



# chancesFOR CHiLDREN

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Impact Report 2022–23

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# 1. Introduction

In 2023, Buttle UK will have been making grants to children and young people living in poverty and crisis for seventy years. Our work started with a man named Frank Buttle, who had a vision for lifting children out of poverty by raising almost £1 million across his lifetime. His vision lives on today, taking the form of Chances for Children and Support for Boarding grants in 2022/23. In this financial year, we made **2,314** grants to **4,378 children and young people**, including 112 boarders, to the value of **£3,974,120**.

Chances for Children grants up to £2,400 are used by frontline workers to purchase items and activities on behalf of children and young people who meet our criteria. These must support the children and young people’s home environment, engagement in education, and social and emotional wellbeing. Support for Boarding grants are longer-term contributions of up to 50% of school fees, made in tandem with a network of boarding schools. These enable a small number of children, living through serious ongoing crises, the opportunity of a nurturing educational environment, where the alternative is otherwise living on the edge of care. Both types of grants have their roots in a vision for children in poverty and experiencing crises to overcome the inequalities they face. Some of these disparities are obvious. Many of the children we support do not have beds to sleep in, school uniforms to attend education, or white goods to eat well and have clean clothes. However, many of our grantees

face wider inequalities. These have roots in relationship difficulties caused by high stress or even abuse, health issues stemming from poor living conditions, and reduced access to opportunities which broaden horizons. That’s why our grants are designed as a holistic package, granted in conjunction with the activity and support of a broad variety of workers from frontline sectors.

There are two major aspects of our impact and evaluation work. The first that we are constantly asking ourselves is who, where, what and why are we making grants? Secondly, we reflect on the impact of these grants against our Theory of Change. This report explores both aspects, as well as presenting work on the change and challenges we have seen in 2022-23.



# 2. Who, where, what and why?

## 2.1 Who?

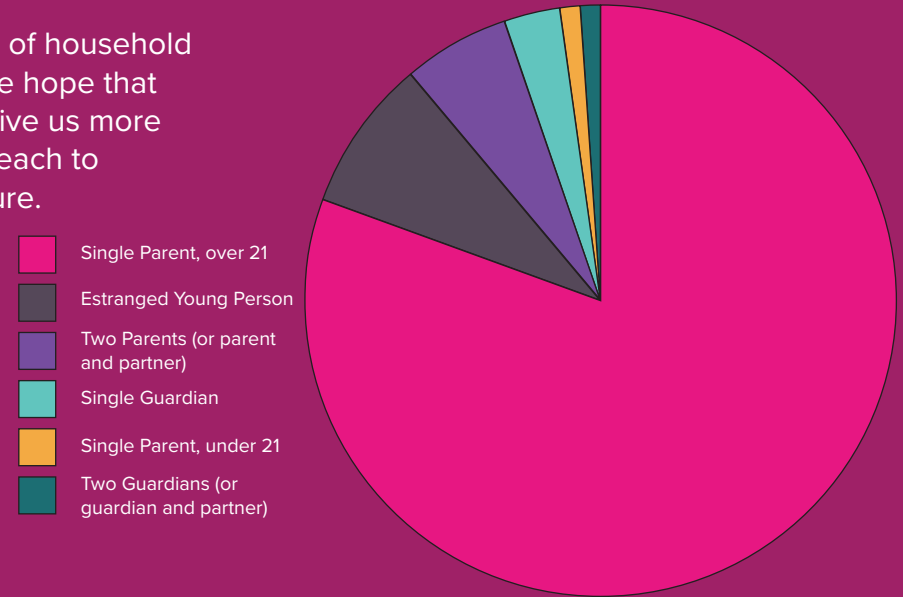
We know how important it is to understand the characteristics of our grantees. In the 2022-23 financial year, we began collecting new data through a revised application form. This included enhancements to the categorisation of grantee ethnicity and gender, for both the main applicant and the children and young people in households. We also made improvements to family status, which records the makeup of the household in terms of adults, children and their relationship to one another. All of this application data is used to monitor our reach and parity across our grant-making.

These charts tell us more about the households we were able to support with a grant in 2022-23. The majority of families we supported were headed by a single parent or guardian, with a small proportion of these under the age of 21. The number of Estranged Young People (aged 16-20) we supported fluctuated over the year, settling at approximately 8% of the entire grantee cohort. Though the average number of children per household was two, there can be significant variation between family sizes, with 38% of households with 3 or more children and 16% of households with 4 or more.

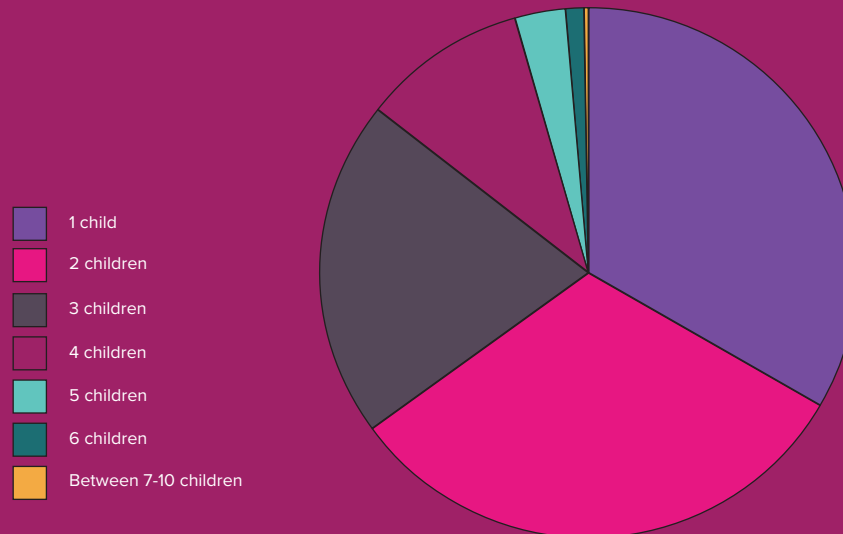
Our lead applicant was a woman in 87% of households. For the first time, we can report on households led by non-binary, transgender and gender neutral people; though they

