

INTRODUCTION

Circle's Harbour Project aims to address the needs of, and reduce the risks faced by families and children affected by parental substance use (CAPSU service). We also support young people who are impacted by their own substance use. This work is carried out across the city of Edinburgh.

To achieve the project's aims, our Family Outreach Workers adopt a strengths-based and solution-focussed approach in all of the work that they undertake with the children and families they support. This approach allows family members to build on their existing strengths, rather than deficits, and in partnership with the whole family they can be empowered to identify strategies to promote positive change.



Some examples of the wide variety of interventions that we carry out on a day-to-day basis are:

- *Parents Under Pressure (PuP)* Programme
- Support to access community activities
- Safeguarding practice
- Advocacy & participation
- 1-to-1 support for children
- Crisis management

BENEFICIARIES

The children and families who are supported by the project will be dealing with a variety of challenging circumstances such as substance use, poor mental health, poverty and social isolation. The Harbour Project aimed to support 100 families in 2018/19 and over the year supported:

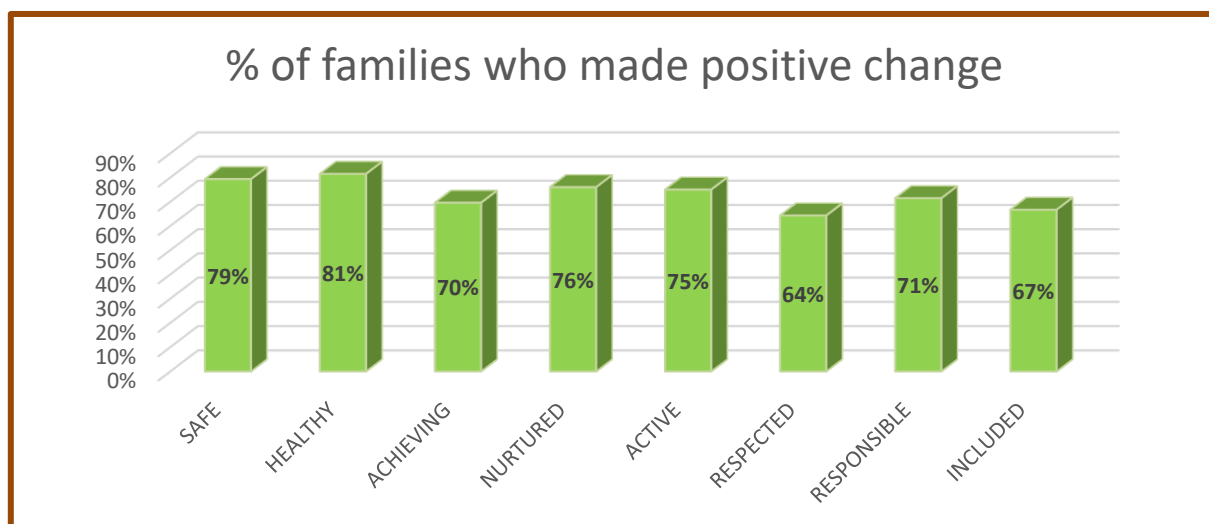
	Children Affected by Parental Substance Use (CAPSU)	Young Persons' Service	Fathers' Worker	Total
Families	96		11	107
Parents	115		13	128
Kinship carers	1			1
Children & Young People	161	19	15	195
TOTAL no. of family members	277	19	28	324

OUTCOMES

Circle works alongside family members to identify their specific support needs and concerns, enabling them to work towards improving their health, wellbeing and resilience.

We use the *Getting it right for every child* (GIRFEC) approach which supports children and young people to grow up feeling loved, safe and respected and to realise their full potential. At home, in school or the wider community, every child and young person should be Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included. These SHANARRI indicators are what we use to measure the progress made by the families we support.

In the CAPSU service, there were 46 families for whom service ended in the year, of which 29 have reported outcomes where positive change was made. This is further detailed below:



In addition to the above outcomes for the CAPSU service, our Young Persons' Service recorded positive change for all four of the cases that were closed in the year.

As the Fathers' Worker is a new post, only one case has been closed this year, recording positive change in all outcomes measured.

