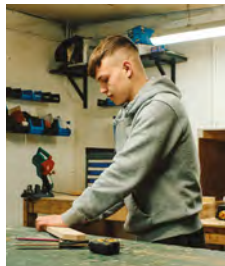


ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22



Over the last 12 months, the CSJ has published 20 reports, crammed with nearly 200 solutions and recommendations to Government.

Lockdown and the cost of living crisis have poured petrol on situations that were already alight with problems. In this context, we have gone harder than ever to advocate for those most struggling across this country.

We have achieved our highest impact to date, with 43% of our recommendations being adopted by Government – an increase from 33% last year.



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FOREWORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN & CEO

Welcome to the Centre for Social Justice's Annual Report for 2021/22.

For nearly two decades, the CSJ has shown that public policy has the power to release people from poverty rather than trap them in it. Our past successes tell us that the root causes of poverty (namely family breakdown, educational failure, worklessness, problem debt and addiction) can just as easily become pathways out of it when we get the answers right. But this only takes place when Westminster starts seeing people as potential to be released rather than problems to be solved.

At the CSJ, our mission is to put social justice at the heart of British politics. We've learned that the key to unlocking game-changing policy interventions is to listen to those in the toughest situations and to the grassroots organisations who support them. Because it's there that we not only uncover some of the UK's biggest problems, but also find the best solutions.

The past year has been one of enormous change and uncertainty. We emerged from Covid lockdowns – periods in which the CSJ shone a light on the hidden damage of the pandemic – and were catapulted into an unprecedented cost of living crisis. We have witnessed the sad death of HM Queen Elizabeth II, several changes of government, new Prime Ministers, and the outbreak of war in Ukraine with its consequences, including the turbulence of a major energy crisis.

Looking forward, it is hard to predict what is going to happen next. But at a time when many say it simply isn't possible to get things done in politics, we bucked the trend and proved them wrong. Our team has worked tirelessly to ensure that the poorest are not overlooked in the maelstrom of political change. Over the last 12 months, the CSJ published 20 papers, crammed with nearly

200 solutions and recommendations. We are proud to respond to the call of those we serve, who are at the sharpest end of the cost of living crisis and are still being affected by the fallout from lockdown policy. We have gone harder than ever for our people and improved upon our already award-winning impact. Two in five (43%) of our recommendations were adopted by Government, up from one in three (33%) last year. This in turn leveraged some £6 billion in government investment targeted at those who need it most.

THE CSJ OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS



We listened to our network of over

500

poverty-fighting charities



We published

20

papers



Our papers were crammed with nearly

200

solutions and recommendations



2/5

CSJ recommendations were adopted by Government, up from 1/3 last year



£6bn

government investment into the proposals we made

For example, we were proud to see Government invest more fully in our flagship policy reform – Universal Credit – by committing to make work pay through an effective tax cut for the poorest workers, worth nearly £2 billion. They did this by reducing the Universal Credit taper rate to 55p on the pound, as was first proposed by the CSJ. We drove Government to commit to a £780 million drugs strategy, the biggest ever investment in addiction services. We worked with the former Secretary of State for Health to recognise Domestic Abuse as a public health issue, as well as a serious crime, confirmed in the Government’s Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. Thanks to our work the Government has focused heavily on the chronic failure of youth services and infrastructure, with a government commitment to a National Youth Guarantee backed by £560 million. But we know there is still more to do to ensure this is focused on the right areas to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged young people. We uncovered the shocking scale of severe absence from schools and convinced Government to adopt ‘severe absence’ (less than 50% attendance) as an official government data category, enabling us to make sure getting kids back into school is a top priority. We have succeeded in getting Government to take the F-word – ‘family’ – more seriously, both in narrative and investment, with Government committing to a major expansion of the Reducing Parental Conflict Programme by rolling out an initial 75 Family Hubs.

We are very grateful to our Alliance of over 500 frontline charities, funders and staff for their work and support in achieving the above. And to the many government and opposition members, policymakers, advisors and civil servants for their support in championing social justice at the heart of British politics.

But there is so much more to be done.

The CSJ has always been unique among think tanks in its support for frontline charities across the UK, partnering with them in learning, developing and shaping policy. Last year we took a major step further, establishing the CSJ Foundation

to champion grassroots charities working in some of our most challenged communities, spotlight the lessons of the back streets into the corridors of power, and support philanthropy in often unseen but high impact local work. It has seen incredible impact in its first year and we now have dedicated offices in London, the East Midlands, North West and North East giving us unique insight into the real-life challenges of poverty and the solutions to address them: 15 of our papers this year came directly from insights collected by our regional offices. As well as enabling regular visits by policy staff to see and learn first-hand from our alliance of charities on the ground, the Foundation has helped to facilitate Ministerial visits, policy roundtables, Westminster briefings, and directed £560,000 of philanthropic support into the frontlines.