collectively make up only 0.2% of household leads (and 0.6% of children), we hope that inclusion of this measure will give us more insight and opportunity to outreach to marginalised groups in the future.

Family Type



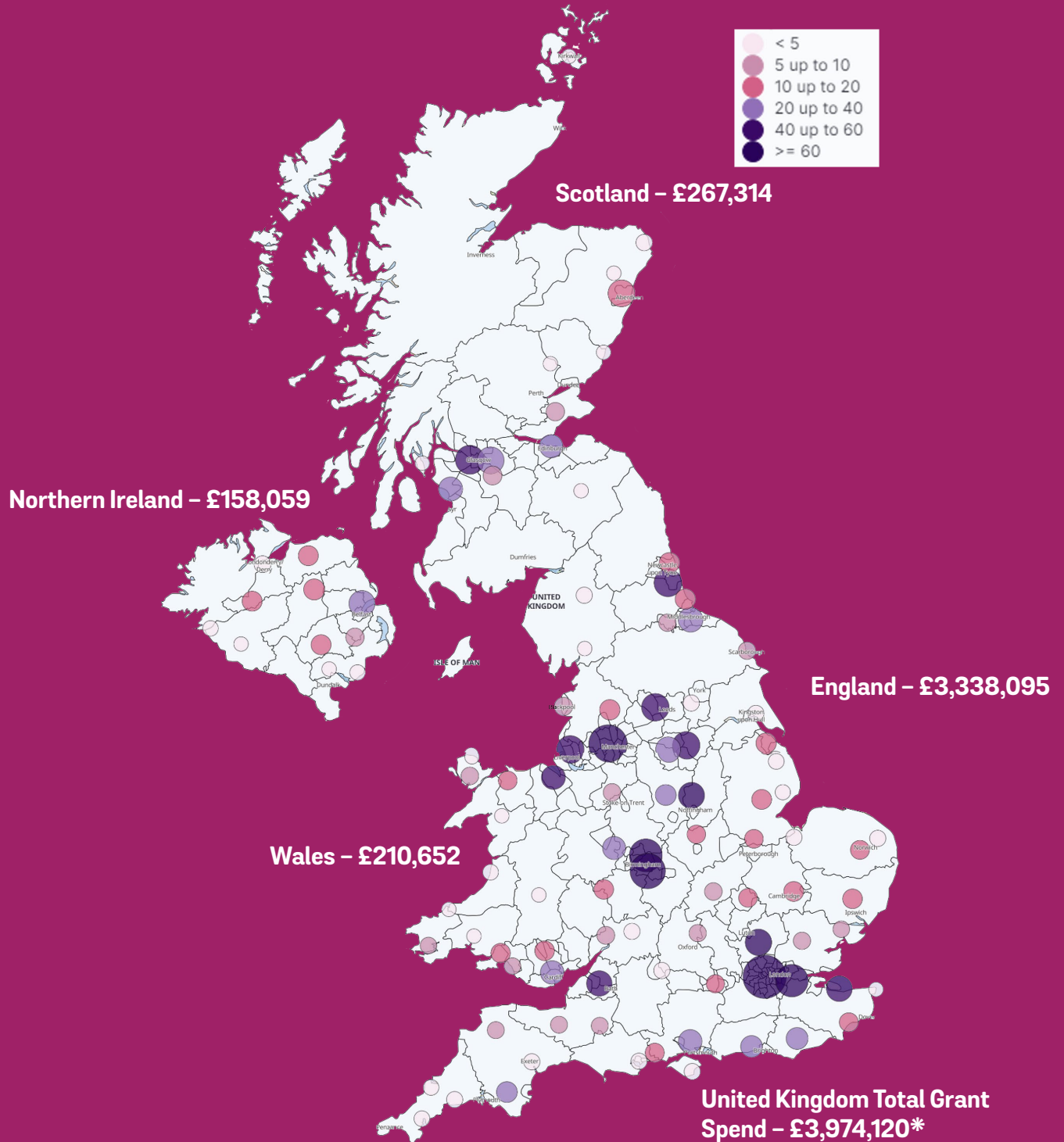
Number of Children



## 2.2 Where?

Our grants are made across the UK. We see clusters in cities and towns, where support network infrastructure is strongest and population density is highest. Once again, our largest single local authority by grant numbers was Birmingham where there is high child poverty, a network of regular referrers and strong relationships. The grants team have worked on identifying local authorities not referring to us where need and deprivation is high, in order to target and increase our reach.

