

Buttle UK Crisis Points Report











April 2016



neighbourhood knowledge management



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Foreword

Frank Buttle's legacy enabled his trust to be formed in 1953. His vision was to help families and, in particular, to ensure that children have their most basic needs met through timely, small and smart interventions to stop them falling in to the most desperate situations.

More than 60 years on, his vision is still alive and being met through our work as a charity and the partners we work with every day. The scale at which we provide this direct funding to individuals and families gives us a unique insight into the circumstances of the most vulnerable children and their families in the UK.

As we launch our inaugural *Crisis Points Report*, the need to tackle this issue is more urgent than ever. Over the following pages you will see that across the country, the picture painted by the statistics we have gathered and analysed is stark and concerning. There are many families and children who are currently at crisis point; people that have exhausted all other routes to help.

As well as it being clear that there is a need, a more complex picture has also emerged, showing that Buttle UK has seen a fall in grant applications in recent years. As government funding cuts continue to have a significant impact on the overall infrastructure of social care provision across the UK, it appears that our traditional source of referrals at a local level is being reduced. This means it is becoming harder to maintain our routes to access the children that are most in need.

This is a hugely concerning trend. But data from our *Crisis Points Report* can help to raise awareness of the problem and begin to reverse it. The data in this report is unique and it is the first time it has been presented in this way. It has been collected from our grant applications, over the last 10 years, received from over 10,000 referring organisations in the UK, ranging from statutory bodies to charities. This data would normally sit in silos within official records. We hope that it will also be a crucial tool for government, local authorities and other areas of civil society to plan for and improve services.

We also have to look forward for practical solutions. That is why we are using this report to inform the launch of our Chances for Change Appeal. The Appeal aims to raise £20m over the next five years to extend our work and its impact, taking forward Frank Buttle's legacy and giving even more children the opportunity to emerge from crisis and thrive.

Buttle UK's work is not about fixing an issue temporarily. Our interventions have a long term and sustainable effect on our beneficiaries. We know from our work and history that we support some of the most resilient, determined and talented young people. All we (and those who support and help fund us) are doing is providing what may appear a modest intervention, something as simple as bedding, a washing machine or the essential tools to enable someone to begin or continue with their career. It is amazing that something as simple as this – that most of us take for granted – can be the spark that turns a life around.

Last year we provided £3.7m in grants to nearly 30,000 children and young people, preventing them from falling into crisis and helping them to achieve their ambitions and potential. But there is much more we could do.

I invite you all to join us in our work, to ensure that all children get the start in life they deserve and the foundations needed to be happy, stable and successful in whatever they choose to do.

Gerri McAndrew, Chief Executive, Buttle UK



Introduction

Buttle UK is, at its heart, a practical and pragmatic charity.

We provide grants to children, young people and their families for the things they need the most, the things that most people often take for granted, the things that will make the most difference between a child falling into crisis and having the basics to meet their potential.

Whether we give a bed to a child who has been sleeping on the floor, counselling to a young boy who has fled an abusive home with his mother or a laptop, so a homeless teenager can start their first college course, our direct, efficient and intelligent grants are always focused on the needs of the child.

These are tough times for many families, and we are still seeing a great number of disadvantaged and vulnerable young people across the UK. We wanted to better understand what was happening to these families and how we could provide them with more help and support. While we collect and review data for every child and family we work with, we knew we had a lot of data which could show us a bigger picture of the state of the nation. We wanted to understand the main drivers of families facing crisis, and where these pressure points were being felt across the country.

We started working with nkm, a research consultancy specialising in analysing administrative data to create detailed, local intelligence, in February 2016. Over the

course of eight weeks, researchers analysed 125,000 grant applications made to us from 10,000 referral agencies between 2006 and 2016. We looked at personal details, household type and location, income and benefits, reasons for applying and problems faced by the child or family. Overall, there were over five million pieces of information in our database to study.

In undertaking this level of analysis and extrapolation on nearly 10 years of our data, we have produced information that has never been collected or collated before – data that normally sits in silos within official records. As such, we are hoping that this data will be a useful tool for ourselves in targeting our resources, but also to local authorities to plan for and improve services. We hope it will also be of use for those people studying policy areas, social need, the causes and effects of deprivation and how we can alleviate these in future.

Our findings, detailed in this report, reveal the location and nature of the highest levels of families in crisis - defined by being on very low income and dealing with complex social issues.

We are grateful to Pears Foundation for their unrestricted grant which made this research possible.



Executive summary

- **Families in cities such as Sheffield, Leeds, Glasgow and Birmingham are most in need of help.** On a broader level the most afflicted regions are Wales, Yorkshire and the Humber, Scotland and the North East, where more than 5 in every 100 families have applied for grants from Buttle UK.
- **Yet a number of Southern and coastal areas are going under the radar for crisis support.** Areas across the South Coast, on the border of Wales and along the East Coast face the biggest difference between expected and actual number of applications after controlling for relative need. The areas with the biggest discrepancy between need and applications are West Berkshire, Great Yarmouth and Reading.
- **Nearly two in every three families applying for grants survive on less than £10,000 each year.** Families applying for Buttle UK grants tend to have an annual income of between £6,000 and £13,000 per annum.
- **Almost half (44%) of applications for grants are made to meet material needs,** with the most common items received being beds and bedding, washing machines, cookers, fridge freezers and children's clothing.
- **Lone parent households accounted for 63% of grant applications between 2006 and 2016 year-to-date.** Two-parent households made up 17% of applications, ahead of estranged young people at 12%.
- **Crisis points often occur in summer.** There is a spike in application numbers during summer months. From 2007-2015, the months of July and August were in the top three months of the year, based on the number of applications, in six out of the nine years recorded.
- **The five main drivers of family crisis are identified for the first time.** Parental problems with physical or mental health, learning difficulties or an inability to cope were reasons cited in 56% of grants, followed by children with health or development issues (17%), young people facing estrangement or isolation (13%), children with behavioural or emotional problems (7%) and those that experience abuse or neglect (5%).
- **The analysis uncovered a number of significant risk factors for these drivers.** Abuse or neglect is five times more likely to be cited in a case if a parent has drug or alcohol problems, the household has unacceptable material standards and there have been incidences of domestic violence. This data could help care professionals better predict and prevent child abuse.

Section 1:

Crisis Points across the UK

Buttle UK is the largest grant-awarding charity to provide financial support direct to individual children and young people. It works with a network of over 10,000 referring organisations across the country, which submit grant applications on behalf of families, children and young people whose needs are not being met through statutory or other means of support.

These grants are designed to provide material help for essential items that will help a family or child on the brink of crisis, such as a washing machine for a family who has been trying to get by since theirs broke or a fridge freezer and cooker so a single parent can plan and cook healthy meals. These direct, efficient and intelligent grants are always focused on the needs of the child.

Grant purpose

Of the 125,000 applications to Buttle UK over the past ten years, 44% were made to meet the basic material needs of families, children and young people. Re-establishing a home was the next highest grant purpose, with nearly 30% of beneficiaries needing help during a rehousing process. One common reason beneficiaries re-establish a home is because they are escaping domestic abuse. Research shows that children and young people who have had to move home because of domestic abuse can experience high levels of anxiety¹. This can be mitigated by a good quality new home environment that they feel positive about. The data showing grant purpose is laid out in more detail below in Table 1, whilst Figure 1 shows the material items we have provided our beneficiaries over the past ten years.

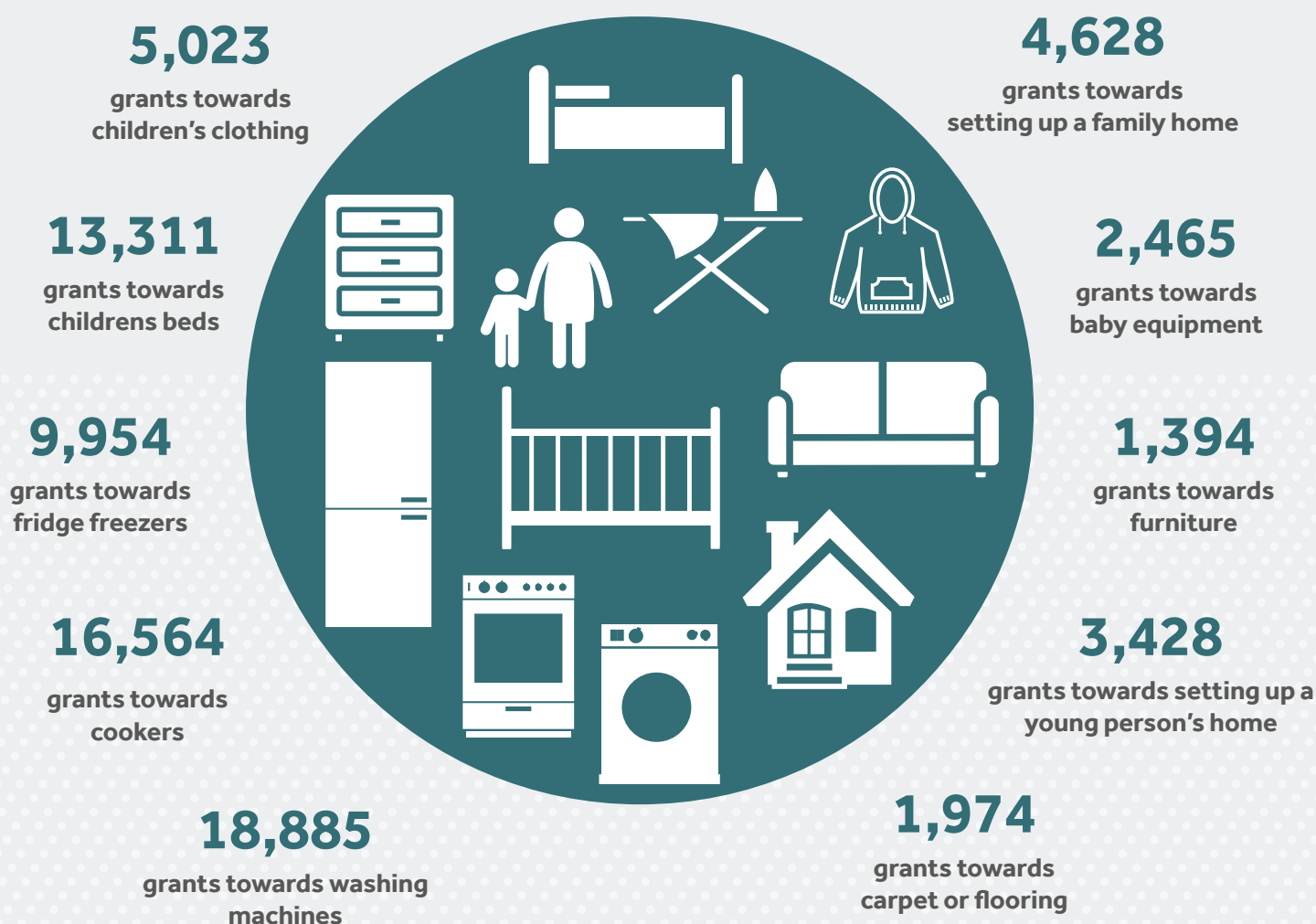
Table 1. Showing Grant Application Purpose

Year	Meeting material needs	Re-housing/ establishing home	Not stated	Other	Total
2006	64.7%	26.7%	2.3%	6.4%	100%
2007	60.6%	28.7%	5.5%	5.2%	100%
2008	47.9%	30.9%	17.6%	3.6%	100%
2009	35.3%	35.3%	26.6%	2.7%	100%
2010	35.0%	29.0%	33.1%	2.8%	100%
2011	33.4%	34.4%	28.3%	3.9%	100%
2012	37.7%	31.1%	27.7%	3.5%	100%
2013	44.0%	28.1%	24.9%	3.0%	100%
2014	49.3%	26.0%	20.9%	3.9%	100%
2015	50.8%	25.1%	20.9%	3.3%	100%
Overall (%)	44.1%	29.7%	22.6%	3.6%	100%
Total applications	55,062	37,059	28,173	4,514	124,808

¹Radford, Lorraine, Ruth Aitken, Pam Miller, Jane Ellis, Jill Roberts, and Ana Firkic. Meeting the Needs of Children Living with Domestic Violence in London. Refuge / NSPCC, November 2011. <http://www.refuge.org.uk/files/onlineDVLondon1.pdf>

