



Sophie's



Place

Children's
Assessment Area

Our Vision

What is a Children's Assessment Area?

This is an area of a hospital ward that provides space for children to be seen, monitored and treated away from the hustle and bustle of outpatient clinics and inpatient hospital beds.

It is a child friendly zone where children can be seen in a way that makes their stay as short and pleasant as possible. This would include children who:

- are referred by the accident and emergency department or their GP for paediatric care, but who require a period of observation before admission;
- come to the ward for treatments such as transfusions, chemotherapy or other specialist medications;
- require a period of time for investigations such as scans, hormone tests, allergy testing etc;
- children previously seen who need reviewing. This includes children for whom admission can be avoided by having such a facility.




Sophie's
Place

Children's
Assessment Area

Our Vision

Why does Northbrook need one?

To help us look after children who require treatment or a short stay at the Royal Hampshire county without the need to admit them onto the general ward.

The high level of service and efficiency with which care can be provided from Sophie's Place will be of benefit not only to the children, their parents or carers but also to the nursing staff and doctors. Day care patients will no longer be assigned to spare beds on the general ward and will have a purpose-built area where they can be treated.

The vision for Sophie's Place

Our vision was born when our daughter Sophie was being treated for Wilm's disease (a form of kidney cancer) at both Southampton and Winchester hospitals. Sophie was often well enough for us to look after her at home with the help of a Community Oncology Nurse visiting us to administer medication at home. Sometimes we had to take Sophie to hospital to have special treatments. She did not need to be admitted onto the ward but, because there was no day care area, she had to take a ward bed.

We started fundraising in 2003 and have already donated nearly £50,000 towards a cancer research project, sending

a critically ill child and their family on the dream holiday of a lifetime and several other projects on the children's cancer ward at Southampton. One evening on a regular stay in hospital, we struck up a conversation with Ian Rodd, one of Sophie's consultants in Winchester, and the fledgling ideas started to take shape.

We wanted to provide a dedicated area for children to be treated when they didn't require a long stay, but would need a bed for a few hours for treatment or observation. Whilst Sophie was being treated, the project stalled because there was no such space available. We kept in touch with the ward and when the space became available, the project took off again.

We would like to see a friendly, inviting environment where children will feel comfortable to come and have treatment or observation. That is the idea of Sophie's Place. Rather than going to hospital, the children will be able to go to Sophie's Place where both they and their parents and carers can feel comfortable and have plenty of opportunity to take their minds off the treatment in a friendly, child centred environment.



Sophie Barringer

The Reality

We have now had approval to start developing the area into Sophie's Place and work has already started.

There is, however, the small matter of funding. We have already donated £30,000 to the project to get it underway but will be working very hard over the coming months to raise enough money to see the project to completion. This includes the purchase of additional equipment, comfortable furnishings and entertainment for children whilst staying at Sophie's Place.

Equipment

Seating

Curtains, blinds and bedding

Blood pressure, oximetry & temperature equipment

Sensory play equipment

Personal entertainment

To find out more information about the project, which is proud to be part of Sophie's Appeal, please visit:

www.sophiesappeal.org

The Sophie Barringer Trust

97 Desborough Road

Eastleigh, Hampshire SO50 5NT

Tel: 023 8032 0618

Email: info@sophiesappeal.org