Added to this, we have built out our policy teams to be at their biggest and boldest in our history. Specialist teams in education, family, problem debt, work & opportunity, addiction, housing & community, criminal justice and modern slavery are the brightest and best in Westminster. Our mandate has never been stronger, as those most struggling in this country face even tougher times ahead. We will not stop fighting for those who need us most, driving social justice to the heart of politics with work focused on addressing the cost of living crisis, a new state of the nation report, and continued work in our five key areas to address the root causes of poverty. We hope you enjoy the successes in this report, and we look forward to working with you over the next year to do even more.



Rt Hon Sir Iain Duncan Smith MP
Chairman



Andy Cook
CEO



Khulisa
CSJ Award Winner 2022

OUR MISSION AND VALUES

The Centre for Social Justice is an independent organisation that puts social justice at the heart of British politics.

We partner with over 500 grassroots charities from Britain's poorest communities, as well as experts from across the world, to develop ambitious, evidence-based and experience-led reforms that tackle the root causes of poverty and social breakdown. And we do not stop there. We take our reforms and, working closely with an extensive network of political, policy and media contacts, campaign for their successful implementation. This is how we fight to transform people's lives by releasing them from poverty. The CSJ's vision is for those living in the poorest and most disadvantaged communities across Britain to be given every opportunity to flourish and reach their full potential. We bring this vision to life by seeking to influence the policies Government creates and the laws it makes to address the root causes of poverty. These are:

- Problem debt
- Family breakdown and dysfunction
- Drug, alcohol and gambling dependency
- Educational failure
- Worklessness

Our mission, therefore, is to place social justice at the heart of British politics.

OUR VALUES

Seven core values underpin all that we do. We:

1. Are ambitious about transforming people's lives.
2. Do not believe poverty is only about money, but also people's quality of life and their opportunities to make the most of their potential.
3. Tackle the root causes of poverty, not just the symptoms.
4. Focus on what works.
5. Commit to following the evidence, wherever it leads.
6. Serve the interests of the poorest in Britain.
7. Believe that prevention is better than cure.

HOW WE WORK

OUR WORK FOLLOWS A **THREE STAGE** PROCESS:

ALLIANCE



1

CSJ The Centre for
Social Justice
FOUNDATION

We regularly visit, consult with and invite views from our alliance of poverty-fighting charities. This ensures our work is experience-led.

This year our team visited over 110 alliance charities across the UK to drive lived experience to the heart of our work and connect the backstreets of Britain with the corridors of power in Westminster.

POLICY



2

Our Policy teams conduct extensive research to gain an in-depth understanding of key issues. They are supported by expert working groups and advisory boards. This ensures our work is evidence based.

Our policy team of 18 staff, working across eight policy areas, hosted 10 roundtables, contributed to 3 select committee briefings and met with ministers, influential cross-party politicians, special advisers, business leaders and sector experts, and delivered 20 policy reports.



IMPACT



3

We provide a voice for the most disadvantaged, advocating for them in the media and through our campaigns. Despite the challenging political landscape this past year, we have achieved our highest impact to date – two in five (43%) of all recommendations have been adopted by Government.

As a result, we have played a part in leveraging more than £6 billion of government funding targeted at those who need it most, helping address the fallout from lockdown policy, to help alleviate the cost of living crisis and to tackle the root causes of poverty.

In doing this we connect the backstreets of Britain with the corridors of power in Westminster. We make practical, implementable recommendations that we know will change lives and transform communities.



HARNESSING THE FRONTLINE

The CSJ and the CSJ Foundation are informed and inspired by the CSJ Alliance: a national network of over 500 frontline, poverty-fighting charities and social enterprises.

The CSJ Alliance is a game-changing network of charities and social enterprises working on the frontline in the fight against poverty. Small and medium-sized charities across the country have a wealth of knowledge and know-how about the best way to prevent poverty, but there are limited ways for their ideas to be expressed nationally.

These organisations are spread across the length and breadth of the UK, acting as our ‘eyes and ears’ on the ground. The leaders and service users within these organisations truly understand the nature of poverty and social breakdown. We listen to what they say, and we learn from what they do.

