



**forget me not
children's hospice**

Press statement from Luen Thompson, Chief Executive of Forget Me Not Children's Hospice

Forget Me Not Children's Hospice to close Grace's Place in Bury.

Following a consultation with staff, I am very sad to have to announce that Grace's Place in Bury will now close.

Despite extensive media coverage, support from local politicians and council members and generous offers of support from the community, we have not been able to secure enough additional funding to keep our doors open and continue to deliver services to local families at Grace's Place.

We have agreed with all of the families on our caseload how they want to be supported in the future and transition arrangements are being put in place. Almost all of them have opted to continue to receive services via Forget Me Not through our hospice in Huddersfield or as part of our hospice at home offer. All families will be offered access to our transport fund to help cover any additional travel costs.

We will be asking families if they would like to have any of the equipment or toys at Grace's Place. Other children's hospices have also been invited to visit the premises and take any equipment that might be useful to them. In this way, all of the equipment donated or paid for by our supporters will still benefit children with life limiting conditions, many of whom live in the Greater Manchester area.

We deeply regret having to make this decision. But I am grateful that we've have been able to close the service in a planned way ensuring we meet our responsibilities to staff, volunteers and families. I would like to thank everyone who has supported us in trying to develop our Bury children's hospice, particularly the team at Grace's Place who continue to be there for our families and continue to secure support for Forget Me Not.

For more on the background to this decision, you can read the proposal document at www.forgetmenotchild.co.uk/buryproposal

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

How many children & families are affected?

We are currently caring for 17 children and families at Grace's Place. We are supporting other families with services such as our perinatal care (5), counselling (7) and music therapy (4) and we will endeavour to continue to support these families, however we can.

How many employees are affected?

11 employees are affected.

When will the hospice close?

We aim to leave the building by the end of August.

More information about Forget Me Not is available at <https://www.forgetmenotchild.co.uk>