

## Inter School Social Education Project (ISSEP)

### 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.

We have not had the George Heriot's School pupils and mentors for the children this year due to the pandemic. We have adapted to the pandemic by offering support through our Mentor Co-ordinator to a lower number of children. We have offered socially distanced walks and doorstep/garden visits, ensuring children and their families have enough food, fuel and clothing and we have offering wellbeing and activity packs.



Some examples of the wide variety of activities that we normally 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 2020/21 but due to the pandemic supported a lower number of children. Over the year we supported:

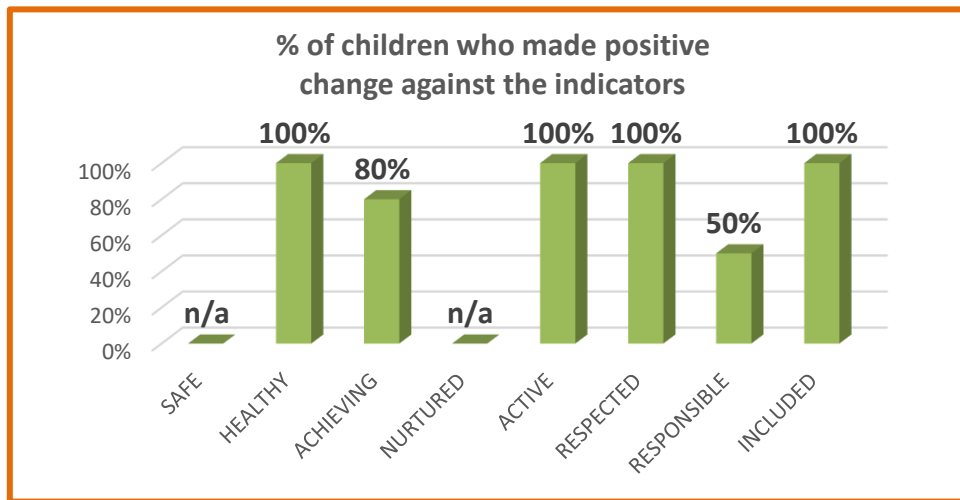
<b>Families</b>	<b>13</b>
Parents	<b>13</b>
Kinship carers	<b>1</b>
Children	<b>14</b>
<b>TOTAL no. of family members</b>	<b>28</b>

## 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:

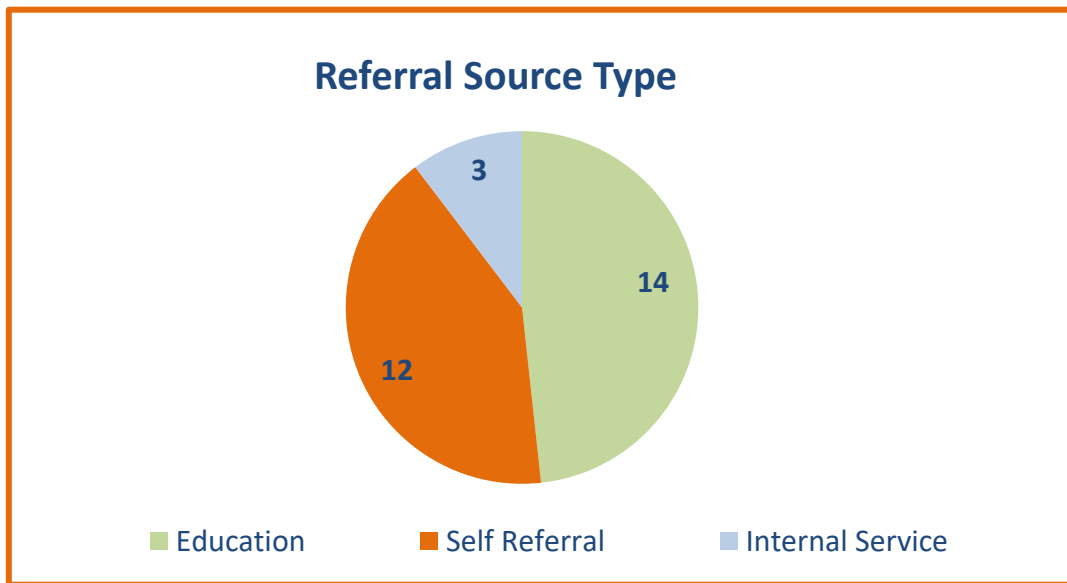
- Increase in home learning
- Increased support in the community for children and families
- Mentors develop confidence, communication skills and understanding of the world
- Children make friends across schools and are less isolated
- Parents have weekly respite that allows more time to be spent with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

*"We hugely appreciate the efforts that have been made by Circle to ensure that there has been contact and support through the pandemic."*

(Parent)

## REFERRAL TYPE AND REFERRAL REASON

Families were referred to ISSEP in 2020/21 from a variety of sources as outlined below:



The primary referral reasons were because of the child's or young person's low confidence, poor school attendance and being isolated from their peers.

