**Become Welcomes New Chair**

Become is delighted to announce that Hugh Thornbery CBE has been appointed the new Chair of the charity.

Hugh worked in children’s services in the statutory and voluntary sectors for more than 40 years, and retired from his last role of Chief Executive at Adoption UK in early 2017. Prior to joining Adoption UK, he held a range of senior roles at Action for Children.

He is a qualified social worker and youth and community worker, and in the 2016 New Year’s Honours he was awarded a CBE for services to children and families. He is also currently Chair of the Board of Trustees for Chance UK.

Natasha Finlayson, Chief Executive of Become, said of the appointment: “It is a great joy to welcome Hugh as our Chair as we celebrate 25 years of being the leading charity serving children in care and care leavers. He brings a huge amount of experience and skill to the role, and I believe that he comes to the table with an in depth understanding of what we are aiming to achieve as a charity, and a historical knowledge of what we have already achieved.

“I am excited for a positive future for the charity as we continue to serve children and young people in care, and young care leavers, in building better lives for themselves.”

Hugh Thornbery, Chair of Trustees at Become, said: “Become has, for a quarter of a century, led the way in being the voice of children and young people in care, and care leavers. I am honoured to have been appointed as the new Chair and I will work tirelessly to help to steer the charity forward so that we can continue to deliver the highest quality of services, advice, and support, to those who need it most.”

In addition to the appointment of Hugh Thornbery as Chair, Become welcomes the appointment of Eliot Lyne – a well-respected charity Finance Director and Chartered Accountant, as Treasurer.

**-ENDS-**

**Notes to editors**

For more information, or to request an interview with Hugh Thornbery, please contact Dominic Stevenson on 020 7017 2781 / dominic.stevenson@becomecharity.org.uk

**About Become**

Since 1992, Become (formerly known as The Who Cares? Trust) has been working to improve the everyday lives and future life chances of young people who are unable to live with their birth families.

Find out more about Become on our website, [Becomecharity.org.uk](http://www.becomecharity.org.uk/) and follow us on Twitter [@BecomeCharity](http://www.twitter.com/BecomeCharity)