



Beatrice shines bright at Beams

“Beams is very important to us as a family, the respite care and summer holiday clubs allow Beatrice to take part in activities that she can’t always access. It’s a wonderful service!”



Every year We Are Beams support disabled children and their families with vital care services, including Beatrice who is 12 years old, and has Down syndrome.

Beatrice’s radiance shines bright; she is very cheerful with a big personality and a love for drama and performing. Life with Down syndrome brings daily challenges. Beatrice experiences significant pain when walking due to hypermobility. She often needs a wheelchair to help her get around more comfortably.

In addition to physical challenges, Beatrice has speech and language difficulties, she also struggles with fine motor skills. Socially, she finds it hard to make friends and relies heavily on her older sisters for play and companionship.

Despite these challenges, Beatrice loves school and gives her all to her learning. She is a happy and determined young girl who brings joy to those around her.

Amber, Beatrice’s Mother, first heard about We Are Beams shortly after Beatrice was born. The hospital referred her to a local support group called Little Buddies, who introduced her to the vital care services Beams provides. Since then, Beams has become an essential part of the family’s life, especially during the school holidays, when access to consistent, supportive care is limited.

Beams offers Beatrice a wide range of respite services, including Short Break holiday activities and family events, which allow Beatrice to experience independence, make friends, and enjoy new activities in a safe and inclusive environment.

Beams does not just benefit Beatrice, their wrap around services make a real difference for the whole family. The respite gives Beatrice’s parents time to rest and recharge, and allows them to spend much needed quality time with their other daughters.

Beams gives Beatrice the chance to shine in her own space, to be independent, to build friendships, and to take part in experiences that help her grow in confidence.



2nd Prize
£300

1st Prize
£1,500

BIG Christmas Raffle



only £2 per ticket, scan to make a difference! →

all funds raised will support:



Beams
Supporting disabled children & families

sponsored by:



PARTNERS
INSURANCE

Your raffle entry helps Beams charity bring brighter days to disabled children and their families across Kent.

or enter online at:
www.wearebeams.org.uk



Raffle to be drawn at We Are Beams BR8 7RJ on 17 December 2025. By entering the raffle, you agree to our terms and conditions which can be found at www.wearebeams.org.uk/tandc. Registered under the Gambling ACT 2005, Licence: Sevenoaks 21/02772/LOTTER, Reg Charity No 1054129. Promoter: Katrina Adams, We Are Beams, Allsworth Court, 38-40 St David's Road, Hextable, Kent BR8 7RJ. Tickets are not transferable and may not be purchased by persons under 18 years of age. Please return ticket stubs, payments and unsold tickets to the promoter.

Beams Big Christmas Raffle is a great way to support families like Beatrice’s and every £2 will make a REAL difference

Introducing the Supporting Independence Service

formerly known as Support Brokerage Service

Following some research and restructure, we are pleased to announce that the Support Brokerage Service has been changed to Supporting Independence Service.

This change reflects our renewed focus on helping young people move forward in their lives by building the skills and confidence they need to live more independently.

Within this service and following a successful 6 week pilot with a group of young people earlier this year we will shortly be launching an exciting new service, Empower-Me.

Empower-Me has been developed in response to feedback from clients and their families, who often found it difficult to put their support and action plans into practice.

Empower-Me is designed to replace our existing Person-Centred Planning model with a more practical and structured approach to developing independence.

The service supports young people to identify their individual needs and goals, which may include developing daily living

skills, improving social interaction, learning to travel independently, or gaining work-related skills. The aim is to support each young person in taking steps towards greater independence and, where appropriate, employment.

Every participant will have a personalised provision map that outlines the young person's specific outcomes and links directly to those identified in their EHCP or Care and Support plan. To deliver this learning, we provide a one-to-one specialist-trained Learning Support Assistant who works with the young person in their own home and within the local community.

This approach allows for real-life learning experiences that are both meaningful and sustainable. Over time, the level of support is gradually reduced as the young



person gains confidence and independence. Beams are proud to offer this new service as part of the Supporting Independence Service, and alongside the existing Brokerage Management and look forward to working with young people and their families to create real, lasting change.

For more information visit www.wearebeams.org.uk



5's Milkshake! Shines a Spotlight on SEN with We Are Beams

A TV crew from 5 Milkshake! spent two days filming children and young people from We Are Beams for a special short-form episode about special educational needs and the senses.

