

IMPACT REPORT

2019 - 2020

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INTRODUCTION

Chances for Children grants aim to improve the wellbeing of children and young people in poverty and crisis, and increase capacity to engage in education. They do this by paying for items that promote a positive home environment – both in terms of the physical home environment and family relationships within the home – and engagement in social and educational activities outside the home. All grants are individually tailored to the needs of each family or young person, meaning there is great flexibility and variation in what can be funded through each Chances for Children grant. The development of these grants is based on the belief that every child and young person deserves to have their basic needs met; to live in a positive home environment that is equipped to meet their physical and emotional needs; to have access to activities and support networks that promote

wellbeing, emotional development and social development; and to have access to all the things needed to be able to engage in education. The items and activities provided through Chances for Children grants are intended for children to have the chance to thrive in life.

The year 2019 – 2020 saw some big achievements at Buttle UK. We worked with almost 1,000 frontline workers, from nearly 500 agencies, to distribute over £1.5 million in Chances for Children grants, reaching more than **2400 children**. We supported 147 children and distributed £788,892 through our Boarding Chances for Children programme. This would not have been possible without the hard work that has been put into fundraising. 2019-2020 saw us reach the half-way mark towards reaching our Chances for Children Campaign fundraising target. However, since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, we have seen a fantastic response to our fundraising, moving us even closer to our £10m goal. This is thanks to many individual givers, corporate donors and trusts and foundations.





Last year, staff and trustees put a lot of hard work into creating the 2020 – 2025 Buttle UK Chances for Children Strategy. Over the next five years, it is Buttle UK's goal to make sure that:

- We support 25,000 children and young people with our grants
- The voices of children and young people are heard in every aspect of organisational activity
- We are working collaboratively with other grant givers, businesses, and other stakeholders to ensure that every child and young person gets the most possible from Chances for Children grants

- We constantly learn from data available internally and across sectors to develop and improve grant giving activities
- We maintain and develop cohesiveness and utilise the strengths of every team member to progress as an organisation.

Staff are now taking a lead role in ensuring that each of these new strategic pillars is embedded into all activities within the organisation, and we are excited to be able to share the progress we have made so far.

The numbers and stories throughout this report are heart-warming and heart-breaking in equal measure. They highlight the trauma and adversities children and young people in poverty and crisis have to face on a daily basis and the essential items children and young people are living without. They also show how a little really can go a long way; a simple injection of a relatively small amount of money – up to £2,000 – can be life changing for some children and young people. We cannot express our gratitude enough to the parents, children, young people and frontline referral partners who have taken the time to make applications for grants and complete evaluation surveys. Without you, we would not be able to show just how vital and beneficial Chances for Children grants are for children and young people in poverty and crisis.

SUMMARY OF 2019-2020 GRANT GIVING ACTIVITIES

This page provides a summary of our grant giving activities in the 2019-2020 financial year from our Chances for Children and Boarding Chances for Children programmes. You can see our total spend, number of families supported, number of children reached and most popular items and activities awarded, plus a geographical breakdown of awards and spend across the UK.

Total spend: £2,323,103

Chances for Children Grant Spend: £1,534,293

Boarding Chances for Children Grant Spend: £788,811

Total Number of Families Supported: 1374

Chances for Children Grant Families Supported: 1227

Boarding Chances for Children Grant Families Supported: 147

Total number of children and young people reached: 2559

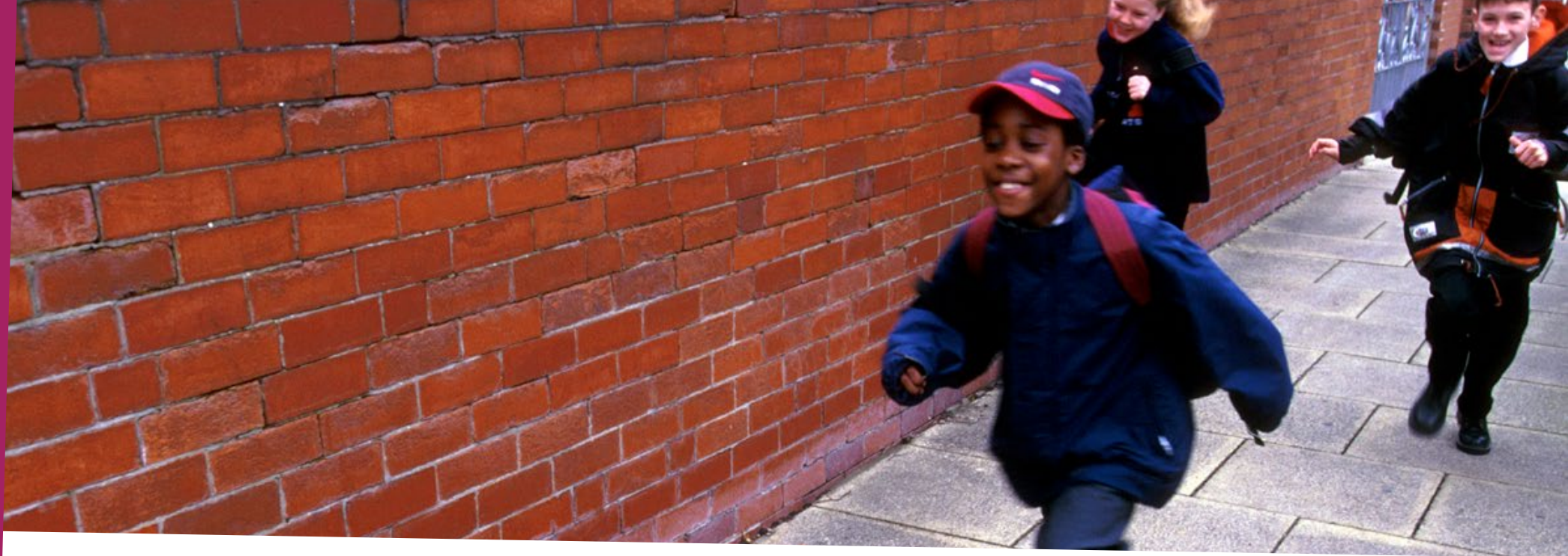
Number of support agencies worked with: 496

Number of frontline workers: 975

PROGRAMME	No. Children & Young People	No. Families	Spend
Domestic Abuse	1,708	733	£977,027
Estranged Young People	325	307	£314,910
Kinship Care	201	97	£127,413
Other	178	90	£114,942
School Fees	147	147	£788,811

LOCATION	No. Families	Spend
London	324	£580,421
West Midlands	180	£283,666
South East	167	£333,235
North West	92	£159,442
East of England	77	£140,936
South West	74	£157,449
Yorkshire and The Humber	65	£109,547
East Midlands	62	£90,259
North East	54	£84,578
Northern Ireland	69	£93,561
Scotland	112	£172,482
Wales	98	£117,527
GRAND TOTAL	1,374	£2,323,103

Note: The figures above are slightly different to those presented in our Annual Report. This is due to the point at which the numbers were generated from the database (allowing for refunds or exchanged items of different value), and how items have been categorised.



The items and activities funded in 2019–2020

Items and activities provided through Chances for Children grants aim to: **a)** ensure that children are growing up in a safe and nurturing home environment, and **b)** ensure that children and young people have access to activities and a support network in the wider community. The ultimate aim of providing support within and outside the home is to promote wellbeing and increase capacity to engage in education.

