

# ANNUAL REPORT 2017/18



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## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD



When I set up the CSJ, back in 2004, the term “social justice” was something that had become shorthand for welfare payments. This in turn drove financial support for those who had the least and needed support. This approach failed to deal with the underlying causes, measuring instead whether someone was just above the line. It tells you nothing about the reasons why someone was unable to earn enough money to break free. Those key drivers that left people unable to change their life's circumstances were ignored and it all became a process of income transfer not of life change. This is not what I believe social justice to be.

Yes, Britain should be proud of the welfare state, and the safety net it provides but it is not, by itself, enough. We must be far more ambitious. I have always believed in the ability of those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds to lead extraordinary lives to change both their own circumstances and

Britain for the better. At the CSJ we see this day in day out, through the groundbreaking, grassroots charities we work with and are inspired by.

The reason the CSJ exists is to support those suffering from poverty to escape the chains that bind them to make the most of their lives. We do not want to make poverty more comfortable. We want to eliminate it.

Since its inception 14 years ago the CSJ has built up a strong track record of success. In this time, we have had a number of significant successes, with many of our ground-breaking reforms adopted by Government. Our highlights include the design and enactment of the Modern Slavery Act 2015, Universal Credit – the biggest Government reform for generations – and Housing First, to mention just three. Yet this is just the beginning of the story. In truth, while our work has impacted millions of lives for the better, we have barely scratched the surface in the quest to make Britain a socially just country.

Despite being one of the richest countries in the world, poverty persists, regardless of the vast sums of money lavished on this. A third of households in the poorest communities are on out

of work benefits, 2.6 million people are struggling with severe personal debt and 4,000 people are year are dying because of their drug addiction (the highest number since records began). Moreover, three-in-five young people from disadvantaged backgrounds do not achieve a C grade in GCSE Mathematics and English and two-in-five do not have a father at home.

This state of affairs is unacceptable. Reform is needed to transform the lives of those living in Britain's poorest neighbourhoods. The CSJ is well equipped for and committed to helping solve these deep-rooted social injustices. We believe that Britain can, and should, lead the world in tackling poverty and social breakdown. We believe it is possible for the conditions of someone's birth not to affect their chances in life and for people to be given every chance to make the most of their potential.

We believe this is possible in our lifetime and will be working hard to make this a reality. Come and join us for the journey.

**Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP**  
Chief Executive  
Centre for Social Justice

# INTRODUCTION FROM OUR CHIEF EXECUTIVE



Welcome to the Centre for Social Justice's Annual Report for 2017/8.

As I look back over the last 12 months I feel an immense sense of pride at all our team has achieved. At the CSJ we are ambitious for our country and the lives of the most disadvantaged. Our organisation is one with the track record, dedication and ability to achieve significant impact and I am pleased to report that following our re-structure last year we have been able to achieve even more for those we are here to serve.

Over the course of the last year we:

1. **Refocused our attention to our Alliance of poverty fighting charities.** Our team significantly increased our interactions with our Alliance,

learning from the individuals and organisations working in some of the most challenging communities around the country to transform lives.

2. **Saw our unit structure thrive.** To research and campaign relentlessly on the issues that we care most about we restructured our policy team as Units and sought the expertise of our stakeholders to support our work. The result is clear for all to see. The range of views and opinions contained in our work has increased and there has been a renewed focus on our Five Pathways (the root causes of poverty highlighted on page 6).

3. **Drove significant impact across each area of our work.** The advocacy work that flowed from our research has led to profound change for the most disadvantaged across the country. Over a third of all of recommendations were taken up by Government. Some of which are showcased in the Impact section of this document.

Whilst we achieved a great deal last year, there is so much more to do.

Our programme of work over the next 12 months will provide the big ideas the country needs. As we set about delivering that our team will travel the length and breadth of the UK to meet with individuals and groups so we can hear of their experiences and learn from them. In giving those who are often unheard a voice we will harness the talents and ideas of the entire country; connecting our backstreets with the corridors of power.

Many of you reading this annual report will be existing partners, supporters and friends of the CSJ, others of you may be new to our work. My message to all of you is the same, please do get in touch and join with us as we continue in our mission to put social justice at the heart of British politics.

I look forward to working with you over the next year and beyond.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Cook'.

**Andy Cook**  
Chief Executive  
Centre for Social Justice



# OUR MISSION AND VALUES

## OUR MISSION

The Centre for Social Justice is an independent organisation that puts social justice at the heart of British politics.

We partner with 389 grassroots charities from Britain's poorest communities, as well as experts from across the world, to develop ambitious, evidence-based and experience-led reforms that tackle the root causes of poverty and social breakdown.

And we do not stop there. We take our reforms and, working closely with an extensive network of political, policy and media contacts, campaign for their successful implementation.

This is how we fight to transform people's lives by releasing them from poverty.

The CSJ's vision is for those living in the poorest and most disadvantaged communities across Britain to be given every opportunity to flourish and reach their full potential.

We bring this vision to life by seeking to influence the policies Government creates and the laws it makes, such that it does all it can to address the root causes of poverty. These are:

- Family breakdown
- Educational failure
- Worklessness and economic dependency
- Drug and alcohol addiction
- Serious personal debt

Our mission, therefore, is to place social justice at the heart of British politics.

## OUR VALUES

Seven core values underpin all that we do. We:

1. Are ambitious about transforming people's lives.
2. Do not believe poverty is only about money, but also people's quality of life and their opportunities to make the most of their potential.
3. Tackle the root causes of poverty, not the symptoms.
4. Are focused on what works.
5. Are committed to following the evidence wherever it leads.
6. Serve the interests of the poorest fifth in Britain.
7. Believe that prevention is better than cure.



## HOW WE WORK



### UNDERSTANDING THE FRONTLINE

We regularly visit, consult with and invite views from our Alliance of poverty fighting charities. This ensures our work is experience led.



### POLICY WORK

Our Policy team conduct extensive research into the issues we want to tackle to gain an in-depth understanding of them. They are supported by expert working groups and advisory boards. This ensures our work is evidence based.



