



Supporting families in Scotland

Inter School Social Education Project (ISSEP)

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19

INTRODUCTION

Circle's Inter School Social Education Project (ISSEP) aims to support 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 St Thomas of Aquin's RC High School, who support them with their learning and social skills.

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

- One-to-one support from S6 mentors to the primary aged children
- Outdoor play
- Baking and cooking
- Arts & crafts
- Group reading
- Home learning support



BENEFICIARIES

The children who are supported by this project will be dealing with a variety of challenging circumstances such as low confidence, poor school attendance and being isolated from their peers. ISSEP aimed to support 30 children in 2018/19 and over the year supported:

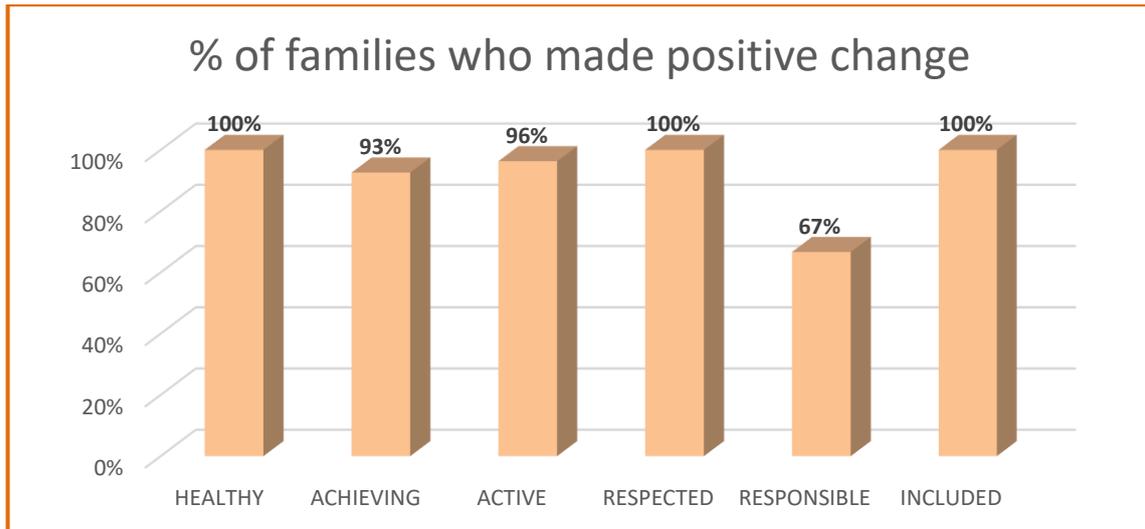
Families	28
Parents	28
Kinship carers	1
Children	28
TOTAL no. of family members	57

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.

This is further detailed below:



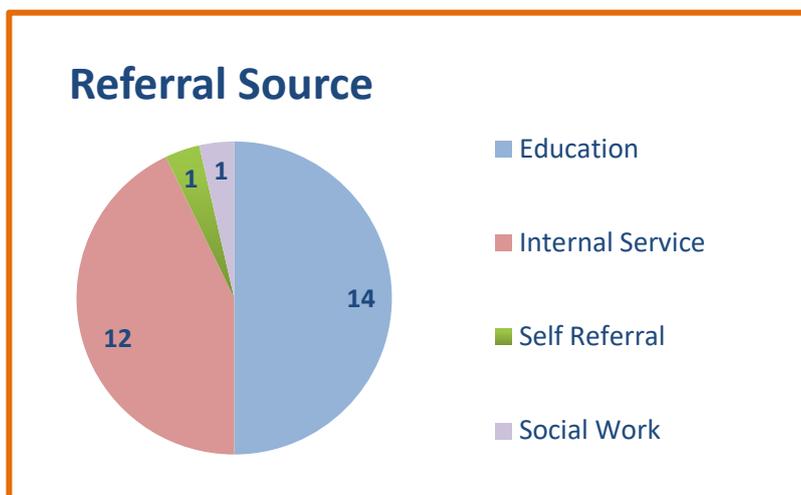
The positive outcomes experienced by families supported by ISSEP include:

- Increase in home learning
- Increased support in the community for children and families
- Mentors develop confidence, communication skills and understanding of the world
- Children make friends across schools and are less isolated
- Parents have weekly respite that allows more time to be spent with siblings
- Increased confidence and self-esteem in children

“My daughter always really looks forward to going to the club...My daughter really loves her mentor who is really patient with her. I don't think she would be as confidence without the mentoring project.” (Parent)

REFERRAL TYPE AND REFERRAL REASON

Families were referred to ISSEP in 2018/19 from a variety of sources as outlined below:



The primary referral reason for all cases was child centred support.

