

Future Gifts

Support generations to come
by leaving Reading Mencap a gift
in your will



Reading **mencap**



The local voice of learning disability



Leave the gift of a brighter future

As the only organisation in Reading supporting people with learning disabilities and their families throughout life, it is essential that Reading Mencap is able to continue providing services to reach every area of need.

Reading Mencap has been providing highly valued services for more than 60 years, from clubs and events to a day activity service and our unique Family Support Service. The demand for our services is increasing and we need your help to meet the challenges ahead.



Your gift will only be used to help people in **Reading**, as we are an independent charity and **separate** from national Mencap.

Without Reading Mencap and our Family Advisers, vulnerable members of our community would be struggling without support to deal with health issues, poverty, lack of respite, inappropriate housing, isolation and inadequate social care provision. In short, they would not be getting the help they need to live independent lives, stay healthy and make their own choices.

“My Family Adviser helps me with my housing problems. I rely on Reading Mencap. I wouldn’t survive without them.”

“I came to Gateway Club because I was lonely and I wanted to get out of the house and meet people. I have made some really good friends.”

“Reading Mencap provide an excellent, much needed and life-changing service.”

Why your help is so vital

Imagine a future where people with a learning disability are valued equally, listened to and included, living free from poverty, fear and isolation.

- There is a growing number of people who are being diagnosed with learning disabilities and autism.
- Covid-19 and the cost-of-living crisis have exacerbated the shocking levels of premature death and health inequalities.
- People with a disability are twice as likely to be living in poverty than people without.
- Accessing statutory services involves ever more complex and confusing processes.
- Isolation is a huge problem for adults with learning disabilities, as around 95% are unemployed.

Case Study: Supporting Liz to overcome isolation

Liz is a 50-year-old who has a learning disability and autism. She is unable to work due to her disability and lives alone in the community without any support. When Liz first made contact with Reading Mencap, she was very depressed, had a large amount of debt and was isolated from her family. For three years she had been living without any heating after her boiler had broken down; she also had no white goods. She rarely left the house and felt unable to mix with others. Our Family Adviser built up a trusted relationship with Liz, helping her with benefit checks, medical and housing issues and writing off her debt. The Adviser successfully applied to local charities to obtain funding for a new boiler and white goods. Liz was then encouraged to start attending Reading Mencap's clubs, where she has since gained a circle of friends.

More recently, our Family Adviser supported Liz to become a regular volunteer at a local museum and a farm. Support from Reading Mencap has increased Liz's confidence and reduced her anxiety. She says, "My life is so much better now."

How you can help us — your options

Family and friends come first. But after you have provided for your loved ones when you are gone, you can also make a huge contribution for future generations by leaving a donation to Reading Mencap in your will.

- *Any amount – even 1% of your estate or a gift of £100 – will help us to create a brighter future for children and adults with a learning disability. We will use your gift carefully, so that it has the greatest impact.*
- You may wish to leave the remainder, or a percentage of the remainder, of your estate once all liabilities, taxes and administrative expenses have been paid, and all other gifts have been made. This is known as a residuary bequest. Such gifts hold their value over time, so may reflect your wishes better.
- Instead, you could leave us a fixed sum of money, or a pecuniary bequest.
- Another option is known as a specific request, which is a particular named item left as a gift in your will.

If you already have a will, you can make a gift to Reading Mencap by using an additional legal document called a codicil form.

All gifts in your will to charity are free from inheritance tax, so it can be a useful way to reduce your tax bill while benefiting a good cause.





Thank you for considering leaving a gift in your will to Reading Mencap. If you have decided you would like to make a donation, we recommend you show your solicitor the specific wording shown here:

“I give the sum of... pounds/I give the residue of my Estate to Reading Mencap of 21 Alexandra Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 5PE (Registered Charity Number 1118287) for its charitable purposes. I further direct that the receipt of the treasurer, director or other proper office of Reading Mencap for the time being shall be a full and sufficient discharge for my Executors or Trustees.”

Please remember that Reading Mencap is a separate charity from national Mencap, so leaving a gift to just 'Mencap' will mean that national Mencap in London will benefit rather than Reading Mencap.

Making a will is the only way you can be sure of making your wishes clear regarding what will happen to your property and possessions after your death. If you are not sure where to start, we can provide you with a list of local solicitors.

The real difference your gift will make

Gifts left to us are very important and enable us to continue our work for people with a learning disability and their families. Past legacies have meant we could replace our old minibus, carry out improvements to ensure our Victorian building lasts for generations to come, and invest in a new day activity service — 4ME Activities. Other gifts have funded tennis and computer lessons and pottery classes. Whatever the amount, every donation enhances quality of life for local people in Reading.

“Reading Mencap does an amazing job. Your understanding of the needs of your members – at an individual level – is unbelievably good, so I know every pound given will benefit someone who needs it in the way they really need it. That helps make giving very easy.” (Donor and family member of a Reading Mencap client.)

FAQs

If I leave a gift in my will, can I change my mind?

Of course. You have the right to change your mind and amend your will without the need to inform us of your decision.

When do I have to make a decision about whether to include Reading Mencap in my will?

You can decide in your own time.

Do I have to let you know that I have included Reading Mencap in my will?

We respect that your will is private, but if you do choose to let us know, we'd love to thank you properly.



Legal terms explained

Beneficiary A person or organisation to whom you leave a gift in your will.

Bequest/Legacy A gift you leave in your will to a person or organisation. There are different types of bequest (see page 4).



Codicil An additional legal document that is kept with your existing will, which explains or adds to it.

Estate Everything you own at the time of your death.

Executors The people you choose to be responsible for administering the terms of your will.

Inheritance tax The tax paid on the proportion of your estate that is over the nil-rate band threshold.

Intestate The term for someone who dies without making a will. In this situation, intestacy rules would decide how your estate is shared out.

Probate Official proof that a will is valid, which must be applied for by your executors.

Residue What is left of your estate after gifts have been made, and liabilities, taxes and administrative expenses have been paid.



Further information

Email futuregifts@readingmencap.org.uk

Call 0118 966 2518

Write to 21 Alexandra Road, Reading RG1 5PE

www.readingmencap.org.uk

Reading Mencap is a registered charity, No. 1118287 and a company limited by guarantee, No. 05976118.

Please note: The contents of this booklet are not intended to constitute legal advice by Reading Mencap and should not be used as a substitute for obtaining legal advice. You should seek your own appropriate legal advice before taking any action as a result of the contents of this booklet.



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