

**LIA'S  
WINGS**



Hospital  
air transfers  
for children

**An introduction**

# Meet Rio and Lena



**Rio** was born eight weeks early, over 280 miles from the specialist treatment and care that he urgently needed to save his life. To ensure he could receive this life-saving care, we flew him from Newquay in Cornwall to St Thomas's Hospital in London, where a team of experts were ready to help.



**Lena** was diagnosed with acute leukaemia while in Poland for her sister's christening. After 33 days of treatment, she had a two-week window to return to the UK. Lia's Wings quickly arranged an air ambulance to fly Lena to Southampton Children's Hospital for ongoing treatment.

# Introduction

Lia's Wings is the only charity facilitating 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.

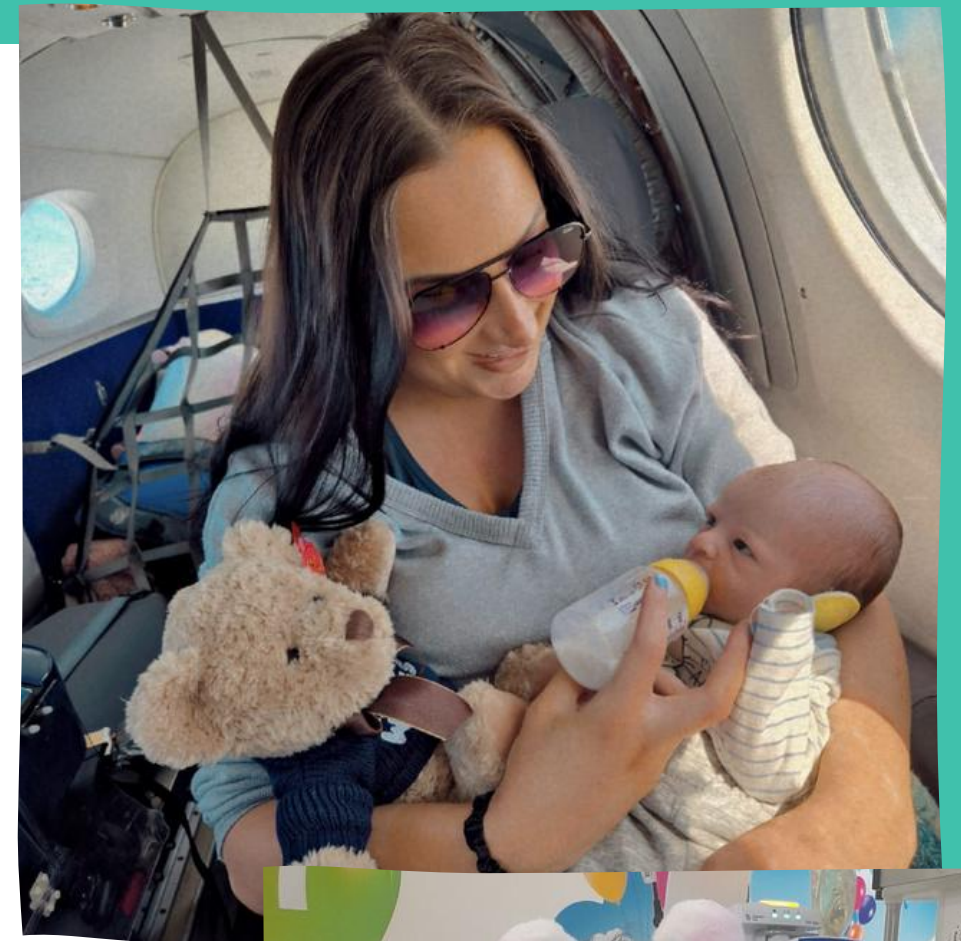
## Charity profile

**Annual income:** £866K

**Established:** 2010

**Values:** Brilliant, Valiant and Reliable

**Team:** 6 but growing to 8 very soon!



# About Lia's Wings

Lia's Wings is the only charity facilitating life-saving air transfers by plane both within the UK and internationally.



Since we were founded in 2010, we have reached over

**948**

people. Having a child in hospital affects the whole family and we are there for them all.



We are the **only** organisation in the UK that provides long-term family support after an air transfer.

The need for our air transfer service and family support is growing year-on-year.

Demand for our support has grown consistently since 2020. In 2024 we flew

**68%**

more children than in 2024.



We are the **only** charity that supports neonatal and paediatric transfers overseas.



We have helped



**237**

children since our inception.

In the past year we have supported 30 British families stranded overseas with a critically ill child. This is a

**130%**

increase from the year before.



# Our air transfers



We facilitate an **air ambulance service** for children within the UK and to/from overseas, using aeroplanes.



We have a **pool of specialist medical staff** who can respond to every referral we receive, handling the most complex conditions and medical emergencies.



We invest in **innovative, award-winning medical equipment** to allow us to meet the unique needs of every child we fly.



We offer a **bespoke Family Support Service** to help families through difficult times, creating improved outcomes and lasting change.

