

Buttle Bulletin

How you made it happen for children www.buttletrust.org



Child poverty

Through the dark days of economic downturn children are suffering across the UK

We live in a country where 4 million children endure a life of poverty – that represents one of the worst rates of child poverty in the industrialised world. In the current era of economic crisis and rising unemployment, children are bearing the consequences.

Since 2004 the number of people in the UK living in poverty (where earnings amount to 60% or less of the average household income) has steadily increased, after a period of 6 years of uninterrupted decrease from 1998. 30 years ago the proportion of children living in poverty was 1 in 10; today the figure has trebled.





Poverty has far-reaching, inter-generational effects. Children's levels of attainment are hindered often resulting in leaving school early, they are born too small and health is impaired; most dramatically, such privation actually shortens life expectancy.

Poverty can create a vicious circle and devastate lives; financial strain puts huge pressure on relationships and the Trust sees increasing numbers of applications where domestic violence is a key factor in the family's situation – family breakdown is a common result.

The intention of the Government's Child Poverty Bill, introduced to Parliament in June of this year, is to enshrine in law the commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020. However, targets along the path to this goal are not currently being met. The Trust's Chief Executive is Vice Chair of End Child Poverty, which tirelessly campaigns to keep this issue on the Government agenda and strives to raise public awareness of poverty in the UK

Through the Frank Buttle Trust's Child Support Grant Scheme and its Emergency Welfare Small Grants Programme for BBC Children in Need, the demand for our support is clear to see. Between October 2008 and September 2009 we made 8,873 grants (totalling £1,786,186) but 3,171 requests had to be refused, a significant increase on the previous year's refusals. So far this year, requests for assistance increase on

Dear Buttle Trust,

Gemma is 14 and became known to me at Social Services following admission to hospital due to several suicide attempts. Gemma has experienced bullying at school and self-harms. Gemma's deprived home environment has impacted on her and contributed to her situation. She lives with her mum in a flat, which has no carpet or flooring, and little furniture. Gemma and her mother sleep on garden sun-beds.

Gemma's mother has always worked long hours in very low paid jobs to provide for Gemma's basic needs and she has never before asked for help from anyone. Please Help.

Yours, Social Worker

The Trust granted £200 for a Single bed and bedding for Gemma.

a weekly basis, but the budget remains the same. The people we refuse are still in desperate need, but the limited funds mean that levels of need have to be prioritised by the Trust.

In a period of such austerity the need for extra resources is more urgent than ever. Over the last year across all of its grant schemes the Trust has distributed over £3 million to over 10,000 families and individuals, making a real difference to so many lives. But this is not enough.

100% of the donations we receive go to families, as all administrative costs are met by the return on the Trust's investments. Your donations make all the work we do possible. With your help we can reach more of the most undeserving victims of poverty, the children.

Trustnews

The Goodhart Bursary for Young Carers:

Following the retirement of our Chair, Miffy Goodhart in June, after 35 years of service to the Board, we were delighted to launch a bursary for young carers in her honour. The Goodhart Bursary offers much needed support to young carers by funding boarding school places, which enable them to complete their disrupted education and offer respite from their caring responsibilities. Thanks to many generous donations, the fund is now over half way to its goal of £100,000. For more information or to make a donation see our website: www.buttletrust.org

C4 - How the Other Half Live:

This prime-time programme highlighted that poverty and deprivation is experienced in the UK, through introducing a family in poverty to a financially privileged family and documenting their meetings from the perspective of the children. The Trust was involved in advising C4 on issues around poverty experienced by the families we support. We have ongoing input to this programme, which is planning a second series due to its success.



See C4 website www.channel4.com/programmes/how-the-other-half-live

UK-wide

Northern Ireland: A successful event was held in Stormont in October to promote the work of the Trust. Charles Goodhart, eminent economist, led a lively debate on the current world financial markets and the impact this has on philanthropy.

Scotland: Our Caseworker in Scotland is a member of the Poverty Truth Commission. This is a multi-disciplinary group, including individuals experiencing the effects of poverty, which aims to highlight the need for action and bring about constructive change.

Wales: The Trust is an active member of the Looked After Children (LAC) Educational Stakeholder Group whose aim is to drive up the educational achievements for looked after children and care leavers in Wales.

Temple event



Miffy Goodhart and Hazel Sewell at The Temple Church event in June

New Chair

David Anderson became Chair of Trustees in July, following 11 years on the Board. David is committed to the ongoing developments at the Trust and brings expertise in finance and investment. He is also Chairman of Midhurst Rother College in West Sussex.

