



Reedham Children's Trust

Supporter Update

October 2026

www.reedhamchildrenstrust.org.uk

Welcome

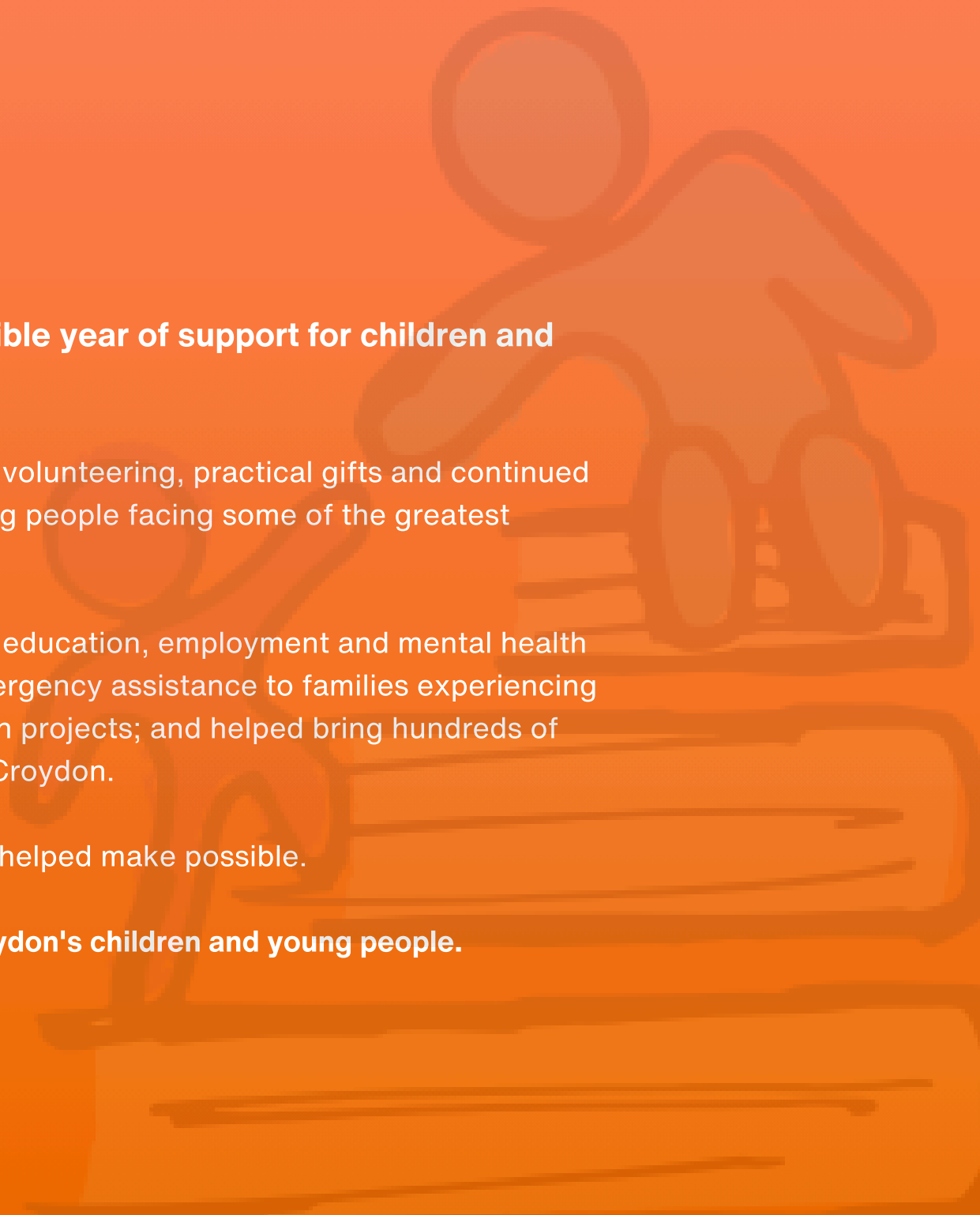
Thank you for being part of another incredible year of support for children and young people across Croydon.

Over the past year, your donations, fundraising, volunteering, practical gifts and continued support have helped us reach children and young people facing some of the greatest challenges in our borough.

Together, we have helped young people access education, employment and mental health support; provided food, school supplies and emergency assistance to families experiencing hardship; invested in innovative grassroots youth projects; and helped bring hundreds of thousands of pounds of additional funding into Croydon.

This update is just a snapshot of what you have helped make possible.

Thank you for continuing to stand alongside Croydon's children and young people.



Your support in action

£500,000+

generated through Reedham's fundraising work to support children and young people across Croydon.