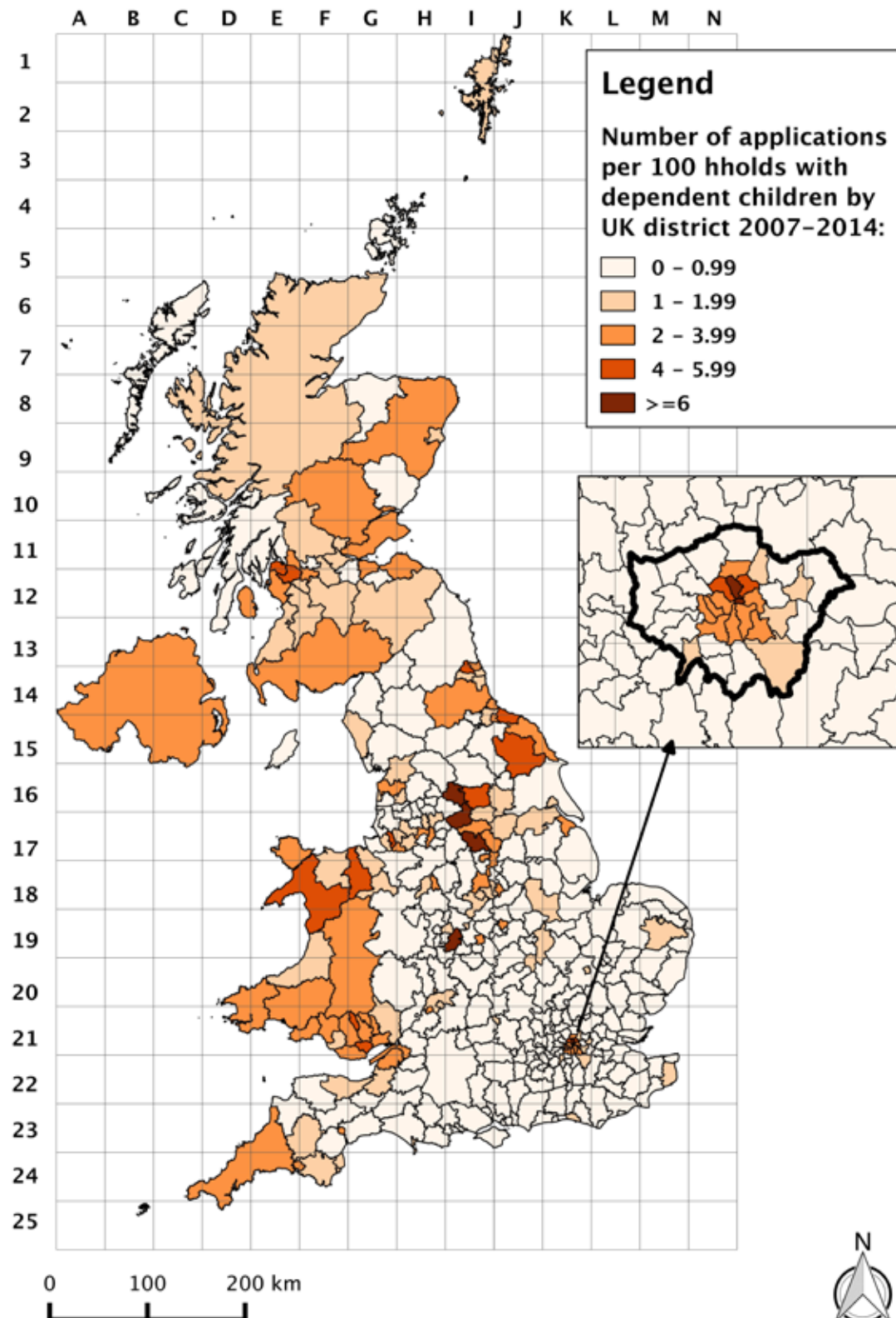
Figure 1.

Since 2006, Buttle UK has given grants towards the following:



Where grants are being made

Figure 2. Buttle UK applications per 100 households with children



Analysis of our application data shows that when looking at the local authority level, families in Sheffield, Leeds, Glasgow and Birmingham are most in need of help. On a broader regional level, Wales, Yorkshire and the Humber, Scotland and the North East saw the highest proportion of applications per 100 households. Figure 2 shows Buttle UK applications per 100 households with children to a district level. The tables (2 and 3) below show the top 20 local authorities for applications and the lowest 20. This pattern of need is what we expect to see based on our previous analysis and management of our grant giving programmes in practice. There has consistently been high demand in these areas for our grants, and we know that this maps to high levels of deprivation in these areas too. However, in commissioning this research we wanted to understand if our grant distribution was meeting need as effectively as it could, in other words to understand if there are areas where it is not being met based on a more detailed understanding of the level of local need. This is explored in the next section.

Table 2. Top 20 local authorities for grant applications

Local authority	Number of grant applications made between 2006 and 2016
1. Northern Ireland *	7467
2. Sheffield	3930
3. Birmingham	3244
4. Leeds	2695
5. Glasgow City	2020
6. Bradford	2015
7. Kirklees	1767
8. Bristol, City of	1633
9. Cardiff	1583
10. City of Edinburgh	1573
11. Manchester	1334
12. Islington	1272
13. County Durham	1240
14. Cornwall	1177
15. Hackney	1155
16. Renfrewshire	1143
17. Newcastle upon Tyne	1090
18. Southwark	956
19. Stoke-on-Trent	946
20. Camden	932

Table 3. Lowest 20 local authorities for grant applications

Local authority	Number of grant applications made between 2006 and 2016
1. Isles of Scilly	0
2. Christchurch	3
3. Hart	4
4. Ribble Valley	4
5. Test Valley	5
6. West Berkshire	5
7. Eastleigh	6
8. Winchester	6
9. Tandridge	8
10. Bromsgrove	9
11. Purbeck	9
12. Allerdale	10
13. Fareham	10
14. Runnymede	10
15. Orkney Islands	11
16. South Bucks	11
17. Uttlesford	11
18. Horsham	12
19. Epsom and Ewell	13
20. Guildford	14

*N.B: Unlike the rest of the UK, Northern Ireland's data cannot be easily broken down into district. It therefore has a disproportionately high number.

Hidden Crisis Points in the UK

There have been extensive cuts to local authority spending in the last five years. These cuts are having an effect on both statutory and non-statutory services.

Local authorities in England lost 27% of their spending power between 2010/11 and 2015/16 in real terms. Services such as planning and 'supporting people' (i.e. discretionary social care with a preventative or enabling focus) have seen cumulative cuts in the order of 45%.²

The changes to the social care sector as a result of this reduction in funding is reflected in our analysis where we have seen a drop-off in referral rates in absolute terms in the following areas: social services and children's trusts, voluntary organisations, tenancy support services, housing associations, children's centres and health services.

In order to determine the areas where children and young people were not being reached nkm, who specialise in analysing administrative data to create detailed, local intelligence, extrapolated our data against official DWP, HMRC, Census and other data to understand where needs were not being met. The methodology employed to do this is detailed at the back of this report.

Table 4. The local authorities flying under the radar (over 2006-2015 period)

	Local authority	Application count	Predicted applicants based on relative need	Difference %
1.	West Berkshire	5	78.7	-1473.1
2.	Great Yarmouth	15	181.3	-1109.0
3.	Eastleigh	6	70.8	-1079.9
4.	Allerdale	10	106.3	-962.7
5.	Test Valley	5	39.8	-695.1
6.	Crawley	15	99.5	-563.3
7.	Tendring	43	283.5	-559.3
8.	King's Lynn and West Norfolk	34	218.6	-543.1
9.	New Forest	24	152.4	-535.1
10.	Barrow-in-Furness	18	105.0	-483.1
11.	North East Derbyshire	19	105.2	-453.6
12.	Lincoln	26	133.9	-415.1
13.	Peterborough	78	394.9	-406.3
14.	Winchester	6	29.3	-389.2
15.	Newark and Sherwood	31	150.7	-386.1
16.	Bedford	43	208.0	-383.7
17.	Wiltshire	115	547.2	-375.8
18.	Isle of Wight	47	216.7	-361.0
19.	Worthing	27	124.3	-360.3
20.	Colchester	57	249.9	-338.4

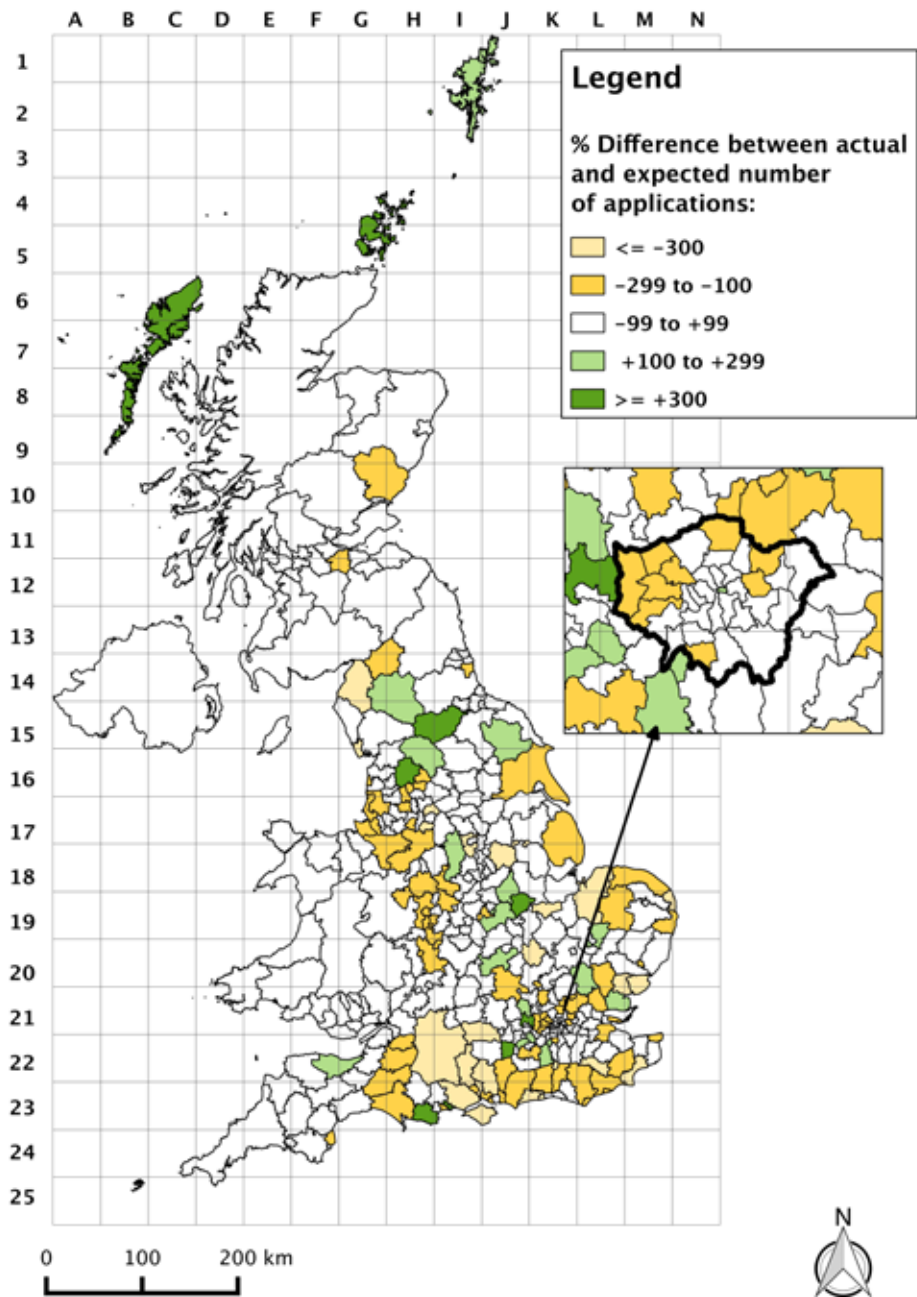
² 'The cost of the cuts: the impact on local government and poorer communities', Joseph Rowntree Foundation, March 2015 <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/cost-cuts-impact-local-government-and-poorer-communities>

The resulting analysis is mapped geographically in Figure 3, which shows the percentage difference between expected and actual number of applications, after controlling for relative need. This produced stark differences to our grant applications map (Figure 2), highlighting areas where there are families and children in crisis, but referrals are not being made.

Focussing on a local authority level, Table 4 shows the areas the analysis flagged as potentially flying below the radar – areas that are indicating a high rate of crisis but a low rate of referrals. The predicted number in the table represents the number of applications that would have been made in the area if the determining factors for awarding had been based on the district level deprivation proxies - in other words - the number of lone parent families and households with children receiving income support over the ten year period. There is no official UK wide data on material need, however, where there is a large gap between predicted and actual applications to Buttle UK, then unmet need is highly probable.

While the analysis presented in Figure 3 tells us that we are broadly reaching the areas with the highest levels of need (the white and light coloured areas where predicted applications and actual grant spend are closest together), the top 10 local authorities where this is not the case indicate areas in Southern and coastal regions (yellow areas). These are not necessarily places we have expected to reach previously, but with this data we need to look at how we can ensure resources are allocated to these areas in future. Detailed analysis on a regional level can be found in the appendices (pg 24).

Figure 3. Percentage difference between actual and expected number of applications



Section 2:

Who are the families in crisis?

This data does not only show where families in crisis are situated geographically and where the need lies. It also gives vital details about the kind of children, young people and families in society whose needs are not being met, and who are lacking some of the most basic items needed to get by.

Family demographics

When we look at the applicant household type we can see the proportion of grant applications by several different types of families: from young single parents, to two-parent homes, grandparents caring for children and even estranged young people. By estranged we mean young people who no longer live with their parents/carers and are therefore living independently.

As highlighted in Table 5, by far the biggest group here are single parents. Buttle UK was founded 60 years ago to help single parents struggling to get by to afford the basics needed to provide a happy home life for their children, and this need is still just as strong today. Lone parent households accounted for 63% of grant applications between 2006 and 2015 year-to-date. Two-parent households made up 17% of applications, ahead of estranged young people at 13%.

