

CARL & BETH'S STORY



A young family who have been touched by hospice care at Dove House Hospice in Hull during the pandemic are wanting to help other families like theirs not be afraid of accessing much needed care.

You would never dream of needing a hospice at the age of 40 but Beth's family are so glad they took the nerve wracking first steps to come to Dove House. From then on, they've never looked back, they are very keen to share their story as a family with others in the hope of breaking down some of the myths around hospice care, that you don't have to be stereotypically 'old' to access hospice care and that the support doesn't just stop when their loved one dies. Beth spent her last few months at Dove House and by gosh did their family cherish and value every single second they had together. The memories they created in this short time are the ones that are keeping them strong and are enabling them to carry on Beth's legacy of embracing everything no matter what life throws at you.

Carl:

“ My wife Beth, who was diagnosed with breast cancer seven years ago, spent just over two wonderful months at Dove House before she died at just 40 years old in September 2020. Our boys, Ethan and Jared, are only 15 and 12 – they are too young to lose their mum, but with the help of Dove House we are navigating this journey with the best support we could hope for.

We had no idea what to expect when the word 'hospice' was first mentioned to us, we really didn't think it was the right place for us. But the second you walk in the door you are greeted with such warmth and so many smiles that any worries you have just disappear. I knew then that Beth would be happy and if Beth was happy then so would the boys.

Dove House helped shoulder the burden of having to know what is best, they helped me with what felt like the hardest questions I had to answer. But they also showed me



that its ok to not always have the answers. No one prepares for losing their partner, and certainly not at the age Beth was. She will not get to see our amazing boys grow up and that will never be ok, but by being at Dove House and not at home we were able to focus on making memories while they were caring for her every need. They made it possible for us to actually have fun at the most heartbreaking times of our lives.

The time Beth spent at Dove House has given us such wonderful memories. Beth was in the hospice during the Coronavirus pandemic and even so, Ethan and Jared were able to visit every day, we had birthday parties, made crafts together and the hospice even arranged a movie night for us. We just wanted to feel like a normal family doing everyday things, and I will be forever grateful to Dove House for making this happen. The hospice

staff arranged for us to have a sleep over all together at the hospice, surprising us with breakfast in bed the next day! These are the things you normally take for granted; losing Beth has taught me to cherish every little moment.

We all made such wonderful memories during our time at the hospice which will live on even though Beth is sadly no longer with us. It is these memories and all of the amazing things we did as a family that keep us going, they keep us strong when really, we are beside ourselves with grief. Now, after Beth has died, Dove House are still helping us to cope, showing us how to be a family even though our biggest part is no longer here.

I honestly couldn't tell you where we would be if they hadn't scooped us up and put their Dove House wings around us.

We can never repay the hospice enough for helping us be a proper family right until the end. We hope that hearing our story helps other families like ours to access hospice care. Just take a look, what have you got to lose? But remember they care for the whole family and not just the patient, we honestly would have been lost without them. ””