



# sharefound

The Share Foundation: building an inheritance  
for young people in care

## NEWS RELEASE

London, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2015

### **Author of The Looked After Kid becomes Charity Ambassador**

Writer Paolo Hewitt, 56, today announced that he is to join The Share Foundation as an ambassador. Paolo is one of Britain's most respected writers. He started his career in the 80s at Melody Maker and the NME. He has also written for The Guardian, the Independent and The Sunday Times. He has published twenty books, including major works on The Beatles, Bowie and Oasis. He has also written two critically acclaimed books about his time in care, *The Looked After Kid* and *But We All Shine On*.

Paolo was born in Redhill and was fostered but following years of abuse from his adoptive mother he was placed in care in Burbank Children's Home, Woking. His 2005 book, *The Looked After Kid* describes the turbulent journey and in his book, *But We all Shine On*, published in 2014, Paolo tracks down his friends from Burbank and tells their remarkable stories.

His support of The Share Foundation comes at a crucial stage of its development. The Share Foundation has been administering the Government's Junior ISA scheme for children in care since it opened in 2012 and was a key player in persuading the Coalition Government to agree to make a £200 contribution to all Junior ISAs of children in care.

Since then The Share Foundation has channelled over £13 million of Government funding into the Junior ISAs of over 67,500 children in care as well as raising significant additional funds to increase the value of the Junior ISAs, and thus providing a better start in adult life to a group of often vulnerable people. At the same time The Share Foundation provides financial education for children with Junior ISAs to help them make sound decisions about money and about life.

The Share Foundation is now setting out on a major campaign to raise £30 million in the next 5 years (on a sustainable basis) with the mission to increase every active Junior ISA to £1000. There are currently over 36,000 active Junior ISAs of children in care in existence.

Contd.../

Speaking of Paolo's commitment, The Share Foundation's founder and chairman, Gavin Oldham said "We are delighted that Paolo has joined us as an ambassador. He knows how important it is to give children in care a chance and to break the cycle of deprivation. We are particularly fortunate that he is joining at this time when we need to create momentum, and I am sure that his track record of success in the media will be a great help as will his empathy for looked after children".

Paolo said in reply, "I am pleased to be joining the only charity in the UK which is providing what is such a critical service to young people in care. I look forward to working with Gavin and the team to create the momentum we need to succeed in raising such a significant amount of money for children before they come of age, so that they can afford the things that so many of us take for granted or continue to save in the future. It is so important to help them build an inheritance and provide them with some security."

*Paolo Hewitt will appear on Share Radio live on My Brilliant Career at 6pm on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 to talk about his life and about his support for The Share Foundation. Share Radio can be heard online UK wide [www.shareradio.co.uk](http://www.shareradio.co.uk)*

**- Ends -**

Notes to editors:

The Share Foundation was founded in 2005 to raise additional funds for the Child Trust Funds of children in care. When the Coalition Government ceased contributions to the Child Trust Fund scheme The Share Foundation, with Action for Children and Barnardo's, lobbied the Government to make a contribution in order to open a Junior ISAs for those children in care once they had been in care for over a year.

Share Radio is wholly separate, but also established by Gavin Oldham, founder of The Share Foundation. It has been transmitting since November 2014 out of purpose built studios in Westminster, London.

Gavin Oldham founded The Share Centre in 1990. This provides investment and trading services for over 250,000 personal investors. Gavin is a member of the General Synod of the Church of England and was, between, 1998 and 2013, a Church Commissioner, being Deputy Chairman of the Church of England's Assets Committee in 2013.

*For more information, contact Charlotte Langley, Director of Fundraising of The Share Foundation on 07740 701462, Donald Leggatt, Editor in Chief, Share Radio on 07713 706769 or Stephanie Reynolds, PR Manager of The Share Centre on 07714 107676.*