Items provided within the home can range from educational items like laptops and tablets to household furniture such as sofas and dining tables that allow families to spend time together. We can provide the beds, storage furniture, carpets, decorating materials and furnishings that mean children can have a bedroom that feels like home. We provide white goods and appliances that mean parents and carers are able to carry out everyday household tasks and ensure children are able to have healthy, cooked meals and clean clothes. Due to family circumstances, many children have to move into accommodation without any of their own belongings – we can provide clothes, toys and games to help ensure that

children have things that they can call their own and have stimulating activities within the home.

In 2019 - 2020, £947,594 was spent to provide 4,729 items in the home.

Items and activities provided outside the home aim to allow children and young people to have access to social, educational and wellbeing activities and experiences that other children would see as the norm and do not struggle to access. We can provide the essential items and resources that enable children and young people to attend school. We fund sports, arts and other activities so that children have opportunities to learn extracurricular skills, develop hobbies and engage in social interactions with peers. The family day trips or short breaks that we provide enable families to have quality time together and make happy memories. Finally, for children who are unable to remain at home due to extensive trauma, severe parent physical or mental health problems, or imminent danger in the community due to gang and criminal exploitation, we provide funding for children to attend boarding school. **In 2019–2020, £595,081 was spent on 2,857 activities and items outside the home, and £780,426 was spent on school fees within the Boarding Chances for Children programme.**



Sport, Art, Music & Leisure Activities
1,204 items | **£229,366**



Bed and/or Bedding
878 items | **£154,143**



IT Equipment
861 items | **£231,785**



Children's Clothing
671 items | **£125,577**



Home Appliances
607 items | **£121,128**



Home Furnishing
550 items | **£84,721**



Educational Toys & Books
454 items | **£61,932**



School Uniform & Equipment
456 items | **£67,456**



Boarding School Fees (and some tuition)
147 items | **£780,426**



Storage Furniture
385 items | **£92,629**



Activities for the family
349 items | **£57,039**



Travel Costs
228 items | **£57,793**



Carpeting and Flooring
158 items | **£46,982**



Course / Work Materials
189 items | **£24,196**



Therapy
154 items | **£71,217**



After School Activities
96 items | **£25,012**



Home Decoration
79 items | **£14,668**



Safety and Special Equipment
74 items | **£10,932**



School Trips
46 items | **£9,650**



Moving Costs
12 items | **£3,097**

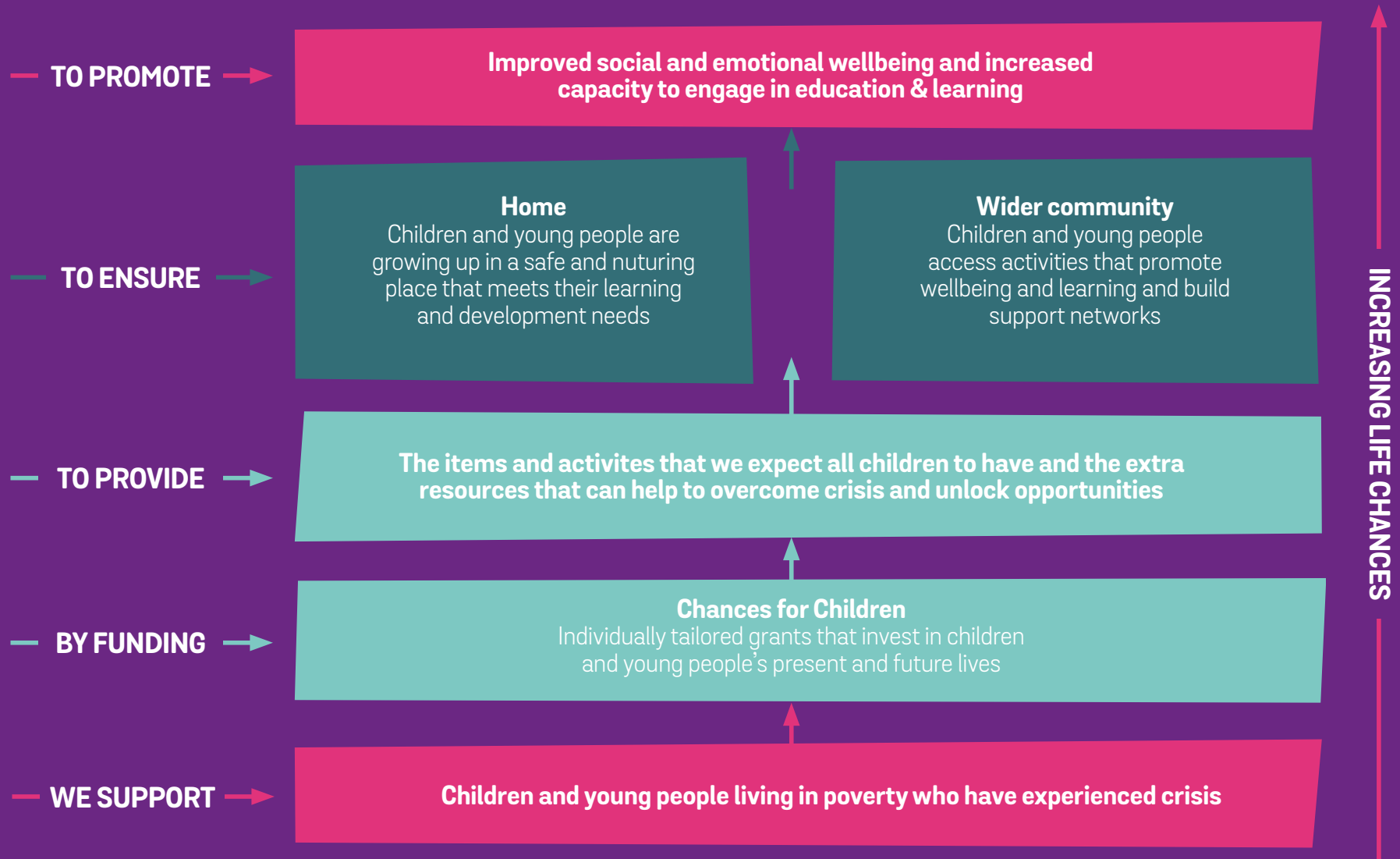


Tuition (not school fees)
135 items | **£53,352**

TOTAL 7,733 items | £2,323,101



BUTTLE UK'S THEORY OF CHANGE



WHO ARE CHANCES FOR CHILDREN'S CORE BENEFICIARIES?

Chances for children grants currently target three core groups: children impacted by domestic abuse, children in kinship care, and estranged young people. These children and young people have particular needs around the key Theory of Change areas (poor emotional and social wellbeing and low capacity to engage in education). Our early testing of Chances for Children grants with these groups also demonstrated that there were definable points in their lives where the support could have real, long-lasting value. Most of these children have had to endure multiple adversities, trauma and hardship. Children have had to cope with parents' and wider family issues, including alcohol or substance abuse, mental health problems, physical health problems or parent/carer learning disabilities. Children have often experienced neglect and physical, emotional or sexual abuse. On top of these issues, children themselves can have their own physical health problems, disabilities or additional learning needs, making their situation even harder.

