

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23





In a year of turbulence the Centre for Social Justice has remained unflinching in our mission to put social justice at the heart of British politics.

Between 2022-23 we published 19 reports, advancing over 170 nation-changing recommendations across areas as diverse as economic inactivity to school absence, domestic abuse to modern slavery.

Inspired by those fighting poverty on the frontlines of Britain's communities, **51 per cent** of our recommendations were adopted by the Government and Labour Party – driving **£13.7 billion** of investment to policies to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged members of society.

But we didn't stop there. Through the CSJ Foundation we engaged with more than 330 grassroots charities to bring their voices into national policy making and distributed £3.6m philanthropic funding to some of the best small charities in the UK.

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FOREWORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN & CEO

Welcome to the Centre for Social Justice's Annual Report for 2022/23

As we approach the Centre for Social Justice's (CSJ) twentieth anniversary, our belief that public policy has the power to release people from poverty, rather than trap them in it, remains as strong as ever. This is despite the extraordinary upheaval that we have seen in Britain and across the world over the last year.

Just as the pandemic felt like it had finally drawn to a close, we were plunged into the worst cost of living crisis in a generation – with a global energy crisis brought on by Putin's hideous invasion of Ukraine. It is in this context, and amid political turbulence in Westminster, that the full consequences of lockdown for the most disadvantaged communities are now beginning to be seen: soaring school absence, stubbornly high rates of economic inactivity, and a mental health crisis to name just a few.

But far from letting this lower our sights, the tough environment inspired us to advance our mission to put social justice at the heart of British politics with renewed determination. Above all, it reaffirmed the need to tackle the root causes of poverty and build the resilience in our society needed to navigate the new challenges our nation will face in the years to come.

That means addressing the tragedy of family breakdown, educational failure, worklessness, addiction and debt. These remain the pathways to poverty that lock up potential, holding back individuals, families, and communities.

Yet we know from our two decades of experience that, if you get it right, these pathways to poverty can just as easily become pathways out. This can only take place when Westminster starts seeing people as we do: potential to be released and not problems to be solved.

THE CSJ OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS



We listened to our network of over

630

poverty-fighting charities



We published

19

reports



Our reports were crammed with nearly

170

solutions and recommendations



2/5

CSJ recommendations were adopted by Government

51%

51%

of our recommendations were adopted by the Government and Labour Party



£13.7bn

government investment into the proposals we made

At the CSJ we have learnt that the key to unlocking game-changing policy interventions is to listen every day to those in the toughest situations and the grassroots organisations that support them. Because it is there that we uncover some of the UK's biggest challenges and how to overcome them.

While we have always worked with a unique network of grassroots charities – the poverty-fighters Alliance – last year saw the realisation of significant investment in our frontlines operation. Unlike any other think tank, our work is informed fundamentally by the reality of what is happening beyond the Westminster bubble, with our team visiting over 200 charities during the 2022-23 period.

This contact with frontline charities inspired us to publish 19 reports, advancing over 170 nation-changing recommendations across areas as diverse as welfare reform, school standards, domestic abuse, and modern slavery.

Through the CSJ Foundation, we directed £760,000 of philanthropic investment to small charities across the UK. Additionally, we administered trusts and foundations that distributed a further £2.8million directly to frontline causes.

But we didn't stop there. Inspired by those fighting poverty on the frontlines of Britain's communities, 51 per cent of our recommendations were adopted by the Government and Labour Party – driving £13.7 billion of investment into policies to change the lives of the most disadvantaged members of society for the better.

We were particularly pleased to see the Chancellor announce a flagship CSJ policy, Universal Support, with £1bn of investment at Spring Budget – with a name check for the CSJ during his budget speech.



Universal Support was, until 2023, the long-forgotten sister to Universal Credit. It was designed to help people facing the most complex barriers into employment. These barriers include severe indebtedness, relationship breakdown, disability, and poor health. Universal Support is a structural fixture, designed to ensure no one falls through the cracks of the system. It will help 250,000 of the most disadvantaged people over a Parliament, but its potential is unlimited.

Looking ahead, we will be reporting on our landmark Social Justice Commission which is conducting an unflinching enquiry into the state of poverty across the UK. Together with our cross-party Commissioners from the political, charitable and business sectors, plus extensive consultation with frontline charities across the UK, the Social Justice Commission will publish its final recommendations in Spring 2024.

We are also launching new projects looking at loneliness and social isolation, affordable rent, criminal exploitation and mental health.

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



Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP
Chairman



Andy Cook
CEO

MISSION AND VISION

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

We partner with more than 630 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.

But 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 to address the five root causes of poverty:

- Worklessness
- Family breakdown and dysfunction
- Educational failure
- Problem debt
- Drug, alcohol and gambling addiction

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

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. Focus on what works.
5. Commit to following the evidence, wherever it leads.
6. Serve the interests of the poorest in Britain.
7. Believe that prevention is better than cure.



CSJ Award Winner 2022

**"We're not giving up on you
so you shouldn't ever give
up on yourself."**

HOW WE WORK

OUR WORK FOLLOWS A **THREE STAGE** PROCESS

GRASSROOTS



1

We regularly visit, consult with and invite views from our Alliance of poverty-fighting charities. This ensures our work is experience-led. This year our team visited over 200 alliance charities across the UK, helped by our CSJ Foundation regional offices, to put real life experience at the heart of our work and connect the backstreets of Britain with the corridors of power in Westminster.

POLICY



2

Our highly respected policy teams conduct extensive research to gain an in-depth understanding of key social justice issues, supported by expert working groups and advisory boards. Our policy team of 15 staff, working across eight policy areas, hosted 15 roundtables, contributed to 6 select committee briefings and met with ministers, influential cross-party politicians, special advisers, business leaders and sector experts, and produced 19 policy reports.



IMPACT



3

We connect the backstreets of Britain with the corridors of power. We make practical, implementable recommendations that we know will change lives and transform communities.



We provide a voice for the most disadvantaged, advocating for them in the media and through our campaigns. Despite the challenging political landscape this past year, we have secured the adoption over half of our recommendations by Government and the Labour Party. We helped to direct over £13 billion of government funding targeted at those who need it most, helping to address the fallout of lockdown, alleviating the cost of living crisis and tackling the root causes of poverty.

CSJ FOUNDATION

The CSJ Foundation connects the best grassroots game-changing charities with policymakers at the heart of government and with philanthropists seeking to achieve high-impact giving. We build bridges between the backstreets of Britain and the corridors of power to improve the lives of the poorest in our society.

THE CSJ ALLIANCE

At the heart of the CSJ Foundation is the CSJ Alliance, a game-changing network of more than 630 charities and social enterprises working on the frontline in the fight against poverty. Small and medium-sized charities across the country have a wealth of knowledge and know-how about the best ways to prevent poverty but have limited opportunity for their ideas to be expressed nationally.

These organisations are spread across the length and breadth of the UK acting as our 'eyes and ears'. The leaders and service users within these organisations 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 our recommendations are evidence-based and experience-led. This helps Government develop more effective strategies to alleviate suffering and prevents policy development that is detached from reality.

PHILANTHROPY

In addition to driving our policy work, the CSJ Foundation provides a philanthropic grant giving platform for donors to give directly to the very best local charities to support their work. Over the past year, the CSJ Foundation has directed £3.6 million of philanthropic funds to frontline charities. Of this, £760,000 came through our donor network who we advise on how to invest their philanthropy into small charities to generate big impact; while £2.8 million came through the trusts and foundations we administer.