### IMPACT

We provide a voice for the most disadvantaged. Advocating for them in the media and through campaigns. Over the year we made 95 recommendations and have seen 32 fully or partially enacted upon.

In doing this we connect our backstreets with the corridors of power. We make practical implementable recommendations that we know will be effective.

# UNDERSTANDING THE FRONTLINE

The CSJ is inspired and nourished by its unique relationship with the CSJ Alliance: a group of frontline, poverty-fighting charities and social enterprises.

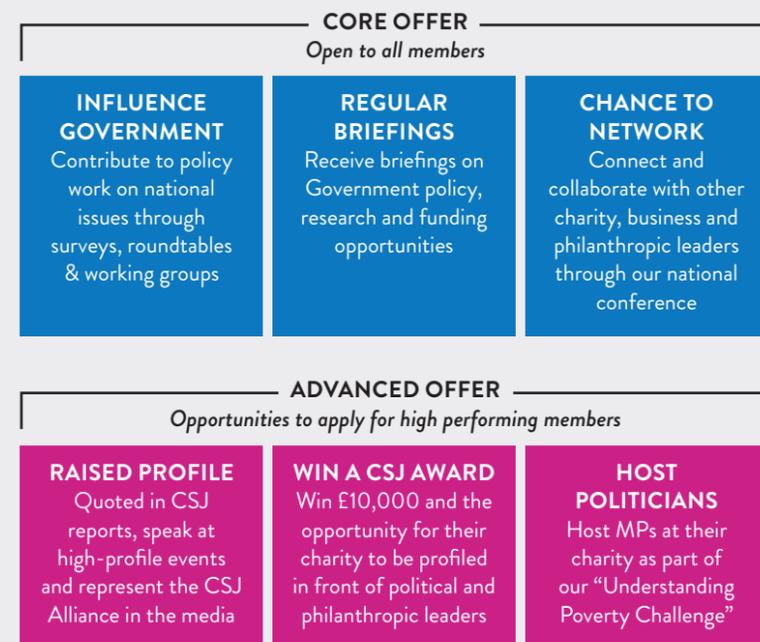
These organisations are spread across the length and breadth of Britain, acting as our “eyes and ears” on the ground. These small and innovative ventures are highly effective and truly understand the nature of poverty and social breakdown.

*“The Alliance tackle the underlying root causes of poverty, not just the symptoms, in their bid to transform lives”*

The CSJ draws heavily from the Alliance’s experience, meaning Government can be sure that the reforms we suggest are based on what has been road tested and proven to work on the ground. This helps Government develop effective strategies to alleviate the suffering of the poorest and prevents policies being developed which are detached from reality.

## THE CSJ’S OFFER TO FRONTLINE CHARITIES AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

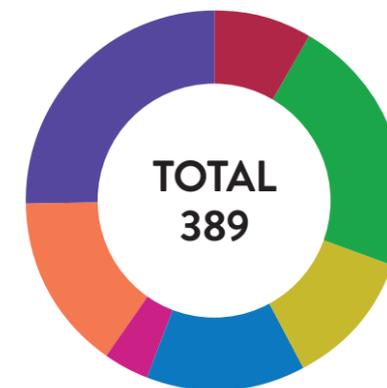
The CSJ benefits hugely from the input of frontline charities to their policy work. We are also deliberate in seeking to support these charities directly in the work they do to take people out of poverty. To achieve this, the CSJ has established a clear offer to frontline organisations that become part of our Alliance:



## WHO IS THE CSJ POVERTY FIGHTING ALLIANCE?

The CSJ’s poverty-fighting Alliance is a group of 389 charities working on the frontline in the fight against poverty. They help some of the most vulnerable people in society escape from poverty, working with offenders and gang members to children in care and those with addiction and mental health problems. They tackle the underlying root causes of poverty, not just the symptoms, in their bid to transform lives.

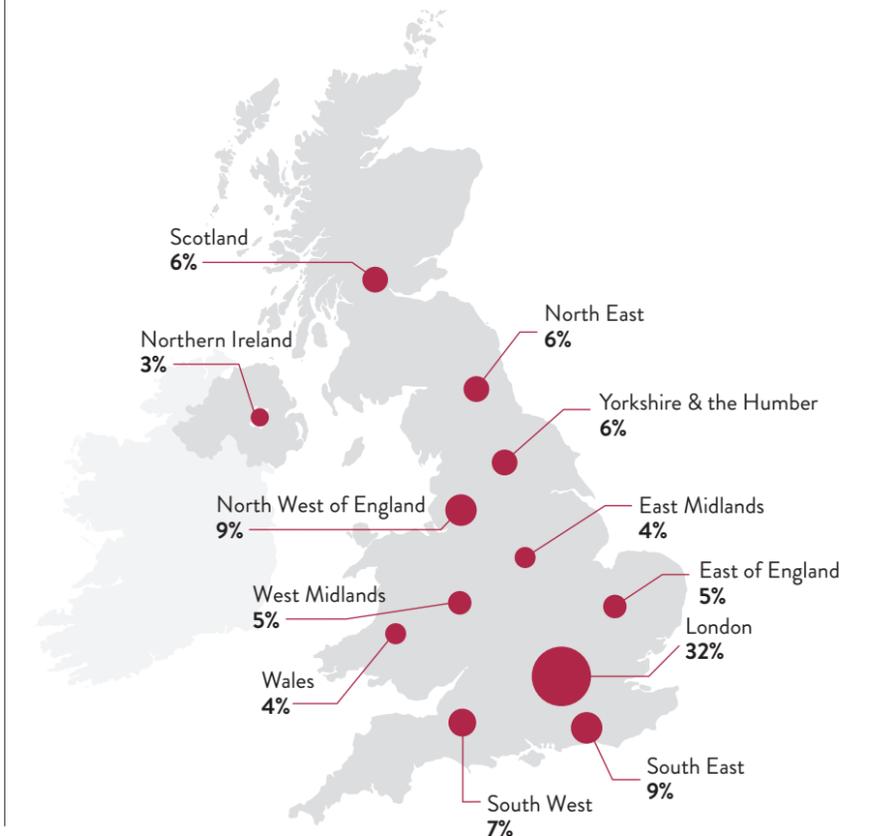
The CSJ Alliance is made up of charities working in a huge range of different sectors



- Addiction (33)
- Education (86)
- Work (46)
- Family (53)
- Debt (15)
- Criminal justice (58)
- Other (slavery, mental health, community etc.) (98)



## HOW THE CSJ PUT SOCIAL JUSTICE AT THE HEART OF BRITISH POLITICS IN 2017/18



# THE CSJ AWARDS



The CSJ Awards is an annual, high-profile, high-impact event in the Westminster calendar at which the CSJ showcases, rewards and celebrates grassroots charities and voluntary organisations from local communities across the UK that have developed effective and innovative ways of addressing a variety of entrenched social issues.