Milkshake! Super Senses will be the first programme of its kind for Milkshake! and originated from an idea by presenter David Ribí, a Patron of Beams and ambassador for children with disabilities.

The episode, due to air in the autumn, will feature ten young people supported by the charity through family support, respite care, and short break activities.

David Ribí is best known for his role as presenter on popular morning block

Milkshake! alongside his performances in numerous West End theatre productions. David said: *"I am thrilled to be back at Beams putting together this mini film, which will allow more visibility of SEN. The children who took part were all fantastic and really engaged in the fun sensory based fun games. I really love supporting Beams and am always so impressed with the vital care services they provide."*

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Research has shown that many people are now choosing to leave a legacy to their favourite charity.

Such a donation would mean that you would contribute to the long-term sustainability of Beams and

ensuring our mission and impact endure for generations to come.

Please consider a legacy to Beams and support disabled children in the local area. Just 1% of your estate can make a difference and

you can then leave 99% to your loved ones.

You can be the reason that Beams continues to offer vital support to families for the next 30 years.



Short Breaks Fun: From Summer Adventures to Festive Plans

Short Breaks had a fantastic summer across the county and beyond with our 2025 Summer Playschemes!

Kidscamp enjoyed exciting days out to Leeds Castle, Margate, and Hastings for some classic seaside fun, along with a highlight trip to Bocketts Farm in Fetcham.

Other favourites included Wingham Wildlife Park and Lower Grange Farm, where children took part in archery, launched water rockets, and enjoyed the ever-popular fun bus.

Our Beamers groups made great memories, particularly at St Andrews Lakes in Rochester with its man made beach and water play area, and at Lesnes Abbey, where younger children explored fossil digging while older participants tackled survival challenges and orienteering.

Looking ahead, we're excited to announce this year's pantomime, Cinderella, taking place on Saturday 6th December, as well as our Christmas Party on Sunday 14th December at a new venue, The Claire Tiltman Centre in Stone, Dartford.

Families can also join us for festive arts and crafts at our Winter Workshop at Beams on Tuesday 23rd December, and we are already looking forward to welcoming Circus Starr back for their annual event on Saturday 17th January 2026 at the Mick Jagger Centre in Dartford.

Keep an eye on our website for more details coming soon!

Recent parent quotes from Short Break Summer activities

"Beams is a genuinely a life saver for our family. Thank you!"

"The feeling of handing your child over and knowing his needs will be met and he'll be well cared for is immeasurable"

"Our son would have had a bleak summer staying at home if it wasn't for the We Are Beams outings. Without these day trips, my son's world is very small, home and school. He needs a challenge, new experiences and new realisations to grow."

"My son is not entitled to any wrap around care due to his level needs, this is the first time in 3 years since he started school, and he has spent time outside of the family home in a supported activity"

BEAMS Payroll Services Ltd

Beams Payroll Services Ltd continues to grow. We already support over 950 employers, and more than 100 individuals managing an education budget with payment of invoices only. The team are working hard behind the scenes in the knowledge that the services they deliver are generating income for the benefit of the disabled children and young people we support. All profits generated from the Beams Payroll Services are returned to We Are Beams!

In recent weeks we have been busy preparing for a re-launch, to spread the word of our offer for small business, Charities and our core client base of individuals with an Education, Health or Social Care funded package of support.

If you, or someone you know has a need for Payroll Services let us know. We offer a quality, uncomplicated and competitively priced Payroll solution. Simply by choosing Beams Payroll Services Ltd as your Payroll provider means that you can support the charity too, and most likely will be securing a similar or perhaps lower price for your Payroll needs.

Contact us for more details about how we can help you and in return you could achieve added social value by supporting We Are Beams.

Tel: 01322 610840 or Email: payroll@wearebeams.org.uk



Pulling Together for a Purpose! Welling and Bexleyheath truck pull raises vital funds for Beams!

In a remarkable show of determination and community spirit, 36 men and women from Welling and Bexleyheath came together to pull a 32-tonne Army truck two miles, in support of We Are Beams.

The incredible feat of strength and determination took place on Saturday, 12th July as part of the Uniformed Services Day celebrations. Over 5000 spectators lined the streets to witness this incredible display of community pulling together. In total four trucks took part with an amazing **£20,000** raised for Beams and three other great causes.



