



Teenage Cancer Trust was a beneficiary of the Michael Josephson MBE Charity Ball in 2021 and received £101,398 of funding

With this funding, we have been able to fund 1,750 hours of support to young people with cancer through the funding of our Youth Support Coordinator Jen as well as create a social space, designed by and for young people with cancer within the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

Examples of this support are:

- Providing emotional and practical support, talking through available support, helping with school adjustments and offering guidance on sensitive topics such as body image.
- Running social events like art workshops, film nights, facilitating 1:1 and group activities within hospital setting to help young people maintain normality and independence
- Dedicated spaces for young people – creating a space with and for young people that feels more like a home than a hospital, with access to TV's, games consoles and areas to connect with friends and other young people

A **massive thank you** to Dr Michael Josephson MBE

Teenage Cancer Trust exists because cancer care wasn't made for young people.

You only get one chance at being young, and those years shape the person you become. Friendships, mental health, body image, studies, work, relationships and choices about the future are hard enough to navigate – before a cancer diagnosis shatters everything.

Teenage Cancer Trust provide the sensitive, individual care and support young people need at the toughest and scariest time they've ever faced – so they can get through cancer, rebuild their life and shape their own future.

What Teenage Cancer Trust does

Teenage Cancer Trust offers unique care and support, designed for and with young people. We fund specialised nurses, youth workers and hospital units in the NHS, so young people have dedicated staff and facilities to support them throughout treatment.

We run events for young people with cancer to help them regain independence and meet other young people going through something similar.

And we provide easy-to-understand information about every aspect of living with cancer as a young person.

With no government funding we simply could not continue to provide our vital service without the support from the communities in which we work

Meet Jen

The Michael Josephson MBE Charity Ball has helped young people with cancer by providing funding for our Youth Support Coordinator Jen

Jen's role as a Youth Support Coordinator (YSC) is all about making life a little easier and more normal for young people facing cancer. Her job isn't medical – it's focused on emotional, social, and practical support. Every day, Jen visits young people on the ward and in outpatient clinics, offering a listening ear, organising activities, and creating moments of fun and connection. From pizza nights and games to simply chatting or even making TikTok videos, Jen ensures that no two days are the same and that every activity is inclusive and tailored to individual needs.

Youth Support Coordinators like Jen help young people navigate the challenges that come with cancer – whether that's coping with changes in appearance, staying connected with school or work, or just finding someone to talk to when things feel overwhelming. They also bring young people together, reducing isolation and building peer support through group activities and social events. In short, Jen is there to make sure young people feel like themselves, not just patients. On average Jen supports 70 young people a year. Young people like Benji

Benji was diagnosed with T-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia (ALL) in 2022 and met Jen, one of Teenage Cancer Trust's Youth Support Coordinators, soon after. They connected straight away, and Jen became a vital source of emotional and practical support throughout his treatment.

After finishing his initial treatment and returning to college, Benji's cancer sadly relapsed. He faced intensive chemotherapy, radiotherapy, and complications including septic shock, which damaged his hips and affected his mobility. Through every stage – from hospital stays to difficult appointments – Jen was there to keep Benji calm, explain what was happening, and support his family.

Jen also helped Benji enjoy life beyond treatment, arranging trips to London and Old Trafford, and continues to plan future adventures. For Benji and his family, Jen has been more than a support worker – she's been a lifeline!

Social Space at the Royal Manchester Children's hospital

The Michael Josephson MBE Charity Ball has also funded the creation of a new social space for young people at the Royal Manchester Children's hospital.

This dedicated social space at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital is a game-changer for young people. Instead of being confined to their beds, they'll have a welcoming area where they can meet others, play games, watch movies, or even cheer on their favourite football team together. This space offers a sense of normality and independence – a place where young people can laugh, share experiences, and feel part of a community.

For many, stepping into the teen room for the first time is a big moment. Treatment often leaves them feeling different and isolated but having a space that's theirs – equipped with gaming consoles, comfy seating, and room for group activities – helps restore a sense of control at a time when so much feels out of their hands. It's more than a room; it's a safe haven where friendships form, confidence grows, and life feels a little more like it should.

"Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Michael Josephson MBE Charity Ball, we've been able to fund our Youth Support Coordinator, Jen, whose role is vital in making life feel more normal for young people with cancer. Providing emotional, social, and practical support every day – from organising activities and creating moments of fun to simply being there when things feel overwhelming. This funding has also enabled us to create a dedicated

social space at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, giving young people a place to connect, laugh, and feel like themselves again. Every hour of support and every smile in that space is a direct result of this kindness."

Quote from Stephen – Associate Director of Services, Teenage Cancer Trust.

Thank you to Dr Michael Josephson MBE for his dedication and contribution to Teenage Cancer Trust