Table 5. Showing household demographics

Year	Adopted - family with adopted child	Grand parent + children	Guardian - relatives or friends + children	Orphan living independently	Single parent over 21 + children	Single parent under 21 + children	Two parents, or parent living with partner + children	Young person - estranged, under 21	Not stated or other	Total
2006	0.4%	2.2%	2.1%	0.2%	54.7%	5.2%	14.7%	18.2%	2.3%	100.0%
2007	0.5%	2.1%	1.7%	0.4%	53.1%	8.0%	13.9%	16.4%	3.9%	100.0%
2008	0.1%	2.0%	1.3%	0.3%	50.4%	9.7%	15.7%	12.3%	8.3%	100.0%
2009	0.2%	2.1%	1.3%	0.4%	48.7%	10.2%	17.3%	14.0%	5.9%	100.0%
2010	0.1%	2.0%	1.1%	0.4%	50.7%	10.5%	15.9%	15.1%	4.2%	100.0%
2011	0.2%	2.0%	1.2%	0.3%	49.0%	11.3%	17.0%	15.1%	3.9%	100.0%
2012	0.2%	2.3%	1.1%	0.3%	51.7%	12.3%	17.4%	12.0%	2.8%	100.0%
2013	0.1%	2.3%	1.2%	0.2%	54.3%	11.7%	19.0%	9.3%	1.9%	100.0%
2014	0.1%	2.7%	1.3%	0.2%	55.6%	11.4%	19.1%	8.6%	1.0%	100.0%
2015	0.0%	2.8%	1.1%	0.3%	54.5%	10.1%	18.4%	10.0%	2.7%	100.0%
Overall (%)	0.2%	2.3%	1.3%	0.3%	52.2%	10.5%	17.1%	12.6%	3.7%	100.0%
Total applications	203	2823	1589	378	65118	13079	21351	15705	4562	124808

Income

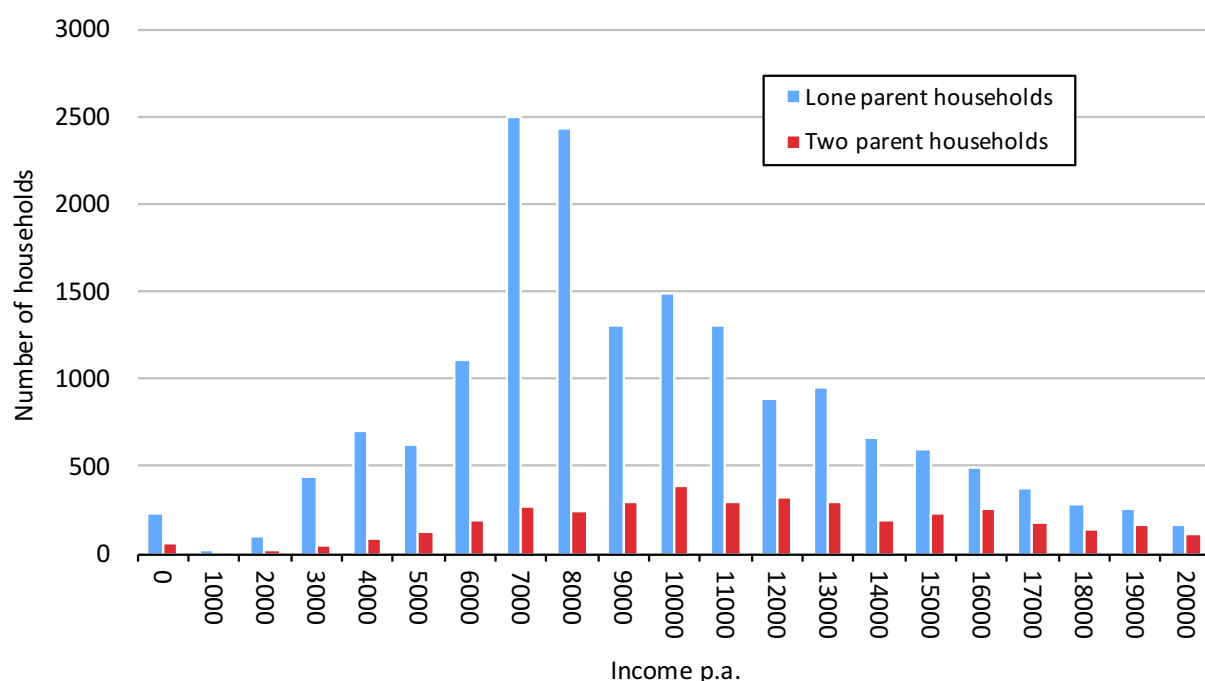
Our application data shows that nearly two thirds of families applying for grants survive on less than £10,000 each year. The data is plotted in Figure 4, which shows a clear spike in income around the modal figure £6-8,000.

Referral seasonality

Over time this data has also shown us a pattern of 'seasonal spikes' in grant applications. While there are the expected lifts towards the end of the year, as periods of financial pressure such as Christmas approach, we have also noticed rises in grant applications during the summer months, as families who receive school support, such as free meals adapt to having children at home for several weeks. This can also affect work and shift patterns as well as result in added expenditure of days out and activities. Figure 5 shows this trend, with spikes in applications particularly pronounced during the summer months. From 2007-2015, the months of July and August were in the top three months of the year for applications, in six out of the nine years recorded.

This is not an undocumented situation. It is widely known that school holidays put low income families under particular pressure. Research from YouGov and Kellogg's last year showed that term time breaks put an extra burden on the food budget of a third of parents in the UK - with as many as 19% of parents struggling to feed their children three meals a day³. In addition, the Trussell Trust reported in 2014 that it had 20,000 more referrals to its foodbanks during the summer, compared with the previous three months that year⁴. Our grants ensure that when called upon by families in such crises, the basics are provided.

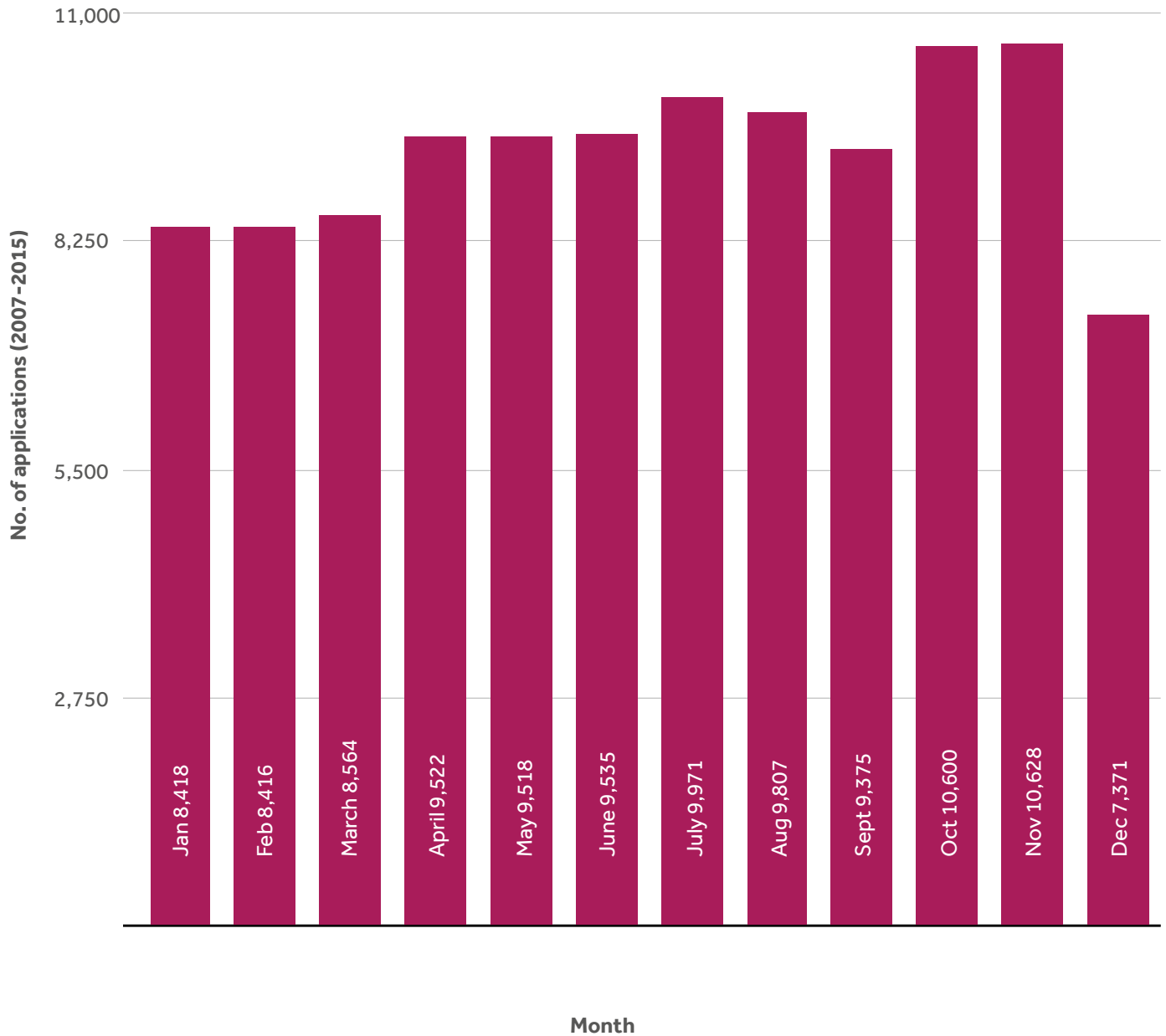
Figure 4. Showing household applications by annual income



³Isolation and Hunger: the reality of the school holidays for struggling families, YouGov and Kellogg's, 2015

⁴<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/food-charities-braced-for-a-busy-summer-with-more-children-than-ever-set-to-go-hungry-10318280.html>

Figure 5. Grants applications by month



Section 3:

The five crisis drivers

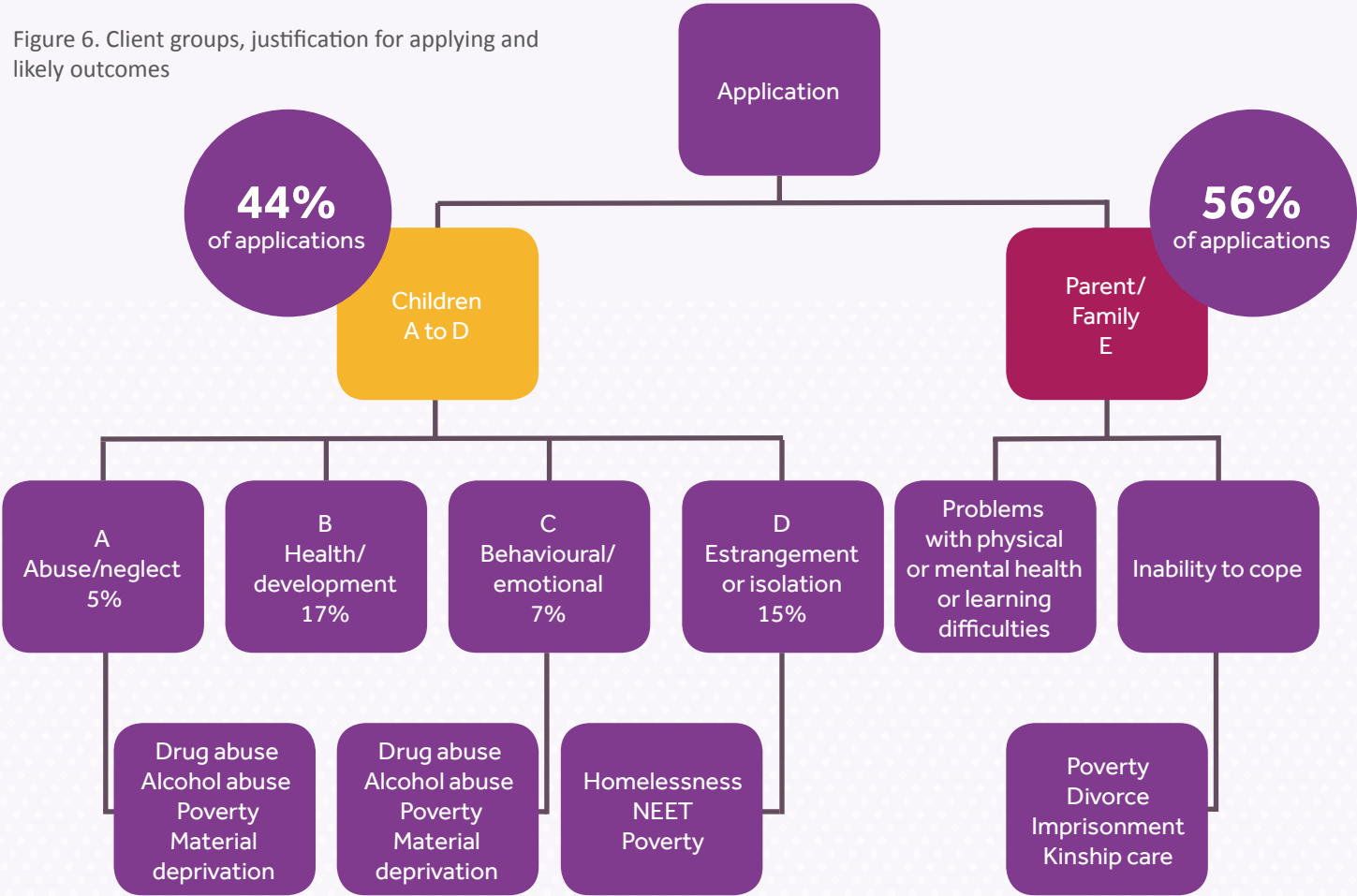
Within our dataset is a field that categorises the reason for referral, in other words what the main ‘presenting problems’ that have resulted in an application for support from a family or young person are.

