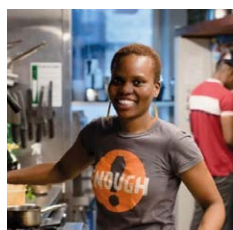


ANNUAL REPORT 2019/2020



Over the past 12 months the CSJ has produced 24 reports and made 109 recommendations. Four in ten of our recommendations have been fully adopted by Government.

During lockdown, which followed the outbreak of COVID-19, nine in ten of our recommendations made during this period were fully adopted by Government.



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FOREWORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN & CEO

Welcome to the Centre for Social Justice's Annual Report for 2019/20. The past year has been a tumultuous time for our country. Ongoing disagreements about Britain's relationship with the European Union, a general election and a global pandemic have provided a challenging environment for ensuring that the political focus remains on the most disadvantaged. Yet through the determination and perseverance of our team we have been able to achieve more impact than ever before, delivering on our aim of putting social justice at the heart of British politics, seeing communities transformed and lives changed.

Despite the challenging circumstances, we are proud of the impact that the CSJ has achieved:

- 55 of our policy recommendations were included in the major parties' general election manifestos
- Nine in ten of the recommendations that we made in direct response to the needs of the most disadvantaged during the COVID-19 pandemic were adopted by Government
- We secured nearly £7 billion of Government investment for the people and communities that need it most

As ever, this was all achieved through working in partnership with our Alliance of poverty-fighting grassroots charities from around the country. They are the beating heart of this organisation and are our eyes and ears on the ground. They truly understand the nature of poverty and, more importantly, the ways in which to tackle it.

The CSJ has the track-record, dedication, and ability to achieve significant impact. This year, we are pleased to report that we have again gone from strength to strength to achieve even more for the people we exist to serve.

Last year the CSJ:

PUT THE ALLIANCE AT THE HEART OF ALL WE DO.

Our team travelled tens of thousands of miles to discover the best approaches to fighting poverty from around the UK. Over 450 small charities engaged with us through our poverty-fighting Alliance and 18 charities joined our 'Partnership Programme', a new initiative bringing outstanding CSJ Award winning charities into the very heart of our research. We also opened our first regional office in the East Midlands and have begun developing plans for further

regional offices to be introduced over the next 12 months. You can read more about our work with the Alliance on pages 8–9.

A founding objective of the CSJ is to provide financial support to the best poverty-fighting charities. Whilst we have always achieved this objective through the CSJ Awards, we are pleased to announce this year that we established Smith Square Trading, a subsidiary company of the CSJ that will house charitable grant making programmes which give to the very best charities. This completes the picture, as we listen and learn from charities, award them for their work and help them increase their impact by funding scalable programmes and initiatives.

ENHANCED AND INVESTED IN OUR POLICY UNITS.

The CSJ has led the way in showing that those trapped in poverty are affected by more than just the lack of household income through examining the five pathways to poverty: debt, family breakdown, addiction, educational failure and worklessness. The CSJ will continue to drive the Government to go after these five pathways and look beyond a simple poverty metric that is exclusively defined by income.

The creation of specific policy units focused on each of our pathways has brought so much to the CSJ. Our units have provided focus and paid dividends in terms of the impact we have been able to achieve. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters and partners, we are delighted to report that we now have all policy units for each of the five pathways up and running, as well as additional policy units for both Criminal Justice and Modern Slavery. You can find out more about each of our policy units on pages 12–30.

DELIVERED SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.

Over the past 12 months, the CSJ produced 24 reports and made 109 recommendations to Government, many of which had significant impact. In particular, our Addiction Unit wrote a landmark report, Road to Recovery, which led to a unified addiction strategy from the Cabinet office and six new treatment centre pilots being rolled out across the UK. We also saw all political parties pledge to an overhaul of school exclusions and alternative school provision in their general election manifestos. When we started our work on alternative provision three years ago it was not on any political party's radar. We are proud to be the think tank that gets the Government to look at the areas that have never been touched before, to create real change for the people that need it most. We were also delighted that our impact was formally recognised by Prospect Magazine, who

awarded us with the Social Policy Think Tank of the Year' award.

Beyond this award and the exceptional impact we have achieved over the last year, we were especially proud to act as a voice for small charities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. This culminated in the Government releasing £370m to specifically support small charities as part of a major bailout of the charitable sector. These small charities were the unsung heroes of the hour, as they continued to meet the needs of their communities as the world shut down around them. It was an honour to advocate on their behalf and see them receive the financial relief they so desperately needed.

We could not have achieved this without our many friends and supporters who make our work possible. We are so grateful to each and every one of you for all that you do for our organisation and those we serve.

MOVING FORWARD.

Our past successes will not distract us from the potential struggles of the year ahead. The COVID-19 crisis in Britain has put huge strains on public services, businesses, and people. Unsurprisingly, the most vulnerable in our society will be the hardest hit by the pandemic. The CSJ's mission to unlock the potential of those most struggling has more resting on it than ever before. There are huge challenges ahead and the projected unemployment levels are just the tip of the iceberg. Hidden beneath

the headlines, there are growing problems in addiction, debt, family breakdown, criminal justice and poor education.

To face the challenges that lie ahead the CSJ needs to have an even higher profile. We have therefore taken the following steps:

- Set up two of the four regional offices we have planned to make sure we are working for the whole country
- Enhanced our 450-strong charity army to feed us life-changing ideas
- Supported different Trusts, foundations and philanthropists via Smith Square Trading, to help direct millions of pounds into the front-line charities that so badly need it
- Established our policy office in Smith Square Westminster to house 30 full-time policy experts across seven key poverty areas

We are stepping up and out as the Nation's health depends on it, and we need all the help we can get. We look forward to working with you over the next year and beyond.