The positive outcomes experienced by families supported by the Harbour Project include:

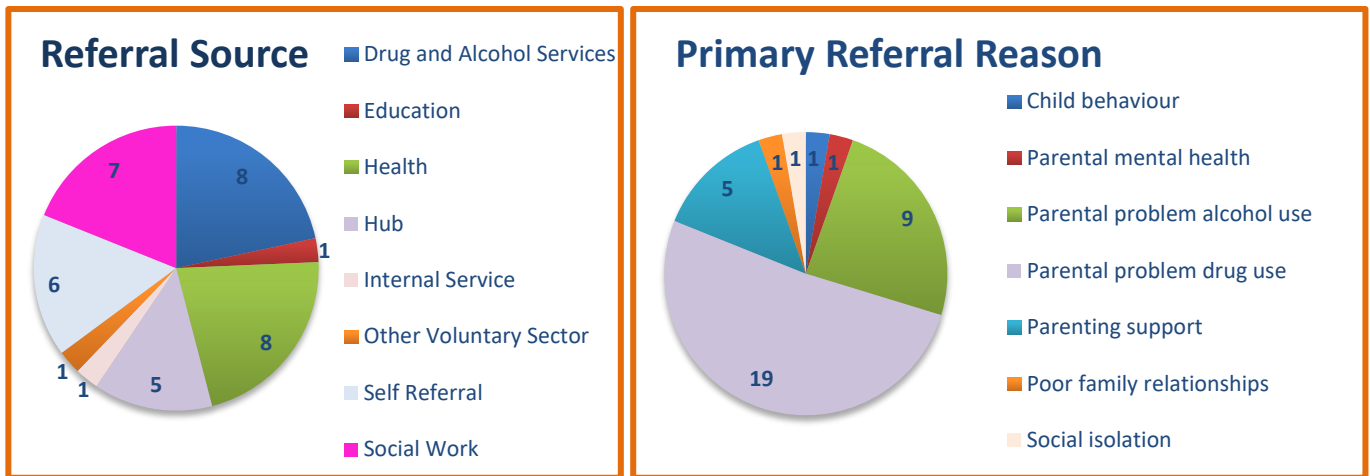
- Improvement in routines and boundaries
- Improved living conditions
- Improved school attendance
- Children returned to parents' care
- Reduction of impact of substance use
- Improved emotional wellbeing

"The support you have given me and the kids has been completely life changing...you have helped us build a life together and now we are all thriving" (Mother)

"His support of the father I work with was very valuable. He provided great support and was patient in a difficult situation."
(Social Worker)

REFERRAL TYPE AND REFERRAL REASON

Families were referred to the Harbour Project in 2018-19 from a variety of sources and for a number of different reasons as outlined in the charts below:



46 cases were closed this year with length of involvement ranging from 6 weeks to 270 weeks. The average length of involvement was 51 weeks.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Circle's work is rarely done in isolation. The children and families we work with often experience a wide variety of challenges that require a number of organisations and individuals to work together to help them find their own specific solutions.

The Harbour Project has in the last year worked with and alongside Sunflower Garden, Children and Families Social Work, NHS, Education and voluntary sector agencies.

Furthermore, Circle actively shares experience and knowledge with charity partners, social work professionals, academics and politicians. The Harbour Project has also contributed to the Substance Use Network Edinburgh (SUNE). SUNE aims to improve effectiveness and maximise the contribution of the voluntary sector in the delivery of drug and alcohol services in Edinburgh. The Project Manager and two Family Outreach Workers took part in a focus group for the Care Inspectorate evaluating the Child Protection Partnership. Under the terms of the contract, Family Outreach Workers, in partnership with Sunflower Garden, have delivered training sessions on our work to colleagues in social work, health, education and the voluntary sector.

