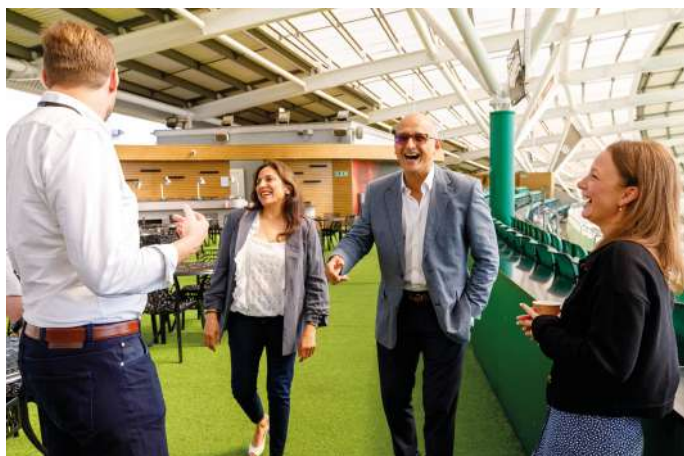


ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021



Over the last 12 months the CSJ has published its most amount of work in a single year; some 25 papers.

These papers were crammed with over 400 solutions and recommendations, triple the amount compared to the previous year.

As we ratcheted up our work, we have maintained our award-winning impact as over a third of our recommendations were adopted by government.



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FOREWORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN & CEO

Welcome to the Centre for Social Justice's Annual Report for 2020/21.

For almost two decades, the CSJ has shown that public policy has the power to release people from poverty rather than trap them in it. Our past successes tell us that the root causes of poverty (namely family breakdown, educational failure, worklessness, debt and addiction) can just as easily become pathways out of it when we get the answers right. But this can only take place when Westminster starts seeing people as potential to be released and not problems to be solved.

At the CSJ, our mission is to put social justice at the heart of British politics. We've learnt that the key to unlocking game-changing policy interventions is to listen, each day, to those in the toughest situations and to the grassroots organisations who support them. Because it's there that we not only uncover some of the UK's biggest problems, but also find the best solutions.

The past year has shown us just how important it is to listen to those on the frontlines. Through actively listening to our Alliance of over 450 poverty-fighting charities, we know that lockdown hasn't necessarily created new social ills, but it has poured petrol on situations that were already alight with problems. It is for this reason that over the last 12 months the CSJ has published its most amount of work in a single year; some 25 papers. And these papers were crammed with over 400 solutions and recommendations, triple the amount of the previous year. We were proud to respond to the call of those we serve, who were most affected by lockdown.

As we ratcheted up our work, we have maintained our award-winning impact, seeing a third of our recommendations adopted by Government. This in turn leveraged some £1.6 billion in Government funding for those who need it most, alongside key focus on previously forgotten issues. We were proud to see Government invest more fully in our flagship policy reform – Universal Credit – which

THE CSJ OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS



We listened to our network of over

450

poverty-fighting charities



We published

25

papers



Our papers were crammed with over

400

solutions and recommendations



1/3

CSJ recommendations were adopted by government

was highlighted as a national asset by Stephen Timms, Labour MP and Welfare Select Committee Chair. We also helped the Government announce the creation of the Serious Violence Reduction Order, an idea taken directly from our ground-breaking paper on gang violence. We worked with the current Health Secretary of State on a landmark child sexual abuse report, with has so far seen 15 recommendations taken up. And we have continued to beat the drum on school exclusions – which has included the creation of the first ever APPG on this issue, and 6 landmark changes implemented via the Timpson review. Finally we have succeeded in getting government to take the F word – family – seriously, both in narrative and investment, with some £500M going towards our recommendations: family hubs, parenting classes and professional development of frontline workers.

Such examples are the tip of the policy changes you will read about in this annual report, and we are grateful to all our charities, political advocates, funders and staff who made it possible.

But there is so much more to be done.

Going forwards, we are stepping up and stepping out further. In 2019 we established a new target to get closer to the frontlines and champion key localities via CSJ regional offices. Having now created such offices in the East Midlands and more recently in the North West to significant local effect, we are having calls to open more. It is for this reason, we are very proud to have formed the CSJ Foundation to nurture, strengthen, and grow the CSJ Alliance of poverty-fighting charities to ensure local voices are even better represented in national policy-making. Not only this, but it will champion Britain's under-valued regions on a national stage, and support Britain's philanthropists to fund the very best unseen frontline initiatives.

Added to this, we have built out our policy teams to be at their biggest and boldest in our history. Specialist teams in education, family, debt, housing and community, modern slavery, criminal justice, work and welfare

and addiction are the brightest and best in Westminster. And they will not stop in driving our message into the corridors of power.

We hope you enjoy the successes in this report, and we look forward to working with you over the next year to do even more.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iain Duncan Smith'.

Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP
Chairman



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '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:

ALLIANCE



1

UNDERSTANDING THE FRONTLINE

Through the work of the CSJ Foundation, we regularly visit, consult with and invite views from our Alliance of over 450 poverty-fighting charities. This ensures our work is experience led.

POLICY



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.

