



some facts

The most common form of childhood cancer is Leukaemia, which accounts for more than one third of all cases.

Childhood cancer is rare - around 1,600 new cases are diagnosed every year in the UK (in children aged 0 to 14 years).

Around one child in 500 will develop some form of cancer by the age of 14 years.

Childhood cancers account for 0.5% of all cancers in the UK.

Fifty years ago, three quarters of children diagnosed with cancer died - today more than three quarters survive.

Luke says, can you... fundraise, donate or volunteer?

Whether it's thinking up fresh fundraising ideas, help to organise and take part in events, a charity fun-run, you can offer professional skills or you simply want to get out and about for a good cause, Leucan can offer you a rewarding and fulfilling opportunity!

We appreciate any time you're able to give whether it's an hour or two every so often or a regular commitment. You may be interested in a role on the Leucan committee.

If you are a member of a society or business, perhaps you would consider nominating Leucan as your chosen charity.

However you wish to be involved, whatever help you are able to offer, however much you are able to donate - we welcome and appreciate your support.

a case study

ALEX was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia on 16 December 2003 at the age of 6. After 3 trips to the doctor in one week and being told it was a virus, we decided we knew him best and took him to A&E.

The next day he was having a blood transfusion followed by a platelets transfusion whilst tests were being carried out. By the 4th day, when tests weren't conclusive, a lumbar puncture was done. Within hours we were on our way to The Royal Marsden in Sutton, just a few days before Christmas.



Suddenly your world is turned upside down and a new "normality" resumes. During the 3¼ years of chemotherapy, he was confined to a wheelchair a lot of the time and had a few blood transfusions along with pneumococcal pneumonia. Following completion, Alex had serial castings to straighten his Achilles.

During treatment you have to be careful where you go and especially at school, due to children contracting chickenpox which can be very serious.

Each day Alex had a concoction of tablets (as many as 20 at times), along with weekly blood tests taken through his portacath.

Alex is now 18 and enjoys acting and playing his guitar. He loves going to the gym and keeping fit. He still has check-ups but these are now two yearly.

leucan

**children with leukaemia or cancer
FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP**

**We've been helping
West Sussex families since
1981. We provide advice,
financial assistance and
support, and organize coffee
mornings, activity weekends
and more.**



Our Mascot, Luke the Toucan, says hello.



LEUCAN was set up in February 1981 by parents/carers of children attending Southlands Hospital. They found meeting together gave them and their children the opportunity to share experiences and offer each other encouragement and support. In 1992 the group obtained Registered Charity Status.

The group supports families living in the local area (from Shoreham to Chichester) with a child or young adult diagnosed with leukaemia, cancer or bone marrow failure, up to the age of 25.

Some of the children who were supported in the early days of **LEUCAN** now have children of their own and are still in contact with the group.

how we help

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Studies have shown that by forming support groups with other families of children with cancer, the ability to cope is strengthened, as concerns and experiences can be shared. **LEUCAN** facilitates this by organising meetings and activities where the whole family can get together and help each other.

PRACTICAL ADVICE

LEUCAN aim to give every newly diagnosed family an information pack with practical advice and tips on, for example, understanding the hospital environment. Please also visit our website at www.leucan.org.uk for up to date information, advice and useful links.

ESSENTIAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

We are able to purchase items such as children's ward equipment to make hospital visits more comfortable and, equipment to help aid treatment at home. Please contact Leucan to find out how we can help you.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Every family receives an initial donation after diagnosis from **LEUCAN**. We offer financial assistance to families who have unexpected expenses and travel costs as a result of their child's illness. Older children are offered a laptop to continue their access to education and friends; younger children are offered a DVD player to help with long car journeys and hospital visits.

LEUCAN also hold other meetings, events and activities where the whole family can get together and socialise such as cinema trips, craft days, group swimming and meals out.