Iain Duncan Smith

Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP
Chairman



Andy Cook

Andy Cook
CEO



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 over 450 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:

- Debt
- Family breakdown and dysfunction
- Drug, alcohol and gambling dependency
- Educational failure
- Worklessness

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 just 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 in Britain.
7. Believe that prevention is better than cure.

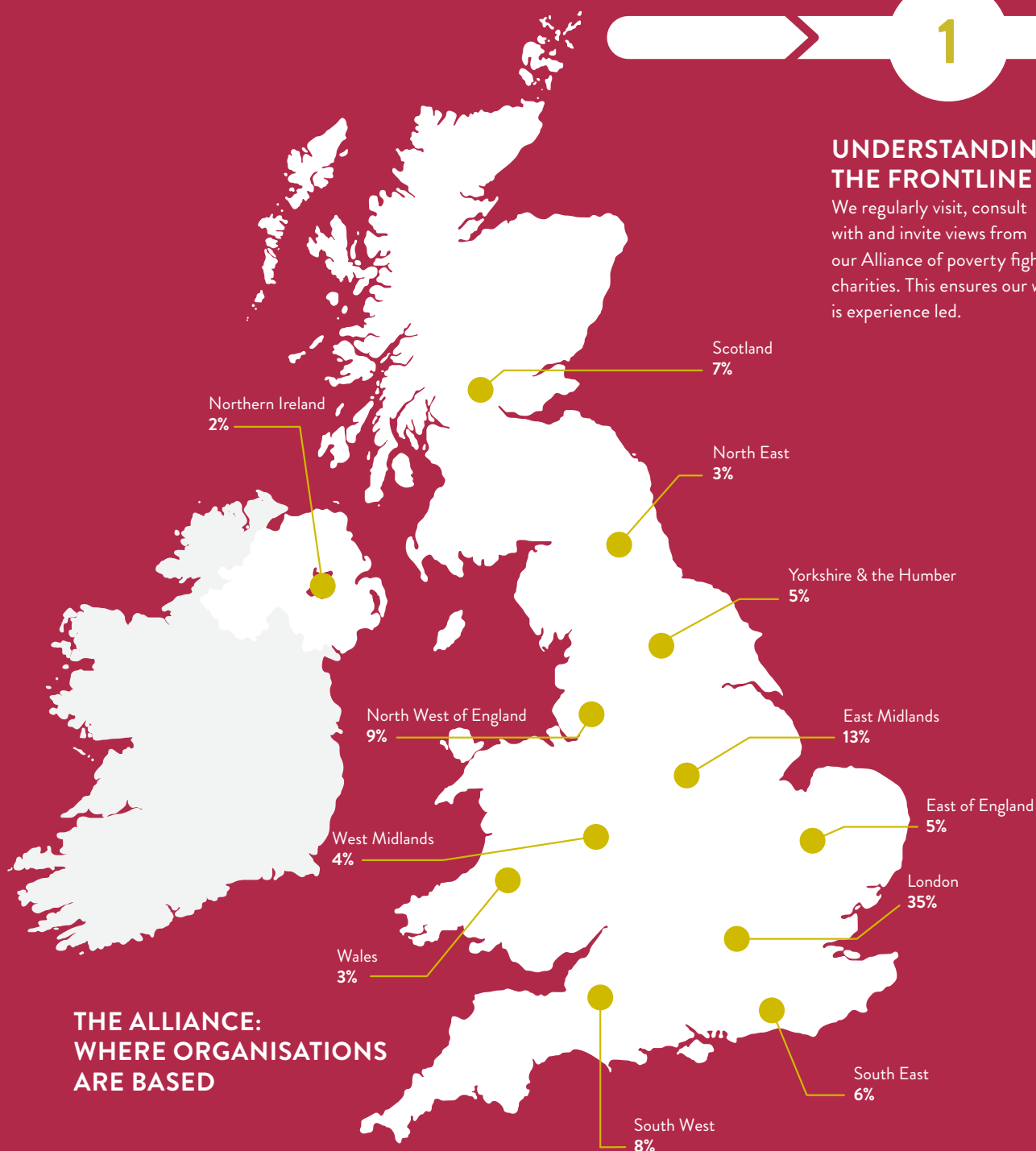
HOW WE WORK

Our work follows a three stage process:

1

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.



**THE ALLIANCE:
WHERE ORGANISATIONS
ARE BASED**

2

POLICY WORK

Our Policy teams 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.



Advisory boards



Research



Roundtables

3

IMPACT

We provide a voice for the most disadvantaged. We advocate for them in the media and through campaigns. Over the last year we have seen 4 in 10 of our recommendations fully adopted by Government.



Meeting policy makers



Making the case in the media



Delivering legislative change

In doing this we connect the backstreets of Britain 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 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.

WHAT IS THE CSJ POVERTY-FIGHTING ALLIANCE?

