

My 15 year old son Kevin was rushed to Sheffield Children's Hospital in January when he was hit by a car. He suffered terrible head injuries, was left paralysed down his left side and has no short term memory.

Since Kevin was admitted to hospital, I have been staying in Treetop House, and to be honest, I don't know how I would have coped over the last few months had the Home from Home not existed.

I am a single parent with three other children and while I have to be near Kevin at all times, it's also vital that I am there for my other children too. Thanks to Treetop House, we can all be together at this time, when we need each other the most.

My five year old son and 18 year old daughter have been staying with me; it's very difficult for my youngest son to understand what is going on but by being here with me and visiting Kevin, he is much more able to cope with the situation.

Staying in the Home from Home enables us to have a family dinner together and talk through our emotions away from the public wards. Plus I can make food for Kevin who is a very fussy eater!

It's been a wonderful boost for Kevin; I know it helps him to stay calm and concentrate on getting better knowing we are always close by. So if he gets frightened in the middle of the night, the ward will call me and I'll be giving him a hug within minutes.

Being a single parent, I have found the network of other families staying in Treetop House a powerful source of support. In front of my children I need to be strong, but with other parents I can be open and honest, they know how I'm feeling and it's been a huge help knowing there is always a shoulder to cry on.

The Sick Children's Trust really has helped to keep my family together in this often scary and vulnerable time – I can't thank them enough for taking care of us all.

Nicky, Kevin's Mum