This year, we have looked into identifying the characteristics of one-off referrers for Chances for Children grants, which were found to be higher in number across the South-West, Yorkshire and the Humber, London, South-East and North-West. Where we can encourage repeat referrals, we are likely to see higher success rates and stronger applications. We are working on creating new pathways with referrers to increase applications to our Support for Boarding grants. Currently, Boarding grants are clustered mostly in the South-East of England, with a small amount in Wales and Northern Ireland. We do not currently fund any boarders in Scotland.



\*Includes £88,000 from our partnership with Springboard

### 2.3 What?

Here is a breakdown of everything we awarded in 2022-23. The flexibility of our grants means that, year-on-year, we see small adjustments to the totals of each item. By responding to individual children’s needs, we aim for our grantees to receive what they truly need.



The types of items and activities we award tend to stay stable year-on-year. We attribute this to two things. First, our network of frontline workers apply for items and experiences which meet the needs of each family or young person, ensuring that each grant is holistic. This is supported by our grants officers encouraging a balance of items which fit our Theory of Change (ToC). Secondly, we regularly review the feedback of our referrers and grantees to understand which items and activities are needed and what difference they make; this has given us a foundation of core items to grant. Hearing feedback from our grantees every month reveals important insights and understanding of the difference our grants make.

## Home Environment

Typically, we grant items such as beds, furniture, white goods, carpeting and other items that make the home a safe and nurturing environment to grow up in. Many households are without basic furniture, meaning that children have nowhere to rest, learn, play and relax at home, and their caregivers struggle to provide nutritious meals and clean clothes. We persistently receive feedback about the transformative nature of key furniture and furnishings. Grantees share their experiences of being able to have meals together, socialise more comfortably and rest properly in furnished bedrooms. This makes a significant difference to their wellbeing - through lessening anxiety and stress and increasing opportunities for friends to visit.

“

Being granted a wardrobe and new bedding was a really big help. My son's bedroom is now organised, it's helped him not feeling so overwhelmed.

“

Creating a homely safe space for myself...it was my first time being comfortable.

“

[The best part was] The dining table and highchair for my son. We now enjoy quality mealtimes together and make eating a social positive experience whilst eating together.

“

The bedroom furniture and PC for my son's bedroom. He's always had a lot of friends but never until now has he had so many of them spend so much time in our home. He's proud of his bedroom.

“

It's made it feel safer and warmer and cozier and more like home which in turn has made us feel less anxious.

## Engagement in Education

A huge number of the items we award are designed to support children to engage in their education setting, especially if they are suffering with poor attendance or struggling to keep up with their learning. Many families have experienced upheaval if they have had to flee domestic abuse or have become refugees. The expense of a new school uniform is out of reach for many, meaning children miss out on schooling and might experience bullying for looking different. Technology poverty is a contributor to educational inequality, and it is clear from grantee feedback that grants for laptops and tablets provide much-needed opportunities for young people to access their learning and homework, just like their peers. Many younger children use the toys, books and games we grant to develop the skills required for early development.

“

The laptop and chairs mean they can enjoy their own space without arched backs and feeling left behind due to technology use [being] essential in today's world.

“

The Chromebooks and accessories have enabled my children to be able to participate in online learning set by the school. It has meant my children are not falling behind their peers.

“

The grant has helped me to be able to take part in my class work which I couldn't before as I did not have the resources. This has allowed me to feel less stressed about not being able to complete tasks given to me.

“

The carefully selected toys/educational tools for my child, assisting me in teaching my child and to feel confident I have the necessary items appropriate for the milestones. We value our bonding time together with these items too, overall helping me as a parent to be more capable at my role.

“

A uniform grant gave me peace of mind and the children went to school with a complete uniform just like all the other children.

## Social and Emotional Wellbeing

It is easy to underestimate the many items and activities children and young people need to access for supportive networks and to create memories, skills and experiences. Most of these items and activities are out of reach for children in poverty. Therefore, grants that support wellbeing can span toys, clothing, footwear, social, sports and arts activities, days out, therapy, school trips, and more. Arguably, most items we grant contribute in some way to physical, mental, or emotional wellbeing.

Our grantees consistently give feedback about the improvements they've noticed in their children's happiness, stress levels and friendships when they've been given the chances that all children deserve. Many appreciate feeling just like their peers and being given opportunities to spend time outside of the home. We hear regularly from parents and carers about their increased capacity to care for their children thanks to opportunities to build relationships through social activities and days out. Simply having fun memories and shared experiences goes a long way for families recovering from trauma and crisis.

“

**Being able to pay for gymnastics classes and musical instruments have been most helpful as it boosted my children's psycho-social and physical and emotional well-being. The Buttle UK fund has been a godsend for myself and my children.**

“

**Since getting the trampoline, he's more active. Since the laptop he is recognising educational programs and feels more involved with class friends. Since the pillow he sleeps better and has no pulled muscles. Since the activity club he is opening up more and coming out his shell.**

“

**The grant allowed me to buy a gym membership which was great because I couldn't have afforded it otherwise, when I'm feeling down I can then go to the gym to get out of my shared house.**

“

**The weighted blanket and craft items were a godsend. They have helped us start a memory book for my nephew and we spend time together crafting. The weighted blankets have helped with grounding themselves, emotional regulation and sleep.**

“

**The most helpful part for their wellbeing and education are the art and crafts ready books, it makes the whole family socialise while being creative.**

