

TEAM JAK

Annual Impact Report

June 2025

Creating Smiles, Easing the Journey
For Children & Young People with Cancer



Providing emotional, social and practical support to children & young people with cancer, their families, friends and those bereaved.



Jak's Den / Team Jak Foundation



@TeamJakJaksDen



@team_jak_foundation

Allison Barr, Annual Impact Report June 2025
TEAM JAK FOUNDATION SC045586 (SCIO) Known as Team Jak & Jak's Den
Jak's Den Ochil House Livingston EH54 6QF



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Introduction

The Team Jak Foundation SC045586 (SCIO) (known as Team Jak or Jak's Den) is a charity formed following the tragic death of Jak Trueman at just 15 years old. It is inspired by Jak's personal, and his family's experience, during the short period of illness which led to his premature death on 2nd February 2015.

Jak was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive form of cancer – Gamma Delta T-Cell Lymphoma in the summer of 2014. Whilst going through his many hours, days, weeks and months of treatment, in truly courageous grace, Jak dreamt of supporting other young cancer patients and their families in a similar situation.

Jak was greatly touched by other youngsters with life threatening and terminal illnesses. He was overwhelmed at the way family and friends continued to support each other under such difficult situations but noticed support was lacking in other vital areas especially emotionally and socially, and sought to do something about it 'when he got better!'

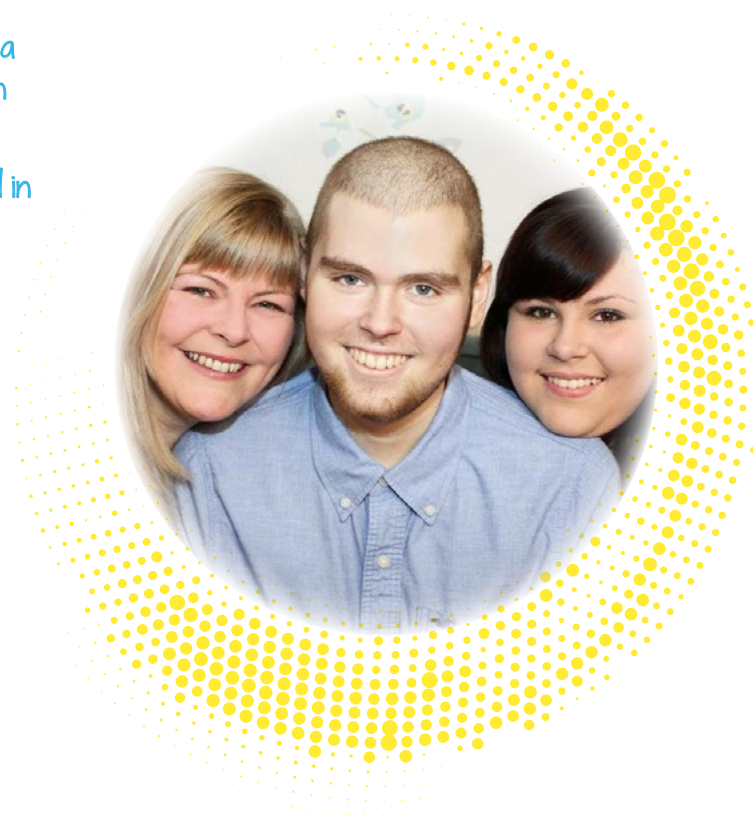
Tragically Jak went for a bone marrow transplant which could not be completed due to the blood cancer escalating and devastatingly gained his wings on 2nd February 2015.

The first steps in achieving Jak's dream and vision was taken when Jak's grandad announced at his funeral the goal of setting up a charity in Jak's name and that the work of his brave, young, visionary grandson be continued, and hence Team Jak Foundation was born.

Since then Team Jak now work with over 540 registered families throughout Scotland – and many more without registration – which is increasing by the week.

We provide much needed emotional, social and practical support to children and young people age 0-25 with cancer, related illnesses, their families, friends and those bereaved, through:

- Jak's Dens in Livingston and Aberdeen.
- Jak's Den Pop-up Dens in Fife and Glasgow.
- Support to Schiehallion (Glasgow) and Lochranza (Edinburgh) cancer wards, as well as Aberdeen children's hospitals.
- Much needed Outreach – support at home and in schools.



Beliefs

Whilst the Charity is officially called the Team Jak Foundation, the term 'Team Jak' derives its inspiration and values from the **experience and dreams of Jak**. These experiences, and clearly laid out requests from Jak himself provide the **basis of our work** with children and young people, their families and communities.

Jak envisaged a 'Den' where youngsters, family and friends could escape to, like all of us did at some time in our lives.

We as Trustees and Staff of what has now become accepted as Team Jak believe every young person has the right to **emotional, social and practical support** whilst on their **cancer journey and beyond**, and that their **families and friends feel supported** also, with special emphasis towards **support for siblings**.

We believe that the journey does not end in remission, or in some cases sadly death, and that the young person and their family and friends still have a need for support thereafter in many forms. We at Team Jak aim to provide opportunities for support at all levels of need. We value the support of everyone who works in some way with Team Jak.

Vision

Where no child, young person or their family should face cancer, related illness or bereavement alone and will get the support they need during their journey and beyond.

Mission

Team Jak provides practical, social and emotional support to children and young people with cancer and related illnesses, their family, friends and those bereaved.

Purpose

The purpose of Team Jak is to ease the fear, confusion and loneliness of a cancer diagnosis or bereavement and ensure no-one feels isolated or alone, by providing emotional, social and practical support to children and young people with cancer and related illnesses age 0-25, their families, friends and those bereaved- of a child from cancer or children bereaved of someone from cancer.

Inspired by inspirational teenager Jak Trueman, whose life was sadly cut short following a short and aggressive battle with a rare form of blood cancer, Jak wanted no other child or family to face the isolation and fear tackled daily following diagnosis and during treatment, and set out clear aims on how to provide support for young people, their families and friends, with special mention of siblings.



Team Jak has now achieved Jak's Den HQ in Livingston and Jak's Den Aberdeen with a number of 'Pop up Dens' in Fife and Glasgow where putting smiles on faces and creating magical moments are at the fore, and where children and families can share together and accept emotional, social and practical support through various counselling and alternative therapies, support groups and fun activities alongside our Neutropenic café sessions where and when possible.

Team Jak also provide outreach and pop up Den support to the relevant hospitals and wards/units associated with our warrior and angel families, and any young person at home unable to access the Den, and provide wellbeing and bereavement support in schools for staff and pupils.

An online forum has also been created to ensure no family is left out due to geography or inability to get to a Den and has become an integral part of our support as a result of the covid-19 crisis which we aim to continue to build upon in order to serve our families in more remote areas and those in hospital for long periods of time.

We also work closely with other renowned agencies and charities to ensure the very best opportunities are created for our young people including Teenage Cancer Trust, Young Lives Versus Cancer, Maggie's, CHAS and the Scotland-wide Bereavement Networks and other childhood cancer charities who wish to work collaboratively.

Values (ACCCE)

Ambition – By setting high goals and aspirations for Team Jak we are committed to improving the quality of everything we do for our young people and their families.

Collaboration – working in partnership with other relevant agencies and health services, and through the commitment of all our staff and volunteers to make the best use of all our resources, enables us to help children, young people and their families to overcome severe disadvantage.

Compassion – Respecting the unique worth of every person – we believe that every person is different but equal, and that everyone's unique talent and need should be recognised and responded to even through illness.

Creativity – In recognising our young people and their families and their unique talents and qualities, we aim to identify and provide imaginative and innovative activities and services and make them smile.

Empowerment – Working with hope – our hope for a more fulfilling "present" for our children and families is the source of much of our inspiration and by listening to their needs and responding appropriately we aim to make their journey a little easier.

Strapline

"Creating Smiles,
Easing the Journey"



Executive Summary

This year has been my ninth full year as a paid CE and working full time for our Charity.

