



FLEUR DE LYS FOUNDATION, END OF YEAR REPORT

**YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE
CENTREPOINT BURSARY FUND**



**PREPARED BY
CHARLENE SMITH**

Trusts and Statutory Fundraising Manager

Charity Number: 292411

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Firstly, I'd like to take this opportunity once again to extend our most sincere gratitude to all at The Fleur de Lys Foundation for so generously continuing your commitment to improving the lives of homeless young people.

As in past years, your contribution of £3,500, has been used to support homeless young people supported by Centrepoint through our education, training and employment Bursary Scheme.

I have the pleasure of enclosing a brief report outlining the difference your gift, and those like them, continue to make to young people as they rebuild their lives beyond homelessness.

As you will know, the Centrepoint Bursary Fund exists so that homeless young people are able to access great opportunities which may otherwise be out of reach. It supports young people to continue with education, start apprenticeships, and take their first steps into rewarding careers, which will help them to leave homelessness behind for good. Thank you for supporting the Centrepoint Bursary Fund. Because of you, homeless young people are able to go after their dreams and ambitions.

This past year, Centrepoint's Bursary Fund has played an even more important role in our effort to support vulnerable young people. With the cost-of-living crisis causing financial hardship for many, the Bursary Fund offers a helping hand so that homeless young people can continue to prioritise their education and training. Without a stable job or path to a career, young people remain at risk of falling back into homelessness. The Bursary Fund supports young people to build the foundations for a brighter future – helping to break the cycle of homelessness for good.

Whether it is to buy textbooks for a university course, clothes for work, or essential food and health items – the Centrepoint Bursary Fund offers the kind of provision homeless young people struggle to find elsewhere. Thank you for supporting this vital fund.



Our Bursary Fund has been running for over 10 years!



In this time, thanks to supporters like you, we've been able to offer more than 1,000 bursary grants.



Last year, 190 young people applied for a Centrepoint bursary, and your support is still helping many to reach a turning point in their lives in 2023.

PAUL'S STORY: MUSIC IS MY ESCAPE

Paul was referred to Centrepont when things reached breaking point at home.

The Centrepont service where Paul now lives is in a converted farmhouse just outside of Bradford and is specifically for 16-18 year-olds. Since being at the service, Paul says he has had the space and time to focus on himself and figure out what he needs to move forward.

Music plays a significant role in Paul's life. For him, playing and producing music is a form of meditation.

"It's my way of escaping the real world. I just go into my own world and forget everything."



Paul is in his first year of a Level 2 Course in Music Technology which he is really enjoying. The Centrepont Bursary has enabled Paul to purchase a keyboard for his room so he can learn the pieces for his assignments.

"We often get assignments where we have to learn a piece of music by heart. The pieces I choose are quite complex and I could only practise when I was in college. I really needed more hours to practise so having a keyboard at home has really helped me to be able to put more time into it. I needed that specific one because it has a pedal and weighted keys like a real piano. It really helps me a lot and I am really grateful."

WHAT YOUR SUPPORT HAS MADE POSSIBLE

Education, Employment and Training (EET) Bursary

Our Education, Employment and Training (EET) Bursary supports young people so that they can make progress within their chosen careers.

Thanks to supporters like you, since April 2022, we have been able to help **90** young people with EET bursaries totalling over **£30,000**

This has paid for training equipment such as tools for a Carpentry course, books to help young people complete college courses such as Level 3 Health Sciences, child care costs, work uniforms and stationery. It has also covered the fees for young people to study Door Supervisor, Digital Photography and Dental Health Nursing courses, and relieved the worry about getting to work and college by funding travel fees - (including the travel to Stanstead airport for a young person to become a cabin crew member). Six young learners have also been able to access new laptops to help with their studies.

These are just some examples of the remarkable ways that you have supported young people experiencing homelessness to access education, employment and training. Thank you.



“

"I've just been really appreciative of everything that Centrepont do to support young people. It might seem a small thing to say that you've helped a young person by paying for a course, but that course took me so far, I wouldn't be where I am without it."

TJ was able to complete a professional football scouting course with support from the Centrepont Bursary Fund.

