



chancesFOR
CHILDREN
BUtLEuk

Impact Report 2023–24

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1. Introduction

Buttle UK was established over 70 years ago, but the 2023-24 year was exceptionally challenging for the families and young people that we support. The cost-of-living crisis has continued to drive households struggling to meet the costs of basics, such as gas, electricity, and food, into further hardship. Our grants are for families not only facing significant financial difficulties, but also recovering from crises. These include domestic abuse, housing instability, mental illness, refugees escaping conflict and persecution, bereavement, and other family emergencies. Combined with severe financial hardship, these make many children and young people extremely vulnerable. The families we support are diverse. They are spread geographically across the UK, with a range of characteristics, family sizes, and living situations. Their crises and financial circumstances are equally diverse.

Our Chances for Children grants have to reflect this diversity by being as holistic as possible. They come in all shapes and sizes, but typically provide a range of items and activities that improve the home environment, increase children’s capacity to engage in education, and foster their social and emotional wellbeing. We also provide a smaller number of Support for Boarding grants for children to attend boarding provision, in partnership with a network of boarding schools. These grants are highly specific, supporting children experiencing the most extreme crises, for whom the nurturing environment of boarding provision provides respite and recovery from their family circumstances. Our grant-making intends to provide opportunities that these families would not otherwise have, reducing the inequalities they face and increasing their aspirations. Our aim is that the grants we make today will pay dividends in the futures of the children and young people they support. We are grateful for the referrers who deliver our grants in tandem with holistic support, working across an incredibly diverse array of frontline services.

2023-24 – on a page



In this financial year we made

2,800

grants to households experiencing severe financial hardship and crisis.

The average number of children was 2 per household, but

37%

of families we supported have 3 or more children. They are particularly vulnerable to the two-child limit.



Single parent/carer households made up over

83%

of families we supported.



Our grants helped

6,364

children and young people, including 81 boarders. This is over 45% more than in 22-23.

We saw an increase in the number of applications in 2023-24 – we received over 500 more than the previous year, resulting in

4,377

applications for support.



In 2023-24, we granted over

23,700

items and activities,

6,500

more than the previous year.

The average grant value in 2023-24 was



£1737

Just over 8% of families received our upper limit of £2,400.

The total value of all of our grants was

£5,148,433

this is up 30% from 2022-2023



7%

of all grantees are raised in a household headed by guardians, in kinship care agreements.



8%

of our grantees were estranged young people. This has remained stable since 2022-23.



Our typical frontline worker changed in 2023-24; now, over

47%

of our applications come from social working organisations, while third sector organisations have fallen to 21%.



The average cost of each item rose from £178 in 2022-23, to £189 in 2023-24. It is costing more to deliver the same items and activities, reflecting the economic difficulties that families face.

3. Our Grants

This year, we awarded over **23,500** items and activities, totalling **£5,148,433**. That is more than we've ever awarded in a single year, and 30% more than the previous financial year, due to an increase in funding. Our most popular items are reflective of the needs of children and young people living in poverty. Laptops and tablets rose to become the most popular item in our Chances for Children grants in 2023-24; we awarded 52% more towards them compared to the previous year. We know that these, as well as toys, books, and games, are crucial items for education and play, which in itself supports wellbeing.

Furniture and home furnishings remain extremely important, we have seen a 32% increase in spend on the previous year, along with a similar increase for beds and bedding. Many times, our grants are used to help families in barely furnished homes. This year, we almost doubled the number of grants we gave towards social activities/days out and bikes/scooters, rising 89% and 97% on the previous year respectively. The only area where we saw a fall in both spend and number granted was boarding school fees, which reflects a small decrease in the number of students supported.



Items & Activities	Number of items granted	Total value
Boarding School Fees	142	£702,052
Laptop/Tablet	2,454	£658,190
Furniture & Home Furnishings	3,203	£649,480
Beds & Bedding	2,026	£492,503
Children's Clothing & Footwear	1,926	£415,477
Toys, Books & Games	2,292	£352,740
Social Activity/Day Out	1,975	£320,881
School Uniform	2,375	£215,761
White Goods	704	£195,676
Carpeting & Flooring	580	£187,708
Sport Activities	1,092	£150,312
Home Appliances	728	£135,321
Bikes & Scooters	446	£98,730
Therapy & Counselling	255	£77,085
Essential Kitchen Items	531	£65,976
Course Materials/Resources	581	£59,602
Tuition	272	£57,761
Art/Music/Drama Activities	351	£46,099
Gym Membership	221	£44,306
After School & Breakfast Club	196	£35,762
Home Decoration	308	£32,973
Broadband/Wi-Fi	202	£29,410
Travel Costs	171	£26,418
School Trip	99	£17,461
Early Years Equipment	143	£16,069
Mobile Phone	88	£15,303
Home Security/Safety	82	£12,158
Work Materials & Equipment	101	£10,834
Discretionary Card Payment	67	£8,774
Boarding - Discretionary Payment	24	£8,069
Removal Costs	42	£7,366
ID - Passport/Driving Licence	27	£2,174
TOTAL	23,704	£5,148,433

Engagement in Education

25% of grantees were recorded as low or no attendance
15% of grantees experience educational underachievement

For children living in poverty and experiencing crisis, access to education is extremely challenging. Many families do not have the means to access the technology required to complete homework or online learning resources. Others, having fled domestic abuse or other crises, change education settings, incurring the cost of new school uniforms. More widely, their homes lack the array of toys and books which support learning in the home.

