

**CENTRE
POINT**

**ENDING YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS**

**LEAVE THE GIFT OF
A LIFE CHANGED,
FOR GOOD**

**Find out how you can be the turning point
for young people in the future with
a gift in your Will**



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Dear Friend,

Thank you for considering a gift in your Will to Centrepoint.

Over 50 years ago, Centrepoint was founded with a mission to ensure that no young person was left to face homelessness alone. We believe that every young person deserves to be treated with empathy and dignity, regardless of their background or circumstances. At Centrepoint, we are committed to empowering young people to take control of their lives and achieve their goals by providing a non-judgemental and inclusive environment where they can feel safe, respected and valued.

Thanks to the support of compassionate individuals, like you, we have been able provide this service for half a century. With a gift in your Will, you would ensure that Centrepoint can continue to provide this vital care and support to homeless young people for generations to come.

It's a deeply personal decision to include a charity in your Will. However, by making this decision you would be making a powerful statement about your values and your commitment to helping young people in need. You can take pride in knowing that your gift will enable thousands of homeless young people to change their stories irrevocably for the better.

We hope that our guide can help answer any questions you may have, however, if you need more information or just want to talk, our Gifts in Wills team is always here to help on 020 7423 6290.

With your help, we will continue to change lives and give young people the opportunity to build a brighter future. Thank you for considering this important and lasting way to support Centrepoint.

Seyi

Seyi Obakin OBE
Chief Executive, Centrepoint



50 YEARS OF CENTREPOINT



- 1969** Centrepoint opens as a night shelter in St Anne's church in Soho
- 1972** Centrepoint House opens as the organisation's first 24-hour hostel in West London
- 1980** Centrepoint's first bedsit is opened
- 1982** Three flat share schemes are put in place to help young people live independently in Wandsworth, Lambeth and Hammersmith
- 1991** Centrepoint's largest hostel opens in Vauxhall, housing 60 people
- 1996** Centrepoint sets up the 'Streets Ahead' programme, helping young people into employment
- 1998** Centrepoint begins providing support to local authorities and other providers in the North East
- 2000-01** Centrepoint sets up a dedicated team to provide young people support with their physical and mental health
- 2005** Centrepoint successfully persuades the government to increase the age to which young people can study and receive income support to 20
- 2013-17** Centrepoint expands its services to support young people in Bradford, Barnsley and Manchester.

CENTREPOINT:

Empowering young people. Ending youth homelessness.

From small beginnings in 1969 to now, supporting over 15,000 young people every year. Here at Centrepoint we are committed to creating a society where no young person has to experience homelessness.

Unfortunately, we are fighting against an unfair system. In 2022, almost 129,000 young people approached their local council because they were either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. This is completely unacceptable, but sadly, the figure is likely to continue to rise. From soaring rents and lack of affordable housing, to the removal of support and opportunities, the odds are stacked against already vulnerable young people.

Centrepoint Will Writing Guide

But we are ready to rise to the challenge. Will you join us?

Homelessness disrupts lives, stifles potential, and perpetuates a cycle of disadvantage. That's why we'll continue to be on the side of young people, fighting for a fairer system, with an ambitious goal of ending youth homelessness by 2037. And in the meantime, we are here, providing unconditional support when there's nowhere left to turn.

What we do

There are many reasons why a young person may become homeless. At Centrepoint, we understand this and are doing everything we can to help young people to recover from what they've been through.

Housing

We have an extensive range of bed spaces nationwide, tailored to meet the diverse and intricate needs of young individuals. Whether it's for those transitioning out of care or young families, we are committed to providing suitable accommodation options.

At the heart of our programme is the provision of dedicated Key Workers who offer personalised one-on-one support to every young person. Our Key Workers go above and beyond, assisting the young people they support with a wide range of tasks. They help with practical aspects like registering with local doctors, mastering budgeting and acquiring essential household skills. Moreover, they actively facilitate access to additional support systems, including mental health resources, educational opportunities, and training programmes that lead to employment opportunities. But most importantly, they are there to listen.

Centrepoint's Independent Living Programme was created in response to the critical shortage of affordable housing for young people with low incomes. The initiative aims to provide truly affordable housing for young people transitioning from supported accommodation and into work. We are committed to ensuring a young person never has to pay more than one third of their salary in rent. Centrepoint is developing a range of fully furnished homes across London and Manchester. Each home will be equipped with essentials such as cooking sets,



towels, TVs and white goods, providing young people with everything they need to live independently.