IMPACT



3

DRIVING IMPACT

We provide a voice for the most disadvantaged, advocating for them in the media and through our campaigns. We use a variety of methods to drive our ideas into being; from building media campaigns, briefing Cabinet Ministers and MPs, as well as hosting private roundtables and public events.



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 Foundation is inspired and nourished by its unique relationship with the CSJ Alliance: a national network of over 450 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. We listen to what they say and we learn from what they do.

The CSJ draws heavily from the CSJ 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.

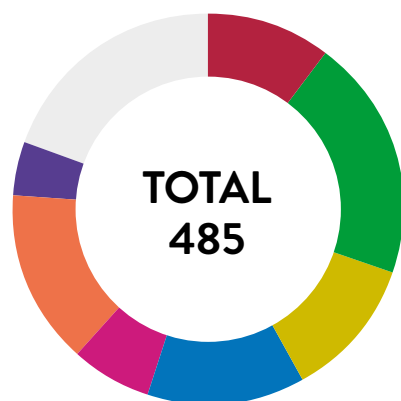
WHAT IS THE CSJ POVERTY-FIGHTING ALLIANCE?

The CSJ Alliance is a game-changing network of charities and social enterprises working on the frontline in the fight

against poverty. Small charities across the country have a wealth of knowledge and knowhow about the best way to prevent poverty, but there are limited ways for their ideas to be expressed nationally. They often tackle the underlying root causes of poverty, not just the symptoms in their bid to transform lives.

REGIONAL OFFICES

To further enhance our knowledge of what is going on in different parts of the country, and to deepen our relationships with CSJ Alliance charities, we are expanding further and further. In 2019 we established a presence in the East Midlands and in 2021 we launched a North West office based in Manchester. Plans are underway to extend the CSJ’s regional presence in the North East and other parts of the UK.



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

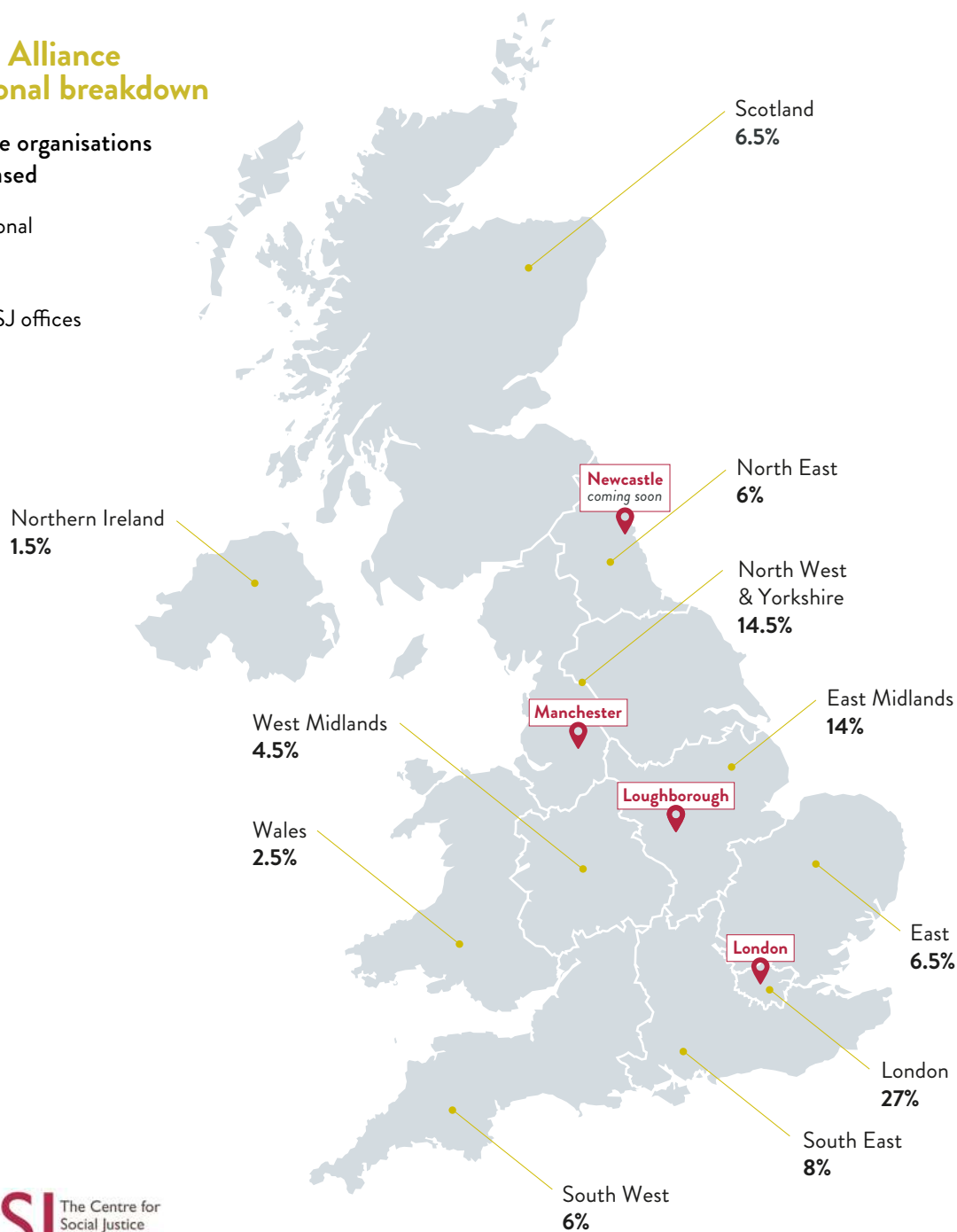
- Addiction (50)
- Education (98)
- Work (56)
- Family (64)
- Debt (32)
- Criminal justice (70)
- Modern slavery (21)
- Other (94)

