# Family support

The family support team at Demelza is made up of family liaison, practical support, bereavement and counselling, creative therapies and family events. We offer advocacy and practical, emotional and social support to parents, carers, siblings and grandparents.

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Our team share a depth of knowledge and experience in supporting children and young people with complex health needs, along with the welfare of those around them.





#### **Time to listen**

We can offer emotional support by providing listening sessions and will work with you to find a time that works for your family.

## Advice and information

We can assist with both general questions and more specific queries about housing support, benefits, charity applications, other local services and the transition from children to adult services. We are also happy to help you communicate with health, education and social care professionals.

#### **Practical support**

Our practical support volunteers can help with a range of one-off or shortterm activities such as decorating a room, walking your dog and organising transport to/from appointments or events.

#### Support groups, activities and events

We organise events including peer-to-peer support, art and music therapy sessions, sibling activities, catch-up cafes, workshops and art and music therapy. We also offer seasonal programmes including spring, autumn and festive activities. These are a combination of face-to-face and virtual, giving you the opportunity to connect with other families, whilst building your confidence, skills and support networks.

# Psychotherapeutic services

We offer creative therapies (such as art, dance movement and music), complimentary therapies (reflexology and Indian head massage) and counselling to families at any stage of their journey at Demelza. The sessions can help address individual physical, emotional and cognitive needs for your child whilst also building precious memories for your family. Our therapists work to enable communication, self-expression and interaction, without the need for words.

## Bereavement and counselling

We offer a variety of support from the earliest days to the months and years that follow. This enables families to meet with others, face to face or online, to share experiences and learn to manage the challenges that grief and loss present. From groups, cafes, oneto-one support and events, the bereavement service supports Demelza families in choosing the support that is best for them.

For support or advice, please ring our helpline on 01795 845280 (10am - 4pm, Monday to Friday) or email familysupportdepartment@demelza.org.uk