Health

Homelessness can have a severe impact on a young person's health, hindering their ability to develop the confidence, skills, and independence necessary to break free from the cycle of homelessness. That's why we provide specialist, in-house mental health support to give young people a safe space where they can explore and understand their emotions, develop essential skills, and build resilience. By addressing their past experiences, we help them pave a path towards a brighter future. We believe that by addressing their mental well-being, we can support their journey towards independence and enable them to build a fulfilling life beyond homelessness.

Skills, Education and Employment

Young people experiencing homelessness have often faced unstable and chaotic lives, resulting in their education sometimes being disrupted, leaving them with limited employment opportunities. That's why we offer accredited education, training, and employment programmes to empower young people so they can gain control of their future.

With tailored support, young people design their own plan to achieve their goals and are helped to stay on track to reach them. As a result, individuals are given the chance to get back into further education, training or employment and build the skills to secure a job and a home of their own.

Our Helpline

Our Helpline is a lifeline for homeless young people across the nation, offering free advice, information, and support. Year after year, we have provided crucial support to over 6,800 young individuals. We assist them in identifying suitable housing options, connecting them with relevant support agencies, and most importantly, lending a listening ear during times of crisis. Recognising the growing need, we are committed to expanding our Helpline services.

Our aim is to ensure that support is available seven days a week, to accommodate the increasing number of young people facing homelessness. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of homeless young people by providing them with the resources, information, and compassionate support they deserve.



LEAVE THE GIFT OF SAFETY AND WARMTH

Jade went from
sleeping rough,
to earning a first
class degree

When Jade was just 17, her mum was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

Jade was distraught – she was already struggling with her mental health and substance abuse issues. When her mum died, Jade's life spiraled out of control.

Jade's grief for her mum was overwhelming. She had nowhere to go and no one to turn to. While her younger siblings went to live with an aunt, she couldn't provide a home for Jade too. She felt like she had no one in the world – that no one wanted to look after her. She ended up sofa surfing and spending nights sleeping rough. Eventually she was offered a place in a hostel and, from there, her own flat with Centrepoint's partner Stepping Stones. That's where she met her key worker Ellie.

With Ellie's help, Jade turned her life around – getting a place at university and giving birth to a son. Today she is writing a book and working to improve support for young people who are homeless.

A gift in your Will can help provide the turning point for another young person like Jade.

'Ellie encouraged me to continue going to college. She also helped with my application for uni and drove me to look round one of the campuses. Without her support, I don't think I'd have lasted.'



LEAVE THE GIFT OF HOPE

Your gift could help someone like Shannon leave homelessness behind and achieve their dreams.

From Homelessness to Independence: How Centrepont Empowered Shannon's Journey.

When Shannon first came to Centrepont she was, in her own words, 'all over the place'. She had been in and out of foster care before being referred to us. Struggling with anxiety and her mental health, Shannon was finding it difficult to engage with college. And although she had no safe home to go to, she was nervous about living on her own.

The team at Centrepont helped Shannon feel more confident about her studies. She's now studying fashion at university and has recently moved into her own flat.

With a gift in your Will, you can help future young people like Shannon leave homelessness behind, get an education and live independently.

'I was quite scared when I first came to Centrepont. I had no prospects and I was suffering from anxiety. I was beginning to disengage from college. The staff's patience and time that they took out of their day to just sit with me and go through my work. It really helped me get back on track.'



WHY LEAVE A GIFT TO CENTREPOINT

Making a genuine impact won't come without effort, but united, we have the power to create lasting change. Your Will holds the potential to become the catalyst for that change. Centrepoint stands as the beacon of hope, empowering vulnerable young individuals and granting them the future they truly deserve. Together, let's embark on this meaningful journey and break the chains of youth homelessness, for good.



Here's why leaving a gift to Centrepoint matters:

Break Barriers: Only 1 in 5 landlords accept young people leaving supported accommodation. Let's end discrimination and open doors to secure housing.

Create Opportunities: A higher proportion of 16-24 year olds are not in education, employment or training compared to the general population. Help us create jobs and opportunities, providing a lifeline for disadvantaged youth.