CSJ Alliance regional breakdown

Where organisations are based

National
3%

CSJ offices



CSJ FOUNDATION

Newly created, the CSJ Foundation will revolutionise the way local grassroots charities are seen and funded. Over the last 20 years, the CSJ has developed an unparalleled understanding

of the root causes of poverty in the UK, identified through the CSJ Alliance.

The CSJ Foundation will strengthen and grow the CSJ Alliance of poverty-fighting charities to ensure local voices

are even better represented in national policymaking. It will also champion Britain's under-valued regions on the national stage and direct Britain's philanthropists towards the very best unseen frontline initiatives.

THE CSJ AWARDS



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

Since the Awards began over 16 years ago, the CSJ has given out over £1M to 106 organisations.

This year the Awards felt more important than ever, as we sought to shine a light on the brave small charities who cared for the most vulnerable in their communities during the pandemic.

All of our winners tailored their programmes to respond to the specific needs of those they seek to reach throughout COVID-19 and its attendant lockdowns:



Oasis Community Centre delivered over 3,000 food and essentials hampers

to those in need, and through this initiative they identified those in the community who required specific help beyond food and essentials.



The Snowdrop Project and **One25** supplied their clients

with Wi-Fi hubs and mobile devices to keep their most marginalised clients connected to casework support and counselling services.



MCR Pathways

fed into the national COVID-19 recovery plan for schools in

Scotland, through developing an online learning platform which was approved and endorsed by the Scottish Department for Education.

That's why this year's CSJ Awards were so significant.

These dedicated organisations stopped at nothing, not even a global pandemic, to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Britain.

To celebrate these winners, we awarded them with a £10,000 prize and showcased their work to over 200,000 people online. The winning organisations have also enriched the work of the CSJ through sharing their knowledge and experience and speaking into the formation of our research and recommendations.

WITH THANKS TO

Presenters:



Prue Leith CBE



Charlie Webster



Sarah-Jane Mee



James Cracknell OBE

Judges: Crispian Collins, Helen Lam, John Spiers, Josh Babarinde OBE, Madeline Grant, Richard Mackay, Stuart Roden.

Sponsors: Marsh, The Porters' Trust, Morningside Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Timeout Homes.



THE SNOWDROP PROJECT

Sheffield

The Snowdrop Project was founded and built on the needs of survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery who consistently cited the absence of long-term support from the state. When they find Snowdrop, survivors typically have nothing, are extremely vulnerable and desperately want to move on from their trauma. Snowdrop empowers each individual to reclaim their dignity and agency through their casework, counselling and community integration service.



MCR PATHWAYS

Scotland (National)

MCR Pathways supports over 2,500 young people in or on the edges of the care system across Scotland. These young people have the same talents and abilities as their peers, but instability at home stunts aspirations and life chances. Working within the school system, MCR Pathways comes alongside these young people and matches them with volunteers who provide personalised mentoring and consistent weekly support.

ONE25

Bristol

One25 support women who engage in street sex work and vulnerable women who have experienced domestic or sexual violence, addiction, or homelessness. They partner with over 70 local agencies to help these women move towards independence in the community. One25 also offers two rehabilitation programmes, Pause and Peony, which supports women in early recovery and helps them break the devastating cycle of having their children taken into care.



OASIS COMMUNITY CENTRE

Nottinghamshire

Oasis Community Centre operates 30 projects and activities for all ages out of a vibrant 2-acre garden in Kilton estate, Worksop. Over 2000 people access Oasis's services every year.

Using gardening and floristry, Oasis teaches employment, business and life skills to a wide range of people; from those who are unemployed, have a disability or mental health issues. In this, Oasis harnesses the power of community to reduce isolation, improve health and wellbeing and increase opportunities for all people in the area.



POLICY OVERVIEW

The CSJ's mission to unlock the potential of those most struggling has more resting on it than ever before. All of our policy units have stepped up their game to find the best policy solutions, addressing the needs of Britain's poorest communities who have been badly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. To do this effectively, we broke down our work into three key areas; COVID-19 targeted work, big new Commissions as well as our ongoing work to address the five pathways to poverty.

1. COVID-19 TARGETED WORK

Beyond the virus itself, the impact of the pandemic on many of our poorest communities was not necessarily to create a raft of new problems but to intensify many of the existing ones. School closures have exacerbated existing inequalities, low paid work became even more precarious, and the pressures on families grew. This meant that our work did not necessarily change but was needed more than ever.

