



DM Thomas Foundation for Young People
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Farnham Play Centre to get new Sensory Room

Challengers, a charity that delivers inclusive play and leisure opportunities for disabled children in the South East, has received funding of £30,000 from DM Thomas Foundation for Young People to develop a sensory room in its Farnham Play Centre.

The room will aid communication, relaxation and mental well-being for disabled children who attend Challenger's Farnham Play Centre.

The children and young people who will use Sensory Room are all disabled, and due to the level of their impairments, they may miss out on opportunities for play that their non-disabled peers take for granted. In over 80% of cases, the children and young people may also suffer with mental illness or social isolation.

The Foundation's grant will be used to refurbish the room and purchase various sensory equipment, which will be used by qualified Play Workers for engaging the children in play and teaching them about cause and effect while also improving communication skills.

Simon Sheehan, Director of DM Thomas Foundation for Young People, said: "We believe that every child should be able to play in a safe and welcoming environment, no matter what their abilities are. Farnham Play Centre's new sensory room will provide disabled children and young people with exciting new experiences that will help them fulfil their potential, and we are extremely proud to make this possible."

Laura Sercombe, CEO at Challengers said: "We cannot thank the DM Thomas Foundation for Young People enough for this incredible donation. Sensory Rooms and play are vital to the development of all children. Challengers are thrilled to be able to re-furbish and update the area at Farnham and be able to offer a high quality space where children can have a fantastic time. "

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Notes to editor

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About the DM Thomas Foundation for Young People

The DM Thomas Foundation is dedicated to transforming the lives of young people. We believe that with the right support, all young people can fulfil their potential. Through our ABLE giving framework, we help young people in the UK and Europe to Achieve their goals, Beat or ameliorate health conditions, Live independent and fulfilled lives and Experience the best that life can offer. Donations are funded almost entirely through the generous efforts and contributions of our corporate partners and the wider community. Since our establishment in November 2000 (as Hilton in the Community Foundation), we have awarded £16 million to a wide range of fantastic projects that support young people.

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