”

MILLIE & KATIE'S STORY

Sisters Millie* and Katie* first came to Centrepont during the pandemic following a family breakdown – with Katie making the move to support her younger sister to cope with anxiety. The sisters have both received financial support from the Centrepont Bursary Fund which has enabled them to pursue further education:

“I’m doing beauty therapy so I’ve needed a kit, the uniform and the fee for the course,” explains Millie. “It’s in Leeds so I also get my travel fare paid by the Bursary. It would have been so much harder for me without that support. The fact that I have been able to get from talking to Michelle, [my Centrepont key worker], about wanting to do beauty therapy to actually doing it so quickly and smoothly is all down to her and the Bursary so I’m really grateful,” she enthuses.



Katie, who is studying for a Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) qualification says, “The Bursary has been so helpful. It’s another stepping stone into helping you with what you need to move on. The course will help me to get a job and I wouldn’t have been able to afford it on my own. I don’t know where else I’d get that support.”

Both sisters dream of travelling with their qualifications in the future. Thank you for making it possible for young people like Millie and Katie to have big ambitions.

University Bursary

“

“I am grateful for everything that I have and I do not take it for granted. The laptop is great and was the biggest thing, it has helped a lot. The money awarded termly has helped me to buy books, pens, bus passes, a calculator and miscellaneous items that you wouldn’t think you need to buy. Thank you, I really appreciate the support you have given me, it has really helped me.”

University Bursary recipient.

Since April 2022...

43 young people are currently being supported by our University Bursary, with £54,450 granted since April 2022.

This has helped young people to feel financially secure whilst studying at some of the UK's best-ranking universities, including [King's College London](#), the [University of Lincoln](#) and the [University of Liverpool](#).

Centrepont’s University Bursary offers a safety net to homeless young people so that they can focus on their studies without having to worry about money. It can help a young person to buy textbooks, kitchen and bedroom items, or even food and toiletries.

”

Since the start of April 2022, we have been able to support young people to begin—and graduate from—a range of courses including Psychology, Law and Computer Science.

Hardship Bursary

At the end of 2022, Centrepont published research on the prevalence of food poverty amongst homeless young people. It found that a third of vulnerable young people often go a whole day without food due to a lack of money. Alongside the security offered through our EET and University Bursaries, Centrepont also has a Hardship Bursary that gives additional support to young people in dire circumstances so that they can afford basic necessities.

So far this year, the Hardship Bursary has mainly helped young people to purchase weather-appropriate clothing. With young people continuing to face extortionate living costs this winter, we are very grateful for your support for our Bursary Scheme. The fund means that no young person supported by Centrepont ever has to go hungry, and can access the funds they need to buy food, basic toiletries and essential warm clothing.



A CHALLENGING YEAR

Despite amazing achievements, the Bursary team have had to overcome some difficult challenges this past year. The cost-of-living crisis is an all-encompassing issue. As well as increasing the demand across our services, Centrepont's running costs have risen significantly. Whilst this has not directly impacted our ability to provide grants through the Bursary Fund, we are in the process of working out the smoothest route possible as we move along this otherwise bumpy road.

LOOKING AHEAD

In 2023 - 2024, Centrepont aims to do all that we can to alleviate the impact of the rising cost-of-living and impending recession on the young people that we support. This will include giving out as many grants as possible through our Bursary Fund so that more young people can complete training courses, start university or simply access basic essentials like warm clothes and are not held back by the current economic crisis.

We also want to extend our reach through our partnership network - meaning young people supported by charities that are similar to Centrepont will also be able to access the fund. Continuing with education and training, whether by going to University or completing an apprenticeship, is a route out of homelessness for many young people. It allows them to build the foundations for a successful career which will help them live independently in the future. The more young people that we can help through this kind of provision, the better chance we have at tackling youth homelessness.

I'd like to take this opportunity once again to thank the trustees of the Fleur de Lys Foundation for your continued support of the Centrepont Bursary Scheme, empowering young people to access the future they deserve and helping them to sustain their lives beyond homelessness.

Thank you for your continued support