It has been a privilege to serve the Charity set up by my son to support other children and young people with cancer, related illnesses and their families and those sadly bereaved and see how far Jak's dreams have come in such a short space of time.

Successes

This year has seen us continue to make that leap from a "small" charity financially to a medium size, infact being classed as large due to our income levels, which has in itself provided many challenges, but also success in achieving our ambitious budget for this year, achieving a surplus in our accounts for the first time in 3 years.

Hospital Outreach

We continue to have very strong relationships with the nursing, palliative and psychology team from Schiehallion ward in Glasgow which allows us to continue to provide even more bespoke support to them, and are now present on the ward 3 days a week- 2 through our music therapist and one our CYP team.

We continue to work closely with the fabulous staff on Lochranza ward in Edinburgh and it has been a privilege to be able to continue to provide much needed support to the young people on the ward in various forms from emotional support to distraction fun to practical items and fun sessions in partnership with the ward's play specialist one day a week through our CYP team.

Schools Outreach Service

This year we have worked with a number of Primary schools and one secondary school to provide emotional support in the form of Bag of Worries and more bespoke emotional and bereavement support, sadly as a result of two of our warriors gaining their wings.

Our schools service continues to grow and develop with 4 members of staff currently visiting various schools in west, central and east Scotland weekly. We are continuing to develop this and widen our remit to include a Wellbeing programme for generic use to help with our funding requirements moving forward.

Bereavement Support

We currently have a strong group of bereaved families meeting regularly from Jak's Den HQ and Aberdeen. Our Angel family support has become a very strong part of our programme, with a core group of families who attend regularly both for our family angel day monthly and our two coffee sessions during each month.

We completed our first residential for bereaved families in October 2024 – spending the weekend at Westerwood Hotel, Cumbernauld, thanks to funding from the Scottish Children's Lottery. This weekend allowed parents and siblings the chance to spend quality time together whilst giving and receiving support to and from each other, to help with their journey of loss and grief.





We also continue to support the Palliative Care/Family Support Team at Edinburgh Children's Hospital through our sponsorship of the Rainbow Cart, and continue to provide items for the Rainbow Cart which we gifted to Schiehallion ward in Glasgow, which just gives a few comforts to families having to say goodbye to their children in hospital.

A number of our families have sadly had the need for this cart this year but it's been an honour to be able to help in this small way at the end of their child's life and make their room more homely. Both hospitals have sent us feedback to say the Rainbow Cart has been well received and families feel it makes a huge difference to their child's last hours.

Our number of registered families continue to grow and since returning to the wards post covid, these numbers have been increasing at a higher level and more families are actively engaging in our activities at Jak's Den and pop ups as a result of meeting them on the ward.

We are currently piloting being back on the ward in Aberdeen and hope this will become a permanent feature once more.

We continue to have good links with Teenage Cancer Trust and Young Lives Versus Cancer Social Workers from the ward in Edinburgh, Beatson Glasgow and Western Edinburgh and hope this will continue to grow and build and have received several referrals from them, alongside a few visits with some of the patients to our Den to make use of the facilities with the TCT worker.

Social and Emotional Support and Pop Ups

It has been a joy and privilege to continue to provide our programme of fun and support through weekly games and craft sessions, themed family fun activities, online activities, music and storytelling and bespoke segmented activities for Warriors, Siblings, Parents, Grandparents, the wider family and friends from Jaks Den HQ and Aberdeen.

We have increased our CYP team staff and now have a very strong and capable team who are taking our activities to a new and exciting level for our inspirational young people.

We continue to develop our Bag of Series, and Schools and hospital outreach further, kindly supported by Arnold Clark.

This year our CE has been working in West Calder High School piloting our Bag of Hope and **Wellbeing outreach programme** whilst supporting a year group bereavemd of a young person from cancer last year.

This has worked so well the school would like us back next year.

We hope to have the first set of resources published for our teens Bag of Hope and also a Bag of Rainbows loss and bereavement programme for siblings and friends in the next year as this has taken much longer than anticipated due to other commitments to compose.

We continue to hold targeted sessions including Mums Pamper and wellbeing days, Dad's darts, games and other sessions, Grandparents Days, Teen outings including visit to Edinburgh and Den lunches and fun, and Codonas in Aberdeen, and our Big



Breakfast; alongside our weekly Mini Denners sessions kindly funded by Better Breaks where our under 5s come and enjoy a "nursery" experience whilst parents receive a massage in our Pamper Pod, again extending this this year to include a scaled down "Mini Denners" session on Lochranza daycare.

We are delighted to be partnering with GCHC at Crossbasket House to now provide our Glasgow Pop Up Den sessions which happen 3 times a month - one for parents, and two for the whole family which are going well with a core number of regular attendees at all sessions with more joining regularly as a result of our presence on the ward!

We are delighted that our Fife popups are also still happening monthly also leading from St Columbas Church in Glenrothes with family fun and we have a core group that attend these regularly.

Within our Team Jak staff we now have myself Allison Barr, CEO; Roy Green, COO; Colette Gough, CYP & Family Lead; Chloe Fleming, Wellbeing Outreach Coordinator; Aimee Stenhouse, Wellbeing Coordinator; Son Anderson, Bereavement and CYP Coordinator; Rebecca Cromwell, CYP & Teen Coordinator; Rachel Laptucha, Play and Support Worker; Rhonda Fleming, Finance Coordinator; Margaret King, Fundraising Administrator; Chris White, Marketing Coordinator; Tiffeny Rothwell, CYP & Family Support Coordinator Aberdeen; Emma King, Play and Support Worker Aberdeen; Christine Birrell, CYP Coordinator Fife; David Solway, Community Fundraiser; Charlotte Gilbert, Grants & Trusts Fundraiser with Community, Corporate and Events.

It has been humbling to watch many volunteers get so much from helping both at the Den and at Fundraising events and see some of our younger volunteer ambassadors grow in confidence through the work they are doing, and we were honoured to be able to reward them at our Annual Awards Ceremony for Volunteers.

We have also had a group of young people this year from S4-6 who were completing their "National 5 Skills for Work Health Sector" qualification from West Calder High, aswell as one of our regular Volunteers from James Young who was given permission to join us on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon, come to join us for Mini Denners on a Thursday as part of this qualification and it worked so well we will be repeating it this coming Academic session.

Our Volunteer Coordinator, a longstanding volunteer Susan Dalziel, continues to oversee and organise volunteers for sessions within Jak's Den and fundraising events and hopefully lead us towards recognised awards for Volunteering and we have held 3 training sessions for volunteers alongside 3 volunteer forums this year.

We are grateful as always although never complacent for current funders and supporters with us welcoming a few new corporate supporters this year, who allow us to create smiles and ease the journey for our inspirational young people and their families.

This year it's been an honour to be recognised in Fife Volunteer Awards and also West Lothian Volunteer Awards in Children and Young Persons Team for Fife and Grandad Walter as Trustee of the Year, and also Susan Dalziel for Dedication and Commitment and Our Volunteer Team for Team of the Year.



We are absolutely over the moon to share our exciting news that Grandad Walter won the Trustee of the Year for his dedication and commitment to Team Jak in honour of his inspirational Grandson Jak.

The judges said it was a no brainer and he fully deserved this prestigious award.

We are so proud of him and everything he does in honour of Jak and for our inspirational young people with cancer and their families through our charity.

Challenges

This year with moving to a “medium” sized charity in financial terms means we have now moved out the bracket for a number of our key funders we worked closely with and received funding from over the last few years.

Whilst this is great we are growing, it means that we need to look for other income streams and funders and whilst we have some good ideas these will take a little time to put into practice properly.

We are still struggling to break into the “corporate market” in Aberdeen and expanding our reach for events such as Ladies Days and Sportmans Dinners throughout Scotland.