This is why laptops, tablets, toys, books, and games are consistently in our top five items. We granted over £200,000 towards school uniform, £30,000 for WiFi, and almost £60,000 towards tuition, for children requiring support to catch up on missed learning. Families and young people tell us that these items give their children the confidence and equal opportunities to keep up with their peers and enjoy their learning again, even where they've had extreme disruption to their learning journey.

Area of Improvement	Family – 3 months % improvement	EYP – 3 months % improvement
Engagement in Education	89%	100%
Access to Activities	89%	90%



“ It has helped with my education by getting me the things I need to take notes and keep up to date with my course work, and having all of the things I need is giving me more confidence and motivation to engage more in my course. It has helped with my wellbeing by having things to help with my stress and anxiety like colouring and art supplies
 – Young Person, July 2023

“ The grant allowed me to soar in my education. I can understand complex and difficult concepts which I would never have understood if I had never received the grant. The experience and knowledge I gained from the course was life-changing and incredibly impactful. I am able to use knowledge from the course for all aspects of my A-levels. I have received great university offers. I also started a club at school in hopes to share my knowledge I learnt and expose ideas to my peers. I am incredibly grateful...almost a year later it still positively impacts my education, aspirations and general well-being
 – Young Person, August 2023

“ Both girls were very excited about their new laptops. The eldest has just started her GCSEs and was very relieved that she can do her homework without stress, she has gone up a number of sets already and is much more confident about her education, she is now thinking about going to university and wants to be a music teacher. Her young sibling is improving in phonics and school have been able to give her extra work to do online. Proper school shoes and coats have also made a huge difference. The older child said that last year she dreaded going to school in the winter, she did not have a proper coat and had thin ‘ballet flat’ style shoes with holes in, she would be cold and have wet feet for much of the day and felt miserable
 – Referrer, November 2023

Social and Emotional Wellbeing

52% of grantees have emotional difficulties

22% of grantees have behaviour problems

At least 16% of grantees have mental health issues

Our grantees face severe adversity due to the crises they endure. This has an acute impact on their overall wellbeing and relationships. After receiving a grant, families report significant improvements to their mental health and broader emotional wellbeing, particularly their self-confidence and reduced anxiety. They value opportunities to take part in therapeutic activities and receive sensory items. We granted almost £250,000 across diverse activities such as sports, arts, music and gym memberships. Families describe these as opportunities to aspire and thrive. Our grants also help families and young people to build relationships and routines, which is crucial for recovery.

Area of Improvement	Family – 3 months % improvement	EYP – 3 months % improvement
Anxiety/Unhappiness	96%	86%
Self-Confidence	95%	87%
Physical Activity	94%	92%
Behaviour	86%	N/A
Friendships	93%	90%



“

My daughter suffers a lot with regulating her emotions, since Buttle awarded funding for some sensory toys, my daughter has calmed down a lot & can now discuss what triggers her emotions

– Family, October 2023

“

One of the children who has severe anxiety and hasn't left the home for months was able to access equine therapy, the difference this has made in the child's life is incredible as she is now leaving the home x2 a week. She has been out of education since 2019, however is now building up social skills, talking to other children and leaving the home meaning she will be more prepared for re-entry to school

– Referrer, August 2023

“

The furniture and weighted blankets have helped make [child] feel like this is now his permanent home and the blanket has reduced his anxiety, he uses it a lot. He also uses the stress balls, and the desks have helped him with his eyesight...the voucher for the restaurant was great for him as it was his first time going with a friend on his own and it boosted his confidence

– Family, December 2023

“

My well-being has improved as I am no longer anxious about how I can get my work done. I can also use the laptop to listen to music which helps me focus on my work and has helped with my depression, anxiety and other trauma symptoms. It has also helped me to settle in to living alone and I now can make some food. It has helped with my OCD because I can clean my home. Owning a laptop has made it easier to apply for jobs and access health support services

– Young Person, March 2024

Home Environment

100% of grantees live in financial hardship
51% of grantees have experienced domestic abuse
11% of grantees have extremely poor living conditions

For families going through financial hardship, the cost of furnishing a home is prohibitive. Many of our grantees live in transient settings, such as refuges or temporary housing, after being uprooted due to domestic abuse, refugee crises, or estrangement. This leaves them starting over in homes that are barely equipped, often without key furniture or white goods. In 2023-24, we granted almost £200,000 towards white goods and carpeting/flooring apiece, and just under £500,000 for beds and bedding. These items, as well as the huge number of furniture and furnishings we grant, are used to transform houses into homes. This offers children and young people a safe space which meets their needs; parents and carers are able to cook, clean and relax with their families. This is instrumental in providing comfort, recovery, and ownership as well as giving children feelings of pride and security following periods of extreme upheaval.

Area of Improvement	Family – 3 months % improvement	EYP – 3 months % improvement
Home Environment	96%	87%
Items to Play, Rest and Thrive	97%	N/A



“

The storage solutions such as chests of drawers and toy boxes have helped transform the child's bedroom and he is consistently keeping his room tidy and shows huge pride in his belongings. He enjoys being in his room and has displayed photos, certificates and his new karate uniform which makes him very happy!