DOMESTIC ABUSE

These grants support children from 0-18 years of age who have fled and been emotionally impacted by domestic abuse. Many of these families are living in a refuge, temporary accommodation, or have moved into new permanent accommodation, and often

these houses lack the basic items needed to carry out day-to-day activities and live comfortably or securely. Children have had to flee their homes with very few of their belongings and have little financial support in place. Witnessing domestic abuse, being forced to leave home, schools, friends and support networks can have a big detrimental impact on children – it can leave them anxious, withdrawn, angry and sad, and often means that these children miss time in school or find it difficult to attend or concentrate at school.

KINSHIP CARE

Here, grants support children who are in formal or informal kinship care. Due to multiple, complex adversities, these children have been unable to remain at home with their parents, moving in with other family members rather than going into care. Kinship care families do not have access to the same welfare support as children in local authority or foster care, meaning carers often struggle to meet the needs of children; they are often grandparents relying on pensions or parents with additional children to provide for already. The trauma that necessitated kinship care can mean that these children may have mental health, emotional and behavioural challenges and difficulties engaging in education.



ESTRANGED YOUNG PEOPLE

Grants to this group support young people aged 16 – 20 who are unable to remain at home with parents or carers. They are trying to live independently with limited statutory support. These young people have been forced out of their homes due to family relationship breakdown. Many have had to endure adversities throughout their childhood, and these factors often contribute to the young people being forced into homelessness. They may experience poor outcomes as a result of their trauma. Poor mental health, unstable, unsuitable housing conditions and financial hardship can make it difficult to engage in education.

'OTHER' GROUPS IN NEED

Currently, the application process offers an "other" category if initial screening questions suggest that applicants are not eligible within the three categories above. However, we know that this system is far from effective and, in reality, the individuals who fall within the "other" category do so due to a lack of clarity in the questions asked of them. Many have experienced domestic abuse, are in kinship care, or are estranged young people. In the coming year we will be adapting application processes as part of our wider strategy to enhance Chances for Children grants. Through this work we will ensure that the needs and experiences of children and young people receiving grants are better captured and reflected within the data. We will move away from separating applications into the three groups above to focus on trauma more widely.



THE NEEDS AND EXPERIENCES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE RECEIVING CHANCES FOR CHILDREN GRANTS

As outlined under each of the groups described above, there are many situational and outcome risk factors that children and young people receiving Chances for Children grants have experienced. Through some recent work in partnership with New Philanthropy Capital², we were able to group these experiences into four main categories:

- Children and young people's mental, physical and learning needs
- Exploited children and young people
- At-risk adults affecting children's status
- Broad situational risk factors

Most children and young people supported through Chances for Children grants experience at least one issue in every category, often experiencing multiple problems within each category. The table below shows the most common issues resulting in the need for a Chances for Children grant. The most common issues are: child young person with emotional/behaviour difficulties (70% beneficiaries); being isolated or unsupported (52% beneficiaries); experience of homelessness (36% families/young people); debt and poor living conditions (28% beneficiaries).

²<https://www.thinknpc.org/resource-hub/our-analysis-of-covid-19-data-from-butt-le-uk/>

AT RISK ADULTS AFFECTING CHILDREN'S STATUS	
Domestic Abuse	10%
Estrangement	22%
Family Breakdown	22%
Homelessness	36%
Non-Coping Parent/Carer	20%
Parent/Carer Disability /Physical Ill Health	10%
Parent/Carer Drug/Alcohol Problems	9%
Parent/Carer Mental Health Issues	23%
Parental Imprisonment	5%
CHILD MENTAL, PHYSICAL AND LEARNING NEEDS	
CYP Behavioural/Emotional Difficulties	70%
CYP Disability / Physical ill health	4%
CYP Health/Development Problems	17%
CYP Learning or Sensory Needs / ASD	10%
CYP Other Mental Health Issues	17%
EXPLOITED YOUTH	
Care Leaver	5%
Child Abuse	11%
Child in Need / Child Protection Plan	10%
Child Neglect	14%
Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)	4%
BROADER SITUATIONAL RISK FACTORS	
Asylum Seeker / Refugee	9%
Debt	28%
Large Family Size	5%
Poor Living Conditions	28%

CASE STUDIES

The stories below help to illustrate the circumstances of the children and young people Chances for Children grants are designed to support. Names have been changed to protect anonymity.