Oliver!

In recognition of the successful 10-year partnership between Comet and the Trust, an evening at the theatre to see Oliver! was held in October. Sadly, the London that Dickens documented is still recognisable today for many children.

"Comet is very proud to supply white goods to the neediest families in the UK and make a difference to their lives."

Alan Moran - Comet

Noticeboard

Legacy Fundraising: The Praebendo Society

The Trust has established this Society (Lat. Praebendo=give or grant) to recognise individuals who have, or are planning to, make a gift to the Trust in their wills, trusts or estate plans.

For more information contact Ann Brookes at on 020 77986226 or praebendo@buttletrust.org


A big "thank you" to Faith Emanuel who has set up a Just Giving page to raise funds for the Trust www.justgiving.com/i-care Faith was a care leaver who benefitted from the Quality Mark at York St John University. "It's made a massive difference to my life and I will treasure it forever. I will continue to fundraise for your charity as there is always another young person that needs the kind of help Frank Buttle recognised years ago."

Get Involved

The Trust has an open-door policy and donors are welcome to visit our offices in London at any time to discuss our work and view our systems. Please contact Helen Knowles:

helenk@buttletrust.org if you wish to arrange a visit.

Your fundraising ideas would be welcomed and any suggestions or contacts to help us achieve our goal of raising £1 million annually, for our ongoing work with vulnerable families, would really be appreciated.



How the Frank Buttle Trust is changing the educational prospects of young people brought up in public care

Quality Mark - Raising aspirations and creating opportunities

GCSE's, A-levels, applying to College or University, leaving home, learning to cook, clean and generally look after yourself – these are all major challenges for any young person entering adult life. Imagine trying to navigate such a journey without the support of parents to guide and advise, without a stable home base to retreat to when the stress levels rise, when in some cases that home base and the people around you have changed many times. Young people who grow up in public care and complete school education do so against all odds. To then look further and strive towards further or higher education (FE or HE) requires exceptional strength, motivation and willpower.

The Frank Buttle Trust saw huge injustice in such discrepancies between the educational chances of care leavers and other young people; why was this vulnerable, disadvantaged group not receiving more assistance or recognition in order to redress the imbalance of opportunity available to them?

The Quality Mark was created in 2006 to address these issues. It is awarded to Higher Education institutions which can show that they go that extra mile to support care leaver students. Following criteria laid down by the Trust, Universities and other HE providers work to raise aspirations of care leavers through outreach work with schools and further education colleges, providing

information, advice and guidance at the pre-application stage as well as assistance through application and beyond. Incorporating a flexible approach to the admissions process for these students, the institution will monitor students throughout their studies and identify members of staff to provide holistic support, covering the pastoral, academic, financial, accommodation and beyond.

The success of this work (over 60 HE institutions have now been awarded the Quality Mark and feedback received from students is evidence that the changes have a positive effect on experiences and outcomes) has led the Trust to embark upon a development programme for a Further Education Quality Mark. The criteria will be piloted in FE providers across the UK over the next 12-18 months, an exploratory project which could bring benefit and opportunity to many more care leavers studying within this sector.

The support networks put in place through the Quality Mark scheme can be the difference between a student withdrawing or progressing and graduating. As one student at a University with the Quality Mark said, "The staff made me feel like I matter and that has helped me so much. I realise I'm not alone."

Your donations help those students to feel less alone.

Case study

Hi, I'm Amy and I'm 28 years old and enjoying a successful career in the NHS. I wouldn't have thought this was possible when I came to the Trust for help 9 years ago.

I was in care for 10 years following the breakdown of my parents' marriage. Me and my brothers were abandoned by our mum and dad found things difficult. He lost his job and turned to alcohol and prescription drugs to cope. Social Services stepped in after two desperate years with Dad.

My brothers and I were split up and, after three unsettled years, I moved to a foster family that was said to be "long term". However, in my first year at university, I returned in the holidays to be informed that I would have to leave, as my foster parents planned to look after younger children. I was devastated by this news, which came as a complete shock and left me homeless.

Without any emotional or financial support I thought I would have to drop out of university, but the Trust agreed to grant me £1,500 towards essential items and travel which enabled me to complete my course and achieve a First in Medicine! Just knowing someone out there cared about me at that difficult time made all the difference.