– Referrer, September 2023

“

My daughter didn't have a very nice room before the grant, the grant enabled us to get her laminate flooring which changed the comfort factor in her room. I could then afford to paint the colour she wanted. Also getting her a trampoline to jump off excess energy has helped calm her

– Family, October 2023

“

The grant helped my situation **MASSIVELY** as a vulnerable person and my home environment the most. It gave me what I needed to get back on my feet moving into my first ever supportive living/housing, especially when I did move in...I had no clothes, no kitchen equipment etc. This grant also helped me get a laptop which pushed me through the last years of college and helped me a lot with my education and overall well-being

– Young Person, July 2023

“

Our home is so much more liveable and is a much more friendly place to come into. My overall environment has greatly improved, I feel much more confident and happy with the help I received. My wellbeing and mental health I would say has improved, I'm less anxious than I was 3 months ago...with the help of Buttle I got a new bed! [The grant] gave me the push towards independence

– Young Person, September 2023

Family Relationships

15% of parents have mental health issues

8% of parents have drug or alcohol misuse

6% of families face severe relationship difficulties

6% of grantees have a non-coping parent or carer (at the time of application)

The challenging circumstances that our grantees face have significant and enduring impacts on their family relationships. Many parents and carers face extreme stress, juggling financial hardship and recovery from the crises that negatively impact their own wellbeing. We know that families want nothing more than for their children to thrive. The burden of this stress results in extreme pressure on family dynamics. We made over £300,000 of grants towards family days out and just under £80,000 towards therapy and counselling for children in 2023-24. These activities are crucial for building space and strategies for families to enjoy time with one another. The reduction in parental stress is instrumental in increasing capacity to cope and recover from crisis.

Area of Improvement	Family – 3 months % improvement	Referrer – 3 months % improvement
Ability to Cope	96%	97%
Family Relationships	97%	98%



“The grant allowed us to have a short stay holiday in the UK which was very enjoyable for us as a family. It also provided essential school items, including uniform, which I would have struggled to buy myself due to my low income. Vouchers for days out were also provided which was very helpful and allowed my girls to have fun
– Family, July 2023

“My son is going to boxing and attending school a lot more than he was...he even [did] some homework last night and using his peddle bike more often as he wants to keep fit and improve. My daughter is coming on so well and is just about ready to crawl, [I] am so proud of them both
– Family, March 2024

“The heater and the laptop made a big difference in day-to-day life, my son was able to complete coursework on the laptop as well as my daughter, the money spent on the kids going out really gave them memories and a fun time. The grant really boosted quality of life and the mood in the household has improved
– Family, January 2024

“Beforehand [young person] was not accessing education despite being home schooled, so this enabled her to be supported one to one, to develop her emotional and social wellbeing. She has since spent time engaging in activities outside of the home with her family, there are less reports of challenging behaviour and she is less isolated. [Young person] presents as being happier and as a result the family has made less contact with me requesting support and seem to have more resilience and self-resources, enabling them to problem solve independently
–Referrer, July 2023

4. Our Grantees

Every year, we receive applications from across the four UK nations. Budgets are allocated to reflect the populations of these areas we serve, helping us to reach as many vulnerable grantees as possible in every area of the UK. We tend to see the highest number of applications from urban areas, which reflects the stronger frontline infrastructure and highest population density. However, applications come in from all areas, and from very diverse frontline services. 47% of applications came from social services in 2023-24, and 21% came from voluntary organisations. Other frontline services who applied on behalf of families included other local authority services (11%), housing associations (5%), and education settings (3%).

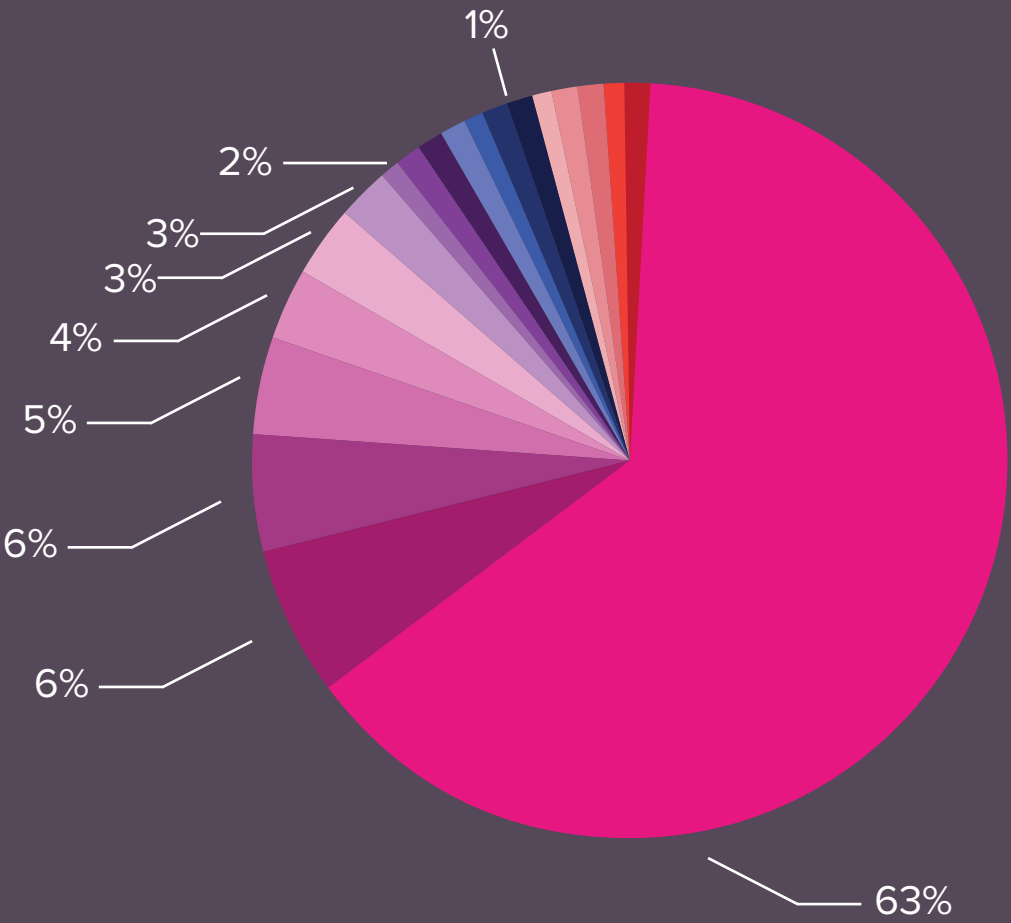
Every family's circumstances are unique. This is reflected by their diverse characteristics. The data we collect tells us both about our grantees, and about the characteristics of families living in poverty in general. In 86% of the households we support, the main parent or carer is a woman. We know that many have fled domestic abuse, and many become the primary caregiver in the event of family breakdown. However, the male/female split amongst children is equal, with 0.5% of children and young people identifying outside of the binary genders.



