



Supporting families in Scotland

Inter School Social Education Project (ISSEP)

ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

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 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 2019/20 and over the year supported:

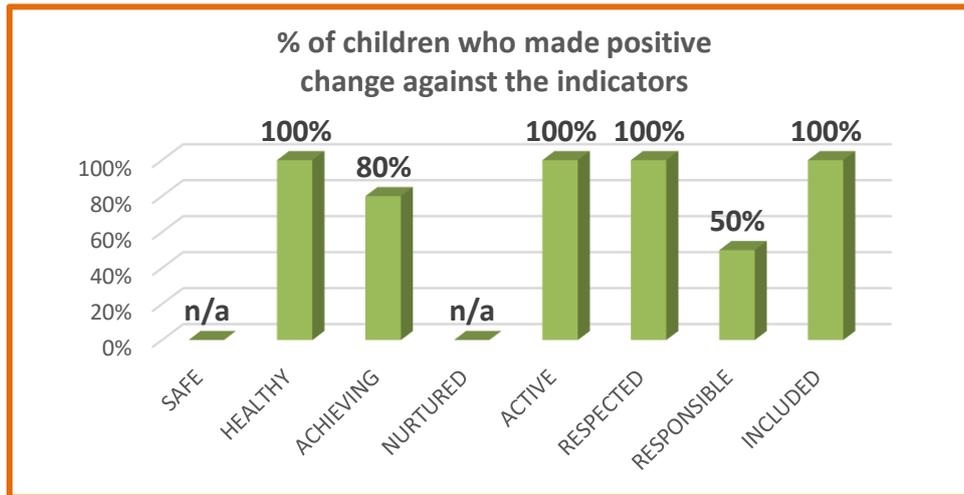
Families	27
Parents	27
Kinship carers	2
Children	29
TOTAL no. of family members	58

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:



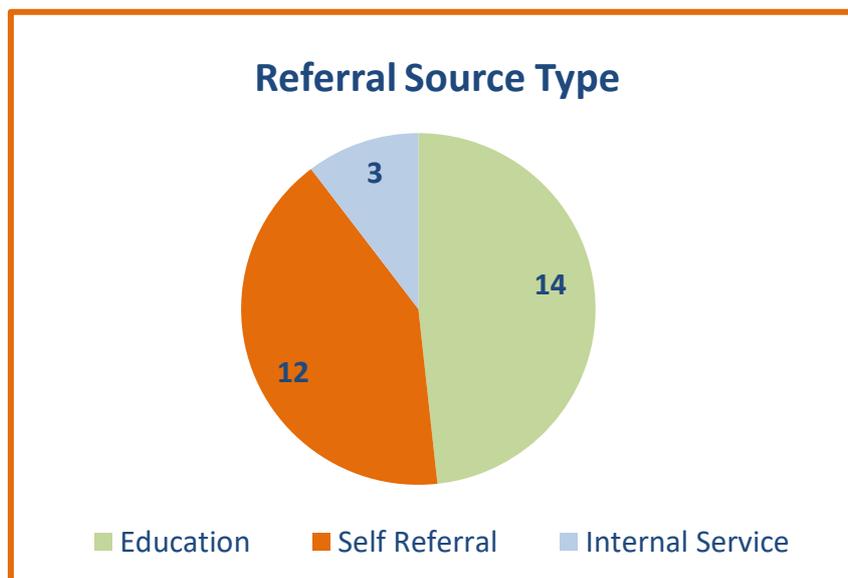
The positive outcomes experienced by families supported by ISSEP include:

- 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 cherishes the club. It has made her realise that people can be kind.”
(Parent)

REFERRAL TYPE AND REFERRAL REASON

Families were referred to ISSEP in 2019/20 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, Forthview Primary School, Pirniehall Primary School, Fox Covert Primary School, Balgreen Primary School and Rowanfield Primary.