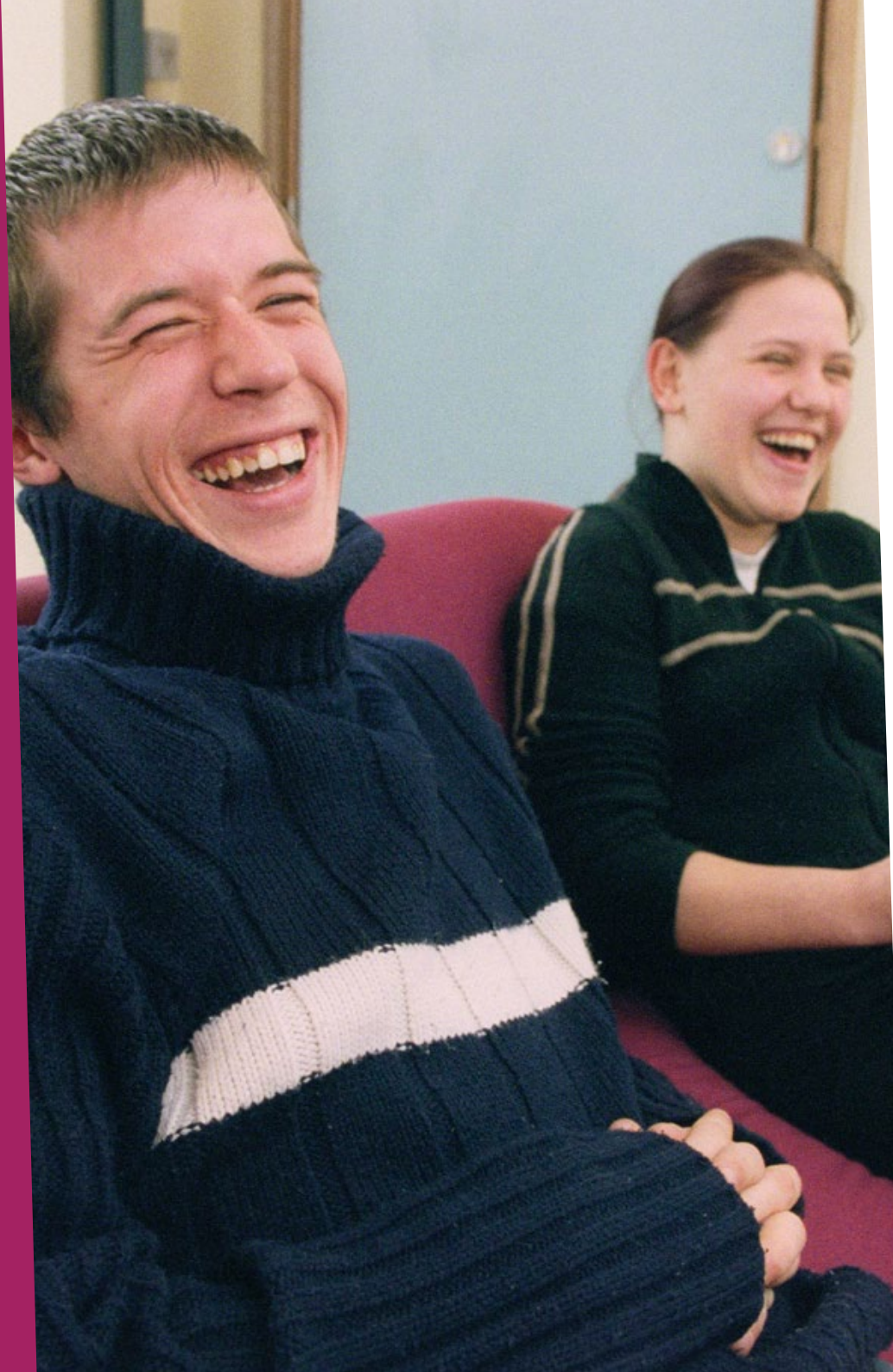
Jack, Victor and Grace

Emma (25) and her three children Jack (7), Victor (5) and Grace (3) have been known to social services since 2016. Emma was the victim of domestic abuse over seven years by the two fathers of her children. Emma experienced financial abuse, coercive control, physical abuse and sexual abuse. These experiences led to Emma experiencing mental health issues, which have impacted her capacity to meet the children's emotional and physical needs. The children have been on the Child Protection Register under the categories of domestic abuse, parental mental health, neglect and non-engaging families. Emma has already made progress, and is now fully engaging with the social worker, and the family have just moved from temporary accommodation into a new home. However, the abuse and neglect has had a negative impact on the children; the two eldest children have been most negatively affected and can display challenging behaviour. Although the family did receive support from the local authority welfare scheme (white goods, beds and carpeting) the home environment remains sparsely equipped. The children have few belongings after fleeing from their home, income is low and the family is in debt.

The family were awarded £1,929 to support their emotional and development, education and housing needs.

The children received toys, books, games, as well as a trampoline and swing set to enable them to play in the garden. They received school uniform so that the children could go to school without standing out from peers, and two tablets so that the eldest children could complete educational activities online. Additional clothes and shoes were provided so children could feel comfortable at home and out in the community. The children were provided with bedding and bedroom storage furniture so that they could feel at home, and a vacuum cleaner, toaster, kettle and microwave were provided to help mum be able to provide daily care for the children.





Callum

Callum (19) was made homeless by his parents at 16 years old due to family breakdown. He spent months sofa surfing with friends before being referred to an agency for support.

This agency have provided supported accommodation and independent living skills training, and a key worker has been working with him over the last two years.

Callum has had no contact or support from any family members since he was 16. He was keen to pursue a career in teaching, and had been working hard in college to do an access course to university.

Financial struggles were preventing Callum from fully engaging in his education. He could not afford the equipment needed.

Callum was awarded a laptop and clothes for college, as well as a bike to enable him to travel to college without the expense of public transport. To support his wellbeing and overall health, Callum was also awarded a leisure centre membership. A few months after receiving this grant, Callum's key worker contacted Buttle UK to say that Callum had been awarded independent accommodation, but that this accommodation was not furnished to meet his needs. With the remaining funds, we were able to provide Callum with a bed, white goods and other items to help make his new house a home.

HOW WE ASSESS THE IMPACT OF CHANCES FOR CHILDREN GRANTS

To understand how Chances for Children grants impact children and young people we send surveys to parents/carers, estranged young people and referrers three months after the grant has been awarded. We then follow this up with an additional survey to parents/carers and young people six months after the grant has been awarded. Through this surveying over the last year, we have gathered data for 540 families and young people after twelve weeks, and 197 families and young people after six months.

It is what families, young people and referrers tell us in their own words that shows us the real value of the grants, so quotes are provided in the following section to support the statistics. Overall, it is clear that items help with more than just one specific outcome. For example, items provided in the home can impact across school and peer relationships; items for school can also support wellbeing and paying for activities outside the home to support wellbeing can also help in the home and at school too.

- **Children's / young person's wellbeing**
- **Children's / young person's engagement in education**
- **Parents' / carers' capacity to cope**
- **Family relationships**
- **The physical home environment**



HOW CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BENEFIT FROM CHANCES FOR CHILDREN GRANTS:

Having beds, furniture, home appliances and other household items means that children are living in homes that meet their basic needs. They can sleep comfortably, play in their bedrooms and sit and eat a hot, healthy meal together as a family at a table. Families can watch a movie or play a game together in the evenings. Children can invite friends into their homes without feeling embarrassed or ashamed.

School uniform and travel means that children are more confident and able to attend school. As a result they feel like they fit in better with their peers. Having a bed to sleep in and a cooker means that children are not too tired or hungry for school. Having a laptop and a desk means that children are better able to complete their homework and less likely to fall behind their peers.

Having activities such as swimming lessons, football clubs, art clubs or drama means that children have something to look forward to every week; they have a hobby and are learning new skills outside of school; they are given the opportunity to socialise and feel included in something with their friends.

Without having to worry about being able to provide the basics for their children, parents are less stressed and better able to cope. Being able to have quality time as a family, both in the home and out on day trips, can help rebuild family relationships that were struggling as a result of abuse and other trauma. Activities provided for children provide respite for the parents, and the opportunity for parents to see their children happy and enjoying themselves again.



THE PHYSICAL HOME ENVIRONMENT

Overall, beneficiaries report great improvements in their physical home environment after receiving a Chances for Children grant. Parents and carers indicate that the support within the home means that children have the items and space for a positive home learning environment. Toys, books and stimulating activities help with learning and wellbeing. Providing furniture and white goods means that the home is better equipped for parents to be able to cook and clean, and that houses feel more like home for children. The items provided through Chances for Children grants mean that children and families can have hot meals, sleep in a proper bed of their own and sit and eat a meal together as a family.

Many parents, carers and referrers noted the true importance of having an equipped home for children's wellbeing, making children feel valued and able to invite friends over to visit. It was common for respondents to note that white goods, children's bedroom furniture and carpets were the most beneficial items in the home. Many of the young people supported through Chances for Children grants are already living in supported accommodation, meaning less items are provided to this group. However, it is common to provide young people with soft furnishings, accessories and additional appliances that make their house more like home. Young people are also often provided with items and furniture that make it possible to carry out their studies within their home, be it a laptop or a desk.

Percentage reporting improvement

OUTCOME	AT 12 WEEKS	A LOT AT 12 WEEKS	AT 6 MONTHS	A LOT AT 6 MONTHS
How the home meets families' basic needs (housework, daily tasks, home safety)	84%	54%	84%	52%
The items and activities within the home for children to play and learn	84%	51%	92%	40%
How the home meets young person's basic needs (housework, daily tasks, home safety)	89%	58%	83%	46%
The items within the home for children to study	95%	73%	89%	59%

“

[The] mattress for my daughter was extremely helpful. She is now able to sleep on her own which is great... [The] dining table and chairs we use daily. We can now have lovely mealtime together [and] also use it for crafts activities. [The] outdoor gymnastics bar is great fun and keeps my little one busy and fit during the isolation period.

