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Children's charity invests in growth with support from HSBC

****** HSBC funding package helps Children's Family Trust to purchase new head office******

****** Charity receives six-figure sum from HSBC to improve and expand its care and services for children ******

Independent charity the Children's Family Trust (The CFT), which provides foster care across the Midlands and North East, is set to grow following the purchase of its new head office in Worcestershire, funded by a commercial mortgage from HSBC.

The CFT, which has provided foster care to 300 children in the past 10 years, has secured a six-figure commercial mortgage to help purchase and establish its first official headquarters. The ethos of The CFT is to provide 'Family for Life' placements to children and young people who could no longer reside with birth families.

The new headquarters provides children and families with a safe and secure environment to meet with their birth parents. The loan has also enabled the charity to take on new members of staff and provide improved services for children in need of care and support.

David Homer, Head of Finance at The Children's Family Trust, said: "Nationally there remains a big shortage of foster carers and we are always on the look-out for prospective foster carers. We strive to provide stable and high quality placements for each individual child. The new head office means that we can now provide better facilities for our staff, carers and children. We've been able to use the additional space for foster carer training, meetings and recruitment panels.

"As well as utilising the new space, we have been able to expand the team. In September, we recruited a Principal Social Worker, a Supporting Social Worker and an Administration Apprentice for the West Midlands region."

Since receiving the funding from HSBC, The Children's Family Trust has updated its five-year business plan. In addition to increasing the number of foster carers and children placed within the trust, the charity has plans to set up a further office in the West Midlands and to open an additional regional office by 2020.

Andrew Willett, HSBC's Area Director Business Banking in South West Midlands, said: "The Children's Family Trust is an ambitious charity with plans to invest for further growth. This funding has enabled them to expand their team and provide quality facilities for their staff, carers and children. We look forward to working with the charity to expand its reach in the West Midlands and beyond."

You can get in touch with us The CFT on 0300-111-1945.

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For further information please contact:

Penny Thorp or Bethany Haller

Direct: 01212652760

Email: HSBCMidlands@grayling.com

Notes to Editors:

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