

Afternoon Tea for CHAS

Host Notes

Thank you for choosing to host an Afternoon Tea for CHAS.

Please use these notes to talk to your guests about CHAS and how your event will help children with life-shortening conditions and their families.

About CHAS:

- Children's Hospices Across Scotland (CHAS) is a charity providing **unwavering care** to children who may die young and their families, at every step on this hardest of journeys.
- Three children a week die in Scotland from an incurable condition. CHAS **works in partnership** with Scotland's health and social care providers to ensure hospice and palliative care services are provided for these babies, children and young people (aged 0-21 years) and their families across Scotland.
- Our ambition is that no-one should face the death of their child alone. CHAS teams work in partnership across Scotland to deliver the best **children's palliative care** possible for those children and families where it is needed.
- We are here for children and families **in every part of Scotland** no matter where they live.
- CHAS supports families in their homes, in our two hospices and through joint CHAS / NHS teams in Scotland's three children's hospitals, through the terrifying heartbreak of knowing their child may die young.
- CHAS offers **highly personalised care**, with love and compassion, for the entire family and not just the child who is ill.
- CHAS supports families from the point of a child's diagnosis with a life-shortening condition. CHAS supports children and families to live well – making memories, experiencing joy, and supporting with practical aspects

of life such as social work, benefits entitlement and more. After a child has died, CHAS is there for families for as long as the family needs them. CHAS care is highly individual and **choice-based** – each child and family is unique.

- Our work to **keep the joy alive** for children and families is made possible by the kindness and generosity of our volunteers, supporters and fundraisers, without whom we could not deliver our vital services for children and families.

About Afternoon Tea for CHAS:

This October, people around Scotland will come together to host an Afternoon Tea for CHAS.

Every cup of tea poured, and slice of cake shared will raise funds for CHAS' More Than a Hospice Appeal, an ambitious £20 million campaign to transform children's palliative care in Scotland by:

Rebuilding Rachel House, Scotland's first children's hospice, into a world-class home from home for children with life-shortening conditions and their families.

Renewing Robin House - delivering essential upgrades to ensure our hospice in the West of Scotland remains world-class.

Reimagining Care across Scotland – ensuring families can access the highest quality care in a way that suits them – whether that be at home, in hospital or in one of our hospices. Our campaign will expand our reach in communities all around the country.

Leondre's Story

Leondre was referred to Rachel House in 2023. He was born with Congenital Myotonic Dystrophy which led to other health complications.

Leondre and his family had initial reservations when they visited Rachel House for the first time, however Leondre's mum, Fiona, says they're always very well looked after and cared for by the supportive and friendly CHAS staff. She says that every visit – whether to the hospice in Kinross, or to their home from the CHAS at Home staff – ensures their family can make special memories together.

"Every visit, special memories are made! We went speed boating, something I'd tried to source for Leon but couldn't find anything suitable. We also had a professional photo shoot with some beautiful pictures to treasure.

"To sit in another room and listen to Leondre laughing and squealing, because he has the team jumping, dancing and playing his favourite throwing games with him is absolutely priceless."

Getting to know the families that come through the doors of each hospice is key to the CHAS experience, so with a very special birthday on the horizon, CHAS ensured that Leondre was able to celebrate in tea-riffic style.

"Rose, our keyworker, had secretly organised an afternoon tea to celebrate Leondre's 18th birthday - we had no idea," remembers Fiona.

"The afternoon tea was Disney-themed, bringing back memories of a very special holiday we were once able to enjoy together, when Leondre could still travel.

"It was a truly wonderful and emotional afternoon, filled with love, laughter, and precious memories. Knowing how much thought, care, and effort had gone into making the day so special meant the world to us."

Your support makes moments like these possible. By coming together over Afternoon Tea for CHAS, you are helping families to make precious memories together that will be treasured for a lifetime.

What your Afternoon Tea will fund:

£157 could pay for a Cook for a day at one of our hospices, ensuring families can come together to share food, laughter, and connection over delicious meals at Rachel and Robin House.

£315 could pay for a Senior Nursing Support Worker for a day – delivering vital care to children with complex needs, while giving their families a break from 24/7 caring responsibilities to enjoy a hot cup of tea.

£1,441 is the average weekly cost of food for just one of our hospices.