

Press Release - CTF Conference on 5th March 2024

29th February 2024

The £2 billion challenge

‘The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few’

Registered Charity The Share Foundation, which has thus far linked over 50,000 young adults with their Child Trust Fund accounts through its findCTF.sharefound.org search facility* (worth an overall value of more than £100 million), is hosting a major conference in Westminster on Tuesday 5th March, the day before the Budget.

Speakers include former government minister Rt. Hon. Ruth Kelly and MP Danny Kruger, together with leaders of leading CTF account providers. Attendance at the conference is free of charge, being sponsored by NatWest and The Tracing Group.

The conference (www.sharefound.org/ctfconference) will draw attention to the over one million young adults who have yet to claim their accounts, worth a total of over £2 billion, because they don't know of their existence. The great majority of these are accounts which were allocated by HM Revenue & Customs because no action had been taken by parents/guardians before the child's first birthday. They are predominantly from low-income/disadvantaged backgrounds, where the need for funds to help start adult life is the greatest.

Gavin Oldham, Chair of The Share Foundation, said, “With nearly 50% of all Child Trust Fund recipients now aged 18 or over, it’s really important that all organisations involved with these accounts – account providers, government, and those working with young adults – get to work to deliver this money to its owners in order to provide the best possible start to adult life. The Child Trust Fund harvest may be plentiful, but our democratic institutions are not good at prioritising resources when long-term plans like the Child Trust Fund reach maturity. We therefore hope our conference on 5th March will help raise its profile’.

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*** The findCTF.sharefound.org search facility is designed specifically for use by young people aged 16-21 and is wholly free of charge. It uses The Tracing Group’s CTF Register to provide direct and swift introduction to the major account providers for most enquirers, thus significantly reducing the need to access HMRC records.*

***Note:** The Share Foundation operates the Junior ISA and Child Trust Fund schemes for young people in care throughout the UK on behalf of the Department for Education, providing a combination of starter capital accounts and incentivised learning for life skills, and working with all 212 local authorities. It has thus far provided support to nearly 200,000 young people in this area. The charity has been a key participant in two major government events concerning the general Child Trust Fund scheme: the [Westminster Hall debate](#) on 13th March 2019 and the [Public Accounts Committee hearing](#) on 18th May 2023.*