

The Rotary Club of Newtownabbey has been supporting Northern Ireland Adult & Children's Hospices for many years. In particular, with the Children's Hospice being located in Newtownabbey, our focus has therefore often been on Horizon House - the home of the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice.

Our fundraising activities have been a mix of street collections, Carol Singing in the local supermarket and auctions/ballots events at special social evenings. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, our fundraising activities are now significantly curtailed. Yet the need still remains and especially so for the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice - the need for specialised equipment in the Children's Hospice - Horizon House.

In association with the Children's Hospice, we are focussing on the urgent need for new overhead hoists, cocoons and a paediatric bed to help keep local children with life-limiting illnesses as safe and comfortable as possible.

HOISTS

Overhead hoists are the safest way to lift and move children with complex mobility issues. They are more efficient and comfortable than mobile hoists, which can also take up lots of floor space and sometimes do not fit smoothly under other pieces of furniture and equipment. They are essential in moving children safely between beds and wheelchairs and can be used quickly if a child had a seizure or in other emergency situations. Whilst there are already overhead hoists in some of the bedrooms at Horizon House, three more must be installed.



COCOONS

These are specialist foam inserts that either go on or around a child's bed.

a) **Small cocoons** are placed on a bed used by children who are perhaps too big for a cot, but too small for a full-sized bed. It helps keep the various tubes, wires and equipment that a child might need, safely out of harm's way and protects the child from wriggling too much in a bed that's too big for them. This cocoon also gives the child an extra bit of height so they can see more of the world around them, helping them to feel fully part of any activities.



b) **Large cocoons** surround a mattress and are used if a child is a bit bigger, more active and perhaps prone to wriggling a lot in their sleep. It can keep them safely on the mattress without a need for hard barriers or bedframes that might cause harm. Depending on the child's mobility and condition, they can also safely climb out at ground level without any of the risks of falling out of bed.

PAEDIATRIC BED

A specialist bed is essential in the care of any child with complex medical needs. This will keep them safe and can be easily moved and adapted to help keep each child as comfortable as possible.



All these items are specialist care products - designed to meet the high levels of safety required of the staff when moving a child and to meet all necessary hygiene requirements.