Beams provide new wheelchair for Jude

Jude is an adventurous 8-year-old boy with profound Autism, Global Development Delay, hypermobility, and PICA a condition where he craves and eats non-food items. These complex needs mean Jude requires constant supervision and care. While he loves going out, his limited mobility often made family outings difficult, and over time, they became less frequent.

Jude loves attending Beams short breaks activities, where he can meet other children and feel a sense of belonging. These short breaks have also given his parents valuable time to recharge and focus on their other children.

Recently, Beams have provided Jude with an adapted pushchair, which has allowed the family to go out on outings, which they stopped doing, as Jude gets very tired and is unable to walk. This has made a real difference to the whole family's wellbeing.

Jude's mum, Sophie, is so grateful to have found Beams, "Thank you so much to everyone at Beams, from home visits with Family Advice and respite care, to the payroll service and most recently Jude's pushchair. The support we've received has made such a positive impact not just on Jude, but on our whole family."

New Stay & Play Sessions for Under 5's

Beams are excited to announce a brand new service for parents with children under 5 years old.

Starting this November, join Beams at Allsworth Court for our Stay & Play sessions.

Parents and carers are welcome with their under 5's to enjoy fun, structured activities designed to support their child's development and help parents better understand how children learn through play.

We Are Beams, Allsworth Court, 38-40 St David's Rd, Hextable



First session free, then £3 voluntary contribution per family per session

12:30 – 2:30 PM

- Monday 10th November
- Monday 24th November
- Monday 8th December

Come along, have fun, and connect with other parents and children in a welcoming, supportive space. Please email admin@wearebeams.org.uk to confirm your attendance.

We Are Beams Stars Win Young Person's Award at Dartford Business Awards!

We announce that two of our incredible team members, Ellie Doodney and Lucia Zammit, won the Young Person's Award at the Dartford Business Awards.

The Young Person's Award celebrates the brightest young talent in the borough, and for Beams to have two members of our team receive this award is a powerful testament to their dedication, growth, and the passion they bring every single day, supporting disabled children and families.

Congratulations to both of them!



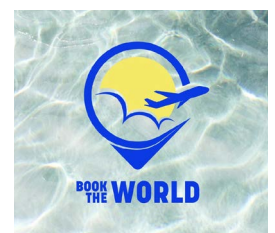
Turning Holidays into Hope: Beams and Book the World

Beams has teamed up with Book the World, a travel company whose heart for community and compassion echoes our own.

When Aaron, their director, paid a visit to Beams, he was touched by the vital support our children and families receive. Now, thanks to Book the World, when

you book your next holiday through them, you will have the opportunity to support Beams and it won't cost you a thing. If you choose to donate, they

will contribute on your behalf from the value of your booking, so your trip stays at the same price.



To find out how to book a holiday that supports Beams, head to www.notjustholidays.com/wearebeams



Our Roarsome Summer at Dragon's Retreat!

As always, it has been a busy and memorable summer at Dragon's Retreat!

We have had some lovely experiences, going to the beach enjoying a dip in the sea and a well-deserved ice cream, visiting zoos and farms seeing all the different animals.

We made the most of the sunny weather with lots of fun in the garden, riding around the bikes, playing with the parachute and plenty of water play in the garden.

The young people have been getting creative making a giant canvas of all our handprints, which will be proudly displayed soon.

Alongside all the fun, our young people have continued to build their independent life skills. They have helped with cooking, taken care of the fruit and vegetable garden, and even done some washing!

At Dragon's Retreat, we love celebrating every achievement, big or small. Each young person's independence journey is different, but our dedicated staff continue to be on hand to support them all!

We are so proud of everything the young people have accomplished this summer!

Beams Children Inspired by Ellie Goldstein's Strictly Sparkle!

Everyone at We Are Beams is cheering Ellie Goldstein on with every dance move on her Strictly Come Dancing journey! We hope she enjoys all the glitter, glamour, and joy that comes with this beloved family show.

Ellie Goldstein is a trailblazing model, actor, and influencer with Down syndrome. She made history as the first model with Down syndrome to appear in major campaigns for global brands like Gucci Beauty and Adidas. Ellie also broke barriers as the first model with Down syndrome to feature in British Vogue.

She is a true role model for the children and young people with complex health needs and disabilities including Down syndrome and autism, who are supported by We Are Beams.

Beams service user, Beatrice was over the moon to have recently received a special video message from Ellie, recorded right from the BBC set!

We are so proud of you, Ellie, keep showing the world what you can achieve and most importantly...KEEP DANCING!!

