



## Francis House Children's Hospice factsheet

Francis House is Greater Manchester's children's hospice. Local families come to us for respite from the stresses and strains of difficult times. They come to talk, play, laugh, cry, and to find the space, time and one-to-one support they need in their most challenging times.

- 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 Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Rochdale, Stockport, Tameside, Trafford, Wigan, Salford and Manchester.
- Francis House supports more than 435 families of children, teenagers, and young adults with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions.
- Approximately 130 families will use the hospice for respite care.
- Approximately 190 families are receiving some form of bereavement support.
- Alongside respite and bereavement care, the hospice offers support groups, social events, and a range of services available to all families, recognising that everyone's journey is different.
- Francis House services are all given completely free of charge, providing respite care, home care, day care, sibling support, parental support, emotional support, psychotherapy, end of life care and bereavement support.
- Children come to Francis House with a wide variety of life-limiting and life-threatening conditions including neuromuscular type illnesses, metabolic conditions, cancer-related conditions, and 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 16<sup>th</sup> birthday. The charity recently amended their criteria to include children between 16-18 years of age who can be accepted at Francis House if they need end of life care. Once accepted the young person can continue to receive care at Francis House for as long as they choose or until their death as there is no upper age limit.
- Francis House has 85 staff including a care team consisting of Registered Sick Children's Nurses, Registered General Nurses, Registered Learning Disability Nurses, Nursery Nurses, Occupational Therapists, Play Specialists and Social Workers and a small ancillary team including fundraising, administrative, accounts, housekeeping, catering 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 provides respite care to families in the form of short-term breaks. In the last financial year we provided 2082 nights of respite care.
- Community-based outreach from our Homecare team provides support in the home or hospital environment. The Homecare team also manages day care visits. In the last financial year we provided 1283 Homecare and End of Life support sessions.
- Francis House has 14 colourful bedrooms for the children and young people 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, soft play

room, creative therapy room, family lounge, music room, computer 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.
- Three Rainbow Rooms, which are specially cooled rooms, allow the child or young person to remain at the hospice after death. The rooms can be personalised with toys and bedding, allowing families time to say their goodbyes and access ongoing bereavement support.
- Total cost of running Francis House per year = £5.8 million
- It costs approximately £483,000 per month, £15,890 per day, £662 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 94p goes towards charitable work.
- Francis House Family Trust is a Registered Charity Number 328659.

***Other useful, facts, figures and statements:***

- 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.
- Medical interventions have enabled children with life-limiting conditions to live longer. Francis House provides care for a growing number of teenagers and young adults.
- HRH Princess Diana opened Francis House in November 1991. The charity was then known as the Rainbow Family Trust. In Oct 2012 Rainbow Family Trust changed its charity name to Francis House Family Trust.
- The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge officially opened Francis Lodge in October 2016, in the year that Francis House celebrated its 25th anniversary.

*“When families come to Francis House they make memories. We try to make a short life as happy as it can be.”*

**Rachael Taylor, Chief Executive, Francis House Children's Hospice**

*“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.”*

**Francis House parent**

*“People have a misconception of children's hospices. They think they're sad places, but they aren't. Francis House is a very happy place with lots of joy. It's all about the children and young people getting the most out of their life and doing fun things with them.”*

**Sharon Doodson, Registered Manager and Director of Care**

[www.francishouse.org.uk](http://www.francishouse.org.uk)

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