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Brave youngster inspires business

By Jane Lavender

A little boy's battle against a deadly blood disorder has inspired his parents to launch their own business and help raise cash to fund research into the condition.

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Nathan Howarth, aged nine, suffers from the rare blood disorder Fanconi's Anaemia.

At one stage his parents were told he might only have a year to live unless he was given a stem cell transplant.

But the Howarth's second child, Hannah, now aged two, proved to be a genetic match for her brother, meaning cells from her umbilical cord could be transplanted into Nathan to save his life two-and-a-half years ago.

Now Nathan's father, Mick, along with family friend, Wayne Corless, have launched their own business - anycarcollected.com - which picks up unusable cars and recycle them.

All the profit from the business will be handed over to the Fanconi Anaemia Trust in London, the neonatal unit at the Royal Bolton Hospital, where Nathan was treated as a baby and the RSPCA.

Mum-of-three Mrs Kelly, aged 37, of Riverside Drive, Kearsley, said: "Both Mick and Wayne worked for other people and wanted to work for themselves, they also really wanted to give something back after all the fantastic care Nathan, and the family as a whole, have had."

Since his transplant Nathan has gone from strength-to-strength.

Following the surgery the Our Lady of Lourdes primary pupil had to be kept in isolation for seven months, but is now back playing with his friends and sister Hannah and baby brother, 18-month-old Michael Joseph.

Little Hannah is due to start St Germaine Street nursery next month.

Mrs Howarth, who married her long-term partner, Mick in a surprise ceremony in February, said: "Nathan is doing really well, just like any other little boy. He can't keep still and loves nothing more than playing."

It is hoped that the transplant could give him another 10 years, by which time a cure for Fanconi's Anaemia might have been found.

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