There were, however, several specific issues that emerged and so we produced a number of government briefings to address some of the most immediate questions. These included:

- Post-16 Support in Alternative Provision
- Free School Meals and Holiday Hunger
- The Great Recovery – a post COVID-19 deal for Britain
- A Level Playing Field: Equalising access to sport and exercise for young people after COVID-19
- Support for Small Business Owners & Company Directors

2. THE FOUR BIG COMMISSIONS

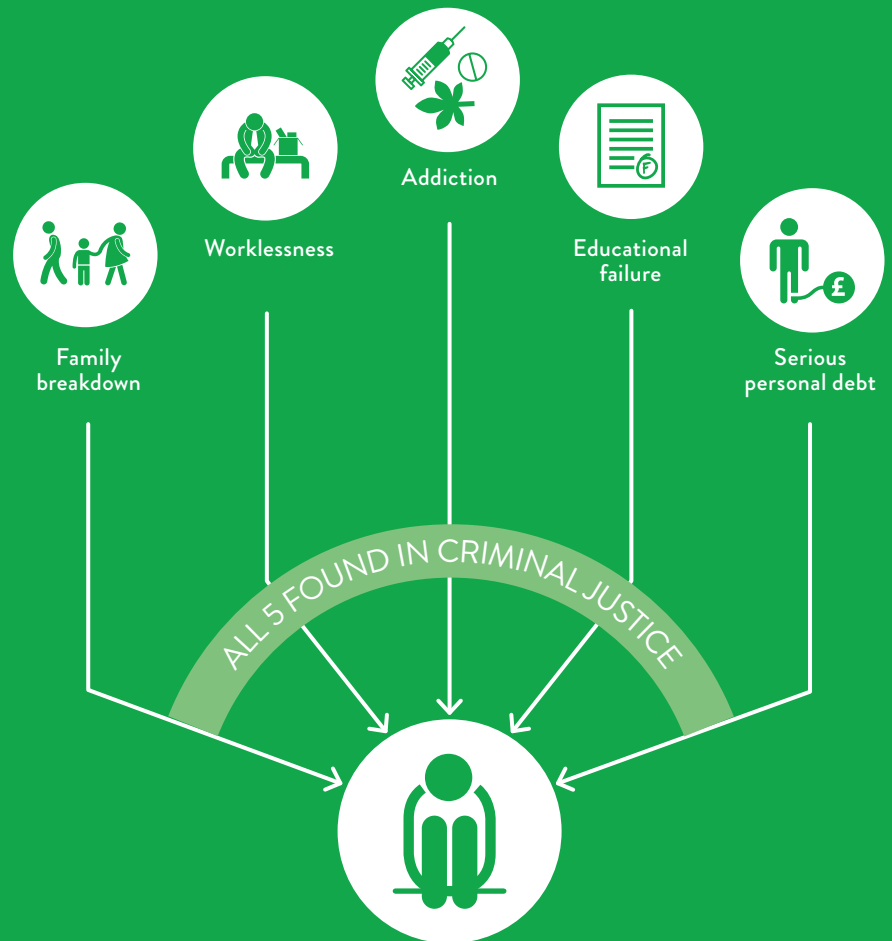
We also identified four major policy areas where the government's interest, expressed in the 2019 manifesto, overlapped with ours and so we established year-long, high level, cross party, and cross sector commissions in each area.

3. ONGOING WORK TO ADDRESS THE FIVE PATHWAYS TO POVERTY

And beyond all this, the work of our policy units continued unabated, to address the five pathways to poverty and more...

THE 5 PATHWAYS

Through our research we have identified five pathways to poverty:



Other areas of work



Now is the Time



Unsafe Children



**Safely Reducing
the Number of
Children Going
Into Care**



**Early Years
Commission;
A Cross-Party
Manifesto**

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 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 £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, and 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

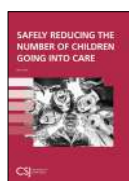
primary influence on outcomes for young children and that family instability is a major driver of poverty: a family that breaks apart doubles the likelihood of a child growing up poor. When couples break up, poverty is often not far behind.

Family features in work across our policy portfolio but this year's highlights include papers on family structure and children in care.



Family Structure Still Matters

Looks at the evidence base for different forms of family and subsequently makes the case that marriage still has an important and under-promoted role in society.



Safely Reducing the Number of Children Going into Care

As the title suggests, looks at best practice across the UK for keeping children in stable, loving homes.

KEY NEWS STORIES

Daily Mail

The Daily Mail: England rugby star Courtney Lawes urges parents to get married to create a 'stable family' – as report reveals unmarried couples are four times more likely to split and 70% of young offenders come from broken homes

THE SPECTATOR

The Spectator: Forget race or class, marriage is the big social divide

THE TIMES

The Times: Poorest 'damaging children's lives by spurning marriage'



IMPACT

The Government has committed to championing Family Hubs and announced millions of pounds of investment in a speech delivered at the CSJ offices.

In May 2021 the Government clarified the legal and social differences between co-habiting couples and marriage, including rights and property details.

The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities acknowledged that family breakdown is more prevalent in certain ethnic minority groups, and could underpin a number of disparities, prompting a full review into the evidence.

The CSJ hosted our first ever family fun day at the Kia Oval — where we invited over 30 families from CSJ Alliance charities to come and enjoy a day out at the cricket during the summer holidays.

