

Hundreds at good luck party for Riley

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HUNDREDS of well-wishers gathered for a good luck party held yesterday for a four-year-old boy who is about to undergo life-saving hospital treatment.

Yesterday, Riley Mulvany's family laid on a bouncy castle, an assault course and a disco for the youngster, who is to go into hospital for a bone marrow transplant.

Riley was diagnosed in March with chronic granulomatous disorder, a condition that affects the body's ability to fight infection.

A bone marrow transplant is the only cure for the genetic condition and, without treatment, Riley could be in and out of hospital for the rest of his life.

Hundreds of Riley's friends and family attended the party, which was organised by Riley's parents, Paul Mulvany and Aimee Watson, and held at Hurworth Grange, in Hurworth, near Darlington.

Last night, the boy's father told The Northern Echo that Riley, whose weight plummeted to only two stone while he was in hospital earlier this year, was doing better than ever.

"He's doing fine. He's put more weight on since last time and is gradually getting better," said Mr Mulvany. "He's never been better. It is just unbelievable."

To prepare the youngster for his treatment, which will involve chemotherapy to disable his immune system before the bone marrow is put into his body, he has been shown a DVD of what lies in store.

Mr Mulvany said the family were a bit nervous but remained philosophical.

"Riley just thinks is he is going to get new blood," he said.

Before a match was found for him last month, the youngster had been waiting for a donor since he was diagnosed.

As none of his relatives were a match, he had to rely on the Anthony Nolan Trust's bone marrow register for a donor.

The family approached The Northern Echo in the hope a donor could be found and, after we highlighted Riley's plight, hundreds of people came forward to help.

Mr Mulvany said: "We want to thank all the people who came to make it so special for Riley."



BETTER THAN EVER: Riley Mulvany at the party last night