

CHESTNUT TREE HOUSE

There are potentially 1,000 families with life-limited children in Sussex. Chestnut Tree House offers support for the whole family including psychological and bereavement support, end of life and short break care and sibling support.

It currently costs well over £3.5m each year to provide all the care services provided by Chestnut Tree House. Families are never charged for their care and less than 7p in every pound is funded by the government, so they rely heavily on the generosity, help and support of the people of Sussex.

At Chestnut Tree House their goal is to provide the best quality of life for children, young people and their families, and to offer a total package of practical, social and spiritual support throughout each child's life, however short it may be.

Their services offer

Assessment, advice and information for children and young adults with life limiting or life threatening conditions 24 hours per day.

Specialist short breaks, emergency and end of life care provided at Chestnut Tree House 24 hours per day.

Support for the entire family following diagnosis through the whole disease process by the multidisciplinary team at Chestnut Tree House.

Bereavement support which includes befriending, counselling and spiritual care.

Support and advice on the transition from paediatric palliative care services to adult services.

I was extremely pleased to make the presentation of the cheque for £2,500 from the Grand Sovereigns care for children fund. It will be well used and will benefit those using the facilities. It amused me that whilst waiting for the Fund raiser to meet us, we witnessed a few children playing a game of chase around a table, accompanied by much laughter and giggling. It reminded me that they are still children suffering from a terrible condition, but being well cared for.