

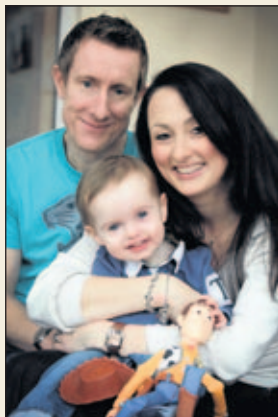
DAD BRIGHTENS UP YOUNGSTERS' LIVES

A DAD has raised more than £300,000 to fund a play room and outside play area at the Tyneside hospital that saved his son's life.

Ivan Hollingsworth raised the vital funds for the Freeman Hospital's children's heart unit in Newcastle.

In 2009 the hospital saved the life of Ivan's son Sebastian, now four, and he and his wife Nadine vowed to raise cash for the unit.

The couple set up a fund, Seb4chuf, and have raised funds to pay for a modern play facility for the young patients, some of whom



GRATEFUL Ivan Hollingsworth with Nadine and Sebastian

spend months in the unit. It is expected it will be completed by

autumn this year. Ivan, 37, from Monkseaton, said: "The money will re-build the unit's play room and outside area. It will be about providing a place for children and their families to enjoy and there will also be outside court spaces for parents to sit in."

Former professional athlete Ivan, a pharmaceutical rep, has undergone many gruelling challenges, and last year he was made a trustee of the Children's Heart Unit Fund. Visit www.seb4chuf.org.uk for more information.



SPECTACULAR SUM Ivan, centre, with nursing staff at the Freeman children's heart unit and, right, with Joanna Shallcross



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Match in memory of keen Toon fan

THE SEVENTH Dan Pringle Memorial Football Tournament takes place next month.

Toon fan Dan, 32, of Bedlington, died in 2007. The young father-of-four was a moderator on the popular Newcastleutd-mad.co.uk, where he was known as nufcnutter.

He died just eight weeks after learning he had testicular cancer despite being given an 80% chance of survival.

A charity five-a-side football tournament is held every year in his memory and this year it is on Saturday, June 15, at The Powerleague Soccerdome, Royal Quays, North Shields.

The tournament is open to anyone over the age of 17, male or female, of any standard. Money raised will go, as in previous years, to the Joe Wallace Breath of Life fund - set up in the name of Sunderland fan and former shipyard worker Joe, who died of mesothelioma - and Cancer Research.

More information can be found at www.danpringlefund.org, on their Facebook page or via e-mail info@danpringlefund.org

Closure of nurseries 'a threat to jobs'

MICHAEL BROWN

WORKING parents could be forced to give up their jobs if three nurseries are closed, a union has claimed.

A consultation has been launched into the future of nurseries at Benton Park View in High Heaton, Tyneview Park in Benton and Waterview Park in Washington.

But the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS), which represents many of the Revenue and Customs and Department of Work and Pensions staff who work at the sites, said the possible loss of up to 180 childcare places could force many to reconsider if having a job was practically or financially viable.

A HMRC and DWP spokesman claimed no decision on their future has yet been made, although demand for the services has dropped over the past 12 months, with the kindergartens now only 65% full.

Gary Clark, PCS branch secretary at the government's Waterview Park base, said he has already spoken to staff who say they would be forced into the dole queue if

Parents would be forced to give up work

nursery provision in taken away. "One mother who works part-time said it simply wouldn't be viable for her to continue," he said.

"She uses public transport to get to work, and has her child in the nursery, but if she had to take her child elsewhere then it wouldn't be worth it."

Mr Clark said that any closure decision threatened the work-life balance of staff - not just now, but for those who might have children in the future - as well as putting the nursery staff themselves out of a job.

"People do use this service and in the past it has been very well used.

"I'm led to believe that there used to even be a waiting list for it," he added.

"And we are going to campaign to keep it

open as it is a vital service for these sites. Also Waterview has the children's benefit centre there.

"What message does it send to have the employer in charge of child benefit showing such little interest in child care for working parents? It doesn't look good."

The nurseries at Benton Park View in High Heaton, Tyneview Park in Benton and Waterview Park in Washington are all run by the company Interserve, which also provides security, catering and cleaning services on the sites.

Last year, the PCS successfully campaigned to save two nurseries in other parts of the country, at East Kilbride and Cardiff.

A spokeswoman for HMRC said no decision has been made over the nurseries and they were now looking to consult with staff.

She said. "There has been a decline in take up of nursery places over the last 12 months in these locations. We have not decided to close these nurseries. We are conducting a consultation into the impact of closing them and will formally decide in June 2013."

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