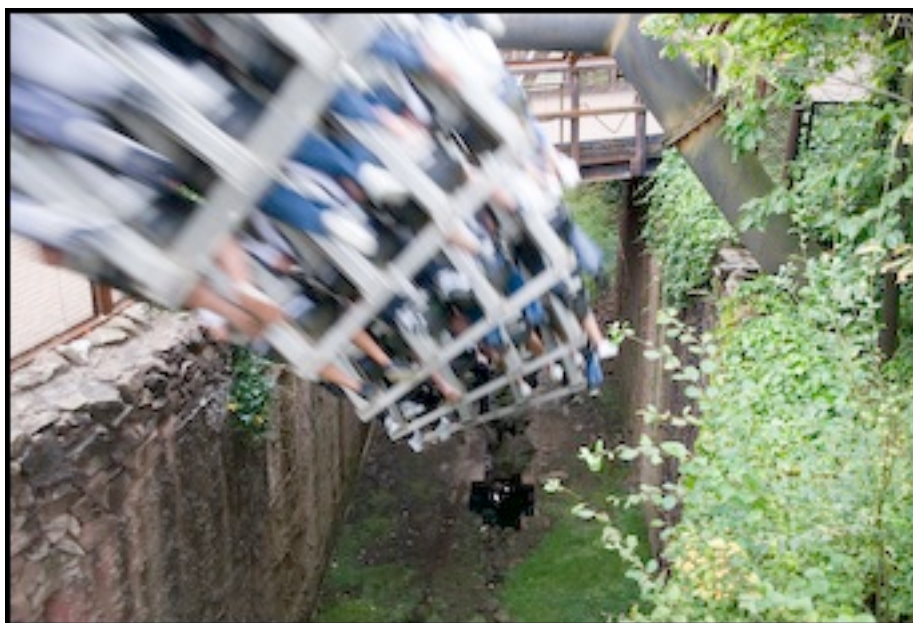


## Premier League Cash Boost for PACT

PACT in Sheffield has received a boost to its funds of £2,000 from the Premier League, as part of the League's flagship community programme 'Creating Chances'.

PACT is one of only 20 runners-up selected by Manchester United in the 'Places for Players' initiative and will receive £2,000 from the Premier League.

The £2,000 will be used to take over 150 children and their families for a day out at Alton Towers.

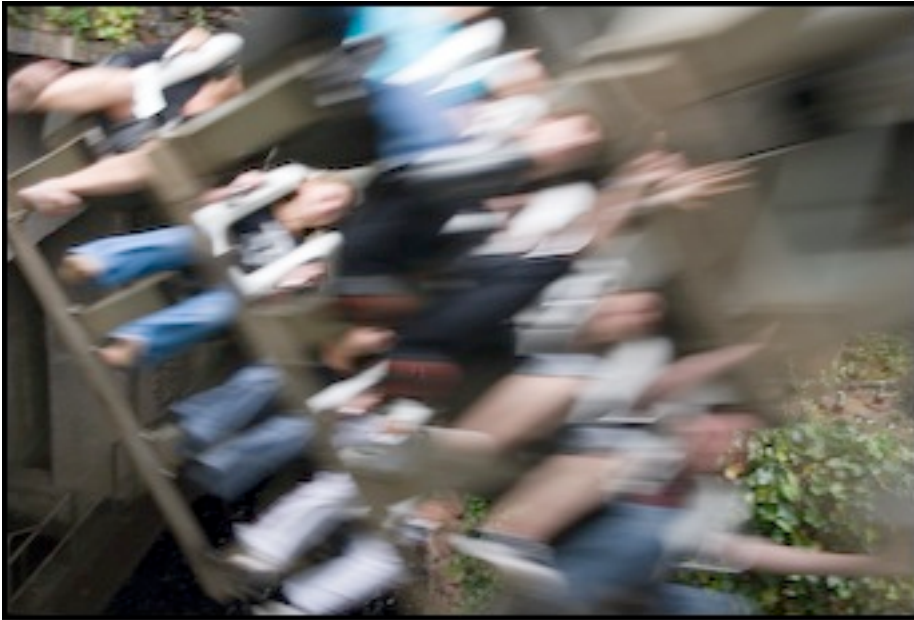


'Places for Players' is the core element of the Premier League's Creating Chances programme. It will involve 200 Premier League players supporting charities and good causes in September with £1,000,000 to be distributed by the Premier League to help raise awareness of the charities' and good causes' work as well as creating fundraising opportunities.

