

Introduction

This leaflet is designed to help you plan the next phase of care for your child, and support for you and your family.

Living with the implications of a life limiting or life threatening diagnosis can be very daunting, and can impact on many aspects of life. At Helen House we are here to support you for however long you need

Who we are and what we do

Helen House is a hospice providing care for babies, children and young people aged from birth to 18 years who have life-limiting or life-threatening illnesses.

We can help to manage your child's symptoms and, if needed, offer a range of palliative care services. We provide short respite breaks for babies and children and, where appropriate, their parents, siblings and other carers.

Members of the team can visit you at home or in hospital to discuss ways we can support you wherever your child is being cared for, in hospital, at Helen House, or at home.

Imi's story

"Imi has been coming to Helen House for a few years now. She has fun, is really well cared for, and I get a break. As she has become less well, they help me manage her pain. In between stays one of the Outreach Nurses can visit, help me work out what the problem is and adjust the medicines accordingly.

It adds an extra layer of peace of mind for me, because I know that I can phone and say, look I don't think she needs to come to Helen House but I don't know. But we can phone the nurses and they will listen or visit us at home. They can look at Imi and make sure if she is ill or not and they will listen to me. They will say, you are alright, you can manage this. Then I don't feel on my own. There is someone else."

Tania, Imi's mum

Imi RIP December 2015



Ryan's story



Ryan, at 6 was diagnosed with brain tumour. After his diagnosis, Ryan was at home with short intervals in hospital for small check-ups. Towards his last days we were convinced by our social worker that Ryan should go to Helen House. At first we were not too sure whether or not Ryan should have spent the last days at a hospice but now, looking back, I'm glad it happened that way. Even though it was a short period, Ryan had the most loving care from everyone at Helen House. I can guarantee Ryan had a peaceful end and mainly because of the never ending support and love from optimistic staff, the doctors and nurses.

After he died, the staff all acted in a calm and professional manner when it came to the visitors who came for the viewing. I do not know how they managed to control the masses but they did, without disturbing our peace which was immensely helpful. Another thing I cannot bypass is the immense support since; the counselling sessions, the anniversary prayers, the Remembrance Book and touching cards always remind us of the love and care you gave us in the short time. Thank you

Asha, Ryan's mum



Helen House opened in 1982 and provides specialist care and support for children and their families in a comfortable and homely environment.

Helen & Douglas House
14A Magdalen Road Oxford OX4 1RW
W: www.helenanddouglas.org.uk
T: 01865 794749
(24 hour care team)

Services available

- Early transfer from hospital (as a stepping-stone from hospital to home) with support from our doctors and nurses. Children can be accepted for care even when the prognosis is uncertain.
- A caring environment with nursing and medical support that will allow you a chance to just be mum and dad and enjoy time as a family.
- A chance to be together with support for any siblings and yourselves.
- Emergency admissions for social or medical reasons.
- Access to 24-hour medical consultants and nursing advice
- Specialist Nursing outreach support in your own home, working in partnership with your local team, to provide symptom management advice and support.
- Ongoing care for you and your family, including short break respite care.
- The offer of end-of-life care for your child and support for your family if needed.

*Helen & Douglas House is a registered charity and no payment is requested from families or those who come for treatment, accommodation and care.
Registered charity no: 1085951*



HELEN HOUSE



HOW CAN WE HELP?

Supporting you and your child after their diagnosis of a life-limiting or life-threatening illness

