

Thanks for going soft on our Ben

Mum's praise for creating a safer life all round for son

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A NEW garden is not only growing on Ben Freeman – but his mum as well.

It is a veritable feast for the senses of the Wootton teenager as well as providing the softest of landings for him.

The sensory garden has been created at Ben's Rectory Close home.

Ben, 14, has a range of health problems, including epilepsy and cerebral palsy and needed a safe and enjoyable place to play.

His mum, Bina, said: "Ben has severe and complex life-threatening conditions and this soft, safe, sensory garden gives him the opportunity to play outside safely without the risk of injury when he falls.

"This also provides the space that Ben desperately needs. He has to share his bedroom with his brothers, Ryan and Alex, who have helped decorate the garden."

She said thanks were due to the React charity, Ryde Lions, the Rotary Club of Ryde and Northwood Cricket Club for



Just swinging, the sensory garden created for Ben Freeman with community children's nursing sister Emma Woodfield, left. 0809-L36435
The plaque showing the garden creation, inset. 0809-L36440

contributing towards the £3,000 cost.

She said special mention was due to the community children's specialist nurses who had helped make the garden reality.

Teamwork had ensured a positive difference had been made to Ben's life, she said.

Bina said: "Ben enjoys life as much

as he can, never complains and doesn't ever ask for anything.

"Our family garden was in a bad state for a while. It was lumpy and bumpy and not in any way safe for Ben to play in.

"It was a dream of mine and my husband to create a safe and enjoyable environment."