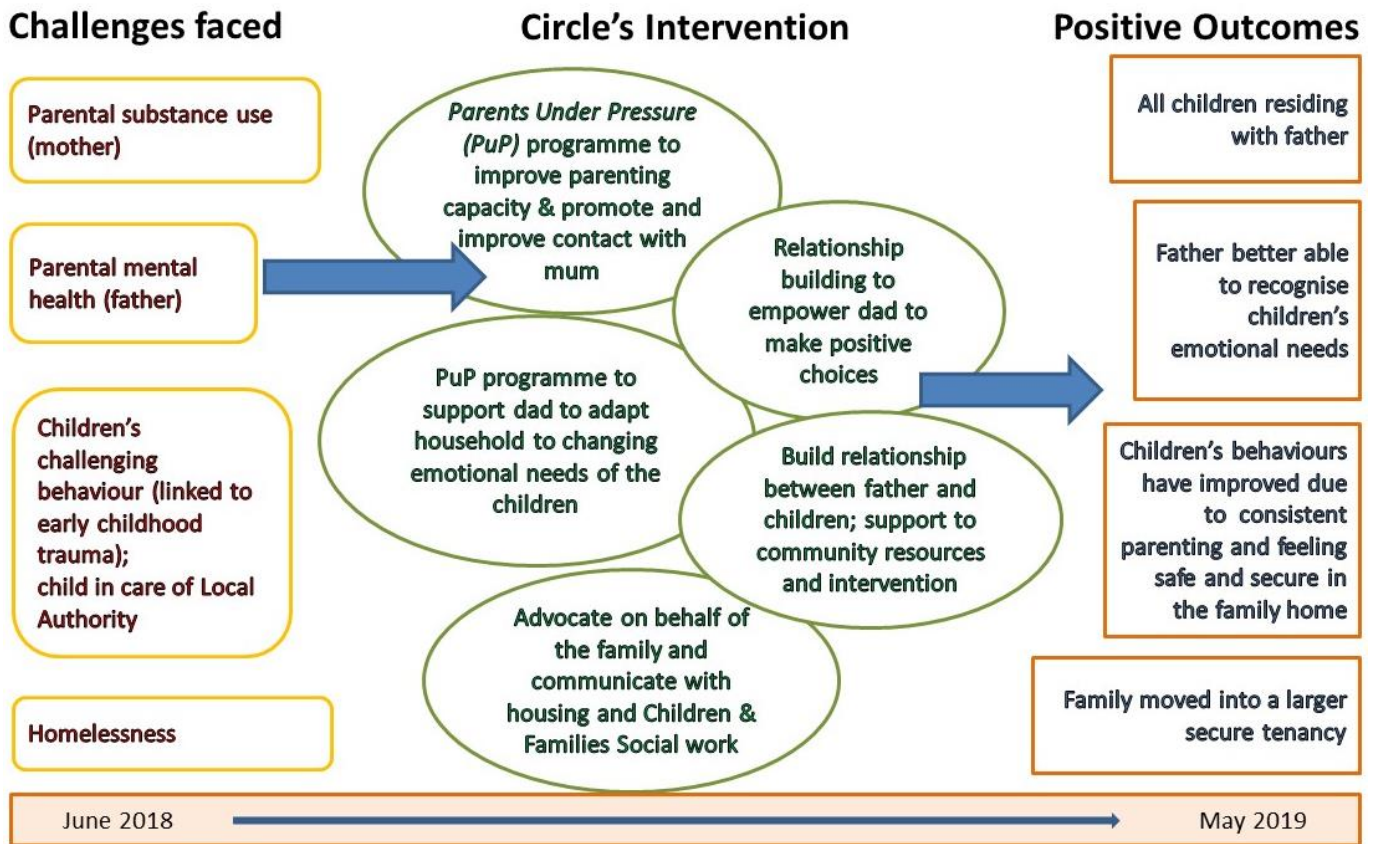
FUNDING

We are currently funded by The City of Edinburgh Council ADP for the CAPSU contract, Caledonia Youth for the Young Persons' Service and CORRA Foundation PDI for the Fathers' Worker.

"I have been impressed by the fact that the Circle worker has been able to offer continued support which meets the individual family's needs." (Addictions Worker)

CASE STUDY

Here is an example of the work we did with one of the families we supported in 2018/19...



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR YEAR AHEAD

CAPSU Service: We have secured a further two years of the contract which will take us to March 2021. Over the coming year we will continue to build on our partnership with Sunflower Garden to ensure we continue to deliver a high quality service across the city.

Young Persons' Service: This service has grown in the final year of funding; the worker has formed positive links with high schools in the area to deliver education sessions to young people, and this has led to an increase in individual referrals. As we are in the final year of funding for this service, we will review and evaluate it and identify and apply for funding to secure the service beyond November 2019.

Fathers' Worker Service: We will continue to develop and grow this service to ensure fathers have an active role in the lives of their children. The worker is working in collaboration with partner agencies to establish a dedicated group for the fathers in addition to the 1-to-1 support provided.



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