

Glossop Advertiser

Adrian goes on the run to help battler Sophie

JON TAYLOR

ADAD will be pounding the streets next month to raise money for a little girl's life-changing operation.

Adrian Shaw, from Hadfield, is taking part in his sixth Great Manchester Run in honour of two-year-old Sophie Thomlinson, who has cerebral palsy.

Adrian, 43, decided to join the fundraising effort after hearing how the tot, who was born prematurely, was turned down for NHS funding for a procedure to help her walk.

And it has added meaning

for him as he was friends with Sophie's dad Craig during their years at Audenshaw School.

Adrian said: "Craig got in touch after spotting my picture in the neo-natal unit at Tameside Hospital, as I'd run to raise money for them before.

"I didn't have a sponsor for this year so I thought it would be a great cause to run for. I met up with Craig and Allison and they were delighted."

Craig was particularly moved by Sophie's story as his own son Daniel, now three, was also born prematurely.

Daniel spent time on the neo-natal unit at Tameside

Hospital but has suffered no long-term health problems. Sophie's early birth at 33 weeks led to her cerebral palsy.

Adrian, who runs Shaws the Bakers, in New Mills, with wife Rachel, said: "We can relate to what they went through and we're grateful that Daniel's suffered no long-term effects, but others aren't as fortunate.

"But Sophie's a bright little girl. She's got difficulties but she doesn't let it get her down."

Adrian is hoping to raise at least £500 for Sophie's appeal and beat his personal best of 53 minutes. He's run the famous



● Adrian Shaw in training for the 10k Great Manchester Run. He is running to raise funds for Sophie Thomlinson, pictured inset with her mum Allison, who suffers with cerebral palsy

Gary Louth

six-mile race every year since 2009.

When Sophie's parents Craig and Allison, from Dukinfield were turned down for NHS funding they set up Sophie's Tiny Steps to raise money to go privately. Since January it has

raised more than £50,000 - much of it thanks to Advertiser readers. Money not needed for Sophie's care will go to helping other sick or disabled children through charity Tree of Hope.

To support Adrian visit justgiving.com/adrian-shaw2.



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