

Fast Reaction that made a difference

■ By Steve Nolan

WHEN a new baby is born, every parent's biggest wish is that their child will be healthy and strong.

But every year many families are faced with the devastating news that their child has been born with a terminal illness.

And for Luton couple Claire and Scott Weston, of Rockley Road, that situation sadly became a reality when their baby Enzo was diagnosed with the life-threatening condition Hypoplastic left heart syndrome.

Mum Claire said: "Enzo's older sister Kelsey was born with charge syndrome, so when I found out I was pregnant doctors immediately carried out tests which revealed Enzo would be born with a serious heart problems."

At just two days old, Enzo underwent successful major life-saving surgery, but this would only be a temporary solution to his health problems and more surgery would be required.

Just as the family were beginning to settle back into normal life, tragedy was to strike again when Enzo's



NEW HOME HELP: Little Enzo Weston and his family are grateful for the help provided by the charity.

Charity came to rescue for family hit by tragedy

little brother, Lewis, died of Cot death syndrome aged only 12 weeks and the family were re-housed by the council.

"Right after Lewis died the council moved us to a new house," said Claire.

"As our previous house was only temporary we couldn't take anything with us and we were given only two days to move.

"The new house had nothing, no furniture, no carpeting, just old dusty floors that we were told would have a terrible effect on Enzo's condition."

As the couple were both full-time carers of Enzo and Kelsey, and with no more support available from the local authority, the family thought it impossible to find the funds for the necessary

changes to make the house a safer environment for the children.

But there was help at hand.

It was while visiting their local hospice that the family were told help could be found through React, a national children's charity that assists families caring for children like Enzo.

Within a week, the charity helped to provide the family with carpeting for their new house and bedroom furniture for Enzo.

Although Enzo, now aged two, will still need further operations in order to manage his condition, the support of React has made life a bit easier for the family.

Claire said: "React saved us and without them life would have been a struggle, a mess. We're so grateful and it took only a week to sort out.

Thank you React for helping us at our greatest time of need."

>> If you are caring for or know of a child that may need React's assistance, you can call 0208 940 2575. If you'd like to help React help more children like Enzo, log onto the website at www.reactcharity.org to find out