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.

ISSEP has in the last year worked with George Heriot's School, Radio Forth Cash for Kids – Mission Christmas, Forthview Primary School, Pirniehall Primary School and Standard Life Assurance.



FUNDING

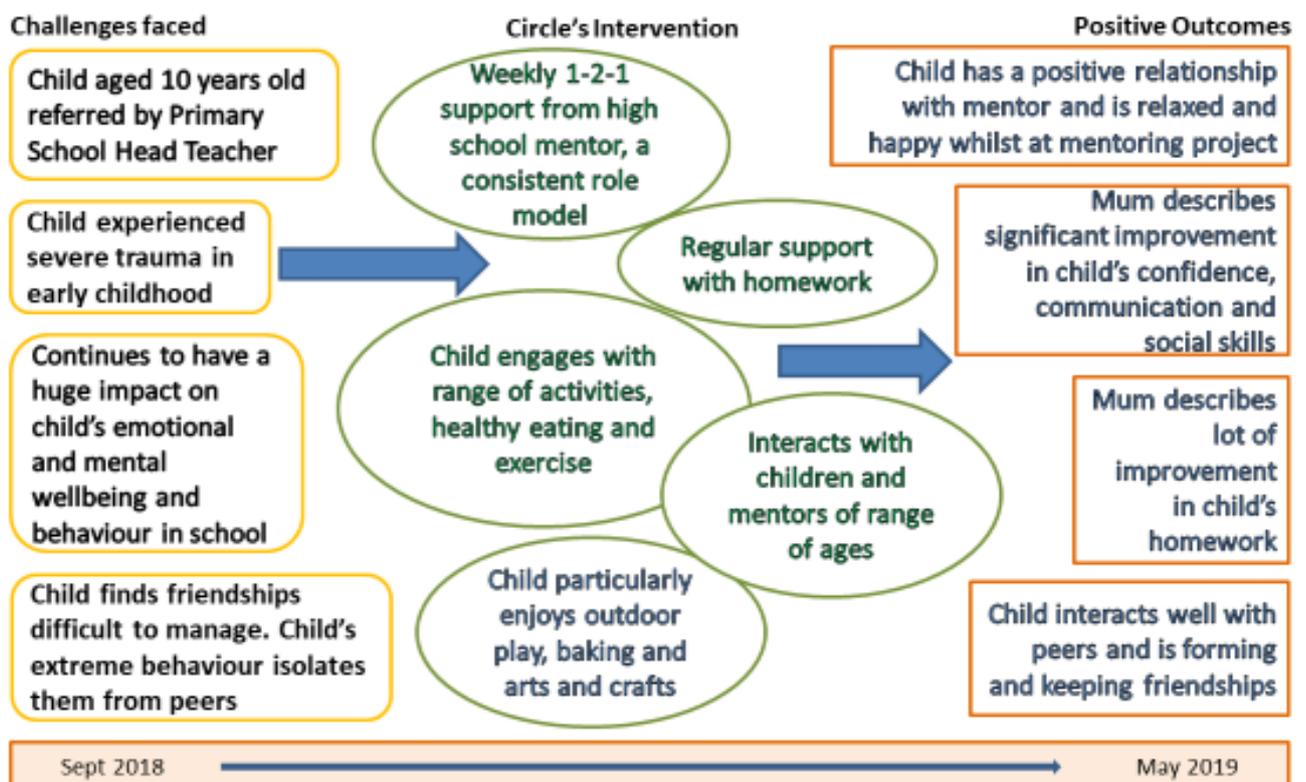
In 2018/19 the project received funding from The City of Edinburgh Council which contributed to one part-time Mentor Co-ordinator.

"He grew a lot of confidence to ask about anything. He was more comfortable speaking about trouble. The best thing has been seeing my buddy have fun."

(Mentor)

CASE STUDY

In 2018/19 we supported 28 families; here is an example of the work we did with one of them...



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR YEAR AHEAD

ISSEP aim to recruit 30 mentors from George Heriot's School to match with 30 primary aged children from North Edinburgh. We hope to secure ongoing funding through The City of Edinburgh Council's Communities and Families Grant process to continue as a project from April 2020.



“Our children love attending Circle’s Mentoring Project. That is so important for us to hear. They enjoy the positive relationships with their mentors and other children. Our children thrive on these experiences”

(Head Teacher)

Author: Alex Collop

Date: May 2019