

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 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.



We have adapted to the pandemic by offering socially distanced walks, doorstep/garden visits, by ensuring families have enough food, fuel and clothing and by offering wellbeing packs.

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 2020/21 and over the year supported:

Families	12
Parents	12
Kinship carers	1
Children	21
TOTAL no. of family members	34

OUTCOMES

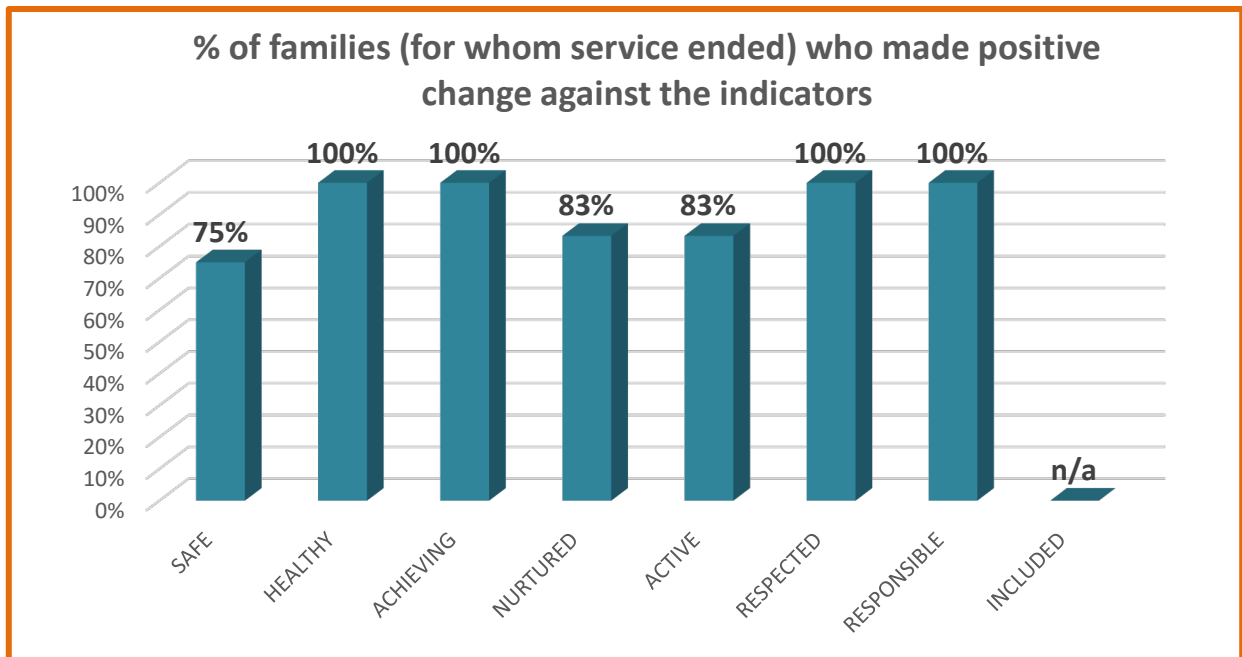
Circle works alongside family members to identify their specific support needs and concerns, enabling them to work towards improving their health, wellbeing and resilience.

“At school I don’t think anything would have improved without the Circle worker, she has helped my child manage her emotions.”

(Parent)

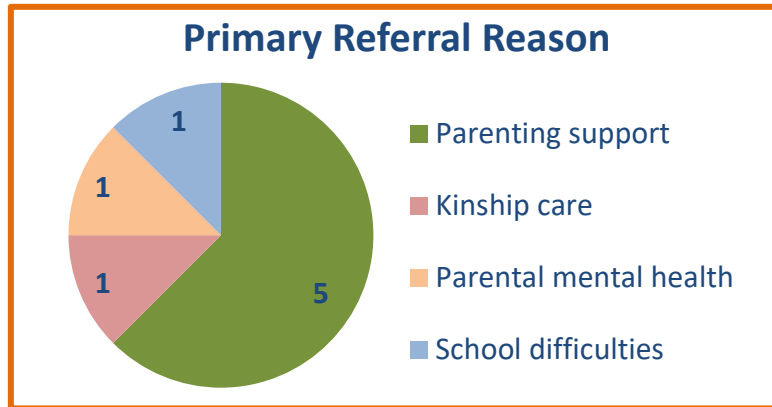
We use the *Getting it right for every child* (GIRFEC) approach which supports children and young people to grow up feeling loved, safe and respected and to realise their full potential. At home, in school or the wider community, every child and young person should be Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included. These SHANARRI indicators are what we use to measure the progress made by the families we support.