Over 50 separate classifications are used, which describe the combinations of complex factors that produce a referral. These factors vary from issues affecting children such as neglect, developmental problems or estrangement, to problems impacting on the parents or whole household, such as parental psychiatric problems, desertion or divorce, unacceptable material standards and poverty. For this analysis the factors were grouped into two broad categories: those citing issues affecting only a child or children in the household, and those experiencing issues affecting the whole household or family, including parents or guardians. Those that related specifically to children were then grouped together where they had a common outcome.

Through this method of analysis, five main drivers of family crisis have been identified for the first time. Parental problems with physical or mental health, learning difficulties or an inability cope accounted for 56% of applications, followed by children with health or development issues (17%), young people facing estrangement or isolation (15%), children with behavioural or emotional problems (7%) and abuse or neglect (5%). This is presented in Figure 6.

We were able to map these drivers across the UK to show us where the highest proportions of applications for each driver were made. Wales, Yorkshire & the Humber, Scotland and the North East scored the highest for applications, while the South East, South West, East of England and East Midlands held the lowest number. Figure 7 shows the district analysis of the five crisis drivers, detailing the extent to which each region presents applications owing to each driver.

Figure 6. Client groups, justification for applying and likely outcomes

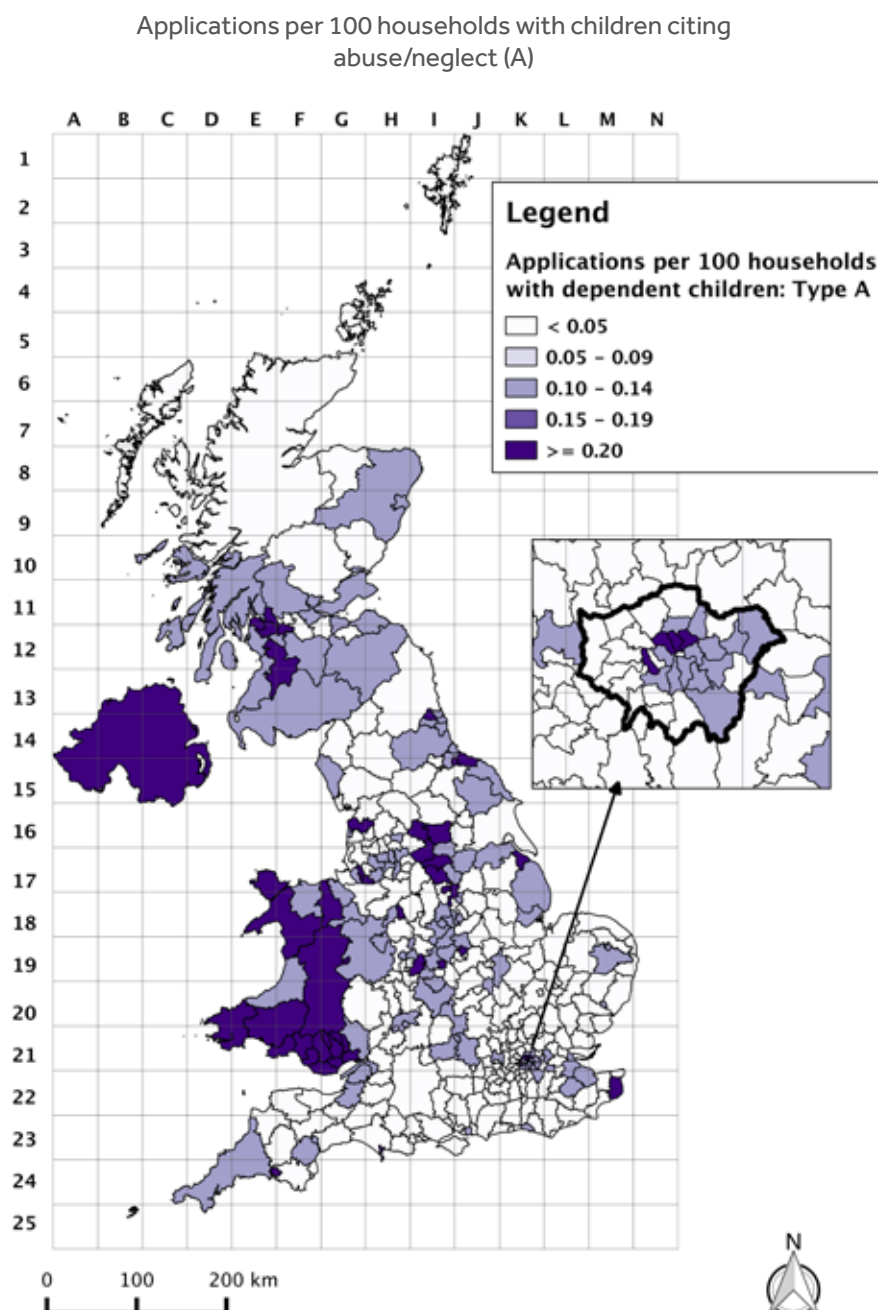


Wales presents consistently high cases of these drivers across the board, but Scotland, Yorkshire and Humberside, the North East and, to a lesser extent, London, report a relatively high rate of applications citing these drivers also. A more detailed analysis on a regional level can be found in the appendices (pg 24).

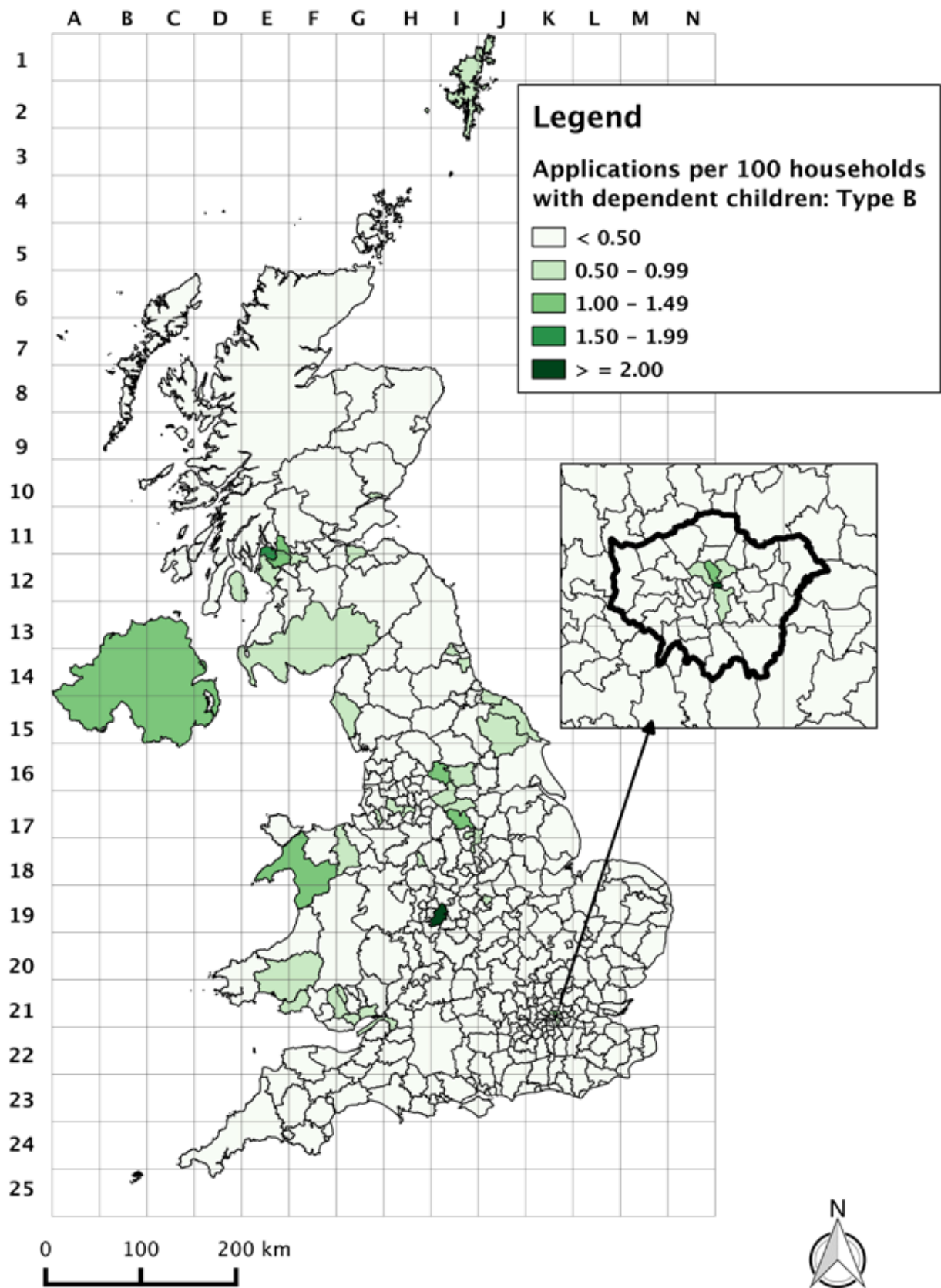
Crucially, the analysis also uncovered a number of significant risk factors for these drivers. Abuse or neglect is five times more likely to be cited in a case if a parent has drug or alcohol problems, the household has unacceptable material standards and there have been incidences of domestic violence. Table 6 shows a 'risk ladder' that enumerates all possible outcomes based on a sub-set of the most influential risk factors for child abuse or neglect, whilst Figure 8 shows the statistical strength of this relationship. This analysis is significant as it could assist care professionals with being able to better predict and prevent incidences of child abuse or neglect.

In a time where our traditional sources of referrals are under threat we need to look at new ways to reach those families in most need. Therefore, for Buttle UK, this categorisation and the identification of particular risk factors will allow us, in combination with the geographical analysis above, to ensure the resources we have available to us are being targeted at the families and young people with the greatest levels of need.

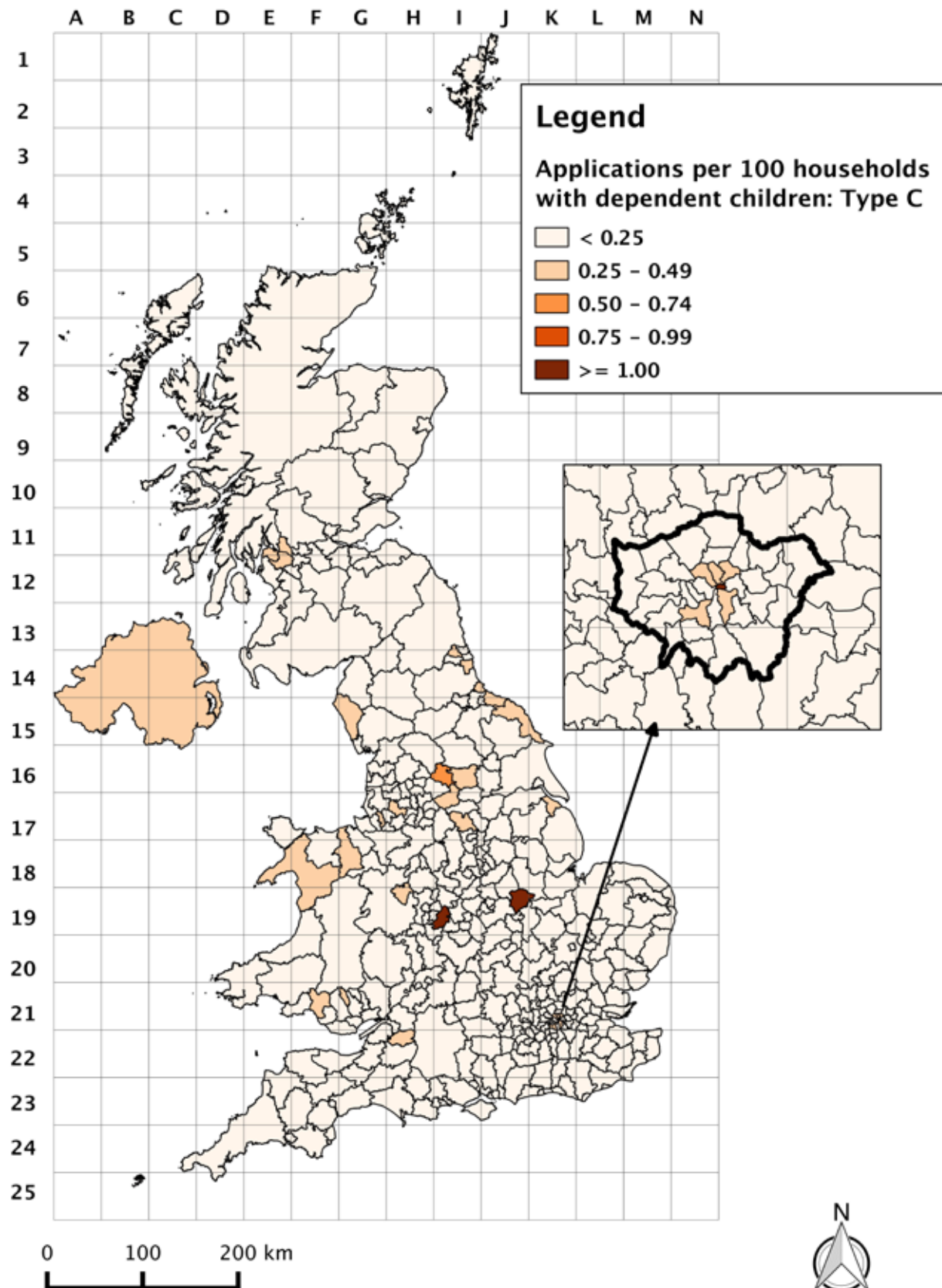
Figure 7 A-E Local Authority distribution of the five crisis drivers