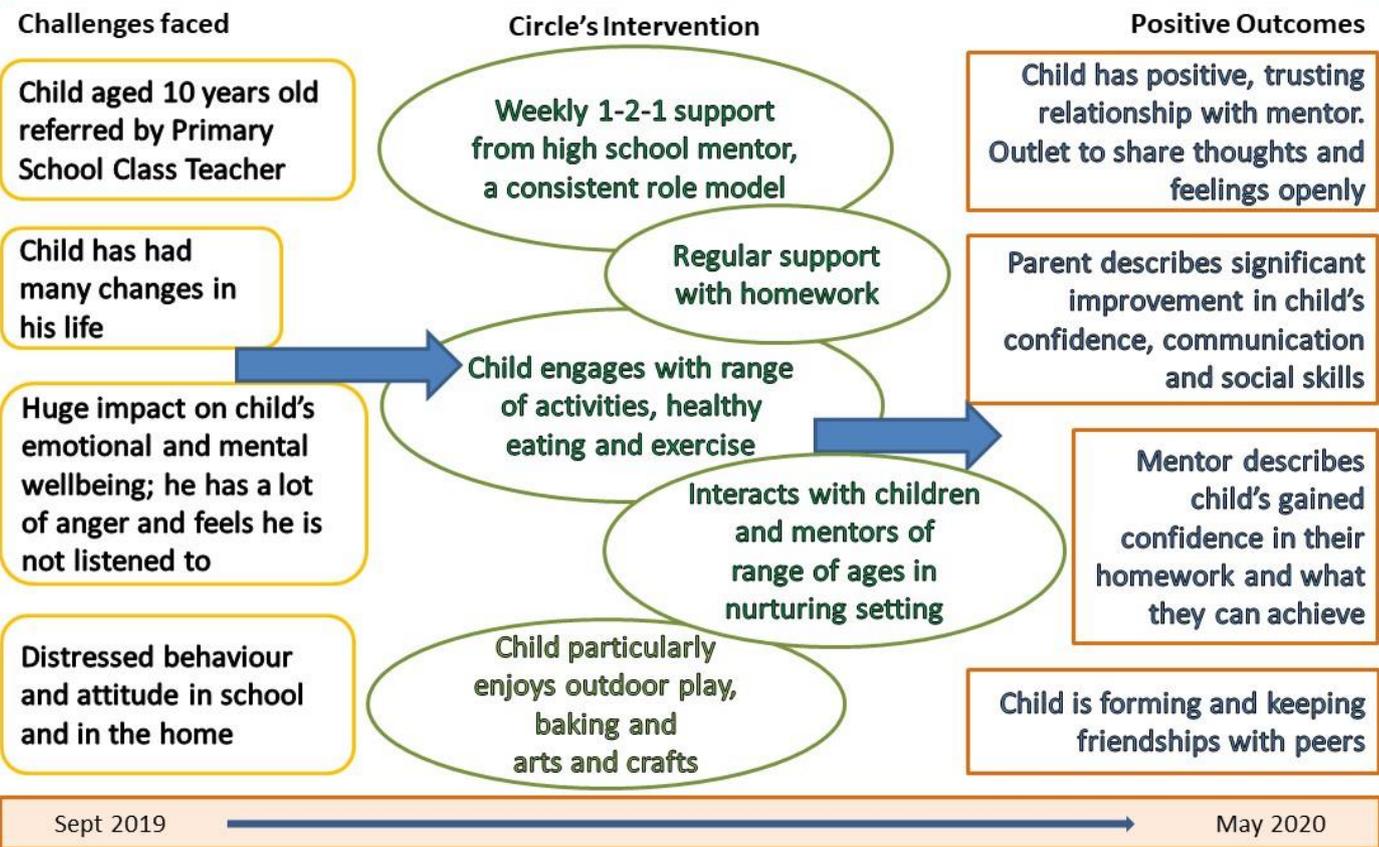
FUNDING

In 2019/20 the project received funding from The City of Edinburgh Council which contributed to one part-time Mentor Co-ordinator.

“I felt that I gave the child I supported someone different to talk to and speak about their issues with which in turn let me help them try to solve and work past their problems.” (Mentor)

CASE STUDY

In 2019/20 we supported 27 families (29 children); here is an example of the work we did with one of them...



PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR YEAR AHEAD

ISSEP aims 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 to continue as a project from August 2020.



“Our children are given the opportunity to build positive relationships with key adults in another setting – this is highlighted as children in class regularly mention the names of their mentors at Circle and often refer to them as their ‘back up team’”
(Primary School Class Teacher)

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