

# Irish community rallies around little Keira

BY ANGELA SAMMON

A SERIES of fundraising initiatives across London are being organised to make a little girl's dream come true.

Keira Power was born in February 2005, 12 weeks premature. The following year, during a routine consultation, she was diagnosed with spastic quadriplegia, a form of Cerebral Palsy (CP).

Keira's care team told her parents that she would never walk unaided and her treatment should be directed towards improving the limited quality of movement that she now possesses.

However, in September 2009, her parents Jason and Sally became aware of an operation called Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR). The operation has been carried out for over 20 years in America and Keira has been given a prognosis of independent walking if she undergoes this operation.

Now the Irish community across North London, including some of the city's best-known publicans are organising fundraising events to raise the estimated £40k-£45k required for the operation. Staff and customers at the Life of Reilly pub in Belmont



Circle, Harrow are undertaking a 10k run along with a golf day and Race Nights. Another race night is being organised at Maloney's in Willesden.

Wembley publican Cathy Flannery is planning to climb Croagh Patrick, while another supporter is doing a triathlon.

Ambrose Gordon is arranging a benefit dance at his pub The Man of Aran in Rayners Lane, while a Bandfest is also being planned with music supplied by Bible Code Sundays and Folk in Hell.

The events, say Keira's parents, could help make a real difference to this little girl's life. "As Keira's parents we feel that we fail her, we cannot take away her pain, and we cannot make her the same as all the other boys and girls at school," they explain. "Please help us help our daughter, anything that you contribute will help. We can't do this on our own."

View [www.keiraswish.org](http://www.keiraswish.org) for more information and details of the fundraising events.