These organisations often work with some of the most disadvantaged people in the country, who are facing complex and challenging issues.

Each winning organisation receives a prize of £10,000 and the rare chance to have their work profiled at the Awards ceremony in London to an audience of around 400 individuals including high-ranking politicians, celebrities, major philanthropists, leaders from the private and voluntary sector, and the media. It also provides the chance for these key influencers to witness the most effective grassroots methods for turning lives around in disadvantaged communities throughout the UK.

The recipients of these awards too often go unnoticed, despite their remarkable work and the perseverance of the individuals involved. It is crucial that the unique voice of these sectors is heard in Westminster, and that their work is supported more broadly. The contacts that the CSJ Awards help recipients to make in addition to their prize money has an important and lasting effect on their work, and the CSJ continues to work with the winners to help them achieve more impact and to profile their work to policy makers.

## OUR 2018 AWARDS WERE OUR BIGGEST AND BEST YET, WITH THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS CELEBRATED AS WINNERS

Maxie Richards Addiction Award  
**The Living Room**



Social Enterprise Award  
**Cracked It**



Family Award  
**Lads Need Dads**



Employment, Education and Skills Award  
**Key 4 Life**



Responsible Business Award  
**Census Group**



### With thanks to

OUR HOST  
Amanda Platell

#### OUR PRESENTERS

**Rt Hon Sir Vince Cable MP,**  
Leader of the Liberal Democrat party  
**Ebony-Jewel Rainford-Brent**  
Commissioner Cressida Dick CBE QPM  
**Sir Martyn Lewis CBE**  
**Kate Hoey MP**  
**Rt Hon Esther McVey MP,**  
Secretary of State for  
Work and Pensions  
**Penny Marshall**  
**Rt Hon David Gauke MP,**  
Lord Chancellor and  
Secretary of State for Justice  
**Julia Immonen**

#### OUR JUDGES

**Graham Allen**  
**Rosemary Bennett**  
**Liz Earle MBE**  
**Baroness Dido Harding**  
**Nicole Lovett**  
**Andy McNab CBE, DCM, MM**  
**Fraser Nelson**  
**Tom Newton Dunn**  
**Andy Ratcliffe**  
**Jacob Rees-Mogg MP**  
**Stuart Roden**  
**Chuka Umunna MP**  
**Richard MacKay**

# OUR INFLUENCE

The CSJ is recognised as expert with our recommendations seen as both highly credible and implementable.



Conservative MPs view the CSJ as the most influential think tank



“For 13 years the CSJ has been at the heart of political life, helping to develop policy. The Lib Dems don’t always agree with the CSJ’s views, but we greatly respect the influence it has achieved in such a short time.”

**LEADER OF THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS, RT HON SIR VINCE CABLE MP**



“The CSJ is one of the greatest forces for social justice in our country and our country is all the stronger and fairer for it. So, thank you once again for everything that you are doing.”

**PRIME MINISTER, RT HON THERESA MAY MP**



Labour MPs view the CSJ as the fourth most influential think tank



“The Centre for Social Justice is a vital force in building the new consensus around relationships, place and work.”

**LORD GLASMAN, LABOUR PEER**



ComRes, Think Tanks: impartiality and influence, independently commissioned.

# POLICY WORK

Through our research we have identified five pathways to poverty:



## POLICY UNIT: FAMILY

The UK has some of the highest levels of family breakdown in the world, but it's the inequality around family breakdown that should concern policy makers the most.

If you're a poor child in the UK today, you're overwhelmingly more likely to see your parents separate and your family break apart than the middle-class child down the road. By the age of five almost half of children in our poorest areas have seen their families break apart compared to only 16 percent of children in middle class homes. Your chances of seeing your family break apart shouldn't be defined by birth or circumstance, but too often they are.

The price tag for family breakdown has been estimated at £48bn but this is a fraction of the likely overall cost in lost productivity alone: there is a 42 per cent gap in employment rates between couple families and lone parents, just under half of lone parent families are out of work compared to around 6 per cent of couple families.

This is not to demonise lone parents who do an incredible job, day in day out, but to recognise

the evidence that the quality of parental relationships is the primary influence on outcomes for young children and that family instability is a major driver of poverty: a family that breaks apart doubles the likelihood of a child growing up poor. When couples break up, poverty is often not far behind.

### THIS YEAR THE CSJ PUBLISHED SEVERAL MAJOR REPORTS ON FAMILY INCLUDING:



**'Polling on Public Attitudes to Family Policy.'** The Centre for Social Justice conducted three polling exercises during the summer of 2017 to test public attitudes to family and Government activity to strengthen families as part of a wider social justice strategy.



**'The forgotten role of families: why it's time to find our voice on strengthening families.'** Why a Government committed to 'social reform' should take family seriously.



**'Relationships & Sex Education: A Submission from the Family Stability Network and Centre for Social Justice.'** This joint report responded to recent legislative changes contained within the Children and Social Work Act (2017) which makes Relationships Education at Primary school and Relationships and Sex Education in Secondary school compulsory in all schools England in 2019.



## IMPACT

The launch of nine Family Drug and Alcohol Courts at which judges help mothers with addictions to keep their children – a CSJ recommendation.

The Government confirmed its commitment to marriage within the Relationships and Sex Education curriculum in its education consultation.

£39 million investment in Relationship Support was secured in the Budget following a media campaign and discussions with Government officials, countering the initial intention to scrap it altogether.