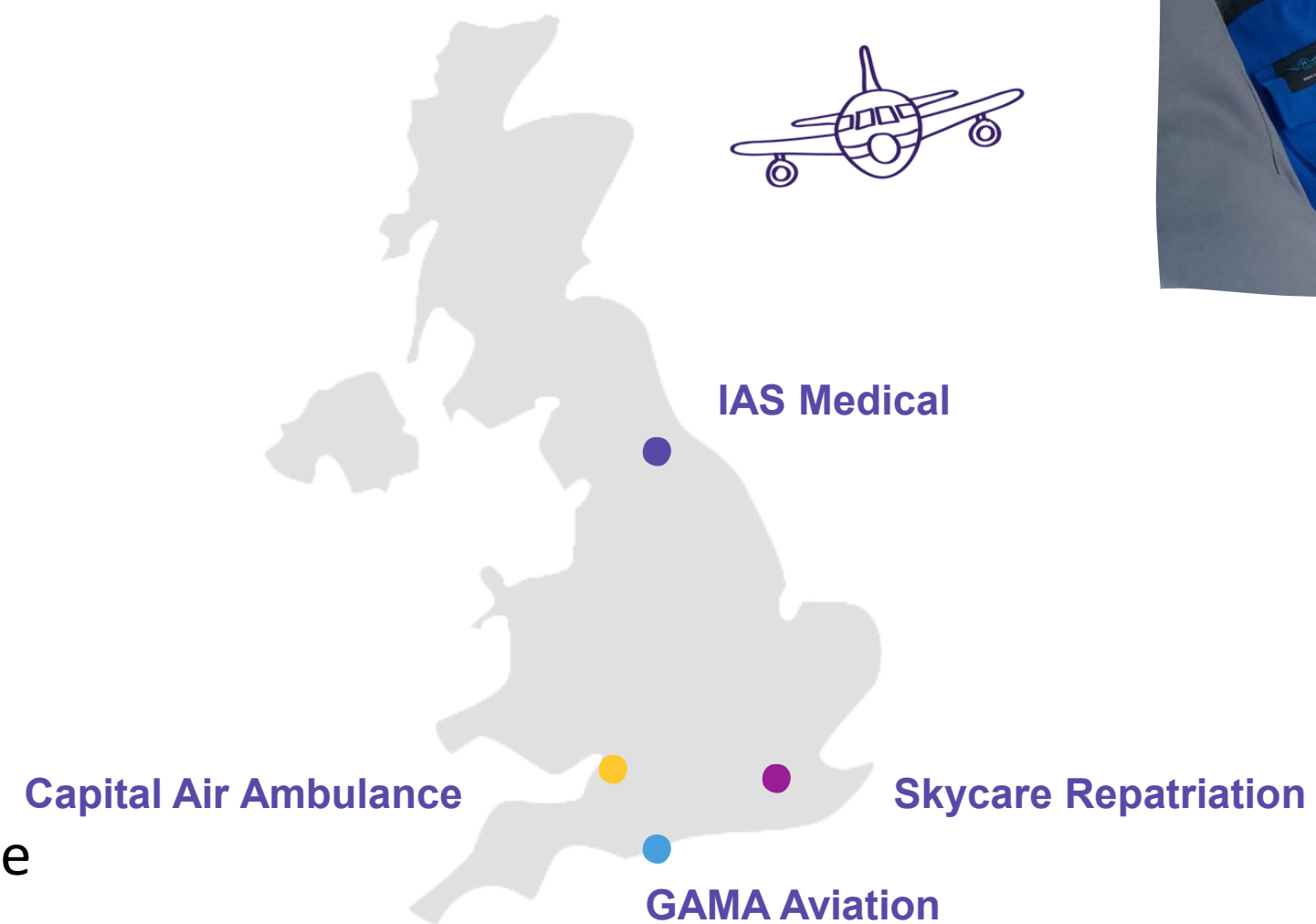
# Life-changing partnerships

As a small charity, partnerships are so important to us.

We work in partnership with air ambulance operators across the UK:

- IAS Medical
- Capital Air Ambulance
- Skycare Repatriation
- GAMA Aviation

By working closely with multiple operators, we are able to respond quickly to referrals across the UK.



# Life-changing partnerships

We work closely with NHS Transport Teams across the UK to move children between hospitals. We have recently transported children with:



Charity partnerships are also incredibly important to us and are an area we want to grow in order to improve signposting for families and address children's long-term care needs.



# Our Family Support Service

Our Family Support Service has been created in response to what our families need. It includes:

## Emotional support

We provide an instant safe space for parents to talk out their worries and stressors, offering a balanced and understanding voice.

## Practical support

We present next steps to families in an accessible way, signpost families to relevant organisations and make safeguarding referrals.

## Being a voice for families

We help families navigate different organisations, speak to other organisations on behalf of parents who feel debilitated by their circumstances and help overcome barriers in their child's treatment.

## Peer-to-peer support

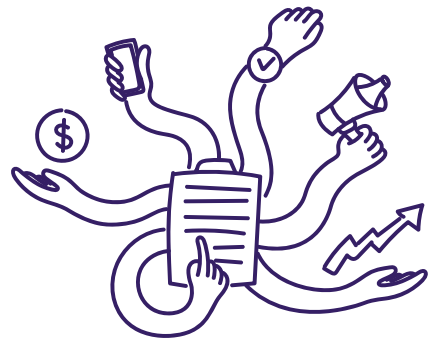
Volunteers who have experienced grief, trauma and loss provide support to our families who are going through similar experiences.



# Lia's Wings are experts in repatriating babies and children from overseas



In the past year, we have supported **31 families** whose children have experienced a medical emergency abroad. We offer wraparound support that includes:



**24/7 crisis support**



**We can help parents obtain emergency travel documents**



**Connect families with peers**



**Provide tailored transport solutions**



**Integrate babies into NHS care**

# Our commitment to families

We work with families to help alleviate feelings of loneliness, helplessness and confusion. We are proud to offer:

**Uniquely crafted care  
for every child and  
every family**

**No waiting lists,  
just support and  
solutions**

**We're here for as long as each family need us.  
Our care doesn't stop when the crisis fades, it  
stays through the silence**



**We are proud  
to have a  
reputation as  
'The charity  
that cares'**

# Signposting to Lia's Wings



**If you know a baby or child who needs treatment or care outside of their home region**

**If you know a baby born prematurely away from home, either in the UK or abroad**

**If you know a child facing a medical emergency abroad**

**Call us on 0300 140 9980**