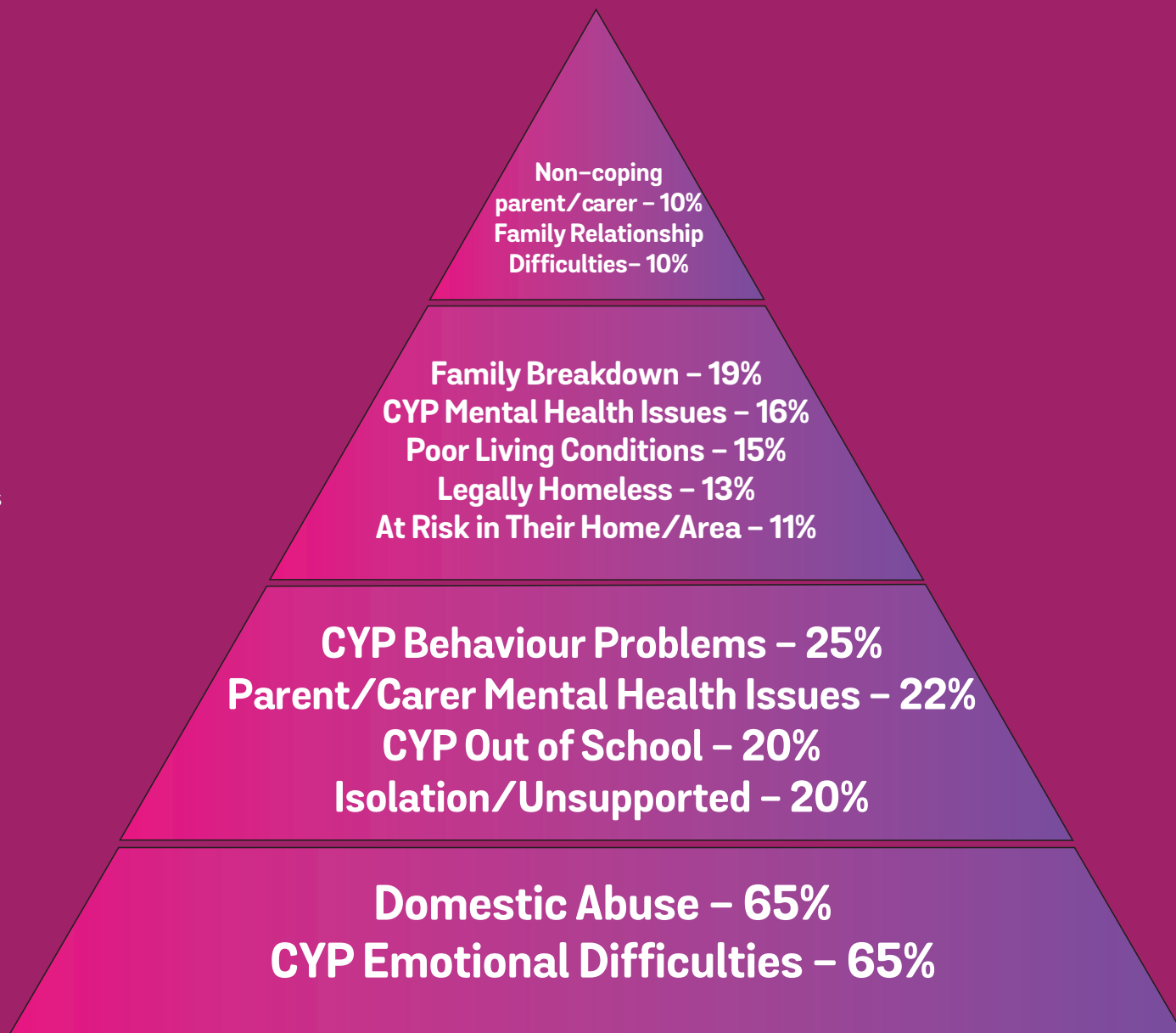


## 2.4 Why?

Award reasons are used primarily to capture an applicant's circumstances and eligibility for a grant, yet they also paint a picture of life in poverty and crisis for children and young people today. In analysing these, we better understand what challenges children are facing in the UK's current social and financial context.

The two most common award reasons – Domestic Abuse and Child/Young Person Emotional Difficulties – are present for approximately two-thirds of cases in the 2022-23 cohort. The latter is understandable, given the extremely challenging and sometimes traumatic circumstances that our grantees are living through. This year, we have seen increases in the number of families with children and adults alike suffering from mental health issues or behavioural problems. We are also seeing many households experiencing family breakdown, relationship issues and parents/carers being unable to cope. It is hugely concerning that approximately 1 in 5 of our grantees have children out of school or with poor attendance. This award reason had one of the largest proportional increases in 2022-23.

When examining these award reasons and their shifting patterns year-on-year, we know that they can act as a reflection of the wider social and economic climate of the UK today. Through our work with frontline workers and families directly, we understand that the cost-of-living crisis is having a devastating impact. Many families have been sharing with us, through our monthly evaluation surveys, their lived experience of the cost-of-living crisis\*\* and the ways that being awarded a Buttle UK grant is making a difference.



\*\* This theme is explored further on in this report on page 14, as well as in our annual State of Child Poverty Report 2023; please visit [buddleuk.org/news/news-list/state-of-child-poverty-2023](https://buddleuk.org/news/news-list/state-of-child-poverty-2023) to read the full report.

