

HARBOUR PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

There are three services operating within Circle’s Harbour Project. Our Children affected by Parental Substance Use Service (CAPSU) aims to address the needs of, and reduce the risks faced by families and children affected by parental substance use. This work is carried out across the city of Edinburgh in partnership with CrossReach Sunflower Garden who provide therapeutic support to children and young people.

The project also has a dedicated Fathers’ Worker who in addition to individual support for fathers, runs a weekly Fathers’ Group – Dads’ Shed.

We also have a Young Persons’ Worker who supports young people, in the North West of the city, who are impacted by their own substance use.

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:

- Use of the Parents Under Pressure (PuP) Programme
- Support to access community activities
- Support to improve family life including improved organisational skills and better communication
- Advocacy and participation
- 1-to-1 support for children and young people
- Crisis management
- Supporting parents with treatment and recovery

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, domestic abuse, poverty and social isolation. The Harbour Project supported the following numbers of families, children and young people over the three strands of the service in 2019/20:

	Children Affected by Parental Substance Use (CAPSU)	Young Persons’ Service	Fathers’ Worker	Total
Families	89		21	110
Parents	108		24	132
Kinship carers	2			2
Children & Young People	156	21	37	214
TOTAL family members	266	21	61	348

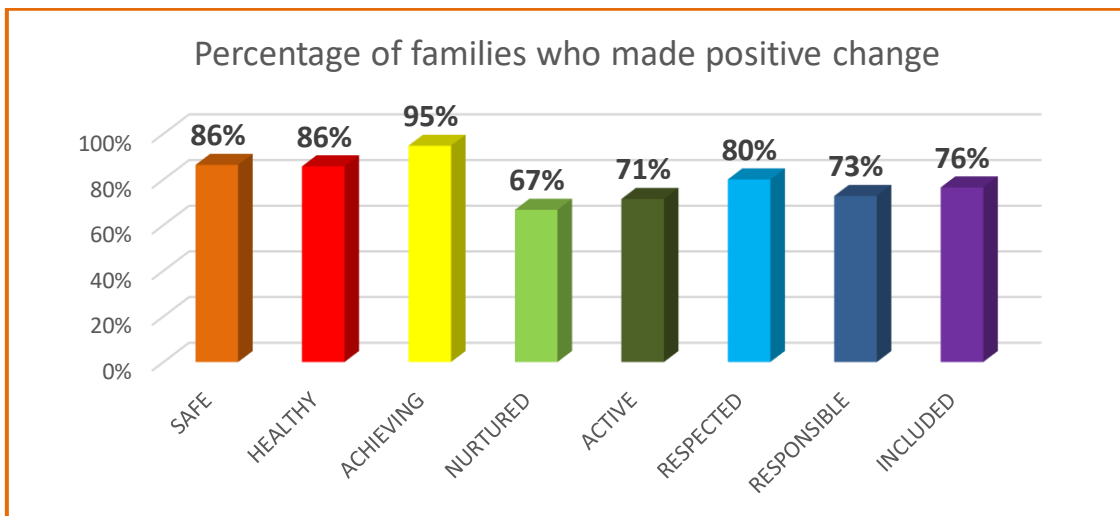


OUTCOMES

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 had 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 across a variety of different outcomes for 13 of the 16 cases for whom service ended within the year.

Our Fathers' Worker has outcomes recorded separately as they vary from the CAPSU service outcomes, albeit still in line with SHANARRI. A detailed annual report is provided for our funder.

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

"If I didn't have (Circle Worker) my life would be as bad as it was when I took heroin. If I'm honest, I don't think I'd be alive."

