

Aston Wood Golf Club

Supporting children and young people with chances for change



Thank you to Aston Wood Golf Club for your very generous donation of **£58,016.36**.

This gift has been split between our two programmes – **Chances for Children** grants and **Support for Boarding**.

Our **Chances for Children grants** support children and young people impacted by poverty and crisis through packages of support up to the value of **£2,000** – though averaging around £1,500. These grants pay for everyday things that all children should have, but some parents and carers cannot afford such as child's beds and school uniforms, while also supplying extra resources to overcome crisis and to unlock their potential, such as counselling, therapy or IT equipment and transport to college.

For some children we support, the home environment is so chaotic that being there full-time is not always the best option. We have seen that **supporting boarding education** can provide a stable environment, with good emotional and social support, as well as the opportunity to improve educational attainment.

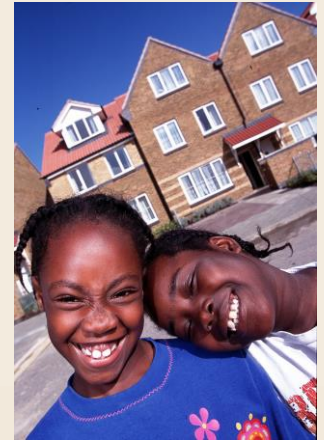
The way I described receiving a grant to somebody the other day was like being given a whole new start after such a horrible few years. It's like deleting bad memories to make room for new happy one"
- grantee

Chances for Children grants

Your funding has paid for 20 Chances for Children grants and supported 42 children and young people at a total value of £28,173. All the funding has been made in the West Midlands where 35% of children live in poverty despite more than 70% of them having one or more working parents. It is the third highest region for child poverty in the UK.

| Local Authority | Number of grants | Number of children | Total value of grants |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Birmingham | 12 | 29 | £ 17,825 |
| Coventry | 3 | 5 | £ 4,544 |
| Herefordshire | 1 | 1 | £ 1,760 |
| Sandwell | 1 | 1 | £ 359 |
| Solihull | 1 | 3 | £ 250 |
| Walsall | 1 | 2 | £ 1,500 |
| Wolverhampton | 1 | 1 | £ 1,935 |
| Total | 20 | 42 | £ 28,173 |

The most common reasons for awarding a Chances for Children grant through your funding has been because: the child(ren) have had emotional or behavioural problem (50% of grants); there has been domestic abuse in the home (36%); or the family is legally homeless (12%). This is typical of family situations on low income where ongoing financial pressure creates a stressful home environment, and this impacts directly on children's wellbeing and therefore their ability to engage in education. The high proportion of those classed as homeless may be another effect of the current economic situation.



Case Study of young person funded by your donation (name changed to protect anonymity)

Liam is 15. He moved to live with his grandmother after having to leave his family home. He no longer has any contact with his mother, he was exposed to domestic violence, emotional abuse and neglect. Most days he had to fend for himself. This meant he did not attend school regularly, has few friends, and lived in very poor home conditions. Naturally, this knocked his confidence and ability to achieve. Liam struggles to trust others after his experiences, and this impacts his emotional wellbeing and can lead to angry outbursts.

