Words of a of Our Voice, Our Success member May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023 Visit to interior suppliers in Bicester for the development of the Small Children's Home - Allestree

'We got there and met everyone then Dave gave us a paper that had all the plans of the house. Sophie and I then went around the shop to see what we liked by ourselves as we didn't want interference from the adults. This made us feel powerful and professional. We then went round with the man from the shop and he wrote down all of our choices. We were able to choose everything, we chose a sofa, mirrors, beds, wall art, cupboards, wardrobes, and we picked a fish as the boy who is going to live in the house loves fishing. We had lunch all together on a big, long table and chatted between us all. We said it was very hard to imagine what the house looks like without seeing it. The boy living there had chosen the colours of his room, but we had to choose the bed and wardrobe and we found this especially hard. It was different choosing things for other people and strange thinking of others not ourselves. It did feel like a lot of pressure to try make the home nice although we couldn't imagine it all being together.

After we finished lunch the man from the shop said we had done a good job and thanked us and said for our work we could choose something for ourselves. So, we had a look around the shop. Sophie chose a sign that was Harry Potter "platform 9 3/4" and I chose a sign that said "love me, love my dog".

Everyone was very nice and welcoming. We are looking forward to seeing the pictures of the finished house. We hope that we get to do this again soon.'