The CSJ’s poverty-fighting Alliance is a group of over 450 charities and social enterprises

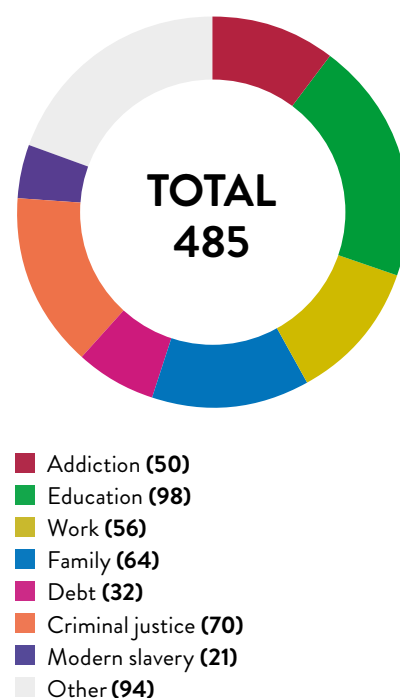
working on the frontline in the fight against poverty. They help some of the most vulnerable people in society escape from poverty, working with offenders and gang members to children in care and those with addiction and mental health problems. They tackle the underlying root causes of poverty, not just the symptoms in their bid to transform lives.

REGIONAL EXPANSION

To further enhance our knowledge of what is going on in different parts of the country, and to deepen our relationships with Alliance charities, we pledge to establish a presence in different regions across the UK. We are very excited to report that we established our first regional office in the East Midlands in early 2019, and have begun developing plans for further regional offices to be introduced over the

next 12 months. This is just the start in what will be an exciting phase of development for the Alliance and the wider organisation.

The CSJ Alliance is made up of charities working across a wide range of different sectors



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

THE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME

This year the Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) established a new structure that will enable us to develop closer, more productive, and mutually beneficial relationships with key charities and small organisations. The Partnership Programme is a pivotal part of the new work.

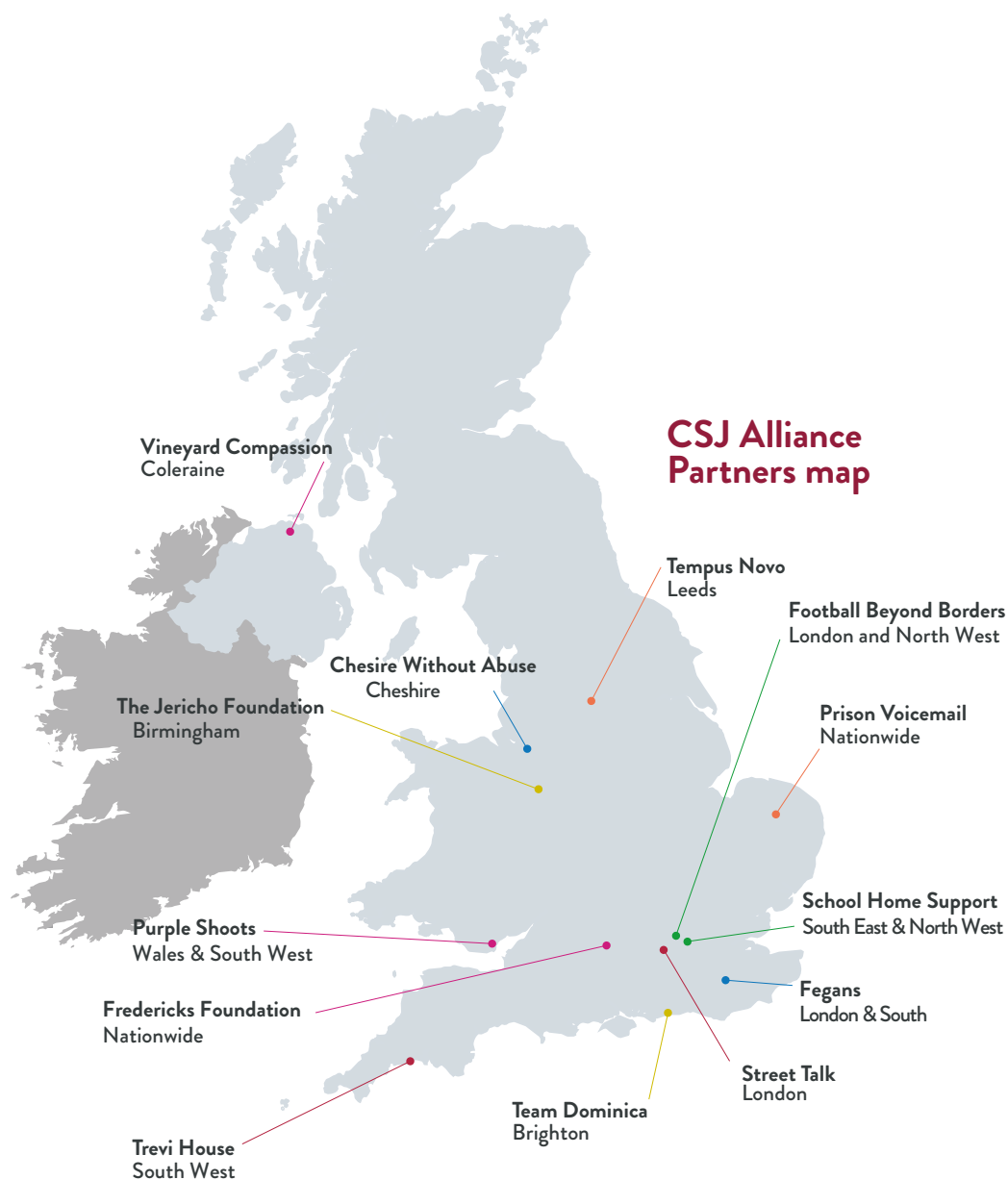
Every year, new charities from each of the seven CSJ policy units will be invited to join the Partnership Programme. These partners are selected through the CSJ Awards process, with the winners and selected shortlisted charities invited to join.

