The Children’s Liver Disease Foundation is excited and very proud to be Unite/CPHVA’s first ever Charity of the Month. We already work with a number of fantastic health professionals in the community but for those of you who aren’t familiar with CLDF, let me introduce us. We are the UK’s only charity dedicated to fighting all childhood liver diseases. This is no mean feat as there are more than 100 different childhood liver diseases, many of which are life-threatening and there is still no cure.

However, we have made great strides over the past 30 years and are determined to do more. Our work covers four main areas:

- Information for families and for health professionals about liver disease and its impact on a child’s life
- Emotional support for families and for young people affected by liver disease and liver transplant
- Research into causes and possible treatments
- A voice for everyone affected. We are constantly seeking ways to improve outcomes.

Some of you may already be familiar with our Yellow Alert campaign to promote the early diagnosis and referral of liver disease in newborn babies. This is covered in more detail in the article on page 22. However, our work goes way beyond diagnosis.

INFORMATION

Because childhood liver disease is rare and many health professionals may only see one case during their whole career, CLDF hosts a wide range of literature on all aspects of childhood liver disease, all of which is available to download free from our website childliverdisease.org.

Specific information in the form of our education pack is also available free to nurseries, schools and colleges to make them aware of the issues affecting a child with liver disease or who have received a liver transplant.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

A diagnosis of childhood liver disease is a shattering experience for any family. And while hospital staff provide whatever medical treatment is necessary, including liver transplants in many cases, CLDF is there from the start, complementing that treatment with much needed emotional support. This includes:

- Regular visits from our support team to hospitals around the country to meet families as they await their appointments and explain how we can help
- Access to information via our website and magazine
- Online forum providing easy contact with other families
- Regular family events
- Biennial conference that gives families the opportunity to meet the experts face-to-face.

We also offer tailored services for young people including:

- Residential events where they can meet other people who live with a liver condition and realise they are not alone
- A dedicated website
- CLDF Hive, an online social media platform, devised and run by young people with a liver condition for others in that situation
- A Young People’s officer who provides one-to-one support at clinics, over the phone or by email.

In short, we are here for you. We work with health professionals around the UK to improve the experiences of young people with a liver condition. If you would like to refer a family or young person to us please contact us on 0121 212 3839 or support@childliverdisease.org.