CSJ's work on fatherhood was cited in the Women and Equalities Select Committee's report on fathers in the workplace.

## POLICY UNIT: WORK AND WELFARE

Work remains the best route out of poverty and with employment at record levels there is much to be pleased about. But there is also much work to be done.

Children in households where two adults are in full-time work only have a one per cent chance of being in financial poverty compared with more than a 64 per cent chance for children in two-parent households where no adult works. If the head of a household is employed, this raises the chance of leaving financial poverty in that household by around 40 per cent and reduces the chance of re-entering financial poverty by around 50 per cent.

While some people claim that work is not always a route out of poverty, it is still the best and most reliable route that there is. Many people need more hours and better pay, but the alternative – a life on benefits – offers no such prospects.

It is only by entering work, finding hours and progressively better employment that people can work their way out of poverty. The evidence is clear that being

unemployed and dependent on the welfare state for a significant period of time can have damaging and lasting implications.

*“If the head of a household is employed, this raises the chance of leaving financial poverty in that household by around 40 per cent”*

### THIS YEAR THE CSJ PUBLISHED SEVERAL MAJOR REPORTS ON WORK AND WELFARE INCLUDING:



**‘The Great British Breakthrough: Driving productivity growth in the UK’.** The report sets out three main drivers of productivity; innovation across British business, human capital and regional dynamics. We set out 51 recommendations that, if enacted promptly and properly, will help boost British productivity growth.

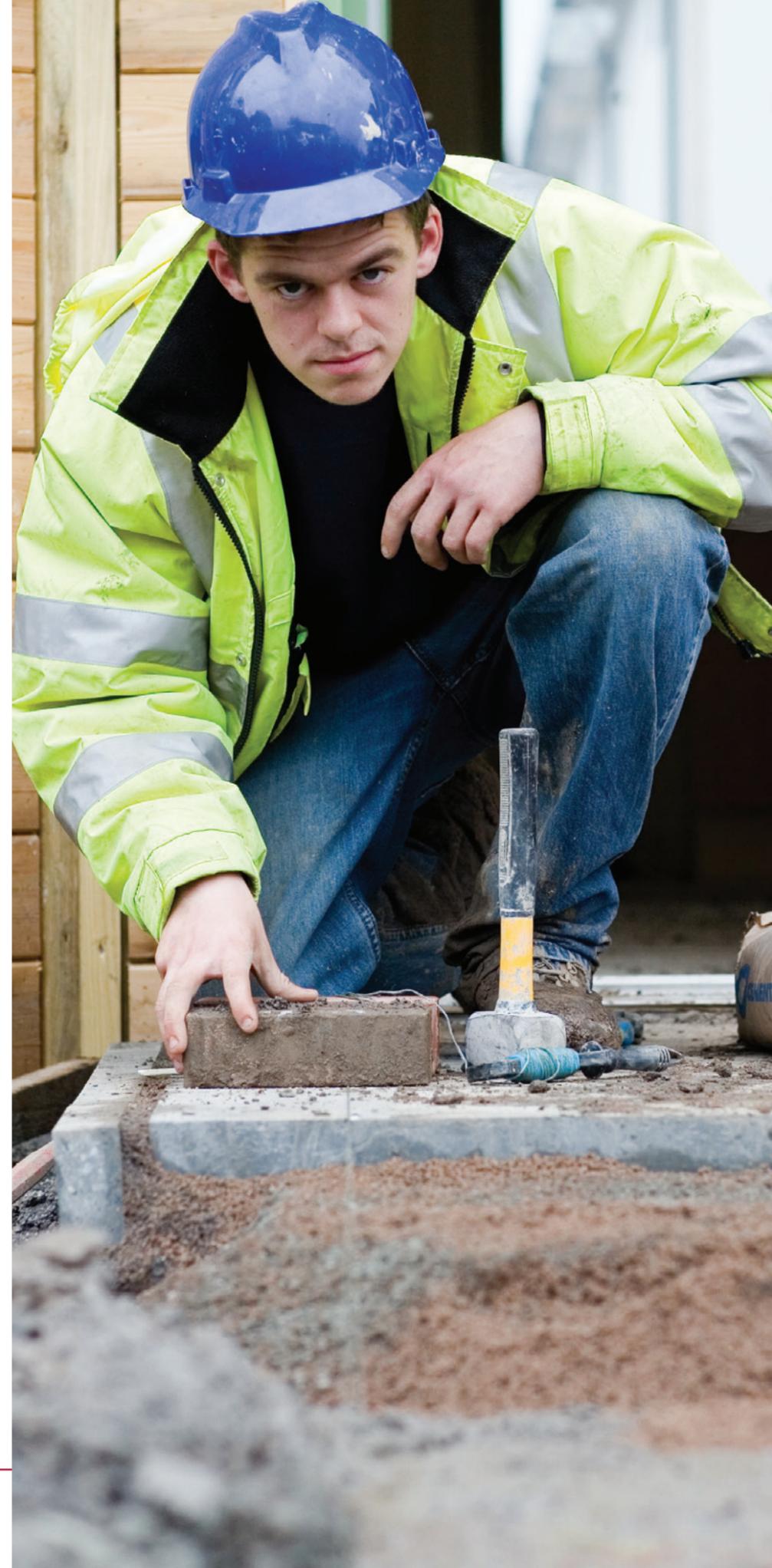


**‘Universal Credit – Work and Pensions Select Committee Submission’.** The CSJ believes that it is essential to continue



the roll out of UC for new claimants across jobcentres around the country. However, we recommend the DWP take a number of steps that will help UC reach its full potential and reduce the stress of transition for many claimants.

**‘The Future of Work: Part I – State of the Nation’.** This report kicks off a year-long research programme seeking to better understand the future nature of work, and in particular its impact on those at the bottom of the ladder.



## IMPACT

£1.5 billion invested into UC to enable housing support, generous advances for claimants, and abolition of the 7-day waiting period before receiving the first benefit payment. This will go a long way to helping many people facing financial hardship.