Charities serve as a partner for two years and during this time will attend the annual conference (January) and the policy area advisory board (quarterly meetings). This gives them the opportunity to input both into the current research

but also highlight potential new areas of study.

The collective voices of the organisations in the Partnership Programme add credibility to our message; demonstrating that our ideas are not born and bred in Westminster, but are rooted in lived experience and insight.

The 2020 inaugural programme kicked off with the Partnership Conference in January 2020 at our main office in London. This provided an opportunity for new partners to meet the team, network with other organisations – and crucially – begin directing the policy agenda through small group discussions.



CSJ Alliance Partners map

THE CSJ AWARDS

The CSJ Awards – in partnership with *The Telegraph* – is an annual, high profile award ceremony that honours the best grassroots, poverty-fighting charities and social enterprises across the United Kingdom.

The CSJ Awards is an opportunity for us to publicly recognise and celebrate some of the best charities and social enterprises. Six winners receive a £10,000 grant and their work is showcased in front of an influential audience of people who are passionate about furthering the cause of social justice in Britain.

Usually held in April at an evening event attended by hundreds of leading figures from across the country, this year due to COVID-19 the celebration moved online.

The six charities below are the 2020 Award winners having been recognised for their excellent and impactful work.

MAXIE RICHARDS ADDICTION AWARD

Street Talk

Street Talk is a counselling service for women trapped in street-based prostitution and women who have been victims of trafficking. Street Talk provides

weekly therapy sessions, including psychotherapy, art therapy and group therapy in 5 hostels, 3 day centres and Bronzefield Prison. To provide continuity the therapy continues when women go to prison, hospital or rehab.



Cathy Newman,
Channel 4 News
presenter, will
present the
Addiction Award.

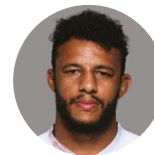


FAMILY AWARD

My CWA

My CWA delivers refuge accommodation to victims and children fleeing domestic abuse. They work to support every member of the family by offering a range of trauma recovery and behaviour change interventions,

as well as parenting and family support. Their 'Even Better Families' intervention creates a family support plan with each individual receiving tailored support and, where safe to do so, supporting families to work together.



Courtney Lawes,
England Rugby
Player, will present
the Family Award.



CRIMINAL JUSTICE AWARD

Prison Voicemail

Prison Voicemail make it easier for people in prison to maintain positive relationships with their families by enabling the exchange of voicemails through existing prison phones. This gives families

the emotional release of being able to communicate even with differing schedules. Prisoners simply dial their unique voicemail phone number from any phone to listen and reply to voicemails.



Simon Thomas, Former Blue Peter and Sky Sports presenter, will present the Criminal Justice Award



EDUCATION AWARD

Football Beyond Borders

Football Beyond Borders use football as a catalyst for creating change in the attitude, performance and aspirations of 'at-risk' young people in our school system. Football Beyond Borders' key objective is to engage disadvantaged, vulnerable young people with learning to instil pride, belief in themselves and hope for the future. 800 people access Football Beyond Borders each year. They deliver a 'core schools' programme weekly in 42 schools.



Chris Smalling, England football player, will present the Education Award.



FINANCIAL INCLUSION AWARD

Vineyard Compassion

Vineyard Compassion meets the needs of anyone in poverty in Coleraine, Northern Ireland. This could involve food poverty, debt, worklessness, loneliness or mental ill-health. Vineyard Compassion help over 5,000 people a year through a variety of services including: housing for those at risk, emergency food, clothing and household essentials to those in crisis, as well as debt counselling and money management support.



Rachel Riley, Countdown TV presenter, will present the Financial Inclusion Award



WORK AND WELFARE AWARD

The Jericho Foundation

The Jericho Foundation help the most vulnerable in Birmingham get back on their feet and into work. They use 7 of their in-house social businesses to give people work, volunteering and training experience. These social enterprises provide opportunities for people who would otherwise not get the break they need. They also provide a therapeutic and supportive work environment which focuses on personal development and mentoring.



Bear Grylls OBE, former SAS Servicemen and TV presenter, will present the Work Award.



In partnership with

The Telegraph

WITH THANKS TO

Judges: Baroness Eaton DBE, DL; Edward Astle, MA, MBA; Helen Lam; John McCrohan; John Spiers; Josh Babarinde OBE; Madeline Grant; Pamela Dow; Richard Mackay; Stuart Roden; William De Winton; Helena Morrissey DBE.

Sponsors: Alex and William de Winton Trust; Marsh; Masonic Charitable Foundation; The Porters' Trust; Morningside Pharmaceuticals Ltd; Ecclesiastical; Manpower; Timeout Homes.

POLICY OVERVIEW

Looking back, 2019–2020 was a year of two halves. It began with the election of a new Prime Minister, a series of political shocks over Brexit, and culminated in a snap general election, all before Christmas. Since then, the COVID-19 global pandemic has meant anything but business as usual.

However, the creation of specific policy units focused on each of our five pathways has provided focus and paid dividends in terms of the impact we have been able to achieve. It has meant that despite all that is going on in politics, the CSJ has turned the Government's attention to the needs of those suffering from addiction, family breakdown, lack of educational attainment, worklessness and serious personal debt.

Over the last 12 months the CSJ has produced 24 reports and made 109 recommendations to Government.

