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Last year the Frontline Bulgaria team sought to find a Bulgarian organisation to take over responsibility for obtaining donated children's special needs equipment from the UK and distributing it in Bulgaria

In September 2016 we were pleased to host a brief visit to the UK by Dimitar and Kalina from the **National Association of Resource Teachers** (NART) based in Sofia. The visit included a day trip to Yorkshire to visit **PhysioNet**, prior to arranging a large shipment (40ft truck) of equipment, funded by NART, which was dispatched in late October.

A Frontline Bulgaria team including Mary and Gill (Frontline), Cliff (technician), Esther (Occupational Therapist) and Gandhi (Physiotherapist) followed up the shipment with a visit to Sofia in early November to clean, check and organise the equipment, and to provide staff training. During our five-day visit, 37 families brought their children for needs assessments and advice. Suitable seating, standers, walkers, tricycles etc. were selected and adjusted for these



children, and many items were also sent to children living farther afield with their families or in social care homes. A further shipment is anticipated later in 2017, followed by similar team visit.

If you are on Facebook, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/frontlinebulgarianews> and scroll down for more news and photos of this visit

There has been considerable progress in the provision of services for children with disabilities since our first visit to Bulgaria in 2002. Significant factors are the resettlement of disabled children from the big, isolated institutions (now closed) into smaller care homes, the involvement of large international charities such as Lumos, increasing numbers of children being fostered, adopted or returning to their families, and the establishment of the Occupational Therapy profession through the 4 year degree course at Ruse University. Frontline has been involved in some of these areas over the years, mainly through provision of training and support alongside our Bulgarian partners and contacts.



Thank you! We greatly appreciate the goodwill of our self-funding volunteer teams and all who help 'Frontline Bulgaria' by means of practical, prayerful and financial support. You are all amazing! Many thanks also to our friends in PhysioNet and NART for your partnership and support during the last year www.physionet.org.uk www.narubg.org

'Frontline is committed to building an inclusive community by helping to break down barriers to inclusion and offering opportunities for people to participate and contribute, regardless of disability or disadvantage'

Find out more about Frontline's work in Brentwood and Bulgaria on:-

www.frontlinepartnership.org

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/frontlinepartnership>

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