The CSJ’s landmark report on productivity is launched and endorsed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Extending fit note certification beyond GPs to a wider group of healthcare professionals, including physiotherapists, psychiatrists and senior nurses, to better identify health conditions and treatments to help workers go back into their jobs faster – a key recommendation of our disability and employment work.

## POLICY UNIT: ADDICTION

This year the CSJ established its first permanent Addiction Unit in our policy team to ensure that progress is made in this too often ignored area of society.

Addiction profoundly weakens British society. 1.6 million people are dependent on alcohol in England alone. One in five children under the age of one lives with a parent who drinks hazardingly, and one in 40 with a parent who is addicted to drugs.

About 40,000 children have been taken into care because of their parents' substance misuse. Addiction fuels family breakdown and worklessness, crime and poor

mental health, destroying lives and undermining communities.

Despite well-known solutions, it is a problem that successive Governments have failed to resolve in any significant way. In 2007, the Centre for Social Justice's Breakthrough Britain report shattered a consensus which held little ambition for those with an addiction except that they be 'managed' on substitute drugs.

The work laid bare a failing drug treatment system which left many thousands of addicts trapped in state-sponsored dependency and offered little help to those with other addictions. It established that addiction to drugs, alcohol, or gambling was a sure pathway to poverty and that only the select few could access the help they needed to break free.

### THIS YEAR THE CSJ PUBLISHED SEVERAL MAJOR REPORTS ON ADDICTION INCLUDING:



**'Lowering the stakes on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals'.** This brief sets out why decreasing the maximum stake on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) from £100 to £2 is vital in preventing individuals from serious gambling addiction.



**'Desperate for a Fix'.** There is a failure to tackle the addictions that fuel the bulk of theft, with offenders cycling through a criminal justice system that offers fines, community sentences, short prison sentences and threats, but nothing compelling in the way of true rehabilitation. This paper proposes a new sentencing option that would offer offenders a chance of long term recovery, while providing victims of crime with respite.

## IMPACT

The Government published a drug strategy acknowledging the continued ambition "for full recovery... to live a life free from drugs", an extension to 12 months recovery period opening the door to more holistic interventions, and adoption of the CSJ recommendation for a Recovery Champion within Government.

The Government announced that it will be lowering the maximum stakes on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals from £100 to £2, in line with the recommendations made in the CSJ's report.

Ministry of Housing Community and Local Government announces further investment in NHS services for mental health and substance abuse, targeted at rough-sleepers and those at risk of homelessness.

## POLICY UNIT: EDUCATION

Educational failure can have a crushing impact on a child's future – too often it prevents them reaching their potential. This constitutes a social injustice and economic threat as we deprive our country of considerable and diverse talent.

We know that too many of the poorest children start school a long way behind their better off classmates, with some of the worst cases unable to even respond to their own names on starting school. And yet we know that once at school a child from one of our poorest areas is 27 times more likely to attend a school rated 'inadequate' than a child in one of our wealthiest areas.

***“Last year nearly 40 per cent of children left school without five good GCSEs including English and Maths”***

We also know that too many children leave school unprepared for work and adult life: last year nearly 40 per cent of children left school without five good GCSEs including English and

Maths. For some children reality is bleaker still.

In the worst English local authorities more than 70 per cent of children on free school meals (a commonly used metric for income poverty) did not achieve these grades.

In response to this, our education system is currently undergoing extensive and widespread reform, the full effects of which will not be felt for some time. But there is work to do now and so the CSJ has established a permanent Education Unit within its policy team this year.

Its initial work has included:

- A land mark year-long look at the area of Alternative Provision of education for children excluded from

the mainstream system. This seeks to understand and reverse the trend for dreadful educational and life outcomes in this cohort and redirect the system to help realise these children's potential.

- A partnership with Save the Children UK to look at the barriers to high quality childcare for low income families, including barriers to accessing childcare support for vulnerable families.
- Submissions to the Education Select Committee, including and notably on Alternative Provision.



## IMPACT

The Department for Education has commissioned a review into excluded children, their destinations, and gaming of the system.

The Education Select Committee has refocused its business to focus explicitly and exclusively on social justice and has launched its own line of enquiry into the Alternative Provision in the education system.

The extension of 30 hours of free childcare to foster parents.

## POLICY UNIT: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Social justice and criminal justice go hand in hand. Not only does crime disproportionately affect poorer communities, but also those who have committed crime are also far more likely to suffer from the causes of social breakdown such as drug abuse, poor literacy rates and worklessness.

Moreover, criminal sentences – whether prison or its alternatives – provide a unique opportunity to intervene in the often-chaotic lives of those involved in criminal activity.

By creating a just society where crime rates are low and the public feel confident about their safety, community cohesion and pride in local neighbourhoods can flourish.

The rehabilitation of offenders needs to be at the heart of an effective criminal justice system. Embedding rehabilitation across the criminal justice system can provide the basis on which the root causes of offending can be tackled, helping to reduce the volume and severity of offending and ultimately improving lives and enabling a reduction in the size of the prison population.

Likewise, prisons demand our attention. Following the recent rise of deaths in custody, and with gang-related violence increasing, it is vital that we work with communities upstream before sentences and prisons become part of the equation at all.

### THIS YEAR THE CSJ PUBLISHED SEVERAL MAJOR REPORTS ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE INCLUDING:



**'A Woman-Centred Approach: Freeing vulnerable women from the revolving door of crime'**. Much of our female prison population can be traced to state failure and social breakdown. Successive governments have failed to firmly grip the issue of female offending. It is the sort of social problem that a Government committed to reform can and should tackle.



**'What Happened to the Rehabilitation Revolution? How sentencers can revive it and how it can be helped by a hung Parliament'**. A CSJ Conversations paper



authored by Jonathan Aitken, former Cabinet Minister and a former prisoner, and His Honour John Samuels QC who sat in the Crown Court for 27 years. It asks how might the role of sentencers evolve to aid rehabilitation, improve lives and boost public safety.

**'Written Submission to the Justice Committee's Inquiry into the Government's Transforming Rehabilitation Programme'**. One of several short submissions to the Justice Select Committee teeing up some of our work on probation for the year ahead.

