

## ***Chairman's Announcements***

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Julia's House Hospice</b>
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Julia's House is a children's hospice charity, dedicated to providing respite care for life-limited children and their families in Dorset and Wiltshire.

Two years ago, we launched a small home-based respite care service to families of life-limited children living in South Wiltshire. Despite living just a few miles over the Dorset border, where we have provided our award-winning care for more than a decade, these families had no access to this sort of frequent support. Our first steps into south Wiltshire have been warmly welcomed – by both families and healthcare professionals.

In response to increasing demand, we have started to spread our care county-wide in Wiltshire, reaching even more families who need us, while continuing to build and strengthen our links with hospitals and health specialists in the area.

Our vision is to build a small hospice from which to reach families throughout Wiltshire, not just in the south of the county. This will be a hospice in the heart of the county that will become the heart of our service in Wiltshire. A place for families to visit, but also a base from which to operate a comprehensive home-based care service.

Julia's House is pleased to announce that we have found the site for our new hospice – it will be in central Devizes. Wiltshire Council has accepted an offer from us on two disused office buildings. There's plenty of work to be done converting and refurbishing them, but we're hoping to have a fantastic new hospice ready for our Wiltshire families by Autumn 2017. Among the services available within the hospice will be respite, therapies, a multi-sensory room and end-of-life care.

Julia's House receives just 6 per cent of its total annual funding from government, so we rely heavily on the support of the local community. In Wiltshire, we are keen to hear from individuals, businesses, community groups, schools, sports clubs and anybody who is keen to make a difference to such a landmark project.

Julia's House has great experience of partnering with businesses, individuals and groups throughout the community in Dorset. And we now need to build that same level of fantastic, loyal support in Wiltshire.

Donating your time is also hugely valuable so anybody who is keen to become a Julia's House volunteer is encouraged to get in touch. Key volunteer roles include joining a Friends' Group, delivering talks / presentations, distributing collection boxes or assisting with office administration.