# 3. The Impact

## 3.1 Families

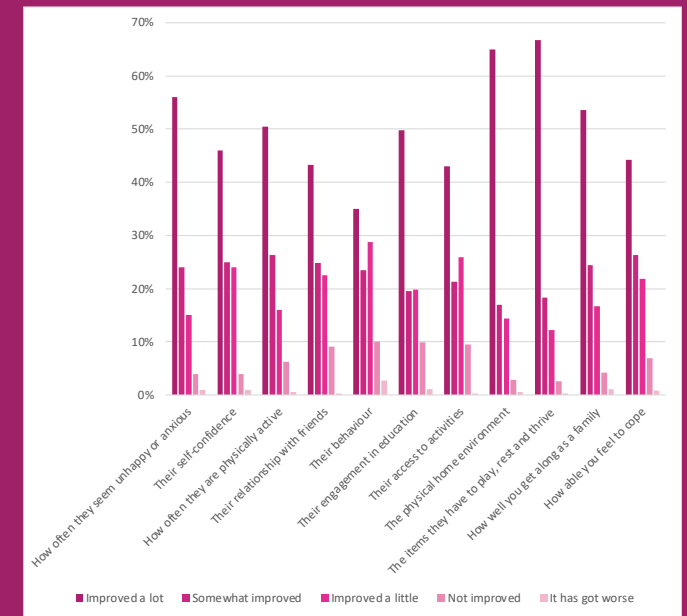
Every month, we ask Chances for Children grantees for feedback about their grant three months and six months after it has been awarded to them. We also ask their support worker to complete a survey at three months. We receive hundreds of comments every month, and they are all reviewed individually - not just to understand where things are going well, but to see what needs to be better. These insights are shared with our grants team in regular internal discussions and review processes.

In addition to open questions, we also measure impact through a mixture of quantitative questions. These are an important aspect of our evaluation process, as they help us to pinpoint exactly where the impact of a Buttle UK grant is greatest, measured against our Theory of Change. We have broken down the aims of the Theory of Change into eleven questions, grouped around wellbeing, the home and engagement in education. The data reported here captures all Chances for Children grantees (excluding EYPs) who responded that, following the grant, the area in question improved a lot, somewhat or a little. The data is extremely positive. The areas of our Theory of Change with most consistent positive feedback were those related to changes in the home and some aspects of wellbeing. For the vast majority of questions, the percentage reporting improvement was over 90% at 3 months and even 6 months after the grant. It is encouraging to note the proportion of parents and carers who not only reported an increase to their coping at 3 months, but also increased in number at 6 months too.

Theory of Change Area	% reporting improvement at 3 months	% reporting improvement at 6 months
How often they seem unhappy or anxious	95%	95%
Their self-confidence	95%	94%
How often they are physically active	93%	93%
Their relationship with friends	91%	90%
Their behaviour	87%	85%
Their engagement with education	89%	87%
Their access to activities	90%	86%
The physical home environment	96%	96%
The items they have to play, rest and thrive	97%	96%
How well you get along as a family	95%	95%
How able you feel to cope	92%	93%

We note that where improvement was lowest was for behaviour and engagement in education. This demonstrates the impact of crisis and poverty on young people's attitudes to and engagement in schools and helps us focus attention for the future. Access to activities is the lowest scoring over time. Activities are a particularly tricky aspect of grants to sustain, given that families may need regular transport to get to activities, our grants are often given in a single sum, and they can be complex for frontline workers to purchase and monitor.

Buttle UK is committed to transparency in our work. The graph on the right gives a detailed breakdown of exactly where and how families rated change following their grant, measured at 3 months. While we are pleased to report that the proportion of families recording factors that did not improve or got worse was low, it is important to acknowledge these responses and consider the intersection of our grants, their wider circumstances and our role in improving this.