The cost of living crisis is still our biggest foe with grant funding competition even more stringent now with pots getting smaller and applicants greater and sadly we missed out on a couple of grants we were hopeful we would achieve.

Future community fundraising and individual giving may also cause challenges due to cost of living crisis and with all of the wonderful children’s cancer charities all supporting the same families and supporters for fundraising and more now branching into our use of emotional wellbeing we can never be complacent.

As a contributor to the Third Sector Tracker survey we are aware this is sector wide, however we are determined that we will create new income streams that will allow us to continue to build on our Transformation Strategy and in turn meet the needs of our inspirational families.

Whilst we have a great team, we acknowledge that having everyone work at different times means that sometimes the communication is not as good as it could be due to some staff not having much time with others.

We are including extra planning days outwith staff hours that would allow everyone to come together quarterly and spend time together face to face which is definitely helping with this.

Another challenge for us has always been attendance at Jak’s Dens.

We can plan all our great activities and sessions and have 40 people signed up, then on the day 3 families might cancel which leaves us with sometimes less than half of what we planned for. This causes problems in gauging how many staff and volunteers we need for a session versus how many families will attend.



We understand and know this cannot be avoided however due to the nature of our work, as often a young person may spike a temperature or feel unwell and therefore cannot attend Jak’s Den. This is disappointing for everyone including families, volunteers and staff, but sadly is one of the key challenges we acknowledge with all funders and will always be the case. We can plan for 40 and only 15 attend.

Objectives

The following objectives have been in place since our creation and are tweaked annually.

These have been particularly pertinent in the last year whilst we consolidate and build our service further alongside the restrictions placed upon us due to our current cost of living and sector wide funding crisis-

- ★ **Give hope** to the warrior and angel families.
- ★ **Provide families with the help they need** to care for the young person and themselves with specific importance placed on meeting the needs of siblings.
- ★ **Create the space and opportunities** for the young person to have the ‘moments’ they want through Jak’s Dens.
- ★ Offer **individual support services** to the young person through **Bag of Worries, Bag of Hope** and other resources.
- ★ Provide **emotional support** through counselling, play and music therapy.
- ★ Provide **practical support** to hospitals and families at home.
- ★ Ensure young people’s **stay in hospital** is as comfortable as possible by providing **pop up Jak’s Den support** weekly and **music therapy** where required.
- ★ Provide **emotional and wellbeing support** to families and staff in **hospital** where required, working with staff and psychology to provide the best opportunities.
- ★ Provide **support to schools** going through a child’s journey or sadly death and grief.
- ★ **Help prepare for** and support through anticipation of, during and after **bereavement**.
- ★ **Support bereaved families, friends and children** who are bereaved and need support.
- ★ **Raise awareness** of the need for **research** and **funding** in particular for Blood Cancers in Scotland.
- ★ **Raise awareness** for the need for blood platelet and bone marrows **donors**.
- ★ **Further the charitable purposes** of other recognised/ registered charitable organisations by **acting as a resource** through the provision of facilities and services.



Jak’s dream and vision was to have in place a safe haven for those in need to be known as ‘Jak’s Den’ supporting young cancer patients, and those with related debilitating illnesses, and their families and friends, including our inspirational bespoke Jak’s Den.



We are delighted Jak's Den HQ encompasses almost all of his dreams including:

- ★ **Bespoke Counselling** pods for social and emotional support.
- ★ A **Sensory Room** where children can go and shout, scream and let off steam or sit quietly with the sensory items if required.
- ★ A **Neutropenic Café** space – an innovative health initiative, for cancer sufferers and those with a low immune system.
- ★ An **outdoor area** with football goals, music sensory area and a remote control quad bike/car track, TJ crazy golf and Angel Garden space for reflection.
- ★ **Support for bereaved families** by providing a special memory leaf for our Angel tree and invitation to the 'Den' and offer of counselling or support groups (Angel Bag of Worries).
- ★ **Specific Support groups** for young people or family who have gone through the cancer or related illness journey (Bag of Worries- Superhero Warriors, SuperSibs).
- ★ **Music Therapy.**
- ★ **Alternative therapies** for parents and young people.
- ★ **Mindfulness sessions** for families supporting young people with cancer.
- ★ **Drop-in** and **activity sessions** for all the family.
- ★ **Safe spaces** for families to meet medical and social work staff as required.

The Foundation's Trustees and CE have discovered since embarking upon the Team Jak journey that our support services are split very clearly into a number of areas with a child centred response at the heart of everything we do- responding to what the child needs and would like depending on their diagnosis, stage of journey and needs within. Our support will then come from the following directions:

- **Jak's Dens and Jak's Den Pop-ups**
- **Hospitals**
- **Home/Outreach**
- **Online/Phone**
- **Schools**

Some support clearly overlaps and everything is bespoke and individualised and can change very quickly depending on how well or otherwise the child is at the time. A sibling may require support at home while the warrior is in hospital, or the whole family may be able to come to Jak's Den to make the most of the support and social activities on offer.

We constantly evaluate all of our services and tweak them accordingly based on need and uptake.



Key Achievements

Emotional Support

- Counselling attended by a number of parents.
- Child and Young persons counselling/therapy.
- Warrior, sibling, cousin, friend, wider family, hospital and school support.
- Music Therapy- Fridays and Saturdays from Jak's Den HQ, twice weekly in Schiehallion ward, Glasgow and weekly from Jak's Den Aberdeen.
- Hospital support via music therapy and pop up activities in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Aberdeen.
- Emotional Support/Listening/Peer support from Staff and trained Volunteers from Jak's Den by appointment.
- 1:1 visiting at home in hospital or drop-in to Den- emotional support through chatting and activities
- Bespoke Bag of Worries programme

- of support for children- generic, warrior and sibling with teens and bereaved children currently being created.
- Development of Wellbeing programmes and services- 1:1 Bag of Hope sessions, and development of Bag of Hope for trauma and anxiety, Bag of Rainbows for bereaved families and TJ's Wellbeing activities.
- Seasons for Growth.
- School support for warriors, siblings and peers.
- Bespoke bereavement support- in schools and with families and friends see below for more detail.
- Mindfulness and relaxation sessions
- Pamper and alternative therapy sessions.
- Group and Individual Supervision and training for Staff.

Social Support

- Fun and themed Activity Days & Coffee mornings and outings in Jak's Den HQ and pop up Dens throughout Scotland including Schiehallion Ward Glasgow and Crossbasket House Glasgow alongside Pop ups in Fife and Jak's Den Aberdeen- well attended and new and old faces attending.
- Specific group activities including Mums, Dads, Grandparents, Warrior, Sibling etc.
- Bell Ringing and Birthday parties
- Angel leaf ceremonies
- Main weekly and monthly activities include:

- ✓ Big Breakfast
- ✓ Teen Outings
- ✓ Mini Denners
- ✓ Friday Fun Club
- ✓ Parent Patter
- ✓ Seasonal Parties
- ✓ Warrior and Sibling outings and fun days
- ✓ Lego and Games Club
- ✓ TJs Mindful Mezzos
- ✓ TJs Adventures
- ✓ Themed craft and activity fun
- ✓ Trips to Science centre, parks, and



Key Achievements (cont.)

