

Date: 29th December 2025

Children's Play Team brings festive joy and vital support to young patients this Christmas

The Children's Play Team at Arrowe Park Hospital have been on duty throughout the Christmas period, ensuring children in hospital can still experience the magic of the festive season while also receiving essential emotional and therapeutic support.

The team (Amy Dowdall, Clare Povey and Racheal Williams) work tirelessly to bring joy, comfort and normality to babies, children and young people up to the age of 18. Over Christmas, their work includes preparing Christmas Eve boxes, organising visits from Father Christmas, delivering presents to children's rooms on Christmas morning, and running a specially created Christmas grotto in the run-up to the big day. Festive crafts and activities have transformed wards and playrooms, lifting spirits for children and families during what can be a challenging time.

Beyond the festive period, the Children's Play Team together bring a range of skills and expertise, playing a vital role in supporting care and recovery all year round. Children are referred to the team if they are anxious, distressed or struggling with hospital environments, medical procedures or upcoming surgery. Through specialist play therapy, psychological support and distraction techniques, the team helps children feel more in control, build confidence and cope better with their hospital experience.

Working at the bedside and in playrooms across wards, the team frequently supports children ahead of procedures. Their involvement helps reduce distress, supports smoother procedures and contributes positively to recovery, benefiting both patients and staff.

By combining compassion, creativity and clinical support, the team continue to make a lasting difference to the experience of young patients and their families at WUTH.