### 3.2 Young People

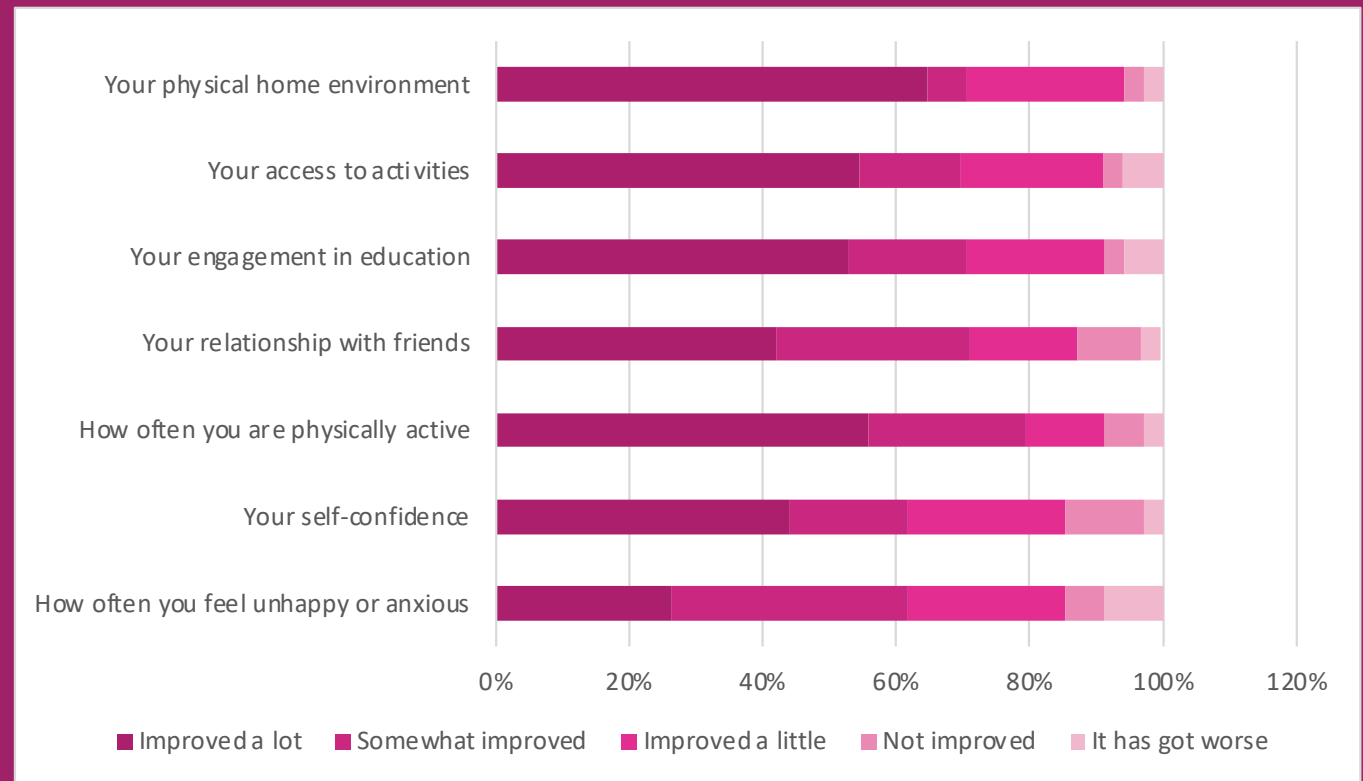
We record impact separately for young people experiencing estrangement (EYPs). This is because they are not typically living in a family unit, and most do not have children. Some of the questions we ask families are not appropriate for young people. Aged between 16-20, their circumstances are quite unique, and we see this in the types of items and activities we award them.

This year, we received survey feedback for 23% of our EYPs at 3 months and 17% at 6 months, which is an increase on previous years due to changes in how this group is surveyed. This aligns with Buttle UK's strategic aim to capture grantee voice, particularly young people's and children's, more directly through co-production and evaluation.

As with family feedback, the overall picture is extremely positive. The majority of young people, across all the measures, reported improvements, many of them marking a lot of improvement. These were particularly apparent for the home environment and levels of physical activity, as well as improved access to activities and education. Many young people raved about specific aspects of their grant, particularly gym memberships, course materials and having the means to make their home feel cosy and safe. This is important for those who have experienced homelessness following estrangement.

The impact of the grant was lowest for aspects of social and emotional wellbeing. However, when viewing this data alongside

qualitative responses, it is quite clear that for young people, there are gaps in wider service provision and social support that our grants cannot reach. One example of this is the young person who, sadly, rated that all measures had got worse. We will share our overall learning in this area with the sector and to inform our youth engagement and accountability work.



### 3.3 Case Studies Nala's Story

Nala had to flee her home country after her father was killed, coming to the UK along with her younger sister. After seeking sanctuary at her aunt and uncle's home, she was forced to endure severe abuse and neglect for many years. Nala was not allowed to eat, socialise, and her education suffered. Complaints she made to trusted adults were ignored until she reached out to a friend, who helped to put an end to the abuse when it was reported to police. However, this left her homeless and alone at the age of 19.

Nala was forced to leave all of her belongings behind and was barely able to attend her college course. After sofa-surfing for a short period, she was housed in temporary accommodation, where she was left to pick up the pieces of the trauma and emotional upheaval of what she had been through. With the support of a young woman's advocacy organisation, Nala made an application to Buttle UK for the items she needed to start over. This included a mobile phone, passport, core furnishings and kitchen items. She also received a laptop, access to the internet and a desk and chair, so that she could start to access her education again. Her grant, along with the emotional and practical support offered by her advocate, have helped her to return to education and start a new chapter.

Nala told us: **“I know I have stuff inside my room which I can use and feel like I'm at home. I can now do my coursework with the**

**laptop and the WiFi... I am no longer behind on my course, which helps my wellbeing because I'm no longer stressed about my college and how I'm going to pass the year. It's very hard to get certain stuff but because of the grant, I am very confident now because it helped”**



## Oliver's Story

Oliver was five years old when he was forced to leave his home, his school and his friends. Along with his mum and baby sister, he had been forced to witness severe domestic abuse perpetuated by his father, his whole life. After the abuse worsened, he and his family escaped to a women's refuge. The impact on his emotional wellbeing was very severe, and his behaviour and relationships suffered. Poor living conditions had contributed to his little sister becoming poorly, too.

After starting to receive counselling and support at the refuge and his new school, Oliver's careworker reached out to Buttle UK. Their grant was needed to start over from scratch, as their new tenancy was completely unfurnished; the family received beds, a sofa, white goods, kitchen items and other household essentials. To support Oliver's wellbeing and transition to a new school, they also received school uniform and a grant towards days out and activities.

