

Mystery benefactor makes large donation to Harmeny

An anonymous Scottish business leader has donated £250,000 to Harmeny Education Trust.

This funding will pay for major improvements to educational facilities at the school which supports some of Scotland's most vulnerable children.

The donor gifted the money to meet the cost of building a new Learning Hub at the Balerno based charity after hearing of its inspirational work.

The gift means the charity has now raised £950,000 – half of the £1.9million needed for its Learning for Life Appeal.

Staff and children at the centre said they were thrilled at news of the generous offer.

“This is the biggest single donation we've received so far and it puts us in a great position to raise the rest of the money we need to create amazing new facilities that will improve the lives of our children in so many ways” said Neil Squires, the charity's chief executive.

“We're incredibly grateful to everyone who has offered us support so far, particularly those with limited means because we recognise that it's not the size of the gift that matters but the spirit of generosity in people's hearts.”

Mr Squires added: “The donation has really energised everyone involved in the Appeal and we are urging businesses and

individuals to join us and help raise the remaining funds to achieve our target of starting the build in early 2021. Together we can build a brighter future for our children.”

Harmeny Education Trust provides specialist care and education to children aged 5-14 from across Scotland who have experienced early years trauma, through abuse, neglect or significant family disruption.

The impact of these experiences on their development and education is profound, with many struggling to manage their emotions and form positive relationships. Some even arrive at Harmeny without the ability to play.

Mr Squires said: “Our children are inspiring; they have been through so much but have huge potential and so much to give. With the right support and facilities, they can overcome adversity and lead happy and fulfilling lives.”

“The Learning Hub is so much more than a building; it is key to developing our children’s potential, meeting a growing demand for our services and supporting young people within our local community.”

The new Learning Hub will provide art and design facilities, woodworking and bike maintenance workshops, classrooms and become the focus for outdoor activities.

From the new facilities Harmeny will also deliver an innovative, three-year skills-based education programme in partnership with Barnardo’s and local secondary schools to engage disadvantaged young people from the local community.

For more information about Harmeny’s Learning for Life appeal visit www.harmeny.org.uk/appeal call 0131 449 3938 or email fundraising@harmeny.org.uk



Staff at Harmeny are delighted with the donation