

The Vine

child contact centre



Newsletter January 2025



Christmas Cheer - Gifts, Joy and Family Moments

Pure joy filled the Centre on December 7, 2024, as we hosted a special Christmas session for our families. With festive activities, delicious food, and uplifting music, the holiday spirit came alive for everyone.

A heartfelt thank you to our amazing team of volunteers and the generosity of 'Love in Action' from [Leeds Vineyard](#). Their kindness brought the magic of Christmas into the Centre, ensuring that every child, visiting parent, and family member experienced a session filled with joy, treats, and thoughtful gifts.

Families engaged in a variety of festive crafts before sharing the special moment of unwrapping presents together. A delicious Christmas meal followed, filling the room with laughter, warmth, and the creation of lasting memories.

Generosity extended even further as resident parents started their day with a warm breakfast sandwich while they waited.

Here's what some of the resident parents had to say:

- “It felt cosy, it felt festive, and the kids were happy.”
- “I enjoyed spending time with my child and having Christmas dinner.”
- “I don't put decorations up at home, so it felt extra special to be surrounded by Christmas decorations. For that one hour, I was truly happy and in the Christmas spirit.”



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17 children spent time with their non-resident parent

7 families are currently using the Centre for contact

4 families are using the Centre for handovers

4 weeks waiting time from first enquiry to first use

8 volunteers covering the contact sessions

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you know of anyone who would like to volunteer once a month at the Centre. Male Volunteers are needed

2024: The Centre worked with 21 families. Supporting 27 children spending time with their parent or family member.

33% - Have had a successful outcome after leaving the Centre

38% - Have continued in the Centre

Good News stories



One family that recently started attending handover sessions has reached an agreement to continue using the Centre until February 2025. After that, they will make their own handover arrangements without our facilitation. This is a significant step forward for them, especially considering that the non-resident parent was initially unwilling to compromise and was prepared to stop contact sessions and return to court. However, after discussing the long-term impact on the child and the importance of establishing a stable routine, they found common ground. It's encouraging to see them reach a resolution, and hopefully, this experience will guide them in future decisions.

Another non-resident parent has never had a consistent schedule with their 6-year-old child but is now engaging in both face-to-face and Zoom sessions due to distance. Before this, contact was limited to letter writing for six months. As the child has grown more comfortable, the sessions have gradually increased in duration. The indirect contact played a key role in easing the transition, and the resident parent has been supportive by engaging the child with the letters. As a result, sessions are running smoothly, and both parent and child are enjoying their time together.

Overall, families are making great progress, with relationships strengthening and bonds developing. Plans are in place to transition out of the Centre in the new year, with structured steps aligned with court proceedings to support the process.

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Become a 'Secret Angel' and Pray for the Centre!

We'd love for you to join our community of prayer partners by signing up for our quarterly prayer newsletter [here](#). As a 'Secret Angel,' you'll receive a special guide to help you lift up the families who access the Centre, those who have moved on, our dedicated staff and volunteers, and any other pressing needs we feel are close to our hearts.

Your prayers make a meaningful difference, and we'd be so grateful for your support! Sign up today to be part of this important prayer ministry.

Updates

We are making great progress with the Refresh Team's plans for [Vineyard House](#), and our volunteers are prepared to assist with moving equipment in preparation for our first session on 1st February 2025.

Fundraising

We witness heartwarming connections between families and for many financial burdens can create a barrier.

That is where you come in! Your incredible fundraising efforts helps our Centre remain free for every family, removing the financial burden and focusing on what truly matters of joyful connections with their loved ones. By donating or fundraising, you're not just supporting the Centre, you're investing in family smiles and reconnections.

Your efforts big or small:

Sponsoring a family - Families on average attend for 3 months (6 sessions), The total cost is **£365**, which works out around **£61** (per fortnightly session). This figure covers staff time for pre-visits, reviews, communication, and each session being fully resourced and within a venue that is safe and fit for purpose.

Use our **JustGiving page** where you can get your supporters to donate to your event, such as a skydive, 10K run, skipping challenge, mountain climb, walking challenge or hold a coffee morning?

Easyfundraiser - You can shop with 7,000 retailers who will donate to us every time you shop through their site.

Thank you

A huge thank you to our amazing volunteers for their ongoing support in keeping the Centre running smoothly. We couldn't do it without you!

We're also grateful for our long-standing volunteers who have dedicated multiple years to the Centre. Your commitment means the world!

