

No parent expects to hear that their child has a serious health condition that could shorten their life. Sadly, this is the reality faced by thousands of families across the country, leaving them heart-broken, fearful of the future and often desperately isolated.

Being able to access the support of one of the UK's 54 children's hospices means they don't have to face that future alone.

As Patron of East Anglia's Children's Hospices and Tŷ Hafan Children's Hospice in South Wales, I have the immense privilege of seeing for myself the extraordinary work of our children's hospices.

Lifting spirits through laughter, fun and play, as well as listening, holding, caring and sharing, they support children and families through life, death and beyond.

This Children's Hospice Week, I hope you will join me in celebrating the lifechanging work they do and thanking them for the vital care they provide to children and families experiencing the most challenging times.