Our Awards programme furthers this work by recognising the very best frontline organisations across the country and celebrating them – through giving cash prizes and hosting an annual gala awards ceremony in central London.

REGIONAL OFFICES

We are able to do all of this through our network of six regional offices spread across the UK to provide national coverage and an infrastructure for small charities. Our offices are located in Leeds, Leicester, Newcastle, Manchester, Edinburgh, and London.

Through these offices we have:

- Led a major exposé of Modern Slavery in Leicester, in conjunction with Sunday Times and local charities;
- Worked with local domestic abuse charities to drive the Government to do more to protect victims during the pandemic lockdowns, including keeping refuges open;
- Rolled-out our own Alternative Provision education framework in Blackpool;
- Exposed huge increase of 'cuckooing' through our Alliance charities;
- Organised three Secretaries of State to participate in local charity visits, including delivering major speeches, taking them out of London and into local communities.

BIG LISTENS

The CSJ Foundation hosts 'Big Listen' events in regions across the UK, which gather upto 100 local community charities to speak about the social challenges faced in their areas. Big Listens provide us with valuable information about what is really happening in communities across the UK and ensure our policy work is always evidence led.

One of the major outcomes from these Big Listen events was our Two Nations report which included over 175 direct quotes from charities who attended a Big Listen.



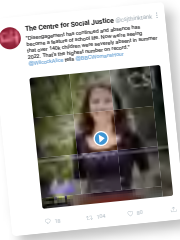
FROM THE BACKSTREETS OF BRITAIN TO WESTMINSTER

Our Alliance of frontline charities plays an active role in helping us to uncover some of the UK's biggest challenges and how to overcome them. Here are two examples:

School Absence

AT A GLANCE

- **140,000** children still severely absent from school, post-lockdown
- Still no major government solution to tackle this
- CSJ pushing hard but much more to be done



CSJ pressurises government to act with extensive media campaign and engagement with ministers

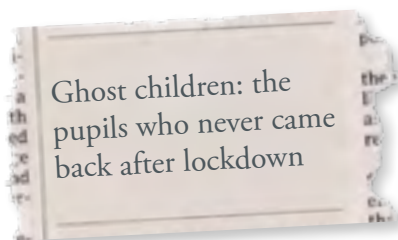
New guidance issued in 2022 and **£5m** pilot project launched in Middlesbrough, but doesn't go far enough

Many of our Alliance charities tell us of increasing numbers of children not in school, post lockdown

We worked with School Home Support to identify worrying increase in severe school absence

We published 'Kids Can't Catch Up' revealing that **100,000** children were severely absent from school in 2020

March 2023, CSJ reveals that **140,000** children are now severely absent, a **134%** rise from pre-pandemic levels



CSJ campaign creates huge national coverage of issue – and we're still pushing for more action to tackle this huge scandal



Cuckooing

AT A GLANCE

- Unknown issue brought to light by Alliance charities
- CSJ analysis shows 1-in-8 people have witnessed cuckooing
- CSJ mounts cross-party campaign. Government now committed to tackle issue

People enslaved and homes commandeered by gangs for drugs and prostitution — uncovered by CSJF through frontline discussions in Leicester and Leeds



No one else had heard of the issue, let alone talking about it, but CSJ put it on the agenda

Nov 2021, we published 'Cuckooing' explaining the issue and detailing worrying legal loophole



CSJ campaigns for 2 years for Cuckooing to become a specific modern slavery crime



We continue to engage with the Government and MPs to press for introduction of a new offence following the stakeholder engagement.

March 2023, Government announces it intends to "target the awful practice of 'cuckooing'" and launches a stakeholder engagement to make it a new criminal offence.



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 UK

This year the CSJ Awards felt more important than ever as we sought to shine a light on the small charities who care for the most vulnerable and do lifesaving and life-changing work.

All our winners tailored their programmes to respond to the specific needs of those they seek to reach as the UK wrestled with the consequences of lockdowns and the cost of living crisis.

Finalists came from all corners of the UK (see map). These dedicated organisations stopped at nothing to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Britain. Each winner won £10,000, attended a gala ceremony in London, and had a professional film made about their activities to showcase their work.

CSJ AWARD FINALISTS



WINNERS

Aspire NI



Aspire NI works with children in Northern Ireland to help close the educational attainment gap experienced by the most disadvantaged. It runs an after school homework club for young people in a supervised and supportive environment; a skills academy is also taught by professionals in fields such as barista training, business, youth work, art and music production.

- 93% of GCSE pupils on the Aspire Programme achieved 5 or more GCSEs in 2019/20

Khulisa



Khulisa supports excluded and marginalised young people with challenging or antisocial behaviour. It ensures young people affected by trauma or adversity have the social skills and emotional support they need to thrive by delivering intensive therapeutic programmes in the education sector.

- 98% of the children who complete the 'Face It' programme demonstrate improved behaviour at school.

The Moses Project



The Moses Project provides daily support and mentoring, for isolated men aged 25+ struggling with addiction or adverse circumstances. The focus is on changing lives and living free from addiction.

- Helped 172 men get clean, get a job and escape the cycle of poverty

St Edmunds Society



St Edmund's provides vocational trade-related qualifications to marginalised, socially excluded young people mainly between the ages of 11-18 who are struggling within mainstream education. These young people tend to be largely written off or ignored. St Eds gives them access to meaningful work-related experience to boost their chances of employment.

- 128 students supported through outreach in 2021/2022; 78% achieved a qualification

Storybook Dads



Each year over 312,000 children experience the imprisonment of a parent. Storybook Dads records bedtime stories and messages for prisoner's children. Personalised stories show children they are loved and maintains a positive connection between families.

- Over 5,000 prisoners record bedtime stories for their children

Oasis Project



Oasis Project helps women, children and families who have been affected by drug and alcohol addiction to find the strength and opportunities needed to change. Services include drug and alcohol treatment for women, a Sex Workers' Outreach Project, therapy for children affected by parental substance misuse.

- 84% reported a reduction in drug/alcohol use or maintained abstinence over the past year

POLICY OVERVIEW

Last year was yet another marked by extraordinary change

Just as the pandemic felt like it had finally drawn to a close, we were plunged into the worst cost of living crisis in a generation. All in a year of three prime ministers.

We also saw problems, such as economic inactivity and school absence, that we have long highlighted come to the forefront of political debate. As Rishi Sunak got the keys to Downing Street and his Government took office, we renewed our mission to put social justice at the heart of British politics.

Our policy team stepped up to the challenge of designing policy to match the scale of the legacy left by Covid and exacerbated by soaring inflation.

We continued our work to address the root causes of poverty through our permanent policy units, publishing focused reports on modern slavery, illegal money lending and prisons, among other too often forgotten issues.

But this year we also made new efforts to bring different policy areas together, such as childcare, welfare, and educational attainment, transcending Whitehall department siloes.

We appointed two new Deputy Policy Directors to oversee our policy teams, organising our work into two key areas: our core Five Pathways (work, education, family, debt, addiction); and National Challenges, issues that are keeping the poorest trapped in poverty, such as modern slavery, housing and communities, crime and justice.

We published 19 reports, advancing over 170 policy recommendations to both main political parties. More than half of these recommendations were adopted by either the Government or Labour Party.



School Absence Tracker



Unlocking Aspiration



Friend Or Foe?