End Homelessness: In 2022, 129,000 young people sought help for homelessness. Together, we can prevent, reduce, and eliminate youth homelessness.

Fight Hunger: 1 in 3 vulnerable young people go without food for a day, while 1 in 4 live on £5 or less per week. Join us in calling for the government to increase Universal Credit to cover real living costs.

Centrepoint's Impact:

Positive Transitions: 9 out of 10 Centrepoint residents moved on successfully from our

Centrepoint is committed to addressing relationship breakdowns, rough sleeping, care leavers, and supporting individuals from diverse backgrounds. Join Centrepoint with a gift in your Will and create lasting change for vulnerable young people.

support, securing accommodation, jobs, and training.

Helpline Support: 7,661 young people received advice and emotional support via our Helpline last year.

Education Matters: 57% of leavers pursued education, employment, or training, empowering them to thrive independently.

Building Careers: Centrepoint Works provided qualifications to 3 out of 5 participants, laying a solid foundation for future success.

“I’m remembering Centrepoint in my Will because I can’t bear to think of any young person being homeless with no one they can turn to for help.”

Sally
Legacy Pledger



“We’d supported Centrepoint for a while. So when I inherited some money, we decided to include a gift in our Wills that would continue our support into the future. We were inspired by the impact our donations had on young people’s lives.”

Megan and John
Legacy Pledgers





Transform a young life forever in just seven simple steps

Creating a Will is easier than you might think. Follow these seven straightforward steps to ensure your impact is felt for generations to come:

- 1 Catalogue your assets:**
Include everything from your cherished home, car, and valuable assets to precious belongings like jewellery and artwork.
- 2 Choose those you hold dear:**
Compile a list of family members, loved ones, and the causes close to your heart, such as Centrepoint.
- 3 Select trusted executors:**
Appoint either a close friend or a knowledgeable solicitor to carry out your wishes.
- 4 Seek peace of mind:**
Consult a solicitor who can professionally draft your Will, providing reassurance and guidance on inheritance tax matters, if necessary.
- 5 Stay flexible:**
As life evolves, you can update your Will using a 'codicil' to reflect new circumstances and decisions.
- 6 Secure your Will:**
Store it in a safe place and inform your chosen executors of its location.
- 7 Share your generosity:**
Let your loved ones know that you've included a gift to Centrepoint in your Will, ensuring your philanthropic spirit lives on.

By taking these simple steps, you can make a significant impact, leaving behind a legacy that transforms lives. Start today and empower a young person's future!

WRITE YOUR WILL FOR FREE

Protect your loved ones, find peace of mind, and leave a lasting impact on a homeless young person's life with Bequeathed's free Will-writing service.

We understand that the cost barrier associated with writing a Will can often be a hurdle for many individuals. That's why we are thrilled to offer this opportunity to create your Will at no charge through our partnership with Bequeathed.

Creating an up-to-date Will is essential, yet it's a task many of us procrastinate on. With Bequeathed, you can take action immediately.

For most individuals, a standard Will is enough and you won't be charged a penny. However, if your circumstances are complex and require additional advice, our legal professionals will explain the necessary steps and provide you with a quote for any extra work.

bequeathed 
make your Will For Good

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity.
Visit bequeathed.org/centrepoin today.

Here's why you should take advantage of this opportunity:

- 1 Peace of Mind:** Safeguard your loved ones and ensure your wishes are respected.
- 2 Easy and Convenient:** Complete the online Will interview in just 20 minutes, with support from the Bequeathed team.
- 3 Expert Guidance:** Receive a free 30-minute consultation with a legal professional to address your concerns and ensure your Will meets your needs.
- 4 Free and Secure:** Bequeathed handles the signing, witnessing, and secure storage of your Will, all at no cost to you.
- 5 Transform Lives:** Your act of kindness supports Centrepoin's mission to help homeless young people rebuild their lives.

LEAVE THE GIFT THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

No matter the size of your gift, it can have a life-changing impact. Your contribution through your Will has the power to create a lasting difference in the lives of homeless young people.

There are various types of gifts you can leave in your Will, each with its unique ability to transform lives. They are:

A residuary gift is when a percentage, or the entirety of an estate, is left. By designating a percentage of your estate, you ensure that your contribution grows alongside your assets, whilst keeping pace with inflation, making an even greater impact over time. This ensures that, after your loved ones have been provided for, your generosity directly supports the vital work of Centrepoint.