You can watch Beatrice's reaction here:

www.wearebeams.org.uk/news/



Family Advice

Like many of you, The Family Advice Team is watching closely to see what the government has in store for SEND provision in the coming months. We have been working hard to ensure that the voices of families with disabled children are heard. Our local MPs have been made aware of the ongoing challenges faced by parents, and we are confident that your concerns are being shared in Parliament.

Whatever changes lie ahead, please know that our team remains committed to supporting local families in every way we can.

Stay Connected

As always, we look forward to seeing or hearing from you at:

- Our **term-time advice sessions**
- **Support groups** currently listed on our calendar
- Or via our **helpline**, open every weekday from 10 AM to 2 PM
- Or email familyadvice@wearebeams.org.uk

New Venue for Our Dartford Drop-In Sessions

We are thrilled to announce that our Tuesday Dartford advice drop-in sessions will now take place at Dartford Valley Rugby Club. We are extremely grateful to the club for their incredible support in hosting us.

This venue offers:

- Ample parking
- Easy access via public transport
- On-site refreshments (coffee and a bite to eat while you wait – what's not to love?)

We hope this makes it even easier and more comfortable for families to access our advice and support.

'Time for You' Parent Sessions - We Want Your Ideas!

This year, we are planning to launch a new kind of support group with a focus on you, the parents and carers. These 'Time for You' sessions will be designed to provide space for relaxation, connection, and a little fun.

We would love to hear your ideas! Would you be interested in?

- Craft activities?
- Relaxation or mindfulness sessions?
- Pilates or yoga?
- A local walk followed by coffee and cake?

Let us know what you would enjoy – we're here to help you recharge.

Diary of Events *Get involved!*

Beams Festive Quiz

Thursday 27th November - 7.45 - 10.45pm
Bexley Park Sports and Social Club
Get your quiz hats on- an evening of fun and festive cheer!



Beams of Joy: Networking Evening

Thursday, 11th December - Ebbsfleet FC - 6.30 - 8.30 pm
Bringing together local businesses, supporters and friends of Beams.



Beams Golf Day

Thursday 26th March 2026 - Woldingham Golf Club
Join us at our first ever golf day to mark and celebrate our 30th anniversary. Sign up solo or enter as a team

Up at the O2

Saturday 28th March 2026 - The O2
Take on an exhilarating outdoor climb over the roof of the O2

London Landmarks Half Marathon

Sunday 12th April 2026
Run through the heart of London with Team Beams

Messy Dash

Sunday 5th July 2026 - Dartford Central Park
This family accessible run is back with more messy fun!

For more information and to sign up to any of these events visit www.wearebeams.org.uk/events-challenges/



Thank You to Our Brave Challengers!

A huge thank you to our incredible fundraisers who went the extra mile-and then some to support Beams.

London to Brighton

12 amazing participants pedalled 55 miles and raised over £4,500.

Wing Walks & Skydives

These fearless fundraisers literally took Beams to new heights, raising over £9,000. Your courage and commitment make a real difference in the lives of the families we support. We are so proud and grateful for your generosity.

Babette - Skydiver - BPHR Consultancy

"Words cannot describe what an incredible experience this was. I am absolutely blown away and for once, lost for words. Thank you Aisha at We Are Beams for organising. The work and support everyone does at We Are Beams is so much more than me giving up a Sunday and having the thrill of my life!"



If you fancy taking on a challenge for Beams, please get in touch!
fundraising@wearebeams.org.uk or sign up at www.wearebeams.org.uk

We would like to thank the following corporate and trust partners for their support: Dartford Borough Council, Royal Warrant Holders Association, DNA Pest Control, FLR Spectron Ltd, WA Architects, Rowde and O, RS Consultants, Kent County Council, Shanly Foundation, County UK, MCC Partners, Burtons Solicitors, Kentec Electronics Ltd, Oakland Care - Birchwood Heights, Momentum Mortgage, PureGym Swanley, DPS Ltd, Kelvin Fires, Peter Harrison Foundation, Churchill Estates Management, BritNed, BPHR Consultancy, Northwick Trust, Lock and Co. Hatters, St Peters and St Pauls Church - Hextable, Full Accounting Services, Gallagher Insurance Brokers, Blakemore Foundation, Kent Community Foundation, Busy Bees Meopham, Big Lottery Fund, Prince George Duke of Kent Court, Softforge Ltd

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