Lost And Not Found



Home For Good



Slavery At Home



Cracks In Our Foundations



Making The Change



Levying Up



Over The Odds

Policy Highlights

1. PERSISTING WITH THE UNFINISHED BUSINESS OF WELFARE REFORM

One of the most concerning legacies of the pandemic has been worsening economic inactivity. There are some 8.7 million people outside the labour market with record numbers suffering from long-term sickness. The CSJ believes that work is the best route out of poverty, and that many people are missing out on the financial, social and health benefits of work. We produced a seminal analysis of inactivity benefits published in our 'Feeling the Benefit' report and led a campaign for Government to adopt Universal Support to help people with complex needs into work. This led to Labour announcing new employment support policies in a major speech by Rt Hon Jonathan Ashworth MP at the CSJ in January 2023, and then to the Chancellor adopting Universal Support in his Spring Budget, with £1bn of investment to match.

2. LEADING THE SEARCH FOR BRITAIN'S "GHOST CHILDREN"

Since the CSJ first uncovered the dramatic rise in school absence we have campaigned for the Government to give this unfolding crisis the urgent attention it requires. Following the publication of our 'Lost and Not Found' report we published a new 'School Absence Tracker' – a termly digest of all the latest absence data, including the so-called "ghost children". The Government has responded to our campaign with the Secretary of State for Education saying that tackling school absence is her "top priority". She has introduced new attendance guidance in schools and begun a local pilot of our main recommendation, the roll out of attendance mentors. But this response is inadequate given the scale and importance of the issue and our campaign continues.

3. DRIVING POLICY TO ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF POVERTY

Despite a backdrop of political upheaval, the work of our policy units continued unabated to address the root causes of poverty. Our eight policy units produced 19 policy papers and achieved huge impact across areas as diverse as welfare reform, financial resilience, childcare and housebuilding.



Playing The Ace



Out Of Sight And Out Of Mind



A Submission To Government



Parents Know Best



Practice Makes Perfect



Feeling The Benefit



On Target



Repairing Our Society



On The Money

OUR IMPACT

In 2022-23, the CSJ published 19 reports advancing 173 policy recommendations to all main parties. Over half were adopted by either the Government or Labour Party.

While some recommendations were for major structural reforms and others 'quick-wins', all our ideas conformed to one simple rule: they must change lives for the better.

That's why we were delighted that 89 recommendations of ours were either fully or partially adopted by the Conservatives and Labour.

Highlights included:

- 1. The Government adopted our flagship recommendation for a new £1bn Universal Support scheme** at the Spring Budget, with the Chancellor referencing the CSJ in his speech. Universal Support will help an additional 250,000 people with complex needs into employment in the years to come.
- 2. The Labour Party adopted our recommendation for an Into Work Guarantee**, with the Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary announcing this at a speech at the CSJ in January 2023. The Into Work Guarantee is designed to support those furthest from the labour market to take their first steps into work, ensuring that claimants don't have to jump through the hoop of reassessment if their health condition unexpectedly worsens.
- 3. The Government uprated working-age benefits by inflation**, following a period of intensive debate in the Autumn of 2022 over the appropriate response to the worsening cost of living crisis. The CSJ had called for dynamic uprating of benefits in our Alleviating the Crisis report focused on measures to help the poorest households through the inflationary turbulence.
- 4. The Government announced a £700 million reform to childcare support** in Universal Credit, enabling parents to claim their care costs upfront – a recommendation the CSJ first made in 2017 and the culmination of years of campaigning. This will help to smooth the journey into work for hundreds of thousands of parents, reducing the risk of poverty by eight times.
- 5. The Government adopted CSJ recommendations to tackle school absence**, including piloting attendance mentors and new guidance for schools, following our ongoing exposé of the unfolding absence crisis. While the Department for Education has made a start, we will not stop until the measures are scaled up to meet the full extent of school absence, as it is draining a generation of potential and storing up trouble for years to come.
- 6. The Government committed to consulting on making 'cuckooing' a new statutory offence**, following a successful CSJ campaign which brought this growing and hideous crime to the forefront of political debate after small charities raised it with us via our regional offices.



CSJ Award
Winner 2022

"Sometimes you need other people to remind you there is hope. These are my kids. **I need to be around for them.**"

POLICY UNIT: WORK AND WELFARE

The CSJ has long argued that work is the best route out of poverty

But in the long shadow of the pandemic, the rise of economic inactivity has seen thousands more people denied the financial, social, and health benefits of work. In the summer of 2022, we started work on a new analysis to understand the true picture of economic inactivity. Far from the popular caricature of over-50s on the golf course, we found that the key driver was people leaving the workplace due to poor health. The number of claimants with no work requirements had surged beyond three million. Our analysis also revealed that 700,000 in this group wanted to work.

To address this, our report, *Feeling the Benefit*, proposed the roll out of Universal Support, the long forgotten 'sister' to Universal Credit and the unfinished business of welfare reform. Universal Support is a model proven to help people with complex barriers to employment overcome these challenges, step into the world of work and receive targeted help to sustain their job.

The publication of the report led to Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary, Rt Hon Jonathan Ashworth MP, announcing major employment support reforms at the CSJ in January 2023, followed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Jeremy Hunt MP, adopting Universal Support in his Spring Budget, with £1bn investment to match.

Of course, welfare reform alone can only take us so far. The CSJ has argued for many years that reviving economic growth must be underpinned by improvements in productivity in the regions beyond London. Our report, *Making the Change*, showed how revitalising manufacturing at the heart of a new industrial strategy could drive forward the mission to level up the regions. Published with a foreword by the former Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Rt Hon Greg Clarke MP, the report was commended by both shadow ministers and the Levelling Up Secretary Rt Hon Michael Gove MP.

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



Feeling the Benefit: How Universal Support can help get Britain working

An original analysis illustrating the rise in economic inactivity driven by poor health and making the case for Universal Support, a model proven to help people into work.



Making the Change: A plan to reboot British manufacturing and restore growth

A plan for a renaissance in UK manufacturing as a central part of a new industrial strategy designed to increase productivity and level up.



TOP HEADLINES

The Daily Telegraph

Welfare reform is the best way to get people back to work

Daily Mail

No quick fix over cost of living crisis, says PM amid calls for taxes to be cut

FINANCIAL TIMES

Boost to benefits is right way to help the cost of living crisis

conservativehome

How Sunak can best boost Universal Credit to ease the cost of living crisis

LABOURLIST

Jon Ashworth is right: the government must adopt an 'into work guarantee'

IMPACT

The Chancellor announced the flagship CSJ policy of Universal Support at the Spring Budget, backed by £1bn of investment

The Shadow Work and Pensions Secretary announced he would adopt the CSJ policy of an 'Into Work Guarantee' in a keynote speech at our Westminster offices - later to be rebadged and adopted as a 'Chance to Work' Guarantee by the government

The Chancellor agreed to maintain the Super-Deduction capital allowance beyond its planned end date for plant and machinery investment

POLICY UNIT: EDUCATION

Education has the power to transform lives

Education is crucial to a fulfilling life. Yet too many young people – particularly those growing up in disadvantaged areas – fail to get the education they need. In the shadow of the pandemic and lockdowns, this was compounded by school shutdowns and the challenges of online education.

Since 2021 the CSJ has argued that the impact of lockdown on our young people requires a policy response of the same magnitude. The attainment gap today stands at its widest level in a decade. Nearly 1.5 million pupils are persistently absent from school, including 140,000 so-called “ghost children” who miss at least half of all school time. And amid the turbulence, a rising number of pupils are falling off the school rolls altogether.

All of our work over the last year has been focused on providing government with the nation changing policies it needs to respond to this concerning post-pandemic inheritance.

Our **Playing the Ace** report set out how we can unleash the power of adult community education to support re- and up-skilling in our local areas, both critical to improving our economic prospects.