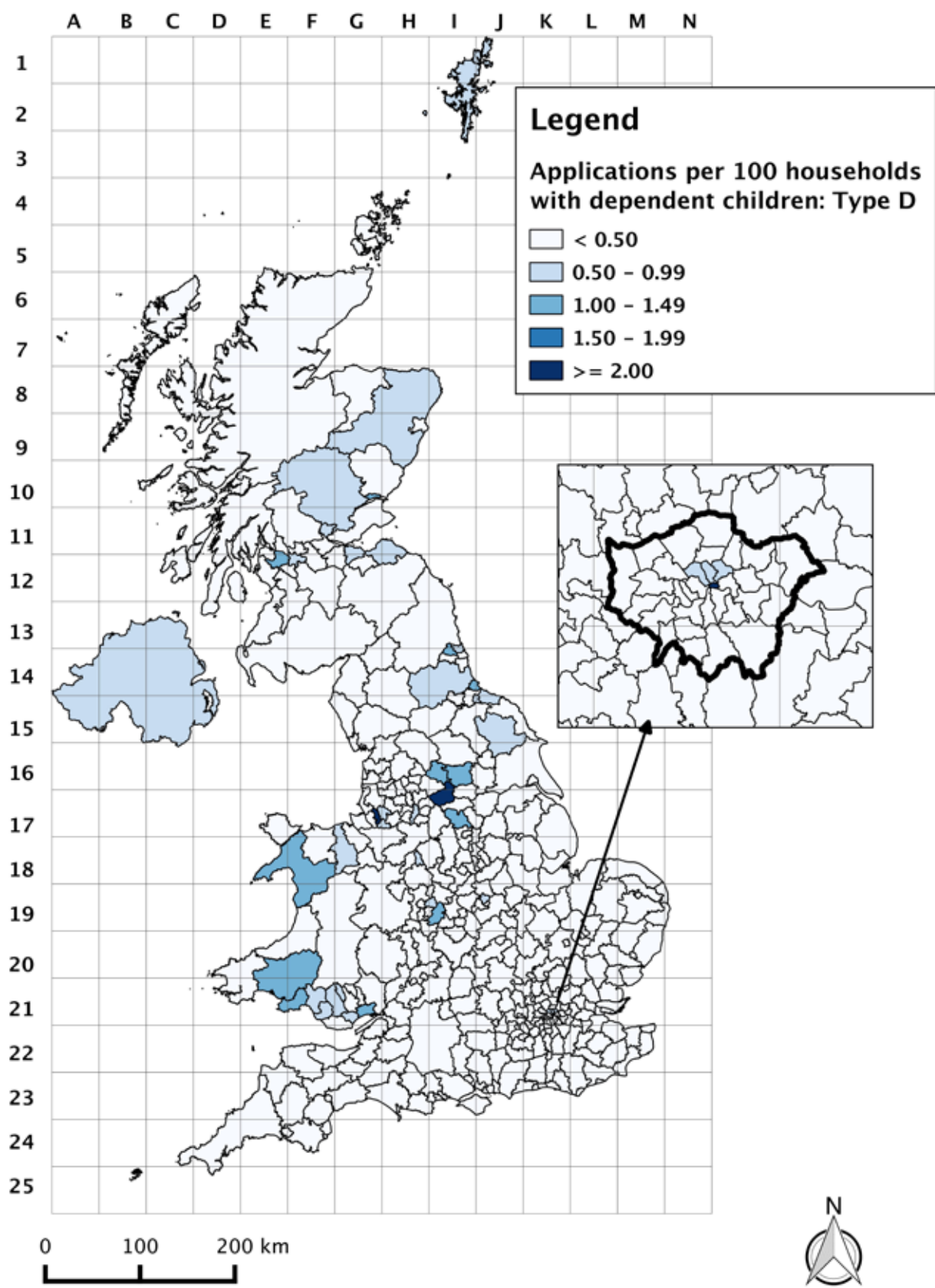
Applications per 100 households with children citing health/development issues (B)



Applications per 100 households with children citing
behavioural/emotional issues (C)



Applications per 100 households with children citing
estrangement or isolation (D)



Applications per 100 households with children citing
parent/family issues (E)

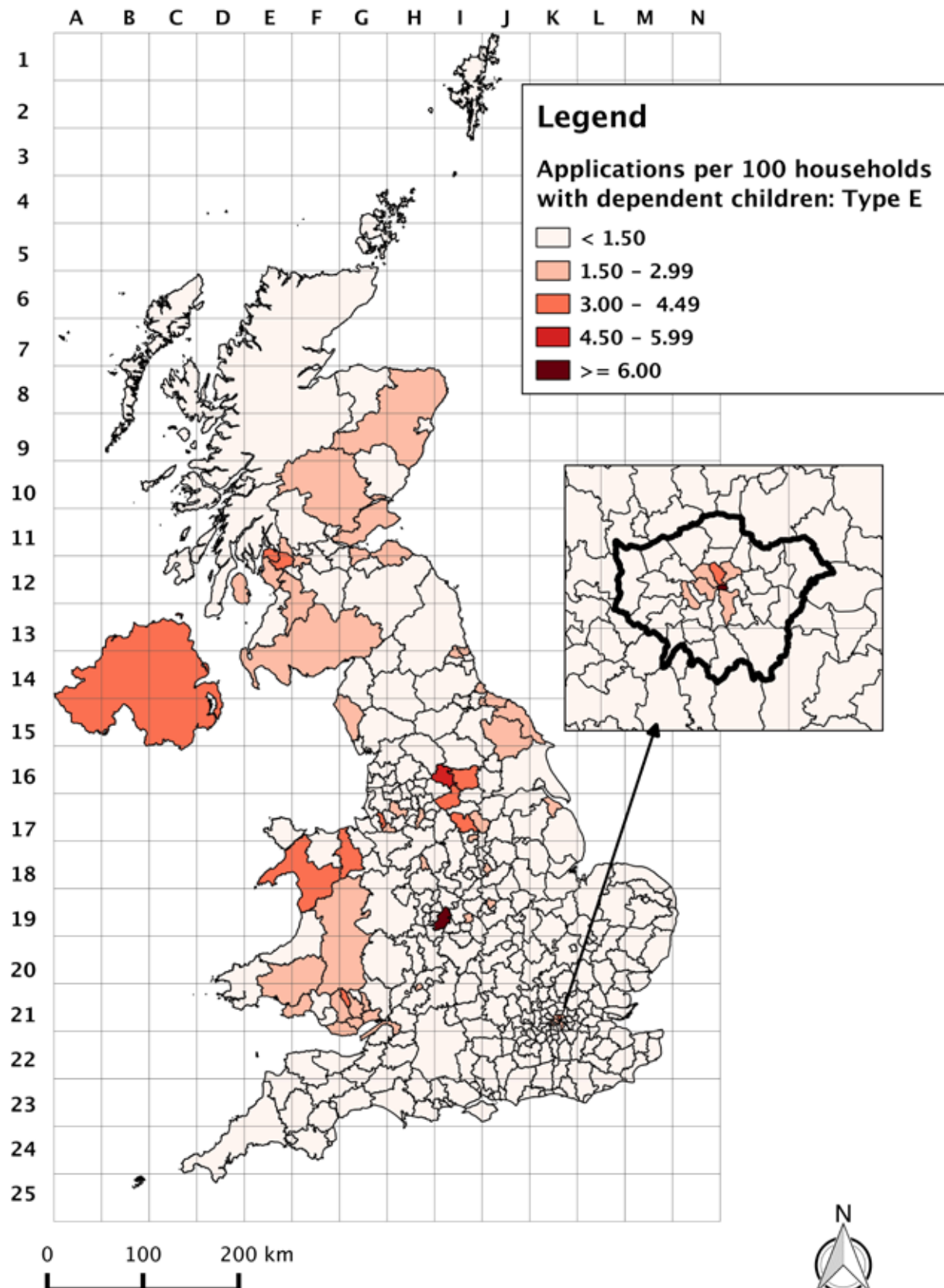
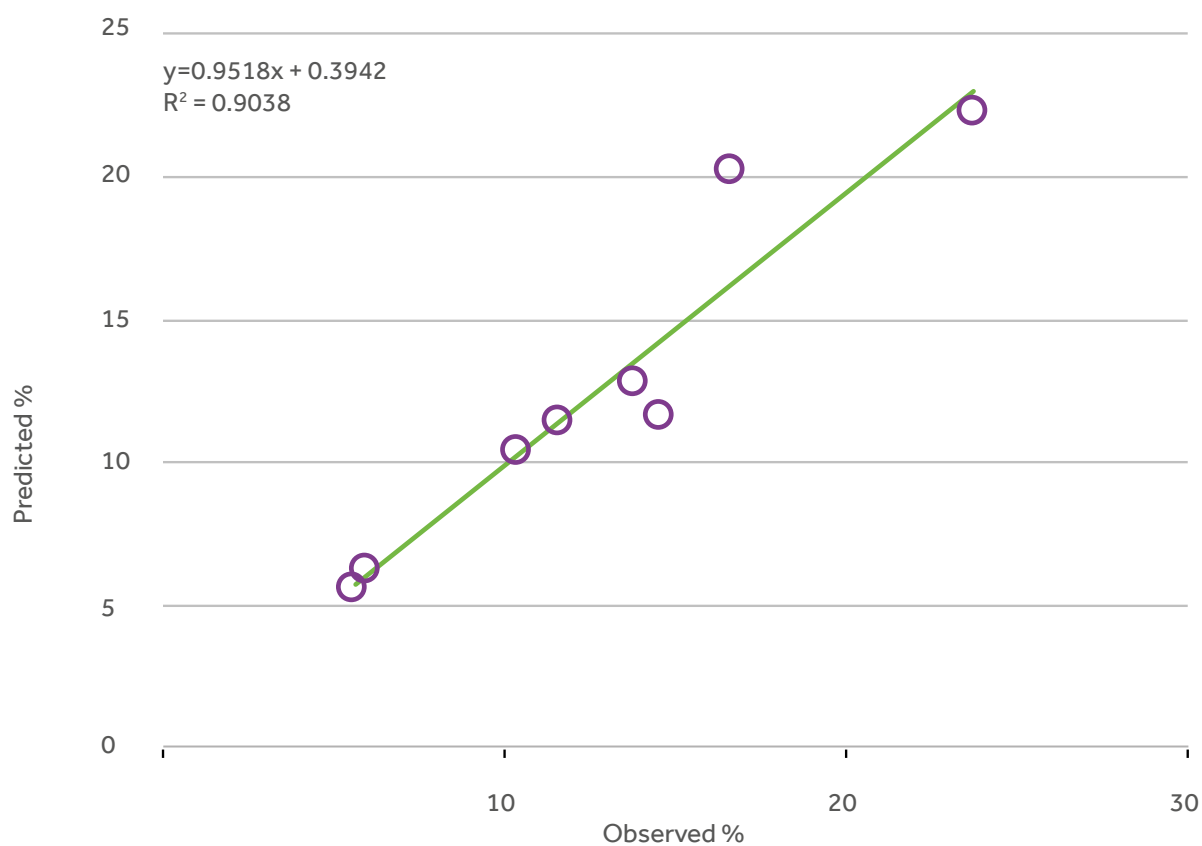


Table 6. Risk analysis of child abuse or neglect

Risk category	No. of applicants	Parent with drug/ alcohol problems	Unacceptable material standards	Domestic violence	% of applicant households experiencing child abuse or neglect
1	59	Y	Y	Y	23.7
2	390	Y	Y		16.7
3	561	Y		Y	14.6
4	638		Y	Y	13.8
5	3,638		Y		11.6
6	7,499	Y			10.4
7	6,486			Y	6.0
8	76,433				5.6
Total	95,704	8,509	4,725	7,744	6.4

Figure 8. The predictive accuracy of risk factors for child abuse or neglect based on three risk factors (parent with drug/ alcohol problems, unacceptable material standards and domestic violence) in Table 6



Conclusions

Our unique *Crisis Points* data, analysed here for the first time reveals new insights into the levels of need of families and children around the country - and we hope it will also become a crucial tool for local authorities and other organisations from civil society to plan for, and improve services. It will also help Buttle UK to ensure its own resources are being targeted as effectively as possible, to meet the most need, in the future.

