

Mum takes on marathon in tribute to son's friend

Suzanne Gardner, a mum of three, takes on her second marathon to raise money for children's cancer charity set up in memory of her son's friend Ben Loyns, on what would have been his 13th birthday.

Ben, a pupil at Halterworth Junior School in Romsey, lost his battle with cancer aged nine and would have celebrated his 13th birthday on April 6 this year, the date that Suzanne, also from Romsey, will be running the Brighton marathon. Ben's Heroes Trust, based in Romsey, was set up in memory of Ben to help other children with cancer to access treatment and to take on projects to improve the quality of life of children with cancer.

The charity has recently supported a number of children who have travelled to America for cancer treatment that is not due to be available in the UK until 2018, by providing them with financial grants.



They are currently fundraising for projects on the children's cancer wards at Southampton General Hospital and also at Bristol Children's Hospital.

The projects enable young patients to use tablets to keep in touch with their schools and friends to stop them falling too far behind with their studies.

The idea is backed by recent statistics from the 2012 CLIC Sargent report 'No Child with Cancer Left Out' which showed that 47% of parents said their child had grown apart from friends and their learning impacted because of their cancer treatment.

Kate Ross, Ben's mother and Trustee of the charity said: "Throughout his treatment Ben continually surprised everyone around him with his attitude and zest for life. He was our inspiration then and continues to be in everything we do, constantly driving us forward.

"It's truly amazing that his journey continues to inspire our supporters to take on amazing challenges such as marathons."

Suzanne is part of a five strong team of runners taking on the Brighton marathon to raise money for Ben's Heroes Trust, and hopes to raise £750 to help children with cancer. If you'd like to help Suzanne to reach her target you can sponsor her at:

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/SuzanneGardner>

Or you can text BENS10 £5 to 70070 to donate £5 direct to the charity.

Ends



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