

PRESS RELEASE

Issue date: 02 Nov 2015



VIDEO SHOWCASING THE AMAZING WORK OF WINNERS LIKE FREDDIE

A determined young boy who founded a specialised physiotherapy centre in Bromley that supports children to walk again has been honoured by Prime Minister David Cameron and featured in an inspirational film.

Freddie Farmer (11), from West Wickham, who was born with cerebral palsy but refused to let it stop him achieving his dreams, was awarded a prestigious Point of Light. Now he's been featured with six other award winners in a film released today on the Point of Light website: www.pointsoflight.gov.uk.

After experiencing difficulties travelling to and from a treatment centre in Oxford he and his grandad Danny Catchesides founded Freddie Farmer Foundation in 2011 to raise the funds needed to create a centre nearer home.

Starting with a small group of family and friends in the Eltham area, the charity managed to raise over £400,000 in just over three years, enough to open the Bromley centre in April 2015 which now boasts state of the art equipment to help mobility for children with cerebral palsy and serious mobility problems.

Its aim is to provide unique and intensive physiotherapy to disabled children, helping them to reach their full potential.

Freddie received his award in June, which recognises outstanding individual volunteers, people who are making a change in their community and inspiring others.

Mr Cameron said: "Points of Light are extraordinary volunteers whose service is making a difference in our community. We've recognised hundreds across the UK, and there are thousands more to find; to thank; to help spread their ideas and make an even greater impact on our society.

"Points of Light really proves something I've always thought to be true – it's not just governments that can change the world; it's people. It's Points of Light whose service shows the very best of humanity, and whose inspiration can help us tackle some of the greatest social challenges of our time."

Karen Smith of Freddie Farmer Foundation said: "It is wonderful that Freddie's efforts have been recognised by the Prime Minister.

"I am so very proud of Freddie and the part he plays in our Foundation."

The Freddie Farmer Foundation physiotherapy centre opened in April, it's the only independent centre of its kind in South East England that provides intensive physiotherapy programmes for disabled children across the region.

The centre supports disabled children aged 3–16 years with cerebral palsy, developmental delay/co-ordination disorders and other non-progressive neurological disorders and syndromes.

For further information about the Freddie Farmer Foundation please contact charity officer Karen Smith on 020 8313 3707, email karen@freddiefarmerfoundation.org.uk or visit the website www.freddiefarmerfoundation.org.uk.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

For more information, image or interview requests, please contact Carol Ann Walters on 020 8289 0460, 07780 703 600 or email carol@cawpr.co.uk

ABOUT FREDDIE FARMER FOUNDATION

The Freddie Farmer Foundation physiotherapy centre opened in April 2015 to provide intensive physiotherapy programmes for disabled children. The centre is one of a handful of independent UK therapy centres offering specialist equipment and therapeutic exercises, supporting disabled children from all over London and the South-east.

To find out more about Freddie Farmer Foundation, please visit www.freddiefarmerfoundation.org.uk