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. The CSJ invented Universal Credit and has tirelessly driven it to the place that it is today. But there is still much more 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 one parent 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.

This year the CSJ published several major reports on Work and Welfare including:



Unfinished Business

Next steps for welfare reform in post-COVID Britain: a look at the potential of a full Universal Support offer.



Support for Small Business Owners & Company Directors

Briefing on the urgent need for further pandemic support.



Now is the Time

A report by the CSJ Disability Commission: a manifesto for a new government disability strategy.



Universal Credit Update: pandemic, uplift, and Universal Support

A report that argues for retaining the £20 uplift to Universal Credit.

KEY NEWS STORIES



The Sun: Benefit Revolution: Iain Duncan Smith says Government should unleash £460M benefit reform in wake of COVID

The Telegraph

The Telegraph: Ministers must decide how much needs to change after weathering the COVID storm

The Telegraph

The Telegraph: It's wrong to write off the £20 Universal Credit uplift as a slide into benefits culture



IMPACT

The Spending Review confirmed that the Annual Investment Allowance Extension will run until January 2022. The AIA is a temporary £1M budget for business to invest in capital projects and write off against tax.

Rishi Sunak announced investment in the Work and Health Programme as well as more staff for Jobcentre Plus.

Government stated in guidance for Traineeships that a 'supported internship' should be offered to young people aged 16–24 with an education, health and care plan statement so they can be supported whilst moving directly into paid employment.

POLICY UNIT: ADDICTION

In July 2018 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 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 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.

Last year the Addiction unit published its landmark paper *Road to Recovery*. The recommendations were adopted in the Conservative manifesto and are due to be rolled out in the coming year. This year we began pressing those promises home as well as a series of new papers including:



A Raw Deal

Drug dealing discussed with lived-experience: first hand accounts from people who have dealt illegal drugs.



Not a Game

Call for effective protection from the harms of gambling: submission to the government review on gambling regulation.

KEY NEWS STORIES

The Telegraph

The Telegraph: Banks should be forced to 'share data on problem gamblers' to stop spiral of debt

THE TIMES

The Times: Bet365 boss Denise Coates' charity 'sitting on donations worth millions'

Mirror

The Mirror: MPs demand 'shooting galleries' where addicts can inject drugs legally



IMPACT

Government announces the creation of £80M Project Adder to tackle drug addiction in the UK, including a dozen pilot projects.

The CSJ acted as a consultant to two major government reviews into drugs and addiction.

Dame Carol Black's landmark report, commissioned by the Home Office, concludes that addiction must be treated as a chronic health condition and support with housing and employment must be offered as well as effective treatment.

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.

Too many of the poorest children start school a long way behind their better off classmates. In some of the worst cases, children are unable to respond to their own names on starting school.

Once at school, a child from one of our poorest areas is many times more likely to attend a school rated 'inadequate' than a child in one of our wealthiest areas.

Too many children also leave school unprepared for work: in 2019 nearly 40 per cent of children left school without five good GCSEs.

In response to this, our education system is undergoing widespread reform. But there is work to do now and so the CSJ has been looking at a number of areas to tackle. This year the CSJ has published papers looking at everything from early years provision to school exclusions and lifelong learning. Papers include:



Trade Secrets

How to reboot apprenticeships and kick-start the recovery: a manifesto for the spread of good quality apprenticeships.



A Level Playing Field

Equalising access to sport and exercise for young people after COVID-19: six ideas for putting school sport at the heart of the COVID recovery.



The Integrated Partnership

The CSJ hosted co-ordinated action between dozens of organisations seeking to reduce school exclusions and improve access to high quality alternative provision.



Kids Can't Catch Up If They Don't Show Up

KEY NEWS STORIES

SCHOOLS WEEK

Schools Week: Alternative Provision: A results day like no other

The Telegraph

The Telegraph: Lawrence Dallaglio: Why we must extend the school day by two hours to help the COVID-19 generation

The Telegraph

The Telegraph: Our outstanding private schools should be celebrated, not maligned

A photograph of a man with dark hair and a young boy with dark hair. The man is leaning over the boy, who is holding a small toy figure. They are both looking at the figure. The man is wearing a dark shirt and a watch. The boy is wearing a dark shirt with a yellow collar. They are sitting at a table with a red basket and some papers.

IMPACT

The Department for Education has begun an evaluation of the Transition Fund for children leaving alternative school provision.

The Government tripled the size of the traineeships programme for 2020/2021. It subsequently pledged an additional £126M for 2021/22 to maintain momentum.

The DfE published its 'Skills for Jobs' White Paper in January 2021, which set out a plan to enforce the Baker Clause including a minimum requirement about who is to be given access to schools as well as tougher action on schools that do not comply.

POLICY UNIT: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Social justice and criminal justice go hand in hand. Not only does crime disproportionately affect poorer communities, but 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 provide a unique opportunity to intervene in often-chaotic lives.

The rehabilitation of offenders needs to be at the heart of an effective criminal justice system. Rehabilitation tackles the root causes of offending, reduces the volume and severity of offending, and ultimately reduces the prison population and improves lives.

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 landmark report including 58 recommendations to totally overhaul the prison service. We have been pushing to see each of these recommendations become

reality since publication.

