Sunday Sun AUGUST 31, 2014

➤ latest news at www.sundaysun.co.uk

) (() (/ / / / / / / / /

£300k suite is opened

A NEW specialist play facility has been opened at the North East's Children's Heart Unit.

Inspired parents Ivan and Nadine Hollingsworth have worked tirelessly to raise vital funds to build a playroom and outdoor play area for the unit at Newcastle's Freeman Hospital that saved their five-year-old son Seb's life.

The specialist play facility has cost more than £300,000 and all the money has been raised by the Seb4Chuf

charity.

The Hollingsworth family were delighted to cut the ribbon yesterday to open the play area surrounded by many families who will benefit from the facility.

Dad-of-one, Ivan, of Monkseaton, Whitley Bay, said: "I'm so excited to have finally reached this day where we get to see the results of a lot of hard work, blood, sweat and tears from everybody involved with Seb4Chuf.

"I have this unit to thank that my son Seb is here at all."



'My son was given the greatest gift of all...life'

BACKS CALLS FOR ORGAN DONOR LAW CHANGE



Oliver Harrison and, inset,

during his time in hospital

Kate Proctor

kate.proctor@ncjmedia.co.uk

A MUM whose son underwent a life-saving heart transplant has said UK donor laws need to catch up with countries overseas.

Emma Lawrence's son Oliver Harrison has only had his new heart for a year but his health has improved so much he was a competitor at this summer's UK's Transplant Games.

Knowing first hand the incredible work doctors at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle can do for children with serious heart problems, Emma is backing the Sunday Sun's Gift of Life campaign which hopes to overturn current guidelines

on organ donation. The 42-year-old mum-of-two said: "The gift of life is the most amazing gift anyone can be given. Oliver used to be in a big buggy and now he's playing football.

can't speak highly enough of our donor family. For Oliver it was the difference between life and death.

Laws in the UK mean that babies under two-monthsold can't be organ donors, a ruling which the family of tragic baby Tiarna Middleton believe seriously diminished her chances at life.

Tiarna was the voungest smallest baby in the world to have a Berlin heart fitted in the hope the device would buy her precious time while a donor heart could be found.

However, because of the eight-week ruling, doctors had to search overseas for a heart small enough to be compatible.

Tiarna lost her fight for life in June and her parents Sharney Gray and Gary Mid-



Gateshead, have been campaigning alongside the Sunday Sun for a review of medical guidelines on donation which were set out in the early 1990s.

Babies under two months old can become donors in many European countries, Australia and certain states n the USA.

Emma, who runs a stationary business and is married to nurse Adam Harrison, 46, said: "Let's hope that the rules are looked at and the reasons why they are saying no to babies under two months.

"We are so lucky in Newcastle to have transplant experts like Dr Richard Kirk at the Freeman Hospital and dleton, of Rowlands Gill in we've got all the equipment

and machines available now that we didn't have 20 years ago. We've got all this technology yet children are dying everyday due to the lack of organs."

Oliver was five-years-old when he was given a new heart

He was born with congenital defect hypoplastic left heart syndrome which means only one side of his

heart was functioning. He underwent several major surgeries with doctors near his home in Shropshire and then at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle.

The same surgeon that carried out Tiarna Middleton's world-first Berlin heart operation, Mr Massimo Griselli, carried out Oliver's heart transplant on August 19 2013 when he was then aged five-years-old.

Emma said: "I will always be a passionate campaigner on organ donation. It's so

"The Freeman Hospital and its doctors were very good to us and we spent so much time in the city.

Teesside eyesore is bought

THE site of the once infamous Teesside eyesore Bill-ingham House has been bought by a neighbouring

Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies has bought the land with a "medium to long-term view" of further expanding its business and facilities on Billingham's Belasis Avenue.

The move has been welcomed by Stockton Council, which stumped up £1.2m to demolish the building after its owners left it derelict for several years. Demolition of the 10-storey former ICIheadquarters was completed in December 2012 - to the jubilation of long-suf-fering local residents. The work was the culmination of a lengthy legal wrangle, which had previously prevented the council pressing ahead with demolition

sunday snip

POLICE were called to the home of artist Sam Taylor-Johnson and actor husband Aaron after a passer-by spotted a machine gun on a desk inside the house.

Boro house damaged in blaze

FIRE crews were called to house blaze in Middlesbrough.

A crew from Marine Fire Station, as well as another appliance, were called to Princes Road after a report that smoke could be seen coming from the house.

The report came in at 15.05pm on Friday. On arrival, firefighters found a blaze in the living room of the property. The room was badly damaged in the fire.

The kitchen was also damaged by the flames and smoke, and there was moderate smoke damage to the remainder of the property. The fire was out by 3.25pm.

A spokeswoman for the brigade said: "There was 50% fire damage and 100% smoke damage to the living room. The kitchen was 100% smoke damaged and

20% damaged by the fire." No one from the brigade was available in order to confirm what caused the