

**The Fostering Network Webinar**  
**1<sup>st</sup> November 2023**

# **Long Term Savings for Children in Care**

**Sue Parsons, Operations Manager**  
**The Share Foundation**

# Topics to be covered

- Who are The Share Foundation?
- Types of savings accounts available and how they are set up.
- Similarities and differences between the accounts.
- How YP can find their account.
- Obtaining unique TSF Reference.
- Contributing to the accounts.
- Financial Education for young people in care.

# The Share Foundation

- Registered charity, operating since 2005.
- Awarded government contract in 2012 to set up and administer Junior ISAs for LAC.
- Contract widened in 2017 to also cover Child Trust Funds (no-one in position of PR).
- Accounts opened in name of individual child.
- Tasked to raise additional donations for the accounts.
- All costs covered by Government or a philanthropist!

# What is the Junior ISA Scheme for Looked After Children

To qualify, they must be:

- Under 18,
- Not born in the UK during the CTF years (01/09/2002 to 02/01/2011),
- UK resident,
- In care, and have been for a continuous period of at least one year in the current care period.

# What is the Junior ISA Scheme for Looked After Children

- Upon receipt of data from LA, The Share Foundation (TSF) will open a Junior ISA (JISA) drawing down £200 from the Department for Education.
- If a YP was born in the CTF years (01/09/2002 to 02/01/2011), but was **not** eligible for a CTF, TSF can open a JISA for that YP. This is particularly common for YP born overseas.
- Earliest age for YP to be eligible for JISA would be 3 January 1994.

# What is a Child Trust Fund

- Long-term tax-free savings/investment account.
- Eligibility – all YP born in the UK between 01/09/2002 and 02/01/2011, where someone was claiming child benefit. It was, therefore, a universal benefit.
- Set up in YP's name, by person with PR or HMRC.

# Child Trust Fund accounts for Looked After Children

- Upon receipt of data from LA, The Share Foundation (TSF) can only locate and become the registered contact for accounts where there is no-one in a position of parental responsibility.
- If a YP was born in the CTF years (01/09/2002 to 02/01/2011), but was **not** eligible for a CTF, TSF can open a JISA for that YP. This is particularly common for YP born overseas.

# Junior ISA and Child Trust Fund

## Junior ISA Scheme

- 1) Opened by TSF for all qualifying young people in care and administration dealt with by TSF.
- 2) Letters sent to YP by TSF via LA at 16 and 17½, as YP can take control of account at 16 – but can only claim money at 18.
- 3) As long as account not moved, TSF can continue to administer donations whilst in care.