3,772

Christmas presents

worth more than £38,000,
distributed across more than
30 schools, charities,
community groups and
Reedham projects.

352 children from 190 families

supported through our Family Support Programme.

£312,000

**secured for grassroots
organisations**

helping local organisations
continue and grow vital
services for children,
young people and
families.

£16,000+

of food support

provided to families
experiencing hardship.

227

young people

referred to our Schools &
Community Engagement
Programme, with 190 going
on to access activities at
Legacy Youth Zone and 20
receiving targeted
mentoring.

Reaching young people where they are

Our Schools & Community Engagement Programme with Legacy Youth Zone is now entering its fifth year, providing mentoring, wellbeing support and supported pathways into positive activities for vulnerable young people across Croydon.

During 2025/26, 227 young people were referred to the programme, with 190 going on to access activities at Legacy Youth Zone and 20 receiving targeted mentoring support.

However, the difference goes much further than participation. Through trusted relationships with youth workers, young people have somewhere to talk about mental health, school, relationships and challenges at home, while accessing activities and opportunities that help them build confidence and connections.

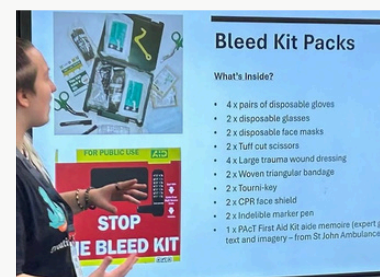
Despite the increasingly complex needs of many of the young people referred, staff have seen improvements in confidence, emotional regulation, communication skills and engagement with education. Three quarters of participants maintained or improved their wellbeing, with particularly strong results in resilience, mental wellbeing and self-confidence.



Helping young people build their futures

One of Reedham's priorities has been investing in local organisations with new and creative approaches to reaching young people who may struggle to engage with traditional services.

Across our Youth Innovation Fund, projects have helped young people build confidence, develop skills, improve their wellbeing and explore new possibilities for their futures.





Inspiring Minds, delivered with Majestic Services, supported 36 care-experienced young people to build confidence and develop practical employability skills. Sixteen progressed into employment and 20 achieved an OCN qualification in Community and Leadership.

The project has now secured further support from Albury's Charitable Foundation and the French Huguenots Church of London Charitable Foundation, enabling the work to continue beyond Reedham's original investment.



Box Therapy, delivered with Be Inspired and supported by The Hargreaves Foundation, combines non-contact boxing with Acceptance and Commitment Therapy.

Sixteen of the 18 young people supported improved their overall wellbeing and safety scores, including improvements in emotional regulation, relationships and decision-making.

Learning through real experience

Entrepreneurial Adventures, delivered through a partnership between Good Food Matters, Knowledge and Practice and Croydon Mencap, supported young people with learning disabilities to develop catering, customer service and business skills as they prepared for greater independence and their next steps beyond school.

Alongside weekly practical catering sessions, young people gained real-world experience by helping to run a monthly café at Croydon Athletic Football Ground, as well as taking part in pop-up cafés and fairs.

For K, that experience has made a real difference. Initially, he found unfamiliar tasks difficult and worried about making mistakes. Through the project's consistent support and practical experience at the café, he has become more resilient and better able to manage those feelings.

K has developed skills in food preparation and teamwork and has learned to use card machines securely when serving customers. Perhaps most importantly, he is beginning to see making a mistake as part of learning something new, rather than as a failure, an important step towards greater confidence and independence.



I didn't think I was good at anything before cooking club. Now I want to be a chef.

Helping children find their feet in Croydon

Our Family Support Programme, delivered with Croydon Refugee Day Centre, continues to support children seeking asylum, refugees and their families as they build new lives in Croydon.

This year, the programme supported 352 children from 190 families, 27% more children than in Year 1. Families came from more than 35 countries and spoke more than 23 languages.

Support ranges from helping children access school, nursery and college to providing the practical things families need as they settle into life in Croydon. During the year, the team completed 155 education applications, provided 180 school uniform packages, distributed 428 food vouchers and supplied 31 laptops to families.

Alongside this practical help, families receive support to navigate unfamiliar education, housing and welfare systems. Most importantly, more than 80% of parents said their children started education more quickly because of the programme's support.

Your support helps ensure that children arriving in Croydon aren't left to navigate these enormous changes alone.



Because of their help, we felt more confident and reassured, and my children were able to settle into school more easily and make the most of their educational opportunities.

Supporting young people's mental health

This year has also seen the start of Brighter Futures, a major three-year partnership focused on improving support for young people's mental health across Croydon.

Following an extensive period of planning, the programme has now moved into delivery, bringing organisations together to develop more joined-up, community-based support for young people. Learning and impact will be captured throughout, helping us understand what works and shape the programme as it develops over the next three years.