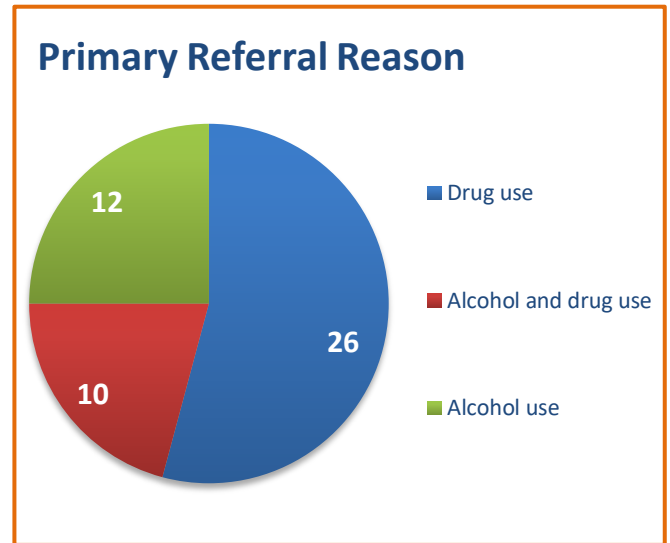
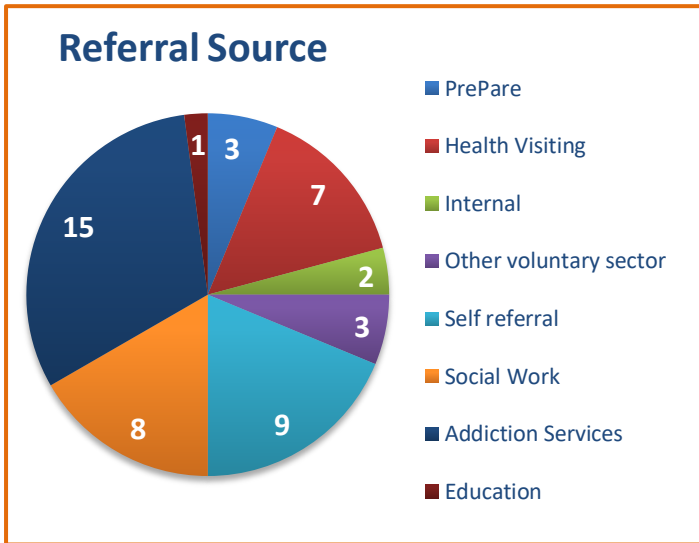
(Parent)

"The family benefitted hugely from the knowledge and input of the Circle worker."

(Social Worker)

REFERRAL TYPE AND REFERRAL REASON

48 families were referred to the Harbour Project in 2019-20 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 5 weeks to 169 weeks. The average length of involvement was 53 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 closely with our colleagues in Addiction Services as well as Sunflower Garden, Children and Families Social Work, NHS, Education and other voluntary sector agencies.