Our findings have not only revealed the geographic distribution of where some of the most vulnerable children and families in the UK reside, but they also shine a light on regions that may have previously gone unnoticed as areas where children, young people and their families are facing crisis. Our data has shown clearly that it is not just regions such as Wales, the North East, Yorkshire and the Humber and Scotland, areas that are known to have particular pockets of deprivation, that require our attention. To prevent unseen crises we must also ensure that those young people and their families living in Southern and coastal regions are also able to find the help they need, not just to survive but thrive. A more detailed analysis on a region by region level can be found in the appendices.

Some of the data revealed in this study makes for difficult reading. Knowing that almost half of families in crisis lack basic material requirements such as beds, washing machines and children's clothing, that over 62% survive on less than £10,000 a year and that lone parents account for nearly two thirds of cases is, even for an experienced eye, extremely challenging. In addition, as government funding cuts continue to have a significant impact on social care provision across the UK, we are seeing increasingly that local sources of referrals are being compromised. However, by identifying the risk factors and regional distribution of those in crisis we can act to support these families and young people, and enable others to do so as well.

Our forthcoming *Turning Points* report will highlight the impact of these early, targeted and efficient interventions, and demonstrate how they can have a transformative effect on the life chances of disadvantaged young people in the UK.

Section 4: Appendices

Regional analysis

London, South East and East of England

London

More detailed analysis at sub-regional level (Figure 3.) indicates that five London boroughs, including Ealing (-213.9%), Harrow (-205.2%) and Brent (-186.5%), show a sizable difference between the expected number of charitable grant applications and the actual number of applications received.

More than 3 in every 100 families in the London region have applied for a grant from Buttle UK. 18% of families in crisis in the region applied for grants for rehousing or establishing their homes. 54% of families lack basic material needs such as beds, washing machines and cookers. Since 2006 Buttle UK has provided 1,703 washing machines, 2,344 beds and bedding, 1,061 grants for children’s clothing and 1,316 cookers to families in London. London has a greater number of single parents crisis cases than anywhere else in the UK, with 70% of applications from lone parents.

The principal driver of family crisis in the region is due to parental physical or mental health problems, or a family’s inability to cope with issues such as poverty, divorce or imprisonment. The principal driver of child crisis in the region however is estrangement; these children can be homeless or not in education, employment or training (NEET).

Highest number of Local Authority applications and number of Local Authority applications per 100 households with children

Highest number of regional applications	Highest number of applications in the region per 100 households
Islington (1,272)	Sutton (5.5)
Hackney (1,155)	Hammersmith and Fulham (5.3)
Southwark (956)	Havering (4.2)
Camden (932)	Southwark (4.3)
Lambeth (824)	Hackney (3.6)

Case study

Following the death of their mother at Christmas, 23 year old Belu is now responsible for his 16, 18 and 21 year old siblings. The family are living off Belu’s part-time earning of £150 per week and relying on food parcels. On top of this they owe other family members £4,500 for their mother’s funeral. The youngest sibling is self-harming and attempted suicide last year after being bullied at school for his sexuality and clothing. He has also been shoplifting.

Their home is in very poor condition, it is damp and mouldy. Social services are involved and supporting as the youngest is a child in need. However, Buttle UK was able to provide beds and bedding, a fridge/freezer, a dehumidifier (the flat is so damp it takes clothes 3 days to dry) and a microwave as they have no means of cooking.

Grant value: £1,400

Names have been changed to protect identities.

South East

Five of the top 10 local authorities in the UK displaying the largest variance between the expected number of grant applications and the actual number received can be found in the South East region. More detailed analysis at sub-regional level (Figure 3.) indicates that in the South East, West Berkshire (-1473%), Eastleigh (-1079.9%), Test Valley (-695.1%), Crawley (-563.1%) and The New Forest (-535.1%) show the biggest difference between expected and actual number of applications after controlling for relative need.

One in every 100 families in the South East have applied for a grant from Buttle UK. 47% of these families lack basic material needs such as beds, washing machines and children's clothing. Since 2006, Buttle UK has provided 676 washing machines, 518 beds, 686 cookers and 391 fridge freezers to families in the region. 23% of families in crisis in the region applied for grants for rehousing or establishing their homes. Lone parents account for two-thirds (65%) of these crisis cases.

The principal driver of family crisis in the region is due to parental physical or mental health problems, or a family's inability to cope with issues such as poverty, divorce or imprisonment. Another driver of family crisis in the region is health and development problems with the child.

Highest number of Local Authority applications and number of Local Authority applications per 100 households with children

Highest number of regional applications	Highest number of applications in the region per 100 households
Brighton and Hove (390)	Spelthorne (13.2)
Dover (228)	Tandridge (9.9)
Portsmouth (227)	Chichester (6.9)
Medway (205)	Woking (6.5)
Oxford (196)	Epsom and Ewell (6.2)

Case study

Karen and her two young teenage sons were subject to a long period of domestic abuse from her husband. The eldest son, Jonny, suffers from extreme anxiety and is receiving therapy for his condition. They managed to escape the abusive situation, with their father now placed under an injunction, and having secured new accommodation, the family are looking forward to starting again.

However, the new home did not have any white goods, furniture or even curtains. Buttle UK is helping to provide these goods, to make the house more of a home. The youngest child has settled at a new school and Buttle UK is funding boxing lessons for him after he expressed an interest. The elder son is struggling to attend school because of his anxiety in public places, however he has a one-to-one support worker who is helping him to regain confidence and it was suggested that guitar lessons would help his anxiety. Buttle UK is funding these lessons.

Karen has said that the extracurricular activities are giving them all the breathing space required to rebuild their lives after the recent traumas.

Grant value: £1,480

Names have been changed to protect identities.

East of England

Three of the top 10 local authorities in the UK displaying the largest variance between the expected number of charitable grant applications and the actual numbers received are in the East of England region. More detailed analysis at sub-regional level (Figure 3.) indicates that in the East of England, Great Yarmouth (-1109%), Tendring (-559.3%) and King's Lynn and West Norfolk (-543.1%) show the biggest difference between expected and actual number of applications after controlling for relative need.

One in every 100 families in the East of England have applied for a grant from Buttle UK. 46% of families in crisis in the East region lack basic material needs such as beds, washing machines and children's clothing and 25% of families in crisis in the region applied for grants for rehousing or establishing their homes. Since 2006, Buttle UK has provided 458 washing machines, 413 beds, 524 cookers and 252 fridge freezers to these vulnerable families. Lone parents account for almost two-thirds (63%) of these crisis cases.

The principal driver of family crisis in the region is due to parental physical or mental health problems, or a family's inability to cope with issues such as poverty, divorce or imprisonment.

Highest number of Local Authority applications and number of Local Authority applications per 100 households with children

Highest number of regional applications	Highest number of applications in the region per 100 households
Luton (187)	East Hertfordshire (6.3)
Norwich (180)	Waveney (4.4)
Basildon (163)	Mid Suffolk (3.1)
South Norfolk (156)	North Hertfordshire (2.9)
Thurrock (139)	Suffolk Coastal (2.9)

Case study

Robbie's father left suddenly around the time his mum was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia, which causes her a great deal of pain and affects her mobility. His father left a massive amount of debt and trauma.

Their cooker and washing machine were being hired and they were behind on the payments. Buttle UK was contacted when they were about to be repossessed as the other debts that the father had left meant there was no extra money for Mum to pay for these items.

We paid for a cooker as Robbie has a very serious heart condition meaning it is especially important that he has regular healthy meals. He also needs a high constant heat, meaning their electricity bills are extremely high, a big drain on the family's finances.

Any child that is hungry at school will find concentrating that much harder, so Buttle UK's intervention also meant there was one less problem for the family to think about, reducing stress at home.

Grant value: £150

Names have been changed to protect identities.

Grant purpose by region

Region	Meeting material needs	%	Rehousing/ establishing home	%	Not stated	%	Other	%	Total
London	9,462	54.14	3,119	17.85	4,361	24.95	535	3.06	17,477
South East	2,349	47.00	1,165	23.31	1,216	24.33	268	5.36	4,998
East of England	1,650	45.77	883	24.49	885	24.55	187	5.19	3,605

Items provided by region
(percentages based on nationwide data)

Items category	London	%	South East	%	East of England	%
No items	5,571	16.26	1,602	4.68	1,091	3.18
Children's beds and bedding	2,344	17.57	518	3.88	413	3.10
Furniture	362	25.77	61	4.34	49	3.49
Other	167	12.27	65	4.78	55	4.04
Multiple items	1,682	15.74	418	3.91	356	3.33
Miscellaneous household item	136	14.11	32	3.32	22	2.28
Washing machine	1,703	9.01	676	3.58	458	2.42
Cooker	1,316	7.94	686	4.14	524	3.16
Fridge freezer	996	9.99	391	3.92	252	2.53
Children's clothing	1,061	20.98	152	3.01	157	3.11
Establishing a family home	788	17.00	133	2.87	92	1.98
Establishing a young person's home	483	14.08	92	2.68	43	1.25
Carpets or flooring	136	6.89	86	4.35	46	2.33
Baby equipment	732	29.60	86	3.48	47	1.90
Total	17,477	13.98	4,998	4.00	3,605	2.88

Family demographic by region

Family demographic	London	South East	East of England
Adopted - family with adopted child	20	22	13
Percentage %	0.11	0.44	0.36
Grandparent + children	258	129	71
Percentage %	1.48	2.58	1.97
Guardian - relatives or friends + children	215	65	27
Percentage %	1.23	1.30	0.75
Orphan - living independently	57	8	9
Percentage %	0.33	0.16	0.25
Other	82	16	37
Percentage %	0.47	0.32	1.03
Single parent over 21 + children	10,428	2,730	1,943
Percentage %	59.67	54.62	53.90
Single parent under 21 + children	1,751	492	340
Percentage %	10.02	9.84	9.43
Two parents, or parent living with partner + children	2,393	1,039	689
Percentage %	13.69	20.79	19.11
Young person - estranged, under 21	1,794	347	339
Percentage %	10.26	6.94	9.40
Not known	479	150	137
Percentage %	2.74	3.00	3.80
Total	17,477	4,998	3,605

Wales and South West

Wales

More detailed analysis at sub-regional level (Figure 3.) shows the expected and actual number of applications after controlling for relative need is broadly aligned.

More than six in every 100 families in Wales have applied for a grant from Buttle UK. 29% of families in crisis in the region applied for grants for rehousing or establishing their homes. 41% of these families lack basic material needs such as beds, washing machines and children’s clothing. Since 2006, Buttle UK has provided 2,201 washing machines, 765 beds, 1,486 cookers and 1,114 fridge freezers to families in Wales. Lone parents account for almost two-thirds (58%) of these crisis cases.

The principal driver of family crisis in the region is due to parental physical or mental health problems, or a family’s inability to cope with issues such as poverty, divorce or imprisonment. The principal driver of child crisis in the region however is estrangement or isolation i.e. those children experiencing homelessness, NEET and poverty.

Highest number of Local Authority applications and number of Local Authority applications per 100 households with children

Highest number of regional applications	Highest number of applications in the region per 100 households
Cardiff (1,583) -9th nationally	Caerphilly (3.6)
Rhondda Cynon Taf (857)	Bridgend (3.3)
Swansea (778)	Rhondda Cynon Taf (3.3)
Gwynedd (699)	The Vale of Glamorgan (2.4)
Caerphilly (681)	Carmarthenshire (2.3)

Case Study

Simon had a very difficult childhood, having lived in a home where there was ongoing domestic abuse. After having been excluded from school, he left home when he was 16 and experienced homelessness for a period of time. He had some run-ins with the police until eventually he was referred to an agency that placed him in a training scheme to become a bike mechanic.

He is really enjoying the role and the learning, and is currently in his own accommodation where he is living with his girlfriend and their recently-born baby. However, travel to his training is an issue and so Buttle UK has funded driving lessons for him so that he can get to work more easily and it gives him another employability skill for the future.

Grant value: £579

Names have been changed to protect identities.

South West

More detailed analysis at sub-regional level (Figure 3.) finds that in the South West, Wiltshire (-375.8%), Bournemouth (-281.6%) and West Dorset (-208.5%) show the biggest difference between expected and actual number of applications after controlling for relative need.

Nearly 2 in every 100 families in the South West have applied for a grant from Buttle UK. 24% of families in crisis in the region applied for grants for rehousing or establishing their homes. 46% of families lack basic material needs such as beds, washing machines and children's clothing. Since 2006 Buttle UK has provided 1,186 washing machines, 844 beds and bedding, 1,197 cookers and 704 fridge freezers to families in the region. Lone parents account for two-thirds (65%) of crisis cases.

One of the principal drivers of family crisis in the region is due to parental problems. This includes parental physical or mental health problems, or family's inability to cope with issues such as poverty, divorce or imprisonment. Another of the principal drivers of family crisis in the region is health and development problems with the child.