Practical Support	▶ Travel expenses for those travelling to Jaks Den (National Lottery Awards for All) ▶ Provision of help in numerous ways including completion of forms, purchase of specific items. ▶ House cleaning, shopping, garden tidy, arranging lifts where required and much more. ▶ We have also helped with heating or specific items that parents couldn't afford through our Louise's Love, Darcy	Rae's Dreams and Francesca's Wishes named funds. ▶ Seasons for Growth. ▶ School support for warriors, siblings and peers. ▶ Bespoke bereavement support - in schools and with families and friends see below for more detail. ▶ Mindfulness and relaxation sessions ▶ Pamper and alternative therapy sessions.
Hospital Outreach Edinburgh	▶ Jak's Den at Lochranza – pop up Jak's Den fun and games and emotional support as required on the ward and in Daycare and teddy bears picnic, wreath making etc in conjunction with the play specialist. ▶ Emotional/Distraction Support fun activities being provided and practical items as requested including :	✓ Snacks and goodies delivered as requested, Jak's Sacks and vouchers delivered as required, Halloween and Easter goodies ✓ Christmas Trees and Advent calendars ✓ Buffets for parties and other items on request ✓ Pop Up Den activities
Hospital Outreach Glasgow	▶ Jak's Den at Schiehallion – pop up Jak's Den fun and games and emotional support one day a week as required at clinic, on the ward and in Daycare including scaled down Mini Denners session. ▶ Music therapy 2 days a week. ▶ Family Fun and Schiehallion Siblings session one Saturday a month from	Crossbasket House. ▶ Emotional/Distraction Support fun activities. ✓ Practical items as requested ✓ Support for psychology where required ✓ Strong links forming with GCHC
Hospital Outreach Aberdeen	▶ Pop up Jak's Den fun and games and emotional support as required on the in conjunction with the staff. ▶ Emotional/Distraction Support fun activities being provided and practical items as requested including -	✓ Snacks and goodies delivered as requested, Jak's Sacks and vouchers delivered as required, Halloween and Easter goodies ✓ Christmas Trees and Advent calendars

Hospital Outreach Aberdeen	✓ Other items available upon request ▶ TCT in Glasgow Edinburgh and hospitals in Dundee, St Johns, Victoria & Raigmore-contact made and support provided as requested.	▶ Individual and privately arranged support visits arranged directly with families and approved by wards in advance.
Bereavement Support	▶ Sponsorship and ongoing upkeep by Team Jak of Rainbow Cart for Palliative & Bereavement Team in Sick Kids Hospital Edinburgh and Schiehallion ward Glasgow. ▶ Angel Parent Patter coffee morning 1st Wednesday of each month and Parent Support third Wednesday of each month. ▶ Angel Family session 1st Sunday of each month- siblings, cousins & friends crafts and memory making and parent peer support – Jak's Den HQ and Aberdeen. ▶ Memory making activities 1:1 groups in Jak's Den, at home or in school as requested. ▶ Seasons for Growth available as required. ▶ Angel parent meals, Mums sessions and Dads sessions. ▶ Sibling and cousin sessions in Jak's Den with memory making activities all planned by the children. ▶ Bereaved parents and siblings days recognised in some way (varied each year to include everyone). ▶ Counselling of bereaved adults and children provided. ▶ Annual Glow Gold Remembering Day – special day in Jak's Den to remember our angels and share happy memories and activities together. ▶ Angel Leaf/ Memory days - we have	completed four beautiful memory days for families personalised to them and their loss and have more planned for this year. ▶ Leaf for our Angel tree in Jak's Den and invitation to bring family to put it on. ▶ Angel Garden in Jak's Den for reflection and safe place for Angel families to meet. ▶ Memory Bear vouchers for bereaved families. ▶ Seasons for Growth groups on request. ▶ Visits to schools to support staff and children in anticipation for and sadly on death of a child and grief support beyond. ▶ Memory activities and gifts or cards on birthday and angelversaries. ▶ Bereavement programme still being developed further (Bag of Rainbows) as the need grows but has grown substantially and has a regular group of families attending all events. ▶ This year we went on our first Angel Family retreat weekend courtesy of Scottish Children's Lottery funding where our families spent a whole weekend together sharing stories and memories of their precious child, creating special items and having fun supporting one another. We have been granted further funding to do this again next year also.



Key Achievements (cont.)

Schools & Community Awareness	➤ Staff and Volunteers visited 8 Primary schools and 1 High school providing wellbeing support with pupils and staff. ➤ We have also visited a further few raising awareness and informing pupils of the work Team Jak are doing & our Fundraising Administrator continues to provide information and support for YPI Groups. ➤ We are delighted that this year 2 schools successfully won the YPI Challenge for us and we are so grateful to the many schools that chose us and worked hard to highlight our cause.	➤ CE and two Trustees, staff and volunteers have represented Team Jak at various community events and spoken at them also about our work. ➤ Bag of Worries and Seasons for Growth presented in schools. ➤ West Calder High School Football Festival annual event. ➤ Girls Brigade Scotland took on Team Jak as their chosen charity this year and as a result some individual companies fundraised for us, and the National Jean T Morrison Challenge was in aid of Team Jak raising over £3000.
Fundraising & Volunteers	➤ This year we have taken on 2 fundraisers for Community Corporate Events and Grant Fundraising. ➤ This is a hard task for anyone in this current climate and it will take a little while to reap the benefits of having them in place although already we are seeing new contacts and support. ➤ SLT and key volunteers working together to review and adapt our Volunteer procedures. Volunteer Handbook, Training Sessions and campaigns and are in the middle of a full review, as is the development of our Volunteer programme, both with our Den volunteers and fundraising volunteers.	➤ A number of sponsored/in aid of events from individual people both known and unknown to our Team and families. ➤ Kiltwalk still a big fundraiser for us alongside corporate teams support. ➤ SLT looking at ways to develop marketing and comms and we are currently creating a new website to build our audience and support our network further and in turn hopefully generate more income. ➤ CRM still continually being tweaked according to need to ensure full register of funders, fundraisers and all corporate and individual contacts in line with gdpr.
Grant Funding	We have had a very good level of success with this this year including PPT, National Lottery Awards for All and another year from TNLCF and 2 years Robertson Trust, Better Breaks, Scottish	Childrens Lottery and more and we are hugely grateful to each and every one. Please see sheet in Appendix for further information and grants.

Management & Staffing

- Staff are our biggest asset due to the emotional and social support we provide.
- We aim to build our team further with demand and as reserves allow.
- We are hugely grateful to our Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Trustees who have been invaluable in keeping us legally compliant with good procedures and policies in place to ensure compliance on all levels.
- These policies and procedures are being constantly reviewed and overseen by our HR company Magenta.
- Some of our health and safety training courses have now been moved to Bright HR where staff are assigned courses as often as required.

More specifically we have been able to continue to develop the following -

- ★ Our best kept secret - **Jak's Dens** - our 'drop in' centre for young cancer patients and parents in a safe, secure and relaxed environment.
- ★ **Therapeutically enhanced activities** for service users including the use of audio, visual, gaming and conferencing facilities.
- ★ **Counselling** - adult and child Peer support.
- ★ **Organised support meetings** for parents and siblings.
- ★ **Bag of Worries** and Sibling and Superhero Support Sessions.
- ★ **Mindfulness & Relaxation** sessions and videos online and in person.
- ★ **Mums Days:** Pamper Days, Cocktail making, Craft sessions.
- ★ **Dads Days:** Golf, Darts Day, outdoor fun.
- ★ Mum & Child & Dad & Child Sessions.
- ★ **Super Sibling Sessions.**
- ★ **Grandparent Days.**
- ★ **Music, soft-play and crafts therapy** in Jak's Den for young cancer patients and siblings.
- ★ **Massage therapy** and pamper sessions for parents and young people.
- ★ **Jak's sacks** goodie bags (occasional).
- ★ Distribution of **vouchers** for those in need.
- ★ Distribution of Team Jak Foundation **flask mugs** and mugs for parents/carers in hospitals.
- ★ **Joint fun activity** sessions with **Lochranza** staff and Team Jak.
- ★ **Provision of items/goodies as requested by hospitals** such as food and presents for parties; games, toys etc.
- ★ **Provision of items/Jaks Sacks at Christmas as requested by TCT Units** at the Western Edinburgh and Beatson Glasgow.
- ★ Provision of treats or practical assistance relating to care or treatment using our **named funds.**
- ★ **Birthday parties** for Siblings & Warriors & Ringing the Bell parties.
- ★ **Themed Fun Days** for **sibling** and friends.
- ★ **Themed Fun Days** for **Warrior** and friends.
- ★ **Mini Denners, Teen Chat & Outings, TJ's Mindful Juniors, TJ's Adventures, Parent Patter.**
- ★ **Volunteer training Sessions.**
- ★ **Volunteer Awards Scheme.**
- ★ Visits to **schools to support** staff, parents, pupils during cancer journey if sadly palliative or bereaved.
- ★ All Key Staff trained **Seasons for Growth** and presenting in Schools.
- ★ Strong links established with **Schiehallion and Lochranza ward staff and Schiehallion Psychology team; Young Lives Versus Cancer, Teenage Cancer Trust, Maggie's, CHAS, GCHC, Bereavement Network** throughout Scotland.