We completed our yearlong enquiry into the attainment gap at primary school level, **Cracks in our Foundations**. Here we advanced recommendations that would build on recent successful educational reforms to ensure that all children receive a high quality education – including new commitments to make parents partners in education policy. Research suggests that parental engagement can lead to four months of additional progress for an average student per year.

And we continued our high-profile campaign to return the nation’s absent pupils to school, first with our exposé – **Lost and Not Found** – and then through our **School Absence Tracker**. With our tracker keeping an eagle eye both on the state of absence in England as well as government action, we will not stop until our seven-point plan to end the absence crisis has been adopted.

Education failure is a pathway to poverty

We need urgently to get the nation’s children back in the classroom.

This year the CSJ published major reports on education including:



Playing the Ace: A plan to unleash the potential of adult community education and bolster economic growth.

A review of the state of adult community education in England, focused on how we can open up access to life-long learning as part of our efforts to boost economic growth



Cracks in our Foundations: Addressing the longstanding attainment gap in England's primary schools.

A yearlong enquiry into the educational standards in primary schools, focused on how to close the ‘attainment gap’ between affluent and disadvantaged pupils



Lost and Not Found: How severe absence became endemic in England's schools.

Drawing from over 50 charities, local authorities, and alternative providers to further understand the drivers behind school absence, we set out a seven point plan to end the absence crisis



Out of Sight and Out of Mind: Shining a spotlight on home education in England.

A report compiling the best data available on trends in home education, including to recommendations ensure all home educated children get the best possible support



School Absence Tracker

– **Autumn 2022** A termly tracker of the state of school absence in England and ongoing assessment of the Government’s progress in addressing the absence crisis



TOP HEADLINES

FINANCIAL TIMES

Thousands of children aren't turning up to school post-lockdown. Why?

THE TIMES

Fifth of pupils regularly missing school

The Daily Telegraph

Sunak is forgetting the lost children of lockdown

Daily Mail

The Ghost Children of Lockdown

THE SPECTATOR

The Ghost Children

IMPACT

The Department for Education introduced a new package of measures to reduce school absence, including piloting attendance mentors

The Government committed to implementing a Children Not in School Register, and launched new voluntary data collection of children missing school

The Government's adopted our recommendations for a new performance framework and better regulation of unregistered providers in its AP and SEND Improvement Plan

POLICY UNIT: DEBT & FINANCIAL EXCLUSION

Those with the least are burdened by a poverty premium, often paying the most for basic goods and services

Economic turbulence has exposed fundamental challenges to our financial system. A lack of access to affordable credit has led to significant numbers of people borrowing from illegal money lenders.

Over the last year, the CSJ's Debt Unit has focused on targeted interventions to alleviate these issues. Our report *On Target* called for targeted cost of living support to help consumers through the cost-of-living crisis.

In *Over the Odds*, the CSJ exposed the troubling fact that over 7 million people on low incomes are paying multiple poverty premiums. This is where they pay more for basic goods and services than their wealthier peers. We called for government and regulators to work towards alleviating these premiums by providing more support for vulnerable families, including those who pay for their energy by pre-payment meter. Pre-payment meter costs were subsequently equalised with other payment methods in the Spring Budget 2023.

We continued to shine a light on the scourge of illegal money lending in *Friend or Foe*, where we provided a framework to help debt advisers identify and report potential instances of illegal lending. Since we published our report, this FRIEND framework has been adopted by both England's official Illegal Money Lending Team and Just, a major enforcement market integrator.

The Debt Unit continued to advocate for recommendations in previous work, making over 40 media appearances over the course of the year in support of improving government debt collection, tackling illegal money lending and advancing financial education.

This year the CSJ published several major reports:



On Target: Protecting vulnerable households from the inflation crisis

In the face of the rising cost of living, the CSJ presented analysis that showed significant income shortfalls amongst the most vulnerable families.



Over the Odds: Next steps for tackling the poverty premium

The CSJ conducted an enquiry into the poverty premium, a phenomenon whereby people on low incomes pay more for basic goods and services. We estimated that up to 7 million people in Britain are paying multiple poverty premiums.



Friend or Foe: Equipping debt advisers to tackle illegal money lending

Drawing from evidence submitted by over 150 debt advisers, the CSJ explored the barriers debt advisers face to talking about an illegal lender. We released a new FRIEND framework to help debt advisers navigate these difficult conversations.



TOP HEADLINES

**The
Guardian**

*More UK households are turning
to high-cost lenders*

The Daily Telegraph

*Welfare reform is the best way
to get people back to work*

SUNDAY EXPRESS

Homeowners' fears as bills soar

TheObserver

*Millions of households will be spending
nearly third of income on fuel by spring*

FINANCIAL TIMES

*UK households to be hit by
80% rise in energy bills*

IMPACT

HM Government grants credit unions new powers in the Financial Services and Markets Act 2023

Help to Save, a government backed saving scheme, is renewed at the cost of £60 million.

England's Illegal Money Lending Team adopts CSJ's debt advice framework

Energy pre-payment meter costs are equalised with direct debit in the 2023 Budget.

FCA suggests requiring regulated firms to report satisfied County Court Judgements, improving vulnerable families credit profiles.

POLICY UNIT: FAMILY

The family is under threat

Family breakdown is exacerbating multiple national emergencies – from mental ill health to loneliness, educational failure to homelessness. It doubles a child’s chances of growing up in poverty and reduces the employment prospects of their parents.

The UK is now a world leader in family breakdown. In the last decade the marriage rate has slumped to less than half of its previous lowest point since records began in 1862. Meanwhile, recent estimates put the cost of family breakdown to our society at £51.1 billion per annum.

The CSJ’s Family Unit exists to put nation changing family policy on the map. And over the last year we have produced three reports advancing policies designed to transform the support for families – including those with small children and victims of domestic abuse.

While childcare emerged as a point of major political debate – leading to almost £4 billion of investment announced at the Spring Budget – we fulfilled our mandate by ensuring that the voices of parents were not lost in the debate. Our report, Parents Know Best, shone a light on the majority of working parents who would like more flexibility in how childcare support is delivered, enabling them to provide additional care for their children or draw on informal care, often provided by extended family. Meanwhile, our work on Family Help Teams and domestic abuse put forward proposals designed to protect people suffering at the sharpest edge of family dysfunction.

Our upcoming ‘New Deal for Families’ campaign will evidence the positive impact families bring to our economy and society. 68 per cent of the public believe that a stable and secure family life is the most important factor in determining a person’s success and wellbeing.

This year the CSJ published major reports on family including:



Parents Know Best: Giving families a choice in childcare

A landmark survey of parents with children under the age of 18 showing widespread demand for a more flexible childcare support system and a Family Credit



Submission: Implementing Family Help Teams

A submission to Josh MacAlister’s independent review of children’s social care, focusing on the role small charities can play working with family help teams



Home for Good: Housing First for domestic abuse survivors

An investigation into the tragic path many domestic abuse survivors take into homelessness, calling for a new Housing First inspired approach



No honour in abuse: harnessing the health service to end domestic abuse

Domestic abuse affects more than 2 million women men and their children. This is why the CSJ is calling on the Government to tackle domestic abuse as a public health issue.



