

A Brief History of Brainwave's 30 years

In 2012, Brainwave celebrates its 30th birthday.

Brainwave came into being when two people left the British Institute for Brain Injured Children (BIBIC) to set up their own charity. In October 1982, the Charity was incorporated under the name of the Kerland Foundation. It was not until 1995 that the Charity changed its name to Brainwave.

1. Services

Scope

During the 1980s and 1990s, Brainwave's scope was wider than it is now. It ran two trading companies: a Sports & Lifestyle Clinic and a mobile breast screening service. The latter was contracted with the local health authority and ran for nine years, finishing in 2000.

The Sports & Lifestyle Clinic achieved local recognition, acquiring Referral Centre status by the Somerset Physical Activity Group and was invited to tender for 'further healthcare work' in 1994. This resulted in winning a substantial GP referral contract the following year. The service was sold to Avalon Leisure in 2000.

During this time, Brainwave provided service for adults as well as children. These were mainly people with brain damage, particularly those who had had a stroke. In 1999, a service to provide rehabilitation and respite care was launched, led by a 'state registered physiotherapist'.



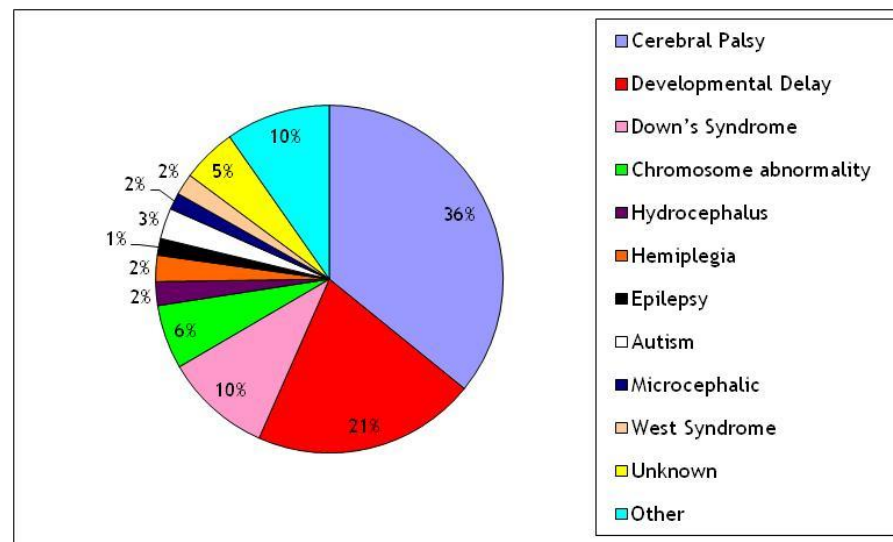
In the 2000s, Brainwave refocused, dropping its adult provision, although today Brainwave's therapists continue to see a few adults from this time. In 2008, it started to implement a pilot to support children with Autism.

Today, Brainwave states that it 'works with families to deliver home based individual therapy and exercises to help children with disabilities and Developmental Delay achieve their full potential'.



Brainwave no longer concentrates exclusively on children with brain injuries but a whole range of conditions including Autism and genetic conditions such as Down's Syndrome.

Children's conditions



Clinics

Brainwave moved into its first Centre in 1986 at Huntworth Gate, just outside Bridgwater, Somerset. In 1996, it was reported that Assessments were being carried out in Finland and Switzerland with Japan being added three years later. Clinics continued in Switzerland until 2001, Finland 2002 and Japan 2003.

A centre was opened in Preston in 1989 to support the 50 or so families who were following the programme in the North of England. The Centre ran successfully until 1994 when the decision was taken to close the Centre due to staff restructuring in the South West Centre.

Brainwave's Trustees have always been very conscious of the difficulties that families with children with disabilities face when travelling and took a decision, which remains to this day, of taking the service to families to reduce their travelling time.

The investigations began in 1996 to run satellite clinics in Scotland and the 1998 Annual Report mentions twice yearly clinics in Kirkcaldy, Fife. Today they take place in the Sudbud Centre in Perth.



