



Meet two children supported by Torrance House

Meet William

William* is 12 years old and is fitted with a tracheostomy and a gastrostomy tube - Torrance House is his home. He is dependent on a ventilator 24 hours a day. He is unable to move independently and relies on a wheelchair to get around. Staff need to use a hoist for all transfers, including from his wheelchair to his bed.

William is prone to recurrent respiratory tract infections and requires his oxygen levels to be checked continuously while he is asleep, as well as periodically throughout the day while he is awake.

Our multidisciplinary team has developed a tailored care plan to help support the following aims for William.

- + The staff who provide care to William are given a comprehensive training package on tracheostomy care and ventilator care. Staff are also observed for a period of time before being signed off to enable them to be deemed competent and have a period of shadowing more experienced colleagues. Paediatric nurses are available on the unit if any issues arise
- + William attends school regularly, allowing him to have different social and learning experiences
- + Medical and physical interventions are kept to a minimum, where possible, to maintain quality of life without impacting on his health needs
- + To facilitate William to lead as full a life as possible and be able to access similar activities to a child without complex needs, he regularly participates in community trips and other activities where the risk can be managed safely
- + Staff interact with William on a social level so he has interactions beyond just those relating to his care
- + Focus on maintaining his current level of health and minimising future admissions into hospital





Meet Jessie

Jessie* is an 11 year old girl who came to Torrance House from her home for a period of specialised care. She has an undiagnosed inherited condition and requires a wheelchair to get around. She requires the use of a hoist for all transfers and is fitted with a tracheostomy. She is prone to recurrent respiratory tract infections and needs her oxygen levels monitored 24 hours a day. Jessie is fitted with a MIC-KEY gastrostomy device and is doubly incontinent, requiring daily bowel washouts and the need to be catheterised. Jessie suffers both extended and cluster seizures.

On admission, the team worked to identify Jessie's needs and to develop a care plan and appropriate interventions to help her to live the fullest life possible. A key priority was to enable Jessie to return home to live with her parents, with an established routine and care plan in place. A key focus was for her parents to have the support they need to look after Jessie at home. The plan included:

- + A regular routine with a focus on school attendance
- + Reduce the amount of physical and medical interventions and improve Jessie's quality of life
- + Work with agency staff who would support in Jessie's return home; the agency staff shadowed Torrance House staff on the unit initially
- + Visits home were organised with Torrance House staff assisting and observing the agency staff in the home situation. This was increased gradually to overnight, then to a full weekend where the care was taken over completely by the agency
- + Give more scope to allow Jessie to be a child and her parents to be her parents

Eventually, it was decided that Jessie could return home under a care package. She was discharged back to the community in the care of her family and agency staff. The care plans developed at Torrance House were used as a basis for the care delivered in the home.

Find out more

Torrance House is a well-established nurse-led children's continuing care unit, providing skilled nursing care for young people from birth to 17 years of age, with a brain injury or progressive neurological condition.

To contact Priory's central team, please call **0800 090 1356** or to speak to someone at the hospital directly, please call **01706 829 540**.

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For the most up to date information on our services, please visit our website.