



Impact Report for 2022-2023

In its first year, the Women’s Giving Circle raised £60,400. On behalf of all the children, young people and women we work with, we would like to thank everyone who donated.

We hope this report inspires you to help us continue with this work, and to pledge to support the Giving Circle for the upcoming year.

The first year of the Women’s Giving Circle has made a tremendous difference to the lives of families, children and young people through our Chances for Children grants. Over what has been an incredibly difficult year for so many families, the Giving Circle has supported over 40 grants reaching 83 children and young people.

Where has the funding gone?

Location	No. of Grants	No. of Children	Total Value
London	9	14	£12,056
West Midlands	6	11	£9,663
Yorkshire and The Humber	5	7	£8,439
South West	5	11	£8,080
South East	6	17	£6,512
North West	3	4	£4,023
East Midlands	2	4	£2,977
Northern Ireland	2	3	£2,688
Wales	1	4	£2,150
North East	1	3	£2,089
East of England	1	4	£922
Scotland	1	1	£900
TOTAL	42	83	£60,499



Our Chances for Children grants offer children and young people packages of support up to the value of £2,200 – though averaging around £1,600. These grants pay for everyday things that all children should have, but some parents and carers cannot afford. They also provide the extra resources these children need to overcome crisis and offer opportunities to unlock their future potential.

Each grant is bespoke to the children and young people it supports, but you can see there are some very popular items. The table below shows how, in particular, furnishings for homes, and for children's bedrooms are a major priority. Laptops and tablets are also popular, as they have become essential items to allow children to fully engage in education. Children's toys, games and social activities all help children to not just survive, but to thrive. They also build skills and encourage children to play with family and friends.

What was funded?

Items and Activities	Total Value
Furniture & Home Furnishings	£11,991
Laptop/Tablet	£7,531
Beds & Bedding	£7,450
Toys, Books & Games	£6,199
Children's Clothing & Footwear	£5,356
Carpeting & Flooring	£5,039
Social Activity/Day Out	£3,196
White Goods	£3,162
School Uniform	£2,286
Sport Activities	£1,500
School Trip	£825
Home Appliances	£795
Bikes & Scooters	£697
Tuition	£665
Essential Kitchen Items	£510
Art/Music/Drama Activities	£470
Course Materials/Resources	£426
Discretionary Card Payment	£416
Therapy & Counselling	£400
Gym Membership	£300
After School & Breakfast Club	£295
Broadband/WiFi	£240
Mobile Phone	£200
Home Security/Safety	£180
Travel Costs	£180
Home Decoration	£100
Early Years Equipment	£90
TOTAL	£60,499



Marie’s Story

Erica and her daughter Marie (7) fled domestic abuse from Marie’s father and are currently living in a refuge. They have been offered a council property and are due to move in soon.

Marie is overly attached to her mum and is very insecure without her. Prior to moving to the refuge, Marie had her own room and her own routine. Now, she struggles at school, doesn’t have many friends and is very anxious in crowds. Mum has both physical and mental health problems which means she at times struggles to properly care and provide for Marie.

Thanks to the Women’s Giving Circle,, our Chances for Children grants were able to support Marie. We funded clubs and activities for Marie to help her come out of her shell and socialise with other children. We also provided, toys and games so she can play at home again. To support her education, we funded, a new school uniform and supplies to help her do her homework. To make her feel at comfortable in the new home, we provided a new bed and bedding, a chest of drawers, and other furnishings.



Buttle UK supports children and young people in poverty and crisis. However, it is an inescapable fact when we look at the families we support, 92% are headed by single women. These women are struggling through a variety of crises, while also trying to make ends meet at home. Looking at the families supported by the Women’s Giving Circle, the table below illustrates the top challenges these women are facing alongside financial need.

Reasons for Award	No. of times issue mentioned	Frequency of issue
Children & Young People with Emotional Difficulties	34	81%
Domestic Abuse	31	74%
Children and Young People with Behaviour Problems	13	31%
Family is Isolated / Unsupported	13	31%
Family Breakdown (Divorce, Separation, and/or Abandonment)	11	26%
Parent/Carer suffering from Mental Health Issues	9	21%
Poor Living Conditions at Home	7	17%
Children & Young People with Mental Health Issues	6	14%
Children & Young People with Neurodevelopmental Disorders / Additional Learning Needs	4	10%

Circumstances impacting vulnerable families over the last year

Inflation reached a 41-year high in October 2022, while food prices reached a 45-year high in March 2023. Poorer families experience a greater impact from inflation than others, due to the higher proportion of household income spent on food and energy.

Though the government launched its Help for Households scheme in 2022, which has issued cost-of-living payments for various groups; these payments, alongside stagnant household incomes, are not keeping pace with increased prices and do not offer the breadth of support required for the very most vulnerable households.

Child poverty is most prevalent among children from single parent families, those living in larger families, and from black and ethnic minority groups, groups which were also those most impacted by economic hardship during the COVID-19 crisis.



What frontline workers say they are seeing

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*Families are having to prioritise basic needs because it is no longer a given that they will have a clean warm roof over the head and regular food to eat. **Education is becoming a luxury** some families **can no longer prioritise.***

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*Due to the increase in poor mental health brought about by the cost-of-living crisis, young people are feeling more anxious and depressed and are lacking motivation to go into college. It is **hard for them to prioritise or see hope for their future** when they are **paralysed by their current needs.***

The Difference a Chances for Children grant makes

Our grant giving aims to increase both children's emotional and social wellbeing and their capacity to engage in education and learning.

We ask parents to rate the impact this has had on them and their children 3-6 months after they have received the grants.



85% of children are more engaged in education

88% of children have more self confidence



95% of children have a better physical home environment



Messages from mothers funded by the Giving Circle

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Days out together to bond us as a family. The uniform grant gave me peace of mind and the children went to school with a complete uniform just like all the other children. This grant provided our family happiness!

“

It's been great. they have the stuff they needed that I couldn't afford, especially new clothes and computers to help with learning and homework. Just I'm really grateful for the help.

“

We are so grateful - thank you. I couldn't have afforded a bed or horse riding. The new bed means that night-time separation is much easier, the horse riding is so therapeutic and of huge benefit to my daughter