

Press Release

27th September 2017

Support through The Share Foundation reaches 100,000 young people in care

Over 100,000 children and young people in care have now benefited from the work of [The Share Foundation](#), the charity which operates the Junior ISA scheme on behalf of the Department for Education. The scheme, established in 2012, enables all children and young people looked after for at least one year and who do not have a Child Trust Fund to have a Junior ISA set up for them.

The Share Foundation works with all 211 local authorities throughout the United Kingdom to identify those eligible, draw down £200 for each young person from the Department for Education to open the Junior ISAs, channel extra money in from voluntary donations and local sources, and provide financial education - particularly for 15-17 year olds. It has so far placed funds totalling £22.5m into the accounts of young people in care.

At the beginning of October the Aylesbury-based charity is additionally taking on the administration work of operating Child Trust Funds for looked-after children, until now carried out by the Official Solicitor. This combined operation will not only generate a significant cost saving for the Government but also enable improved communication of the schemes to local authorities, and financial education and additional funding for Child Trust Fund holders.

This combination of building a savings account together with the provision of financial education has also provided The Share Foundation with the opportunity to introduce an incentivised learning program for 15-17 year olds in care, the '[Stepladder of Achievement](#)'.

The Share Foundation's founder and Chairman, Gavin Oldham, said: "the help we have been able to give to 100,000 young people in care is a great credit to our team in Aylesbury and its Director of Operations, Anthony Walker. Through it we have built a close working relationship with local authorities in all four nations and with the Department for Education in order to provide a strong and well-co-ordinated base for tackling the major problems faced by young people in care."

Contact: Gavin Oldham 07767-337696 (link to [radio interview](#), September 2017)