

Louise is 'key link' for tiny babies

Louise Borton is a very experienced nurse. She has been supported by Leo House over several years, firstly as part of South Downs Health Trust and now as part of the Chestnut Tree House Community Team.

Recently, Louise was appointed acting Nurse Manager for her team, covering maternity leave, and now this has finished manages her own case-load of families, specialising in neonatal care. She also co-ordinates community activity, certainly a busy lady!

Premature infants and other neonates are sometimes born with life-limiting conditions. The Community Team initiated the Neonatal Care Service about 18 months ago, with an objective of encouraging and facilitating good neonatal palliative and end of life care.

Louise writes: 'Through the project,

we have made links with local neonatal intensive care units to promote the service. We aim to see families within 24 hours of referral, to ensure that we can give them the maximum amount of time available, to begin a very emotional planning process.

"Our service means that we can assist the specialists in the units, bring the baby and their family to Chestnut Tree House, or even take their baby home for the first time, for the withdrawal of their care. This transfer home with our support is likely to be the only time a family will have their baby at home. Our support ranges from facilitating a transfer and being on the end of the phone for support to parents, to being with that family for as long as they need us; day or night. We can provide symptom control to ensure the babies are pain free and comfortable.'



Finlay's story

Gemma and her husband Kevin tragically lost their new born son Finlay in February 2012, following surgery for a major heart condition, and received bereavement support from the Neonatal Care Service. Finlay sadly passed away at St Thomas's Hospital in London, he was just 24 days old. Both Gemma and Kevin had no idea what kind of support to expect. The word 'hospice' terrified them but they knew they didn't want to go home and they certainly weren't ready to say goodbye to Finlay. The team were able to invite them to the hospice with their precious Finlay, where they were welcomed into what Gemma described as a huge family. They remained in the

Stars Bereavement Suite for two weeks. Other family members were able to visit whenever they liked and they could plan for Finlay's funeral in their own time. A year on she is grateful for the continued support offered to her and her family.

With your support, Louise and the other Leo House nurses can continue to help families like Gemma and Kevin.



Looking ahead

Don't forget to let us know of any forthcoming fundraising events in aid of Leo House at Home.

Contact us

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Brighton and Hove District Beaver Scouts held a 'hikes away' sponsored challenge for Leo House at Home

Despite poor weather, the Beaver Scouts that attended really enjoyed the day and it was a great way for them to do something for others (part of their Beaver Scout promise). Said Sharon

Magee, Assistant District Commissioner Beaver Scouts Brighton and Hove, "We know the money we raised will help those in need of specialist care and it's great that we were able to do a good turn for others."



Who are we?

Leo House was established by Brighton Lions Club to help life-limited children, young people and their families living in East and mid Sussex as well as in Brighton & Hove. Leo House supports children and young people with a life-limiting condition from birth to 25 years of age and their families. We know we cannot cure them but we can help to give them the best quality of life for as long as that might be.

What's new for Leo House at Home?

- Generous supporters from Virgin Money provided Easter eggs for families supported by Leo House.
- Welcome to new Trustees, Allister McLeish and Margaret Field.
- We have places in the 2014 Brighton Marathon, let us know if you want to run for us. Thanks to Des Fitzpatrick and Kevin Price for their successful runs this year.
- Unfortunately we are no longer able to accept ink cartridges or phones for recycling, as the service has been suspended.



Members of Hassocks Townswomen's Guild who collected for Leo House



Barn Dance Band, Ded Efnik



'In Choir' singing for Leo House in Haywards Heath.



Barn Dance raffle ticket sellers

Virgin Money eggs



Thank you!

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to Leo House including:

Mrs M Knowles
 St Cosmas and St Damian Church
 Mrs M M Kendall
 Mrs D Mephram
 Metal Box Pensioners
 St Helen's Church Hangleton
 Mrs JV Reeves
 Dr C Edwards
 Mr T Trott
 Mrs C M Newbatt
 Mr M Domagala
 Mr & Mrs T D Baker

Don't forget, Leo House at Home spends almost all this money to fund our nurses, less than 2p in the £ goes to pay expenses.