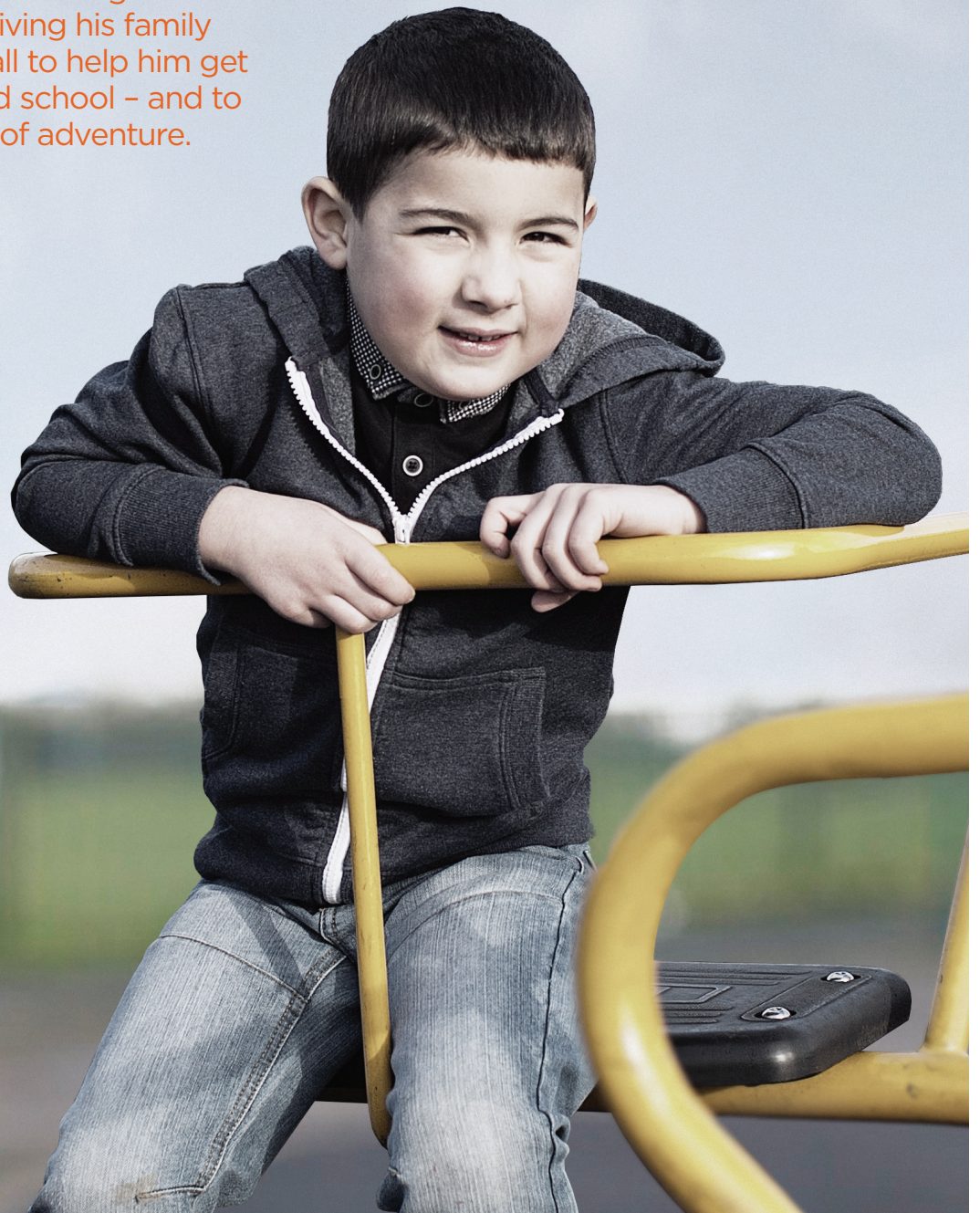


15:15

Thursday 22nd January

was the first time four-year-old **Alfie** could walk home from school without leg pain. It started with our orthotists, who supported Alfie throughout his consultations, prescribing a unique set of splints and casts. Then, our technical team crafted these with care and attention, before fitting them comfortably and giving his family ongoing support, all to help him get between home and school – and to help fuel his sense of adventure.



Case Study

Alfie Dixon



Steeper's team designed and crafted a unique set of splints, tailored to Alfie in every way.

The story

When Alfie Dixon started walking at 11 months old, his mother saw that something was not quite right. He was continually walking high on his tiptoes – a fact that his mother pointed out to doctors, who were convinced he would grow out of it. However, even after starting at nursery school, where Alfie's teachers commented on his toe-walking, her concerns only mounted. At four years old, Alfie was still walking on tiptoes. He had clearly not grown out of it, and had been complaining of leg pain, which was why his mother persisted with his doctors about referring him to a physiotherapist – which does not usually happen until the patient is at least seven years old.

The treatment

There, a diagnosis was completed; Alfie had a condition known as idiopathic toe walking. Left untreated, this could cause significant problems, even requiring surgery in the future. To prevent this, Alfie's physiotherapist gave him a set of activities to stretch the affected muscles, and referred him to an orthotist at Seacroft Hospital. This was where Steeper came in...

Mark, a Steeper clinician, observed Alfie walking, to assess the severity of his condition. Finding his condition severe indeed, he then arranged to have casts fitted for Alfie, manipulating his feet

and maintaining them at maximum stretch. This process was then repeated, at increasing increments, for three weeks, to prevent the splints becoming too painful while, at the same time, not hindering his ability to join in with his friends' activities.

The turning point

Mid-way through the process, a model was taken of Alfie's lower legs, which enabled Steeper's team to design and craft a unique set of splints, tailored to Alfie in every way – even down to the Scooby Doo pattern on them (Alfie was very proud of these – and couldn't wait to show everyone his new splints). These were fitted after the third casts were removed, including alterations to minimise discomfort, while custom shoes were also provided for Alfie's comfort.

Alfie's treatment continues today, but the difference in his life is already huge. No longer limited by leg pain, he's now living life to the four-year-old full, being able to ride his bike, walk and run for longer, enjoy better balance everywhere from the playground to his grandparents' farm, and feel far more confident with his friends.

To find out more about Alfie visit www.steepergroup.com