TOP HEADLINES

Daily Mail

*Family, far more than school,
shapes children's outcomes*

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Never write off the superpower of parents

THE TIMES

*Our carelessness towards
marriage will cost us dear*

conservativehome

*Families must play a bigger part
in the lives of children in care*

SUNDAY EXPRESS

*Wedding bells should bring
lower family tax bills'*

IMPACT

HM Treasury adopted our recommendation to reform childcare support in Universal Credit so that it can be paid upfront

The Government published its Violence against Women and Girls Strategy, recognising domestic abuse as a public health issue for the first time

Two Conservative leadership contenders adopted our proposals for a transferrable marriage tax allowance

Our Head of Family, Cristina Odone, was invited to sit on the cross-Government Family Policy Advisory Group

POLICY UNIT: HOUSING & COMMUNITIES

Everyone needs a home and sense of belonging

A decent, warm, affordable home in a safe local community shouldn't be much to ask for in life.

Good homes and thriving neighbourhoods are the launch pad for loving families, safe communities and fulfilled lives.

But for many of the poorest, the dreadful quality and high cost of housing is a blight on their lives, holding them back from opportunity. Inflation is hitting people hard. By the end of our fourth quarter, private rent inflation exceeded 5% whilst housing benefits have been frozen since the pandemic.

As we have travelled the length and breadth of the country, in collaboration with our CSJ Foundation Regional Offices, we have heard how the long-term failure to build sufficient homes in the UK is the major systemic cause of the housing crisis. Tackling homelessness, rough sleeping, and housing unaffordability is much harder when demand for accommodation greatly outstrips supply.

To address this, we focused especially on current reforms the Government has been making to the planning system to develop affordable homes through a new Infrastructure Levy. Our paper *Levying Up* looked at this proposal in the context of the wider housing crisis and made several detailed suggestions as to how it could be improved.

With the support of Eddie Hughes MP, the report was highlighted by Matthew Pennycook MP, Shadow Housing Minister, at the despatch box in the House of Commons during the crucial Report stage of the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill. Key recommendations designed to safeguard the future supply of affordable housing delivered through developer contributions were adopted through legislative amendments by the Government in the House of Lords. With the Bill gaining Royal Assent in October 2023, these proposals are now law in the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act.

Our work also argued for better use of Affordable Homes Programme resources to enable regeneration of dilapidated housing estates that have served beyond their useful lifespan. The Government changed rules which will unlock significantly improved Government investment, especially in the North of England.

Good quality housing is a critical pillar of a strong local community, and this theme came through strongly at our Labour Party Conference event in 2022 with Kim Ledbeater MP. This vibrant panel firmly established the CSJ's voice at the Conference and has paved the way for an exciting upcoming research and advocacy project on loneliness and social isolation.

Quality, affordable homes in safe and nurturing communities

This year the CSJ published major reports including:

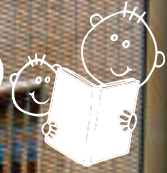


Levying Up: Ensuring planning reform delivers affordable homes. An examination of the housing crisis and the effects of undersupply—especially of the lack of affordable housing. The report critiques live planning reform legislation and highlights a string of ways in which government policy can effect reform.

IMPACT

- Directly quoted upon release by the shadow housing minister at the despatch box in the Commons
- The Government amended its own Levelling-Up legislation in line with our recommendations to safeguard social housing delivery in future
- Government to quadruple social rented housing supply
- Affordable Homes Programme amended to remove “additionality” rules, ensuring areas in need of social housing regeneration can receive investment

Storybook Dads



CSI Award Winner 2022

**“What’s my world?
It’s my family.”**

POLICY UNIT: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Crime ruins lives

Over the last year, we have been struck by the experiences we've heard from the frontlines about the fear many people have living in their local area. Nearly 1,000 knife offences take place every week, sexual offences are at the highest annual level on record, and anti-social behaviour continues to blight communities across Britain.

A huge proportion of all crime is driven by reoffending. Almost a third of all adults serving a custodial sentence go on to reoffend within a year of release, rising to half for those with a custodial sentence of less than 12 months.

Recidivism exacts an immeasurable toll on society. The Government puts the cost of reoffending at £18 billion every year – more than the entire police budget. Much more needs to be done to bring down reoffending and the social damage it causes.

As well as a route out of poverty, we have long believed that work is also a route out of crime. Last year we launched a major review of how to break down barriers to work for prison leavers.

Culminating in our Unlocking Aspiration report, we found that securing and sustaining work on release can reduce reoffending by between a third and a half. With a foreword from the Prisons Minister, Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP, the report advanced a raft of policy recommendations to maximise the number of prison leavers taking up employment opportunities on release.

The challenge to unlock aspiration and opportunities for prisoners should not be underestimated. Yet the benefits – to protect more victims from the cycle of reoffending, improve the health of our labour market, and transform the prospects of prison leavers – could not be more obvious.

This year the CSJ published major reports including:



Unlocking Aspiration: Breaking down barriers to work for people leaving prison

An in-depth inquiry looking at out how we can help more prison leavers into – and critically, to sustain – work.



TOP HEADLINES

THE  TIMES

Work is the key to rebuilding life after prison

The Daily Telegraph

Most teenagers are exposed to sex attacks and violence online

SUNDAY  EXPRESS

Jamie Redknapp backs sport investment as majority of parents worry for children's safety

Daily  Mail

Government mulls letting prisoners out to fill employment gaps

IMPACT

The Ministry of Justice announced major drive to get more prison leavers into employment

The Government adopts recommendation to restore day-release for appropriate prisoner work placements

The Government launched £120 million drugs crackdown in prisons including 18 abstinence wings

The Government have announced a suite of reforms including a presumption against custodial sentences for sentences of less than 12 months

We welcome the changes to Spent Convictions, which will remove barriers to work for those with experience of the criminal justice system.

POLICY UNIT: MODERN SLAVERY

It still happens here

Despite the landmark achievement of the world's first Modern Slavery Act in 2015, modern slavery remains a scourge on Britain. Our research – produced jointly with our partners Justice and Care – identified the risk of 100,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK today, more than 10 times the last official estimate from the Home Office.

Increasing numbers of potential victims are, however, being identified and referred for support. Over 17,000 possible victims were referred in 2022 – five times as many as were referred in 2015.

The number of British victims is rising, with many of them children. Yet more still go unidentified. And since 2015 the appearance of this wicked crime has continued to evolve.

We have been shocked to learn from our Alliance of small charities about the growing problem of 'cuckooing' – a technique used by criminal gangs to exploit vulnerable people by commandeering the use of their homes, often for drug running and prostitution. This practice, highlighted in the Line of Duty TV series, has devastating consequences for people's lives and local communities.

The fact is that the perpetrators of modern slavery continue to innovate. Our landmark Slavery at Home report recommended a new and updated Modern Slavery Act to deal with this evolving crime. And with the new Illegal Migration Bill casting doubt over the confidence victims will have in engaging with the authorities, we have begun a new programme of work to shine a light on the hidden forms of slavery in our communities. Our fight against this evil crime goes on.

We have continued our intensive engagement with MPs and legislation going through parliament. We supported MPs raising amendments to the Illegal Migration Bill seeking to ensure victims exploited in the UK receive support so they can help bring offenders to justice. We provided briefings to MPs for a debate on modern slavery in Westminster Hall and to table questions in parliament. The Head of the Modern Slavery Unit also gave oral evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee for their inquiry on human trafficking.

This year the CSJ published major reports including:



Slavery at Home: A new bill to tackle slavery in Britain

A landmark review of the progress made since the Modern Slavery Act 2015, putting forward proposals for a new bill to tackle slavery at it appears in 2020s Britain



TOP HEADLINES

Mirror

Calls to make 'cuckooing' a slavery crime



Challenges of policing modern slavery

The Guardian

Jess Phillips and Iain Duncan Smith lead calls to criminalise 'cuckooing'

Nottingham Post

Police raid Nottingham home 'taken against owner's will'

IMPACT

The Government committed to a stakeholder engagement on a criminal offence of cuckooing in its anti-social behaviour action plan after we first raised the issue.

