

Steps



"As a family we are so grateful that Intelligent Energy were able to support Steps in creating this vital support group."

Intelligent Energy Charitable Trust first launched in January 2019 with the aim to make a positive impact on the local community it operates within. The Charitable Trust supports charitable and voluntary organisations, local to Intelligent Energy's headquarters in Loughborough, which support and aid amongst others; community groups, young people, sport and lifelong learning.

The Trust currently distributes £100,000 each year and several organisations have already benefited from funding awards, including Steps who were awarded £25,000 in 2020 to help set up a new support service called the Chatter Box sessions.

Steps is a registered charity in Shepshed that supports families with children who have Cerebral Palsy, chromosome disorders including Down Syndrome or other conditions which affect the acquisition of motor skills.

Using Conductive Education, which combines education, psychology and medical science, their goal is to develop the skills the children need to progress and maximise their potential. At the same time, they provide parents with the knowledge, confidence, and strength they need to understand how they can help their child.

Thank you to Intelligent Energy from one of their families:

"Steps have supported my daughter since she was eight months old. They have been a lifeline of support during an extremely difficult period for our family.

"Our daughter, Orlaith, was born with congenital heart and brain defects and required surgery at 13 weeks old. The issues resulting from the surgery have led to a diagnosis of Global Development Delay affecting both her physical and cognitive abilities.

"We have attended Steps' sessions every week for the last 2.5 years and that weekly contact was vital support for the whole family. In March 2020, we were devastated when Steps were forced to close due to the pandemic, all of our support networks had to shut down and the prospective loneliness was terrifying.

"Thankfully, Steps was awarded £25,000 from the Intelligent Energy Charitable Fund to set up a new weekly support group and service called the Chatter Box sessions. These informal sessions were designed to include the whole family and enable them to catch up with other families, share news, achievements, and concerns.

"A focus of the Chatter Box sessions is singing and signing songs with the children which has been vitally important to Orlaith's coordination and language development. She now, at the age of three, has a collection of sounds and words she is able to use to communicate her needs to those around her.

"Without Steps' Chatter Box sessions Orlaith's development and independence would not be as progressed as it is now, and I would not have had the vital support and friendship I needed from other parents in the same position as myself."

To find out more about Intelligent Energy's Charitable Trust and to download an application form visit: www.intelligent-energy.com/about-ie/charitable-trust or email charitable.trust@intelligent-energy.com