



Total Insight Theatre receives Co-op Foundation grant to help young people support each other through bereavement

Total Insight Theatre has received a grant of £18,240 from Co-op Foundation to help young people support each other during bereavement. The charity will use the funding to deliver a national online project for young people bereaved during the Covid-19 pandemic, using the arts to safely explore their experiences and help process the impact of bereavement.

Co-op Foundation is Co-op's charity. It helps people challenge inequality and co-operate for change so they can share a fairer future. The Foundation has partnered with Co-op Funeralcare to launch the grants as part of a £3m extension to its #iwill Fund. The #iwill Fund is a £50 million joint investment from the National Lottery Community Fund, using National Lottery funding, and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to support young people to access high quality social action opportunities. The Co-op Foundation acts as a match funder. The Foundation has already awarded over £3m in grants since it first partnered with the #iwill Fund in 2017.

Findings from Co-op Funeralcare's ['biggest ever survey'](#) into death, dying, and bereavement* found that young people are most likely to bottle up their feelings and be excluded from social arrangements when experiencing bereavement. The funding will allow organisations like Total Insight Theatre to run projects to help young people experiencing the challenges of bereavement through peer support.

Adam Tulloch, Chief Executive at Total Insight Theatre, says: *We are grateful for the Co-op Foundation's funding to help us support bereaved young people through this project, which will equip young people with tools and resources to help them process their bereavement. Using the arts to support mental health has been at the heart of our pandemic programme and we are pleased to be able to continue to do so.*

Jamie Ward-Smith, Chair of Co-op Foundation, says: *Our partnership with the #iwill Fund over the past three years has shown the positive impact young people can have when they are given opportunities to take action on the issues they care about. Losing a close friend or family member is difficult at any age, and it can be particularly tough for young people who might be dealing with other pressures at home, at school or in their social lives. Grants announced today will empower young people to help others going through similar experiences to build their confidence, skills and sense of belonging. And by recommending how others can support bereaved young people better, they can make a long-term difference for their peers.*

Sam Tyrer, Managing Director at Co-op Funeralcare comments: *At Co-op Funeralcare, we understand how experiencing a bereavement can have a major impact on the life of an individual, and this is even more pronounced when it happens at a young age. Bereavement is unique to every person, and everyone chooses to deal with the loss of a loved one in different ways. It's a long process, but the long-term support of others is essential when trying to overcome the hurdles grief entails. Co-op Funeralcare has seen first-hand the importance of support groups within the community and we are honoured to be part of this crucial initiative.*

The Co-op Foundation will launch further rounds of #iwill Fund grants in 2021, focusing on how learning from across their #iwill Fund can be embedded into other community organisations.

Subscribe to the Co-op Foundation blog to find out first when funding applications open:

www.coopfoundation.org.uk/blog



Notes to Editors

* [Making peace with death: National attitudes to death, dying and bereavement](#) is a report from Co-op Funeralcare, which surveyed over 30,000 people to understand the nation's experiences and attitudes towards death, dying and bereavement. The survey found that 16 to 29-year-olds are the age group most likely to bottle up grief, with just under a quarter (24%) saying they 'kept it to themselves' when suffering a bereavement. Young people were also most likely to be left out of social arrangements because of bereavement.

Total Insight Theatre

Total Insight Theatre is an award-winning arts charity with a mission: to increase children and young people's access to the arts, no matter their start in life. The charity's work provides a vital platform for children and young people to be creative, participate, be seen and heard – and develop an interest in the creative arts.

Founded in 2014 by Artistic Director Adam Tulloch, Total Insight Theatre's aim is to deliver social change through the arts, with the goal of inspiring a fundamental change in the number of children and young people benefitting from the arts across the UK.

Working in partnership with schools, referral units, libraries and youth centres, the charity's programme includes theatre, film, workshops and creative hubs that support children and young people.

Total Insight Theatre believes that the arts should have no barriers to entry, and are committed to increasing the number of children and young people benefitting from the arts, today and always.

[Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#)

Co-op Foundation

Co-op Foundation is the Co-op's charity, helping communities UK-wide work together to make things better. Co-op Foundation is the leading charity tackling youth loneliness in the UK. By 2021, its programme will:

- Connect and empower at least 7,500 young people to take action to tackle loneliness
- Strengthen local youth services that provide vital support and opportunities
- Engage at least 25,000 young people in a national conversation that breaks down the stigma of youth loneliness.

Co-op Foundation empowered young people to create the [Lonely, Not Alone](#) campaign to help everyone show they care about youth loneliness.

www.coopfoundation.org.uk

#iwill Fund

The #iwill Fund is made possible thanks to £50 million joint investment from The National Lottery Community Fund and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to support young people to access high quality social action opportunities. The #iwill Fund brings together a group of organisations who all contribute funding to embed meaningful social action into the lives

of young people. The #iwill Fund supports the aims of the #iwill campaign – to make involvement in social action a part of life for young people, by recognising the benefit for both young people and their communities. By bringing together funders from across different sectors and by making sure that young people have a say in where the funding goes – the #iwill Fund is taking a collaborative approach.

#iwill Campaign

The #iwill campaign is a collective effort involving over 900 partners from across the public, voluntary, education and business sectors with a vision to make meaningful social action part of life for 10- to 20-year-olds by the year 2020, wherever they live and whatever their background. The #iwill campaign was launched in 2013 with cross-party and multi-sector support after research into how the business, education, public and voluntary sectors could support young people to engage in social action. The campaign is coordinated by Step Up To Serve, a charity registered in England & Wales (no. 1154588). HRH The Prince of Wales is Patron of Step Up To Serve and the #iwill campaign. For more information, visit www.iwill.org.uk and follow @iwill_campaign.

National Lottery Community Fund

We are the largest community funder in the UK – we're proud to award money raised by National Lottery players to communities across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Since 2004, we have made over 200,000 grants and awarded over £9 billion to projects that have benefited millions of people. We are passionate about funding great ideas that matter to communities and make a difference to people's lives. At the heart of everything we do is the belief that when people are in the lead, communities thrive. Thanks to the support of National Lottery players, our funding is open to everyone. We're privileged to be able to work with the smallest of local groups right up to UK-wide charities, enabling people and communities to bring their ambitions to life.

- [Website](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)

All enquiries, high res images and further information:

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