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Children’s Heart Surgery Fund
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**PRESS RELEASE:**

**£8,000 for multi-sensory suite to relax babies and children before heart surgery**

DM Thomas Foundation for Young People awarded a grant of £8,000 to Children’s Heart Surgery Fund to install a new multi-sensory environment at Leeds General Infirmary.

The unique multi-sensory environment will form the Ambient Experience Interventional Suite in the soon-to-be-built children’s heart theatre at Leeds General Infirmary, and will help relax and soothe babies, children and young adults before undergoing heart surgery. Patients will be able to choose images, colours and music that will reduce their anxiety before a procedure and consequently facilitate their recovery post- surgery.

The upcoming theatre is being funded by Children’s Heart Surgery Fund (CHSF), who have pledged £1.25 million towards equipment and are raising an additional £500,000 thanks to their supporters.

Committed to improving the care, treatment experiences and wellbeing of young people aged 0-25 who are sick or life-limited, DM Thomas Foundation for Young People provides specialist equipment, care and support through targeted grant-giving.

CHSF support children and adults born with congenital heart disease across Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire and works alongside the Leeds Congenital Heart Unit at Leeds General Infirmary. They support a variety of projects, funding cutting-edge equipment, family accommodation and support, ward facilities, research and staff training.

Sharon Coyle, CEO of CHSF said: “We’re incredibly grateful to the DM Thomas Foundation for this grant towards a state-of the-art relaxation and distraction tool for our young patients.”

“Children’s Heart Surgery Fund is committed to supporting the heart, mind, family and future of patients treated at the Leeds Congenital Heart Unit, and this brilliant equipment is a prime example of supporting mental health.”

“The new theatre is crucial to keep Leeds at the forefront of national cardiac care, and this technology fits in perfectly with that vision.”

Simon Sheehan, Director of DM Thomas Foundation for Young People, said, “We are delighted to support the new Ambient Experience Interventional Suite which will not only reduce young patients’ anxiety ahead of surgery, but also support their recovery. Improving the wellbeing and outcomes for children who are sick is central to the Foundation’s mission.”

**-ENDS**

**Notes to editor**

For press enquiries, contact Rosy Harper at DM Thomas Foundation for Young People on rosy.harper@dmtfyp.org or 020 7605 7629.

**BOILERPLATES**

**About DM Thomas Foundation for Young People**

DM Thomas Foundation for Young People is dedicated to transforming the lives of young people. They believe that with the right support, all young people can fulfil their potential. Through their ABLE giving framework, they help young people in the UK and Europe to Achieve their goals, Beat or ameliorate health conditions, Live independent and fulfilled lives and Experience the best that life can offer. Funded through the generous efforts and contributions of corporate partners and their team members, the Foundation has awarded £17,5million to a wide range of projects improving the education and wellbeing of young people.

[dmthomasfoundation.org](file:///%5C%5CFOUNDATIONNAS%5Cdmtfyp%5CCommunications%5CPress%20and%20PR%5CPress%20Releases%5C2017%5Cdmthomasfoundation.org)

**About Children’s Heart Surgery Fund**

Children's Heart Surgery Fund supports children and adults born with congenital heart disease across Yorkshire and North Lincolnshire and works alongside the Leeds Congenital Heart Unit at Leeds General Infirmary. CHSF supports a variety of projects, funding cutting-edge equipment, family accommodation and support, ward facilities, research and staff training.

[chsf.org.uk](https://chsf.org.uk/)