

# OVER THE WALL

A charity providing residential activity camps for children and young people affected by serious and life-limiting illnesses.

12th Year 1999-2011



## Information for Health & Social Services Professionals

### Who are we?

We are a charity and part of the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps which was established after actor Paul Newman founded the first camp in the United States in 1988.

We have been running residential activity camps in the UK for over ten years. Our camps are for children and young people aged between 8 and 17 who have been attending hospital and we also run separate camps for brothers and sisters.

### What is the medical criteria for children attending camp?

- Diagnosis of a chronic, life-affecting or life-limiting illness although your child does not need to be on regular medication.
- For the Siblings camp, the young person has to have a sibling who fits the above criteria.
- It is essential that if your child is in a wheelchair he/she can weight-bear to transfer.

### Are there any exclusions?

Unfortunately we are unable to take children or young people with behavioural difficulties such as ADHD, or children with Cystic Fibrosis (due to infection risk). However we always aim to be as inclusive as possible and review each application on its individual merits. If you have any queries regarding eligibility it is best to give us a call to discuss what we can do.

### What medical resources do you provide?

Over The Wall provides 24 hour 'home from home' medical care at camp comprising fully qualified specialist paediatric doctors and nurses. Our medical team are all volunteers and live on site for the duration of camp and take full care of all on-site medical and health needs.

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## What other support is provided?

In addition to our full time staff, we also provide volunteers who carry out the various roles of Team or Activity Leader and Team Member. We currently take 60 children to each of our camps and our volunteers and staff will always outnumber the campers. Each volunteer is carefully selected, vetted for working with children and trained to our exacting standards in order to provide the safest camp environment possible.

## What is the quality of care provided to the children at camps?

We adhere fully to the extensive safety and quality control requirements put in place by the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps, which extend considerably beyond the legal requirements set in the UK.

In 2010, our camp in Scotland was inspected by the Care Commission and we received gradings of Very Good and Excellent within the two areas of scrutiny, namely Quality of Care & Support and Quality of Environment.

## What do the children do at camp?

At camp we offer a choice of creative and challenging activities such as:

- Swimming
- Arts and crafts
- Sports
- Climbing & Abseiling
- Music and Drama
- Horse riding
- Archery
- Evening Entertainment: A Disco and the opportunity to take part in the Campers' Talent Night!

## Is it totally free of charge?

Everything at camp is provided free of charge.

## Is transport provided to the camps?

We provide coach and minibus transport from key locations and can provide other assistance with transport if needed.

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## Children First

The children's abilities and medical conditions do not define them at camp: all activities are designed to be child-centered and are based on two key guiding principles: 'Challenge by Choice' and 'Therapeutic Recreation'.

'**Challenge By Choice**' means each child chooses to what extent they participate in each activity and the challenge it offers. Children have the opportunity to try and achieve at new things in an environment that is positive and exciting and that celebrates all their achievements.

'**Therapeutic Recreation**' is a well-established method of planning and structuring a programme of activities at camp, where the activities and the way they are delivered are specifically designed to build confidence, self-esteem and independence.

## Where are the camps located?

We have camps in 3 locations:

- Tulliallan Castle in Scotland,
- Pioneer Centre, near Kidderminster in the Midlands and
- Bryanston School in Dorset.

## What is the application process?

Application forms for all our camps can be accessed on our website [www.otw.org.uk](http://www.otw.org.uk) or we can send out application forms as required. Parents can apply direct for their children to attend camp.

Our medical team review applications carefully ahead of camp and will often speak directly with their colleagues in the Health Service to ensure we can provide the proper medical care for every camper. We then notify parents whether their application is successful or not.

## How do I get in contact?

You can get further information about Over the Wall, together with online camp application forms, on our website at [www.otw.org.uk](http://www.otw.org.uk).

Alternatively, you can either give us a call on **02392 477110** or write to us at the address below. Our staff will be more than happy to help with any queries or questions you may have.

*We look forward to hearing from you*



Over The Wall, 36 Basepoint Business Centre,  
Harts Farm Way, Havant, Hampshire PO9 1HS

Telephone 02392 477110 [www.otw.org.uk](http://www.otw.org.uk)

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