

## **CHAILEY HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

**Chailey Heritage Foundation is a pioneering charity for the public benefit providing education, care and transition planning for young people aged 3-25 with complex physical disabilities and health needs. They are recognised as one of the UK's leading centres for children and young adults with neurological motor impairment such as Cerebral Palsy, and they have a national reputation for work in supporting young people's communication and developing independence through powered mobility. Their aim is to provide a stimulating and inclusive environment where all young people are given every opportunity to make progress towards fulfilment and develop life skills in preparation for adulthood.**

**Chailey Heritage Foundation encompasses Chailey Heritage School, a nationally recognised, Ofsted "Outstanding" 2014, non-maintained day and residential special school, Chailey Heritage Residential, providing full time residential accommodation and short breaks and Futures@Chailey Heritage, a new transition provision and Life Skills Centre for disabled young adults. They recently opened Futures Hub, a complementary day service provision to support the 19-25 year olds in the community who, because of their more complex needs, require specialist support in the form of whole day provision whilst using the facilities of the Life Skills Centre. Since their inception in 1903 as the first "purpose built special school for physically disabled children in the country", they have successfully combined education and medical support. They are unique in that they share their site and work in partnership with Chailey Heritage Clinical Services, part of Sussex Community NHS Trust. This enables children to benefit from totally integrated multi-disciplinary support. Their facilities are not just available to young people from Sussex and the surrounding area, but from all over the UK. Because of a growing demand for 52 week residential provision, they can and do take young people from across the UK.**

**Currently, they have 81 pupils in the school, 42 of whom are accessing their residential services, 20 young adults residing in Futures transition service and 123 young adults using the Life Skills Centre.**

**They have an ambitious strategic plan to extend their facilities and create a modern, vibrant indoor Activity Centre which is large enough for children and young people aged 3-25 with very complex disabilities to participate in a mixture of arts and physical activities. Originally, most of the children could walk & talk. Today all of the children and young adults are wheelchair users with limited speech and limb control and all find it difficult to talk. Most have Cerebral Palsy and complex health needs which means that they require help with every aspect of every-day life. This means they are not able to access services in the community as they need specialist facilities that meet their needs.**

**They have an existing building urgently in need of major renovation and extension. The Memorial Hall, which was built in 1958 and sits in the heart of the Chailey Heritage Community, is now showing its age and there is a widening gap between the facilities it offers and the needs of our increasingly complex and wheelchair-dependent children and young people.**

**The tour of the premises has been one of the most humbling experiences of my life and the care, attention and love shown to all those young people using the facilities is a great shining example to the rest of humanity. I was extremely pleased to make the presentation of the cheque for £2,500 from the Grand Sovereigns care for children fund. It will be well used and will benefit a small number of those in their care.**