## 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 and Pirniehall Primary School.



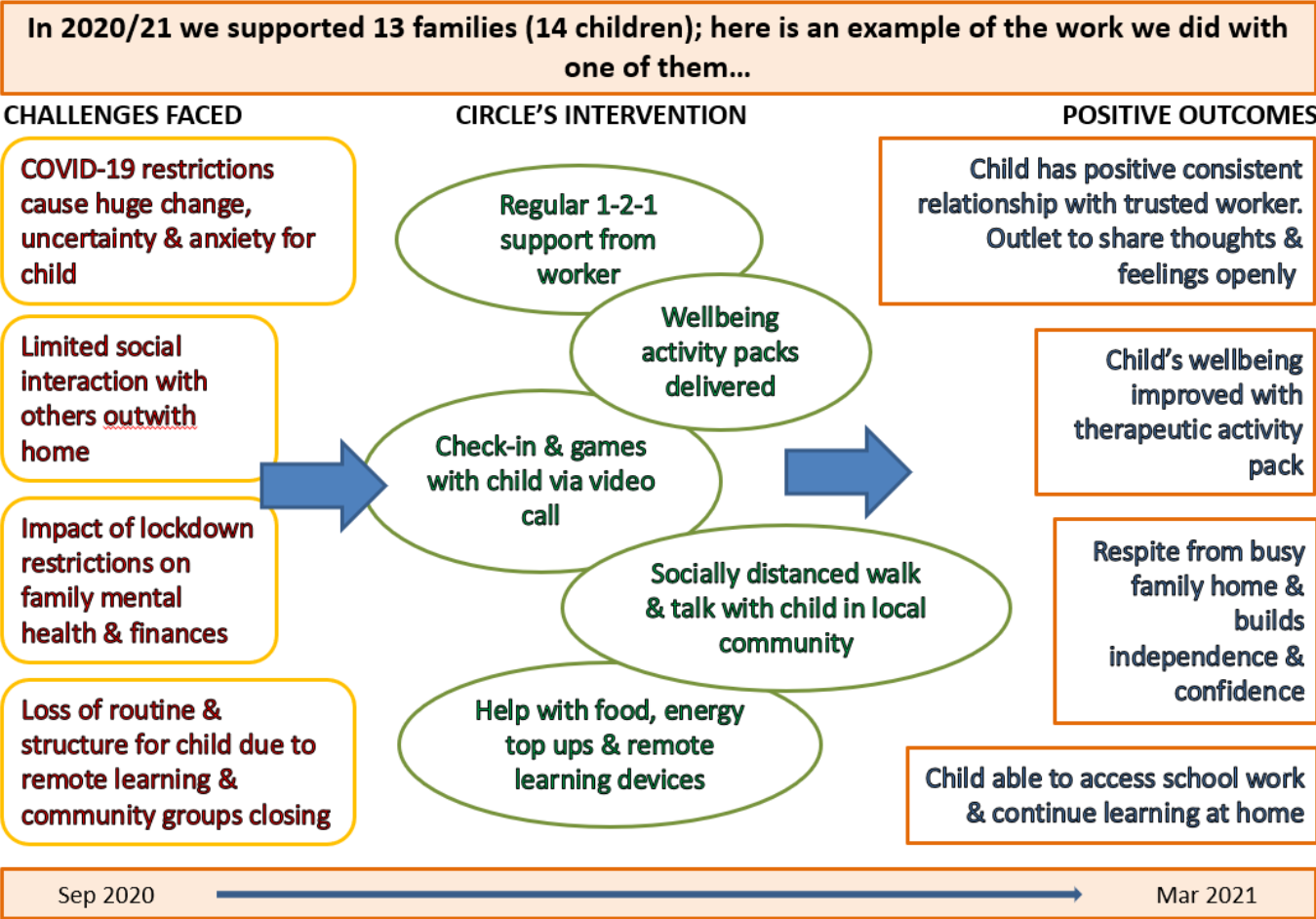
## FUNDING

In 2020/21 the project received funding from a private funder which contributed to one part-time Mentor Co-ordinator.

*"It has been a huge help for me to have some space on at least one day a week as my son will often come home from school and need me to get all his frustrations out. Circle provided that space for him and he would come home feeling calm."*

(Parent)

## CASE STUDY



## PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR YEAR AHEAD

In 2021/22, ISSEP aims to recruit 30 mentors from George Heriot's School to match with 30 primary aged children from North Edinburgh



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