## IMPACT

The Government's Female Offender Strategy adopts a raft of proposals from the CSJ's 'A Woman-Centred Approach' publication, with the Minister giving direct credit to the organisation for its work.

The CSJ's 'Growing the Local' report called on the Government to raise the amount of money available to Police and Crime Commissioners through local authorities. Two key proposals were adopted by Government: raising the cap and switching from a percentage cap to a cash cap on the police precept.

The Ministry of Justice announced plans to roll out drug scanners in key prisons across the UK – a long standing demand of the CSJ to tackle the scourge of drugs in our prisons.

## POLICY UNIT: DEBT

Almost nine million people across the UK struggle with problem debt. The personal cost of this debt can be overwhelming, hitting people's mental health, their performance at work, and placing a strain on personal relationships.

But serious personal debt is not just a consequence of poverty, it also causes poverty by damaging people's and families' ability to help themselves. Any Government must consider how new services can be developed to help people avoid serious personal debt and the damage it can cause.

We must consider the root causes of problem debt amongst low-income households in the UK through the lens of their financial capability. For too many years the issues of Financial Inclusion,

Financial Education, Financial Capability, Financial Resilience, Affordable Credit and Debt Advice have been studied, funded and provided in separate silos.

Tackling problem debt requires a new positive vision and a holistic approach centred around meeting the wants, needs and choices of people and families. This starting point then makes it possible to design and deliver the range of financial products and services required by low-income households.

Of the CSJ's major pathways, Debt is the only one where we have yet to establish a permanent policy unit within the organisation.

*If you would like to support our ambition to begin dedicated work here in 2018/19 please get in touch with our Development Director:*  
Alex.LeVey@centreforsocialjustice.org.uk



## ... AND SO MUCH MORE...



### HOUSING

While the full causes and consequences of the tragedy remain unclear, the fire that engulfed Grenfell Tower in 2017 shone a spotlight onto the quality of social and affordable housing provision in this country and the living conditions of the poorest.

The CSJ has this year established a Housing Commission to address this and has been asked to report its findings back to Government. Over the coming year, we will investigate a wide range of housing issues shaping the experiences of society's most disadvantaged.



### OBESITY

We are facing an obesity time bomb in the UK. Not only is our children's health at serious risk, but the health service and our

country are too, with the poorest suffering most. Our report, *Off the Scales*, made clear that there is no silver bullet to end childhood obesity.

It requires robust and persuasive political leadership; cross-party and cross-sector commitment; a long-term vision; a whole-systems and targeted approach; and consistent monitoring and evaluation.



### DIGITAL INCLUSION

Since the year 2000, the digital divide amongst the UK population has grown. An estimated 5.8 million of the adult population have never used the internet and a further 12.6 million people are lacking in basic digital skills. These are individuals commonly known as the 'digitally excluded'.

This is a social justice issue. The ever-growing centrality of digital skills and knowledge to everyday life means that to be digitally excluded will often mean a person is socially and economically excluded, leaving them unable to

fulfil their potential. This report seeks to tackle digital exclusion by looking at how we can remove barriers from people's lives.



### SPORT

In September, we hosted Sports Minister Tracey Crouch MP and senior civil servants from a number of Government departments, as well as representatives from Sport England and grassroots sport networks, to discuss how best to reach those on the margins of society and realise the Government's ambitious sports strategy.

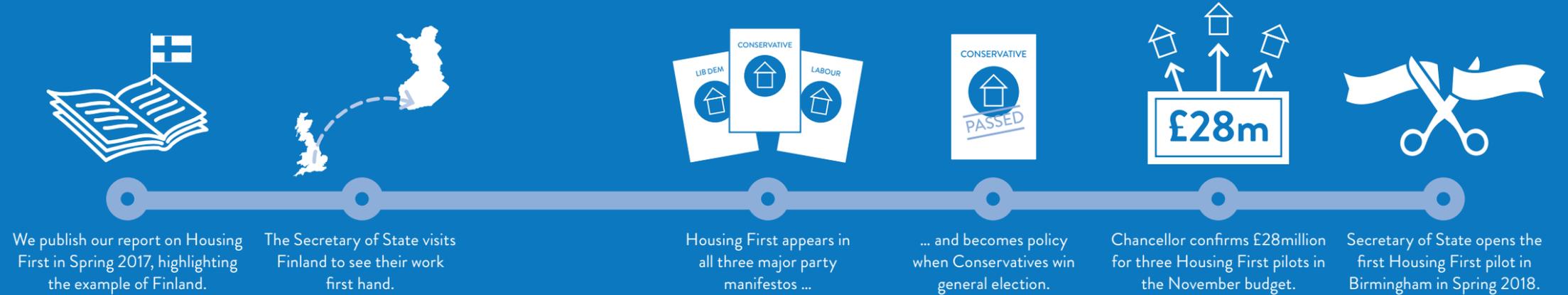
The resultant report, *Sport for Social Transformation: Reaching the grassroots*, brought together some of the key themes and priorities for the area including funding priorities, a common outcomes framework, and recognising the social and emotional benefits of organised sport beyond merely being active.

# TRACKING OUR IMPACT

## THREE EXAMPLES OF MANY SUCCESSES

### HOUSING FIRST

The aim of the Housing First model is to help people who are chronically homeless access permanent accommodation with wraparound support.



### OBESITY

Amsterdam is the only example of a city in the developed world that is reducing obesity, particularly in its poorest areas.



### FIXED ODDS BETTING TERMINALS

This work joined with a wider campaign to set out why decreasing the maximum stake on Fixed Odds Betting Terminals (FOBTs) from £100 to £2 is vital in preventing individuals from serious gambling addiction.



# IN THE NEWS

Through hundreds of appearances in various media forums, the CSJ has provided a voice for those most deprived and developed a social justice narrative to tackle the root causes of poverty.