The following pages highlight how we have continued business as usual through our policy units with great success. But we also responded to the political landscape with two different types of report, ensuring that social

justice was present in the election process and in the response to COVID-19.

ELECTION INFLUENCING

The CSJ used the opportunities of a leadership and general election to push on many of our historic recommendations that have not yet been adopted. This led to three politically targeted papers compiling recommendations from across our policy portfolio: The Social Justice Blueprint, People Not Problems and The General Election Breadline Battleground.

As a result, the CSJ counted 55 of its policy proposals in the manifestos of major parties in the December General Election, 38 of which were endorsed by the now governing party.



The General Election Breadline Battleground



People Not Problems



The Social Justice Blueprint



Coronavirus and Voluntary Sector Resilience



Domestic Abuse and the Lockdown

KEY NEWS STORIES

The Telegraph

The Daily Telegraph:

Without aid, these institutions will not be there when we need them

COVID-19 PAPERS

In the early weeks of lockdown the CSJ was also concerned by a number of reports of specific groups who were experiencing extreme hardship. In response to this we campaigned on a number of rapid reports, articles, and briefings on subjects including gambling, excluded children, domestic violence and support for small charities.

The pandemic and our work in this area is ongoing but, at the time of writing, policy recommendations relating directly to the COVID-19 crisis have had an 89% full adoption rate, with the remaining policies being partially adopted.

THE 5 PATHWAYS

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 is 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 per cent of the 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 £51bn, 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.



Delivering a Government Office For Family Policy

Family features in work across our policy portfolio but this year we also published a paper looking at how the Government could build an Office for Family Policy similar to the equalities office.

KEY NEWS STORIES

THE TIMES


The Times Red Box:
Forget his private life,
Johnson should speak
up for family

THE TIMES

The Times:
We need to talk about
absent fathers and crime

SUNDAY EXPRESS

Sunday Express: We need
a minister for families,
says Tory MP



Fegans
CSJ Alliance Partner

IMPACT

Government is expected to publish new guidance on the Family Test, heavily influenced by the CSJ's recent review of the Test with Steve Double MP and Baroness Eaton.

NNECL (National Network for the Education of Care Leavers) published the draft of a 'gold standard' kite mark for care leavers in higher education – a central recommendation of '12 by 24'.

The Government agreed to classify domestic abuse workers as key workers during the COVID-19 lockdown in March, allowing their children to attend school.

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.



Prioritising Growth The Future Of Immigration Policy



Ageing Confidently Supporting An Ageing Workforce



Commissioning Excellence In Disability

This year the CSJ published several major reports on Work and Welfare including: Prioritising Growth and Ageing Confidently, looking at migration and an ageing workforce respectively, and a deep dive on the commissioning of disability services.

KEY NEWS STORIES

The Telegraph

The Telegraph: There is more to a Tory recovery than Brexit

CITYAM

CITY AM: Housing crisis is harming productivity, nearly half of UK businesses warn

The Telegraph

The Telegraph: It's far too simplistic to blame lower life expectancy growth on austerity



IMPACT

Significant investment (£400m) into FE as recommended in our Future of Work Programme.

A significant number of recommendations from our 2017 paper on productivity finally became government policy including more devolution deals, more funding for FE, increased R+D funding, money for inter-city transport.

In response to the outbreak of COVID-19, the government significantly increased the generosity of Universal Credit (which itself proved to be an incredible success) and rejected widespread calls for an expensive and ineffective Universal Basic Income, based on CSJ work.

POLICY UNIT: ADDICTION

In July 2018 the CSJ established its first permanent Addiction Unit 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 hazardously, 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, 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.



Road To Recovery

This year the Addiction Unit published its landmark paper Road to Recovery. The recommendations which were made in this report were adopted in the Conservative manifesto and are due to be rolled out in the coming year.

KEY NEWS STORIES

The Telegraph

The Telegraph: Ignore our London-centric political classes – cannabis legalisation is still a terrible idea

Daily Mail

The Daily Mail: Britain's drugs disgrace: One out of every three overdose deaths in the EU now happens in the UK, making it the substance abuse capital of Europe

The Telegraph

The Telegraph: Cannabis at risk of being 'decriminalised' as police let users off with community resolutions



Vision Housing
CSJ Awards Winner 2011

IMPACT

Following inclusion in the Conservative manifesto, the Government commit to a unified addiction strategy led from the Cabinet Office to include gambling and recovery.

The Government agreed to open a consultation with business, and interested parties, to examine how best to enable those that wish to declare an addiction in the workplace to seek treatment, as recommended in our Road to Recovery report.

In the early days of lockdown, the gambling industry initiated some self-imposed restrictions, following significant campaigning from the CSJ chairman and others.

Government has recently confirmed that its addiction strategy will include six new pilots across the UK, based on the CSJ's Road to Recovery model.

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 when starting school.

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.

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, the 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 been looking at a number of different areas to tackle.



The Third Degree



Warming The Cold Spots Of Alternative Provision

This year the CSJ has published papers looking at access to higher education, and a manifesto for improving provision for excluded children.

KEY NEWS STORIES

The Telegraph

The Telegraph: With an army of helpers, we can save the futures of our most vulnerable children

THE TIMES

The Times: North south divide in maths and English results of excluded pupils

INDEPENDENT

The Independent: Some pupils have zero chance in mainstream schools. Alternative provision schools can give them a chance



IMPACT

All three major parties pledged an overhaul of school exclusions and alternative school provision in their 2019 general election Manifestos.