For Reedham, it represents another important step towards ensuring young people can access the right support, through trusted local organisations, before problems escalate.



Maudsley
Charity

Preventing youth homelessness

With more than 550 young people presenting as homeless in Croydon last year, early intervention is critical. Our Youth Homelessness Prevention project, delivered with Keep It Moving, provides specialist support for young people aged 15–25 who are homeless or at risk of losing their accommodation.

Now five months into delivery, a dedicated Housing Support Worker is in post, providing intensive one-to-one support to help young people navigate housing challenges, sustain accommodation, access appropriate services and build the skills they need for greater independence.

In just the first two months, 17 young people received intensive casework support and eight secured new tenancies or resolved their immediate homelessness. Young people who engaged for 12 weeks or more all showed measurable improvements, with average assessment scores increasing by 25%.

Support goes beyond finding somewhere to live. Young people can also access hardship funding, practical assistance and training, helping address some of the wider challenges that can contribute to homelessness and housing instability.

Your support helps young people facing homelessness find not only somewhere safe to live, but the support they need to move forward.



PPF: a partnership making a difference

Our three-year partnership with the Pension Protection Fund has gone from strength to strength.

PPF colleagues have thrown themselves into fundraising, from football and bake sales to Paint & Sip, raising £2,500 in their first year. They chose for this funding to go directly into our Youth Homelessness hardship fund, helping young people with practical costs such as rent and deposits, food, utilities, travel and emergency accommodation.

But the partnership isn't only about money.

PPF colleagues have volunteered their time and shared their professional experience with young people, including through a World of Work Day, where young people met staff from across the organisation, asked questions and learnt about different careers and routes into employment.

Thank you to everyone at PPF for helping young people not only through moments of crisis, but also towards greater independence and opportunity.



Croydon Children's Champion

Our Croydon Children's Champions come in all shapes and sizes, from schools and businesses to community groups, families and individual supporters. What they have in common is a desire to make a difference for local children and young people.

This year, that support has once again been incredible.

£7,500

worth of school supplies from Amazon

Hundreds
of school uniform items

**Nearly
350**
stationery sets

£16,000+
of food support

300
backpacks



Croydon Children's Champions

During the summer, two generous donations from Amazon's Croydon depot, worth around £7,500, provided approximately 300 backpacks, nearly 350 stationery sets and hundreds of items of school uniform. Hillsong Church Croydon also donated hundreds of new and pre-loved uniform items, helping children living in emergency accommodation start the new school year with the things they needed.

Food support has remained another important part of our work. Over the year, we provided more than £16,000 worth of food support, through supermarket vouchers and physical donations. Waitrose donated £1,500, which is being used to provide weekly food parcels for families experiencing hardship, while Leapfrog Day Nursery and other supporters have continued to donate food and essentials.

Our schools and community supporters have found their own ways to help too. Pupils at Harris Primary Academy Kenley raised money through their annual Sports Day, Royal Russell School held a Christmas Jumper Day, and Rokewood Nursing Home supported Reedham through



Amazon

its Community Day. Metropolitan Chapter No. 1507 donated towards our youth hubs, helping provide young people with somewhere safe and welcoming to go, alongside something hot to eat.

Whether it is £5 raised at a school event, a backpack for a child starting school, food for a family experiencing hardship, or a business choosing to support a project, every contribution matters.

Together, our Croydon Children's Champions are helping us respond when children and families need practical support, while also creating opportunities that can make a difference for the longer term.

Giving time as well as money

Our supporters give much more than financial donations. Throughout the year, volunteers have generously given their time to support Reedham, from helping with practical tasks and community activities to the huge effort involved in preparing thousands of Christmas presents.

A special thank you goes to our regular volunteers Jasmine, Sharon and Karen, whose continued willingness to step in and help throughout the year makes a real difference to our small team.

That then means the PPF Christmas volunteering demonstrates the larger-scale corporate side of volunteering elsewhere.





Christmas 2025 - our biggest Christmas yet

Last Christmas, businesses, schools, community groups and individuals from across Croydon came together to make sure thousands of local children and families had something special to look forward to.

Thanks to their incredible generosity, 3,772 presents worth £38,083 were donated for vulnerable children and young people and distributed through more than 30 schools, charities, community groups and Reedham projects across Croydon.

Alongside the presents, supporters helped us provide £10,000 of food support to families experiencing hardship, while a further £3,750 in gift vouchers for older teenagers gave young people the independence and dignity of being able to choose something they genuinely wanted for Christmas.



Asher

A little idea with a lot of kindness

One of our favourite donations came from one of our youngest supporters, Asher, age 7, who wanted to do something special for other children.

