



Mrs Hermione Montgomery
Chair of the Board of Trustees
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Dear Mrs Montgomery,

I hope all is well with you and all connected to The Fleur de Lys Foundation. These are obviously very strange and challenging times and I can only imagine the extra demand that is being placed on you from charities in need of assistance.

With your most recent support of Centrepoint in mind, I am pleased to enclose the following update which highlights the benefits your donation last year has made to the lives of homeless young people. Unfortunately, like all our non-front-line staff, my colleague who manages our Bursary Scheme is working from home during the pandemic and does not have access to all her paperwork. As such, she has only been able to provide me with a somewhat basic outline of the young people's stories (and it has taken longer than usual to collate). But please do accept my apologies for the delay in getting this report to you and I hope this gives you some insight into how your support has been of benefit.

Although we continue to have stringent measures in place to keep our young people and staff safe (including the use of PPE and visitor restrictions) you will be pleased to know that all our hostels remain open, ensuring over 1,100 homeless young people have a safe place to live during the crisis. Alongside this, many of our additional programmes, including our Bursary Scheme, remain in operation and as the lockdown eases and our young people return to their education and training, and begin planning for start of the next academic year, the need for assistance with the purchase of essential items will increase.

With this in mind (and acknowledging that the pandemic may well be having an impact on The Fleur de Lys Foundation's own finances) if the Trustees are able to continue supporting our work, a donation truly would be appreciated.

Thank you again for your past support and I hope you all stay safe and well.

With my very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Robins
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Patron HRH The Duke of Cambridge

Summary of the grant:

Thank you once again to all at The Fleur de Lys Foundation for your generous support of our work. As in previous years, your donation has supported homeless young people to access and excel in education, training and employment through the provision of essential items. As the majority of our young people come from backgrounds of poverty and have little to no family to rely on, this support is so incredibly important to their lives.

Case studies (names changed for confidentiality purposes):

Jeze - £155.50: Jez came to Centrepoint in 2017, following an eviction from temporary accommodation he was staying in with his father and siblings. With a desire to work as a painter and decorator, we have supported Jez with funds for essential items to enable him to undertake his L2 Painting and Decorating apprenticeship. He is due to complete his apprenticeship in October 2020.

Hannah - £724: Hannah came to Centrepoint in 2017 due to family breakdown. We have supported Hannah with a laptop, uniform and equipment for her L3 Diploma in Beauty Therapy. She is due to finish the course in July 2020, and has recently moved on from Centrepoint into her own independent accommodation.

Tyrone - £554.24: Tyrone is a care leaver, who first began living with Centrepoint in 2019. Tyrone started a L3 Electrical Engineering apprenticeship in January 2020. We have supported Tyrone to purchase essential equipment for his apprenticeship, and having made such fantastic progress, he has recently moved into his own independent accommodation.

Sienna - £350: Sienna came to Centrepoint in 2019 due to non-violent relationship breakdown. She is completing a L3 Health and Social Care course, and we supported her with a laptop to aid her studies. Sienna has excelled in her course and has subsequently secured a place at university, which is due to start in September.

Lacey - £211: Lacey is a care leaver who first moved to Centrepoint in 2019. Lacey was eager to move forward in life and enrol on a L3 Nail Technician course. However, with no money available to purchase nail technician equipment, she successfully applied for support through our Bursary scheme. Lacey successfully completed her course earlier this year.

Overview of the 2019-20 Bursary Scheme:

In total, over the course of the 2019/20 financial year we received 156 applications for support, with 102 awarded, 6 declined and 48 withdrawn. Although this figure is lower than last year, this is partly due to the impact of Covid-19, with applications falling significantly in March. In addition, due to a new partnership with SocialBox.Biz, certain Centrepoint young people no longer need to apply to us for laptops, but can receive them from SocialBox.Biz directly. However, we anticipate that applications will pick up again as the lockdown eases and young people return to EET and begin planning for the next academic year. Furthermore, our other strands of the scheme (University Bursary, Hardship Bursary and the Learning Travel Fund) continue to receive increasing demand.

For example, 29 new applications were approved for the University Bursary (compared to 15 the previous year), meaning 29 homeless young people will receive support with basic needs throughout their degree. 140 Hardship Bursaries were awarded in 2019/20 (compared to 109 awarded in 2018/19) and 1,091 young people were supported with travel costs (e.g. train/bus tickets or Oyster Card top ups) to enable them to attend education or training, compared to 1,027 awarded last year.

As the majority of our residents come from backgrounds of poverty and have little to no family to rely on, our Bursary Scheme can be the difference between accessing and sustaining education or dropping out. Furthermore, for homeless young people who have recently started work for the first time or are on apprenticeship wages, this extra support (particularly during those early months) truly can make or break their careers.

But the Bursary Scheme itself is only made possible by supporters including The Fleur de Lys Foundation. With this in mind, thank you again for once again supporting homeless young people with these urgent and vital needs, and more than that, helping ensure they can fully focus on their chosen education, training and employment and like Hannah and Tyrone, one day move on from a Centrepoin hostel into a home of their own.

Thank you once again for your support!