## Q1 – MEDIA APPEARANCES: 73

### Technical education: still a pale shadow of its academic cousin

“Our most disadvantaged pupils have the most to gain from addressing our skills deficit. These individuals perform significantly worse in GCSE English and Mathematics than their better-off peers and, all too often, they later find themselves trapped in low-skill, low-wage jobs...We know that education is one of the most effective routes out of poverty, but to catalyse meaningful change it must prepare children for the world of work...Sound technical education could help plug our skills gap...By introducing T-levels, prioritising apprenticeships and allowing specialist free schools to thrive, the Government has indicated that it is serious about weaving more robust skills into our education system. In the years ahead, it must build on this to ensure that our education system is fit for purpose.”

James Scales  
Head of Education at the CSJ

### The Conservative Party needs to be the party of family once again

“The UK leads the world in the number of families we have falling apart. A child in Britain is more likely to experience family breakdown than almost anywhere else in the world. Compared to our European neighbours, only a Latvian child is more likely to grow up in a home without both parents. When a family breaks up, it is almost always the dad who leaves the family home and, in 2017, 2.7 million children grow up in homes without a father figure. This issue cuts across almost every bit of the prime minister’s ambition to lead a socially reforming Government. In tackling our childhood mental health crisis, family issues are cited by over half of all children treated by Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services as the cause of their mental health problems. Our social care crisis isn’t simply an issue of money, it is made worse by families breaking up and scattering across the country. This year we reach a ‘tipping point’

in our demography, where the number of older people needing care will outstrip the number of working age family members currently available to meet that demand. For a Government that talks frequently about boosting social mobility and building a ‘Great Meritocracy’ recent evidence from the Early Intervention Foundation points to the quality of parental relationships as the ‘primary influence’ on outcomes for young children...a strong message on strengthening families is needed if the Government wants to deliver on its ambition for social reform.”

Frank Young  
Head of Family at the CSJ

“The CSJ’s five pathways to poverty is a ‘useful framework’ for policy change that ‘equally apply’ in Australia”

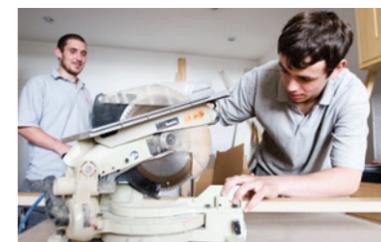
Alan Tudge, Human Services  
Minister in Australia, 21 July 2017

## Q2 – MEDIA APPEARANCES: 102

### Give the poor a pay rise? Boost their productivity

“Life on low pay perpetuates the problem of productivity stagnation as it has a vicious cycle effect on an individual’s ability to increase his or her productivity. Like worklessness, low paid employment can repeat across generations. Ill health and depression is more prevalent amongst low paid workers. And given the UK’s comparatively low incidence of occupational progression, few low wage, low-skilled workers in the UK ever progress to middle wage, middle-skilled occupations. Therefore, getting the productivity puzzle right is not just the preserve of macro-economists and the Bank of England, it is the stuff that gives lives hope and purpose. And to that end the Government must act to help people realise their potential. It must do much more to promote universities, apprenticeships and FE colleagues equally to ensure our young people are getting the skills they need to equip themselves for the workforce. T-levels is a good start, but more should come.”

Andy Cook  
Chief Executive at the CSJ



### Universal credit nestles at the heart of Hammond’s budget

“The role of Universal Credit is to both incentivise work and help target support at those who need it most. Recent data has shown that, compared with the old welfare system, people are more likely to find work, stay in work and earn more money as it simplifies the benefit system. It also gives claimants a single work coach to guide them through the process and lets them keep more of the money they earn...That’s why when the chancellor re-invested in universal

credit in the Budget, it was a real investment in social justice.”

Iain Duncan Smith  
Chairman of the CSJ



Edward Boyd, Managing Director of the CSJ, called for an end to the 7-day waiting period before new UC claimants receive payment in an interview on BBC Newsnight.



**Q3 – MEDIA APPEARANCES: 83**

**Putting relationships back on the school curriculum means putting marriage on it too**

“If we want to give our children the skills and knowledge to develop stronger relationships when they grow up, we need to talk to them about marriage and overcome our strange political mutism on this subject...A child born today has no better than a 50/50 chance of living with both birth parents by the time they take their GCSE exams. However, for those that do nearly all of their parents (93 per cent) are married. In fact, by the time they collect

their GCSE results a British teenager is three times more likely to live with both their birth parents if they are married.”

**Frank Young**  
*CSJ Head of Family Policy*

**The Tories are dangerously close to losing public confidence over crime**

“The rise in knife crime and knife carrying that we are witnessing can be traced back to the state’s failure to robustly ensure safety on our streets, especially for the young and vulnerable. Dramatic reductions in stop-and-search over the past decade mean the risk of

being caught has been reduced to a level where the dealing of drugs, the carrying of knives and worse has little risk...Black boys are four times more likely than white boys to be murdered, and street crime hits the poorest and most vulnerable hardest... Solutions to the toxic mix of staff shortages, freely available drugs and escalating violence are within plain view and within the grasp of a Government that recognises the importance of a safe and effective criminal justice system.”

**Rory Geoghegan**  
*CSJ Head of Criminal Justice*



Relative measures of poverty tell us nothing about root causes of social breakdown **Edward Davies**, CSJ Policy Director, reinforced the CSJ’s case for work as the surest route out of poverty and argued against the concept of pushing people across an arbitrary income line in an interview on Channel 4.

**The poor don’t need more money – they need more hope, work and friendship**

“We hear constantly from the people our poverty-fighting Alliance charities work with not that they need more money, but that they need more hope and opportunity: a job to get up for in the morning, the ability to read, freedom from an addiction. Not one of these charities fights for income. They fight for literacy, stability, rehabilitation and employment...A recent CSJ report on productivity reported that just 15 per cent of people on low incomes will ever move up the scale because they don’t have the skills and social capital they need.”

