

FUNDRAISER

Firefighters scale building to help Josh

DID you spot firefighters, in full uniform, running up ladders and then down escalators at Cabot Circus on the weekend?

It was no 999 emergency – but they were still answering a call for help.

The firefighters were taking part in a charity fundraiser to help pay for a nine-year-old boy's life-changing operation.

Josh Walters, from Portishead, was born 11 and a half weeks premature which resulted in him developing cerebral palsy.

This condition affects his mobility and while he can walk the youngsters experiences severe pain.

His family are attempting to raise £26,500 to fund a pioneering operation, not routinely offered on the NHS.

Without treatment Josh faces an increased risk of hip dislocations, severe joint problems and arthritis.

It is hoped spinal surgery called Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR) will eliminate a majority, if not all, of his symptoms and prevent side effects in the future.

His parents have set up on Facebook dedicated to collecting money for Josh.

On their page, they say: "Most people know Josh has a condition but you don't see the full extent of it until you see him walking without shoes on, like we do regularly at



home.

"Josh suffers with pains in his feet when he jumps, pains in his calf muscles and ankles when he walks and his hips are already 25 per cent out of his sockets because of the way he walks and his feet turning inwards to give him balance.

"This operation is going to be incredibly hard on Josh. He will have to retrain the way he walks, completely rebuild his muscle strength and work incredibly hard to stretch out his muscles that are unfortunately shortened due to his condition.

"It's going to be a long road to recovery but it's going to give him a new lease of life once he gets there and for that we can't thank you enough. Sending lots of love and thanks from the Operation Josh household."

Anyone wishing to donate should visit www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/just4children/operationjoshmissionsdr



● The premiere for 'What Would You Do?'

Children star at film premiere

HUNDREDS of excited Bristol children are stars of the big screen with a glitzy film premiere in the city.

Children from eight local schools and their parents and carers took to the red carpet at Ashton Gate for the screening of the film about making informed choices and making their community a better place.

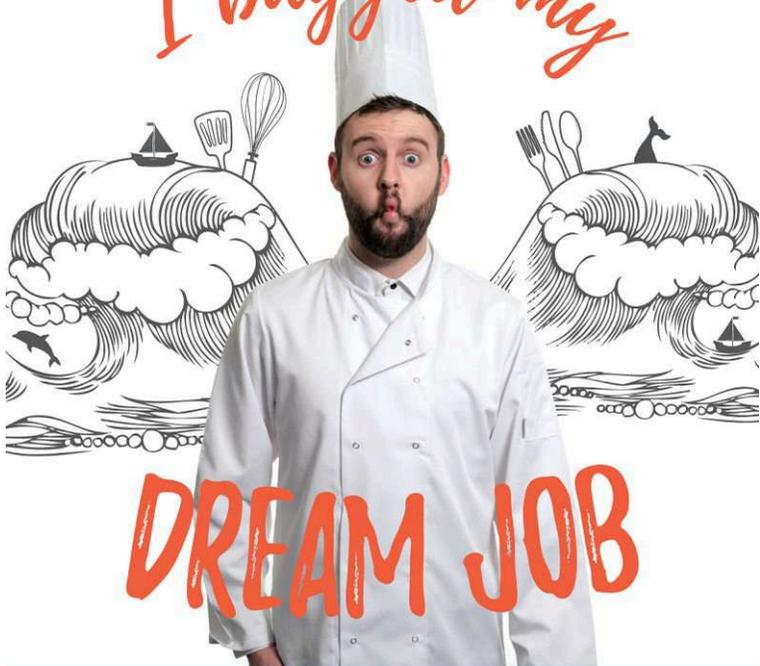
Throughout March, the local youngsters people have been participating in 'What Would You Do?', a school-based programme organised by West Country Crimestoppers in partnership with Avon and Somerset Police and Unique Voice with weekly drama sessions, creatively tackling community challenges and learning

the benefit of reporting to Crimestoppers.

It is the third innovative community project run by the charity Crimestoppers, who once again commissioned Unique Voice to design and implement a programme exploring difficult issues raised by school pupils in Bristol's inner city area.

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Chlo to sacrifice her hair to raise rape awareness

Emma Grimshaw

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A BRAVE teenager, who suffered years of domestic violence at the hands of her older boyfriend, is set to have her head shaved.

Following the traumatic experience, Chlo Winfield, from Clifton, has made it her personal mission to raise awareness for rape and domestic violence victims.

The 19-year-old, who was named as the 12th most inspirational woman living in Bristol in a *Post* poll, has founded a charity called Project Speak Out after experiencing domestic abuse from her boyfriend.

At just 13, she began a relationship with a 16-year-old who became extremely controlling. He subjected her to years of threats of sexual and physical violence.

In one contact between them, he threatened to kill her and told her she deserved to be raped.

She reported him to police, and he was later given an 18-week prison



● Chlo Winfield

sentence, suspended for 24 months and ordered never to contact Chlo again.

Through her charity, the former

Cotham sixth form pupil runs workshops in schools to show how abuse isn't always physical and how anyone can be a victim.

Not content with just establishing her own charity, Chlo's latest feat is to have all her hair chopped off on June 17 to raise money for victims as well.

All the cash raised will be donated to Rape Crisis – a charity Chlo says people know very little about.

She said: "It's quite a scary thing to do. I'll be starting university in September so I'll be meeting lots of new people who will probably wonder about my hair."

"But that's another reason why I'm doing this because it's also a really good talking point."

"Not enough is said or done to help victims of rape. I'm always reading about how hard it is for victims to get a conviction and even then there's loads of stories about judges being really lenient."

"I wanted to do something to support victims and speak out for them."

To donate go to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/chlohead-shave>.