Our grantee’s ethnicities represent a greater diversity than that of the most recent UK census. In 2023-24, minoritised groups represented 37% of all grantees, 10% above the English and Welsh average. This diversity especially represents Black African and Asian Pakistani individuals at over double the national average, and Black Caribbean individuals at over 5 times the national average. 3% of our grantees were refugees and asylum seekers.

Ethnicity

- White - English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish
- Black - African / African British
- White - Other
- Black - Caribbean / Caribbean British
- Asian - Pakistani / British Pakistani
- Other
- Asian - Other
- Asian - Indian / British Indian
- Mixed - Other
- Mixed - White and Black Caribbean
- Arab
- Asian - Bangladeshi / British Bangladeshi
- Black - Other
- White - Irish
- White - Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Mixed - White and Black African
- Not Disclosed
- Mixed - White and Asian
- Asian - Chinese



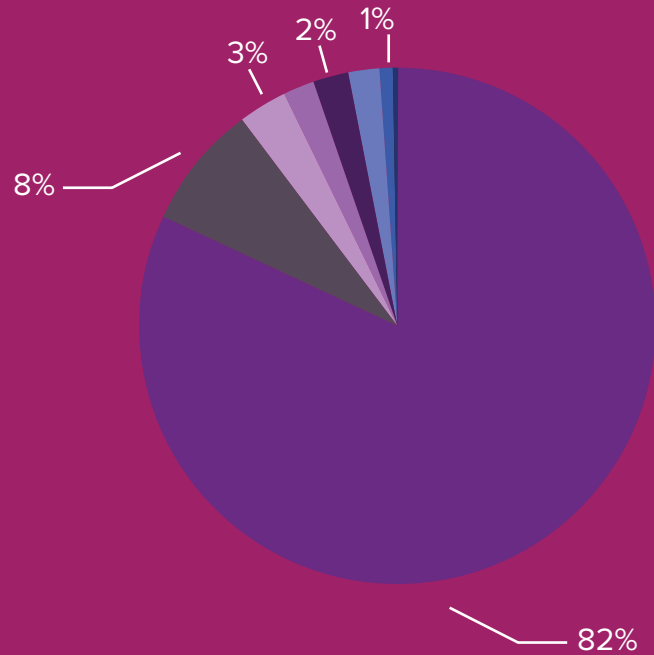
In 2023–24...

86% of parents and carers were women

83% of families were headed by a single parent

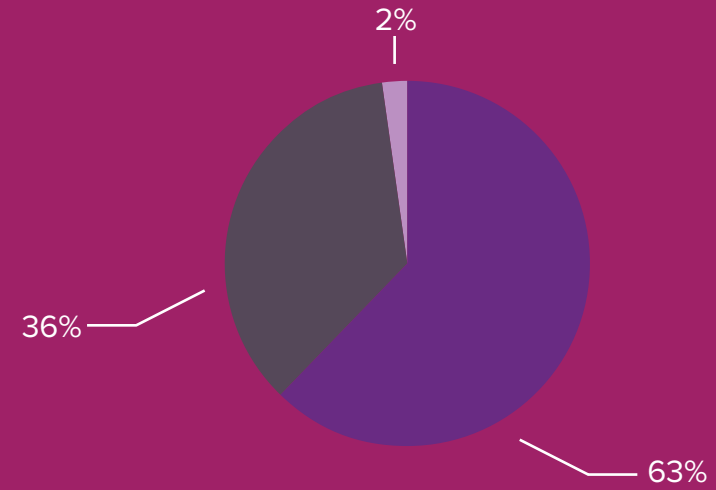
63% of parents were White British, 10% below the national average

6% of households had an LGBTQ+ individual, rising to 14% of estranged young people



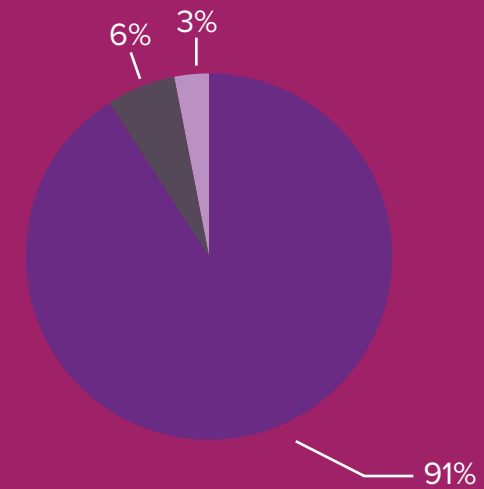
Immigration Status

- UK National/British Citizen
- Indefinite Leave to Remain
- EU National
- Full Refugee Status
- Asylum Seeker
- Other
- Exceptional Leave to Remain
- Humanitarian Protection