Following our engagement with MPs during the Illegal Migration Bill the Government committed to provide in guidance a 30 day period of exemption for modern slavery victims exploited in the UK to enable them to engage with investigations and prosecutions.

POLICY UNIT: ADDICTION

Nearly 5,000 people died from drug poisoning this year

Addiction is not just a pathway into poverty but a barrier to escaping disadvantage. The long shadow of lockdown, combined with the ferocious pace of inflation, has intensified the misery of addiction for many. NHS figures today show that more than 7.5 million people show signs of alcohol dependence and lockdown saw a 20 per cent increase in alcohol related deaths – the highest increase on record.

The CSJ's Addiction Unit exposes the consequences of addiction, particularly among individuals and families facing disadvantage. Addiction puts a strain on society by harming people's mental health, undermining relationships and driving up levels of criminal activity. This past year, following our Drugs in Prison report and direct engagement with the former secretary of state and his advisors, the Government committed to creating 18 drug recovery wings for prisoners to go through 6 months of intensive abstinence-based treatment to break reliance on methadone and other substances.

Following our 2021 report Not a Game, this year's notable achievements include enhanced affordability checks and new regulations to prevent unaffordable gambling included in the April 2023 DCMS gambling white paper.

Our report, **Unlocking Aspiration: Breaking down barriers to work for people leaving prison** advocates for appropriate substance misuse and addiction support for prison leavers, a recommendation taken up by the Minister of Justice.

The CSJ continues to advocate for individuals and communities affected by addiction and will continue to fight for policymakers to take addiction seriously as the nation advances towards a General Election. We are committed to maintaining pressure on Government in this frequently overlooked policy area. We will critically assess both the successes and shortcomings of the government's 2021 publication, A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives, in order to inform more effective strategies for tackling addiction and mitigating its societal impacts. This includes scrutiny of its pledge to take up all of Dame Carol Black's recommendations.

This year the CSJ published major reports on addiction including:



Unlocking Aspiration: Breaking down barriers to work for people leaving prison

Advocated for appropriate substance misuse and addiction support to be put in place for prison leavers.



Lost and Not Found: How severe absence became endemic in England's schools

Found that gaming addictions had become rampant among children absent from school, and identified addiction issues within the family as a catalyst for school absence.



Home for Good: Housing First for domestic abuse survivors

An investigation into the tragic path many domestic abuse survivors take into homelessness, calling for a new Housing First inspired approach for survivors with multiple complex needs – including addiction.

IMPACT

- Increased protections for gambling addiction in the April 2023 DCMS gambling white paper
- The Justice Secretary announced his prison drugs policy reforms including a £120 million to crack down on addiction and tackle drug-fuelled crime and abstinence-led drug wings to be rolled out in prisons



CSJ Award
Winner 2022

**“You just need to put the
work in and want it.”**

FINANCIAL UPDATE

2022/23 in Numbers

In 2022/23 the Centre for Social Justice received contributions of £3,561,396 from 119 different sources. This represents a 19% growth from 2021/22. This funding supports the CSJ Group, which is made up of three companies: The Centre for Social Justice, the CSJ Foundation and Smith Square Trading, all of which deliver on a specific part of our strategy. Our expenditure grew by 16% from £2,843,318 in 2021/22 to £3,314,601 in 2022/23 with the most significant growth being in the CSJ Foundation. This growth has enabled the organisation to deliver more impact than ever before, as we continue in our mission to put social justice at the heart of British politics.

POLICY

£1,451,667 (44%)

We published 19 papers advancing over 170 recommendations. We hosted 43 events with over 1,000 attendees. We appeared before 6 select committees, hosted 15 roundtables; and hosted Social Justice Caucus events where we presented our policy ideas to keynote speakers including then Prime Minister Boris Johnson and then Secretaries of State including Dominic Raab, Sajid Javid, Jeremy Hunt and Gillian Keegan

ALLIANCE

£722,240 (22%)

More than 630 small charities engaged with the CSJ Foundation through our poverty-fighting Alliance. We opened a new regional office in Newcastle and have begun developing plans for a further regional office. A strategic decision was made in 2021-22 to invest in the front lines and also in our ability to sustain and grow impact during a period in which we knew our people had been devastated by lockdown policy. As a result, we nearly doubled our spend on Alliance related activity this past year.

IMPACT

£608,291 (18%)

We had over 535 mentions in the mainstream media; with Secretaries of States, Ministers and senior backbench MPs taking part in policy discussions and events. We achieved our highest impact to date, with 2/5 of all recommendations being taken up by government, which played a part in securing over £6bn in Government investment for those who need it most.

CORE COSTS

£312,890 (9%)

We supported more than 36 members of staff to deliver our breadth of work, and we did it from several regional offices, and our headquarters in the heart of Westminster.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

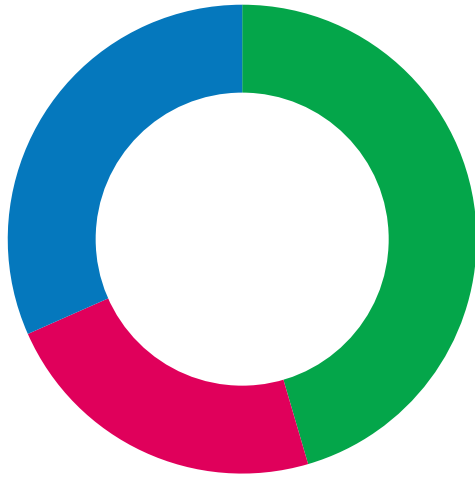
£219,514 (7%)

Expenditure in this area covers the costs of providing our grant management and administration services to charitable trusts and foundations.

The CSJ is an independent, not-for-profit organisation. 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 supporters, corporate sponsors and trusts and foundations, who share our commitment to putting social justice at the heart of British politics.

Our views and policy recommendations are based purely on our own research, and we retain all editorial rights to our work. We undertake strict due diligence to ensure our independence is not compromised by any source of funding.

INCOME 2022/23



Private Donors	£ 1,619,131	45%
Corporate	£ 815,906	23%
Trusts & Foundations	£ 1,126,360	32%
TOTAL	£ 3,561,396	



EXPENDITURE 2022/23



Alliance	£ 722,240	22%
Impact	£ 608,291	18%
Core	£ 312,890	9%
Grant Administration	£ 219,514	7%
Policy	£ 1,451,667	44%
TOTAL	£ 3,314,601	



THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Nearly twenty years after the Centre for Social Justice was founded, we embarked on an ambitious cross-party review of the state of the nation - the Social Justice Commission.

The Social Justice Commission was established to conduct an unflinching inquiry into what life is like for those who are struggling the most in Britain.

It was set up to examine the deeply felt scars left on the most disadvantaged individuals and families by successive lockdowns and uncover the hidden impact of the cost of living crisis. It will question whether the policy initiatives designed to address poverty in our communities are fit for purpose.

The Social Justice Commission will also consider ways forward, underpinned by a belief that addressing the social rifts afflicting the country are key to reversing sluggish rates of economic growth and reducing the strain on our public services, including the NHS.

To do so the Social Justice Commission will seek the very best examples of social justice problem solving - and present the most compelling policies to all main political parties.

Ahead of the General Election, there is a unique opportunity to shift the political agenda away from short-term sticking plasters to long-term solutions. The Social Justice Commission will report its findings in spring 2024.

Commissioners

The Commission is comprised of leaders across the business, charity and academic spheres, as well as senior politicians across the main parties.



