

# Questions about CHAS



Children's Hospice Association Scotland

Sharing the Caring

## What is CHAS?

CHAS stands for the Children's Hospice Association Scotland. It is a charity and it runs two children's hospices in Scotland, one called Rachel House and one called Robin House. CHAS also runs CHAS at Home, where staff visit children in their own home and help to look after them.

## What is a hospice?

A hospice is a place where children who are very ill come to visit and they are looked after in a special way. It's a special place where they can come and stay with their families and there are lots of things for them to do, so they can have fun too.

## What are Rachel House and Robin House like?

Both are specially built so they have everything the children and families need. They are very bright and have lots of pictures, posters and photos on the walls. They are really big and there are lots of different rooms like the bedrooms, lounge, playroom, snoezelen® room (a special therapy room), hydrotherapy pool and jacuzzi. Both hospices have big gardens.

## How old are the children?

Children of all different ages come to Rachel House and Robin House. They are usually under 16 years old when they first come to visit.

## Are all the children sick?

All of the children who come to Rachel House and Robin House have an illness which means they need special care. A lot of them have an illness that is very rare and doesn't have a cure which means they may not live until adulthood. Quite often the illnesses can last for many years and there are times when children are feeling a bit better even though they are visiting the hospice.

## Do the children stay in bed all the time?

No, most of the time the children are very active and busy, but if a child is feeling unwell, or maybe just a little tired, they can stay in bed. The good thing is that the beds have wheels on them, so even when the children are in bed they can still go into different rooms in the hospice and join in with activities if they want to.

## Does everyone who is disabled use a wheelchair?

No, not everyone who is disabled uses a wheelchair. Every person is different and can do different things, whether they are disabled or not.

## Can the children talk?

Some of the children can talk; some a little bit and some are chatter boxes! Other children don't speak but have other ways to say what they want, for example by using sign language or special picture books.

## Are the children sore?

We do our best to make sure the children are not sore. If they are, we try to change things so that they feel better.

# Questions about CHAS continued



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## How many children stay at the hospices?

Both Rachel House and Robin House have eight bedrooms for children to use, but the number of children changes every day. Sometimes children visit just for the day and don't stay the night. CHAS also helps children who are not staying at the hospice. CHAS staff visit children in their own homes and talk to families on the telephone.

## How long do children stay when they visit?

Most children come to stay for a few days or a week at a time, and it's a bit like a holiday. They will usually have several short visits a year. If a child isn't feeling well, or if their family needs a bit more help, they might stay for longer.

## What things do they do when they stay?

There are lots of things to choose from. There are many things to do in Rachel House and Robin House such as arts and crafts, swimming, computer games, music, pool/snooker, dressing-up, games, or enjoying the snoezelen® room (a special therapy room) and messy play rooms. Or we might have visitors or go out on a trip. Some children want to relax and others want to do as much as possible.

## Can their families stay too?

Yes, both Rachel House and Robin House have bedrooms for the families so they can stay too. We often have mums, dads, brothers, sisters, grannies and grandpas staying. Sometimes the older children/teenagers decide they don't want their parents to stay. They come and stay by themselves so they can be independent, spend time with their friends and can get up to more mischief!

## Who works in Rachel House and Robin House?

There are big teams of people in both hospices who work shifts so the children can be looked after during the day and night. Everyone works together but they have lots of different jobs. There are doctors, nurses and activity teams who look after the children. There are also staff who work in the kitchen and the garden and keep the hospices tidy.

## Does it cost money for children and families to stay?

Rachel House and Robin House are free for the children and their families, so they don't have to pay any money. The Government give CHAS a little bit of money, but CHAS is a charity so it has to raise most of the money itself so it can look after children and families.

## What can I do to help?

- Tell people about CHAS and about this website
- Maybe you have a brilliant idea of how you could raise some money for CHAS? Or perhaps you would like someone from CHAS to visit and talk to your school? If so, get in touch with your local fundraising team:

CHAS Edinburgh – 0131 444 1515/edinburgh@chas.org.uk

CHAS Kinross – 01577 865222/kinross@chas.org.uk

CHAS Glasgow – 0141 779 6180/glasgow@chas.org.uk

CHAS Aberdeen – 01224 645000/aberdeen@chas.org.uk

**Do you have your own question you want to ask CHAS? If so, get in touch with your local fundraising team above.**