Disability

- No
- Yes
- Prefer not to say



LGBTQ+

- No
- Yes
- Prefer not to say

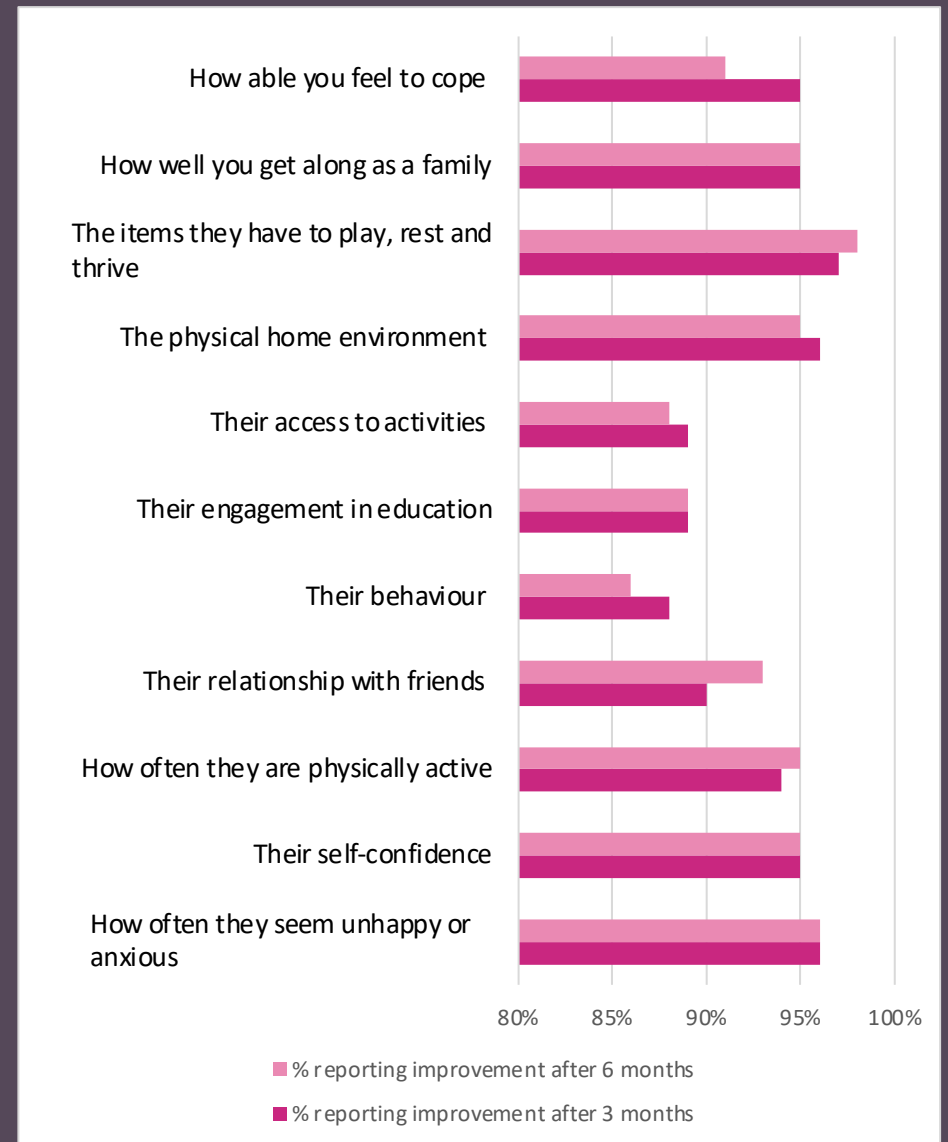
5. The Impact

Families

The data reported here captures family respondents who felt that, following the grant, the area in question had improved a lot, somewhat or a little. The data is extremely positive and shows that, for most questions, the percentage of respondents reporting improvement is over 90% at both 3 months and 6 months after the grant. The most positive areas relate to changes in the home. It is particularly positive to see how impactful our grants are in providing items for the children and young people (CYP) to play, rest and thrive, and that this impact is sustained, remaining at 98% after 6 months.

It is interesting to see some areas where respondents reported improvement over time, most notably the CYP's relationship with friends. Improvement was reported at 90% at 3 months, and 93% at 6 months. This is a reminder that young people living in poverty and crisis have complex needs, and sometimes positive change can take time.

The less positive areas include behaviour and engagement in education. This is consistent with the findings in our previous report. Behaviour is the lowest scoring at 86% at 6 months, dropping from 88% at 3 months. While this score is still extremely high, it gives cause for reflection on the longevity of trauma, and its effect on behaviour and wellbeing. The biggest drop-off in improvement over time is in the parents and carers coping, which stands at 95% at 3 months and 91% at 6 months. While still an extremely positive score, this drop-off contrasts with the findings in our previous report. Families may be increasingly feeling the squeeze of the cost-of-living crisis.