Martin Ivens (Chair)
Former Editor of *The Sunday Times*



Rt Hon. Sir Stephen Timms MP
Labour Member of Parliament for East Ham



Miriam Cates MP
Conservative Member of Parliament for Penistone and Stocksbridge



Tim Farron MP
Liberal Democrat Member of Parliament for Westmorland and Lonsdale



Josh Babarinde OBE
Founder and Former CEO of Social Enterprise, Cracked It



Laurance Hancock
Founder and Chief Executive of The Boathouse Youth, Blackpool



Mercy Muroki
Commentator and advisor to the Minister for Women and Equalities



The Rt Hon. The Lord King of Lothbury KG GBE DL FBA
Former Governor of the Bank of England



Rt Hon. Andy Burnham
Mayor of Greater Manchester



Liz Earle MBE
Founder of Liz Earle Wellbeing



Sluggish growth of productivity and real incomes go hand in hand, and they reflect deep economic and social factors. I welcome, therefore, the Social Justice Commission's wide remit which will examine the underlying issues holding this country back which include family breakdown and the long tail of Covid-19. The bill for welfare and health will continue to rise unless we tackle those root causes head on. This is a time for radical thinking informed by detailed analysis.

THE LORD KING OF LOTHBURY KG GBE, FORMER GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND



The evidence is all around us that the country is suffering from the long tail of Covid. The pandemic magnified flaws in our welfare state and added to the burdens of the most disadvantaged. We are living in the middle of a national catastrophe. Redress is overdue.

MARTIN IVENS, CHAIR OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

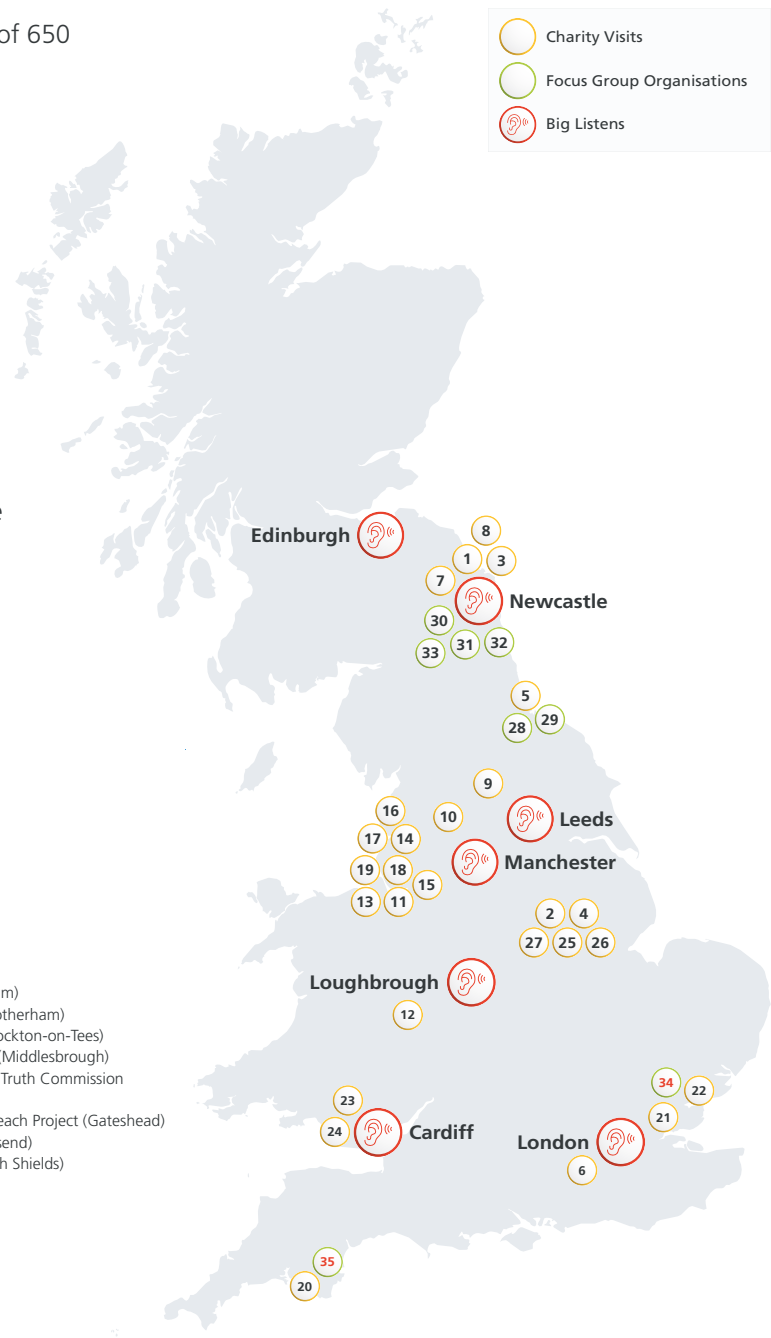
THE BIG LISTEN

The Social Justice Commission brought together thousands of frontline voices from communities across the UK in the fight against poverty and social breakdown through its unique 'Big Listen' exercise.

It has held:

- 7 Big Listen events in 7 major cities across Britain hearing from over 500 of the best small charities operating in the most disadvantaged areas.
- Averaged 2 visits a day to the CSJ Alliance of 650 small grassroots poverty fighting charities
- Visited 3 nations and 20 towns and cities
- Conducted 54 in depth interviews with small grassroots charity leads
- Polled 6,000 of the general public, with a boost of 3,000 of the most deprived
- 7 focus groups with people from the most disadvantaged areas with lived experience of addiction, substance misuse, prison, long term unemployment
- Discussions with 8 Local Authorities, Police Forces and numerous policy experts

● Charity Visits
● Focus Group Organisations
● Big Listens



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Home Group (Newcastle) | 26. Rush House (Rotherham) |
| 2. Oasis Community Centre (Worksop) | 27. Really Neet Project (Rotherham) |
| 3. Oasis Community Housing (Gateshead) | 28. The Moses Project (Stockton-on-Tees) |
| 4. Hetty's Charity (Mansfield Woodhouse) | 29. Clean Slate Solutions (Middlesbrough) |
| 5. Community Campus 87 – Stockton | 30. North of Tyne Poverty Truth Commission (Newcastle) |
| 6. Back on the Map (Hendon) | 31. Young Women's Outreach Project (Gateshead) |
| 7. Livin' (Spennymoor) | 32. Family Gateway (WallSEND) |
| 8. NuCastle Foundation (Newcastle) | 33. Key Community (South Shields) |
| 9. Tempus Novo / HMP Leeds (Leeds) | 34. Tendring, Essex |
| 10. Shared Health Foundation (Oldham) | 35. Plymouth |
| 11. Family Toolbox (Wirral) | 36. Newcastle |
| 12. Caritas (Shrewsbury) | 37. London |
| 13. Ferris Family Groups (Rock Ferry) | 38. Loughborough |
| 14. Foundation Years Trust (Wallasey) | 39. Manchester |
| 15. Involve Northwest (Birkenhead) | 40. Cardiff |
| 16. Koala NW (Birkenhead) | 41. Edinburgh |
| 17. Shaftesbury Youth Club (Birkenhead) | |
| 18. WEB Merseyside (Birkenhead) | |
| 19. Wirral Borough Council (Wirral) | |
| 20. Trevi Women (Plymouth) | |
| 21. Chess Homeless (Chelmsford) | |
| 22. Lads Need Dads (Colchester) | |
| 23. Llanhilleth Miners Institute (Llanhilleth) | |
| 24. Valleys Kids (Tonypandy) | |
| 25. The Link Community Hub (Sheffield) | |



ST-EDS

Employability skills for young people



CSJ Award
Winner 2022

“St Ed’s mean it when they say
“**you will get there**” . ”

OUR INFLUENCE

The CSJ is one of the UK's leading think tanks –connecting the backstreets of Britain with the corridors of power.



