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Press Release

The Share Foundation's founder recognised in New Year's honours

Gavin Oldham, founder and chair of trustees of The Share Foundation, has been awarded the OBE in the New Year's honours list in recognition of services for children and young people in care. The award recognises progress achieved since The Share Foundation was established in 2005.

The Share Foundation runs the Junior ISA and Child Trust Fund schemes for young people in care on behalf of the Department for Education. First appointed operator of the Junior ISA scheme in 2012, it was reconfirmed in 2016 in that role, which has now been widened to include the Child Trust Fund scheme transferred from the Official Solicitor.

The Share Foundation's operations are based in Aylesbury with a team of eight, but it works with all local authorities throughout the United Kingdom to deliver the schemes. It has so far benefited over 100,000 young people in care and, because the Junior ISA scheme includes young people born before the first Child Trust Fund's qualifying date of birth, this includes a high proportion of 15 to 17 year-olds.

The Share Foundation has therefore introduced a 'Stepladder of Achievement' programme with six steps designed to build capability and resilience for young people leaving care, and it raises funds to provide financial recognition of their progress into their Junior ISAs. Click [here](#) for a recent radio interview with Gavin about the Stepladder of Achievement

Commenting on the award, Gavin said: "I am delighted that our work has been recognised in the New Year awards: I feel it is recognition of our whole team's work in improving the life chances for young people in care. It will also help us to secure voluntary backing for our work across the United Kingdom as we seek to build a network of mentors and donors in each of the 211 local authorities with whom we work".

The Share Foundation's 2017 annual review and case for support are available from its website, www.sharefound.org

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Notes

The Share Foundation

For the first six years following its establishment, The Share Foundation made additional contributions to the Child Trust Funds of children in care through the Official Solicitor.

Following lobbying from Action for Children, Barnardos and The Share Foundation, then Chancellor George Osborne announced just before Budget 2011 a new initiative to provide every child or young person in care for at least one year continuously with a Junior ISA, initially to be opened with a £200 Government contribution.

The Share Foundation was appointed in early 2012 to operate the scheme, open and administer the accounts as recognised contact, provide financial education and raise additional voluntary contributions to increase the value of accounts. The scheme operates by The Share Foundation inviting Local Authorities (under Statutory Guidelines) to submit regular data for account opening and maintenance.

The Share Foundation has enabled over 100,000 young people to benefit from the scheme since launch in November 2012, and its appointment was re-confirmed in 2016.

During 2017 The Share Foundation has been piloting an incentivised learning programme for 15-17 year olds called the 'Stepladder of Achievement'. Under its re-appointment arrangements it has now also taken responsibility for the Child Trust Fund scheme previously run by the Official Solicitors/Accountants of Court.

Donations are welcome to boost account values for young people in care with Junior ISAs by means of funding Stepladder of Achievement incentives. As a registered charity The Share Foundation is able to make full tax reclaims and 100% of all donations go to young people in care.

Further information can be found at www.sharefound.org or [here](#).

The Share Foundation's other trustees are Ruth Kelly, Henrietta Royle, John Reeve and Christopher Daws, and its Director of Operations is Anthony Walker.