

Suffolk Artlink's Clown Round programme

The Clown Doctor programme places artists in healthcare settings to offer an impartial way of supporting and empowering children who may be struggling with fear, boredom and confusion.

Dr Fillie Fidget, Dr Chrisobell Misschief and Dr Hyacinth Haystack visit the children's wards, engaging outpatients and inpatients in clowning, storytelling, music, magic, circus skills, improvisation, balloons and bubble, helping to distract children and their families at what can be a very difficult time.

The programme was awarded a three year grant from BBC Children in Need in November 2012 to continue delivering weekly sessions at Colchester General Hospital, the Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust and James Paget University Hospitals.

Clown Round also provides on call visits to the Treehouse Ipswich and Quidenham Norfolk EACH (East Anglia's Children's Hospices).

Suffolk Artlink is a participatory arts charity delivering high quality creative activities to a range of people including young people, people with learning disabilities, children in hospitals and older people. Suffolk Artlink also plays a developmental role in the county by creating partnerships with other organisations in order to deliver innovative projects. For further information on Suffolk Artlink visit www.suffolkartlink.org.uk.

BBC Children in Need awards grants each year to organisations supporting disadvantaged children and young people in the UK. For further information on BBC Children in Need visit www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b008dk4b.

For further information on Colchester Hospital

University NHS Foundation Trust visit www.colchesterhospital.nhs.uk, Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust visit www.ipswichhospital.nhs.uk, James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust visit www.jpaget.nhs.uk and EACH visit www.each.org.uk.