



# Little Hearts Matter Fact Sheet 2022-23



Little Hearts Matter  
started to offer support  
in September 1994

We turned 28 in 2022

## About us

Little Hearts Matter is the only organisation in the UK offering specialised support, information and advocacy for anyone affected by single ventricle, congenital heart disease.



Little Hearts Matter's goal is to reduce the isolation, fear and lack of understanding created when a child is diagnosed as having just half a working heart.

## Support at every step of the journey.

Little Hearts Matter offers support services to people at every stage of the half a heart journey, all across the UK.



1 in 125 babies are born with a congenital heart condition, approximately 5000 per year.



10% of children with CHD have a complex non correctable congenital heart condition.



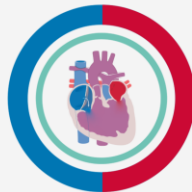
Between 450 and 500 babies are diagnosed as having a single ventricle heart condition, half a working heart, each year. Approximately 75% of them have an antenatal diagnosis.



Treatment for the majority of babies with single ventricle heart disease is offered in their first week of life.



In most cases, surgical treatment can be offered to people with a single ventricle heart but it will not offer a cure. The children, teenagers and adults with half a heart will require a lifetime of treatment and medication and will have to learn to live with the restrictions and disabilities that having half a heart creates.



The Fontan operation is the third procedure that may be offered to a young person with half a working heart. Between 150 and 200 operations are performed each year.



There are over 1500 Adults living with a Single Ventricle Heart condition in the UK.

Three stages of palliative surgery are offered to most children with half a working heart in their first five years of life.



The surgery offers children a circulation but it cannot cure their heart condition.

Approx  
**36%**

Approximately 36% of children with a single ventricle heart have a diagnosed educational deficit.

Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Autism or Attention Deficit Disorder.



Approximately a third of children with a single ventricle heart also have a genetic condition, they may have other physical or developmental conditions.

Children, teenagers and adults with single ventricle hearts have a three fold increase of the possibility mental health condition in comparison to their peers.

Depression, Anxiety, ADHD and Self-Harm.