“

I am very grateful for the grant we received. I was able to provide educational books for both children... They got Kindles, which helps them with access to books. They both love to read... After moving to [our] current house, I was not able to buy anything for their rooms. Now they have lovely soft furnishings, a small wardrobe, nice blankets and bed covers.

“

The bedroom furniture was brilliant for my son to settle in, he really loves his space to play and I love having better equipment in my kitchen to enjoy cooking again.

“

Getting our house comfortable [helped]. We moved into a shell and had nothing. Buttle provided us with lots of things we needed, mainly carpets which have made our house a home. The kids now play on the floors.

“

The grant helped my children want to bring friends home whereas before they were too embarrassed. There was a lot of conflict with never having money to make the house more respectable to have friends round.

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Beneficiaries experience great improvements in general family wellbeing. After receiving grants, families are more able to spend quality time together as a family and as a result they get along better together. Grant items and activities provided both inside and out of the home contribute to improvements in parental wellbeing and parenting capacity. Having white goods and furniture allows a parents to provide basic care to their children. Not having to worry about where to find the funds to pay for these items can reduce parents' or carers' stress. Having enough stimulating toys and games for each child in the home can reduce arguments between children in the house. Parents report feeling happy seeing their children able to participate in activities and gain confidence. Improvements in parents' coping can have a positive impact on the children in the home. Family days out gives the opportunity to build positive relationships and means that families make lasting, positive memories together.

Percentage reporting improvement

OUTCOME	Percentage reporting improvement			
	AT 12 WEEKS	A LOT AT 12 WEEKS	AT 6 MONTHS	A LOT AT 6 MONTHS
Parents ability to cope	95%	52%	89%	41%
How well the family get along and quality time spent together	94%	55%	92%	42%

“

I can never put into words how thankful as a family we are, we can finally communicate rather than shout at one and other and my children not only have friends come round but ask to have friends stay over.

“

The sofa and chair gave me confidence in my living room. My eldest even comes and sits with us again sometimes. She was always in her room but now will watch a movie and always comes in with me in the evening when the little ones are in bed. We sit together on the sofa and it is lovely!

“

We enjoyed our little holiday, me and the children. It took away all the stress I was under and it brought me and my children a lot closer. We had a lot of fun and it plays deep in our hearts as we have never had a holiday like that before and we talk about it a lot.

“

The grant for the family membership at the gym was hugely beneficial as they now spend time together as a family unit doing family fun activities. They have got to go swimming together and soft play, something which the children only ever got to do before on a very rare occasion previously due to the cost. Mum has also commented how nice it is to see the children with friends in the garden now that they have outdoor garden toys to play with thanks to the grant.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S WELLBEING

Chances for Children grants can lead to vast improvements in children and young people's wellbeing. After receiving the grant, they are reported to be less sad and anxious, display fewer behaviour problems, have improved self-esteem and better relationships with friends. Young people also have lower levels of stress. Being able to attend out-of-school activities improves children's confidence and gives them opportunities to socialise with friends. Having school uniforms, clothes that fit and toys means that children do not feel left out from their peers. Having a better equipped bedroom and home means that children feel safer and enjoy their time at home, and enables them to have friends over to visit. Young people frequently reported that they benefit from having a gym membership – it provides them activities to do outside the home, and improves their physical health and overall wellbeing.

Percentage reporting improvement

OUTCOME	AT 12 WEEKS	A LOT AT 12 WEEKS	AT 6 MONTHS	A LOT AT 6 MONTHS
Children's happiness and anxiousness	97%	54%	89%	36%
Children's self-confidence	97%	54%	86%	42%
Children's physical activity levels	83%	53%	87%	43%
Children's peer relationships	84%	52%	90%	35%
Children's behaviour	79%	39%	82%	30%
Young people's happiness and anxiousness	92%	42%	84%	18%
Young people's self-confidence	90%	44%	86%	20%
Young people's physical activity levels	88%	54%	89%	45%
Young people's peer relationships	85%	36%	94%	24%
Young people's stress	90%	38%	86%	26%

“

Going out on his go kart with his old friends has helped his confidence a lot. His afterschool club really helps with maintaining good relationships with his class peers.

“

The guitar lessons have encouraged him to get out of the house and develop his confidence. This has had a huge effect on his mental health and well-being and nothing extra could have been provided!

“

He got a leading role in the school musical and made new friendships from the musical. I think his friendship circle improved and this contributed to him wanting to attend school more and do well.

“

Being able to participate in out of school activities has improved confidence and increased the children's circle of friends. Funding for after school activities has really increased the older boy's confidence and his ability to make friends. Both boys are really enjoying karate classes, and it has made a big difference to them.

“

All of it! We are so grateful for what we received. I think the best thing is their membership to the leisure centre...seeing them swimming and laughing and not worrying is just priceless.

“

Swimming lessons are very supportive! Also, warm clothes at wintertime helped a lot! The children have got finally their own beds. My oldest son is going to attend the trip at school which he is so happy about! Thank you so much!

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S CAPACITY TO ENGAGE IN EDUCATION

Parents, carers and frontline workers made it clear that many components of Chances for Children grants work to support children's education – laptops and tablets mean that they are able to complete their homework; school uniform means that children are more likely to want to go to school; having a bed to sleep in means that children are not going to school tired; travel costs mean that parents can afford to take their children to school. Young people are able to go to college or work with the travel funds provided, and a laptop gives young people the ability to engage more flexibly in their studies - for example, they can complete coursework in the comfort of their home without having to rely on library computers.

Percentage reporting improvement

OUTCOME	AT 12 WEEKS	A LOT AT 12 WEEKS	AT 6 MONTHS	A LOT AT 6 MONTHS
Children's engagement in education	74%	54%	91%	50%
Young people's engagement in education	96%	66%	92%	68%

“

For the older child who was struggling with anxiety and low school attendance, the opportunity to attend her after school and weekend activity helped her develop in confidence (own abilities and interactions with others) which means that she is attending school regularly and enjoyed her experience. The laptops that were purchased have also helped both girls with their homework and the younger child now looks forward to completing projects as she has the equipment needed.

“

My son and daughter can use the laptop for homework instead of using my phone. The school uniforms I will not forget as they all look very smart. I wouldn't be able to afford for all of them.

“

Receiving the grant to purchase a laptop. As a distant learner I had no other electronic device besides my mobile phone to be able to complete my assignments and work

“

The grant allocated to pay for my course fees. I would not have been able to attend college in the first place if not for that.

CHANCES FOR CHILDREN GRANTS DURING COVID-19

When the Covid-19 lockdown began, to ensure that we knew how to best support beneficiaries during what was clearly going to be a challenging time, we wanted to find out from beneficiaries what were the most crucial items they needed. The main issues identified were: being unable to afford basic costs such as food and bills; increasing mental health problems; and difficulties maintaining routines. Many parents said that their children were bored with very limited entertainment in the home, such as not having a working television or a garden to play in. Estranged young people mainly highlighted that Covid-19 has prevented them from engaging fully in education or work, and this has impacted their mental health and finances.

What items would help the most for families during Covid-19?

