



Leeds Building Society

18th April 2024

Leeds Building Society appoints new charity partner to help build brighter tomorrows for care experienced young people

- The partnership will provide support for care leavers at higher risk of homelessness
- One in three young care leavers become homeless in the first two years of leaving care*
 - One in four homeless people have been in care*

Leeds Building Society is proud to announce it has appointed the UK's biggest children's charity, Barnardo's as its new charity partner until March 2027.

Leeds Building Society's purpose is to put homeownership within reach of more people generation after generation – and that includes care-experienced people.

In 2022, 30,070 children left care. It is estimated that one in three young people become homeless in the first two years immediately after they leave care, and one in four homeless people have been in care at some point in their lives.

For many care leavers, the concept of home is as far away in adulthood as it was as a youth, as they face a 'cliff edge' of diminished support once they leave care. Many begin to live independently earlier than others and are more likely to live in unsuitable or unsafe accommodation, struggling to afford basic essentials.

During the three-year partnership, Leeds Building Society has committed to raising a minimum of £300,000 to fund a programme called "Building Brighter Tomorrows" for care-experienced young people, providing the essential building blocks for individuals, equipping them with the tools, resources, and support needed to construct their path to a brighter future.

The partnership will help care leavers find somewhere to live, learn independent living skills, to continue with education or find work – and access support after leaving care.

The building society's members and colleagues will raise money through a range of fundraising activities.

Richard Fearon, CEO of Leeds Building Society, said:

"We all know the value of a place to call home. It's the cornerstone of a safe, secure life. We are thrilled to be working with Barnardo's to "build brighter tomorrows" by helping care-experienced young people on their path to a more secure future.

"Everyone deserves to transition into adulthood with the right tools and support structures, regardless of their background or circumstances. Sadly, this is not always the case. That's why we're proud to appoint Barnardo's as our charity partner for the next three years

“Through the partnership, we want to support young care leavers to find a home. We recognise that feeling safe and secure in a home impacts emotional well-being, and we are proud to pledge funds to be part of the positive change that Barnardo’s is making.”

Lynn Perry, CEO of Barnardo’s, said:

“Child poverty is growing fast within the UK. We currently reach 400,000 children and young people each year, and with this support pledged by Leeds Building Society we can continue on our mission to change childhoods and ensure that we never turn a child away.

“The future can feel so uncertain to care-experienced people. Many care leavers carry burdens that young shoulders shouldn’t have to bear, and through this partnership and the fundraising by Leeds Building Society’s colleagues and members we hope to make a big difference to the futures of these young people.”

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Notes to editors:

*Source: British Association for Social Workers 2023 [Spotlight on Poverty: Care Leavers and Care Experienced People | BASW](#)

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About Leeds Building Society

- Leeds Building Society is the UK’s fifth-largest Building Society.
- The Society held assets of £28.1 billion and had a total membership of 919,000 on 31 Dec 2023.
- We continue to do today what we were set up to do in 1875 – help people save money and buy their own home. We operate as a mutual, developing and innovating our product range and service offer to help our 919,000 members achieve their financial goals.
- For more on what we do and how we help our members, visit [Leeds Building Society](#)
- As of 31 December 2023, we employed over 1,800 colleagues, with a head office in the centre of Leeds, a customer contact centre in Newcastle, and a network of 50 branches across the UK.
- Our purpose is putting home ownership within reach of more people, generation after generation. Since 2020 we have helped 63,000 first time buyers join the housing ladder.
- We are committed to the orderly transition to a greener, net zero economy by 2050 and have set a second ambitious target to reduce our scope 1 and 2 location-based emissions by 60% by 2030, which aligns with the UK Government’s net zero commitments
- Find out more about the impact of our actions: [2023 Purpose Impact Report](#)
- The Society has been a Living Wage employer since 2019
- The Society won the title of Best Shared Ownership Mortgage Lender in the 2023 What Mortgage Awards, its eighth consecutive year of success in this category, won “First time Mortgage Buyers’ Choice” at the 2023 Moneyfacts Consumer Awards, and was named as the winner of the “Leading With Purpose Award” at the 2023 Business Culture Awards.

About Barnardo's

Barnardo's purpose is clear - changing childhoods and changing lives, so that children, young people, and families are safe, happy, healthy, and hopeful.

Last year Barnardo's provided essential support to 373,200 children, young people, parents and carers through more than 800 services and partnerships across the UK.

For over 150 years, Barnardo's has been here for the children and young people who need it most – bringing love, care and hope into their lives and giving them a place where they feel they belong.