We are now also midway through a three-year programme tracking prisoners through the system from sentencing to probation.

We've also published reports on a range of other issues this year:



Sentencing in the Dock

The case for a new sentence in the criminal courts of England and Wales.



Digital Technology in Prisons

Unlocking relationships, learning and skills in UK prisons: the case for a more digitally connected prison service.



The Serious Violence Reduction Order

Submissions relating to the application of the order: submission to policing bill committee on the application of a new stop and search order.

KEY NEWS STORIES

THE TIMES

The Times: Survivors of child abuse need support as well as justice

BirminghamLive

Birmingham Mail: Former Home Secretary Sajid Javid warns of 'an epidemic in child sexual abuse'



FE News: Deploy Internet in prisons post-COVID to cut £18.1 billion reoffending bill



IMPACT

15 recommendations from the child sexual abuse report *Unsafe Children*, have already been fully or partially adopted by Government including closing the deed poll loophole that allows sex offenders to go under the radar to reoffend.

Inclusion of the Serious Violence Reduction Order in the Policing Bill – an idea, even including the name, from our gangs paper *It Can Be Stopped*.

Secure video call facilities which maintain family ties – were rolled out in all public and private prisons as well as young offender institutions (YOIs).

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.

To understand the root causes of problem debt among low-income households, we must get to grips with the changing composition of household debt in the UK. We must also be honest about the 'hidden debt' people harbour but often conceal from statutory services and even loved ones. These debts – owed to friends or illegal lenders – exact a huge financial and emotional toll while too often remaining under the surface.

In July 2019 we established the CSJ's first Debt & Financial Inclusion unit. Building on the unit's landmark *Collecting Dust* report, the CSJ has continued to advance policy addressing the growing issue of personal debt owed to public bodies. We have also interviewed hundreds of grassroots debt advisors to uncover new insights into the elusive nature of hidden debt in Britain.



Fairness in Government Debt Management

A call for evidence
Consultation response.



Uncovering Hidden Debt

Focus groups with
money advisers about
illegal and informal
money lending.

KEY NEWS STORIES

THE TIMES

The Times: 'Loans firm emptied my accounts'

The Telegraph

The Telegraph: MPs and peers lobby Chancellor to stop debt collectors chasing coronavirus council tax arrears

conservativehome

ConservativeHome: Nicky Morgan: Ministers must act swiftly to avoid a disaster – bailiffs abusing vulnerable people over council tax arrears



IMPACT

Cabinet Office review of government debt management gets underway.

The CSJ launches the ground-breaking Enforcement Oversight Working Group welcomed by the Ministry of Justice, debt advice and bailiff sectors

The Treasury publishes a policy paper supporting a Single View of Debt (as first proposed in CSJ's *Collecting Dust* report).

The Modern Slavery Policy Unit is a joint initiative led by 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 the UK fights the 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 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.

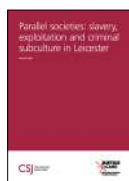
III. Works on a cross-party basis, bringing together and equipping a strong caucus of parliamentarians to lead the fight against slavery.

This year the unit published its first reports, making significant impact, including:



It Still Happens Here

Fighting UK slavery in the 2020s: a comprehensive review of modern slavery in the UK, five years on from the Act



Parallel Societies

Slavery, exploitation and criminal subculture in Leicester: a place based look at slavery and exploitation in the Midlands.



New Plan for Immigration Consultation Response

Identifying and supporting victims of modern slavery and human trafficking.

KEY NEWS STORIES



ITV: Modern slavery:
At least 100,000 victims in UK include British citizens, report claims



The Guardian: US to
investigate claim of forced labour at Boohoo suppliers



The Sun: THE SUN ON SUNDAY SAYS Britain must break the vicious circle of modern slavery and people smuggling



IMPACT

The Home Office recognises our 100,000 victims of slavery prevalence figure (a tenfold increase on previous estimates) by including it into their annual Modern Slavery Report 2020.

The Home Office committed to review the Government's modern slavery Strategy from 2014. One of our key recommendations of the It Still Happens Here report.

In August 2020 the Gangmasters & Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA) launched Operation Tacit – a multi-agency drive to ensure workers are being treated correctly in Leicester.

...AND SO MUCH MORE...

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

In 2017 the CSJ published its review of Housing First projects to support chronically homeless people with complex needs. The Government adopted the approach and put £28M towards three big pilot projects across the UK.

Three years on we joined forces with Crisis to analyse the success of the pilots and, finding they had worked well, to encourage the Government to adopt a national rollout.

Housing Secretary Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP welcomed the report in a speech at the CSJ and said he would champion it. He has subsequently posted guidelines to regional administrations, especially those piloting housing first, on how to secure housing for these projects.



Close to Home



ETHNICITY AND DISADVANTAGE

There are many things to celebrate about the progress of Britain's ethnic minority groups but it is undeniable that there remains some unjustifiable disparities between some of Britain's ethnic groups. It is also undeniable that collectively as a society, we have not done enough to understand the nuances and complexities of social and economic outcomes for different ethnic groups.

This CSJ report provides a compelling reason for why it is time to move past this 'BAME vs. White' approach

and investigate ethnic disparities in a more sophisticated and granular way, looking at education, employment and family life.