**Andy Cook**  
*CSJ Chief Executive*



**Q4 – MEDIA APPEARANCES: 48**

**Britain’s low-paid face decade of wage squeeze**

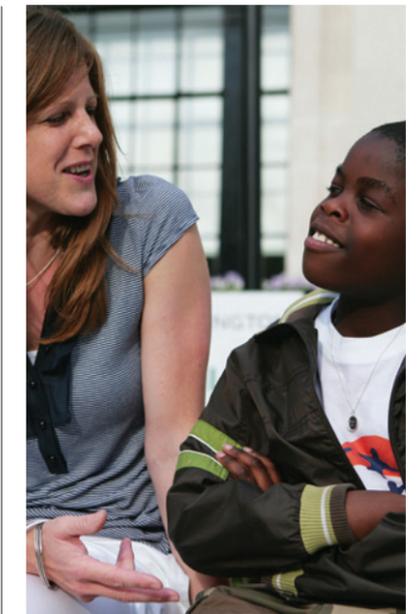
**Michael Savage** on the CSJ’s *Future of Work State of the Nation* report:

“It will be seen as another warning to Theresa May to kickstart her domestic agenda...The CSJ report states that 20% of Britain’s 33 million workers earn £15,000 a year or less, and that 50% earn no more than £23,200...The biggest opportunity for the UK is to unleash the potential of the private sector, particularly small and medium-sized firms, helped by lower regulations and taxes.”

**FOBT stakes should be limited to £2**

“Problem gambling affects 430,000 people in Britain. As well as this being a tragedy for gamblers themselves and for their families, problem gambling also carries a huge economic and social cost. £1.5 billion a year when its impact on areas such as employment, mental health and financial stability is taken into account. Beyond this, FOBTs are affecting society more widely, driving violent crime and money laundering.”

**The Rt Hon Iain Duncan Smith MP, CSJ Founder and Chairman, & Carolyn Harris MP**



Too many children are still, as the CSJ report is entitled, *Dying to Belong*. **Rory Geoghegan**, CSJ Head of Criminal Justice, discussed gang activity and the recent surge in gun and knife crime in London in an interview on Sky News.

**Robots can boost productivity and creativity for the poor**

“Fears of massive job losses at all levels of the workforce, because of the rise of the robot and artificial intelligence are misplaced. There will be enough jobs... For all the threats and challenges posed by the coming upheaval in the world economy, we have a wonderful opportunity to boost productivity and creativity and so generate a quantum leap in living standards.”

**Dr Gerard Lyons**  
*CSJ Economic Adviser*



# THE YEAR AHEAD



## EDUCATION

- Post-18 education
- Social Capital and Life Skills
- Apprenticeships and Further Education



## WORK AND WELFARE

- Future of Work – Regional Dynamics
- Future of Work – Technology and Automation
- Future of Work – Skills
- Future of Work – the Supply of Labour



## FAMILY

- Developing a Dad Test for Public Services
- Children in care and the education system
- Reforming Child Benefit
- Demonstrating the consequences of family breakdown – an audit of Government
- Reforming the Marriage Allowance



## CRIMINAL JUSTICE

- Gangs and violence – the violence must stop
- Prisons – Order, Control and Hope: A manifesto for safe, decent, purposeful prisons
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Future of Probation



## ADDICTION

- State of the Nation
- Definition of Recovery
- The Future of Cannabis
- Follow the Money



## CROSS-UNIT WORK

- CSJ Housing Commission
- The Hollowing-out of Community
- The Future of Social Care
- The Social Justice Blueprint

For more information on any of these contact our Policy Director: [Edward.Davies@centreforsocialjustice.org.uk](mailto:Edward.Davies@centreforsocialjustice.org.uk)

# FINANCIAL UPDATE

## 2017-18 IN NUMBERS...

In 2017/18 the Centre for Social Justice received contributions of £1,596 million from 111 different sources. Representing 35% growth from 2016/17. Our expenditure

grew by 17% from £1,262 million in 2016/17 to £1,477 million in 2017/18, with an 86% growth in our Policy function. This growth has led to so much more impact,

as outlined throughout this annual report, and below as we continue in our mission to put social justice at the heart of British politics.



**PRIVATE DONORS**  
£1,022,977 (64%)  
Number of sponsors: 77

**CORPORATE**  
£142,845 (9%)  
Number of sponsors: 15

**TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS**  
£315,000 (20%)  
Number of sponsors: 11

**CHARITIES**  
£115,000 (7%)  
Number of sponsors: 8

## POLICY

£715,440 (49%)

Published 19 papers with 7 more started. We made 95 recommendations to Government; appeared before three select committees and gave four evidence submissions; ran 6 roundtables; polled over 10,000 members of the public to gain their views on various issues.

## IMPACT

£256,745 (17%)

32 recommendations fully or partially accepted by government; Hosted 120 different MPs and Ministers for meetings and briefings; achieved an average of 25 media mentions per month; had the Chancellor of the Exchequer launch our productivity work; the Health Secretary launch our obesity work; the Housing secretary launch our housing first work; saw £2billion invested in policy areas that we campaigned for.

## CORE COSTS

£340,580 (23%)

Expenditure to support 18 members of staff, to deliver all that we do.

## ALLIANCE

£163,918 (11%)

Visited 114 Alliance charities; gained evidence from 40 small charities for specific reports; saw £150,000 in our Alliance catalysed by the CSJ Awards; positioned 22 Alliance representatives on high level panels/roundtables; saw national press coverage on three of our five award winners.



# PARTNERING WITH US

The CSJ is proud to have made an impact in the fight against poverty and social breakdown. The job, however, is far from done.

Despite being one of the richest countries in the world, poverty is endemic throughout Britain. A third of households in the poorest communities are on out of work benefits, 2.6 million people are struggling with severe personal debt and 4,000 people per year are dying because of their drug addiction.

This is unacceptable and reform is needed to transform the lives of those growing up in Britain's poorest neighbourhoods. The CSJ is well equipped for and committed to helping solve these deep-rooted social injustices.

The CSJ is a not-for-profit organisation and we pride ourselves on our independence. Our work involves persuading the Government to change its policies and laws, and therefore we do not take any Government money.

Instead, we are reliant on the contributions of individual private supporters, corporate sponsors and trusts and foundations, who share our commitment to putting social justice at the heart of British politics.

None of what we do would be possible without the great generosity of our supporters. We would be deeply grateful if you would consider joining us in the fight against poverty.

If you would like to hear more, or contribute to the CSJ's work, please do contact our Development Director:  
Alex.LeVey@centreforsocialjustice.org.uk

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