Operational Impact within Jak's Den

Families
in West
Lothian: **61**
Jak's Den HQ
Visitors: **3240**



Registered
Families: **542**



Families in
Edinburgh/
Lothian &
Borders: **99**



Mini
Denners U5's
Attendees: **423**
Teen (13yrs+)
Session
Attendees: **84**



Angel
Families: **83**
Support
Sessions: **190**



Big Breakfast
Sessions: **458**

Families in
Glasgow &
The West: **153**



Families in
Aberdeen &
North: **109**
Jak's Den
Visitors: **1051**



Families
in Central
Scotland: **31**

Families
in Fife &
Dundee: **89**





Operational Impact within Jak's Den, Hospitals and Schools

1,784
Individuals
Supported
via Hospital
Outreach
(0yrs-Adult)



Pop-up
Jak's Den
Visitors
(Glasgow &
Fife): **274**



Volunteer
Celebration
Attendees:
160



Music Therapy
Sessions
Delivered:
699



Counselling
Sessions
Delivered:
130 (adult)
48 (children)



School Support
Attendees:
Primary: **886**
Secondary: **1446**



Mindfulness
Session
Attendees
(U18s):
369



1:1 Pupil
Support
(U18s): **231**



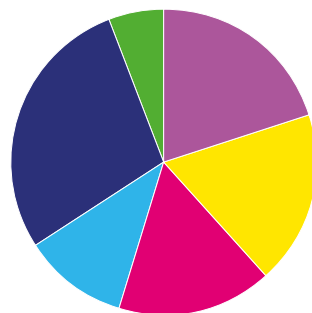
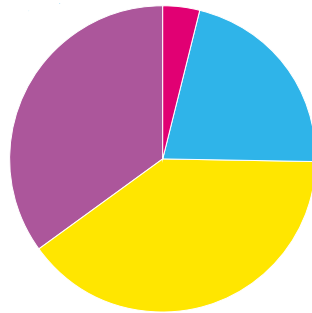
Bag of
Worries
Attendees
(U13s): **373**



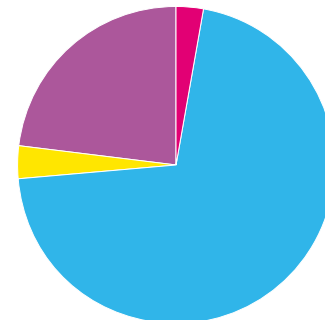
Class Support
(U18s): **786**
pupils
Staff Support:
85 teachers



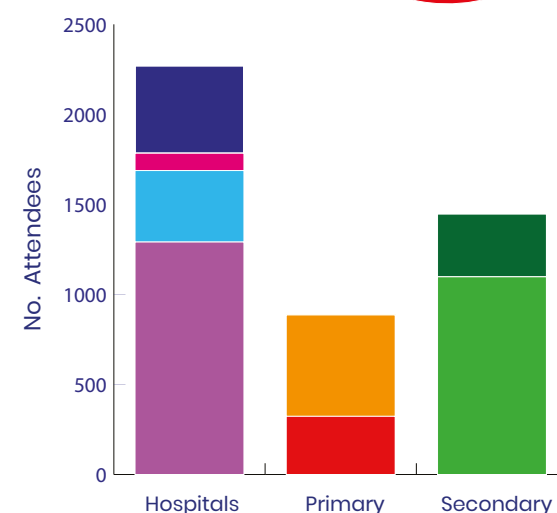
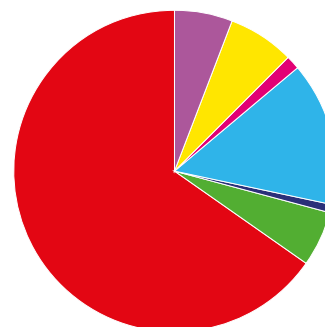
Statistics for Jak's Den 2024-2025 (June 2024 to May 2025)



Demographic	No. Of People	Staffing	No.
Angel Families	83	Team Jak Staff (inc. 7 first aiders)	16
Warriors	449		
Parents & Carers	825		
Siblings	725		
Registered Families Area Breakdown		Team Jak Volunteers	58
Aberdeen & North	109		
Edinburgh, Lothian & Borders	99		
Fife & Dundee	89		
Jak's Den	61		
Glasgow & West	153		
Central Scotland	31		
Jak's Den Visitors			
Jak's Den HQ	3240		
Jak's Den Aberdeen	1051		
Jak's Den Pop-up Fife	130		
Jak's Den Pop-up Glasgow	144		



*Outreach support includes in-person meetings, phone and video calls



Jak's Den Primary Services	No. Sessions
1:1 Outreach Support*	2067
Counselling	178
Music Therapy	213
Angel Support	190
Big Breakfast	458
Teen Sessions (inc. outings)	27
Mini Denners	46
Hospital and Schools Outreach	No. Attendees
Schiehallion Ward Support	1291
Lochranza Ward Support	397
Aberdeen Hospitals	96
1:1 Music Therapy (Schiehallion)	486
Primary Schools Group Support	323
Wellbeing Courses 5-11yrs	563
Secondary School Group Support	1098
Wellbeing Courses 11-18yrs	348

Jak's Dens Map

As well as our main Jak's Dens in Livingston (HQ) and Aberdeen, Team Jak operate pop-up Jak's Dens throughout Scotland.

You can find us in:

1. Livingston (Jak's Den HQ)
2. Aberdeen & North Scotland
3. Fife & Dundee
4. Glasgow
5. Lothian & Borders





Quotes From Our Families

"Team Jak give our teens a safe, loving, nurturing place to belong - you can see it in their smiles."

"The doctors healed my son, but Team Jak healed our family."

"Belonging and never left behind or forgotten thank you for all you do for us all bless each and everyone of you"

"As my sister put it. A family to lean on when mine were too far away to be there."

"Team Jak is a sanctuary to us. It offers a safe, welcoming space to spend quality time together with other families in similar situations."

"Our safe place whenever we need it - understanding of how we feel and never feel like a burden, ever Not sure where we'd be without you all."

"We feel so fortunate to have Team Jak and rooting for us every step of the way."

"Team Jak give our teens a safe, loving, nurturing place to belong - you can see it in their smiles."

"Always there for you not managed to attend anything yet but we are never forgotten always asked to all events Team Jak is just amazing thank you xx"

"Team Jak are still by our side years on from finishing treatment. They still provide us with so many activities that allow us to meet old and new families to share our experiences and just be there for one another. We couldn't do it without you all."

"A safe place with understanding and support. Friendships made in the worst circumstances x"

"Shared experiences, understanding, and a space to breathe knowing the kids are safe, loved and treated like family."

Quotes From Our Families (cont.)

“ Gillian Robertson

Team Jak has been there for us from day 1 of Macy's journey (before she was even diagnosed). From the insulated mug in our room, we started following you and the rest is history. Crafts, gifts and chats on the ward and Daycare until we finally made the journey to the Den. The staff and volunteers are supportive, friendly and full of fun - everything we needed! Macy loves you all and the chance for us to chat, relax and just watch all the fun going on has been a life saver for us. Even though she's finished treatment we are still welcomed as part to the Team Jak family.