Families and young people overwhelmingly reported that food was the thing they needed most. Many needed support with bills and white goods so that they could carry out daily tasks. Families also commonly reported that they need more digital equipment so that their children could all engage in homeschooling. They said they could benefit from games and activities to keep children entertained, but also so that families had something to do together. Below shows the percentage of beneficiaries who indicated that they needed specific items during lockdown. Based on this feedback, we introduced a new component to Chances for Children grants - we now provide discretionary payments of up to £250 directly to families to support with food, bills and other essential items, when this is judged as appropriate by the referral organisation. We are monitoring the impact of this and will report further on the impact this discretionary payment has had on children and people in poverty during the crisis.

Families

- 71% - food
- 37% - toys / home activities
- 30% - utilities
- 18% - digital equipment
- 14% - whitegoods

Young people

- 44% - food
- 39% - entertainment
- 22% - clothes
- 22% - utilities
- 22% - whitegoods



How have grant items issued prior to Covid-19 been helpful during lockdown?

Many responses from beneficiaries and referrers have indicated that the items we provided prior to lockdown have been even more crucial and beneficial since the crisis began. The electronic equipment has been crucial for children's home schooling and toys have helped keep children entertained during lockdown. Some also highlighted that children were disappointed about not being able to continue with the extra-curricular activities provided by Chances for Children grants due to Covid-19, or that they were still awaiting some items. This has helped us to see how every item and activity provided through a grant has the potential to promote wellbeing, social development and education. Items such as electronic devices, for example, can clearly be seen to be very valuable in all these areas, and not just a luxury.

“

[The] tablet and laptop allowed children to complete schoolwork and activities at home and speak to friends and family during lockdown.

“

I honestly can't say it was a specific part as it all helped equally to the process of moving home. My son's items have helped massively through the pandemic and it has helped us connect with school, family and friends. The go kart has been an excellent gift from you. We have been able to get out long walks and have been exploring the woods, it's been amazing.



BOARDING CHANCES FOR CHILDREN

The children and young people enrolled in Boarding Chances for Children have experienced many of the same adversities as those receiving Chances for Children grants. Domestic abuse, family members with physical ill health or a disability and parental alcohol or substance misuse are all common. However, whereas our other grants provide support for children or young people within their home, for some children, there are aspects of their home environment that are having a severe negative impact on their wellbeing and education. Support is therefore better provided away from the home.

These children are often displaying the outcomes associated with severe trauma; they are often withdrawn, depressed, anxious, are exhibiting behavioural problems or are having difficulties in relationships with peers. Boarding school simultaneously provides a safe and nurturing home environment and a wider community of support. This ultimately improves children's wellbeing and capacity to engage in education.

“

At school this year Toby* has greatly risen in confidence, which has in turn had a positive knock on effect where his relationships are concerned and also with his peers (he's made some good solid friendships whilst at [school]). Regarding his academic studies, he has achieved so much and has really fulfilled his potential. His enormous efforts, determination and positivity, especially where his future and studies are concerned, are admirable. Toby* can't wait to... continue his journey which has far reaching effects on him and with the family. As he grows in confidence, we believe he will turn the corner with positivity in his surroundings at home too.

“

When she is at school, I know she is safe and I am able to focus my attention on her brother who needs support. It has also strengthened our relationship because when she comes back home from school, we miss each other so spend more time talking as opposed to before.



SUMMER 2019 SCHOOL FINISHERS

The 2018-2019 cohort of students funded through Boarding Chances for Children grants were overwhelmingly successful. These children obtained higher results than the UK national average, and parents report that children and young people's wellbeing and education has greatly improved. A full report outlining the outcomes for the 2019 school year finishers is available on our website. However; in summary:

- **71% of students obtained 5 or more A* – Cs including Maths and English**
- **81% of children had higher self-confidence**
- **76% of children enjoyed school more**
- **70% of children's performance had improved**

A report outlining the impact of Boarding Chances for Children who finished in Summer 2020 will be released in December.

ALL BOARDING STUDENTS

We also monitor the impact of boarding for all children supported as they come to the end of each school year. Overall, parents have indicated how children have made a lot of progress while attending boarding school. They often describe how boarding school has allowed their children 'to be children', without the burden of a difficult home environment. As a result, these children have become more confident, have developed positive relationships with their peers and are generally thriving. They have appreciated opportunities to engage in extra-curricular activities and their overall school performance has improved. In short, they are achieving more than would have been possible if they had remained at home. Many parents noted that children receive excellent pastoral support from schools that helps deal with the trauma they have experienced at home. Boarding can also help parents address their own issues: it can offer parents space and time to look after other children and family members who remain at home. It also helps improve the quality of time that parents do spend with their children when they return home from boarding at weekends or in the holidays.

*Names have been changed to protect anonymity



IMPROVEMENTS IN EDUCATION

OUTCOME	% IMPROVED	% IMPROVED A LOT
Behaviour in class	83%	44%
Behaviour towards peers	77%	49%
Enjoyment of school	84%	55%
Performance and results	87%	51%

“

Adaliya* is performing really well at school. Her Head of Year... has encouraged her to apply to become a School Prefect.

“

She absolutely loves it, is flourishing, has made great friends, doing incredibly well academically. She's having the opportunity of learning an instrument, additional languages, and has made firm friends. All her reports, both academically and pastorally, are excellent. She's really thriving.

*Names have been changed to protect anonymity



IMPROVEMENTS IN CHILD WELLBEING

OUTCOME	% IMPROVED	% IMPROVED A LOT
Happiness and anxiousness	65%	30%
Self-confidence	76%	42%
Physical activity levels	77%	43%
Peer relationships	77%	47%
Anger and disobedience	66%	29%
Empathy	80%	30%
Withdrawal	70%	32%

“

Elijah* has the space away from the ongoing police investigation and recovery of his sister. Being away from this has given him the chance to enjoy his childhood and not worry about the home situation. He has become a much more independent learner and can organise his time much better. Elijah* has cemented his friendships at school and is making the most of all of the boarders' activities which has really helped with his confidence. He was picked to be the house captain due to the positive attributes he was showing.

“

He's the happiest and most confident he's ever been and goes from strength to strength with each term. His self-esteem and confidence is growing because he feels so safe there, which is enabling him to focus on his education and friendships, which also makes him happier when he's at home.

*Names have been changed to protect anonymity

“

Chris* is much kinder to his brother now he doesn't see him very often. He is becoming more thoughtful and aware of other people's needs... developing into a mature and responsible young man.

IMPROVEMENTS IN FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS AND PARENTAL COPING

OUTCOME	% IMPROVED	% IMPROVED A LOT
How well families get along	71%	38%
The quality of family time	71%	21%
Parent stress	76%	38%
Parent happiness	66%	28%
Parent affection	71%	31%
Parent confidence	66%	32%
Parent frustration	70%	25%

“

As Josh* has grown, so have we all. We have all gotten to know each other better, which allows for the situation to be more fluid. We do enjoy doing things together, and especially at present try to do something together as much as we can. Josh's friendships have developed further with a few select peers, who I believe are all a good example. This has led to sleepovers occurring at our house, and also away at friends' houses locally.



“

Lockdown has been hard for Elliot* and for us all as a family. [We started off really positively but the reality of us all living in close proximity together and having children with such different needs has been really tough. Elliot* is receiving lessons over teams (online) from school and this has kept some routine, but he says he prefers being at school and is missing being there.]