We were pleased to see the government's own Race and Ethnic Disparities Commission reflect several of our recommendations including the scrapping of BAME categorisation and a review of family dynamics within different ethnicities.



Facing the Facts

THE GREAT RECOVERY

The arrival of COVID-19 was a very different kind of crisis to any in our lifetime: global, indiscriminate and fatal. But the needs of individuals emerging from this time remain the same as in other times of crisis.

Whether struggling with a disability, overcoming an addiction, or the breakdown of a marriage, there are certain things that all people need to make the most of their potential.

This paper is structured in three parts to reflect that reality and to recognise that the recovery from this crisis must be based on pillars that have underpinned so many great recoveries – a new economic deal, strong social support, and a renewed public contract.



The Great Recovery

ROLE MODELS

Role Models is an initiative established by Nick Fletcher MP. The Centre for Social Justice wanted to bring this work to a wider audience and has published this outline of the initiative in the hope others might be inspired to replicate it in their own local area.

The Role Models initiative seeks to pair young people with mentors by working with, and alongside, local community groups. The programme is a different way of looking at disadvantage, separate from Government with a focus on responsibility and behaviour change, guided by positive and supportive adult figures.



Role Models Initiative

COMMUNITIES

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 in September 2019 sought 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.

This year we have been working on a significant follow-up paper to establish some of the key conditions that communities need to flourish. (To be published Summer 2021)

THE YEAR AHEAD

FAMILY

We have begun a major two year programme on Domestic Abuse looking at practical programmes and interventions that work with victims and perpetrators. We will also be looking at parenting and stability.

WORK AND WELFARE

The development of Universal Credit will always be high on our agenda but we will also be looking at ways of encouraging regional growth across the UK, including leveraging government procurement and manufacturing programmes.

HOUSING

We will publish a large scale review of social housing, looking at both the social and political aspects of increasing provision.

MODERN SLAVERY

Research has begun into improving the support available to victims of modern slavery and we will be pushing for changes in the Immigration Bill at the same time to support this.



Working Rite
CSJ Award Winner 2009

DEBT

We have begun a yearlong look at hidden debts which will run through the coming year but will also continue to push the Government to create a debt bill with a single view of government debt and will press on with work on an 'Enforcement Conduct Authority'.

ADDICTION

With the Government's review into gambling due this year and the roll out of the new drug taskforce in the Home Office, we will be keeping a close eye on both but would also like to start looking at new and emerging threats in the addiction space.

EDUCATION

Several projects are underway to mitigate some of the worst effects of school closures and lockdowns over the last year. We will also be looking at basic skills in primary education and continuing our long term work with multiple partners on exclusions and alternative provision.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The first part of our three year programme following offenders through the justice system will be reporting back, specifically on the issue of family ties.

IMPACT

Over the last 12 months, the CSJ has published 25 policy papers which have housed 412 policy recommendations to the government (a 73% increase from 2019–2020).

Of all these recommendations **65** have been fully adopted, **61** can be understood as partially adopted and **211** have not yet been adopted. That means that about a third of all CSJ recommendations made in the last year have been fully or partially adopted by Government, and we hope there are many more to come.

But the numbers do not really tell the full story so below are some of the highlights of the last 12 months, that we are most proud of:

1 The Government announces the creation of the Serious Violence Reduction Order. An idea taken directly from our paper on gang violence, *It Can Be Stopped*, and includes it in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill.

2 Home Secretary publishes a statement welcoming our report on modern slavery, conceding the need for urgent reform of the National Referral Mechanism, and the Home Office recognises our 100,000 victims of slavery prevalence figure (a tenfold increase on previous estimates) by including it in the annual Modern Slavery Report 2020.

3 The Treasury publishes policy paper supporting a Single View of Debt (as first proposed in *Collecting Dust*), to work out a repayment plan for multiple government debts.

4 The Government's Race and Ethnic Disparities Commission reflect several CSJ recommendations including the scrapping of BAME categorisation and a review of family impact dynamics within different ethnic groups.

5 Several key features of the Immigration Bill reflect our recent work on modern slavery including additional support to victims to cooperate with the police, and a form of temporary leave in legislation.

6 15 recommendations from the child sexual abuse report *Unsafe Children*, have already been fully or partially adopted by government including closing the deed poll loophole that allows sex offenders to go under the radar to reoffend.

TRACKING OUR IMPACT

TWO EXAMPLES OF MANY SUCCESSES

SERIOUS VIOLENCE REDUCTION ORDERS



We hosted a private roundtable bringing together **police and former gang members** to tell us what was really needed to reduce serious violence



Serious Violence Reduction Orders created in 2018 **paper** *It Can Be Stopped*

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND EXPLOITATION



Former Home Secretary Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP agreed to Chair our Commission on Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation



Alongside the Commission, the CSJ brought together a working group of survivors to ensure that their views were front and centre of the report. Each policy recommendation was stress tested against them



We spent 12 months meeting with **Ministers** to drive forward the recommendations of the report



We commissioned follow-up polling to test the **public's appetite** for the Serious Violence Reduction Orders



Ongoing discussions with **key Government officials** on how the Serious Violence Reduction Orders would be implemented



Serious Violence Reduction Orders form part of Police Crime and Sentencing Bill



In March 2021 the Commission published its findings and recommendations in the report *Unsafe Children*. The report included 96 policy recommendations to turn the tide on this heinous crime



The report launch received widespread press coverage – with 32 mentions in major media outlets. Our launch event had over 140 attendees, and we presented our findings to the Competition and Markets Authority as well as the Social Justice Caucus – consisting of over 90 backbench MPs



Since the launch, our policy team have had regular meetings with the Home Secretary, Lord Chancellor and Education Secretary



In just three months since the report launched, we have already seen over 15 policy recommendations adopted by Government

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2020/21 IN NUMBERS...