“ Team Jak Family

From that first 'Team Jak' thermos flask of a hot coffee in hospital after our first night on the ward... (where I cried happy tears knowing you had our backs!) to our child and their sibling visiting Jak's Den having such fun and we can all switch off when we need it, knowing we're in a safe, supportive and caring place.

The events on the ward supported by TJ are super cute and a great way to remind you of the fun you can have even when you're in hospital!

The counselling we've been able to access via TJ, so much quicker than NHS could ever offer, has been phenomenal - an hour a week to make sure us as parents are being looked after, and can process our trauma and emotions. It ALL makes a difference.

More than you'll ever know.



“ Amanda Jayne

Where we have made friends that are now our family.

The support and understanding of those who "get it" should never be underestimated. Even after over 10 years of this journey, the support and understanding is always there. And the children/teenagers have made friends and felt comfortable and safe x



“ Team Jak Family

Team Jak have broken down the stigma of childhood cancer, they've helped rebuild confidence and believing in themselves, shown them how to have fun again. They have acknowledged the fight, the ongoing battles, celebrating their victories and standing alongside them in their pain.



“ Team Jak Family

"Where do we start, coming up for 9 years ago I was sitting in the old hospital at the side of a day bed really upset after the news. A tall lady walked over and asked if I was okay or did I need anything. Little did I know that lady was Allison.

The support, check-in's, visits, everything that you did/do for us and others is mind blowing. As the years went on and the recovery changed we felt like other families needed you guys more. How wrong could we have been, everyone at Team Jak are amazing, they welcome everyone and have helped our daughter massively with confidence, meeting new friends and navigating these new challenges in this part of the journey.

Not sure where we would be without the support over the years.



“ Team Jak Family

Now in the post-treatment phase, our son is often nervous about going places but when we mention something is happening at Jak's Den - that anxiety disappears. We have enjoyed joining special trips and mindfulness sessions and have also recently benefited from counselling too. Our younger son is thoughtfully made very welcome too and still talks about the Wonka workshop!



“ Christina

I don't think Team Jak will ever truly know how amazing they are and what Jak was. From the day we met Colette on Sarah-Ceit's 2nd admission with a fever just over a year ago to meeting her the day of Sarah-Ceit's amputation and her giving us her words of wisdom.

The welcome we got the 1st time we went to the Den and were welcomed with open arms by Allison and the parents. They understand every child, sibling and parents different and unique ways of coping with everything thrown at them they understand the rollercoaster we ride and are there whenever they're needed. We so wish we could have met Jak, a 15 year old who envisioned all that team Jak is while also going through his own journey is just inspirational. So as there are no better words to say I'll just say THANK YOU.



“ Ashley Drummond

Team Jak, you are truly incredible. Your love and support from the very start of Arthur's cancer journey has given our family the strength to get through some really dark days. The Den has provided us with a safe space to make so many happy memories as well as the chance to connect with other families we always feel welcomed and the effort put in by all of the volunteers and staff is exceptional. Thank you! You have helped us navigate a very scary time and been there with open arms xxx





Important Events

This year has been bittersweet with the ten year anniversary of losing Jak, but rejoicing in the difference his legacy has made to so many young people and their families affected by childhood cancer.

We launched our Bee Happy theme last year and had a very special Birthday Bowl and Volunteer Celebration in September, launching our first children's book- TJ and the Bee- shortly after.

Our book was written by Allison, Jak's Mum and illustrated by one of our fabulous super siblings Ava Dunlop.

Ava's drawings are amazing and we are sooo delighted she illustrated this special book for us.

Then in November some of our superhero warriors and siblings got together and co-wrote a song with the fabulous Greg Friel called "Have Hope and Be Happy", then went to his recording studio to record it. We then appeared on STV news and raised over £2000 with this fabulous song! What an empowerment for our young people to express their feelings through music and describe how they feel about Team Jak and Jak's Den in song- and what talented superstars!!

You can view our song here-

https://youtu.be/oi9j8_CzQ3U?feature=shared

On a personal note, Allison was honoured to be invited to HRH Princess of Wales Carol Concert in December and she and Granma Ish had a very special time having been invited due to our work with Team Jak and childhood cancer. Allison was then invited to speak on Good Morning Britain on Chirstmas Eve about her experience and was also able to talk a little of Team Jak to raise awareness.

- 👍 We had over 200 children and parents at both of our Christmas parties in Aberdeen and Livingston this year.
- 👍 Our Burns Celebration was very special and one we all enjoyed very much, and then of course came our Big Bee Happy 10 yer anniversary ball.
- 👍 The Ball was our biggest ever with over 370 guests dancing and smiling the night away at the beautiful Prestonfield House. We were delighted to raise over £32000 on the night for our inspirational young people.
- 👍 We returned to participate in the Ziplide across the Clyde and new for this year was our abseil from the Falkirk Wheel. We also had some of our fantastic corporate friends from Gym 64 complete a skydive and raise lots of money for us.
- 👍 These were great events and raised a lot of money and awareness for Team Jak.
- 👍 Within Team Jak we celebrated Glow Gold- Childhood Cancer Awareness month and have had lots of exciting and fun days out and parties.
- 👍 It's been a special year with our Bee Happy theme having been well received by all.



Volunteers & Fundraising

We have over 60 volunteers on our list with approx. 25-30 volunteering on a regular basis in some form.

We have a variety of roles for volunteers from helping at events in the Den and spending time with some of our families to volunteer admin. Our Volunteers enhance the wonderful work our inspirational staff do weekly.

We also have some who help us raise awareness and fundraise through our organised Events and Awareness Days in shops, bag packing, theatres at Shows and for anything else that arises.

We adhere to the Volunteer Charter and recommendations of Volunteer Scotland and interview our volunteers and ask for references and every volunteer must have a pvg regardless of age.

They are then given an induction session and also a full training course if wanting to work in Jak's Den, which includes Child Protection and Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Confidentiality and Bereavement training. We then offer Food Hygiene and First Aid as extras to those wishing to complete.

Volunteers are given instructions on uniform code and also code of conduct. They are then asked to attend at least two further training sessions per year- one Autumn and one Spring which will keep them up to date with all current legal and other issues alongside socialising with other Ambassadors.

We have a lovely strong team of regulars who have been developing their own skills also and working with our families and children in our Bag of Worries programme alongside attending our Big breakfast and angel days, Mini Denners and lots more.

A number of our younger Volunteers have been helping with our Friday Lunch Club.

Two of our volunteer families- Johnnie and Raymond, and Amanda, Hannah, Nicky, Debbie, Emma and Kirsty have raised over £10k for 10 years along with a number of corporates including Gym 64 and Primark, with a few more still to complete this challenge.

We are so very grateful to each and every one for this amazing effort.

We had a lovely Volunteer celebration and presentation of awards and are always grateful for everything our volunteers do. We are very excited to be taking our Volunteer awards ceremony to The Kelpies this year to culimate our year of Bee Happy and celibrate our wonderful volunteers whom we could not do without.





Volunteer Statements

Ishbel Barr
VOLUNTEER & JAK'S GRANMA

It is a huge honour and privilege for me as Jak's Granma to be involved in Team Jak in many different ways.

It's been lovely to see the charity grow and carry out his dreams whilst knowing I am making a wee difference 😊



Susan Dalziel
VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR

I have volunteered at Team Jak for 10 years now. Life is busy but taking time out at Team Jak can help remind you what is more important in life. Seeing how brave and resilient the children and their families are, it's an honour to think I can support them even just a little in their journeys.



Dave & Amanda McGeachie
VOLUNTEERS & FUNDRAISERS

Team Jak has been an incredible journey for the last year. I have enjoyed working and meeting new families. Seeing how strong everyone has been through their tough journey just shows what amazing people they are and



Kirstie Adams
VOLUNTEER & FUNDRAISER

Team Jak has given me confidence, means the world to me support families going through a difficult and challenging time. Without Team Jak I wouldn't be half the person I am today. I am proud to be a volunteer.