Covid-19 and Boarding

Parents indicated that things have been more difficult for children returning home during the Covid-19 lockdown. In some cases, this environment has made it more difficult for children to focus on schoolwork and has had negative impacts on their mental health. Nonetheless, parents have noted that schools have continued to provide support online to children, and that things have been better at home than before children started boarding. Covid-19 has meant that many of these families are struggling financially, but for some the extra time together has been positive. Many families have had to shield, which has made things particularly hard. We have provided these families with any household or educational items that they have needed over the period through a Chances for Children grant.

Despite the difficulties that families have faced over the last few months due to Covid-19, the year of 2019-2020 was very positive for our Boarding Chances for Children programme. Alongside the excellent GCSE results noted above, this was the first year that newly funded students started at schools that have become official partners with Buttle UK. A new memorandum of understanding between Buttle UK and each partner school ensures that 110% of the child's fees are covered between Buttle UK and the academic institution. This alleviates stress for families, as they know from the outset that the full costs of the placement are covered, which was not always the case before. The extra 10% on top of covering the fees provides funding for items and activities that children and families find themselves needing throughout the year in order to make their experience of the schools as close as possible to all other students. The relationships we have developed with partner schools is helping us make improvements in our evaluation of how boarding can impact on children facing emotional and financial hardship.

This year also saw Buttle UK fund an increased proportion of boarding places through external fundraising activities. Several successful media pieces, including coverage in the Sunday Times and on ITV's This Morning led to Buttle UK receiving donations from members of the public and charitable trusts, to whom we are extremely grateful.

Reflections from Andrew Walters – Grants Development Officer, Boarding Chances for Children

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Each year is different in the type of applications we receive and the geographical areas in which we provide support. 2020 has definitely been the most challenging year to date but also the most rewarding. Due to Covid-19 we have had to change the way we offer boarding grants and the level of support that we give families to make sure they are supported. Homeworking has enabled us to review how we interact with the families we support and how we collect and use data to demonstrate the impact of the programme.

The Buttle UK boarding programme is now in the second year of offering fully supported places at partner schools. We now have a body of 40 schools that understand what we do and why we need places for the young people we support. With this shared ethos, these schools proactively engage with us when families and young people need a little more support and we are able to assist toward this.



HOW CAN CHANCES FOR CHILDREN GRANTS BE IMPROVED?

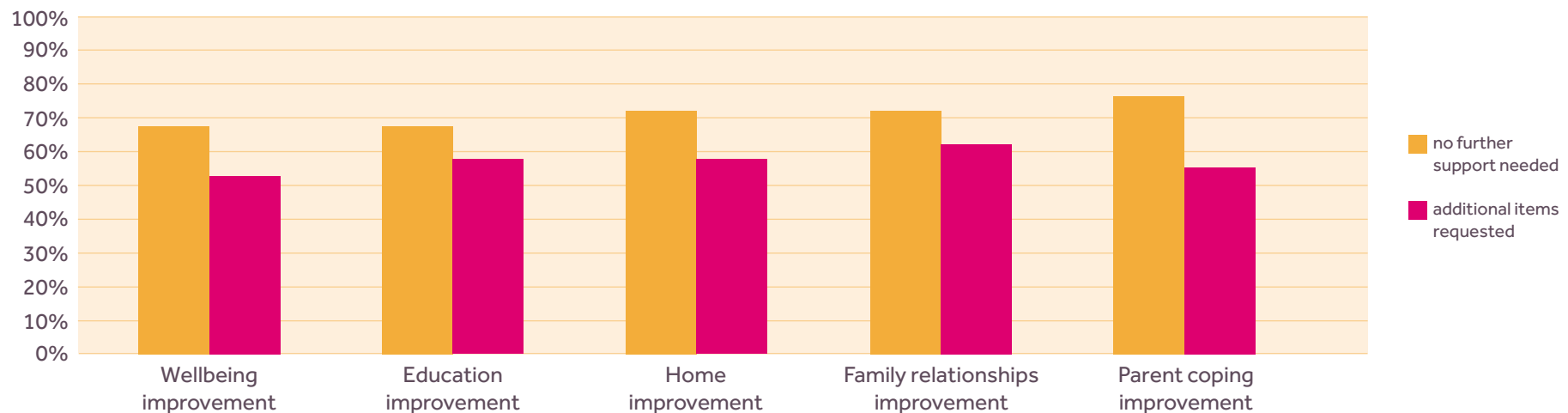
The core purpose of impact evaluation is to understand how we can improve Chances for Children grants. We constantly strive to offer the very best support to children and young people in poverty and crisis. This is the ultimate goal of the new five-year organisational strategy outlined earlier.

We ask beneficiaries what else could have been provided through their grant to better support the key impact areas (i.e. children's wellbeing and education). Over a third (38%) indicate that there are further items that could have been provided within a Chances for Children grant. This has included household furniture and appliances, electronic equipment, clothes, toys and activities for the children, or for activities to be paid for over a longer period of time. These respondents typically report fewer

improvements compared with those who state that nothing else could have been provided to help through their grant.

Some of this may be partly driven by changing family circumstances between the time of receiving the grant and completing the survey, particularly as a result of Covid-19. However, as an organisation we work hard to communicate with referrers to ensure that each and every child gets the most out of Chances for Children grants, and that families and young people have their say in the grants process so that their needs and wishes are reflected in every grant. As part of our new strategy, we are therefore endeavouring to build even stronger relationships between Buttle UK and referral agency partners, to ensure referrers are always fully aware of the flexibility and variety of support that Chances for Children grants are able to offer.

Improvement scores depending on requests for particular areas of support:



Improving evaluation processes to hear more from young people and children themselves

We also want, through our new strategy, for evaluation to better reflect children and young people's voices. Currently, surveys are sent to the parents of younger children, and responses are lower for estranged young people than other groups. We are undertaking a beneficiary-led research project to understand how young people would like to feed back their thoughts and feelings about Chances for Children grants, and are running a pilot project to assess children's own views of grants using arts and crafts. We look forward to incorporating findings from these initiatives into long term impact evaluation activities.

We are undertaking a beneficiary-led research project to understand how young people would like to feed back their thoughts and feelings about Chances for Children grants.

There is inconsistency in ethnic subgroup data collection, which we will be working on in the coming year when updating and improving the grant application process.

Improving data collection to understand and improve ethnic diversity and inclusion in grant giving

As an organisation, we endeavour to ensure that grants are being fairly distributed and that all ethnic groups within the UK are being represented and receiving support. Currently, we recognise that there are limitations in how this information is collected at application, meaning we cannot currently understand who we provide grants to other than differentiating between broad ethnic groups. There is inconsistency in ethnic subgroup data collection, which we will be working on in the coming year when updating and improving the grant application process. Whilst each application is assessed blind to ethnicity, we will use data monitoring to ensure that distribution of grants reflects ethnicity representation in deprivation data and, where necessary, target outreach to organisations supporting the ethnic minority groups that are underrepresented.

Placing Buttle UK support in the context of wider work in the sector

As a grant giving organisation, Buttle UK is keen to learn about its role in supporting children and young people alongside other grant giving organisations. As part of our Collaboration Strategy, we are working in partnership with other grant giving organisations on data-sharing projects to understand where we are collectively providing support, and where there are areas being collectively missed. We have also been working with New Philanthropy Capital on a data sharing project designed to help the charity sector and funders understand need during Covid-19. The work conducted by NPC has been invaluable for helping Buttle UK to think about how to better categorise and collect data (see page 9). Going forward into the next financial year and beyond, we will endeavour to continually improve how we use data to drive strategic grant giving decisions.