The impact was transformative. Feedback from the family's support worker indicated that the children's health and sleep has improved, which was having a knock-on effect on Oliver's capacity to engage with his education. With improvements to the home and overall wellbeing, the whole family could begin their journey of recovery from crisis. Three months after receiving the grant, Oliver's Mum told us:

**"We use the dining table for family meals... the children's beds [mean] they sleep a lot**

**better, especially my baby in her own cot. The microwave [means] I am able to sterilise baby's bottles and having a good Hoover has improved my son's asthma a lot"**

Then, at six months after the grant, she had more to share about the long-term impact of their grant:

**"Without the grant I wouldn't have been able to afford the sports activities they do. So I really thank you from the bottom of my heart. My children are thriving now. It's brought so much happiness to our lives. The security and standard of living it brought us was truly amazing."**



# 4. Situating our Work

## 4.1 Challenges

The last three years have presented many challenges to families living in poverty. In 2020-21, families told us that the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions had a significant impact on their social and emotional wellbeing. The children and young people we support were isolated in cramped or unsuitable homes, often without the technology needed to communicate with friends and peers, or the means to access the online lessons and resources necessary for their education. We've seen ever-increasing numbers of children and young people reporting as having emotional difficulties and poor mental health.

Then, in late 2021, the cost-of-living crisis began. Almost two years on, we know that many of the families we support can no longer afford the food, gas, electricity or rent they need to keep safe and warm. These are individuals already living through Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs); additional external and contextual factors are compounding the challenges they face. The research we undertook for our State of Child Poverty Report, published in August 2023, provides a stark insight into the destitution that too many children are facing right now.\*

Our grants cannot fill the widening gaps that low-income households are facing. We do not make grants towards household bills, debt or food. Our grants are designed to be holistic, to increase engagement in education

and support their emotional wellbeing. We also hope to raise children's aspirations and give access to opportunities that every young person deserves. Our belief is that children should thrive, not just survive. However, we know that simply surviving is getting much harder for children in poverty today.

Our impact will be lessened where the basic and physiological needs of children and young people are not being met. In fact, Buttle UK has been holding challenging conversations about where our grant-making sits in the current context, our grants can make a huge difference, but broader change must take place to ensure more children and young people in poverty are not left behind. We acknowledge that we may not necessarily change what we grant, but that we can use our voice and our platform to stand up and make sure the issue is heard, far and wide. Our campaign work with the End Child Poverty Coalition is an example of this, as with our commitment to sharing data through 360Giving. We are proactive in seeking collaborations with those with influence. We will continue to measure, record and report on the lives of children and young people living in poverty to support these challenging conversations.

“

We have had to cut back on many things that we used to take for granted, i.e. heating, only having it minimal amount of time. With the rising of food and heating costs we have had to cut back on social outings with children, just making it as cheap or free as possible. The support you have given us is outstanding and we can't thank you enough, we are looking forward to making memories using the National Trust pass and taking the children to the ice skating rink. We are truly grateful for the support you gave us when we couldn't see the end of costs that kept coming.

“

The price of everything has gone up. For me, my sister and I, we live on our own – I'm 16 and she is 17. It's been really difficult to pay for the necessities we need. And with school on top of all that, it's difficult. I think it has not only affected my physical needs but my mental health too. The supplies that I received were invaluable to my education, in August I'm even going to be learning guitar! My self-confidence has improved as well with my new clothes, I'm really happy with Buttle!

“

The cost of living has crippled us. I am a single mother and I am currently unable to work due to health issues. We struggle every month to make ends meet so when an added expense like uniform or new shoes comes in, it's just not possible. There is now way I would have been able to buy the kids new bikes or garden toys with the cost of everything sky rocketing.

“

The cost of living crisis has and still is having a huge impact on us. We are literally just getting by month to month. Sometimes, especially the final week before pay week, I don't eat at all so that I can let my child have what she needs. There is nothing extra ever, to enjoy any outdoor/cinema/holiday activities and on a couple of occasions we have had to use up the emergency gas and electricity because I was not able to afford to top them up until pay day...Thank you again as you have given us a lot we would have not been able to do or look forward to.

## 4.2 Change

As part of our application overhaul, we removed the four programme names we had used to previously pre-define crisis. They were Domestic Abuse, Kinship Care, Estranged Young People and Other. It was decided that pre-determining the crisis may have acted as a barrier for applicants who struggled to place themselves in these categories, while the vague label of the Other group did not allow us to understand who those grants were reaching. We've spent time this year examining cases which would typically fall into the Other category.

For this cohort, poor parental wellbeing is a major characteristic. Their mental health is typically a key issue, and very often goes hand-in-hand with poor living conditions and the parent or carer not coping. It could be argued that these households are where we might see children at the edge of care. Many of the award reasons selected for this cohort were related to parental characteristics rather than that of the child, pointing to a parental capacity crisis.

It was also clear that there is a significant impact on the children or young people living in these households. Most children and young people in this cohort are suffering from emotional difficulties, poor mental health or behavioural problems. These are contributing to high numbers of children and young people failing to attend or engage fully with their education. The links between these factors and parental incapacity were strong. We can

use this understanding to inform internal conversations about how we tailor grants to overcome these incredibly challenging circumstances, to target our fundraising efforts for this group and to draw attention to the support needed for this group across education and support sectors.



# 5. Behind the Scenes

## 5.1 Co-Production and Youth Engagement

This year, Buttle UK has taken significant steps forward in its commitment to becoming more accountable to the children, young people, families, and professionals we support. Since our Co-Production and Youth Engagement Manager started in October 2022, we have created a shared vision for co-production across Buttle UK, established policies, processes, and systems, and engaged new young people and referrers in co-production projects, with an aim to recruit them to our Youth Panel and Advisor Network.

