

OPENING DOORS

Support beyond care: our Lifetime Guarantee

At St Christopher's, we want to give our young people support that lasts beyond their time with us and sets them up for the future. We don't just help our young people find a job, but a career, so they can be self-sustainable once they leave us and thrive as young adults. Our Life Skills & Participation team (pictured) support young people into work through our Get into Work programme, ensuring they have the best opportunities when leaving care. This forms part of our Lifetime Guarantee.



Ben has been meeting with one of our Get into Work coordinators, Jackie. Jackie's role is to guide our young people in identifying their desired career path and supporting them to achieve this through skills and work training. Jackie also provides mentoring and guidance to overcome challenges and strengthen young people's confidence and ability to recognise their existing skills.

Ben had expressed interest in a career in construction but needed to figure out how to start. Jackie helped him find a course that enabled him to acquire fundamental construction skills to facilitate his entry into employment. The course offered him pre-employment training, work experience, site visits, personal development opportunities, and construction qualifications.

Ben was nervous when he first arrived at the Building Academy with Jackie, still he took it in his stride and quickly became excited at the opportunities before him. He even plucked up the courage to ask the course leader a question in front of the other students who were also enrolling.



Throughout the course, Jackie has seen Ben thrive and his confidence grow. She received feedback from the Building Academy about Ben's great work in his practical lessons, and they said he is well on his way to achieving his AQA qualification in building skills.

Learning various construction skills and completing this qualification will give him a solid foundation for his future career.

“It has been nice to see Ben on this journey and watch him grow as a person. He has not given up and is working hard to succeed in his personal and professional goals. I am very proud of his achievements and what the future has in store for him.”

Jackie, Get into Work Coordinator.



Cricket & Cooking with our Life Skills & Participation Team

Since Zara moved into one of our children's homes last year, her love for cricket has flourished. The home's staff have gone above and beyond, assisting her in acquiring equipment, practising regularly with her in the garden, and even helping her find a local team to join. Zara's enthusiasm for the sport also led her to successfully apply for additional cricket gear (pictured) through our Diamond Fund. The fund exists to support children and young people in accessing employment, training, and education opportunities and enables them to participate in enjoyable, fun, creative, and sporting experiences.

Visits from Ned, the home's Life Skills & Participation worker, have added another layer to Zara's journey. Together, they've uncovered her passion for cooking dishes from her home country. As they explore recipes and flavours, Zara has found comfort in familiar tastes and feels more connected to home.

“It has been great to see her really taking the lead on cooking these dishes – and the opportunities for learning for both parties that have come through food.”

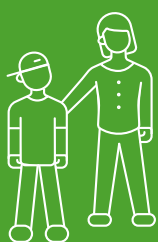
Ned, Life Skills & Participation Worker.



Last year, **100%** of young people leaving our care lived in stable accommodation, compared to a national average of 88%.



78% of young people leaving our care were in education, employment, or training in the first two years after leaving us, compared to a national average of 62%.



At the time of our latest survey on 1st November 2023, we were in touch with **61%** of the young people who had left us in the previous 6 months.



60% of young people supported to find work on the Isle of Man were in sustained employment for three months or more. Nationally, only 8.7% of care leavers are in stable work.

A New Space for Young People to Heal

We have recently transformed a room in one of our homes into a sensory room for young people. When young people meet us for the first time, they have often lost their belief in family, society, and themselves. The home is for vulnerable young females at risk in the community and aims to help them learn to manage their safety and to support them in choosing to use these skills to keep themselves safe. We can now provide this incredible space where they can heal, learn about safety, and rebuild their self-esteem.

The sensory room, kindly funded by The Story of Christmas, is part of the home's therapeutic and emotional wellbeing programme. Sensory rooms offer a holistic approach to supporting individuals' wellbeing by addressing sensory needs, promoting relaxation, facilitating emotional regulation, and fostering self-expression and communication.

Staff at the home have noticed a remarkable difference in the girls' wellbeing since the introduction of this innovative space.



From Christmas Advert to our Fostering Services

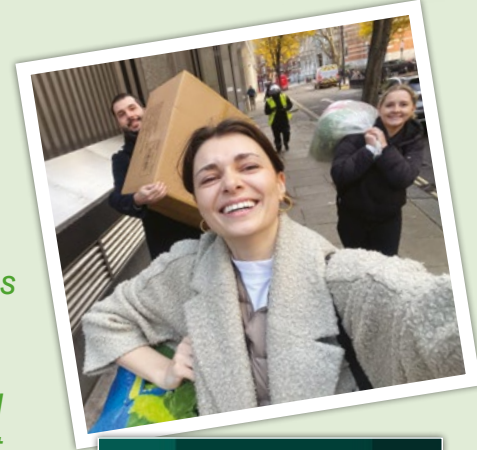
We celebrated the Christmas period across our St Christopher's homes and services with food, activities, and gifts.

Our Fostering Services had a particularly special gift from the John Lewis Partnership who donated 35 of their Snapper Toys to us; you might recognise them from their latest Christmas advert!

We collected the toys from their head office and distributed them across foster homes for all our children to enjoy.

“St Christopher's Fostering Team would like to thank John Lewis for the Snapper Toy donations; they were truly appreciated by our children and young people. Each child, young and old, received

a gift during our children's Christmas party. One foster parent informed us that her foster child loved his toy, whilst another said it has a special place on her foster child's bed. The donation from John Lewis made the children's party, seeing their smiling faces was a pleasure.”



We are so grateful to all our corporate supporters and would love to be able to support more partners in making a difference where it's needed most. Please reach out to our fundraising team if you or anyone you know works for a company that would like to scope out opportunities for collaboration.

Leave the gift of a Lifetime Guarantee

At St Christopher's, we believe that every child and young person in care should thrive, both while in care and long afterwards. That's why it's vital we can continue to provide a nurturing environment and support young people's needs, now and in the future.

With a gift in your will, you could help us plan our services safe in the knowledge that we will have the funding we need in the coming years. You could help our children and young people develop the skills, confidence, and relationships they need to thrive. What a legacy that would be. It's easier than ever before to make a gift in your will. Remember a Charity has lots of

information and advice on their website: www.rememberacharity.org.uk. You can even create your will for free with www.freewills.co.uk.

Leaving a gift in your will is one of the most impactful ways you can support a charity. Your support can change children and young people's lives long into the future.



We are St Christopher's

St Christopher's Fellowship has been helping children and young people for over 150 years. Though our services have changed over that time, our dedication to children and young people in care has never wavered. Neither has the commitment and generosity of our supporters.

We're still here because of you. And we would like to thank everyone who has supported us, cared for us, and enabled young people to build themselves a brighter future. We couldn't do it without you.



You can keep up to date with all the latest news from St Christopher's at stchris.org.uk

Thank you so much for your support

StCHRISTOPHER'S
CREATING BRIGHTER
FUTURES

St Christopher's Fellowship

1 Putney High Street, London SW15 1SZ

☎ 0208 780 7800 ✉ fundraising@stchris.org.uk 🌐 www.stchris.org.uk

CUSTOMER
SERVICE
EXCELLENCE



Reg. Charity No. 207782. Homes and Communities Agency No. LH1832. Limited Company No. 321509

Caring for children and young people since 1870