Young Lives vs Cancer
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The Barker-Mill Foundation
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Dear Chris Gwyn-Evans and fellow Trustees,

Thank you for your support for children and young people with cancer and their families. Your funding of Jean's House upgrades has given families a comforting and welcoming free place to stay while having cancer treatment in Southampton. With your grant, we installed new fencing and gates at Jean's House, ensuring that the Home from Home remains safe and secure.

Please find following some photos of the upgraded fencing, along with a real-life story of someone who stayed at Jean's House.

We hope you will enjoy reading our update.

Yours sincerely

Pippa Graham
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Jean's House - Southampton

Following a diagnosis of cancer, children and young people need to be treated in one of 19 specialist oncology hospitals around the UK. For those in the south of England, the Isle of Wight or the Channel Islands, this means potentially travelling large distances to get to Southampton Children's Hospital.

It is often too far for families to travel every day, so our Social Work Team arrange for them to stay at Jean's House, our Home from Home in Southampton.

Jean's House has seven en-suite family bedrooms, two kitchen diners, a lounge, teenage space, laundry room, a garden and car parking.

The Home has been carefully designed with the needs of families as a priority. The spacious bedrooms provide space for the whole family, giving them security and comfort away from the noise of the hospital ward. Our Home team is always on hand to help support families with anything they need.

The communal spaces give families a chance to eat and relax together, keeping a sense of normality even though they are far from home. Many families form bonds with others while their children play together, sharing their experiences of the ward and cancer treatment. This all helps reduce the isolation that comes with being away from school, work and other family members.

Our Home is flexible and can adapt to families staying different lengths of time. It eases the stress for families trying to find last minute accommodation if they suddenly need to return to hospital.

How we have helped children and young people this year.

In 2025, 62 families stayed at Jean's House, in 157 separate family stays. Families often stayed at Jean's House more than once as they returned for tests, further treatment and follow up appointments. The total number of stays was equivalent to 1,530 nights. The average length of stay was 11 nights and the longest was 102 nights.

New gates and fencing at Jean's House.

We needed new gates and fencing at Jean's House so that we could improve the safety and security of the Home from Home. The Home is on a fairly busy road, so the fencing and gates are important not only to maintain privacy, but also to stop younger children from running out on to the road.

The fences and gate have now been installed, and you can see from the photos below that they have made a huge difference compared to when there was no gate and only a low, brick wall.

Photos of the new gate and fencing

Thank you to The Barker-Mill Foundation

Thank you for being part of Team Young Lives, we couldn't do it without your support.