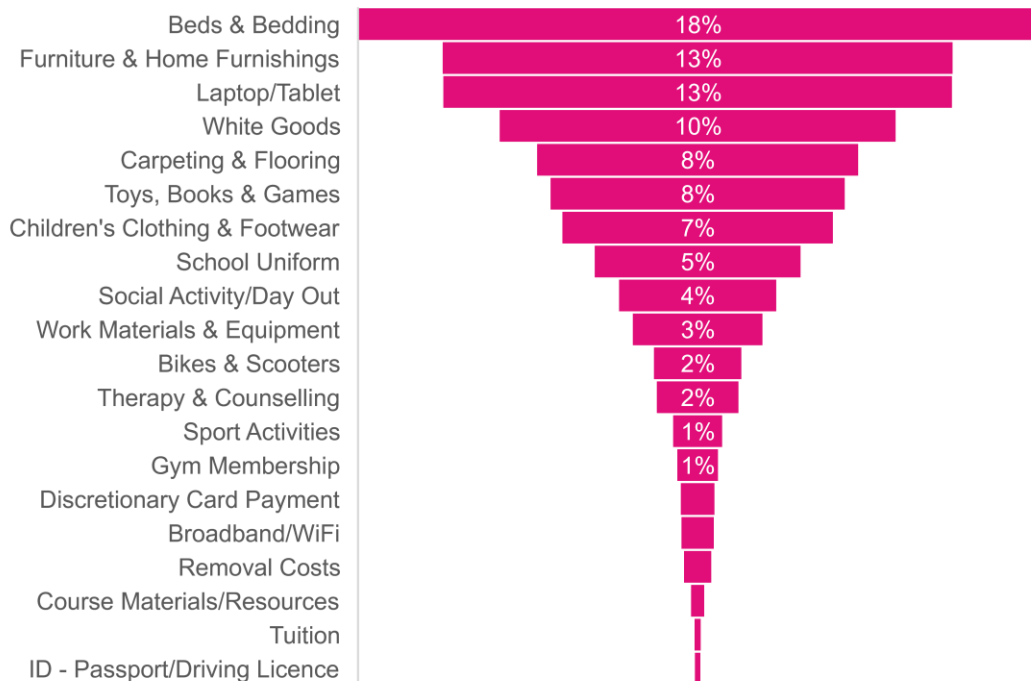
Liam left home with no belongings and just the clothes he was wearing, and his grandmother had nothing available for him, so he slept on the sofa in her home and sometimes in his aunt's. Liam and his grandmother have relocated to a different area of the city and his grandmother feels she can now provide a stable home for Liam. The change is already helping Liam to make steps to rebuild his life.

Your donation paid for new clothes and footwear for Liam, some of which was specifically so he can attend a work placement organised through school. It funded a bed and bedding for him, for the new home. You funded a laptop to help him in the process of catching up with his education. Liam was having to make a long walk to get to his new school, so the grant also funded a bike.

Items distributed through your funding

The funds you supplied allowed us to cover the costs of a wide range of activities and items. The cost-of-living crisis is having a devastating impact on families on the lowest incomes, many are having to choose between heating or eating and the skew of your funding towards household essentials like beds, furniture and white goods reflects these pressures, with families struggling to afford such basics. But the chart also shows the breadth of items funded, which have been awarded to support children and young people with their engagement in education and their wellbeing.

Items funded



What families report after receiving our support

82% of children more engaged in education



93% of children have a better physical home environment

82% of children are happier and less anxious



97% of boarding students received GCSE Grade 4 or above against the national average of 73%



The remaining £30,000 of your donation has supported six young people to attend boarding school. We have been supporting boarding places for young people for 70 years. We have seen that boarding can support a child's developmental needs through providing routine, increased stability and emotional and social support. The level of aspiration offered by a boarding education can also help to raise a young person's educational attainment. Funding for a place at a boarding school allows the child to recover from trauma and access the education and activities needed that can help them to thrive. It also offers the family respite to cope with the issues they are experiencing, many of which can have an enduring impact. The school place can also contribute to families ultimately staying together, even through very difficult circumstances.

Looking back on what I have achieved such as my confidence with my classwork and public speaking, the friendships I have made; whilst being at school has made me even more grateful for the support you have given me.

Case Study of young person funded by your donation (name changed to protect anonymity)

Finn (12) is a middle child. His mother Sarah has recently become a single parent after the arrest his father for allegations of abuse. These offences have had a detrimental impact on the mental health of everyone in the family and have caused a lot of disruption in the home. Finn was struggling to cope at home and was suffering from mental health issues and erratic behaviour. Sarah is struggling to care for him as a lot of her time is taken up by trauma experienced by her eldest child. Boarding place was sought allow Finn to focus on studies, provide emotional support and provide some respite for them all. The family has had a number of financial struggles due to being reliant Sarah's sole income. After a year at Boarding School Finn is still finding his home situation challenging but reports are that he has become better at communicating about his feelings and asking for support. He is also keeping up well with schoolwork despite the difficulties he faces.

As a result of the legacy of **Buttle UK's** founder **Frank Buttle**, the Charity can meet all of its administration costs – this means that **100% of the funds raised** go to providing our **Chances for Children** grants for some of the most vulnerable children and young people in the UK today.