Hannah Marshall
VOLUNTEER & FUNDRAISER

Team Jak has given me confidence, means the world to me support families going through a difficult and challenging time. Without Team Jak I wouldn't be half the person I am today. I am proud to be a volunteer.



Staff Statements

Colette Gough
CYP & FAMILIES LEAD

Watching the relationships and friendships grow week on week is heartening – none of us are on this journey alone. Our ward visits can be as basic as handing craft packs in to help pass the time, sitting with children giving parents a break, or more in depth conversations with parents or children offering support and company or even hosting Mini Denners music time in the play room.

No two weeks are ever the same and it is a privilege to walk alongside families on the cancer journey and to celebrate all of the milestones on the way. We can see the difference we are making to children and families on the ward through the friendships we have made and facilitated.



Margaret King
FUNDRAISING ADMINISTRATOR

I support fundraisers and community fundraising events. I liaise with fundraisers to make sure they have everything they need; organise and attend fundraising events in the local community. I promote the display of our Charity Collection Tins on business premises and canvass business owners to increase the number of tins on display. I also support High School Pupils who choose Team Jak for their Youth Philanthropy Initiative Project (YPI).



Tiffany Rothwell
CYP & FAMILIES SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

I think one of my favourite parts about TJ is the fact that you walk into the Den and you can't tell who's children belong to who – everyone plays together, it's like walking into a really big welcoming family.

I've loved spreading awareness and doing community events, schools, village fayres, bag packing etc. You never know who you might meet or who sees our banner and needs our help.



Rhona Flemming
FINANCE CO-ORDINATOR

As the charity has grown over the past year, my role has changed from Administration & Finance to Finance. There have been many events held over the year ranging from the Ball to Ladies days, Gala days, Family outings etc. all of which have been well attended and have kept us all very busy. I love the Summer Holiday programme with 3 family days a week for 6/7 weeks with lots of fun, games, food and laughter.



Rachel Laptucha
PLAY & SUPPORT WORKER

Team Jak has been an incredible journey for the last year. I have enjoyed working and meeting new families. Seeing how strong everyone has been through their tough journey just shows what amazing people they are and I'm glad to be a part





Corporate Support/Partnerships/Funding

Corporate Sponsors

- ★ Alchemy Drinks Wholesale
- ★ Altrad
- ★ Arnold Clark
- ★ Bank of Scotland
- ★ Black Rock
- ★ C&A Autocentre
- ★ Catalent
- ★ CISWO
- ★ CMYK Business Technology
- ★ Corn Exchange
- ★ DNV
- ★ ENI Energy E&P UK Limited
- ★ Escone Solutions
- ★ Found Ocean Ltd
- ★ Glendola Leisure
- ★ Gym 64
- ★ H&J Martin
- ★ HMRC
- ★ Howdens
- ★ Ibis Styles
- ★ Michael Kors
- ★ Midwich Limited
- ★ Ocean Marine Group (ETPM Limited, Pirie & Smith, UCO)
- ★ Plexus
- ★ Porsche Edinburgh
- ★ Primark
- ★ Sky4
- ★ SM Electrical
- ★ Star Harmonies
- ★ The Aberdeen Altens Hotel
- ★ The Aberdeen Dyce Hotel
- ★ The Malcolm Group/Donald Malcolm Foundation
- ★ Valneva

Funders

- ★ Aberdeen Airport
- ★ Aberdeen City Council
- ★ Aberdeen Student Show
- ★ ACVO
- ★ Agnes Hunter Trust
- ★ Barrack Charitable Trust
- ★ Black Rock
- ★ Cash for Kids
- ★ Children in need
- ★ Co-op
- ★ Hugh Fraser Foundation
- ★ John Kirkhope Young Endowment Fund
- ★ National Lottery
- ★ Oak Foundation
- ★ Port of Aberdeen
- ★ Roberston Trust
- ★ Scottish Children's Lottery
- ★ Seven Trades of Aberdeen
- ★ Shared Care Scotland- Better Breaks
- ★ Tesco Stronger Starts
- ★ The Access Foundation
- ★ The Hospital Saturday Fund
- ★ The St. Katharine's Fund
- ★ Trades Widow Fund Charity
- ★ West Lothian Council
- ★ William A Cargill Charitable Trust



Collaborative Work with other Agencies and Charities

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| ★ Anthony Nolan | ★ Glasgow Children Hospital Charity | Hospital for Children and Young People |
| ★ Blood Cancer UK (Bloodwise) | ★ Glasgow POONS Team | ★ RACH |
| ★ Calums Cabin | ★ Glow Gold | ★ Schiehallion ward, Glasgow Hospital for Children and Young People, |
| ★ CBUK | ★ Highland Bereavement Network | ★ Tayside Children's Hospital |
| ★ CHAS | ★ Lochranza Ward, Edinburgh Children and Young People's hospital, | ★ Teenage Cancer Trust, Western Edinburgh, Beatson Glasgow |
| ★ Doing It For Daniel | ★ Logan's Fund | ★ The Yard |
| ★ Edinburgh POONS Team | ★ Lothian Bereavement Network | ★ Young Lives Versus Cancer (CLIC) Social Work Team Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Inverness |
| ★ Family Support/Palliative Care Team, Edinburgh Children and Young People's hospital | ★ Maggies | |
| ★ Fife Bereavement Network | ★ NHS Grampian | |
| ★ Glasgow Bereavement Network | ★ Psychology Team Schiehallion ward, Glasgow | |

MP/Government Contacts

- ★ Angela Constance MSP
- ★ Miles Briggs MSP
- ★ Jeremy Balfour MSP

Councillors Disbursement Fund

- ★ Cllr Maria MacAulay
- ★ Cllr Pauline Stafford
- ★ Cllr Pauline Orr
- ★ Cllr Damian Doran-Timson
- ★ Cllr Moira McKee Shemilt
- ★ Cllr Harry Cartmill
- ★ Cllr Danny Logue
- ★ Cllr Lawrence Fitzpatrick
- ★ Cllr David Russell
- ★ Cllr Tony Pearson
- ★ Cllr Tony Boyle
- ★ Cllr Peter Heggie



Ambition and Long Term Strategy

By looking at our goals, ambition and longterm strategy we hope to secure the future of Team Jak in order that we can continue to create smiles and ease the journey of many young people with cancer and their families for many years to come. This will allow us to provide the emotional and social support required for children young people and families with cancer and related illnesses within Jak's Den HQ and our Aberdeen Den, alongside our other pop ups and outreach services, and also allow us to expand our much used and needed Schools Wellbeing and Bereavement Support Service.

- We will continue to provide and extend our support within the oncology/haematology wards in our children's hospitals.
- We aim to expand our schools wellbeing outreach support using Bag of Worries, Hope and Rainbows and also our bespoke wellbeing support tailored to individual schools.
- We need to ensure we are bringing in about £48,000 to £56,000 per month in order to stay ahead of ourselves and continue with the high level of operational activity we are providing at the moment in order to continue to provide financial stability and sustainability within our Charity- Staff being our biggest asset and requirement.
- Counselling and Support Services will be further developed in response to need.
- Family Support and Liaison will be improved via our CYP Outreach Wellbeing Coordinator, Children and Young Person Co-ordinators and Play Workers and we aim to grow our team as the need arises.
- Fife and Glasgow links will be further established through the provision of pop up Den activities.
- More families will be reached through our stronger links with main hospitals- Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen.
- More support will be provided in particular in Glasgow with a view to a Jak's Den in person or on wheels within 5 years.
- We will continue to strengthen relations with other Agencies and Charities.
- We need to improve upon our IT Skills, Website and Mailchimp and keep up to date with other IT developments (covid has definitely thrown us in the deep end here)!

