

GLARE'S STORY

Written by Clare, after the sudden loss of her partner and Elcie's dad, Aston.

Elcie and I re-joined Harry's Rainbow when she began asking more questions about her daddy, who passed away in 2020. I wanted her to meet other children in similar situations, and I hoped to connect with parents who had faced similar losses.

We attended the Woburn Safari trip in July 2022, joining the group for lunch after Elcie's ice-skating lesson. Unbeknown to me, we sat at a table with Carl and his sons. My mum started the conversation, asking Carl if he was "the man who fundraises for Harry's Rainbow," a moment we still laugh about!

Throughout the day, we kept crossing paths. Before Carl left, he asked if we would be attending the Rainbow Groups. That led to a drink later, where we talked openly about our experiences. It gave me support I had not realised I needed.

A year later, Carl and I live happily together with our children, supporting each other in ways few can understand.



We fundraise for Harry's Rainbow as a family and participate in events like the Colour Run. In 2023, Elcie was one of the top child fundraisers and received a special treat. She also carried the Baton of Hope for suicide awareness in honor of her daddy, Aston.



We visit Danielle's and Aston's headstones as a family and share stories. Though I never met Danielle, I feel like I know her through the boys' memories.

Harry's Rainbow has given Elcie and me invaluable support and opportunities, and I'll always be grateful. Through them, I met Carl, and we've shared incredible experiences, like our first family holiday at the Rainbow Retreat in Camber Sands.

Now, we take life one day at a time as a strong, loving family. I'm excited for the future with Carl and all our children—including the newest addition, our baby girl who completes our family.

CARL'S STORY

Written by Carl, with sons
Jake and Riley.



My boys and I became involved with Harry's Rainbow after the sudden loss of their mum in January 2022. Attending the meetings helped the boys cope, and we appreciated the supportive environment.

Our first activity was the Woburn Safari Park trip in the summer of 2022. During lunch, we shared a table with Clare, her daughter Elcie, and Clare's mum. We chatted briefly before parting ways, but we kept bumping into each other throughout the day. Before leaving, I asked Clare for her number—though she hilariously thought my name was Kyle!

Clare and I started dating soon after and became a couple on August 15, 2022. By January 2023, Clare and Elcie had moved in with me and the boys.

Since then, we have attended Harry's Rainbow activities together as a family, always talking openly about our losses and sharing memories with the children.

Our chance meeting at Woburn Safari Park—a trip arranged by Harry's Rainbow for bereaved families—brought something wonderful out of such a difficult time.

We have been able to support and love each other and the kids, navigating life's challenges as a united family.

My father, Terry, has also become involved, volunteering with the charity and even fundraising by jumping out of a plane!



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