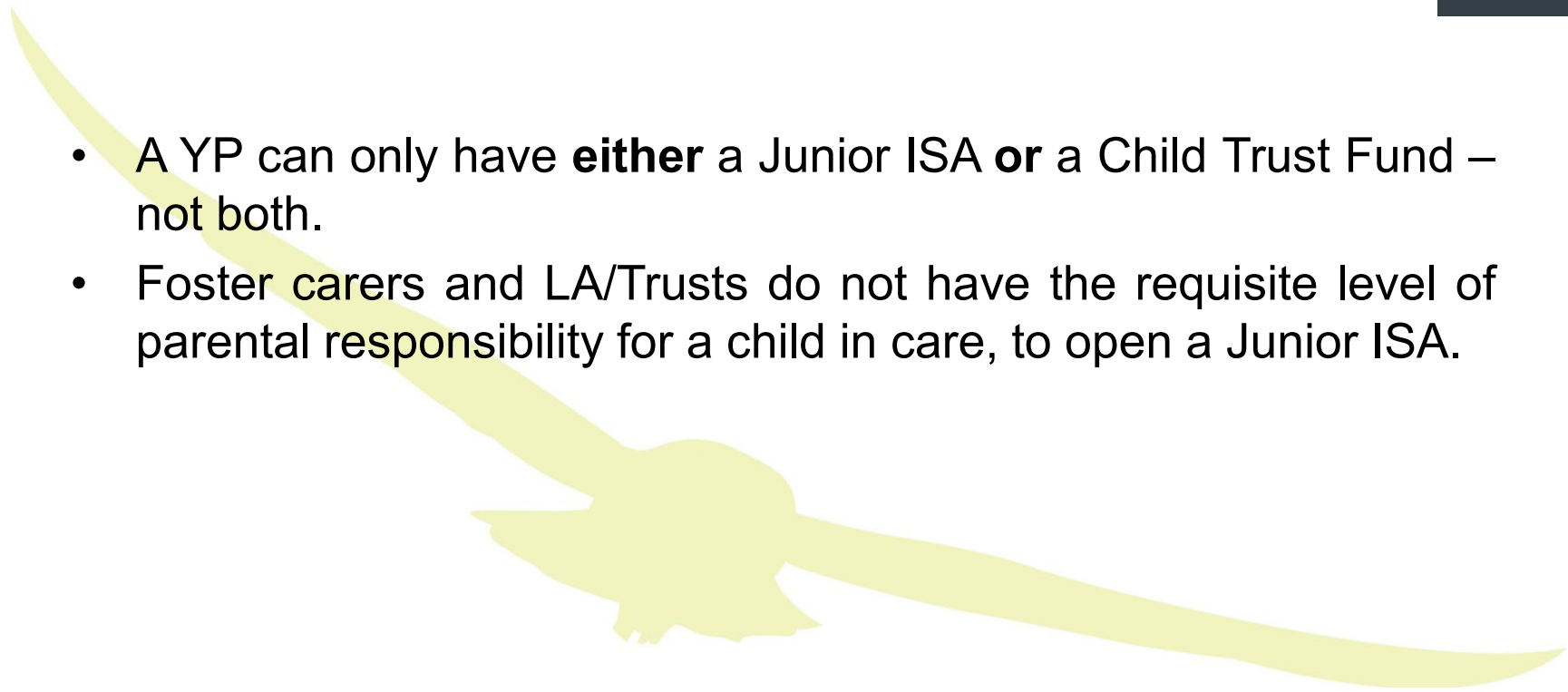
## Child Trust Funds

- 1) Accounts already opened (when YP born) and administration dealt with by TSF for accounts **only** where YP has no-one in a position of PR.
- 2) Letters sent to YP by TSF via LA at 16 and 17½ as YP can take control of account at 16 – but can only claim money at 18.
- 3) As long as account not moved, TSF can continue to administer donations whilst in care.
- 4) Can be converted to a Junior ISA, if this is best advice.



# Considerations

- A YP can only have **either** a Junior ISA **or** a Child Trust Fund – not both.
- Foster carers and LA/Trusts do not have the requisite level of parental responsibility for a child in care, to open a Junior ISA.



# How does a young person in care locate their account?

- The Share Foundation has developed web applications where Young People can start the process of locating their account from the age of 16. They cannot access the money until they are 18.
- There are three separate links to locating an account, depending on whether a YP holds a CTF or a JISA. A YP in care will receive a letter via the LA/Trust at 16 and then again at 17½, providing them with the relevant link.

# Obtaining unique TSF reference

- TSF reference - Importance.
- Obtained from the LA/Trusts. The Share Foundation can provide the contact details.
- Valuation Report – LA/Trusts.
- Why The Share Foundation cannot provide TSF reference numbers.
- Why The Share Foundation cannot administer donations to some accounts.
- How The Share Foundation can help.

# Donations to individual accounts

- Anyone can contribute to a JISA/CTF.
- TSF require an online contribution form to be completed for all one-off donations to individual accounts (refer to link below).
- TSF reference **must** be included on all contribution forms and used for bank payment references. TSF can be obtained from main contact at LA/Trust.
- Regular donations should be made by Direct Debit (refer to link below). Will again require the TSF reference to set this up.
- TSF can only administer donations for 'live' accounts.

<https://www.sharefound.org/account-contribution>

# Contributions to multiple accounts

- This is particularly relevant to local authorities/Trusts and care organisations who are looking to take savings at source and administer directly to multiple accounts via The Share Foundation (TSF).
- On these occasions, TSF would not require a contribution form, but have a simplified process.
- TSF Donation Team are happy to meet with LA/Trusts and care organisations to explain and support the process.
- The link below will also assist:

<https://www.sharefound.org/contribute-to-a-group-of-accounts>

# Financial education programme available from TSF

## **Stepladder of Achievement**

- Six incentivised steps:
  - Literacy
  - Numeracy
  - Financial capability (1)
  - Planning for the future
  - Financial capability (2)
  - Securing future education, employment or training
- Currently open to ALL YP who have been in care for at least one year and are aged 15-17.
- Each step is rewarded upon completion - Up to £1,500 for completing all six steps.

Natasha Richmond – Stepladder Programme Manager

[natasha.Richmond@sharefound.org](mailto:natasha.Richmond@sharefound.org)

# Any Questions?