# Community rallies to support families facing rare health battles



Will Parry, a 32-year-old father of three from Ceredigion, is facing a life-altering battle after being diagnosed with glioblastoma, an aggressive form of brain cancer. The diagnosis came after a series of alarming symptoms, including severe headaches and unusual eye twitches, led his wife Leanne to seek medical help. Over the summer of 2024, Will was leading a demanding life as a security guard, working long hours in Aberystwyth, but it was during a routine day that everything changed drastically.

On 23 August, just as he was about to leave for work, Will experienced a severe tremor in his left leg, followed by a collapse that resembled a stroke. Leanne managed to get him to the local GP, where an ECG indicated serious issues, leading to immediate hospitalisation in Cardiff. Following extensive tests, Will was informed that he had a fist-sized tumour on the left side of his brain, with doctors estimating he had just 12 to 18 months to live.

Will described the moment Leanne broke the devastating news to him: "I woke up to see Lee crying in a corner. Then she sort of told me what it was. I can just remember thinking to myself, 'Right, okay... this is it.'" A subsequent examination revealed the grim prognosis was even worse, shortening his lifespan to between two to four months after determining the nature of the tumour.

In a remarkable turn, Will underwent a seven-hour surgery, where 99% of the tumour was successfully removed, although his journey with glioblastoma continued with challenging chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments. Speaking about his determination to prolong his life, Will said, "I will literally try anything at this point. Lee and I have only been married for two and a bit years... I have three children, my youngest being three and I want to see them grow as much as I can."

Leanne, meanwhile, shared the financial strain of seeking alternative treatments, as options like immunotherapy could reach exorbitant costs, making it challenging for the family to explore every avenue of care. Leanne expressed her fears about planning for the future given the uncertainty surrounding Will's health, stating, "At this point in time, the doctors can't even give us a rough estimation of how long Will has."

In response to their situation, the local community has rallied in support of the Parry family. A team of 35 volunteers has organised the "15 Peaks Challenge" in Eryri (Snowdonia) in early April to raise funds to assist the family in creating lasting memories. This intense physical challenge involves summiting 15 peaks in just 48 hours, an effort supported by experienced mountain leaders.

Leanne remarked on the overwhelming support they have received, expressing gratitude for both local friends and even strangers who have offered help. Will, recognising the community's commitment, shared how his friend Rhydian Roberts brought the charity Love from Wales to their attention, which has since provided incredible support.

Meanwhile, in a separate struggle, in Aberaeron, six-year-old Lewis Danton’s life took a sudden and serious turn last summer when he began losing the ability to walk. Initially dismissed as growing pains by doctors, Lewis’ symptoms escalated rapidly, culminating in a diagnosis of Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS). His mother, Liz, described the terrifying moment when Lewis, once a vibrant and active child, completely lost the ability to walk before being airlifted to Noah's Ark Children’s Hospital for Wales.

At the hospital, Lewis required aggressive treatment for GBS, a rare neurological disorder where the immune system mistakenly attacks the nervous system. Liz expressed the fear and confusion the family experienced, saying, "We'd obviously never heard of it," as they faced the potential for severe complications, including paralysis and respiratory failure.

Lewis spent four weeks in intensive rehabilitation at Noah’s Ark, where he began learning to walk again but returned to the hospital weeks later as symptoms recurred, affecting his hands and breathing. After undergoing intravenous immunoglobulin treatment, Lewis is now on the road to recovery, working closely with physiotherapists, but he remains unable to walk independently. Liz remains hopeful, noting that the doctors have indicated a 98% chance of recovery, particularly for children.

Despite the ongoing challenges, Lewis has maintained a positive spirit, buoyed by music therapy and counselling provided at the hospital. His experiences underscore the large-scale impact of GBS and the vital role of charitable support in providing necessary care.

As both families navigate their respective experiences, their stories highlight the medical, emotional, and community aspects surrounding severe health challenges, with significant support emerging from local networks and charities.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://cancerblog.mayoclinic.org/2025/01/16/breakthrough-in-treatment-approach-showing-promise-in-the-fight-against-glioblastoma/> - This article discusses innovative treatments for glioblastoma, highlighting the use of proton beam therapy and advanced imaging techniques, which may improve survival rates for older patients.
* <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/glioblastoma-studies-new-treatments-radiation/> - This news piece provides further details on new glioblastoma treatments, including the use of proton beam radiation and advanced imaging, offering hope for patients with this aggressive form of brain cancer.
* <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/glioblastoma/symptoms-causes/syc-20372743> - This webpage from Mayo Clinic explains glioblastoma, its symptoms, and typical treatments, which aligns with Will Parry's diagnosis and treatment journey.
* <https://www.ninds.nih.gov/Disorders/Patient-Education/Fact-Sheets/Guillain-Barr%C3%A9-Syndrome-Fact-Sheet> - This fact sheet from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke provides detailed information about Guillain-Barré syndrome, its symptoms, and treatment options, which is relevant to Lewis Danton's condition.
* <https://www.noahsarkcharity.org/> - This website for Noah's Ark Children's Hospital for Wales highlights the hospital's role in treating children with serious conditions, including Lewis Danton's experience with Guillain-Barré syndrome.
* <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/guillain-barre-syndrome/> - This NHS webpage provides information on Guillain-Barré syndrome, including its causes, symptoms, and recovery prospects, which supports the narrative about Lewis Danton's diagnosis and treatment.