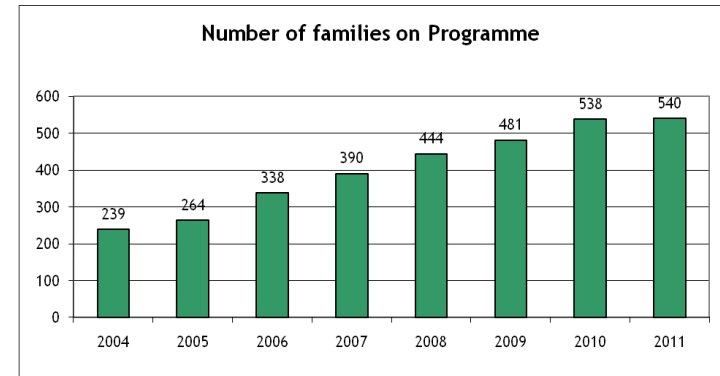
Clinics in Ireland were added in 2000. There was significant interest in Ireland and facilities were located in Navan in 2003. A subsidiary company, Athas Ltd, with a local board, was set up the following year and the permanent clinic began to take families. Unfortunately, fundraising was not successful enough to cover the costs of running the Centre and it was closed in 2007, reverting back to running twice yearly satellite clinics, which remain very

successful and cost efficient.

The numbers of children on Brainwave's Programme continued to grow. Satellite clinics in the South East commenced in 2005 to test out the likely support for a clinic in the area. In addition, satellite clinics for the Orthodox Jewish community took place in North London. Thanks to substantial funds raised by the London Stock Exchange, investigations in 2006 led to the opening of a second Centre in Witham, Essex in 2007.

An adoption by the City Fundraising Group, The October Club, in 2008, raised sufficient funds to consider opening a third permanent Centre. Geographical analysis showed that the North West would be the best place to serve families. In 2009, a brand new Centre was opened in Birchwood, between Warrington and Manchester, with good transport links to the North Midlands, North East and Lake District.

During the last two decades, Brainwave has also carried out home Assessments. These are Reassessments for children with difficulties that make it problematical for the families to attend a clinic. This ranges from children who are ill to children who have particular sensory issues.



Facilities and staff

South West

This is Brainwave's biggest Centre and the only one owned by the Charity. Since September 1986, when it opened, the Charity has invested steadily in its facilities:

- 1995 - Three bungalows were opened by Dr Mike Smith to provide accommodation for families attending the Centre for Assessments.
- 1999 - The original sensory garden was completed.
- 2002- New hydrotherapy pool was opened by HRH The Countess of Wessex.
- 2003 - A third therapy room was created to provide a cognitive suite with a quiet room for children on the Autistic spectrum.
- 2004 - Thanks to Wooden Spoon, two new accommodation bungalows were built and opened by HRH The Countess of Wessex.
- 2004 - The sensory garden was updated by GE Community Group volunteers and a play area added.
- 2005 - The sensory and cognitive provision was expanded by moving into another building on the site, which is now known as the Beehive.
- 2010 - A sensory swing was purchased.
- 2011 - A revamp of the sensory/cognitive suite (the Beehive) was completed and new equipment installed.



Today, the Centre has four therapy rooms, a purpose built multi sensory room (MSR), an IT/cognitive suite, a sensory garden, hydrotherapy pool and five well equipped self catering bungalows.

In 1986, the Centre had just two therapists. In 2010, Brainwave reported having a therapy manager, four physiotherapists, one occupational therapist, three educationalists and developmentalists, a peripatetic music therapist and speech and language therapist.



South East

The South East Centre was set up in February 2007 and from its beginning it has had two therapy rooms, a sensory room and separate IT suite. As in the South West, equipment has been updated and added; in 2010, it acquired a sensory swing. The team has grown with the growing number of families and today includes two physiotherapists, a full time and a part time occupational therapist and a qualified developmental/educational therapist.

North West

The setting up of the Centre in September 2009 was thanks to the funding from the October Club, and the state of the art sensory room with its interactive floor was paid for by a donation from the St James's Place Foundation. The team has developed since 2009 and now comprises of two physiotherapists, an occupational therapist and a qualified developmental/educational therapist.

Family Facilitators

Brainwave has always been aware of how lonely and isolating it can be having a child with disability. In 2004, it instigated a regional family support service to talk to families about what they could expect from the Brainwave Programme and then to support them while the child remained on the Programme. The staff, called Regional Family Coordinators, proved very successful, with retention rates where they operated increasing to 82% versus the usual 72% where they did not.



The service started off with four Coordinators covering Yorkshire, Essex, Wiltshire, Berkshire and Hampshire. The number of counties covered grew over the next few years as an additional two staff were recruited and the counties changed to reflect the geographical spread of the families.

