

**CENTRE
POINT**

**ENDING YOUTH
HOMELESSNESS**

LEAVE THE GIFT OF A LIFE CHANGED FOR GOOD

**Your guide to leaving a gift
in your Will to Centrepont.**



- 03 Our progress so far
- 04 About Centrepont
- 06 Stories of hope
- 08 Why leaving a gift matters
- 10 How to make a Will
- 11 Write your Will for free
- 12 Ways to leave a gift
- 13 Your questions answered
- 14 Legal jargon explained



If you'd like to find out more about how gifts in Wills help homeless young people, or just have a chat, our friendly team is always here to help on **020 3959 7092** or at **legacies@centrepont.org**

WELCOME

Dear Friend,

Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your Will to Centrepont. For over 50 years, Centrepont has been dedicated to ensuring no young person faces homelessness alone. We believe every young person deserves empathy, dignity, and the chance to take control of their lives in a safe, respected, and valued environment.

Thanks to compassionate individuals like you, we have provided vital support for half a century. And a gift in your Will ensures Centrepont can continue this crucial care for generations to come.

Including a charity in your Will is a deeply personal decision, but by doing so, you make a powerful statement about your values and commitment to helping young people in need. You can take pride in knowing your gift will empower thousands of homeless young people to change their stories for the better.

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

Julie Milnes
Director of Fundraising, Centrepont



OUR PROGRESS SO FAR



Centrepont House opens as the organisation's first 24-hour hostel in West London.

Centrepont sets up the 'Streets Ahead' programme, helping young people into employment.

Centrepont sets up a dedicated team to provide young people support with their physical and mental health.

Centrepont's national Helpline takes its first call.

1969

Centrepont opens as a night shelter in St Anne's church in Soho.

1972

Centrepont's largest hostel opens in Vauxhall, housing 60 people.

1991

Centrepont begins providing support in the North East.

1996

Centrepont expands its services to support young people in Bradford, Barnsley, and Manchester.

1998

2000

2013

2017

TODAY

Centrepont operates services across the UK, providing shelter to hundreds of young people at any one time.

HOW WE'RE ENDING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

In the UK, a young person faces homelessness every four minutes. This is completely unacceptable, but sadly, we're fighting against an unfair system. Homelessness disrupts lives, stifles potential, and perpetuates a cycle of disadvantage. From soaring rents and lack of affordable housing, to the removal of support and opportunities, the odds are stacked against already vulnerable young people.

Here at Centrepont we are committed to changing that, and creating a society where no young person has to experience homelessness.



Housing and support

Centrepont provides safe accommodation for young people nationwide, tailored to their individual needs, from those transitioning out of care to young families. At the heart of our programme are dedicated Key Workers offering one-on-one support, assisting with practical aspects like doctor registration, budgeting, and household skills. They also facilitate access to mental health resources, education, and employment training.

Centrepont's Independent Living Programme addresses the shortage of affordable housing, ensuring young people never pay more than one-third of their salary in rent.



Health and wellbeing

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.

We believe that by addressing their mental wellbeing, we can support homeless young people in their journey towards independence and enable them to build a fulfilling life.



Education and employment

Young people experiencing homelessness have often faced unstable and chaotic lives, which can disrupt their education and leave 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. This gives them the chance to get back into education, training, or employment, and build the skills to secure a job and a home.



Our Helpline

Our Helpline is a lifeline for homeless young people, offering free advice, information, and support. Every year, we provide crucial support to thousands of young people. 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.

Our aim is to ensure support is available to every young person facing homelessness. Together, we can make a difference in their lives by providing them with the resources, information, and support they deserve.

LEAVE THE GIFT OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

Lisa went from feeling isolated after leaving foster care, to earning a first-class degree.

“
My Key Worker was so good. She was basically like a parent for me and there for me with whatever I needed.”

Lisa

When Lisa was just 12 years old, she travelled to the UK from Vietnam, frightened and alone.

Initially, she was placed in foster care, then when she turned 18, social services referred her to Centrepont. After being provided with a comfortable room, and with help from her Key Worker, she soon felt safe, secure, and supported enough to apply to university. She also received a Centrepont Bursary to cover the costs of living while studying, which allowed her to focus solely on her education without worrying about her next meal.

Lisa graduated with a first-class honours degree and is immensely grateful for the support she received from Centrepont.

A gift in your Will can help provide the turning point that has a lifelong impact on a young person like Lisa.

LEAVE THE GIFT OF HOPE AND SUPPORT

Kyle went from struggling with his mental health and homelessness to finding stability and purpose.

When Kyle became homeless at 17, Centrepont's team played a crucial role in helping him manage his mental health and navigate life's challenges.

Despite this support, Kyle faced difficulties when he moved into private accommodation, leading to a mental health crisis. However, with the correct diagnosis, he was able to access the right type of support to find stability.

Now 30, Kyle works for a bank and is passionate about volunteering with Centrepont. He is determined to use his experiences to help other young people overcome the challenges of homelessness and mental health.

