

PUPIL EQUITY FUND (PEF) PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

Circle’s Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) Project aims to support families of pupils from Craigentenny and St Ninian’s Primary Schools to help reduce the attainment gap by promoting the well-being and potential of children at home, at school and in the community.

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 and for staff to offer practical, emotional, relational and connecting support with the whole family.



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

- Parenting support around routines and boundaries including mornings and homework
- Supporting children to be involved in more school and community activities
- One-to-one support for children to build coping strategies and resilience
- Supporting parental engagement with school and child planning
- Practical support to improve home conditions
- Supporting children and parents to attend health and other appointments

BENEFICIARIES

The children and families who are supported by this project will be dealing with a variety of challenging circumstances such as poor parental mental health, social isolation and domestic abuse. The project aimed to support 15 families in 2018/19 and over the year supported:

Families	20
Parents	23
Kinship carers	0
Children	37
TOTAL no. of family members	60

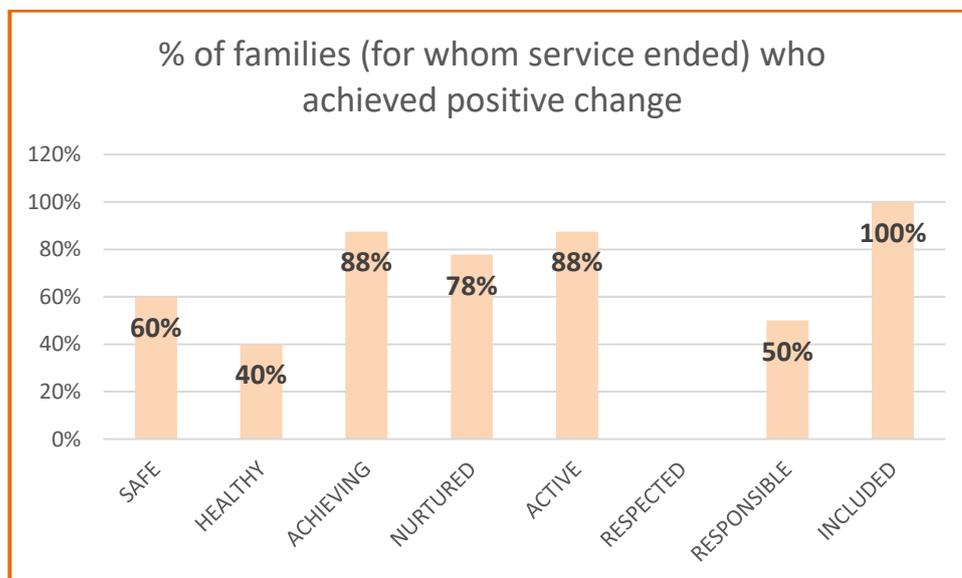
OUTCOMES

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

“[My Circle worker] helped me and my mum to build on our relationship and helped my mum sort out bills and also build her confidence and mine.” (Child)

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.

There were 10 families for whom service ended in the year, of which 9 have reported outcomes where positive change was made. This is further detailed below:



The positive outcomes experienced by families supported by this project include:

- Trusting and healthy relationships developed
- Increased engagement in community resources example
- Improved living conditions
- Children’s boundaries and routines established
- Improved coping strategies and resilience

REFERRAL TYPE AND REFERRAL REASON

Families were referred to PEF in 2018/19 from the two primary schools for ‘parenting support’ (9 families), ‘housing’ (1 family) and ‘school difficulties’ (1 family).

10 cases were closed this year with length of involvement ranging from 10 weeks to 67 weeks. The average length of involvement was 40 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.

PEF has in the last year worked with: The Ripple Project, Children & Families Social Work, The City of Edinburgh Council’s Housing Department, Cedar Network & Scottish Women’s Aid, Barnardo’s, Down’s Syndrome Scotland, school nurses, Turning Point, ADHD team, Holyrood High School, Portobello High School, Active Schools and the Discover Programme.

FUNDING

In 2018/19 the project received funding from Craigentenny and St Ninian's Primary Schools which contributed to one Family Outreach Worker.

"[The Circle worker] helped me in the mistakes I made in relating to my children. She gave me excellent advice. She has supported me and my family all the time." (Parent)

CASE STUDY

In 2018/19 we supported 20 families; here is an example of the work we did with one of them...

Challenges faced

Primary 2 pupil attendance/ time-keeping at school poor, and impacting on attainment

Older sibling, secondary 4 pupil not attending High School and this was impacting on younger sister's schooling

Single parent had mental health needs that were impacting on her parenting

Housing situation very challenging; private rented flat was overcrowded and the shower room was in a state of disrepair

Circle's Intervention

Referrals to Active Schools and "Ripple Buddies"

Mother supported with visits to GP and medication given for mental health; further tests ongoing

Transportation for young person to school and help to attend school planning meetings

Housing meetings attended to look at options for the family

Walking bus supported by school

Positive Outcomes

P2 child attendance and time-keeping improved; local and after school clubs are now attended regularly

Mother's mental health improved

Young person looking positively at their future and remaining at High School

Private flat declared uninhabitable; family faced homelessness and now are in temp accommodation

Sept 2018

April 2019

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR YEAR AHEAD

Circle's Family Outreach Worker will continue to support families referred by the two Primary Schools to ensure that children's attendance and attainment is improved.



Author: Alex Collop
Date: May 2019

"Jackie has supported children and parents engage in learning by helping them get to school on time, helping parents with morning and night-time routines (so that the children are in a place to learn when they come in), helping with homework and explaining the importance of spending time talking to the child about school, their learning and their day."

(Social Worker)