

## **Child Trust Fund Scotland virtual event: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 7 pm**

I am sure you will be aware that an individual Child Trust Fund account was opened for almost every child born in the UK between 1 September 2002 and 2 January 2011. At the age of 16, they are allowed to take control of their account, and at 18 to access their money.

Unfortunately, very large numbers of young people are wholly unaware of the existence and whereabouts of their CTF accounts, which are being administered by a range of account providers. It is the most disadvantaged who are least aware, most often because they are either 'addressee gone away' or the account was never registered by the family following its opening by HMRC.

Recent feedback from account providers shows that c. 58% of 18 year-old CTF owners have yet to claim their accounts: in Scotland that's already over 25,000 young adults who already risk losing access to their accounts, which are typically worth £1,000 or more.

The Share Foundation ([www.sharefound.org](http://www.sharefound.org)) is the registered charity which runs the Child Trust Fund and Junior ISA schemes for looked-after young people for the Department for Education. We've set up a programme of large-scale virtual events for young people aged 16-18, and a search process (<https://findCTF.sharefound.org>) linked to the account providers and HMRC, in order to ensure that as many as possible find their accounts. There are no charges – we just want to make the CTF scheme as effective as possible so that money set aside for young people does not end up as dormant assets.

These Zoom-based virtual events are being professionally co-ordinated, with pre-registration and recording, and they run for just over half an hour. They are being arranged with lots of participation, with break-out groups which include our CTF Ambassadors – volunteers who can explain and answer questions. New videos have been produced for the events, which are also accessible on YouTube.

For full details of the events, including links to the new videos, please visit <https://www.sharefound.org/ctf-virtual-events>

A virtual event will be held for Scottish young people on **Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 7 pm**, and we are writing to all schools with sixth forms, special schools and PRUs within the region to ask them to circulate the following registration link to all young people in this age group (16-18):

**REGISTRATION LINK:** <https://www.sharefound.org/scotland-ctfs/>

We do have to limit numbers for the events, but we'll be running them each fortnight going forwards and the registration links for other events is [included in the webpage](#) above. We're also happy for you to use our materials in order to hold in-school events to explain the CTF scheme, and how young people can find their accounts using [findCTF.sharefound.org](https://findCTF.sharefound.org).

Finally, it's also important to build our team of CTF Ambassadors: for a 1,000 young person event, 40-45 ambassadors are needed to avoid the break-out rooms becoming too full. So we would encourage teaching staff to volunteer, by registering on <https://www.ctfambassadors.org.uk/> .