In our paper on access to higher education (The Third Degree), the CSJ highlighted that high-achieving, disadvantaged pupils were more likely to be underpredicted grades than those from better-off backgrounds. We recommended that government should replace the current system of admission with one that is built on actual grades, a concept that the government is now considering.

During lockdown, the Government announced a £350 million catch-up package to help disadvantaged pupils recover lost learning. They also gave schools greater flexibility over the definition of vulnerable children so that more schools could stay open and support vulnerable pupils.

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 far more likely to suffer from the causes of social breakdown such as drug abuse, poor literacy rates and worklessness.

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.

In Spring 2019 the CSJ published Control, Order, Hope: A manifesto for prison safety and reform, a landmark report including 58 recommendations to overhaul the prison service including sections on employment, family, maintenance and drugs. We have been pushing to see each of these recommendations become a reality since publication, but in recognition that our prisons do not exist in a vacuum we have now begun a three-year programme tracking prisoners through the system from sentencing through to probation.

KEY NEWS STORIES

The Telegraph

The Telegraph: It'll take more than bobbies on the beat to restore order to lawless Britain

The Telegraph

The Telegraph: There's nothing regressive about promoting tough justice

The Telegraph

The Telegraph: Ignore the confected fury of the liberal elites – stop-and-search works



IMPACT

A £100 million commitment to airport-style security arrangements (i.e. body scanners) in prisons. The PM even personally visited one. This is a long-term recommendation and priority of our most recent prisons paper, Control, Order, Hope: A manifesto for prison safety and reform.

The Conservative Party pledged to introduce new police powers to tackle violent crime and exploitation in their 2019 general election Manifesto.

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.

Serious personal debt is not just a consequence of poverty, it also causes poverty by damaging the ability of people and families 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.

In July 2019 we established the CSJ's first permanent Debt & Financial Inclusion policy unit within the organisation.



Collecting Dust

In April 2020 we published the results of its initial research: Collecting Dust. The government has already agreed to look at its own debt collection practices in response to this.

KEY NEWS STORIES



ConservativeHome:
Damian Hinds:
Government has overtaken
the private sector as the
harshes debt collector



Financial Times: Local
councils criticised
for 'concerning' debt
collection tactics

REACTION

Reaction: Draconian local
council debt collection
is hitting Britain's
households hard



IMPACT

The Cabinet Office announced a review into government debt collection practices in direct response to the publication of the Collecting Dust report.

The CSJ's Debt Unit presented the research of our report, Collecting Dust, to the Alternative Lending APPG, the Debt and Personal Finance APPG as well as senior members of the Conservative Party. This regular contact with a range of parliamentarians led to 40 cross-party signatures in support of our proposals made in the report.

The Modern Slavery Policy Unit is a new joint initiative led by anti-slavery charity Justice and Care UK and the Centre for Social Justice.

Its core mission is to keep modern slavery at the top of the British political agenda and ensure that the UK fights this crime. This means better understanding the nature and scale of modern slavery, increased investment and a sophisticated national response proportionate to the level of threat.

Using the experience of frontline practitioners, developing creative and evidence-based ideas, fostering a new understanding about the scale of the crime and listening to the voices of survivors, the Modern Slavery Policy Unit works to catalyse the political leadership needed to achieve systemic change.

The new Modern Slavery Policy Unit:

- I. Advocates for policy and legislation that places victims and their recovery needs at its heart.
- II. Bridges the gap between those working to disrupt this crime and support its survivors, and decision makers in Westminster, ensuring that voices from the frontline are heard and heeded.
- III. Works on a cross-party basis, bringing together and equipping a strong caucus of parliamentarians to lead the fight against slavery.

The first report of the Unit, assessing the prevalence and nature of modern slavery in the UK, five years on from the Modern Slavery Act, will be published in August 2020.

KEY NEWS STORIES

PoliticsHome

PoliticsHome: Frank Field: May's work pushing modern slavery up the agenda is to be admired, but victims have also suffered at the hands of the 'hostile environment'

THE TIMES

The Times: Lorry Deaths: Britain can stop the people-traffickers



...AND SO MUCH MORE...



The Cares Family
CSJ Alliance Charity

THE CSJ HOUSING COMMISSION

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.

In March 2018, the CSJ established a Commission to address this and has been asked to report its findings back to government. In July 2018 it published its first interim report, *Social Housing and Employment*, which sets

out how the Government can unlock the potential of housing associations to provide life-changing skills programmes for disadvantaged residents.

In October 2018 it published its second interim report, *A Social Justice Housing Strategy*, which advanced a comprehensive plan to turbocharge the supply of truly affordable housing in England.

In March 2019 it published its third interim report, *Putting Down Roots*, which proposed radical improvements to security for both renting families and private landlords, through the repeal

of Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 and the establishment of specialist housing courts.

The Commission's Final Report on the role of employers was published in July 2019 and from it the CSJ has embarked on a new



Community Capital



Housing That Works

branch of work on social and affordable housing.

COMMUNITY

The vote to leave the European Union was a vote to restore a sense of home. Far from parochial and myopic, a sense of home fosters other important values. It is through a secure connection to families, institutions, and places, that people develop norms of reciprocity such as obligation, sacrifice and loyalty.

Our Community Capital paper, published last September seeks to re-orientate a focus on human assets, contribution and wellbeing, as opposed to human deficiency, passivity and lack.



There is much more to human flourishing than paying the bills, but we need our libraries, village halls and youth clubs, to restore a sense of home across this great nation.