"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."

**RT HON ROBERT HALFON MP,
CONSERVATIVE MP FOR HARLOW**



"Linking with the CSJ and becoming part of their network has been a game-changer for us. We've highlighted the challenges faced day-to-day on the streets and fed back on how Government policies affect our beneficiaries and the most pressing issues facing our clients at a grassroots level."

**BRIAN JONES BEM,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE MOSES PROJECT
IN STOCKTON-ON-TEES, COUNTY DURHAM**



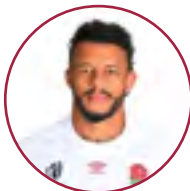
"Social justice is at the root of so many of the campaigns that I have worked on since I first became an MP, and indeed before that. I have been and honoured to work alongside the CSJ over the past year, promoting their work finding common goals as we all seek to fight injustice, tackle poverty and help our communities break the cycle of devastation caused by unemployment, low incomes, crime, addiction and debt."

**CAROLYN HARRIS MP,
LABOUR MP FOR SWANSEA EAST**



"I want to pay tribute to the work of the CSJ, pushing important issues up the political agenda"

**RT HON JONATHAN ASHWORTH MP,
SHADOW PAYMASTER GENERAL**



"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,
FORMER ENGLAND RFU CAPTAIN**



"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**



"As we come out of the pandemic, and still deal with all the issues that lockdown created. I think we do need more consensus across the political parties as to some of the big changes the country needs. That's why I've been happy, coming from the other side of the political divide to work with the Centre for Social Justice on these critically important issues"

**RT HON ANDY BURNHAM,
MAYOR OF GREATER MANCHESTER**



"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,
FORMER DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND SECRETARY
OF STATE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**



"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**



"A big thank you to the CSJ for all that they've been doing over the years to represent those who are a bit down on their luck and need a better turn in life"

**RT HON JOHN REDWOOD MP,
CONSERVATIVE MP FOR WOKINGHAM**



"I'm very proud to be one of the commissioners here working with the Two Nations report"

LIZ EARLE MBE



"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**



"I welcome, therefore, the Social Justice Commission's wide remit which will examine the underlying issues holding this country back which include family breakdown and the long tail of Covid-19."

**THE LORD KING OF LOTHBURY KG GBE,
FORMER GOVERNOR OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND**

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.

As the next General Election looms, it is crucial that the most disadvantaged members of society are not forgotten – particularly in the face of the cost of living crisis. We believe that those growing up and living in our poorest communities should be at the centre of the election.

The CSJ has the expertise and the passion to put these important issues on the map and drive meaningful policy change. But we need help to do this.

We are a not-for-profit organisation, and 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 supporters, corporate sponsors and trusts and foundations, who share our commitment to put 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 work 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.

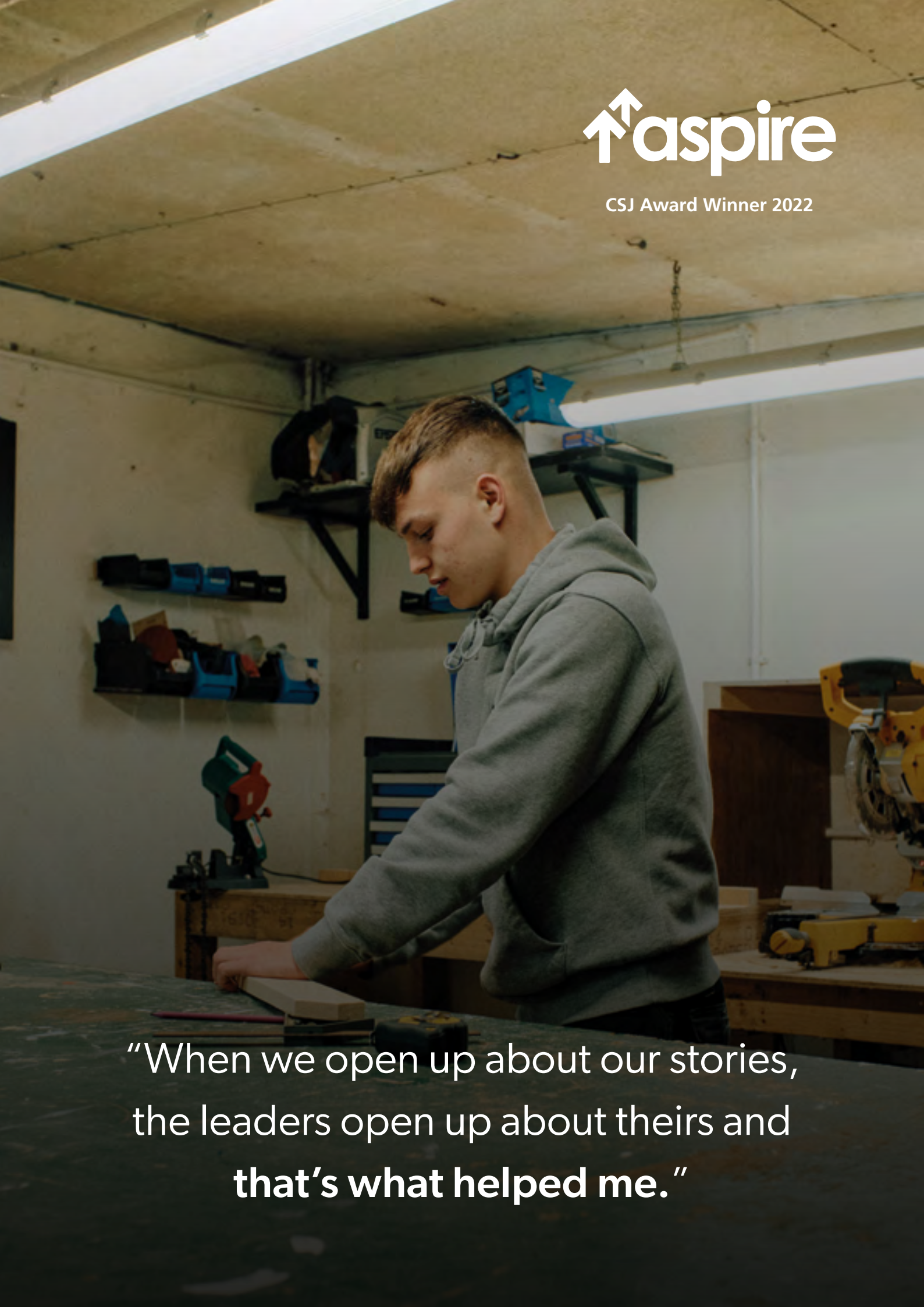
If you would like to hear more, or contribute to the CSJ's work, please do contact our Development Director: Rhian.Heasman@centreforsocialjustice.org.uk

We are so grateful to those who have made our work possible.





CSJ Award Winner 2022

A young man with short brown hair, wearing a grey hoodie, is focused on his work in a workshop. He is standing at a workbench, leaning over a piece of wood. The workshop is filled with various tools and equipment, including a miter saw, a table saw, and shelves with supplies. The lighting is bright, coming from overhead fluorescent lights.

“When we open up about our stories,
the leaders open up about theirs and
that’s what helped me.”



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www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk
[@csjthinktank](https://twitter.com/csjthinktank)