

PRESS RELEASE

Greenham Trust launches ‘Laptops for Lockdown Learning’ fund to support underprivileged children’s home-schooling

Hosted on The Good Exchange platform, donations will be match-funded up to £250,000 to provide £500,000 for learning equipment across West Berkshire and beyond

8th January 2021 – Greenham Trust has today launched the ‘Laptops for Lockdown Learning’ appeal to give every child a laptop to learn under lockdown.

Hosted on The Good Exchange, Greenham Trust will match up to £250,000 of donations made to the appeal. Every £1 donated will be matched, with the capability to raise £500,000 to help schools buy laptops and tablets for disadvantaged children to learn from so they don’t fall behind during lockdown. While the campaign initially serves local children in Greenham Trust area of operation - the West Berkshire and north Hampshire region, it is expected The Good Exchange will also attract other funders, corporates and the wider community onto the platform and possibly extend to create other similar programmes in other areas of the UK.

Approximately 9% of children in the UK – between 1.1 million and 1.8 million – do not have access to a laptop, desktop or tablet at home, according to Ofcom. The majority of pupils in need have had to either use parents’ mobile phones (which are often on pay as you go and can cost up to £100 a day to access data), share devices with siblings who are also learning remotely or have gone without access to any device at all.

This means hundreds of thousands of children from poorer communities, already at a huge disadvantage to their wealthier peers in terms of gaps with educational attainment, are missing out on core education, interaction with teachers and peers and critically the preparation they need to improve their life chances.

Greenham Trust has in fact already received applications from a number of local primary and secondary schools requesting funding for laptops and IT equipment to enable their pupils in need to learn at home. Based on figures from West Berkshire Council the likely number of families requiring support across primary and secondary education in this area alone is 2,700-3,000.

“The pandemic has shone a stark light on the gap in provision for families in lockdown, but we must make sure this gap doesn’t continue to grow”, said Chris Boulton, CEO, Greenham Trust. “Whilst government nationally and locally are working hard to support schools in a quickly evolving situation there is clearly a need to provide additional help. We believe responsibility now falls on the voluntary sector and local community to ensure that disadvantaged children do not fall through the cracks during these difficult times when it comes to education.”

Greenham Trust invites any funders or companies who, would like to support the campaign, to contact Julian May, Head of Collaborative Funding at Greenham Trust and The Good Exchange, julian.may@thegoodexchange.com

To donate to Greenham Trust’s Laptops for Lockdown Learning campaign, visit the fundraising page, <https://app.thegoodexchange.com/project/18560/greenham-trust/laptops-for-lockdown-learning>

About Greenham Trust

Greenham Trust Ltd was founded in 1997 to purchase the former Greenham Common Airbase, and to create and manage the new 150-acre Greenham Business Park. The Trust's principal objective is to use income from commercial property to provide charitable funding for the benefit of the local communities in West Berkshire and North Hampshire. Since its inception, the Trust has supported over 1,000 local organisations, donating over £58 million over the last 20 years. Groups seeking funding can apply online at The Good Exchange: www.thegoodexchange.com.

www.greenhamtrust.com

About The Good Exchange

The Good Exchange is a not-for-profit fundraising platform which makes it easy for charitable organisations to raise money through Greenham Trust, grants from other funders, and donations from the general public. As the only platform to bring together grant-making, donations, charitable projects and fundraising in one place, the automated matching system with its simple single on-line application form has revolutionised charitable giving in its local area, making it more accessible, transparent and collaborative.

<https://thegoodexchange.com/>

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