In 2010, the service was restructured to ensure that every family on a Brainwave Programme had someone to talk to including Ireland and Scotland. Although this meant the service changed from being face to face, to one biased towards the telephone and email, rather than face to face, the response that Brainwave had from those families receiving contact for the first time, reinforced the opinion that the changes were for the greater good.

Today the staff are known as Family Facilitators.

Changes to the Programme

Over the years, Brainwave has conducted various pieces of research including two undertaken by external bodies: Institute of Health and Community Studies, Bournemouth University in 1997 and the Faculty of Health and Social Care, University of West of England in 2007. In addition, the surveys conducted internally have tracked what existing families, and families that had left the Programme, thought.

This research has helped Brainwave develop its services including:

- Videoing the Programme to give to parents began in the late 1980s.
- In 1997, music therapy was introduced.
- There was a reduction in the length of the Programme that is undertaken by the parents and carers each day. In 1999, a two hour a day Programme was the norm. Today this has reduced to half an hour.
- The introduction of Certificates of Achievements, which are given to a child when they reach a milestone eg sitting independently, was introduced. This helps maintain the motivation as the family can see how far a child has developed. In 1998, 46 Certificates were given out. In 2010, it was 281.
- 1999 saw the introduction of video conferencing with families through Skype.
- An equipment library was established in 2001 to provide equipment for families to use at home.
- The way in which progress is measured was reviewed and Gross Motor Function Measure, recognised by the Chartered Institute of Physiotherapists for Cerebral Palsy, was introduced in 2010.

Patrons, Vice Presidents, the President, Ambassadors and other supporters

Brainwave has been fortunate to have some significant supporters who became involved in the last two decades:

- 2000 - Lord King of Bridgwater and Sir Christopher Airy became Vice Presidents.
- 2001 - Tony Bullimore, Andrew Castle, Sir Ranulph Fiennes and Dr Michael Smith became Patrons.
- 2003 - HRH The Countess of Wessex became Brainwave's President and Dame Jane Whiteley becomes a Vice President.
- 2004 - Lady Gass, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, becomes a Vice President.
- 2010 - Olly Murs becomes a Patron.



HRH The Countess of Wessex hosted two major events for the Charity: in 2003 with a drinks reception at Buckingham Palace and in 2009 with a lunch at St James' Palace.



Support from Lord King led to an evening event being held in the House of Lords in 2010 and thanks to Mr Speaker, John Bercow, a similar event was held at Speaker's House in 2011.

In addition, Brainwave set up an Ambassador Group consisting of parents who have experienced having children on Programme and friends. The number has grown from 8 in 2009 to 42 in 2011.

3. Fundraising

Shops

Shops have been an important part of Brainwave, both as a source of income and as a way of raising awareness. In 1997, the Charity decided to expand the shops it had (all in the South West) and by 2000, the Charity had 14. A further impetus for growth started in 2009 and in 2011, Brainwave opened its 23rd shop.

The number of volunteers to support the shop network too has risen steadily from a reported 200 in 2006 to over 300 today.

The shops have also been fortunate in gaining support from companies, in particular CosyFeet and Laura Ashley.



Major Adoptions

Brainwave has been fortunate to have gained a number of major adoptions. These have included:

- 1994 - British Toy and Hobby Association
- 2001 - Canadian Imperial Bank
- 2005 - London Stock Exchange
- 2008 - The October Club
- 2011 - Emprise

Brainwave has also featured on the BBC Radio 4 Appeal and in 2011, the Charity was on BBC's Lifeline Appeal fronted by patron, Olly Murs.

Supporters

Trusts

During Brainwave's existence, it has been very fortunate to have a number of trusts that have regularly supported the Charity. These include:

- The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund
- The Bernard Lewis Family Charity Trust
- BBC Children in Need
- Cheyne Charity for Children with Cerebral Palsy
- The Elizabeth & Prince Zaiger Trust
- St James's Place Foundation
- The John Ellerman Foundation
- The Sobell Foundation
- The Waterloo Foundation

Guardians

At the lunch at St James' Palace, the Brainwave Guardianship scheme was launched. Each Guardian makes a donation that covers the cost of a child's Programme. In return they get regular update on the child's progress. Today the Charity has 56 Guardians but there are a



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Website: www.brainwave.org.uk See what we do at

<http://uk.youtube.com/BrainwaveCentre>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/#!/BRAINWAVECENTRE>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/brainwave.centre>

further 136 children that need help.