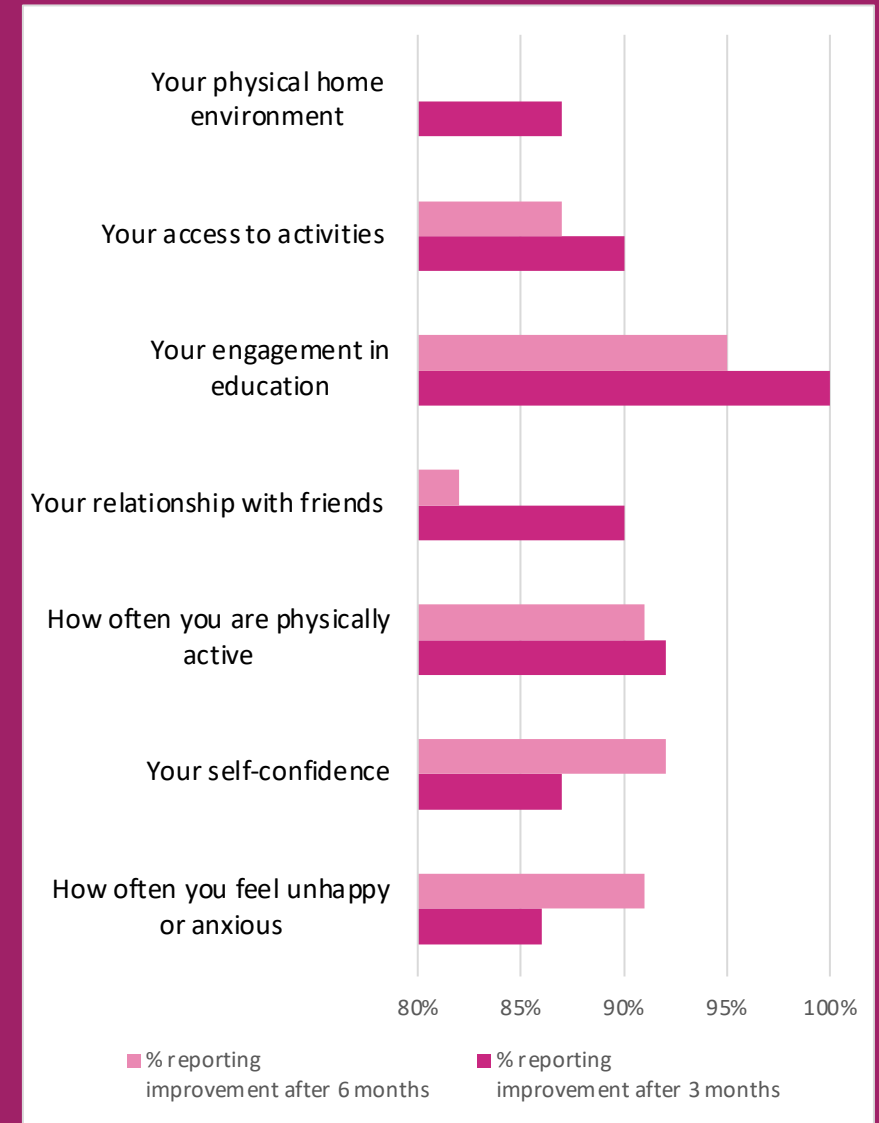
Estranged Young People

We send a slightly different survey to grantees who are identified as estranged young people, which reflects their unique circumstances. Estrangement brings a significant upheaval, leaving these young people extremely isolated and without familial support.

It is hugely encouraging to see the positive impact of our grants on estranged young people's ability to engage in education, despite the slight decrease over time (100% at 3 months, 95% at 6 months). EYPs will be at an age when they are most likely considering their next steps and potentially their career ambitions, which is often reflected in their qualitative feedback. It is so important to see the role that our grants have in supporting their education, as this helps unlock their potential.

It is also positive to see the increase in EYPs reporting improvement over time relating to aspects of wellbeing, most notably self-confidence, where 87% report improvement at 3 months, and a further 92% at 6 months. This is similarly reflected by overcoming unhappiness / anxiety, with 86% reporting improvement at 3 months and 91% at 6 months. This may be linked in part to the impact of our grants on engagement in education, providing space for EYPs to develop – a reminder of how each area is interconnected and reinforcing the importance of a holistic approach.

The biggest drop-off in improvement over time is in the young people's relationship with friends (90% at 3 months, 82% at 6 months). This may be linked to the challenges of enabling sustained access to activities which provide important opportunities for social bonding, where again we see a slight drop-off (90% at 3 months, 87% at 6 months).



Referrers

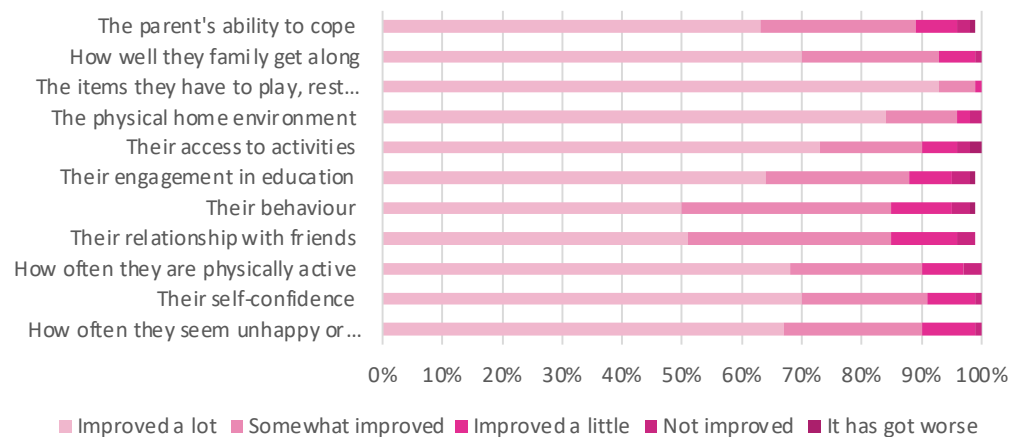
Year-on-year, referrers consistently report more positively than parents/carers in their survey responses regarding the difference our grants make. This is understandable given the degree of separation between the referrers and the crisis itself, which is likely to feel more overwhelming, present and constant to the families and young people. We also acknowledge the possibility that referrers are inclined to report positively, where they might intend to return for further grants.

