

Therapy gives Louise hope

■ ASPIRING MODEL: Louise Fisher who has spinal condition Scoliosis.

AN ASPIRING model from Earlsdon whose world was torn apart when she was diagnosed with a crippling disease has been thrown a lifeline by a new treatment.

Teenager Louise Fisher was just 12 years old when she was diagnosed with Scoliosis, a severe condition which causes the spine to curve sideways excessively.

Once a bubbly, athletic child who dreamed of becoming a professional model, a distraught Louise feared she had been given a painful life sentence.

The Finham Park School student, from Beechwood Avenue, became withdrawn and would spend her evenings shut away in her room.

Louise, now 15, was given just two options – she could be put on a year-long waiting list to have dangerous spinal fusion surgery, which could result in paralysis or neurological damage, or she could be fitted with a hard plastic brace which she would have to wear for 23 hours a day.

But this would only postpone the surgery, not prevent it.

Louise chose to wear the brace. Her mum Tracey said: "It sounded like torture. I knew how bothered Louise was about her appearance and I knew how badly her confidence had been knocked already – I was in total shock."

"At first the treatment seemed very beneficial, however over time it seemed to have a debilitating effect on her body.

"She couldn't play sports with the other children and she often turned down invitations to social events because she was so uncomfortable."

After years of wearing the brace, missing out on life and losing a

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massive amount of mobility, Louise was given the worst news possible.

She was told the treatment wasn't working – her spine was continuing to curve and if she did not have the operation soon she would never stand up straight again.

The future looked bleak.

But then in a desperate bid to help her daughter, Tracey started frantically searching the internet for an alternative, eventually coming across a new clinic called Scoliosis SOS in Suffolk.

It is the only clinic in the world to offer treatment following the ScolioGold method – a combination of non-surgical treatments, including specially designed exercises and physiotherapy for patients.

After just four weeks, Louise noticed a fantastic improvement in her posture and physical appearance, and her pain has decreased.

Her friends and family have also noticed a dramatic improvement in her confidence and general attitude to life – her passion for modelling has been re-ignited and she has started sending her picture out to under-18 modelling agencies.

Tracey, aged 45, said: "It's amazing how far Louise has come. Having spinal rods fitted down her spine would have meant she would have lost flexibility forever – now she looks amazing. She is standing straighter and walks with the same confidence she used to have.

"These exercises have allowed her to continue with a normal childhood and I could not be more grateful to the SOS team."

For more information visit www.scoliosisSOS.com or call 01394 389670.

