



Saving lives at Evelina London Children's Hospital

A report prepared for Lady Estelle Wolfson

August 2018

Introduction

Evelina London Children's Hospital is incredibly grateful to the Lord Leonard and Lady Estelle Wolfson Charitable Trust for your generous support to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Fetal Cardiology Unit (FCU). Your support has made a real difference to our ability to provide specialist pre and postnatal care to some of our most at-risk patients.

We are delighted to announce that the Fetal Cardiology Unit opened its doors on 26 January 2018 in its new location close to maternity services in St Thomas' Hospital. Thousands of families are now enjoying the clinical benefits of the unit's brand new state-of-the-art equipment and facilities, which includes high-end ultrasound technology that can reveal early, confident diagnoses.

Your support has enabled the Neonatal Intensive Care to expand and become one of the largest in the country. Thanks to your donation, we've been able to buy ventilators that support premature babies to breathe, and incubators that monitor and maintain body temperature.

We hope you enjoy this report which showcases some of the fantastic work that we have been able to deliver thanks to your donation.



Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in numbers

By supporting our expansion of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Evelina London, you have helped us to provide treatment for even more babies born with life-threatening difficulties. Your gift funded a bespoke cot in the isolation unit and also helped to fund two new patient monitors. We now have more capacity to save the lives of babies like Amelia, whose story you can read below.

1,000
babies cared
for a year

Permanent spaces
increased from
20 to 32

Amelia's story

Amelia's parents, Leigh and James, discovered their daughter had a heart problem during a routine pregnancy scan at their local hospital, and were given an urgent referral to Evelina London. They were seen the very next day.

Leigh and James received news that no parent wants to hear: Amelia would need major surgery to repair a hole in her heart, as soon as she was strong enough to survive the operation. Amelia's surgery lasted eight hours, and she spent nearly a month in NICU recovering.

Leigh said, 'Like every parent-to-be, James and I were excited for our 20-week scan. We never expected to find out that our unborn child already had a serious heart problem. The first few weeks after Amelia was born were the most difficult of our lives – but we knew that she was in the best possible hands at Evelina London. The staff became more like friends as they helped us through her surgery and weeks in recovery. Evelina London saved Amelia's life. I really hope you'll help them be there for other children like her.'



Spotlight on: Brand new facilities

New scanning room



Family therapy room



'The team at the Fetal Cardiology Unit are really skilled in what they do and are very good at making you feel at ease during a time that can be stressful.'

- Parent

Prenatal screening for fetal cardiac abnormalities brings many medical benefits for our tiny patients and also helps to tackle parental psychological distress. It is so important that our fetal cardiology unit offer a wide-range of support to prospective parents.

The unit's new facilities have been sensitively designed with parents in mind. This includes two new family counselling rooms, the layout, artwork and design of both have been carefully chosen by previous patients who have experienced the environment. Once an initial fetal cardiology scan has taken place, parents are given the option to discuss their scan in a dedicated counselling room away from the ultrasound machine.

Psychologically, the use of different rooms for the scan and consultation is essential. The counselling rooms have been thoughtfully designed to make parents as comfortable as possible, with specially curated artwork in the rooms to minimise stress. Small touches like this can make a big difference and enable parents to better process the diagnosis.

Having more than one room means that parents are allowed plenty of private time and space; and, whenever they are ready, the parents are able to leave the unit without returning to the reception area where other parents await their results. Since treatment and prognosis are condition-specific, it is vital that parents are given the time, attention and opportunity they need to understand the nature of the heart abnormality, its significance and effects on the child's survival, and the need for intervention. This is also why a clinical nurse specialist is on hand during these early discussions, throughout the pregnancy and beyond for practical advice.

Better screening technology has led to an increase in our ability to prenatally diagnose major heart abnormalities. Thank you for your support to our new unit that has ensured Evelina London continues to provide outstanding healthcare for children and young people in the future.

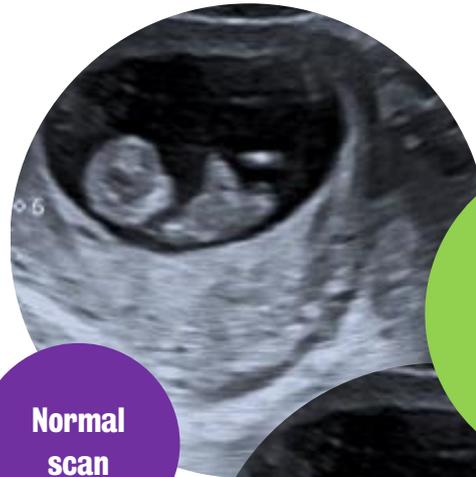
Spotlight on: State-of-the-art ultrasound equipment

The FCU has recently purchased three new Superb Microvascular Imaging (SMI) Toshiba machines. These machines give experts a clear view of an unborn baby's heart and blood vessels and detect the movement of blood within the heart. Thanks to this technology, Evelina London is the first in the UK to be able to detect abnormalities at 12 weeks, rather than the current standard of 20 weeks.

Our unit at Evelina London has an international reputation in all aspects of diagnosis and treatment of prenatal heart problems. Overall we provide scans for around 2,200 mothers a year with high risk pregnancies, and diagnose around 200 major heart abnormalities in babies before birth.

The new timeframe made possible by these scanners opens up the prospect of corrective surgery while the baby is still in the womb, and offers parents an earlier opportunity to decide whether to undergo further tests, such as amniocentesis.

As a result of these scanners, fewer babies who have major heart problems are left undiagnosed, more babies are treated in-utero, and mothers are delivering healthy, happy babies.



Normal scan



Scan with SMI

2,200 scans a year



‘Our new ultrasound scanner is a game changer as earlier diagnosis gives us much more time to plan care and prepare parents for what is ahead.’

– Professor John Simpson, Consultant in Paediatric & Fetal Cardiology at Evelina London

‘It was a huge relief to hear that the baby’s heart looked normal at 15 weeks... It was great that I could have early reassurance and remove that worry so I could enjoy the pregnancy.’

– Rachel Slaughter, who was recently scanned with the new equipment



In the media

We were pleased to see the FCU and its new ultrasound technology receiving fantastic coverage in the *London Evening Standard* in July, further cementing our reputation as a leading cardiology unit.

London Evening Standard
12 July 2018 (in print and online)

News > Health

Children’s hospital offers ‘game-changing’ scans for heart defects in unborn babies

ROSS LYDALL | Thursday 12 July 2018 12:37 | 0 comments

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Given the all-clear: Rachel Slaughter and her daughter Erin, who is now three (ES Local Feed)

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A children’s hospital has become the first in the UK to perform early “game-changing” scans to check whether a baby is at risk of being born with a **heart defect**.

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Thank you

On behalf of our patients and their loved ones who are benefiting from the facilities and equipment funded by the Lord Leonard and Lady Estelle Wolfson Charitable Trust, a huge thank you.

We are really proud to be one of the largest neonatal intensive care units in the country, and this wouldn't have been possible without your generous donation to support our expansion. Supporting new neonatal equipment is pivotal to enabling our NICU to increase its cot capacity.

Your support has been instrumental in the expansion and relocation of our new fetal cardiology unit. The family counselling rooms have really helped our patients to feel supported during a difficult time. The new unit has reaffirmed Evelina London's pioneering reputation around the world for diagnosing and managing heart defects in babies before birth.

Thank you for joining us in doing everything possible to make sure that each child gets the care they deserve, and each parent gets the support they need.