In 2020/21 the Centre for Social Justice received contributions of £2,689,735 from 106 different sources. This represents a 21% growth from 2019/20. Our expenditure grew by 23% from £1,970,181 in 2019/20 to £2,423,175 in 2020/21,

with the most significant growth being in our Alliance. This growth has enabled the organisation to deliver more impact than ever before – as we continue on our mission to put social justice at the heart of British politics.



PRIVATE DONORS

£1,138,542 (44%)

Number of sponsors: 62

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

£924,457 (34%)

Number of sponsors: 26

CORPORATE

£568,235 (21%)

Number of sponsors: 16

CHARITIES

£13,500 (1%)

Number of sponsors: 2

POLICY

£1,444,272 (60%)

We published 25 papers and hosted 42 events with over 1200 attendees. We made 412 recommendations, more than ever before. We appeared before 3 select committees; we hosted 9 roundtables; and launched an APPG on Alternative Provision and Exclusions.

ALLIANCE

£279,646 (12%)

Over 450 small charities engaged with the CSJ Foundation through our poverty-fighting Alliance. We opened our second regional office in the North West and have begun developing plans for a further regional office to be introduced to the North East in the next 12 months.

IMPACT

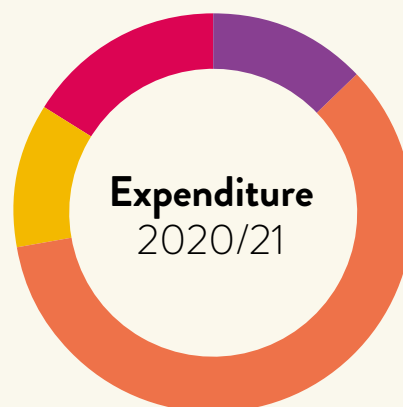
£386,141 (16%)

We had over 345 mentions in the mainstream media; with Secretaries of States, Ministers and senior backbench MPs taking part in policy discussions and events. We also secured £1.6bn in Government investment for those who need it most.

CORE COSTS

£313,115 (13%)

Expenditure to support 35 members of staff to deliver all that we do.



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.

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 this.

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 Associate Development Director:
rhian.heasman@centreforsocialjustice.org.uk

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OUR INFLUENCE

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



“Throughout the entirety of my political life, without a doubt, I have never come across a think-tank as important, as influential and as ground-breaking as the Centre for Social Justice. They are leading the way in terms of the policy and language surrounding ‘social justice’ and are helping transform Britain for the better. In my role as Chair of the Education Select Committee, I have drawn heavily from their work and evidence on supporting children’s education and skills-building, particularly with regard to the impacts of lockdowns and school closures. I cannot thank them enough for all they have done, and all they will continue to do.”

**RT. HON. ROBERT HALFON MP,
CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION
SELECT COMMITTEE
AND CONSERVATIVE MP
FOR HARLOW**



“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 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**



“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**



“Working with The CSJ during 2021 has been an absolute pleasure. I’ve met many people who have inspired me, challenged my thinking, and provided structured research to help me drive the Boathouse Youth forward strategically. I was lucky enough to join a roundtable conversation with the Health Secretary, Sajid Javid MP, which was a really powerful moment for me. The CSJ Foundation have also introduced me to other charity leaders and funders which has been wonderful. All in all, it has been a truly remarkable experience... and I feel like this is just the beginning of the journey.”

**LAURANCE HANCOCK,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE AT
THE BOATHOUSE YOUTH**



“Winning a CSJ Award was a game changer for my social enterprise. The exposure and media coverage it secured for us immediately opened up new funding and partnership opportunities that we were able to use to turbocharge our impact. Returning to judge the CSJ Awards has also been an honour. It’s humbling to learn more about grassroots organisations that the CSJ’s incredible team have found from far and wide, and to recognise their efforts on the frontline of fighting for social justice up and down the UK.”

**JOSH BABARINDE OBE,
LIBERAL DEMOCRAT MP
CANDIDATE FOR
EASTBOURNE AND FORMER
CSJ AWARD WINNER**



“I was incredibly proud to work alongside the CSJ on their Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation paper. Together we launched a report which put the experiences of survivors first and housed nearly 100 recommendations for the Government to adopt. Already the report has had a huge impact, and many of the changes made will protect children and prevent this horrifically damaging crime. It has been refreshing to work alongside an organisation that is driven by impact and a desire to make real on the ground change.”

**CHARLIE WEBSTER,
BROADCASTER, JOURNALIST
AND DOCUMENTARY MAKER**



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