

Charity funds armchair to aid wheelchair-bound girl

by CHARLIE MOLE

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The life chances of a severely disabled youngster have been drastically improved thanks to a Surrey Charity.

Amy Williams, from Worple Road, Epsom, first had the rare brain disorder lissencephaly when she was six months old, which left her wheelchair-bound and unable to speak or eat.

The 11-year-old, who requires 24-hour care, was recommended a special supportive chair that her parents, Lesley and Stewart Williams, were told would dramatically improve her mobility.

At just under £2,000 the money came out of the family's budget, but now children's charity React has provided the cash for the armchair that would release Amy from the confinement of her bed and wheelchair.

Mrs Williams said: "Amy is dependent on me for all her needs as she has no muscle tone and cannot walk.

"She needs to be in a body brace when in bed and a wheelchair at all other times.

"Even though this works

well at night or when we are out of the house there was never really a time when she could just sit in comfort with the family, as any other girl her age would do."

Literally translated as "smooth brain", lissencephaly affects the development of brain folds and grooves, and occurs during the womb.

Mrs Williams added: "Although Amy hardly ever cries and is a delight to care for, it was important we could provide her with as normal living environment as possible."

React, based in Richmond, assists children in the UK providing a wide range of equipment and support to families that would otherwise not have the support.

It is estimated there are 25,000 families in the UK caring for a child with a potentially terminal illness, according to the Association for Children's Care.



Better quality of life: Amy Williams in her new armchair

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