A pecuniary gift is a fixed monetary contribution, ensuring that the specified amount will directly benefit our work in supporting homeless young people. Unlike a residuary gift, this gift remains fixed and doesn't change with inflation.

A Specific gift is when you donate a particular asset. This could be a property, stocks and shares, furniture, jewellery or a piece of art.

“Centrepoint gave me the support and confidence I needed to get my life on track. Just knowing someone believed in me helped me to believe in myself.”

Laura, former Centrepoint resident,
current university student
living independently



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Why is it important to have a Will?

A legal Will ensures your estate is distributed the way you want, enabling a secure future for your family and friends. It allows you to choose who inherits your property, possessions and money, providing you with peace of mind whilst avoiding any potential complications. Creating a Will eliminates uncertainty and ensures your assets are handled according to your intentions.

How will my legacy help Centrepoint?

No matter how big or small, a gift in your Will to Centrepoint will help us to provide vital support to those who need us most. Gift in Wills enable us to think big and be even more ambitious and work towards our goal of ending youth homelessness by 2037. By leaving a legacy to Centrepoint, you can make a significant positive impact on the lives of homeless young people now and in the future.

I don't think my estate adds up to much. Is it still worth making a Will or leaving a legacy?

You might be surprised about the value of your estate, especially if you own your own home, have life insurance, or savings. Making a Will is the only way to ensure that the people you love and the causes closest to your heart benefit from your estate as you want them to.

What wording should I use in my Will?

The standard wording should include our charity name, our main address and our registered charity numbers: Centrepoint Soho, Centrepoint, Central House, 25 Camperdown, London E18DZ and is registered with the Charity Commission of England and Wales under number 292411.

What's the best way to remember Centrepoint in my Will?

The best way to support a charity is often with a residuary legacy. This type of gift

ensures that your donation maintains its value over time, accounting for inflation and maximises the impact of your gift. Your solicitor or Will writer can advise you on the best option for your circumstances and can recommend wording.

Should I let Centrepoint know my decision?

We really treasure the opportunity to thank our supporters who have chosen to leave a legacy, but it is entirely up to you as it is a private and sensitive decision. Rest assured, any information you provide will be treated in the strictest confidence, will not be shared with third parties and is not legally binding.

I have a couple more questions, who should I contact?

If you have any more questions, please email our legacy team at legacies@centrepoint.org. We will do our best to help or advise you who to contact. For all legal advice, please consult a legacy professional or solicitor.

LEGAL JARGON BUSTER

Many people are put off making or updating their Will because they think it is complicated. This isn't helped by all the legal jargon. That's why we have put together this handy guide to the most commonly used terms.

Assets:

The money and property you own

Beneficiary:

A person or organisation like Centrepoint that will receive a gift in your Will

Bequest or legacy:

A gift to a person or organisation in your Will

Codicil:

A legal form that will update or change your Will – it must be signed and witnessed

Estate:

Your assets minus your liabilities represents the value of your estate

Executor:

You can appoint up to four executors who have the authority and responsibility to administer your estate and ensure your wishes are carried out

Inheritance tax:

The tax you pay the government on the value of your estate, if your estate is worth more than £325,000 – including a charity like Centrepoint in your Will can reduce your inheritance tax burden

Pecuniary gift:

A specific sum of money

Probate:

A legal document that gives you the right to sort out the affairs of someone who has died and left a Will

Residuary gift:

A percentage of your estate – usually a gift of whatever is left over from your estate after all other bequests and costs

Reversionary gift:

A gift of property or possessions left to someone for the rest of their life before being passed on to another beneficiary – the person who receives a Reversionary gift is known as a Reversionary beneficiary

Specific gift:

An item or property

Trusts:

A Trust is where one or more people hold money or property on behalf of someone else

Will:

A legal document stating how you wish your estate to be distributed after your death.



Since 2011, we have delivered nearly 2,000 bursaries to help remove the financial barriers to education and employment.

These bursaries have assisted in covering expenses such as textbooks, laptops, work-suitable clothing, and necessary tools of the trade.



**ENDING YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS**

Letting us know your future intentions can help us plan for the future

If you intend to or have already included Centrepoint in your Will, please let our team know.

Call **020 7423 6290** or
email **legacies@centrepoin.org**



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