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Brian House children's hospice

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The multi-sensory room at Brian House

GMTV has given a surprise gift to a children's hospice in need of help in Blackpool

Brian House was opened in 1996 and is named after Brian Redhead, the broadcaster who was the charity's first President. Brian was very enthusiastic about the setting up of a separate children's unit and sadly died in 1994 before the unit was built.

Children's hospices are different from adult hospices in that fewer than 15% of children admitted for palliative care suffer from cancer in any form. The majority have long-term progressive disorders and many have multiple complex needs that require specialist nursing care.

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night's sleep, having an undisturbed family meal and being able to have time for each other. Parents also savour the chance to go for a walk with their other children, going out for a meal and even a much needed holiday.

The bereavement suite

Another service offered by Brian House is to offer the use of the new bereavement suite for any child who has passed away who lived within the Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde communities even if the child and parents were not known to the staff of Brian House.

Following the funeral the family are offered bereavement care by the staff at Brian House or a Companion from the Linden Centre.

Bereaved siblings and other children can access bereavement support via Cascad. Brian House is looking after over 70 families with respite or palliative care and over 60 bereaved families.

Hospices near you

If you want to find your local children's hospice service you can visit the Association of Children's Hospices website, www.childhospice.org.uk and you can find more about Brian House at www.brianhouse.inthefylde.org.uk

The aim of Brian House is to provide a homely environment with a lively, happy, friendly atmosphere where children with life threatening and life limiting conditions can be cared for by suitably qualified people. The emphasis is on enabling children to enjoy the best possible quality of life and give their families respite from the stress of caring for these children seven days and seven nights per week.

Care for the children

Care is centred around the child and the family and their needs. Toys, familiar objects and equipment may be brought from home. The majority of children attend their special schools. Physical and mental stimulation are continued as they would have been at home.

Parents talk of the immense relief of a

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