A gift in your Will can provide the right support for another young person like Kyle.

“
I want to end the stigma around homelessness. You can put someone into accommodation but that doesn't deal with the trauma they've experienced.”

Kyle



WHY LEAVE A GIFT TO CENTREPOINT

“

I'm leaving a gift in my Will to Centrepoint in memory of my husband. I hope it helps make a difference to a charity he cared about.”

Gill, Legacy Pledger



Centrepoint stands as a beacon of hope, empowering vulnerable young people and granting them the future they truly deserve. With a gift in your Will, we can make a difference together, and you can leave the gift of a life changed for good.

Together we can:

Provide safe homes

We offer young people a secure, stable place to rebuild their lives.

Create opportunities

Help us connect young people with the education, employment, and training opportunities that are right for them.

Campaign for change

We can amplify young people's voices and orchestrate systemic change to end youth homelessness.

Prevent youth homelessness

We are working in secondary schools to identify 11-16 year olds who are at hidden risk of future homelessness.

By putting students at the heart of our approach, we can spot early warning signs – like spending nights away from home or missing school more often.

Identifying young people at risk before crisis hits means we can try to stop homelessness before it starts.



“

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 FIVE STEPS

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



01 Catalogue your assets

Include everything from your home, car, and valuable assets to precious belongings like jewellery and artwork.

02 Choose those you hold dear

Compile a list of family members, loved ones, and the causes close to your heart, such as Centrepont.

03 Select trusted executors

Appoint either a close friend or a knowledgeable solicitor to carry out your wishes.

By taking these simple steps, you can make a significant impact. Leave the gift of a life changed for good today.

04 Write your Will

Consult a solicitor who can draft your Will, providing reassurance and guidance on topics like inheritance tax, if necessary. As life evolves, you can update your Will to reflect your new circumstances and decisions. It is sensible to review your Will every few years to ensure it is up to date.

05 Share your generosity

Let your loved ones know your intentions, ensuring your philanthropic spirit lives on. Be sure to store your Will in a safe place and inform your chosen executors of its location.

WRITE YOUR WILL FOR FREE

Start writing your Will for free, from the comfort of your own home, in as little as 20 minutes today.

Writing your Will may sound daunting, but with MyIntent, it's easier than you might think. In fact, you can get started today and it won't cost you a penny.

If your circumstances are complex and require additional advice, MyIntent's legal professionals will talk you through the next steps and provide a quote.

My Intent



Why write your Will today?

It's easy and convenient

Complete the online Will interview in just 20 minutes, with support from the MyIntent team.

Access expert advice

Based on your answers, you will receive tailored advice from a choice of MyIntent's partner firms and solicitors.

Explore options to suit you

Book a free legal appointment or skip straight to requesting a free basic Will if this is suitable for your needs.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to write your Will for free. Visit myintent.org/centrepont-guide today.

Feel peace of mind

Safeguard your loved ones and ensure your personal wishes are respected.

Transform lives

If you are able to leave a gift to Centrepont, your kindness will support our 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. These are the various types of gifts you can leave in your Will, each with the ability to transform lives.



Centrepoint gave me the confidence I needed to get my life on track.”

Laura, university student and former Centrepoint resident

RESIDUARY GIFTS

A residuary gift is when a percentage, or the entirety of an estate, is donated. 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.

PECUNIARY GIFTS

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.

SPECIFIC GIFTS

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.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Why is it important to have a Will?

Your Will ensures your estate is distributed the way you want. It allows you to choose who inherits your property, possessions, and money, providing you with peace of mind whilst avoiding any potential complications.

How will a gift in my Will help Centrepoint?

Gifts left in Wills enable us to think big. By leaving a legacy to Centrepoint, you can make a significant positive impact on the lives of homeless young people.

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

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. You might be surprised about the value of your estate, especially if you own your own home, have life insurance, or savings.

What wording should I use in my Will?

The standard wording should include our charity name, main address, and registered charity number, which you can find on the back of this booklet. Please note that any suggested wording does not represent legal advice.

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 you know my decision?

We really treasure the opportunity to thank our supporters who have chosen to leave a legacy, but this private and sensitive decision is entirely up to you.

If you have any more questions, please do get in touch. You can email our legacy team at legacies@centrepoint.org or call **020 3959 7092**. 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 EXPLAINED

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 that belong to you.

Beneficiary: A person or organisation like Centrepont 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, when signed and witnessed, will update your Will.

Estate: Your assets minus your liabilities is 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. Including a charity like Centrepont in your Will can reduce your inheritance tax burden.

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

Pecuniary gift: A specific sum of money.

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

Specific gift: An item or property.

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.

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.



Leave the gift of a life changed for good with a gift in your Will to Centrepont. Together, we can transform the lives of homeless young people.

Letting us know your 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 so we can update our records. 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.



Call **020 3959 7092**



Email **legacies@centrepoint.org**



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Centrepoint, The Rowe, 59-63 Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7PF
Registered Charity no. 292411