We are working in partnership with other grant giving organisations on data-sharing projects to understand where we are collectively providing support, and where there are areas being collectively missed.

FUNDRAISING AND MARKETING ACHIEVEMENTS 2019-2020

Buttle UK launched the Chances for Children fundraising campaign in April 2016, with the objective of raising £10m in five years. In January 2020 we hit the halfway mark to this goal, as a result of the great work of Chances for Children Campaign Board. The foundations built over the previous four years through this work have resulted in an extraordinary response to our fundraising efforts during the Covid-19 crisis, and as a result our £10m target is now within sight.

Trusts and Foundations have continued to be our largest source of income throughout 2019-20. We have seen continued support from longer term funders, such as Comic Relief, the City Bridge Trust, Edward Gostling Foundation and the Clothworkers' Foundation, as well as several new supporters including the People's Postcode Lottery, who made a special award of £100,000 at the end of 2019. Our Campaign Board has continued to play an integral role in establishing connections with new trust funders. Towards the end of the year, trusts and foundations have played a pivotal role in the success of our Emergency Response Fund to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The foundations built over the previous four years have resulted in an extraordinary response to our fundraising efforts during the Covid-19 crisis, and as a result our £10m target is now within sight.

We are grateful to our corporate donors who have been key partners in our work this year. Graphite Capital continues to be a lead funder in our work supporting estranged young people. We deeply appreciate all the efforts of the staff at Billington Group and the incredible gala dinner that was held at the Liverpool Cathedral in support of Buttle UK. We are also very thankful to be chosen as ArgoGlobal's charity of the year, and have appreciated their leadership in many of this year's events including the Rugby World Cup Dinner we held in September, and as lead sponsor of the Italian Job event. Finally, we are very excited to be the charity partner of Dreams UK, and look forward to working closely together with them to grow the Beds for Kids Campaign.

Individual giving is still relatively new within the organisation. There have been a consistent level of donations coming in throughout the year, with spikes occurring during some of our key events. Runners in the Royal Parks Half Marathon raised over £6,000 and we were overwhelmed by the success of the Italian Job, which raised a total of £190,000. Individual donations have been steadily increasing as a result of positive media exposure we have had through the year, including Julian Andre's and Joe's appearance on 'This Morning' in January to talk about Boarding Chances for Children. The Radio 4 appeal was one of our biggest successes this year, raising £50,000 with the help of matched funding from players' of the People's Postcode Lottery. We have been creating plans to invest more in fundraising as part of our 5 year strategy.

There have been a consistent level of donations coming in throughout the year, with spikes occurring during some of our key events.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE BUTTLE UK TEAM

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I have worked as a Grants Development Officer with Buttle UK for four years. During this period there has been a significant amount of change but throughout, the focus has remained on the children and young people. When I started the role, I provided funding for a large number of single item grants for families and a small number of enhanced packages in Northern Ireland. Although the organisational shift to Chances for Children grants two years ago was a period of uncertainty and change, we have now many new faces within the team who bring a fresh energy and a revived sense of purpose. My geographical area has been extended to include the West Midlands, an area I now consider as my second home. This change in strategy provided me with the opportunity to work more closely with a wide range of organisations and support staff that work directly with vulnerable children, and thereby understand each child's life journey and needs. Together, we put in place individually tailored packages of funding which compliments the other support being provided on the ground and therefore has a significant positive impact on the family unit, making them stronger and more able to overcome the many barriers they face. It is an honour to be part of the Buttle UK team. As we grow and help more families, the greater the sense of organisational and personal achievement

Beth McIvor

Grants Development Officer – Northern Ireland and the West Midlands



“

What drew me initially to work for Buttle UK was the fact that they provided bespoke grants that are tailored to meet a child's individual needs. It wasn't 'one size fits all' and it seemed like a real opportunity to make a difference. Now that I'm here, I understand even better the impact of Chances for Children grants. We don't talk about children and young people in general terms; we discuss specific children and address specific needs of some of the most vulnerable children in the UK. What I like the most about my role is the speed at which we can get a grant to a family or young person. When working with a frontline professional who is committed, applications can be made on Monday, and a child/young person can be receiving items in their home by Friday. These frontline professionals are key to the success of Chances for Children grants; it is very much a partnership. They provide the emotional support and guidance a family needs following a crisis, and together we develop a grant package that allow the family the finances to implement changes. Sometimes that just means bringing some normality to a child's life – a bed, a clean school uniform, or the opportunity to join friends at football training. Sometimes it's something more specific – maybe therapy or a musical instrument. My most common question is 'what will make a difference?'. I am always so touched by the calls, emails and cards I receive to let me know the impact the grant has had on a family or young person. I am certain that our grants can, and do, make a difference.

Ffion Haf

Grants Development Officer – Wales, the North West and South West

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Having worked with Buttle UK as an Executive Assistant to the CEO and Senior Management Team since October 2019, I can certainly say that my role has been incredibly varied outside of solely traditional EA duties. I work on our social media channels alongside another colleague, I act as one of the first ports of call from referrers and families, enabling me to either connect them with a Grants Development Officer or signposting them to other organisations, and I additionally assist the Grants Team by editing their database whenever required. During the pandemic, the sheer influx of call volume was incredibly intense, and there was a need for me to work more directly with the Grants Team in helping purchase items for our beneficiaries alongside my normal duties, but I am pleased that my input was able to help more beneficiaries and relieve the pressures within our team. In the coming year, I am excited to see how much our charity is set to grow, and to see how many more struggling families, children and young people we can make a real difference for.

Bernie Doyle

Executive Assistant to the CEO and SMT



CLOSING REMARKS

JOSEPH HOWES, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

I am really excited we are able to share our first impact report with you, and take this opportunity to thank the team at Buttle UK for all their efforts this year.

We collect such a wealth of information on our Chances for Children grants it is critical we consistently analyse it to understand whether we are making the difference we seek. From this we can continue to improve our grant giving for children, young people and families.

I believe the best results are achieved through working closely with others. The impact we seek is only possible by working alongside agencies that offer longer term support. At the same time, we offer flexible financial support that aims to maximise the value of those services. We also want to build packages of support that children, young people and families have themselves helped to create, as they often know what can best make the biggest difference in their lives at a critical moment in time. I hope that as you have read through this report you will come to appreciate - as we do - the power of offering a flexible, bespoke grant in this way.

Covid-19 has brought many new challenges to the children and young people in crisis that we are so energised to support. But it has also brought challenges to way we operate at Buttle UK. We have been quick to respond with changes in the way we process and make grants. At the same time, through listening to what agencies and children need, we have adapted what we fund. This process is ongoing, and we continue to review the data and feedback we gather to develop our approach. For example, we are currently looking at how we can ensure we reach children, young people, and the agencies supporting them, that currently do not realise we exist. By analysing both external data and our own, we will identify and reach out to communities that are underrepresented, so they too can create grants with us.

It seems as though the times ahead of us will be ones of continuous challenge for children and young people. So, we must keep going the extra mile to ensure our support is available to as many of those in crisis that can benefit from it as is possible. Wherever they are in the UK.



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