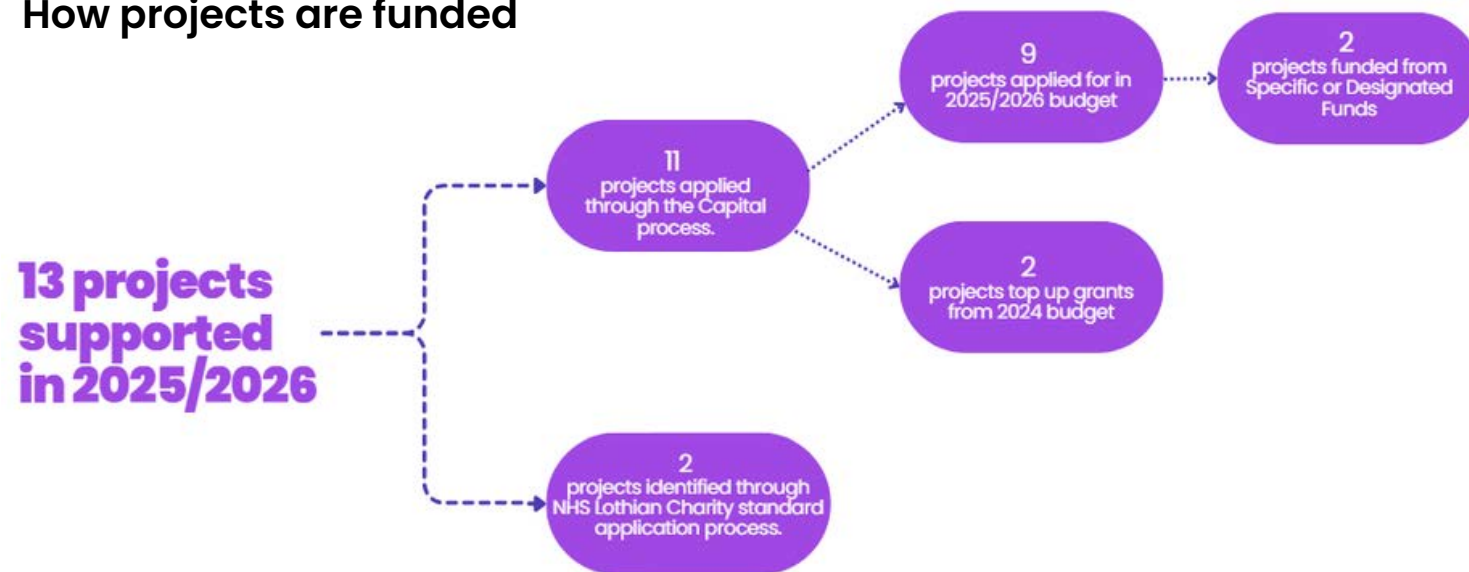


Capital Pipeline Projects 2025/2026

NHS Lothian Charity, as the strategic partner of NHS Lothian, works closely with NHS colleagues to maximise the impact of donors' support, enhancing core provision to improve clinical outcomes, enhance patient experience, reduce health inequality and improve community health. NHS Lothian Charity creates a Capital Budget annually from its General Fund. This is complemented by designated and restricted funds if specific projects allow. This funding is proactively and strategically spent on projects that are non-core (projects that provide additionality above what the Scottish Government provides). The Charity maximises the impact of this relatively small budget (£200k in 2025/26) by aligning with NHS Lothian's Capital Steering Groups pipeline process. This alignment enables the Charity to identify projects which have been prioritised by NHS Lothian departments, sites and services as the most important and impactful for patients and their families.

