from one of his football heroes and sent him a teddy for his hospital stay. These thoughtful touches made a real difference to his spirits while he faced tough days away from school and friends.



Spencer's journey is still ongoing, but this was a vital step forward. Thanks to Lia's Wings, he reached London safely to receive specialist treatment, and there have already been small but positive improvements in his condition.

I just wanted to reach out and thank you and tell you how grateful we are to your charity for funding the flight to transfer Spencer from Newcastle to London. His face was an absolute picture when he saw the plane, it lifted his mood so much and he was so excited. Spencer had spent the week in hospital where he felt so poorly, the thought of a seven-hour drive to London was unbearable for him, and such a worry for us in case he was poorly during the transfer. Your charity is absolutely incredible.

- Karen, Spencer's mum

Our three-year plan: An update on our service goals

We have worked hard to strengthen our services and expand the support we offer to children and families at their most critical moments. This period has been about building resilience, forging new partnerships, and ensuring that every family we help receives not only safe and effective transfers but also the emotional and practical care they need. Below is an update on the progress we have made across our key priorities.

Improving our neonatal and paediatric capability

By expanding partnerships with operators, including a new collaboration with Skycare Repatriation Ltd, we have increased our organisational resilience, broadened our geographical reach and improved our ability to act quickly on national referrals. These developments mean more families across the UK can rely on us during the most difficult moments of their lives, knowing that specialist support will reach them wherever they are. The strength of these foundations is already clear: **we are proud to have fulfilled every single neonatal and paediatric transfer within the UK, where our support was required.** Achieving this 100% response rate is both a logistical success and a powerful demonstration of our commitment, reflecting the trust placed in us by NHS



teams and families, and our determination to ensure every child can access vital care. This is an achievement we regard as one of the most significant outcomes of our three-year plan so far, and it sets a strong platform for the next stage of our growth.



Establishing a more robust package of support for overseas air transfers

We have made significant progress in strengthening support for overseas air transfers, an area of our work that is often complex and emotionally challenging for families. Each international case brings unique medical, logistical, and cultural considerations, but through lived experience and growing expertise we are now better equipped to manage them.

Families facing unexpected circumstances abroad can be confident that we will not only bring their child home but also guide them through what can otherwise feel like an overwhelming and isolating process.

A key milestone in this journey has been the appointment of Clare Miller, ANNP, whose expertise has significantly enhanced the care we provide for families with premature babies. Her role has transformed our support, combining specialist clinical guidance with the reassurance of someone who truly understands their experience.

This investment marks a major step forward in our family services. By embedding specialist expertise within our team and building systems that can adapt to the unpredictable nature of overseas transfers, we are ensuring that families can depend on us not only for safe transport but also for the compassion and guidance that make all the difference in such challenging circumstances.



Formalising our family care package

By creating a network of families to provide peer support, we have been able to foster stronger connections and a sense of solidarity for those facing similar challenges. These shared experiences often provide reassurance and comfort that only another parent who has “been

there” can offer. At the same time, we know that families require holistic support, so we have expanded our signposting to trusted legal partners and specialist organisations, ensuring that no one feels they are navigating this journey alone. Alongside this, our practical resources, such as the clothing bank and toy donations, continue to ease day-to-day pressures for parents during difficult times, offering small but meaningful forms of relief. Together, these measures are helping us build a more rounded, compassionate care package that supports families not just in the moment of crisis but throughout their wider journey.



Building our profile within the NHS

Finally, we have been building our profile within the NHS and the wider neonatal community. The growing recognition of the benefits of aeroplane transfers for complex cases has led to an increase in paediatric referrals, enabling us to reach and support more vulnerable children. We have also strengthened our collaboration with other charities to improve triage and extend our impact. A particular highlight was being invited by Cymru’s Inter-Hospital Acute Neonatal Transfer Service (CHANTS) to present at their Transport Study Day, an opportunity that underlined the value of our work and reinforced our role within the national transfer network.

Our three-year plan: An update on our fundraising goals

Lia's Wings exists to support every British child who needs an air transfer, whether within the UK or internationally. To make this possible, we need to raise at least £1.3 million each year. With demand for our service continuing to grow, it is vital that our fundraising is both sustainable and resilient. The key to this is diversifying our income so that we are never reliant on one single source of funding.

In our three-year fundraising plan, we set out different ways to secure funding for our services. Some worked out differently than expected, but by adapting and finding new opportunities, we built a more balanced mix of income. This gives us stability, helps us manage risks, and ensures every child and family receives support.