Short Term Goals

In order to support our ever increasing registered number of families our main priority currently is to increase our monthly income on a more regular basis through grant funding, individual giving and community fundraising and developing a sustainable income through our wellbeing services in turn building our reserves back to a healthy level following the last few years. We are delighted this year we have made a surplus on our accounts and plan to continue to build on this in the coming year.



We plan to increase this through our reach of families within Aberdeen through our hospital outreach and the north of Scotland and secure funding and supporters through corporates, schools and community groups to allow us to cover all outgoings for our Aberdeen Jak's Den.

Our other main priority within our short term goals and as a result of direct need, is that we aim to further develop our programme of support and outreach to Glasgow.

We aim to further strengthen our links with Schiehallion ward through weekly visits from our staff and twice weekly from our Music therapist, and twilight sessions and monthly Saturday sessions from Glasgow Children's Hospital's Crossbasket House which is very close to the hospital.

For our Volunteers we aim to continue to update and further develop our extensive training and support programme in response to Volunteer Scotland's new charter through our new volunteer Volunteer admin, and expand upon our training calendar to help them become aware of their responsibilities as volunteers as well as equipping them to work with sensitivity and understanding with our inspirational families, and include more training on mental health first aid, trauma and grief.

Within Jak's Den we aim to further enhance our programme of weekly and daily activities and further develop our support sessions to ensure we have fully supported all groupings and ages appropriate to ages and stages at this time and encourage more families to attend in person.

Emotional support and in particular Bereavement Support are two big areas of focus for us and we see these as being ongoing key areas in the development of our services going forward.

Outreach

We continue to develop our outreach services in more depth with a new Outreach Wellbeing Coordinator recently appointed to enable us to respond in the way we really want to. This will include our out of hours support and more pop up events and support in geographical areas of need.

We also wish to continue to develop all of our current core services including:

- ★ **Counselling and Support Services** – ensure we provide the support required to match demand and continue to grow our counselling and therapeutic services and support groups.
- ★ **Online and phone support** for those that need and want it meantime.
- ★ **Our emotional support programme** including Bag of Worries, Bag of Hope, Bag of Rainbows and Seasons for Growth and outreach to individual children and young people.
- ★ **Family Support and Liaison** will be continue to be improved via our Wellbeing and Children and Young Person Co-ordinators to include support for warriors, siblings and the wider family.
- ★ **Bereavement support** will be a priority including for siblings, cousins, friends, parents, grandparents, wider family and children of parents who have terminal cancer or sadly died.
- ★ **Aberdeen, Fife and Glasgow links** will be further established through our Children and Young Person & Family team.
- ★ **More families reached** through our **stronger links with main hospitals** – Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, TCT Units.
- ★ Continue to strengthen relations with **other Agencies and Charities**.





Medium Term Goals

Financial security and sustainability tops this as a concern for all at this uncertain time within the Third Sector and will be at the forefront of all our decisions around service provision, using our comprehensive quantitative data through stats, and qualitative evidence.

We have discovered since embarking upon the **Team Jak** journey that our **support services** are split very clearly into a number of areas with a **child centred approach** at the heart of everything we do- responding to what the **child needs** and would like depending on their diagnosis, stage of journey and needs within.

Medium to long-term we also aim to address the gaps and requirements for a further **Jak's Den in Glasgow**.

We plan to strengthen our **links with Health and Education** and build upon our support for Education in relation to links with schools and education authorities in order to support children who are going through a cancer journey or in palliative care and those bereaved.

We will continue to create and develop further bespoke Team Jak branded material in response to issues faced by young people and siblings going through a cancer journey or bereaved.

We also aim to create more opportunities to develop **study support** for Primary and Secondary children who are missing out on schooling and need more 1:1 from home or from Jak's Den.

Long Term Goals

We need to keep trying to **raise awareness and momentum** further, continue to be positive and upbeat with our **fundraising campaigns** and follow our Transformation strategy with realism in this current funding climate, using a variety of fundraising techniques through community corporate, individual, events and continue to apply for as many relevant grants as we can, along with continuing to developing our Wellbeing Programme with the view to having as a separate entity to ensure we can continue to provide financial stability and sustainability within our Charity.

The upkeep and sustainability of our Jak's Den HQ in Livingston and satellite Jak's Dens and pop ups throughout Scotland including outreach support, alongside securing a Jak's Den HQ that we own are our key long term priorities alongside working on securing regular and reliable funding.

- ★ **Jak's Den HQ** - current and ongoing
- ★ **Aberdeen Jak's Den** - ongoing funding requirements
- ★ **Glasgow** - ongoing support with Jak's Den premises by 2027
- ★ Other areas of Scotland as required via **outreach and hospital support**

We believe this will be an ongoing work in progress and in being proactive as well as reactive this will take a number of years to create. All areas are currently serviced via online and phone and occasional in person outreach/fun days where the geographic need arises.



Summary

We are delighted to have substantially increased our income (and our outgoings) but that our income is currently superceding our outgoings however we know we can never be complacent.

We are also very proud of our work and relationships in particular with Schiehallion ward and psychology and palliative staff in Glasgow, and our schools wellbeing support service this year and look forward to growing this further.

It's very sad this service is required, however thanks to one young man, my inspirational son Jak's dreams, over 3500 people are being directly touched by **Team Jak** in one way or another through our services on offer.

The **Team Jak Foundation** will provide a facility and service to those children, siblings, parents and other family members who are suffering from cancer and related illnesses plus bereavement services as necessary, through **emotional, social and practical support** either at our specially created Jak's Dens, **pop-up Dens or through outreach at home or in hospital** as required.

Team Jak will benefit **many families** who need support throughout the stages of a young person's cancer or related journey and beyond, either through remission or in some cases sadly death.

We seek to **complement the support available from health professionals** who care and administer the appropriate drugs, not replace that support, providing vital, experienced care and understanding at a time of great turmoil and difficulty.

In summary Team Jak aim to create smiles and ease the journey for all our young superhero warriors, siblings, parents, friends and wider community.

Once you are part of the Team Jak Family we hope that you will never leave it.

TEAM JAK - **"Together Everyone Achieves More"** when we work for the good of our inspirational children, young people and their families.

So as we celebrate ten years of being a registered charity, we are grateful for all the lives we have touched, and all the support given by many families, individuals, funders and businesses, community groups and schools.

Team Jak thanks to the support and generosity of many, will continue to work very hard to create smiles and ease the journey reaching as many families of children with cancer and those bereaved from **within Scotland age 0-25** as we possibly can.

In this special year we remember the words of one young inspirational young man, Jak Trueman to not to worry and "Be Happy".

Allison Barr

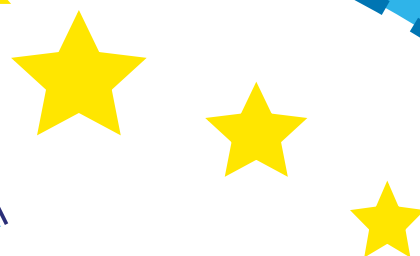
Allison Barr

Proud Mum of Jak and Aimie Trueman and CE of Team Jak.





Team Jak Foundation provides emotional, social and practical support for children (0–15yrs) and young people (16–25yrs) with cancer and related illnesses; their families, friends and those bereaved



Jak's Den HQ Livingston

5–7 Ochil House, Livingston, EH54 6QF
Contact Tel: 01506 412302
info@teamjak.org.uk

Jak's Den Aberdeen

West Lodge, 12 Greenwell Road,
Aberdeen, AB12 3AX
Contact Tel: 01224 895893
info@teamjak.org.uk



TEAM  **JAK**

<https://teamjak.org.uk>

Allison Barr, Annual Impact Report 2025
TEAM JAK FOUNDATION SC045586 (SCIO)

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Scottish Charity Regulator
www.oscr.org.uk

Registered SCIO
SC045586