With the help of his family, Asher created 30 Christmas baking boxes, carefully making sure each contained everything a child would need to make their own cake at home, with only water needing to be added.

It was such a thoughtful idea: not simply giving another child a present, but giving them something they could enjoy making themselves.

Thank you, Asher, for showing that you're never too young to make a difference

Croydon came together

Of course, getting 3,772 presents ready for Christmas takes a huge collective effort.

For the sixth consecutive year, Centrale & Whitgift played a major role in our Christmas campaign and introduced Croydon BID, bringing 11 new local businesses into the campaign. Twelve pupils from St Elphege's School also joined more than 40 PPF volunteers for a very special wrapping day, helping us get thousands of presents wrapped and ready for distribution.

Christmas also marked Reedham's first Big Give Christmas Challenge, with matched donations helping us raise nearly £9,000 in additional funding for vulnerable children and young people.

Behind those numbers were thousands of individual acts of kindness, a present chosen, a food voucher donated, a baking box carefully made, an hour spent wrapping, or a business deciding to get involved. Together, you helped make Christmas brighter for children, young people and families across Croydon. Thank you.



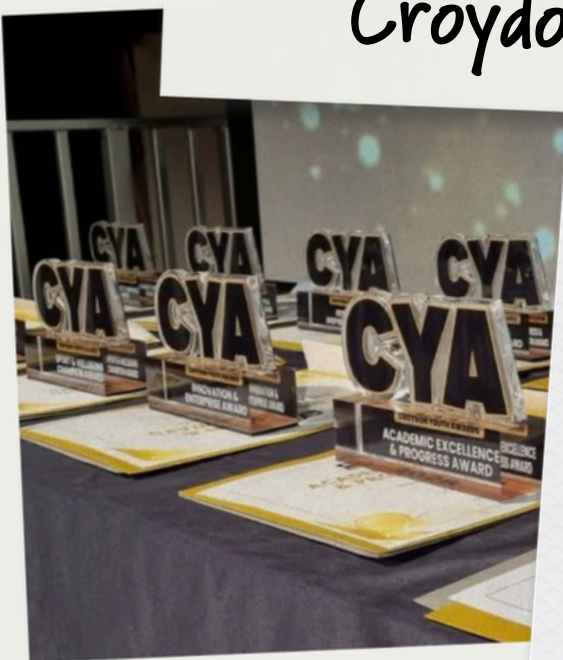
Celebrating Croydon's young people

This year Reedham was delighted to support the first Croydon Youth Awards, celebrating the achievements, kindness, talent and contribution of children and young people from across the borough.

It was an opportunity to shine a light on young people making a difference in their schools, communities and the lives of others, and a wonderful reminder that supporting young people isn't only about responding when things go wrong. It is also about recognising their strengths, celebrating their achievements and investing in their potential.



Croydon Youth Awards



Leadership, Coordination, Investment

Reedham continues to co-chair the Croydon Youth Consortium (CYC), bringing together more than 50 voluntary and community organisations supporting young people across the borough. Through the Consortium, organisations share learning and best practice, strengthen collaboration and work together to improve opportunities and support for Croydon's young people.

Looking ahead

In July, we shared the news that Reedham Children's Trust and Croydon Voluntary Action are working towards coming together to create a new organisation for Croydon.

The work is progressing, and over the coming months we will continue to keep our supporters updated as plans develop.

For Reedham, one thing remains particularly important: the legacy and purpose that have guided the charity for more than 180 years will continue. Our commitment to vulnerable children and young people in Croydon, the partnerships we have built and the work our supporters have made possible will form an important part of the new organisation.

Bringing the two organisations together also creates an opportunity to do more, combining relationships, resources and expertise to attract greater investment into Croydon, strengthen grassroots organisations and create more opportunities for children, young people and families. The current plans also provide for a dedicated fund using Reedham's reserves so that Dr Andrew Reed's legacy continues into the future.

As we move into this next chapter, we'll continue to keep you informed, and, most importantly, continue to make sure your support makes a difference where it is needed most.

Thank you

None of the impact in these pages happens in isolation.

It happens because individuals choose to donate. Businesses give their time, expertise and resources. Schools fundraise. Volunteers turn up. Trusts and foundations invest in our work. Community organisations work alongside us. And supporters who have been part of Reedham for many years continue to stand behind what we do.

Whether you donated £5, funded an entire project, gave food or clothing, volunteered your time, organised a fundraiser or simply continued to champion our work - thank you.

Your support is helping children and young people across Croydon feel safer, access opportunities, overcome barriers and build brighter futures.

We hope this update has shown you just some of what you have helped make possible.



Reedham Children's Trust

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