



centre
point

give homeless
young people
a future

CENTREPOINT: 21/22 UPDATE TO THE FLEUR DE LYS FOUNDATION

THANK YOU!

On behalf of Centrepont, thank you to all at The Fleur de Lys Foundation for generously continuing your support of homeless young people.

Your help has meant we have not only been able to provide homeless young people with the support they need to access and reengage in education, training and employment, but also provide it rapidly, thereby avoiding further decline or crisis.

With this in mind, I am pleased to provide the following update which touches upon the activities and achievements of our Bursary Scheme and outlines the stories of the young people you have helped us support.

BURSARY SCHEME UPDATE (APR 21-MAR 22):

Unlike 2020-21, which saw Centrepont young people (and education and employment in general) impacted by the pandemic, the past 12 months of our Bursary Scheme has indicated a notable increase in homeless young people accessing and reengaging in education, training and employment.

As our residents have returned to college and University, and engaged in other courses and training, applications received by our Senior Bursary Officer have steadily increased, with over 200 applications to the scheme made by homeless young people in 21/22 (a rise of over 25% on the previous year). We have also seen fewer applications withdrawn (only 7 compared to 13 last year) and thanks to the ongoing funding of supporters including The Fleur de Lys Foundation, more applications approved (190 over the course of the year - the highest in the Bursary's recent history!).

Our University Bursary has also continued to go from strength to strength, with funding ring-fenced to support a further 18 homeless young over the course of their degree (which generally constitutes 3-years of support). Furthermore, highlighting the return of face-to-face (in-person) learning, an additional 280 applications for travel tickets were awarded to enable young people to access short-term (6 weeks or less). This totalled 1,003 tickets (e.g. bus/train travelcards) issued over the course of the year, compared to 147 young people supported (and 660 tickets issued) issued in 20/21.

In total, almost over £127,000 in funding was awarded to young people for essential course fees, books, stationery, travel, clothing, equipment and other related education, training and employment costs. The following case studies provide real life examples of the homeless young people supported over the past 12 months.

OSCAR - COURSE FEES - £300

Oscar came to Centrepont in 2020 and has struggled in terms of engaging with education, training and employment opportunities. However, with support from our Employment Advisors he determined that he would like to work in the security industry. As such, he applied to the Bursary Scheme for the course fees needed to qualify for an SIA badge. Oscar completed the course and is now looking for work in this sector.

HANA - EQUIPMENT AND COURSE FEES - £219.11

Hana was living at home in Manchester but due to family breakdown and an unsuitable environment (extremely overcrowded conditions) she was faced with the risk of homelessness. To avoid being street homeless and rough sleeping she sofa surfed with various friends. However, after a while this was no longer possible and so she contacted Centrepont for support.

Centrepont's Homeless Prevention and Relief Service (HPRS) supported Hana and managed to secure her a place in a hostel. Now feeling much more settled, Hana was keen to resume education and applied to the Bursary Scheme for help enrolling in a L2 Hair & Beauty Course. A grant from the Bursary paid for Hana's course fees, kit and equipment. Hana has now passed the course and is looking to establish a career in the beauty industry.

SHANTELE - TRAVEL COSTS AND EQUIPMENT - £425

Shantelle came to Centrepont in 2021, due to the breakdown in the relationship with her family. Shantelle has had a passion for art for a long time, and was eager to enrol on Level 2 Art & Design Course at college, starting in September 2021. Unfortunately, as the course was in North London and Shantelle lives in a Centrepont hostel in South London, she could not afford the cost of travelling to her course. The Centrepont Bursary subsequently awarded funding towards travel costs and necessary art equipment. Shantelle is now doing incredibly well and has achieved the necessary grades to continue the course into the next academic year.

IAN - TRAVEL COSTS - £1,271.90

Ian came to Centrepont in 2020 and after a period of instability and lack of engagement in education, began studying English at college this academic year (September 2021). As his college is quite far from his Centrepont hostel, he needs to travel on the London Underground. As the cost of this travel is far beyond his means, the Centrepont Bursary has been funding his monthly travel costs. Ian is doing well and hopes to go to University this September. We are very happy that we have played a part in helping him overcome financial barriers to continue on his study path.

MARIANNE - COURSE FEES AND SOFTWARE - £918.50

Marianne came to Centrepont in 2021 due to family breakdown. Due to Marianna's mental health issues, which she is being helped with by the Centrepont Health & Wellbeing Team, Marianne has not felt comfortable to enrol on a college course in a traditional classroom setting. To address this, the Centrepont Bursary has helped her by paying the course fees for two short online digital illustration courses and a temporary software subscription. This has enabled Marianne to continue her education in the safe and secure environment of her hostel. Marianna has really enjoyed her studies and is due to complete the 2nd course this spring.

COLIN - MUSIC EQUIPMENT - £377.64

Colin - £377.64 - Colin is studying music at a college in Yorkshire. Colin came to live in a Centrepont hostel in Yorkshire after family breakdown. Despite going through such a challenging period in his life, Colin has remained dedicated to continuing studying music at college. To support these efforts and to improve his musical ability, we received an application from Colin for a keyboard. As he was using the equipment at college, but could not take it back to his Centrepont accommodation, the Bursary purchased a keyboard for Colin. He is so happy with it and hopes to go to University to study Music later in 2022.

ON BEHALF OF COLIN AND THE MANY OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE YOU HAVE HELPED US SUPPORT OVER THE PAST YEAR, THANK YOU!