The breakdown of improvement scores for referrers paints a slightly more nuanced picture compared to their overall improvement scores. The charts to the left illustrate where referrers feel our grants have a particularly strong impact for both families and EYPs, and where the impact is a bit less strong, albeit still positive.

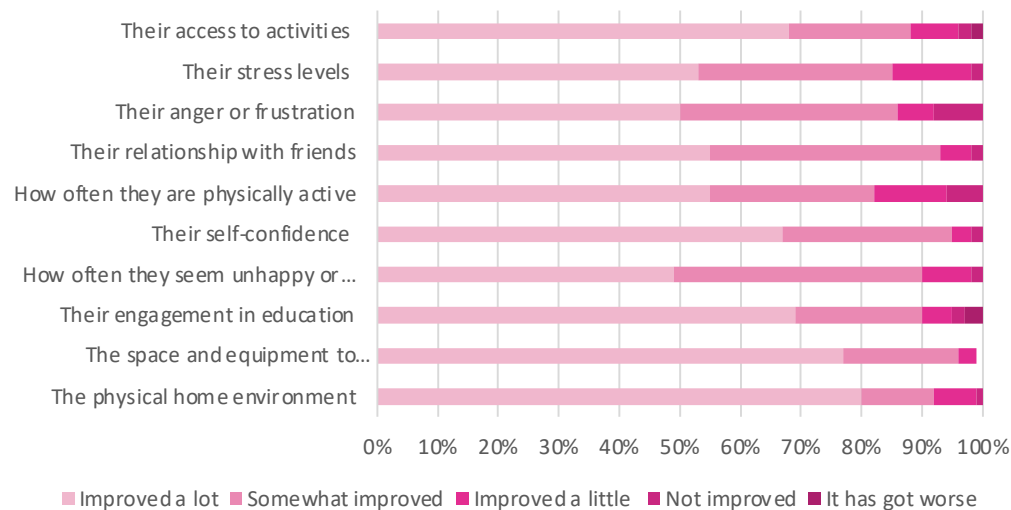
Once again, the impact on the family's physical home environment is shown to be a key strength of our grants, both from the perspective of referrers and the families themselves. The breakdown of responses does bring the views of referrers more closely in line with that of families, showing that elements of social and emotional wellbeing, particularly behaviour (50% improved a lot) and relationship with friends (51% improved a lot), are notably less positive than other areas. Interestingly, referrers still feel very positive about the impact of our grants on family's access to activities (73% improved a lot), so there is still a relatively large discrepancy with the views of families (they only reported 45% improved a lot) on this, which is notably less positive.

Similarly, for EYPs, the breakdown of different responses more closely aligns young people and referrers in the extent to which they feel the grant has a positive impact on their wellbeing. The notably less positive areas are stress levels (53% mostly improved), anger or frustration (50% mostly improved) and unhappiness or anxiety (49% mostly improved).

Family Referrer - 12-Week Survey



EYP Referrer - 12-Week Survey



Reflections

Overall, the level of improvement reported by families, young people, and referrers in 2023-24 is indicative of the positive impact our grants make. Our average proportions of reported improvement sit well above 90% in most areas. These are scores to be proud of and demonstrate the hard work of our grants team in distributing holistic grants, and the critical role of support workers in frontline delivery. Much work has taken place over the last 4 years of our 2020-2025 strategy to align our grants as closely as possible to the needs of families, our Theory of Change, and the challenging context in which we work.

Nonetheless, there are also areas of learning. An important aspect of our evaluation programme is faithfully highlighting the areas where our impact is lower, and transparently reporting these. For every family or young person where we have celebrated the improvements reported, there are grantees for whom improvement was not made. Two key takeaways from our work in 2023-24 are:

- 12 weeks after their grants, between 10-12% of families reported that their access to activities, behaviour, and engagement in education had not improved, or had got worse (for 1-2% of respondents across these areas).
- 12 weeks after their grants, 13% and 14% of estranged young people reported that their self-confidence and unhappiness had not improved.

Our grants do not exist in a vacuum. It is through our wider research and reporting that we can unpick the challenges that give rise to less positive outcomes. We know that many families are living without enough gas, electricity and food, as evidenced in our upcoming Growing Up in Poverty report. In this project, we learnt how many families are simply unable to take part in activities or education, due to lacking the energy, capacity and headspace to take part. Similarly, we understand that, for many young people trying to sustain their own living and education in a cost-of-living crisis, their immense stress is not conducive to improved wellbeing. We continue to advocate for these issues through raising awareness and undertaking research, in order that our grants can continue to make the best impact that they possibly can.