Highest number of Local Authority applications and number of Local Authority applications per 100 households with children

Highest number of regional applications	Highest number of applications in the region per 100 households
Bristol (1,633) – 8th nationally	Bristol (2.9)
Cornwall (1,177)	West Somerset (2.4)
Plymouth (587)	Poole (2.1)
North Somerset (480)	West Devon (1.8)
Gloucester (359)	Weymouth and Portland (1.7)

Case study

Freddie's mother suffers from alcoholism, which became dramatically worse last year when her daughter (Freddie's sister) passed away. This caused great distress to both mother and son, and is having a huge impact on Freddie's life, as his sister used to provide significant support in dealing with the mother's drinking issues.

Freddie's bed is broken so he often sleeps on the sofa. Their gas cooker is also broken so the only hot food Freddie gets is take away meals, and they are sometimes few and far between.

Buttle UK provided a new bed and cooker for the family, as well as fees for a rugby camp for Freddie, so that he can learn a new skill, make new friends, and spend a little time out of the house.

Grant value: £829.38

Names have been changed to protect identities.

Grant purpose by region

Region	Meeting material needs	%	Rehousing/ establishing home	%	Not stated	%	Other	%	Total
South West	3,730	45.83	1,979	24.32	2,071	25.45	358	4.40	8,138
Wales	4,644	40.82	3,279	28.82	3,198	28.11	257	2.26	11,378

Items provided by region
(percentages based on nationwide data)

Items category	South West	%	Wales	%
No items	2,547	7.43	3,390	9.90
Children's beds and bedding	844	6.33	765	5.73
Furniture	80	5.69	60	4.27
Other	100	7.35	47	3.45
Multiple items	648	6.06	1,151	10.77
Miscellaneous household item	68	7.05	12	1.24
Washing machine	1,186	6.27	2,201	11.64
Cooker	1,197	7.22	1,486	8.96
Fridge freezer	704	7.06	1,114	11.18
Children's clothing	224	4.43	244	4.83
Establishing a family home	188	4.06	319	6.88
Establishing a young person's home	87	2.54	304	8.86
Carpets or flooring	156	7.90	173	8.76
Baby equipment	109	4.41	112	4.53
Total	8,138	6.51	11,378	9.10

Family demographic by region

Family demographic	South West	Wales
Adopted - family with adopted child	40	11
Percentage %	0.49	0.10
Grandparent + children	129	179
Percentage %	1.59	1.57
Guardian - relatives or friends + children	87	76
Percentage %	1.07	0.67
Orphan - living independently	27	29
Percentage %	0.33	0.25
Other	39	86
Percentage %	0.48	0.76
Single parent over 21 + children	4,434	5,374
Percentage %	54.49	47.23
Single parent under 21 + children	896	1,202
Percentage %	11.01	10.56
Two parents, or parent living with partner + children	1,644	1,817
Percentage %	20.20	15.97
Young person - estranged, under 21	563	2,207
Percentage %	6.92	19.40
Not known	279	397
Percentage %	3.43	3.49
Total	8,138	11,378

East and West Midlands

East Midlands

More detailed analysis at sub-regional level (Figure 3.) highlights that in the East Midlands it is North East Derbyshire (-453.6%), Lincoln (-415.1%) Newark and Sherwood (-315.1%) that show the biggest difference between expected and actual number of applications after controlling for relative need.

Over 2 in every 100 families in the East Midlands has applied for a grant from Buttle UK. 26% of families in crisis in the region applied for grants for rehousing or establishing their homes. Nearly half (48%) of families in crisis in the East Midlands region lack basic material needs such as beds, washing machines, cookers and fridges. Since 2006 Buttle UK has provided 1,093 washing machines, 740 beds and bedding, 994 cookers and 621 fridge freezers to families in the region. Lone parents account for almost two-thirds (64%) of crisis cases.

The principal driver of family crisis in the region is due to parental problems, including parental physical or mental health problems, or family’s inability to cope with issues such as poverty, divorce or imprisonment. The principal driver of children in crisis within the region attributes health and development problems with the child.

Highest number of Local Authority applications and number of Local Authority applications per 100 households with children

Highest number of regional applications	Highest number of applications in the region per 100 households
Leicester (888)	Wellingborough (2.3)
Nottingham (748)	Nottingham (1.7)
Derby (448)	Melton (1.3)
Chesterfield (353)	Rutland (1.3)
Amber Valley (302)	Rushcliffe (1.3)

Case study

Katie is a one year-old born with a rare heart condition, meaning she will have to have a heart transplant later on in life. Her parents, Philip and Kerry’s frequent travel to the hospital has had a huge impact on their finances.

They were previously living with the baby’s paternal grandfather, however this was not a sustainable arrangement and they have now been allocated their own tenancy. However, it has no white goods. Buttle UK provided a fridge, so there was one less thing for them to worry about.

Grant value: £150

Names have been changed to protect identities.

West Midlands

More detailed analysis at sub-regional level (Figure 3.) shows that in the West Midlands, Dudley (-241.3%), Sandwell (-224.8%) and Lichfield (-164.7%) show the biggest difference between expected and actual number of applications after controlling for relative need.

Nearly 3 in every 100 families in the West Midlands have applied for a grant from Buttle UK. 27% of families in crisis in the region applied for grants for rehousing or establishing their homes. 45% of families lack basic material needs such as beds, washing machines and children's clothing. Since 2006 Buttle UK has provided 1,351 washing machines, 1,028 beds and bedding, 1,542 cookers and 860 fridge freezers to families in the West Midlands. Lone parents account for two-thirds (65%) of crisis cases.

The principal driver of family crisis in the region is due to parental problems, including parental physical or mental health problems, or family's inability to cope with issues such as poverty, divorce or imprisonment. The principal driver of children in crisis within the region attributes health and development problems with the child.

Highest number of Local Authority applications and number of Local Authority applications per 100 households with children

Highest number of regional applications	Highest number of applications in the region per 100 households
Birmingham (3,244) – 2nd nationally	Bromsgrove (4.6)
Stoke-on-Trent (946)	Sandwell (3.4)
Coventry (530)	Cannock Chase (2.9)
Walsall (433)	Malvern Hills (2.7)
Nuneaton and Bedworth (355)	Stoke-on-Trent (2.3)

Case study

Abu is aged six and has cerebral palsy, a communication disorder and he frequently soils himself. The family's old washing machine worked, but was very old and made an incredibly loud noise when being used.

This not only disturbed their 6 year old, but it was also thought to be triggering their next door neighbour's child who has epilepsy. The neighbours have complained and stipulated that it must only be used when they are out.

Buttle UK provided a new washing machine to give the family freedom to meet the needs of their child when necessary and this has alleviated some of the anxiety in the family home.

Grant value: £302.99

Names have been changed to protect identities.

Grant purpose by region

Region	Meeting material needs	%	Rehousing/ establishing home	%	Not stated	%	Other	%	Total
East Midlands	3,173	48.14	1,740	26.40	1,473	22.35	205	3.11	6,591
West Midlands	4,286	44.60	2,625	27.32	2,448	25.48	250	2.60	9,609

Items provided by region
(percentages based on nationwide data)

Items category	East Midlands	%	West Midlands	%
No items	1,641	4.79	2,723	7.95
Children's beds and bedding	740	5.55	1,028	7.71
Furniture	45	3.20	31	2.21
Other	104	7.64	81	5.95
Multiple items	455	4.26	758	7.09
Miscellaneous household item	35	3.63	35	3.63
Washing machine	1,093	5.78	1,351	7.15
Cooker	994	5.99	1,542	9.30
Fridge freezer	621	6.23	860	8.63
Children's clothing	375	7.42	385	7.61
Establishing a family home	160	3.45	341	7.36
Establishing a young person's home	70	2.04	218	6.36
Carpets or flooring	182	9.22	85	4.30
Baby equipment	76	3.07	171	6.91
Total	6,591	5.27	9,609	7.68

Family demographic by region

Family demographic	East Midlands	West Midlands
Adopted - family with adopted child	16	26
Percentage %	0.24	0.27
Grandparent + children	135	166
Percentage %	2.05	1.73
Guardian - relatives or friends + children	103	96
Percentage %	1.56	1.00
Orphan - living independently	30	29
Percentage %	0.46	0.30
Other	24	16
Percentage %	0.36	0.17
Single parent over 21 + children	3,545	5,300
Percentage %	53.79	55.16
Single parent under 21 + children	668	961
Percentage %	10.14	10.00
Two parents, or parent living with partner + children	1,264	1,880
Percentage %	19.18	19.56
Young person - estranged, under 21	538	932
Percentage %	8.16	9.70
Not known	268	203
Percentage %	4.07	2.11
Total	6,591	9,609

Yorkshire and Humberside and the North East

Yorkshire and Humberside

More detailed analysis at sub-regional level (Figure 3.) indicates that in Yorkshire and Humberside East Riding (-147.5%) shows the greatest difference between expected and actual number of applications after controlling for relative need.

More than 6 in every 100 families in the Yorkshire and Humberside have applied for a grant from Buttle UK. This region has four local authorities, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford and Kirklees which are all in Buttle UK's top 10 areas in the UK for grant applications.

37% of families in crisis in the region applied for grants for rehousing or establishing their homes. 35% of families lack basic material needs such as beds, washing machines and children's clothing. Since 2006 Buttle UK has provided 3,127 washing machines, 1,544 beds and bedding, 3,324 cookers and 1,831 fridge freezers to families in the West Midlands. Lone parents account for almost two-thirds (61%) of crisis cases.

The principal driver of family crisis in the region is due to parental problems, including parental physical or mental health problems, or family's inability to cope with issues such as poverty, divorce or imprisonment. The principal driver of child crisis in the region however is estrangement; these children can be homeless or NEET.

Highest number of Local Authority applications and number of Local Authority applications
per 100 households with children

Highest number of regional applications	Highest number of applications in the region per 100 households
Sheffield (3,930) – 1st nationally	Leeds (3.1)
Leeds (2,695) – 3rd nationally	Doncaster (2.4)
Bradford (2,015) – 6th nationally	Bradford (2.2)
Kirklees (1,767) – 7th nationally	Wakefield (1.7)
Wakefield (903)	Hull (1.7)

Case study

Imran has two young children aged 8 and 12. His daughter suffers from a severe disability, and he is also taking care of his terminally ill mother who is living with them, which is causing huge emotional strain on the family.

His wife is suffering from anxiety and depression and so the onus of care for both the children and grandmother is on him. His daughter has extreme incontinence and requires a great deal of help and support. But this also means there is need for clothes to be washed and dried multiple times a day.

Unfortunately, the family do not have a tumble dryer, which meant that clothes were taking days to dry and they often had to take costly trips to the laundrette to have enough clothes suitable to wear. Buttle UK provided a tumble dryer when it was needed most, helping Imran to regain a little control and reassurance.

Grant value: £259.19

Names have been changed to protect identities.

North East

Detailed analysis at sub-regional level (Figure 3.) indicates that in the North East it is Sunderland (-130%) that shows the biggest difference between expected and actual number of applications after controlling for relative need.

The North East region has one of the highest proportions of families and young people in crisis in the UK, with more than 5 in 100 households in the area applying for support from Buttle UK.

37% of families in crisis in the region applied for grants for rehousing or establishing their homes. 34% of families lack basic material needs such as beds, washing machines and children's clothing. Since 2006 Buttle UK has provided 970 washing machines, 901 beds and bedding, 1,021 cookers and 590 fridge freezers to families in the North East. Lone parents account for over half (56%) of crisis cases, with two-parent households making up 19% of applications, above the national average.

The principal driver of family crisis in the region is due to parental problems, including parental physical or mental health problems, or family's inability to cope with issues such as poverty, divorce or imprisonment. The principal driver of child crisis in the region however is estrangement; these children can be homeless or NEET.

Highest number of Local Authority applications and number of Local Authority applications per 100 households with children

Highest number of regional applications	Highest number of applications in the region per 100 households
County Durham (1,240)	South Tyneside (3.4)
Newcastle upon Tyne (1,090)	North Tyneside (3)
North Tyneside (812)	Newcastle upon Tyne (2.6)
Gateshead (731)	Sunderland (2.1)
Redcar and Cleveland (712)	Gateshead (1.1)

Case study

Janine is a mother of three young children. She is currently living on benefits after she had to give up her job because she needs to provide round the clock care for one of her children, who has cancer.

With frequent trips to the hospital using up most of the income, the family was in severe debt and struggling to make ends meet. To make things worse, the fridge broke down, so food was spoiling and the child's medication could not be kept at the required temperature.

Buttle UK provided a fridge, as well as a small grant of £300 to allow for travel to the hospital, to make things easier for the family in such a difficult time.

Grant value: £600

Names have been changed to protect identities.