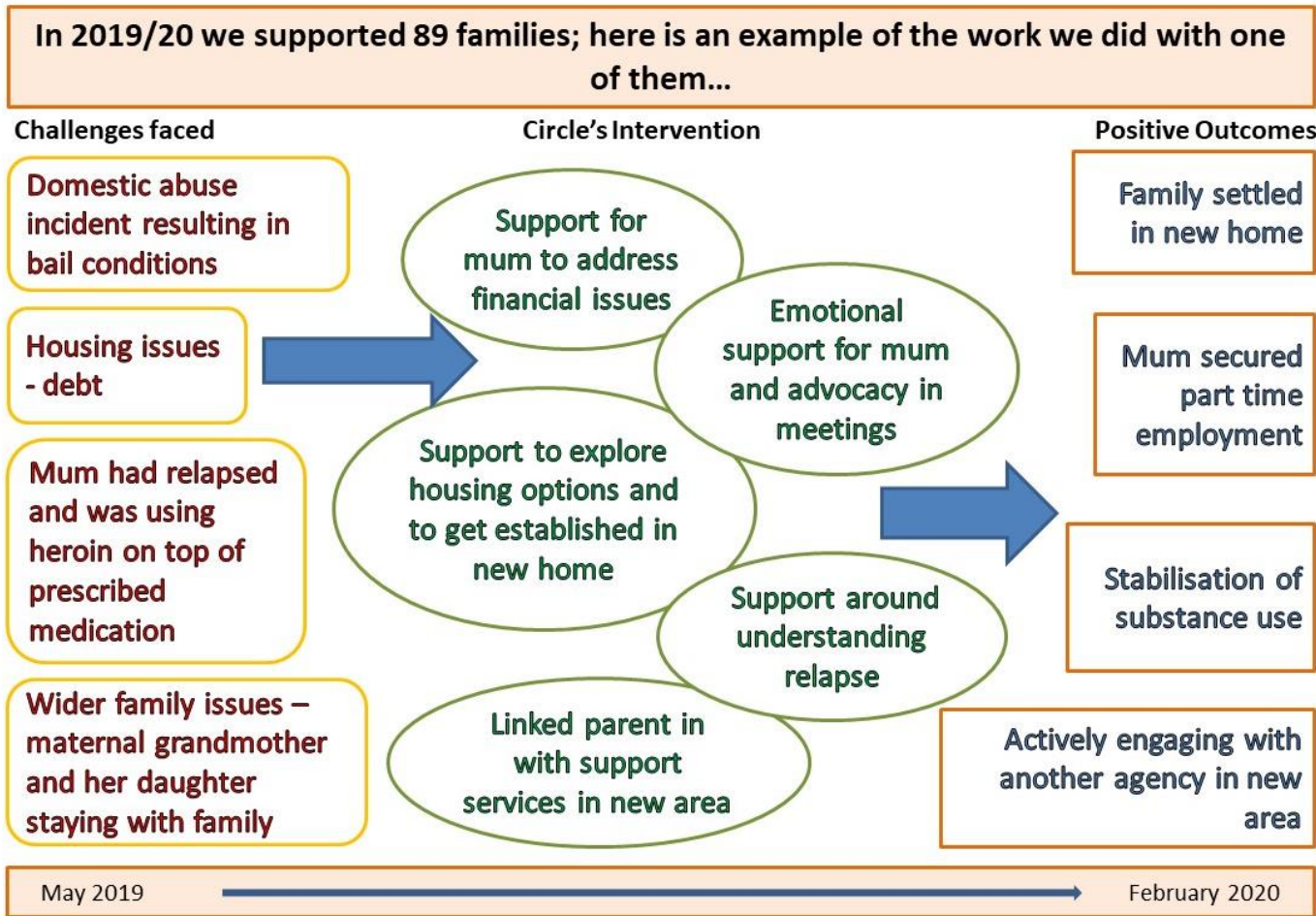
Furthermore, Circle actively shares experience and knowledge with charity partners, social work professionals, academics and politicians. The Harbour Project has also contributed to the Substance Use Network Edinburgh (SUNE). SUNE aims to improve effectiveness and maximise the contribution of the voluntary sector in the delivery of drug and alcohol services in Edinburgh. Under the terms of the contract, Family Outreach Workers, in partnership with Sunflower Garden Children’s Workers, deliver training sessions to colleagues in social work, health, education and the voluntary sector as part of the multi-agency child protection training programme.

“Circle helped in many ways, introducing me to other places that can help. I feel stronger within myself to deal with the tasks in hand, whereas before I didn’t have the tools or words.” (Parent)

FUNDING

We are currently funded by The City of Edinburgh Council and the Edinburgh Alcohol Drug Partnership for the CAPSU contract. Our Young Persons’ Service received funding from Walter Scott Foundation and a private donor; and our Fathers’ Worker Service was funded by CORRA Foundation PDI.

CASE STUDY



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR YEAR AHEAD

CAPSU Service: The service is due to be retendered this year in advance of ending in March 2021 however we are awaiting advice on this due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. We would hope to secure the contract for the service through the procurement process. Over the coming year we will continue to work closely with our colleagues from Sunflower Garden to ensure we continue to deliver a high-quality service across the city. We are also hoping to expand the service with the addition of new posts.

Young Persons' Service: Funding has been secured to continue this service for a further six months from November 2019 and we are awaiting confirmation of an additional 6 months funding from the Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership. We would endeavour to seek funding for the longer term given how needed the post is.



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; particularly around the Fathers' Group which has become more established in the past year.

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Date: June 2020