

The role of CLIC Sargent

Supporting children and young people with cancer

- Every day 10 families are told that their child has cancer. Diagnosis often comes as a shock and treatment usually starts straightaway and can last up to three years.
- Although survival rates are over 70%, cancer remains the single largest cause of death from disease in children in the UK.
- As the UK's leading children and young people's cancer charity, CLIC Sargent is there with clinical, practical and emotional support, every step of the way.
- Our vision is a world where all children and young people with cancer live life to the full.



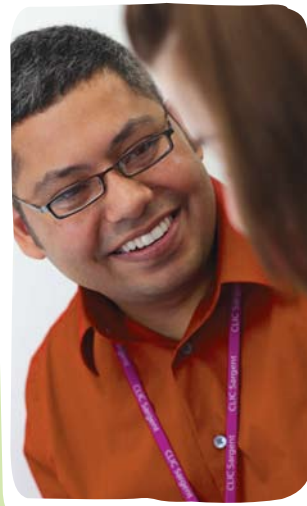
The effects of a cancer diagnosis for a child or young person

The diagnosis of cancer has a huge impact on a child or young person, their family and their wider social circle. One of the reasons for this is that treatment is often complex and takes place in specialist centres many miles from home, meaning separation from friends and extended family for long periods of time. There is also the protracted uncertainty of the outcome of the disease. For most parents the initial diagnosis of cancer is associated with the prospect of their child's death, despite the many reassurances that are given. Young people are similarly faced with the prospect of their own death.

Children and young people with cancer (and their families) have diverse health, social, emotional, psychological, educational and employment needs and require a range of specialist and general services to meet these needs over a long period of time. From a health perspective, children require primary services (such as GPs and health visitors), secondary services (such as those provided by local district general hospitals) and tertiary services (delivered by principle treatment centres) throughout the period of their care.

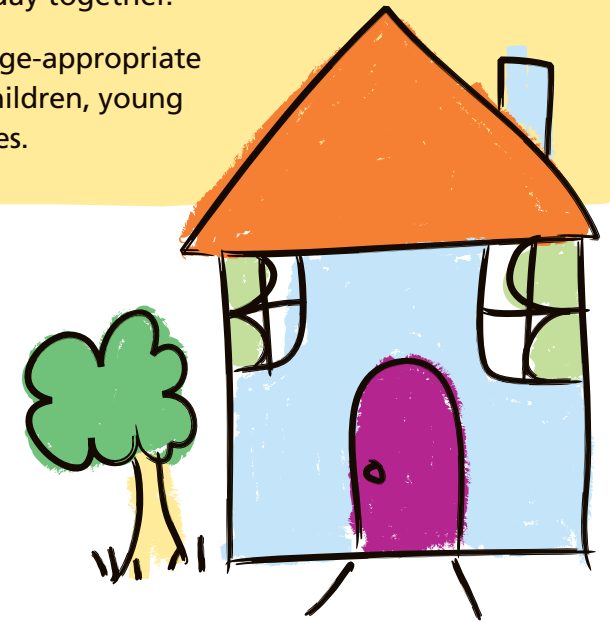
CLIC Sargent Services

CLIC Sargent provides nursing and social work care and support when a child is in hospital, in the community and at home. This ensures that a child's care can continue at home and the family remain supported through this intensely challenging experience. CLIC Sargent funds a range of frontline care professionals such as specialist nurses and social workers as well as play specialists and youth development workers. We also provide families with financial grants, free accommodation close to hospitals and much-needed holiday breaks.



Other key services we provide include:

- Homes from Home – Our Homes from Home offer families free self-catering accommodation within walking distance of the main regional children's cancer centres.
- Child Cancer Helpline
- Care Grants – Many families caring for a child with cancer find that costs go up, but that their income goes down. That's why we offer CLIC Sargent Care Grants to help ease the pressure, which families can receive within 72 hours.
- Holidays – Cancer treatment can be intensive and last up to three years. During breaks in treatment, or when it ends, families can be helped by the chance to enjoy a free CLIC Sargent holiday together.
- A wide range of age-appropriate information for children, young people and families.



For further information, or to receive this leaflet in accessible formats, please contact:
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Key facts

- Whilst cancer in children and young people is a relatively rare diagnosis, approximately 1,700 children aged up to 15 years and 2,300 young people aged 16 to 24 years are diagnosed each year in the United Kingdom.
- Although survival rates are over 70%, cancer remains the single largest cause of death from disease in children in the UK.
- Unlike adult cancers, the focus for the planning and delivery of cancer treatment for children is based in a few very specialised principle treatment centres (PTCs), of which there are currently 19 in the UK. Whilst this means specialised expertise has been developed in these centres, it also means that some children are treated in hospitals hundreds of miles from home.
- Research carried out by CLIC Sargent found that 97% of children say that it is important for them to be able to return home during their treatment. However, nearly half of parents surveyed told us that they do not get the support they feel they need when their child has returned home.
- 76% of the children we spoke to say that it is important to keep up with their school work whilst undergoing treatment. Almost half want help to keep up with their studies but two out of three of them don't actually get that help.
- Young cancer survivors have a right to fulfil their potential in all areas of their life – in work, in education, emotionally and financially, as well as physically and in making a contribution to their community. However CLIC Sargent's research found that 64% of 16 to 18 year-olds surveyed fell behind with studies whilst receiving treatment and 93% of the wider 16 to 24 age group reported that their employment had been affected.