



Building a children's hospice service for Berkshire and beyond...

## **Pudsey joins Sir Michael Parkinson and Fiona Devine for exciting announcements for Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service**

Beard Construction has been announced as the contractor appointed to build Berkshire's children's hospice. Pudsey joined the charity's Co-founder and Founder Patron last week for the announcement and to reveal that Children In Need has awarded a £99,488 grant to Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service to fund a play specialist for three years, working with the Alexander's Care Team.

Award-winning family construction business Beard, will start work preparing the site, off Woodlands Park Avenue, Maidenhead, later this year.

Fiona said: "The coming year will be momentous for us here at Alexander Devine as we begin our build for Berkshire's and surrounding counties Children's Hospice. The milestone announcement of our contractors, Beard, brings the reality of this much-needed service a huge step forward.

"While we provide care within the community in the form of respite and end of life care we also know the need our extraordinary children and their families have for the actual build, having been told by three families in recent weeks how much they would have benefited from the hospice.

"Our philosophy around care has also been the child and family are at the heart of everything we do and to provide continuity and a seamless service, we have achieved this in two elements of our care service, the hospice build is the final stage.

"We are an integrated part of the palliative care network within Berkshire and our model of working makes us like no other service.

"I know first-hand the difference this will make to the 600 children who desperately need this service but, I do also believe, this will give our local community something special too."

Director John Youle will lead the project for Beard. He said: "We're delighted that Beard has been selected as the contractor for this project and to be working with such an inspirational charity. It is a huge responsibility to deliver this building, which represents the efforts and hopes of so many people, but we are looking forward to taking on that challenge and being part of that journey."

The hospice has been designed by Windsor architects Edgington, Spink & Hyne. MD Angus Neil said: "This is such a great project with which we are delighted to play our part, and it is a pleasure to work with the inspirational Alexander Devine team. It will be such a good facility for the children and families of Berkshire and we look forward to starting the work on site and seeing this important project come to fruition."

Simon Kerton, managing partner of quantity surveyors Rider, Levett Bucknall, in Winnersh Triangle, Wokingham, said: "This has been one of the most rewarding projects we have had the pleasure of working on and it's great to take such a significant step forward. One of the most interesting challenges for us over the last 16 months has been making sure this unique building delivers value for money while creating a homely feel."

Sir Michael, founder patron of the charity, said: "This is very, very good news. I am confident that with a final push we can raise the money we need, not just to build it, but also to run this much-needed children's hospice. It's an exciting time and I can think of no more worthy cause than this."

New drawings give a dynamic view of the Alexander Devine Children's Hospice, highlighting how the design has brought to life the charity's vision of a home from home that will look and feel as little like a hospital environment as possible.

Pudsey congratulated Fiona and Sir Michael on the charity's first grant from Children In Need.



Key donors and partners of Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service met at New Lodge, Winkfield, on Thursday last week [Oct 9] to hear the news and donations were also presented by Barrie Mair, on behalf of The Wooden Spoon Chilterns Region, and Chris Faerber on behalf of St James's Place Wealth Management.

The Wooden Spoon gave £100,000 which had been donated via a legacy. Dr Mair said: "This is the biggest donation I have handed over in my 14 years as chairman. Hopefully people will be more aware now of the benefit of leaving a legacy to the charity."

Donations totalling £150,000 were also acknowledged from SFIA Educational Trust Ltd and Anne Feek, on behalf of the trustees said: "We were very pleased to be able to support the creative learning zone in the children's hospice"

Mr Faerber, regional manager for St James's Place, presented a cheque for £2,500 from staff donations.

For more information on how you can help Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service continue its vital work, please call 0845 055 8276, email [fundraising@alexanderdevine.org](mailto:fundraising@alexanderdevine.org) or visit [www.alexanderdevine.org](http://www.alexanderdevine.org)

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**Patrons: Sir Michael Parkinson CBE, Rt Hon Theresa May MP**

**Dr Sanjiv Mata, Mr Nick Parkinson, Dr Andrew Boon Bsc MD FRCP FRCPCH DCP, Dr P J Sebire, Air Marshal Ian Macfadyen CB OBE**

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