How projects are funded



The funding in numbers

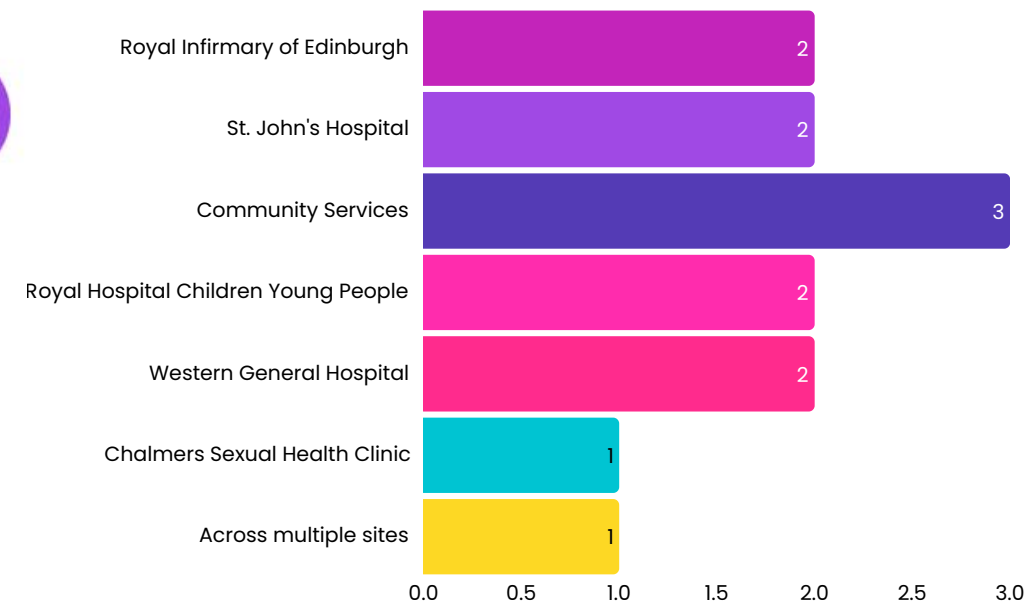
£243,694

funds were directed by NHS Lothian Charity to staff to pay for equipment and building/greenspace enhancements to benefit patients in 2025/2026.

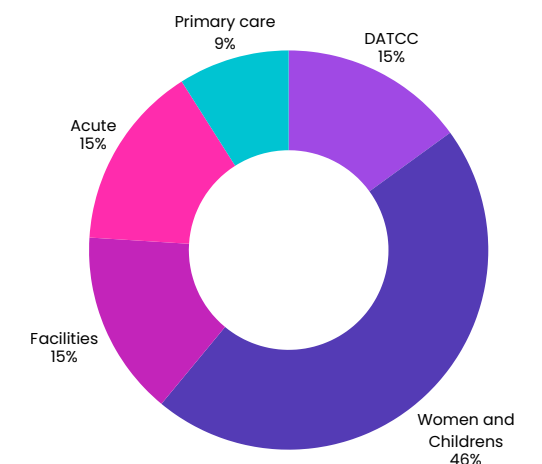


- 8 projects funded pieces of equipment
- 4 projects funded building/greenspace enhancements
- 1 project funded both equipment and building/greenspace enhancements

No. of projects by site



% of funding awarded by directorate



Impact in action

Keeping mothers and their babies together while preventing hypothermia and admissions to NICU

The mOm Essential incubator prevents the separation of mothers and their babies primarily by reducing the need for Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) admissions through efficient thermal care. By quickly achieving and maintaining a baby's normal body temperature (normothermia), the incubator addresses hypothermia, a major cause of avoidable NICU admissions. What makes this type of incubator more beneficial is that it is portable and compact enough that it can stay at the mother's bedside. Staff at St John's Hospital (SJH) maternity wards have noticed mothers that have used it are less distressed, sleeping better, feel happier and have an overall better wellbeing at what can be a very difficult and scary time.