It is a policy area that we will also be revisiting in 2021.



IMPACT

Housing secretary committed £9.1bn to build “significantly more social rented homes” and planning changes to increase the supply of truly affordable housing.

The Conservative Party pledged to a National Housing First programme to end rough sleeping and chronic homelessness in their 2019 general election Manifesto.

KEY NEWS STORIES



ConservativeHome:

Imogen Sinclair: Burke offers a solution to the decline of community

ConservativeHome: Joe Shalam: Modern employers are learning the Bournville lesson – better housing for workers benefits them, too

LOOKING FORWARD

IN THE YEAR AHEAD THE CSJ WILL BE REPORTING ON FOUR MAJOR COMMISSIONS:

1. **Disability.** Chaired by Lord Shinkwin, The Disability Commission has been set up to help the Government chart a robust, radical and pragmatic way forward for disabled people. Drawing on the insights, expertise and lived experience of its members, it will develop practical recommendations to underpin a winning action plan that delivers for disabled people, businesses and the economy. Its message is simple – ‘Levelling up: time to get it done’.
2. **Early Years.** The Early Years Commission is a joint piece of work with the Fabian Society. It aims to focus the policy debate on the early years of a person’s life, where most impact can be made, and find cross-party consensus on practical and implementable solutions. The Commission is being chaired by Conservative MP Edward Timpson and Labour MP Sharon Hodgson
3. **Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation.** Our country should strive to meet two inextricably linked goals:



to clearly demonstrate that the UK is a deeply hostile place for child sexual abusers to operate and to build a fiercely protective and supportive environment for child and adult victims and survivors. To date, it is not clear that this has been the case. This Commission, chaired by Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, will seek to shine a spotlight on one of the darkest corners of the UK and map a route forward.

4. **Children in Care.** Chaired by Danny Kruger MP, the Commission will advocate a whole-family approach to address the crisis in children’s social care. Using the evidence of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) to frame more timely and thorough referrals and assessments, Commissioners aim to improve

the support offered vulnerable children and their parents.

OTHER MAJOR RESEARCH AREAS WILL INCLUDE:

- **Family** – supporting children on the edge of care
- **Education** – continuing work on exclusions and alternative provision
- **Criminal Justice** – tracking rehabilitation with a focus on family and work
- **Addiction** – review of existing and required gambling regulation
- **Work and Welfare** – the evolution of Universal Credit
- **Debt** – enforcement and debt collection practices
- **Modern Slavery** – establishing prevalence and boosting victim support
- **Communities** – rethinking social centres of the future

IMPACT

Of the 51 policy recommendations published before the lockdown in March, 21 were adopted by government – a 42 per cent success rate. During lockdown, which followed the outbreak of COVID-19, nine in ten of our recommendations made during this period were fully adopted by Government.

Election Manifestos included 55 CSJ recommendations across the three major parties, including 38 for the Conservative Party, where they pledged to:

- An overhaul of exclusions and alternative school provision.
- A unified addiction strategy led from the Cabinet Office.
- New police powers to tackle violent crime and exploitation.
- A National Housing First programme to end rough sleeping and chronic homelessness.
- £500m investment in the youth services estate.



Rapid response work on the outbreak of COVID-19 resulted in a number of significant CSJ-led policy responses:

- The Government released £370m to specifically support small charities as part of a major bailout of the charitable sector. It also included charities in the furlough scheme.
- DfE announced broader funding for alternative provision schools and issued new guidance to support a broader definition of 'vulnerable children' than in its initial policy response.
- The Government significantly increased the generosity of Universal Credit (which itself proved to be an incredible success) and



rejected widespread calls for an expensive and ineffective Universal Basic Income, based on CSJ work.

- The Government agreed to classify domestic abuse workers as key workers during the COVID-19 lockdown in March, allowing their children to attend school.
- The gambling industry initiated some self-imposed restrictions, following significant campaigning from the CSJ Chairman and others in the early days of lockdown.

TRACKING OUR IMPACT

TWO EXAMPLES OF MANY SUCCESSES

GOVERNMENT DEBT COLLECTION

2020



Published major new policy report, *Collecting Dust*.



Called for Government to introduce a Debt Management Bill to transform public sector debt collection, especially in the light of COVID-19's impact on the economy.

ADDICTION STRATEGY

2019



Published seminal *Road to Recovery* report based on 150 charity interviews across the UK.



Called for an emphasis on 'recovery', for a central government agency and for the inclusion of gambling in the strategy.



Significant coverage
in the media
and trade press.



Regular contact
with Government
departments and
presented to multiple
APPGs and the CSJ's
Social Justice Caucus.



**40 cross-party
signatures** in support
of CSJ proposals and
six parliamentary
questions.



**Government announce
review into government
debt collection in
direct response to CSJ
Collecting Dust report.**



**Presented
recommendations**
directly to Number 10
and held meetings with
the Secretary of State
for Health, the Home
Secretary, and their
Special Advisors.



**Lobbied for
recommendations**
through the
CSJ's Chairman,
targeted media output
and report distributed
across parties.



Following inclusion
in the Conservative
manifesto,
the Government
committed
to a unified addiction
strategy led from
the Cabinet Office
to include gambling
and 'recovery'.