Grant purpose by region

Region	Meeting material needs	%	Rehousing/ establishing home	%	Not stated	%	Other	%	Total
Yorkshire and Humberside	6,731	35.25	7,104	37.21	4,809	25.19	449	2.35	19,093
North East	2,739	34.18	2,963	36.98	2,094	26.13	217	2.71	8,013

Items provided by region
(percentages based on nationwide data)

Items category	Yorkshire and Humberside	%	North East	%
No items	5,125	14.96	2,241	6.54
Children's beds and bedding	1,544	11.57	901	6.75
Furniture	144	10.25	80	5.69
Other	191	14.03	52	3.82
Multiple items	1,591	14.89	619	5.79
Miscellaneous household item	249	25.83	132	13.69
Washing machine	3,127	16.54	970	5.13
Cooker	3,324	20.05	1,021	6.16
Fridge freezer	1,831	18.37	590	5.92
Children's clothing	298	5.89	233	4.61
Establishing a family home	473	10.20	353	7.62
Establishing a young person's home	568	16.56	428	12.48
Carpets or flooring	354	17.92	300	15.19
Baby equipment	274	11.08	93	3.76
Total	19,093	15.27	8,013	6.41

Family demographic by region

Family demographic	Yorkshire and Humberside	North East
Adopted - family with adopted child	19	9
Percentage %	0.10	0.11
Grandparent + children	324	189
Percentage %	1.70	2.36
Guardian - relatives or friends + children	184	110
Percentage %	0.96	1.37
Orphan - living independently	34	27
Percentage %	0.18	0.34
Other	27	25
Percentage %	0.14	0.31
Single parent over 21 + children	9,440	3,371
Percentage %	49.44	42.07
Single parent under 21 + children	2,180	1,103
Percentage %	11.42	13.77
Two parents, or parent living with partner + children	3,449	1,332
Percentage %	18.06	16.62
Young person - estranged, under 21	2,541	1,539
Percentage %	13.31	19.21
Not known	895	308
Percentage %	4.69	3.84
Total	19,093	8,013

Scotland and the North West

Scotland

More detailed analysis at sub-regional level (Figure 3.) shows that in Scotland it is West Lothian (-239.7%), Angus (-111.2%) and North Lanarkshire (-103.6%) that show the biggest difference between expected and actual number of applications after controlling for relative need.

Scotland is one of the most deprived regions in the UK with more than five in 100 families applying for a grant from Buttle UK. Glasgow City and City of Edinburgh have two of the highest numbers of applications nationwide (5th and 10th authority respectively).

Lone parents account for two-thirds (65%) of these crisis cases and 35% of families in crisis in the region applied for grants for rehousing or establishing their homes. 41% of these families lack basic material needs such as beds, washing machines and children's clothing. Since 2006, Buttle UK has provided 2,949 washing machines, 1,760 beds, 1,196 cookers and 1,068 fridge freezers to families in the Scotland.

The principal driver of family crisis in the region is due to parental physical or mental health problems, or a family's inability to cope with issues such as poverty, divorce or imprisonment. Another of the principal drivers of family crisis in the region is health and development problems with the child.

Highest number of Local Authority applications and number of Local Authority applications per 100 households with children

Highest number of regional applications	Highest number of applications in the region per 100 households
Glasgow City (2,020) – 5th nationally	North Lanarkshire (5.5)
City of Edinburgh (1,573) – 10th nationally	Clackmannanshire (4.5)
Renfrewshire (1,143)	East Dunbartonshire (4.1)
Fife (921)	South Ayrshire (3.7)
Aberdeenshire (707)	Dumfries and Galloway (2.8)

Case study

After having moved out of her mother's house due to her alcoholic and abusive behaviour, Ali went to live with her father, but was later evicted at age 16 when the financial pressures became too much for him.

Despite this disruption to her life, she was able to obtain sufficient grades to study criminology at university. However, her living costs were more than her student loan covered. Buttle UK intervened and was able to provide emergency essentials to set up a home; course books and a gym membership help her maintain her emotional and physical wellbeing.

Grant value: £2,000

Names have been changed to protect identities.

North West

More detailed analysis at sub-regional level (Figure 3.) highlights that in the North West, Allerdale (-962.7%), Barrow-in-Furness (-483.2%) and Stockport (-333.8%) show the biggest difference between expected and actual number of applications after controlling for relative need.

Nearly 3 in every 100 families in the North West have applied for grants from Buttle UK. 34% of families in crisis in the region applied for grants for rehousing or establishing their homes. 42% of families lack basic material needs such as beds, washing machines and children's clothing. Since 2006 Buttle UK has provided 1,844 washing machines, 950 beds and bedding, 1,716 cookers and 1,073 fridge freezers to families in the region. Lone parents account for almost two-thirds (61%) of crisis cases.

One of the principal drivers of family crisis in the region is due to parental problems. This includes parental physical or mental health problems, or family's inability to cope with issues such as poverty, divorce or imprisonment. Another of the principal drivers of family crisis in the region is health and development problems with the child.

Highest number of Local Authority applications and number of Local Authority applications per 100 households with children

Highest number of regional applications	Highest number of applications in the region per 100 households
Manchester (1,334)	Knowsley (2.9)
Liverpool (861)	Oldham (1.9)
Knowsley (844)	Trafford (1.8)
Wigan (715)	Tameside (1.7)
Salford (592)	Bolton (1.6)

Case study

Annie was estranged from home as a teenager due to her mother's abusive partner and is now living in supported housing. She undertook a dental nursing apprenticeship for which she received top marks, even after having had a disrupted education. As a result, she was offered a place on a human biology course at university, for which she secured supported living accommodation.

However, when she moved in all she had was a lamp; nothing else for the room or for her course. Buttle UK provided a bus pass to get into university, a clothing allowance, equipment and text books for her course and household items to furnish her room including bedding, a kettle, toaster, towels and cutlery. She has also been given funding for a gym pass so that she can socialise and improve her mental and physical wellbeing.

Grant value: £1,030.00

Names have been changed to protect identities.

Grant purpose by region

Region	Meeting material needs	%	Rehousing/ establishing home	%	Not stated	%	Other	%	Total
North West	4,818	42.21	3,913	34.28	2,317	20.30	366	3.21	11,414
Scotland	6,385	41.74	5,293	34.60	3,083	20.16	535	3.50	15,296

Items provided by region
(percentages based on nationwide data)

Items category	North West	%	Scotland	%
No items	2,765	8.07	3,523	10.28
Children's beds and bedding	950	7.12	1,760	13.19
Furniture	37	2.63	104	7.40
Other	85	6.25	110	8.08
Multiple items	971	9.09	1,584	14.82
Miscellaneous household item	41	4.25	155	16.08
Washing machine	1,844	9.75	2,949	15.60
Cooker	1,716	10.35	1,996	12.04
Fridge freezer	1,073	10.76	1,068	10.71
Children's clothing	657	12.99	751	14.85
Establishing a family home	511	11.02	657	14.17
Establishing a young person's home	533	15.54	175	5.10
Carpets or flooring	65	3.29	220	11.14
Baby equipment	166	6.71	244	9.87
Total	11,414	9.13	15,296	12.23

Family demographic by region

Family demographic	North West	Scotland
Adopted - family with adopted child	15	6
Percentage %	0.13	0.04
Grandparent + children	167	856
Percentage %	1.46	5.60
Guardian - relatives or friends + children	88	340
Percentage %	0.77	2.22
Orphan - living independently	27	58
Percentage %	0.24	0.38
Other	62	44
Percentage %	0.54	0.29
Single parent over 21 + children	5,571	7,793
Percentage %	48.81	50.95
Single parent under 21 + children	1,424	1,359
Percentage %	12.48	8.88
Two parents, or parent living with partner + children	1,856	2,267
Percentage %	16.26	14.82
Young person - estranged, under 21	2049	1,954
Percentage %	17.95	12.77
Not known	155	619
Percentage %	1.36	4.05
Total	11,414	15,296

Methodology

nkm (Mayhew Harper Associates Ltd.) initially studied the Buttle UK grant application forms to ascertain which data are available on each applicant. This included details such as reason for application, age, gender, family characteristics, ethnicity, household income, benefits entitlement, and postcode. In addition to these data, also available is the outcome of each application in terms of the size and purpose of the award if the applicant is successful.

Buttle UK applicant data is rich but complex with millions of items of data collected over a period of 10 years. nkm analysed the data from many perspectives – family size and type, issues affecting children and families, sizes of grants and the purposes for which grants were needed. It also analysed applications geographically and compared its results with independent measures of poverty, deprivation and household type to see whether grants were broadly aligned with material need or general hardship.

With up to 50 different reasons contained in each grant application nkm found there was no unique way to categorise grant applicants – since it depended very much on one's perspective and the purpose of the analysis. For general purposes, it was decided to categorise applicants on the basis of whether the issues they were experiencing were child-centred (i.e. concerns about a child in the household), family-centred (i.e. issues affecting the whole family) or were both.

This process produced five application types: A) Children facing abuse or neglect, B) Children with health or physical development issues, C) Children with behavioural or mental health issues, D) estranged children or young adults, and E) families in general. These categories slightly overlap since an applicant can theoretically fall into more than applicant category e.g. a child experiencing neglect with developmental problems whose parent is homeless.

In seeking help for a particular issue or set of issues it is important to know how applicant types overlap (i.e. many applicants experience multiple issues). However, it is easy to create a small number of sub-categories which are mutually exclusive. nkm analysed Buttle UK data to find out which applicant reasons or 'risk factors' were most commonly associated to each applicant category. Such information may be helpful in wider context such as designing services around children and families and providing appropriate professional help.

Some of the analysis was unsurprising – for example, child neglect and abuse is strongly correlated with drug and alcohol abuse or domestic violence. Other recurring risk factors were material poverty, homelessness, desertion, extreme family size, a mentally ill parent and so on. Using the data one is able to quantify not only which risk factors occur but also with what frequency within different applicant categories down to a District (local council) level. Such data is not collected or available from any other source as far as we know and so it is unique.

As a consequence, as long as similar or close proxy data are available and comparable for every part of the UK, it is possible to compare the scale of need in each area with the number and level of awards made. This approach will allow Buttle UK to identify areas and types of unmet need and use this to drive its strategy going forward. The numbers of applicants from each area depend upon the number of referrals made by referring organisations and ability to identify suitable cases from among all the cases that are referred to them. This works well but it is not a perfect process; however, the strength of this analysis is that it will enable Buttle UK to spot trends and gaps going forward in order to better meet children's needs throughout the UK.

For more information about Mayhew Harper Associates Ltd please visit www.nkm.org.uk.

Controlling for need

Buttle UK grant applications are channelled through around 10,000 referring organisations scattered across the UK. The general aim is to refer children and families that are facing financial hardship and social welfare issues which could include: domestic abuse, drug/alcohol misuse, estrangement, illness, distress, abuse, neglect and behavioural or mental health issues.

In overall terms, it can be argued that the distribution of grants provided should reflect local need and hardship. However, absolute levels of hardship and social deprivation are not known with certainty at local level whilst the number of referrals from each district by itself is not necessarily an accurate indicator of need (e.g. local knowledge about Buttle UK may be deficient and so under-referred).

There are examples of proxy data for measuring social deprivation which could be used as a benchmark for comparing applicant data, one example of which is the Index of Multiple Deprivation (or IMD). In our case, we wanted to use indicators that more obviously related to children and families in financial hardship rather than a general purpose indicator which is an average covering a substantial population of several hundred thousand people.

Any indicator used should be capable of measurement down to district level (i.e. local councils), be available for the whole UK and be reasonably up to date. Based on these criteria, we found that DWP benefit and HMRC data best met these requirements and in addition captured accurately many of the characteristic features of Buttle UK applicants evident from application forms. Examples include the number of households receiving Income Support, the number of in-work families with children receiving Working Tax Credit or Child Tax Credit, disability benefit caseloads, or the number of lone parent households on Income Support.

Aside from DWP data, census data is able to provide information on the number of households with children by district, which can be readily be used to determine the density of need (e.g. the number of lone parent households on Income Support as a percentage of all households with children). Using multiple regression techniques, we used both sets of data to predict the expected number of Buttle UK applicants in each district of the UK. (For data reasons Northern Ireland could not be easily broken down into districts).

We found that, using this method, it was possible to predict 80% of the variance in the number of grant applications by local district. Although this is a high figure it does not provide an accurate prediction in every area of the country – i.e. some districts were predicted to generate more applications than were actually received and others less. The extent of any mismatch was measured by calculating the deviation between the expected and actual number of applications.

For example, we found that roughly 54% of Buttle UK applications at district level were within 50% of their expected value and 46% were not. Geographically, we also found that there were patterns in the data suggesting that some parts of the country were more out of kilter than others. The implication of these findings is that Buttle UK now has the tools needed to investigate why this may be occurring and if any action should be taken e.g. targeting the districts most affected.

About Buttle UK

Buttle UK is a charity dedicated to helping children and young people who are in crisis reach their potential by providing small but targeted and effective interventions.

The charity provided £3.7 million in individual grants to nearly 30,000 children and young people last year, preventing them from falling further into crisis and helping them to transform their lives. They are the largest grant-awarding charity to provide financial support direct to individual children and young people in the UK.

Whether Buttle UK gives a bed to a child who has become used to sleeping on the floor, counselling to a young boy who has fled an abusive home with his mother or a laptop to support a homeless teenager begin their first college course, their direct, efficient and intelligent grants are always focused on the needs of the individual.

Buttle UK was established in 1953 following the death of Frank Buttle, an East End clergyman, who raised nearly £1m to help launch children out of poverty. Since then, the money has been re-invested and multiplied countless times and ways. As the charity has grown, so has its capacity to make positive change.

You can find out more about Buttle UK and its work by visiting www.buttleuk.org.







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