17

less admissions to NICU in 3 months (supported by use of mOm incubator)



mOm Essential incubator

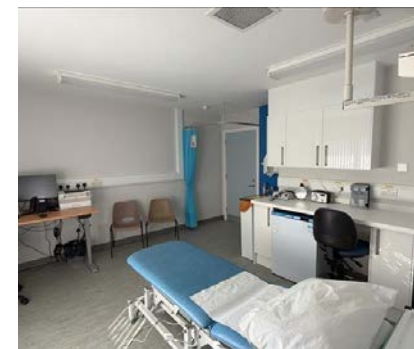
Parents can become distressed if their baby is taken away for treatment, having the mOm cot allowed the baby to stay in their care."

- Senior Charge Midwife, NICU
St. John's Hospital

Establishing up a Primary Care Regional Research Hub

With funding from NHS Lothian Charity, Penicuik Medical Practice established a dedicated clinical research facility within the practice, creating one of Scotland's pioneering Practice Embedded Research Units (PERUs). The purpose-built space has already enabled the practice to expand research activity, including a Long COVID study that helped clinicians reconnect with patients who had not engaged with the practice for some time.

The new facility is helping to remove barriers to research participation by bringing clinical trials into a community setting rather than relying solely on hospital-based studies. It is also creating opportunities for staff training and development, supporting future research into areas including obesity, respiratory conditions, kidney disease and women's health. By increasing access for under-represented groups and serving as a model that can be replicated by other GP practices, the project is contributing to a more inclusive and accessible approach to healthcare research across Scotland



Refurbished space

The grant allowed us to fully refurbish and equip the space, transforming it into a purpose-built research room. Without that initial investment, we simply wouldn't be at this point in Scotland, nor would we have a model that other practices can now look to replicate."

- Andrew, Lead Research Nurse, NHS Research Scotland
Primary Care Network

Impact in action

Providing kitchen essentials for 4th floor café at RHCYP

Following the closure of the 4th floor café at the Royal Hospital for Children and Young People (RHCYP) in 2025, staff, patients and visitors no longer had access to a large seated refreshment area close to the wards. This meant travelling to the ground floor or to another building, impacting staff break times and the comfort and convenience for patients and their families. SCRAN Academy, a social enterprise, reopened the café in 2026 with funding support from NHS Lothian Charity, which enabled the purchase of more than 50 essential kitchen items needed to setup and run the café. The café now caters for approx. 200 customers per day, 60% of which are staff.

SCRAN Academy provides an employability programme for disadvantaged young people to support skills development in catering, seven young people are currently employed and three more volunteering and over the next three years, the café will provide work and training for 200 more supporting NHS Lothian's role as an Anchor Institute. 97% of customers using the café agreed that by using the café they "felt they were giving something back to young people".



4th floor café, RHCYP

 **We came early for our appointment, it's nice to be able to get a seat and some food before the appointment...and a seat outside in this nice weather."**

- Patient

90%

of ALL CUSTOMERS agreed the cafe enhances their experience of working or coming to the RHCYP.

 **It's great not having to go over to the other building. I get a bit more time to myself before going back to the ward."**

- Family member

 **Made a difference to get a seat and a coffee as we have travelled an hour before we got here."**

- Patient

100%

of RHCYP STAFF agreed the cafe means they have more efficient use of their breaks.

 **Great having the café in this building. More time to relax on my break."**

- Staff member, RHCYP

 **Makes a difference to my break times, helps me manage my time effectively."**

- Staff member, RHCYP

Capital Pipeline projects 2026/2027

A total of 22 applications were received for 2026/27. Of these, 17 were deemed to be within the Charity's purpose, providing a level of additionality above and beyond that which NHS Lothian would ordinarily fund. Five projects, totaling £337,618, are supported through the Capital Fund. One project is supported jointly through the Capital Fund and a Specific Fund, bringing the total capital investment to £367,618. A further four projects are supported entirely through Specific Funds, totaling £142,309. In total, £509,927 of funding was awarded in support of projects aligned with NHS Lothian's capital priorities. The Charity will continue to work closely with NHS Lothian staff to identify capital projects for which no suitable Specific Funds are available. An Impact Report on these projects will be produced.

Report compiled by Rebecca Caulfield, Evaluation Manager, NHS Lothian Charity