

A Year with the NHS

The NHS cannot cope or meet children's needs. 66,000 people in Britain are amputees, only 3,000 are children. (figures are from Peggy and Friends). For 15 months we have done everything asked with no results. Archie is very strong and determined, but his development is now being hindered by his Prosthetic legs. They are very heavy. They are uncomfortable. The belt falls off often and the legs twist. The foot size has been too small. Its a long time from fitting to receiving the new legs, Archie is growing all the time. Archie is visually impaired: the legs need to feel part of him and be comfortable with good function. The world of standing is very frightening for Archie. I do not want my son to live his life on his bottom or in a wheel chair. He needs to be a toddler and have quality of life, standing, walking, running, jumping etc.

I didn't know what to expect when we started this journey 15months ago, but I do know I had to become an expert on prosthetics very quickly. Someone has to fight for Archie. Why do parents have to fight for results that their children deserve?.

Physio has been another battle. Once a week is not enough to keep Archie's muscles, hips, back etc in prime condition for walking. They will tighten, shorten and seize if something isn't done very soon. I also have severe frustrations with the development centre for not accepting Archie's age. At two years old he has no energy at 3.o'clock in the afternoon. They would not give Archie a morning appointment. Archie's funds raised are for his future, to give him a quality of life and a happy one.

The latest news on prosthetics is we have made an appointment with Dorset Orthopaedic Clinic. This will be on the 4th of February. I am looking forward to going - it's time. Time is running out for Archie. Then we have to wait an see what decision the Primary Care Trust make on funding. I feel that they should contribute as the NHS have failed Archie. It shouldn't be all funded from hard working fund raisers.

My family for generations has been paying into the NHS. Kind of an investment. Now we need some payback for our son, it is not happening. I am very disappointed and frustrated. I do have faith in Archie's nursery, Woodlands school for special children. They are trying to work with Archie's legs every day. That is what Archie needs.