In total, over 500 good causes will benefit from the Places for Players initiative either by players getting involved or from a £2,000 cash donation direct from the Premier League.

Richard Scudamore, Chief Executive of the Premier League, said: "Creating Chances highlights the Premier League and our clubs' continued and increasing commitment to local communities. We wanted to help as many good causes as possible through the 'Places for Players' initiative, and so I hope the £2,000 donation for PACT will help them to continue their fantastic work and in many cases provide a springboard for charities and good causes to achieve their goals."

Beryl Welburn of PACT said : "We're delighted to receive such a generous donation from the Premier League. This fantastic donation will be used to pay for a trip for over 150 of our children and their families to Alton Towers. That gives the families a chance to meet up with others going through the same experience but most importantly it gives them the chance to have a really great day out. I see these children and their families going through such pain every day so a trip like this gives us a chance to alleviate their pain and stress even if only for a day".



### **Notes to Editors**

For further information please contact The Premier League Creating Chances Press Office on 0207 908 6592.

- Creating Chances is the Premier League's flagship community programme designed to support communities and supporters across the UK through a series of initiatives involving the Premier League, the 20 Barclays Premier League Clubs and their players.
- Creating Chances Week of Action will take place from Friday 21 September to Sunday 30 September.
- Places for Players saw a number of players involved being made available via a national application process. UK charities and good causes applied to win a player and the successful applicants were those most deserving recipients who nominated the most unique yet relevant roles for their players.
- Any charity or community programme based in the UK was eligible to apply to win a Premier League player or a £2,000 donation. Sixty winning applicants will have access to a Premier League player for up to four hours between Saturday 15th September and Saturday 6th October. 400 runners-up will receive a charitable contribution of £2,000 from the Premier League

PACT is a registered UK charity (number 508412).

The PACT office address is :

Sheffield Childrens' NHS Trust  
Sheffield Childrens Hospital  
Western Bank  
Sheffield  
S10 2TH

For more information, please contact the PACT office on 0114 272 4570 or email [pact@sch.nhs.uk](mailto:pact@sch.nhs.uk)

1. PACT (Parents' Association of Children with Tumours and Leukaemia) was founded in 1977 - with a donation of £113 - when eight parents created a support group for families whose children had cancer. The charity expanded its remit to include children with leukaemia in 1978 and, as funds were secured, services grew to include new ideas like the provision of equipment and facilities for families.
2. In 1977 a child with cancer had a 55% chance of being alive 10 years after diagnosis. Today that has improved to more than 75%. However the cost of this is often prolonged and intensive treatment and sadly this is not always successful. PACT continues to be an invaluable source of practical and emotional support for children and their families throughout their contact with the oncology unit.
3. In 1990 the idea to provide a home from home for families where they could be close to children undergoing treatment became a major project. A house at Western Bank, only minutes away from the hospital, has 5 en-suite bedrooms and 2 lounges and has been in continuous use since 1998.
4. The outlook for children with cancer has also come a long way since 1977. Then fewer than 60% of children with cancer were treated in a regional centre. Today more than 90% are referred to specialist centres such as Sheffield Childrens Hospital. Although this means that children receive the treatment they need it does mean that many families have to travel a long distance from home for treatment, others spending many weeks in hospital. The PACT house has gone a long way to helping many families by providing a welcome respite from the stress of hospital.