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Louie's Journey

Louie George was born at just 27 weeks, weighing 1lb 15oz. He spent the first four months of his life fighting in three different neonatal units before finally coming home to Barnsley.

Due to his extreme prematurity, Louie was later diagnosed with Quadriplegic Cerebral Palsy and has complex needs, including global developmental delay. It was a hard diagnosis to hear.

But Louie's Mum and Dad saw something else. They saw determination. They saw understanding. They saw a spark.

And if there's one thing Barnsley people recognise, it's fight.

Milestones have never come easily. Progress has happened at Louie's pace, in his own way. But through relentless love, belief and hard work, he continues to prove that expectations do not define him.

When it came time to choose a school, Tom and Jodie wanted somewhere that would see Louie for who he is, not just what was written in a report. That's when they found Paces.

From the moment they walked through the doors, they knew. Paces did not just see a diagnosis. They saw Louie, his

personality, his potential, his spark. Through specialist teaching and Conductive Education, Paces supports every area of development, from motor skills to communication, social confidence and independence. Since starting, Louie has flourished. The progress he has made physically, socially, and emotionally has been incredible.

We call it our Paces family because that is exactly what it feels like. The staff do not just support the children; they support parents too, walking alongside them every step of the way.

A proud season ticket holder at Barnsley Football Club, Louie attends home and away matches with his dad and big brother. After years of overcoming sensory challenges with noise and crowds, his determination paid off. Now he shouts "Shoot!", celebrates every goal and soaks up the atmosphere at Oakwell like he was born for it.

Paces have played a huge role in helping Louie develop the skills and confidence to experience moments like those. Without specialist support, those milestones - on and off the pitch - may not have been possible.