Building on the success and learning of the Surviving Estrangement project, we engaged 14 young people from our Support for Boarding programme to create a digital resource of top tips for new boarding students. This will be shared with the young people who Buttle will be supporting to attend boarding school from September 2023, to help them settle in and make the most of being a boarder.

Over 400 referrers responded to a survey on their experiences of our grant processes. We used their feedback to clarify some of the information about our Chances for Children grant criteria on our website and are continuing to look at other ways we can make this as useful and concise as possible for referrers.

We have also worked with external partners to offer personal development opportunities to

young people, such as a one-week internship with Graphite Capital in June 2023 for four young people and speaking opportunities at professional events and conferences.

In the coming months, our plan is to engage young people from these projects and across our Chances for Children and Support for Boarding grant programmes in a much deeper discussion around sustainability and the investment of our endowment, ready to participate in a Board meeting on this topic towards the end of the year. This project will act as an exemplar for the kinds of work our Youth Panel will carry out and, with the young people, enable us to establish ways of working to create the Panel.

Alongside this, we will work across different teams and pillars to deliver a range of projects with referrers, young people and other family members to expand the Advisor Network and reach our target of 100 members by March 2024 (we are currently at 22 members, all of whom are referrers).





## 5.2 Fundraising and Marketing

The last year has seen some significant achievements in delivering the Income Growth pillar of our 20-25 Strategy. Our Chances for Children Campaign - which achieved its initial £10m target early in 2021 – has now raised £4.5m against its target to raise another £10m over 3-5 years, all thanks to the tireless hard work and commitment of the Chances for Children Campaign Board.

After making a grant of £2m to us as part of its response to the COVID crisis in 2020, we have been successful in securing a new £10m grant over five years from the National Lottery Community Fund. The grant will support our Chances for Children grants, and not only will it be transformative in terms of what we can achieve for children and young people, but also for Buttle UK as an organisation - creating the opportunity for us to build our infrastructure to sustain this increased capacity beyond the grant.

In February we held our second gala fundraising dinner with a donated private performance from Gary Barlow. We had an amazing evening at the News Building, with its amazing views overlooking the London skyline and hosted by TV and Radio presenter Chris Evans. The event raised an incredible £400,000 and we are hugely grateful to everyone who gave so freely of their time and expertise, as well as the many auction prizes, to make it such a success. Not least, our chair Jill Dinsmore.

We launched our School Uniform Campaign with George at Asda in August. The campaign ran across the Mirror, as well as other Reach newspaper titles, over the course of the month. Asda donated £125,000 of e-gift cards to pay for school uniforms, and donations added another £10,000 to our campaign total. We have been very active throughout the year in securing media coverage for other areas of our work, and that of the End Child Poverty Coalition. This has resulted in our CEO, Joseph Howes, appearing on Channel 4, BBC News and Radio 4's Today Programme, as well as pieces being published in the Mirror, Guardian and Independent.

We developed and launched another new initiative, the Women's Giving Circle, during the year. The idea is very simple, women are coming together and support other women. Over 20 members have donated so far and, with matched funding from two long standing supporters, it has already raised £80,000.

Alongside the work of the Campaign Board, we have been testing fundraising with the public this last year, through both approaching prospective donors door to door, and with inserts in a range of magazines and other publications. Over 2,500 new donors have supported us through these initiatives, who we hope will continue their commitment to our work long into the future.



## 6. Closing remarks from Joseph Howes

The cost-of-living crisis has been biting hard in 2022-23, and this has presented challenges to most households in the UK. It's very hard for any of us to ignore the rising price of food, energy and household bills. But for families living in poverty, it is far harder. Most of us can only imagine the stress of shouldering these rising prices and the wider costs associated with education, activities, and wellbeing, when even the basics are out of reach. It is frightening to learn how many children are missing out each day on the simple means to thrive. That's why Buttle UK is proud to offer those tangible, important items and opportunities that we would expect every child and young person to have access to, through our Chances for Children grants.

This impact report demonstrates that our grants can and do offer a helping hand to households that are struggling to get by. The fact that we provided grants all over the UK, to such a wide range of family make up and sizes, reflects how every family in need is unique. The diversity of the crises they reported to us demonstrate the power of highly personalised grants. We are really encouraged by the positive feedback and comments we consistently received from parents, carers, frontline workers and young people. Our improvement scores show that even in the hardest times, our grants have an important role to play in improving children's engagement in education, their social and emotional wellbeing and their relationships within and outside of their home.

We know that our grants cannot completely fill the widening gaps in social support, and to address the levels of utilities and food poverty that so many are reporting. We do not want to risk losing sight of our purpose, which is to give children the means to thrive – not just survive. That being said, we are using our platform to challenge those with the power and means to act. Our work with the End Child Poverty Coalition is a good example of this, in addition to our strategic focus on collaboration with other organisations in making those with experience of poverty's voices heard in the sector and beyond. We are passionate about illuminating the extent of the issues children and young people in poverty face, which is why we write reports such as these, and actively share our data on platforms such as 360Giving. Our transparency and commitment to being responsive to need means we constantly challenge ourselves – and are happy to be challenged.

Ultimately, what you've read in this report is a celebration of what has been done to change the lives of individuals, but also an insight into the very real lived experiences of poverty. Chances for Children grants are designed to level the playing field, giving every child and young person they reach the means to flourish. There are always more still living without the basics, which is why we are so grateful to our funders and donors – big and small – who are making it possible, year-on-year, for us to support even more children and young people.





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