6. 2023–24: Co-Production

The last year was a landmark one for co-production at Buttle UK. We accelerated our involvement of those we exist to support in our organisation and celebrated some significant successes. One of our key pieces of work was the Investing for the Future project, which involved 10 young people in discussions with our staff, trustees and investment managers to explore whether Buttle UK should continue to invest in fossil fuels. This six-month programme of training and development culminated in four young people attending our December 2023 Board meeting to present and discuss their views with trustees.

This marked the achievement of something we've been working towards for a long time: having young people meeting our trustees as equals, sharing their views and leading a discussion about a key topic that our board have been debating for some years. Our young people not only did themselves proud with a detailed, balanced and well-researched presentation, they also facilitated an open and considered discussion, leading to a commitment from the board to develop a plan around divestment moving forwards. We are continuing to work on the outcomes of this project and report back to the young people involved.

Throughout the year, we have done lots of other work to bring young people into our organisation and start sharing our decision making with them. For the first time ever, we had young people involved in recruiting new trustees to our board, and a young person has now been involved in recruiting half of our SMT. Together with our young people, we created space for young people to present at national conferences (where this wouldn't normally have happened), opened up internship opportunities with companies in sectors with limited social mobility, and developed new projects and ideas to boost our fundraising and impact.

We also formally launched our Advisor Network, which is made up of professionals and families who have received our grants. Our Network now has over 350 members, including 108 referrers, 45 young people and over 200 parents/carers. In the last year, members of our Advisor Network have been involved in a range of activities to review and improve our grant processes, develop our pilot of multi-year grants and explore the

equalities impact of our grant making. In the coming months, we will be working with the young people who participated in our projects over the last year to co-design and recruit to Buttle UK's Youth Panel. We will also be involving young people, referrers and families on our Advisor Network in the creation of Buttle UK's new organisational strategy and a significant review of our Chances for Children criteria and processes. Alongside this, we will continue to reflect, learn and aim to embed co-production across all our work at Buttle UK.

“ It was such an interesting idea, getting to think about how we invest the money, what impact that has on the world, on our climate, economy and such.

“ I think the project was around something very relevant, and something that for people our age, is going to affect us the most. So, I felt it would be good for me as a young person to get involved

“ The actual speaking [to the board], I was there in person...I was feeling a bit nervous, but I did it anyway. And I think it's gonna help me next time [because] I've already done it and had good feedback from it. I think that was a real positive.

“ Initially I was sceptical...like, don't tell me how we're gonna go to the trustees and how they're gonna change anything! Like why would trustees just listen to a bunch of 16- to 20-year-olds. I had kind of a sceptical start. But now I think completely differently. We did have a say, and we do have an impact.



7. 2023–24: Fundraising

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 £6,032,000 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.

We have delivered the first year of our 5-year £10m National Lottery Community Fund Partnership. In 23/24, we used this funding to deliver 1,581 grants supporting 3,509 children and young people, providing over 10,500 of household items, toys, games and books, laptops and educational equipment and extra-curricular support.

This year marked our 5th year of partnership with the Italian Job Rally. We spent an incredible nine day event with ‘jobbers’ as they toured through Imola, Florence and Turin. Thanks to all the efforts of the teams and organisers, the event raised over £53,000. Over our five years together, they have raised over a quarter of a million pounds for Buttle UK, through the driving adventure in Italy, the Mile of Minis in Oxfordshire and the Minis at Goodwood.

Other highlights of the year include the continuation of our Women’s Giving Circle, which now in its second year has raised over £125,000 through the generosity of its members. We also hosted an online meeting with our donors and supporters to mark the 70th Anniversary of Buttle UK. It was wonderful to celebrate the impact of Buttle UK’s grant giving has had both past and present, with those whose generosity makes this work possible.

We wish to express our appreciation to all our funders in 2023–24, who made our work possible. Particular thanks go to...

The National Lottery
Community Fund

Garfield Weston Foundation

The Freudenheim Family

Graphite Capital

Mercers Foundation

Comic Relief

National Philanthropic Trust

Eleanor Hamilton Education Trust

Cyril Taylor Foundation

Beacon Owl Trust

Schroder Foundation

We also wish to express our thanks and gratitude to all the families, young people and referrers who took the time to provide feedback on their grants.



8. Closing Remarks

We are proud of what our Chances for Children grants have achieved in 2023-24, in a time where they are still so sorely needed. While we hope, always, for a world where child poverty does not exist, we acknowledge the bittersweet role that Buttle UK can play in improving the lives of those for whom it is their continuing reality.

Our last year of grant-making has continued to exist in a period of significant challenge. The cost-of-living crisis has taken away the capacity of families and young people to access basic items and services which afford them the dignity, safety and security they need. Our upcoming research reports, *Growing Up in Poverty* and *the State of Child Poverty*, leaning on perspectives of families and frontline workers respectively, demonstrate the recent catastrophic decline in living standards for households living in financial hardship. It has been challenging to land our grants in such a difficult context.

However, the number and value of items we granted in 2023-24 tells us that we have a role in filling the gap. The rates of improvement reported by grantees demonstrates that our grants make a significant, positive difference where they are needed. The extensive qualitative feedback we receive illuminates the reason why we must continue our work. We can, and do, offer chances for children and young people who are not afforded equal opportunities to thrive and aspire, as all should be. Chances for Children grants are designed to help level the playing field, giving every child and young person they reach the means to flourish. We are grateful to everyone who has made our work possible in 2023-24.





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