Corporate support: Our largest income stream

Support from companies continues to grow, and we are delighted to welcome Altior Group Ltd into the Lia's Wings family. This year, we were also grateful to receive support for the first time from Atlas FM, Golub Capital, Premium Care Solutions, Complexus Care, St James' Place, and McDermott Will & Emery LLP. We are also thankful to Next, whose continued support helps us reach even more families. We are especially grateful to our legal partners,



Horwich Coghlan Solicitors, Hugh James and Fletchers Solicitors, who not only fundraise and volunteer, but also provide vital legal support and advice to our families. These strong and varied partnerships are an important part of ensuring our income is both dependable and diverse.



Events: Growing a thriving portfolio

We welcomed a dedicated Fundraising Manager to grow our events portfolio and look after our amazing supporters. This has already helped us expand the variety of events on offer, with more exciting opportunities planned for the future. By creating a mix of large and small events, we are giving our community new ways to support us while broadening our fundraising base.

Trusts and foundations: Tapping in to greater potential

This year we have invested in building relationships with grant-making organisations. By strengthening this area, we are adding another vital strand of support that underpins our services and reduces our reliance on other income streams.

Marketing and PR: Building awareness and engagement

The headline-making story of Sienna-Rose's air transfer brought us unprecedented attention, leading to over 14,000 new followers and a phenomenal 703% increase in engagement across our digital channels.

We are building on this momentum with new ambassadors, including Premier League Footballer, Tosin Adarabioyo, whose significant social media reach is helping to spread our message to wider audiences.

At the same time, we are raising awareness of Lia's Wings within the aviation and travel insurance industries. This growing visibility strengthens our fundraising reach and opens up new opportunities for support.



New fundraising opportunities

This year we launched Payroll Giving and relaunched our charity lottery, adding accessible and reliable ways for people to support us.

Looking to the future, we are exploring in-memory giving and legacy giving to create lasting sources of income that will help us deliver our services for years to come. We are also working to create more philanthropy opportunities, inviting individuals and organisations to make a deeper, long-term impact on the lives of the children and families we help, as well as developing more ways for our families to get involved in supporting Lia's Wings.

How you can help

Every donation, event, partnership, or share helps us reach more children in urgent need. Your support makes you part of their journey.

Here are some ways you can get involved:

- **Nominate Lia's Wings as Charity of the Year** at your workplace or school.
- **Sign up to Payroll Giving** or give regularly to help us plan ahead.
- **Take on a fundraising challenge** - visit our website to see what's coming up.
- **Engage with us on social media** to help raise awareness.
- **Host a fundraising event** - our team can help maximise your efforts.
- **Make a one-off donation** - whatever the size, it makes a difference.

Together, we can ensure that every child who needs our help can reach the vital care they need.

Thank you from the Lia's Wings' Team

This year has been full of extraordinary moments, and every single one was made possible because of you. Together, we've flown more children for vital care, supported more families during their toughest times, and shown what's possible when care, compassion, and determination come together. We hope you can see the incredible impact your generosity has had, and we couldn't be prouder of what we've achieved alongside you.

But we're not stopping here. Our vision is bold: we want every child, in the UK and abroad, to have access to the specialist transport and family-centred care they deserve. That means raising awareness with travel insurers, the Foreign Office, and embassies so that no family is ever left without help. It means pioneering new standards of care that protect families' emotional, physical, and financial wellbeing long into the future. And it means leading the way in neonatal and paediatric long-distance transport while championing family-centred care across the air ambulance industry.

This next chapter is an exciting one. We're delighted to welcome Nathalie Scott as our new CEO, bringing fresh energy and vision to drive our work forward. At the same time, our current CEO, Charlotte, will step into her new role as Chief Operating

Officer, continuing to lead our service and stand alongside the families who need us.

As we look back on all that we have achieved with Lia over the past three years, we see how powerfully her legacy continues to drive us forward. Lia's memory runs through everything we do - guiding our choices, shaping our service, and inspiring the families who hear about her. Every child we reach knows her name, and through them, Lia continues to shine.



As we look back on all that we have achieved with Lia over the past three years, we see how powerfully her legacy continues to drive us forward.

Looking ahead, we are committed to building on this legacy by reaching more children, setting higher standards of care, and ensuring that love, compassion, and family are at the heart of everything we do. Thank you for walking beside us on this journey. With your continued support, we can reach more children, influence lasting change, and ensure that no child and family are ever left without the care and support they need.

With heartfelt gratitude,
The Lia's Wings Team



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