

## More precious moments in NICU

In 2022, we cared for over 570 babies who were born premature or sick here at the Royal United Hospitals Bath. Many of our most tiny patients face a hospital stay stretching into weeks and months and need specialist care to survive and thrive. This can be a life-changing and traumatic time for parents who naturally want to be as close as possible to their newborn. With your help we want to enable more parents to have the choice to stay overnight with their baby.

### Dyson Centre for Neonatal Care enhancement




In our Dyson Centre for Neonatal Care Unit (NICU) we have 21 cots and four ensuite rooms available to parents. These ensuite rooms are primarily allocated to babies that are getting ready to go home, to stay with their parents in preparation for going home, or babies that have some care needs but are well enough to be cared for by their parents but need some extra support from neonatal staff.

In addition, we have four temporary camp beds that can be set up next to the cot space within the unit. Not all families can stay, they may have children at home or additional care duties or need time away from the unit but for those that are able, we want to provide an additional four beds next to cots and a new shower room to give more parents the option to stay.



### How you can help us

NICU already has four camp beds that can be set-up, however, with no dividing curtains the rooms lack privacy. Parents who use the camp beds are only able to shower by leaving NICU and visiting the maternity ward. With your help we will provide:

-  4 permanent pull down beds at the cot side
-  8 curtain fittings to ensure all 8 beds have privacy
-  A parent shower room

This will enable us to increase our capacity to offer a further eight parents the option to stay.

## Meet Alice, mum of Marley & Mabel

In November 2022, Alice and her partner Jamie's lives were turned upside down when their twins Marley and Mabel arrived seven weeks early. The twins needed a helping hand from our NICU team and after 35 nights they were able to finally go home.

"During Marley and Mabel's stay we were travelling 32 miles every day which was exhausting alongside the emotional stress of our twins being here early. You never envisage having to leave your baby at the hospital and it was heartbreaking leaving the twins every night, especially for the first time. I was able to stay with the twins at the hospital for only nine out of the total 35 nights. Just having more of an option to stay would have made the experience that little less scary and stressful.

Having the curtains will be a huge benefit to parents, allowing them additional privacy and enabling them to feel more comfortable. On the nights I stayed, I was having to leave NICU and head up to the maternity ward if I wanted a shower or to brush my teeth and this felt really daunting with so much going on, having the new shower room, curtains, and beds will make a world of difference for parents, knowing they can always be close to their babies."



## How you can support

**We need your help to raise £60,000 to bring this project to life, so that we can keep parents and babies together by greatly improving the current facilities. Your support will truly mean so much to these families giving them time together to create more precious memories.**

There are many ways you can support this project:

- Make a donation
- Take part in our events
- Fundraise for us
- Celebrate the life of a loved one
- Partner with us
- Leave a gift in your Will

We are so grateful for the support of our local community and every gift big or small, will make a huge impact to our tiny patients. Depending on the level of your gift, we may be able to acknowledge your support within NICU.

If you want to stay one step ahead and learn more about our campaigns and projects visit: [ruhx.org.uk](http://ruhx.org.uk)

"We strive to be able to offer more parents the option to stay with their babies to value them as partners in care and, to help build close and loving relationships. The addition of the four pull down beds with fitted curtains for privacy and separate wash facilities will be a huge asset to the service we can offer our families. Not only will this compliment the accommodation we currently have, but it will make us a forerunner in neonatal services in the UK for integrated and family centered care".

**Kirstie Flood**  
NICU Senior Sister/Lead Nurse Team

