**News release**

13th June 2017

**Lincolnshire Action Trust Needs You!**

**Members of the Co-op are being encouraged to donate to** [**Lincolnshire Action Trust**](http://latcharity.org.uk/) **through the society’s Local Community Fund.**

During the next six months, those in the Grantham area can opt to donate 1% of the proceeds from the sale of the Co-op’s own-brand products and services to the charity’s Young Oasis project.

Established in 2000, the project helps hundreds of young people in the county each year who are affected by their parents’ substance misuse.

Its team of experienced professionals offers support, guidance and encouragement to those aged between five and 18 years to allow them to fully express themselves and begin working through the challenges of their situation.

“Substance misuse can have a devastating effect on the whole family, and often brings feelings of guilt and shame for children,” said Laura Priestly, a support worker for Young Oasis.

“Young Oasis is crucial because it is unique; there is no other support like it available in Lincolnshire for these vulnerable children and without it they would be left to struggle – which could lead to truancy, bullying, self-harm and even turning to illegal substances themselves.

“We help children and young people recognise that the situation is not their fault and work to build up their resilience, self-esteem and emotional wellbeing.”

Following a change to funding in 2016, staff at Lincolnshire Action Trust are now having to seek alternative financial support, such as the Local Community Fund, to enable this important service to continue.

The Chief Executive of Lincolnshire Action Trust, Alison Goddard, added: “We are so grateful to the Co-op for choosing our Young Oasis project for its Local Community Fund.

“The money raised will be vital in maintaining our service offering in the Grantham area.”

Proceeds from the sale of carrier bags will also contribute towards the total for Young Oasis, which exceeded £750 in just four weeks.

The project has been part of the Co-op’s Local Community Fund since 9th April 2017 and members have until October 2017 to donate to the cause.

The five stores taking part are:

* Co-op Food on Ermine Street in Ancaster
* Co-op Food on Dysart Road in Grantham
* Co-op Food on Princess Drive in Grantham
* Geesons Funeral Directors in Grantham
* Co-op Funeral Care in Grantham

To find out more about Young Oasis and to contribute to the project through the Co-op’s Local Community Fund, visit: [membership.coop.co.uk/causes/4466](https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/4466/)

If you or someone you know may be able to benefit from the work of Lincolnshire Action Trust, or if you’re interested in volunteering for the charity, visit: [latcharity.org.uk](http://latcharity.org.uk/)

**Ends**

**Notes to editors:**

* Established in 2000, [Lincolnshire Action Trust](http://latcharity.org.uk) (LAT) is a registered charity based in Lincoln.
* LAT works with statutory and non-statutory agencies to improve the skills and employability of offenders and prisoners in Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Rutland and Leicestershire.
* LAT delivers a proactive and innovative partnership approach to achieve the care, resettlement and rehabilitation of offenders, those at risk of offending and their families.
* LAT identifies client needs and gaps in current provision and designs bespoke services to address them. Services are tailored to the individual and include sessions on advice and guidance, debt and financial advice, accommodation support, employability and family support and disclosure.
* LAT hosts the UK’s only ‘departure lounge’ at HMP Lincoln, which aims to support offenders as they are released. The lounge offers a basic help package to address any immediate needs but can also provide guidance on housing, travel and other long-term needs.
* LAT receives funding from a variety of sources including Children in Need for its [Children’s Support Services](http://latcharity.org.uk/family/family-childrens-support/) at HMP Lincoln.
* LAT delivers SPARC (Supporting People After Remand or Conviction) an assessment service at Lincoln Magistrates Court which addresses the immediate needs of offenders who have been sentenced.
* For more information, visit www.LATcharity.org.uk

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