

INTER SCHOOL SOCIAL EDUCATION PROJECT (ISSEP) 2017/18

AIM OF PROJECT

The overall aim of Circle’s ISSEP Project is to work with disadvantaged children experiencing difficulties at school, at home or in the community by linking them with high school student volunteers from George Heriot’s School and George Watson’s College, who support them with their learning and social skills.

The project is currently core funded by City of Edinburgh Council. The project received funding from SPIFOX (£3,500), Newby Trust Ltd (£2,500), Erskine Cunningham (£500), Prison Fellowship Trust and mentor Niamh Brett (£500). This enabled significant refurbishment of the ISSEP space, purchase of resources for the group and day trips for the children.

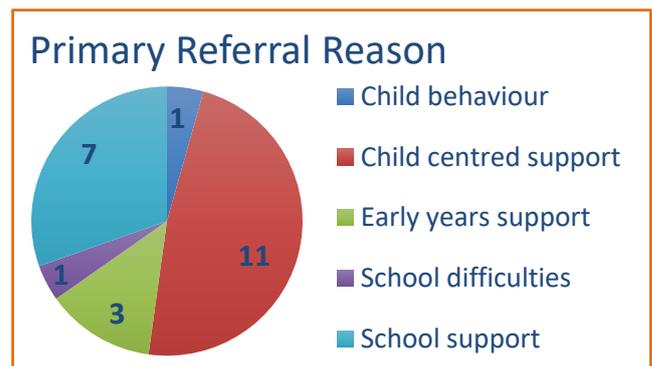
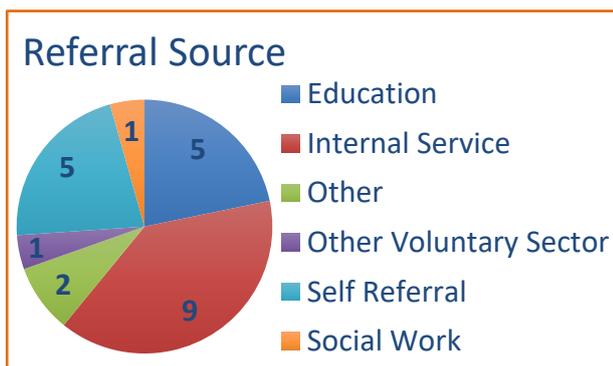
BENEFICIARIES

The project has a capacity of **30** children, meeting once per week but the number of children supported by the project is based upon the number of mentors recruited from George Heriot’s School to ensure the one-to-one model is protected. For 2017-18 this was **23** mentors and over 2017-18 the project supported **23** children.

Families	22
Parents	20
Kinship carers	2
Children	23
TOTAL no of family members	45

REFERRAL TYPE AND REFERRAL REASON

The number of new referrals for this year was **23**. The pie charts below indicate referral type and main reason for referral for 2017-18:



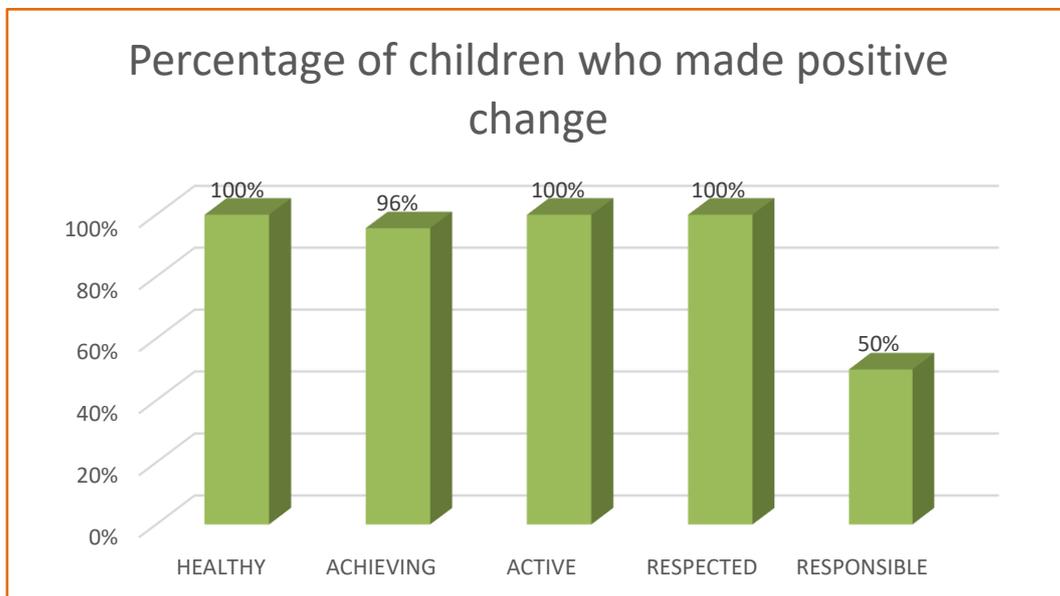
ACTIVITIES & INTERVENTIONS

<p>One-to-one mentoring: 20 sixth year student volunteers from George Heriot's School and two sixth year student volunteers from George Watson's College and ISSEP mentor co-ordinator matched for 2 hours per week with 23 primary aged children local to North Edinburgh</p>		<p>Supporting and encouraging the primary aged children to engage in learning and recreational activities which are appropriate to the child's age, stage and developmental needs and interests</p>
<p>Promoting positive social attitudes and relationships as well as increasing the children's self-confidence</p>	<p>Supporting children who may be finding school challenging, may be struggling socially at home or more generally may benefit from the consistency of weekly contact with a positive role model</p>	
<p>Providing respite for parents and an opportunity to spend time with siblings of ISSEP attendees</p>		

OUTCOMES

23 children attended throughout the year. The children attended more than 82% of the ISSEP sessions throughout the year.

The following information is based on measuring progress against Circle's outcomes applicable to this project.



FEEDBACK

Feedback from the children and mentors on their ISSEP experience for the year was as follows:

<p><i>"I feel happy and more confident because we get to go outside and have fun." (8 year old child)</i></p>	<p>89% of the children rated the mentoring project as "Excellent"</p>
<p>75% of the mentors rated the resources for activities as "excellent"</p>	<p><i>"The best thing about mentoring has been seeing my buddy grow and have fun as a child." (Mentor)</i></p>
<p><i>"Club helps me with everything – homework, reading, spelling." (9 year old child)</i></p>	<p><i>"I feel fantastic, special and awesome at club." (11 year old child)</i></p>
<p><i>"The best club going about, I can't explain it in words." (10 year old child)</i></p>	<p>100% of the mentors felt that they had developed their communication skills</p>

When parents were asked to comment on their child/ren's ISSEP experience for the year, we received the following feedback:

<p>94% of parents/carers felt that their child had "a lot" more confidence</p>	<p><i>"The club is regular and routine. Something to look forward to every week. My child has a good relationship with buddy."</i></p>	<p><i>"Claire listens to parents' concerns and coordinates with plans in place with school and parents."</i></p>
<p><i>"My son struggled with large groups and after school clubs. ISSEP is different, it is more personal. The group is varied and everyone gets on. He is exposed to different ideas and people...He opens up more about his feelings."</i></p>	<p><i>"My son's confidence has increased and he is more himself around others. His homework is much better and always done. He has more friends and stronger relationships."</i></p>	
<p><i>"My son now spends the whole day at school. He is more confident and gets out a lot more outdoors. He has changed completely. The whole house is a lot happier."</i></p>	<p>94% of parents/carers felt that they had "a lot" more time for themselves or other family members</p>	

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR YEAR AHEAD

Circle's ISSEP Project secured three years' funding from the City of Edinburgh Council and 2018-19 represents year 3 of the funding. We aim to support a maximum of **30** children per year and anticipate no changes to the core service delivery. We will continue the positive relationship we have with George Heriot's School and George Watson's College.

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