

Noah's Ark

Information for Referrers

making every precious
moment count...



020 8449 8877
or visit our Care pages at
www.noahsarkhospice.org.uk



The public's understanding of what "hospice" means may not reflect the reality of a children's hospice service. We may work with a family from the point of diagnosis, over a number of years.

So we encourage referrals to come to us sooner rather than later.

Who we support

We follow the national Children's Hospice criteria. Noah's Ark can help families living in Barnet, Enfield, Haringey, Camden, Islington & Hertsmere. We work with children and young people under 19 years old who are affected by a life-limiting or life-threatening condition.

Life-limited means that a child or young person is not expected to live far beyond 19. This does not include children whose lives are affected by disability, but not shortened by it.

Life-threatened includes children/young people with organ failure, cancer or leukaemia for whom curative treatment may be successful. It also includes children and young people whose life-threatening condition might be temporary.

"Without the amazing work you do so many families would be struggling to cope with the very tough journeys they have. We are a family that will always be grateful."

What we offer

We build on family strengths and promote resilience by providing clinical, emotional and practical support. Our bespoke support packages can include the following services:

Family link

Our Family Link Workers are the primary link between the family and the hospice, and will maintain contact as the child/young person and family's needs change. They review the family's needs at least once a year to allow support to be adjusted appropriately.

The Family Link Worker offers practical and emotional support, continuing after bereavement if required.

Family Days

Our Family Activities programme is designed to help the whole family have fun, make friends and stay connected to a caring community. Families have the chance to meet others who share their circumstances, and to create precious memories together.

These activities are held on weekends or in school holidays, just for Noah's Ark families.

They are all wheelchair accessible and inclusive to all physical and cognitive abilities. The events are free and transport can be provided for the family if needed.

Bereaved parents' groups

Our Bereavement Support service provides a continuing link with families for up to three years after a child's death. During this time, families can attend a regular Bereaved Parent/Carer's Group or receive individual support if they prefer.

This service is also available for bereaved parents not previously known to Noah's Ark Children's Hospice.

noahsarkhospice.org.uk

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice is a registered charity in England No. 1081156

Noah's Ark Children's groups

For children and young people referred to Noah's Ark, time away from home without their family helps to build confidence, develop a sense of independence and provide an opportunity to form friendships with peers. Our programme includes immersive theatre, dance workshops, cookery and sport.

Parents' groups

Regular meetings are held for parents to share ideas and support each other in facilitated groups over coffee. Crèche facilities and transport can be provided.

Sibling groups

Brothers and sisters are very important to Noah's Ark – the Family Activities Team organise fun events and days out just for them. The two age groups, 6-10 and 11-18, meet regularly.

Home Support Volunteers

Trained volunteers offer support to families in and around the home. This could involve playing games with children and young people, helping with homework or carrying out practical tasks such as gardening or shopping. They can also be an extra pair of hands, helping the whole family enjoy a day out together.

Specialist Carers

Specialist Carers are trained by a Paediatric Nurse to care for the individual needs of a child / young person enabling families to have a short break.

Drama and Movement Therapy, Music Therapy and Specialist Play

Specialist workers provide support through drama and movement therapy, music therapy and play for children, young people and their siblings. This can also be offered after bereavement.

"The Sibling Weekend has given my daughter the opportunity to meet children who are in the same situation and made her realise she is not alone."

What should be discussed with families before referral?

It can be difficult to talk about a hospice service, particularly if the prognosis is not clear, or a parent is not ready to think about it.

It might be easier to talk first about recent or recurrent episodes of illness when parents were very worried, and to explain that Noah's Ark can help when children are going through serious health challenges. It might also be helpful to refer to a child as life-threatening, instead of not being expected to live into adulthood. This allows a parent to maintain hope while acknowledging the reality of hospice criteria.

You may need to distinguish between a Children's Hospice and those for Adults. Children's Hospices can help families from the point of diagnosis and not just at end of life. If you would like to discuss how to have this conversation, please phone and ask to speak to a Family Link Worker.

Referrers should always be clear that Noah's Ark is a hospice service as this is mentioned in all of our literature, and families will meet others whose children will sadly die.

If you are still unsure whether a referral would be appropriate, please contact the office and ask to speak to a member of the Care Team.

Please note that referrals should only be made with the consent of the parent, or young person aged 16+ if they have capacity. Their agreement should be gained for further medical enquiries to be made if needed.

I LIKE NOAH'S ARK BECAUSE

I can be myself and it's a break from hard things. I can just be a normal child and have fun. I can also make friends who understand me & what I'm going through.

The referral process

Referral forms and a copy of the criteria are available from the address overleaf and on our website. They can be returned by post, or email as long as they are password protected.

Please include relevant medical or nursing information which will help us make a decision more quickly.

Once the referral is received, it will be discussed by a panel. If we need more information, we might contact the referrer for further discussion.

What happens next?

The referrer will be notified of the panel's decision and if accepted, the family will be contacted by a Family Link Worker who will arrange to visit.

This visit will allow a holistic assessment of the child/young person and family, identifying needs and strengths. From there, we can begin to develop appropriate support.

For the near future

Our Building the Ark Appeal is raising funds to construct North London's only children's hospice building. Complementing our hospice at home and community-based services, a hospice building will allow us to offer a complete hospice service to children and young people, families and the community.



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