

Youngster's family says thank you

Rallying to help Kieron

A WORKSOP youngster who suffers from cerebral palsy has successfully completed a two week course of specialist treatment, thanks to generous donations from local people.

Little Kieron Norton was no bigger than a pint glass when he was born three months premature in April 2000.

His early arrival meant he had difficulty with his development and the tiny boy was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at just six months.

By Amy burns

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Yet despite his condition, Kieron, now six, has grown up happy and healthy and loves life in Year One at Redlands Primary School.

But his parents Sharon and Andrew have always wanted Kieron to have the best treatment possible to help him cope with the condition that causes him difficulty with balance, posture and speech.

So when they heard about the Cerebral Palsy Physiotherapy Centre (CPPC) in Bedfordshire the family was determined to get the money together for Kieron to go.

As the treatment is not available on the NHS., the family needed to find £3,300 for Kieron to have three two-week sessions at the specialist centres.

And with a little help from their friends at Worksop Christian Centre, Redlands school, and even an appeal in the Guardian, they managed to get the funds they need for Kieron to complete six weeks of therapy.

"We took Kieron for his first fortnight of therapy at the end of May and we have raised enough money to take him again in August and November," said Sharon, 36.

"The first week of treatment was during half term so he only had to miss one week of school rather than two."

Kieron had around three hours of therapy a day at the centre that started with warm gel patches being put on his arms and legs to help his muscles relax.

He would then have an all over body massage before doing some exercises with a special ball.

"He also spent time in a standing frame to help with his posture and to encourage him to keep his head up," said Sharon. "After being in the frame, he was put into a relaxation position with his legs in the air - it doesn't sound very relaxing but he seemed to enjoy it."

Andrew has been carrying on the massage programme since

they got home, and Kieron will also carry on with his exercises once he gets his own ball - which is on order from Poland.

"We didn't expect great things after just two weeks but his hands are more relaxed and he is able to open them more easily," said Sharon.

"Other people have also commented on his head and back and his neck control."

With such encouraging results after just two weeks, the family are now looking forward to taking Kieron back in the future.

But they hope the third session in November will not be Kieron's last.

"It took Kieron a little while to get used to it as it was so intense and he was very tired to begin with, but by the end of the two weeks he had got to know the physiotherapist and was much more confident with her."

"He must realise the improvement himself as he is much more able to grip - as long as the funds are mere, we will keep taking him back."

And in a bid to ensure Kieron's return to the CPPC, family friend Claire Beck is doing the Nottingham half marathon to raise money for his cause.

Worksop group The Pet Shop Girls have also organised a charity line dance at St Paul's Church Hall, Worksop, on Saturday 8th July.

"We want to say thank you to everyone who has donated money so far," said Sharon.

"We have been really overwhelmed and are really grateful."

Kieron was accompanied by his class mascot, Toby the tiger, throughout his stay in Bedfordshire, and Sharon kept a diary while they were away.

"I wrote the diary from Toby's point of view and Kieron's teacher has been reading it out to the class at school," said Sharon.

"The kids have also seen pictures of Kieron having his therapy so that they all understand where he has been."

And improved grip in his fingers is not the only achievement Kieron made during his time away/he returned able to say the name of his faithful mascot.



Kieron in his standing frame at the Cerebral Palsy Physiotherapy Centre with class mascot Toby the tiger.