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



REFERRAL REASON

Families were referred to PEF in 2020/21 from the two primary schools as detailed below:



Six cases were closed this year with length of involvement ranging from 15 weeks to 90 weeks. The average length of involvement was 60 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, Leith Academy, Active schools, Community Child Health, Maximise, Safer Families, Woman’s own group, CEC Kinship Team, Local Health visiting teams, Active Schools and the Discover Programme.

FUNDING

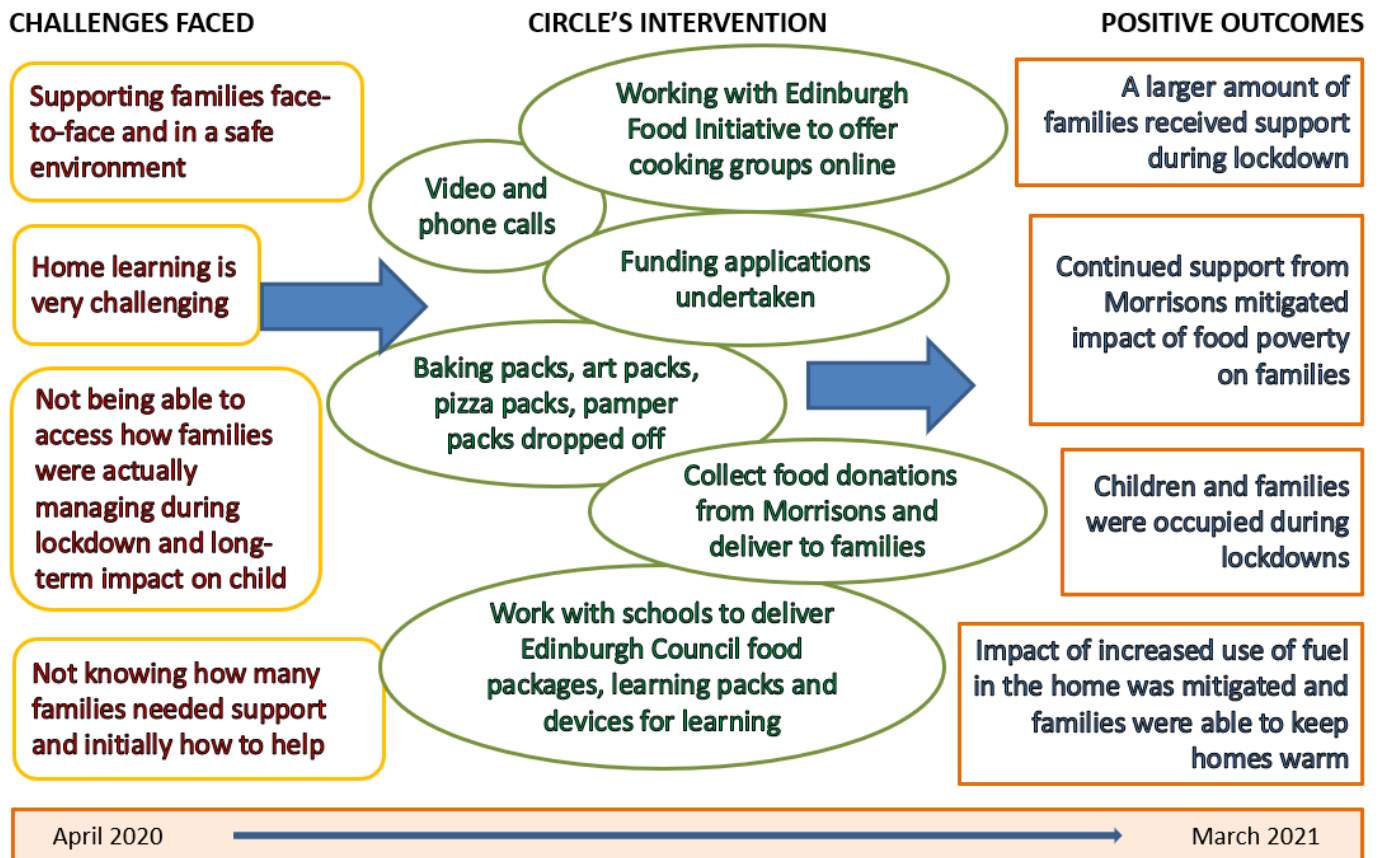
In 2020/21 the project received funding from Craigentiny and St Ninian’s Primary Schools which contributed to one Family Outreach Worker.

“I don’t know what I would have done without the Circle worker. My grandson tells her everything and if anything upsets him he speaks to her. He listens to her.”

(Grandparent)

CASE STUDY

In 2020/21 we supported 12 families; here is an example of the work we did with one of them...



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.



"I don't know where I would have been if I didn't have the Circle worker. She used 'Rory' the puppet with my son – this was over the phone - and this really helped calm him down."

(Parent)

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Date: May 2021