

We Are Beams was established 27 years ago by a group of parents with disabled children. Today we are still parent driven and have a board of Trustees with four parents using our services alongside local business people to govern the charity.



In the past year 2023

- Our Family Advice Team processed 2532 enquiries through the telephone helpline.
- We placed 55 families on our Cygnet Parenting Programme to help develop an understanding of their child's diagnosis of Autism and ADHD and to help them communicate more effectively. This programme also delivers coping strategies when a child has challenging behaviour.
- We offered 1089 beds to children and young people within our Dragon's Retreat respite unit. These are young people with very severe and complex disabilities who need 1-1 care. This respite also gives the families a break from 24/7 care.
- Our holiday playschemes offered 500 places to children with various levels of disability to ensure they did not miss out on making friends, having fun and getting to do something different. This also reduces their social isolation.
- We also offered 1728 hours of care to help families have a break when needed.
- Our Direct Payment Team are working with 1060 families to ensure they can access the right level of care for their child at home.

For more details on our services please request a copy of our annual review. You can download from our website:

www.wearebeams.org.uk/our-reports-and-impact

If you would like to know more about leaving a gift in your Will, we host regular question and answer sessions throughout the year with local solicitors at Beams.

Please contact;

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Remember just 1% can make a difference!



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LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY to

We Are Beams

and make a difference to disabled children



Did you know?

You can leave just 1% of your estate to We Are Beams in your Will and your loved ones receive 99%.

16 year old Ruby is a child that we care for at Beams



www.wearebeams.org.uk



Beams

Supporting disabled children & families

RCN 1054129



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A legacy is when you leave money in your Will to a charity

Anyone can do this, and you can leave a fixed amount or whatever money is left once the other gifts in your Will have been given out. This will give you satisfaction in knowing that your support will live on into the future, but can also make the burden of inheritance tax on your estate lighter.

You may decide to set up a Trust. Trusts also allow you to provide for your children in a secure way minimising the risk of financial abuse whilst maximising receipt of their state funded benefits.

However you choose to remember Beams in your Will and whatever size your legacy may be, you can be sure it will be really appreciated.

Just hand this leaflet into your solicitor and they can deal with the gift in your Will.

For more information on the different types of legacies available, please see our website wearebeams.org.uk/leave-a-gift-in-your-will-to-beams/



Ruby's Story



Ruby is one of three children to Jane and Jon. She is 16 years old and has a diagnosis of Angelman Syndrome. This very rare genetic disorder causes development delay, intellectual disability, speech problems, seizures (epilepsy), and problems with movement and balance. These are all true for Ruby.

She is such a happy child. She has an excitable personality, is frequently laughing and smiling, and can flap her hands around when excited. Other typical features of Angelman Syndrome is an abnormal curve to the spine, a wide smile and widely spaced teeth, which Ruby has.

Jon and Jane realised that Ruby was not developing at the usual milestones at six months of age. As she developed as a toddler, she had trouble with crawling and talking and they sought a formal diagnosis.

There is no cure for Ruby but therapies will help her reach her development potential.

The family were first introduced to Beams when Ruby was four years old. Ruby stays in the Dragon's Retreat Respite overnight care, attends KidsCamp holiday play schemes and is in receipt Direct Payments to help with Ruby's care at home.

Jane said

"Ruby enjoys her stays with We Are Beams, the staff are amazing and I feel contented that Ruby is safe and well looked after whenever she is there."

No one knows what the future will hold for Ruby but you can be sure that We Are Beams will be at her side to ensure she reaches her full potential, and leads the best life possible.

About We Are Beams

We Are Beams is a local charity that supports disabled children and their families in Kent and Medway.

The disabled children and young people who access our services are aged between 4-19 years. They will usually have one or multiple learning difficulties, complex health needs such as Down Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy or another life limiting illness, physical or sensory impairment, challenging behaviour as a result of their disability, Autism or severe ADHD.

Our work is divided up into six key areas. These are **Short Breaks Services, Family Advice Service, Direct Payment Service, Payroll Service, Brokerage Service and Dragon's Retreat 6 bedded Overnight Respite.**

We need to raise approximately £2 million each year in order to continue our care services to the most vulnerable in society.

At any one time, we support 450 families.