**The government
announces six UK
treatment sites to pilot
the new approach**

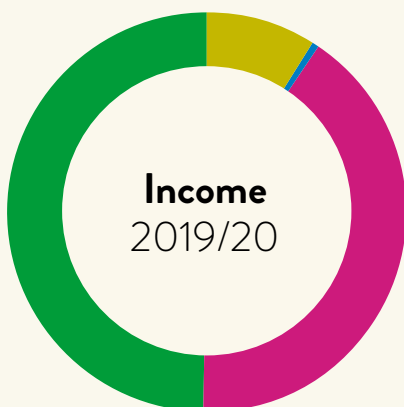
FINANCIAL UPDATE

2019/20 IN NUMBERS...

In 2019/20 the Centre for Social Justice received contributions of £2,217,782 from 106 different sources. This represents an 8% growth from 2018/19. Our expenditure grew by 2%

from £1,935,982 in 2018/19 to £1,970,181 in 2019/20, with the most significant growth being in our Alliance. This growth has enabled the organisation to deliver more impact than ever before –

as outlined through this annual report – as we continue on our mission to put social justice at the heart of British Politics.



PRIVATE DONORS

£ 906,157 (41%)

Number of sponsors: 62

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

£ 1,100,729 (50%)

Number of sponsors: 26

CORPORATE

£198,396 (9%)

Number of sponsors: 16

CHARITIES

£12,500 (1%)

Number of sponsors: 2

POLICY

£1,036,476 (53%)

We published 24 reports and hosted 34 events. We made 109 recommendations, 40 of these recommendations were included in the major parties' general election manifesto. We appeared before 4 select committees; we ran 3 roundtables; polled over 3000 members of the public to gain their views on various issues.

of States, Ministers and senior backbench MPs taking part in policy discussions and events. We also secured nearly £7 billion of Government investment (£6.2bn in policy reshaping and £667m in ideas from our frontline charities).

CORE COSTS

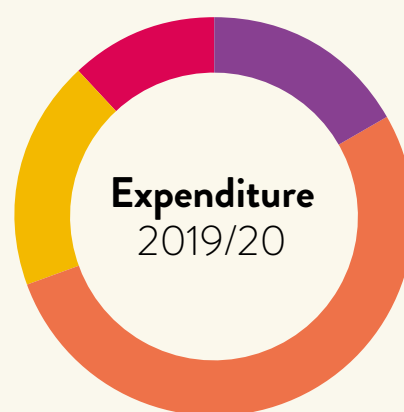
£331,829 (17%)

Expenditure to support 30 members of staff to deliver all that we do.

ALLIANCE

£367,390 (19%)

364 small charities engaged through our poverty-fighting Alliance, 18 of which took part in our Partnership Programme. We opened our first regional office in the East Midlands and have begun developing plans for further regional offices to be introduced over the next 12 months.



IMPACT

£234,486 (12%)

42% of our policy recommendations were fully or partially adopted by Government and over 75% of recommendations that we made in direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic were adopted by Government. We hosted 216 different meetings and briefings for Ministers and MPs; achieved an average of 18 media appearances / mentions per month; with Secretaries

We positioned 12 Alliance representatives on high level panels / roundtables, saw national press coverage on all six 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. The COVID-19 crisis has put huge strains on public services, businesses, and people. Unsurprisingly the most vulnerable in our society are most at risk and will be the hardest hit by the pandemic.

At the same time, the opportunity to set a bold agenda to reform the lives of those growing up in Britain's poorest neighbourhoods as we emerge from the pandemic has never been greater. The CSJ has the expertise and the passionate commitment to solving these deep-rooted social injustices, but we need help to do so, now more than ever before.

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. Our fight against poverty is as pressing and vital as it has ever been, and your help will make a real difference to our ability to change lives and transform communities.

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

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OUR INFLUENCE

The CSJ is recognised by many as a leading think tank.



“As a Secretary of State I have really valued the big ideas the CSJ brings to the table. Their reports are always a must read for anyone looking to tackle the big issues we face as a country. They really do put social justice at the heart of British politics.”

**RT HON THÉRÈSE COFFEY MP,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
THE DEPARTMENT OF WORK
AND PENSIONS**



“The CSJ is the ‘go to’ think tank for anyone looking for big ideas and policy solutions. They put their mind to the big issues and come up with answers. As a new MP they have been a huge resource of facts and figures on the things I want to talk about in Parliament.”

**SIOBHAN BAILLIE MP,
CONSERVATIVE MP FOR STROUD**



“Social justice is at the root of so many of the campaigns that I have worked on since I first became an MP, and indeed before that. I have been and honoured to work alongside the CSJ over the past year, promoting their work finding common goals as we all seek to fight injustice, tackle poverty and help our communities break the cycle of devastation caused by unemployment, low incomes, crime, addiction and debt. The CSJ really are making a difference to the lives of real people and I look forward to continuing to work with them to improve outcomes for these people by tackling the causes of social injustice.”

**CAROLYN HARRIS MP, LABOUR
MP FOR SWANSEA EAST AND
PARLIAMENTARY PRIVATE
SECRETARY TO THE LEADER
OF THE OPPOSITION**



“I am proud to be working with the CSJ. It has been refreshing to work alongside an organisation that is driven by impact and a desire to make real change, where it counts.”

**COURTNEY LAWES, ENGLAND
RUGBY UNION PLAYER**



“The CSJ has shown a willingness to bring MPs together from across different parties on important issues that matter. I welcome their cross party approach to achieving change and their work as one of Westminster’s leading think tanks.”

**RT HON STEPHEN TIMMS MP,
LABOUR MP FOR EAST HAM,
CHAIRMAN OF THE WORK &
PENSIONS COMMITTEE**



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