

Francis House Children's Hospice factsheet



Francis House Children's Hospice supports hundreds of extraordinary families from across the North West of England by providing care for children and young people with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions and support for their families.

- Francis House Children's Hospice comprises two separate facilities:

Francis House - Accommodation is provided for the whole family.

Francis Lodge - An age-appropriate facility for teenagers and young adults.

- Francis House is a children's hospice, the fifth to be built in the UK and the World in 1991. To date the hospice has supported more than 1,500 families.
- Based in Didsbury, Greater Manchester, Francis House is a lifeline to families from across Greater Manchester including Stockport, Oldham, Bury, Rochdale, Heywood, Middleton, Manchester, Salford, and Trafford.
- Francis House supports more than 600 families of children, teenagers, and young adults with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.
- Approximately 380 families will use the hospice for respite care.
- Approximately 220 families are receiving some form of emotional and / or bereavement support.
- We support approximately 2,000 people at any one time with respite care, homecare, day care, sibling support, parental support, symptom control and end of life care, and emotional and bereavement support.
- Francis House Family Trust is the registered charity, charity number 328659
- Less than 6% of children come to Francis House with cancer-related conditions. Other life-limiting and life-threatening conditions include neuromuscular type illnesses, metabolic conditions as well as a large percentage with complex undiagnosed conditions.
- The criteria for acceptance at Francis House is that the sick child has a life-limiting/life-threatening condition which means they have a short life expectancy and that they have been referred and accepted prior to their 16th birthday. Once accepted the young person can continue to receive respite care, symptom control, and end of life care at Francis House for as long as they choose or until their death.
- A significant number of families coming to Francis House have one or more child with the same life-limiting illness
- Francis House has 82 staff including a care team consisting of Registered sick children's nurses, general nurses, nursery nurses, social workers, occupational therapists, play specialists and creative therapists, plus a small ancillary team including fundraising, administrative, accounts and maintenance.
- Francis House provides a service of palliative and respite care 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. The service is charitably funded and is free at the point of service.
- Francis House has 14 bedrooms for the children and young adults including a Gold Room permanently set up for use by hyperactive young people.
- Children's bedrooms also contain a bed settee for siblings and there are 7 double family bedrooms. Other facilities include a hydrotherapy pool, Snoezelen multi-sensory room of lights,

music, bubbling tubes and waterbed, soft play room, creative therapy room, family lounge, music room, kitchen and dining area, administration and fundraising offices, gardens and outdoor play area.

- The teenage and young adult building, known as Francis Lodge, includes 6 bedrooms, sharing 3 en-suite bathrooms. Each bedroom has a view out onto the courtyard and a Juliet balcony.
- The last ten years has seen the complexity of clinical care required by children with palliative conditions increase. To reflect this, an increase of registered nurses to 60% are required on the care team.
- Total cost of running Francis House per year = £4.8 million
- It costs approximately £400,000 per month, £13,150.00 per day, £548.00 per hour to run the hospice.
- 15% of our income comes from the Government. The majority of income comes through voluntary giving.
- Out of every £1 we spend 89p goes towards charitable work.
- Rainbow Family Trust was set up in January 1990 to build a children's hospice in the North West to help families with children with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions. The charity completed Francis House Children's Hospice two years later.
- HRH Princess Diana opened Francis House in November 1991. Francis House has become a household name across the north west, in Oct 2012 Rainbow Family Trust changed its charity name to Francis House Family Trust.
- In May 2014 Francis House doubled in size with the opening of a £3.5 million seven bedroom extension. The parent-free zone for teenagers and young adults is equipped with a cinema room recording studio, Playstation 4s and televisions in each bedroom, large roof terrace and communal TV lounge.
- The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge officially opened Francis Lodge in October 2016, in the year that Francis House celebrated its 25th anniversary.

Other useful, facts, figures and statements:

- Francis House services are all given completely free of charge, providing respite care to home care, end of life and bereavement care.
- Francis House is open to families of all faiths and no faith, different cultural and ethnic backgrounds.
- Francis House supports hospices all around the world including Bosnia Hercegovina and Japan with advice and experience.
- Referrals come from doctors, consultants, social workers and often other parents.
- Francis House provides a member of the care team specifically for the needs of the siblings who come to stay. This provides parents with a complete break.
- Francis House provides hi-tech care in a low-tech environment
- Medical interventions have enabled children with life-limiting conditions to live longer. In 1996 Francis House cared for one child over the age of 16, now more than 109 teenagers and young adults are over 16. Of these 20 are over the age of 25. Very few young people live beyond their thirties.

- Average number of overnight respite care offered 14-16 a year. With an increase in nurses this could extend to 21-23.

“As soon as we opened the doors to Francis House it felt like we were coming home. It was nothing like we imagined a hospice to be. It was so full of life and joy.”

A Francis House parent

“People have a misconception of children's hospices. I think they think it's a very sad place, but it isn't, it's a very happy place with lots of joy. It's about the children and young people getting the most out of their life and doing fun things with them and people enjoy coming.

You see lots of smiley, happy faces and it is predominantly a happy place.”

Sharon Doodson, Registered Manager and Director of Care

www.francishouse.org.uk

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