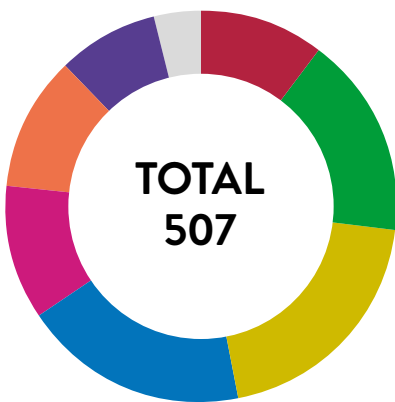
The CSJ draws heavily from the CSJ Alliance’s experience, meaning Government can be sure that the reforms we suggest are evidence-based and experience-led. This helps Government develop

effective strategies to alleviate the suffering of the poorest and prevents policies being developed that are detached from reality.



CSJ FOUNDATION

Launched in 2021, the CSJ Foundation provides a platform for philanthropists to give directly to the very best local charities to support their work and connect them with policymakers at the heart of government. Together, we build bridges between the backstreets and the corridors of power to improve the lives of the poorest in our society. Over the past year, the CSJ Foundation has directed over £560,000 of philanthropic funds to frontline charities.




Our CSJ Alliance charities span the following policy units. Many charities cover more than one policy unit.

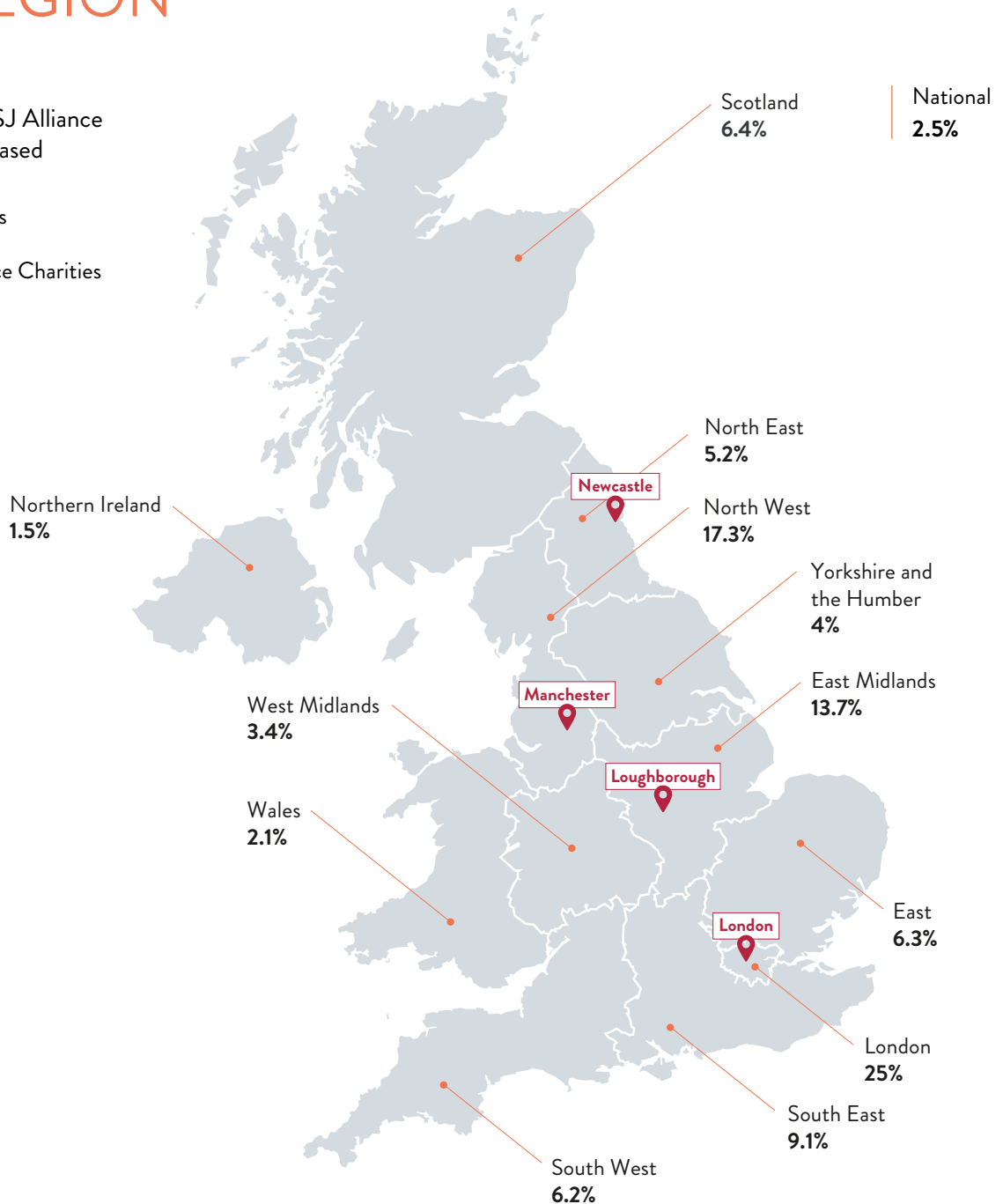
- Addiction (19%)
- Education (30%)
- Work and Opportunity (36%)
- Family (34%)
- Debt (20%)
- Criminal Justice (20%)
- Housing and Communities (15%)
- Modern Slavery (7%)

ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP BY REGION

Where our CSJ Alliance charities are based

 CSJ Offices

 CSJ Alliance Charities



IN THE REGIONS

To further enhance our knowledge of what is going on in different parts of the country and to deepen our relationships with CSJ Alliance charities, we are expanding further and further. The CSJ Foundation nurtures, strengthens, and grows

the CSJ Alliance. Its regional offices are rooted in local communities ensuring local voices are better represented in national policymaking – and we champion Britain’s undervalued regions on a national stage.

CHAMPIONING GRASSROOTS CHARITIES

The CSJ Awards is an annual, high-profile award ceremony that honours the best grassroots, poverty-fighting charities and social enterprises across the UK.

This past year, the CSJ Awards felt more important than ever as we sought to shine a light on the brave small charities who cared for the most vulnerable during the pandemic and continue to do lifesaving and life-changing work for those hit hardest by the cost of living crisis.

All our winners tailored their programmes to respond to the specific needs of those they seek to reach as the country came out of the pandemic and began to wrestle with the consequences of lockdowns and the cost of living crisis. These dedicated organisations stopped at nothing to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in Britain.

To celebrate these winners, we awarded them with a £10,000 prize and we funded professional films about each charity, showcasing their work nationally and providing high-quality campaigning materials for their future. In November 2021, we also celebrated the winners of both the 2021 CSJ Awards, and the winners of the 2020 CSJ Digital Awards, at an exclusive event in London with leading politicians, journalists, business leaders and philanthropists. The winning organisations have also enriched the work of the CSJ through sharing their knowledge and experience and speaking into the formation of our research and recommendations.

WITH THANKS TO

Host



Camilla Tominey
Associate Editor of the Telegraph

Presenters



Tom Newton-Dunn
Journalist and broadcast presenter
of the News Desk on TalkTV



Mercy Muroki
Journalist, broadcast presenter and
former member of the Government's
Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities

The Porters' Trust

 **Marsh**

 **Masonic**
Charitable Foundation

 **TIMEOUT**
Care and progress under one roof

 **MORNINGSIDE**
PHARMACEUTICALS LTD

MCR Pathways Glasgow



MCR Pathways supports over 2,500 young people in or on the edges of the care system in Scotland by matching them with volunteers who provide personalised and consistent support.

Vineyard Compassion Coleraine, Northern Ireland



Vineyard Compassion helps over 5,000 people a year through a range of services including: a drop in café; food and clothing bank; addiction support; debt counselling and money management courses; employment support; and short-term housing.

MyCWA Crewe



MyCWA delivers refuge accommodation to victims and children fleeing domestic abuse. They work to support every member of the family by offering a range of trauma recovery and behaviour change interventions as well as parenting and family support.

The Jericho Foundation Birmingham



The Jericho Foundation helps the most vulnerable in Birmingham by providing supported employment and training opportunities through their in-house social businesses which, in turn, create positive change in the community.

One25 Bristol



One25 supports women who engage in street sex work and other vulnerable women to help them move from crisis and trauma towards independence in the community.

The Snowdrop Project Sheffield



Snowdrop was founded and built on the needs of survivors of human trafficking and modern slavery who consistently cited the absence of long-term support from the State. Snowdrop empowers each individual to reclaim their dignity and agency through casework, counselling and community integration services.

Oasis Community Centre and Garden Workshop



The Oasis Community Centre uses gardening and floristry to teach employment, business and life skills. In doing so, they harness the power of community to reduce isolation, improve health and wellbeing and increase opportunities for all people in the area.

Prison Voicemail Norwich



Prison Voicemail makes it easier for people in prison to maintain positive relationships with their families by enabling the exchange of voicemails and messages through existing prison phones and the Prison Voicemail app.

Football Beyond Borders London



Football Beyond Borders specialises in supporting disadvantaged, vulnerable young people to thrive in mainstream school, using football as a catalyst for creating change in attitude, performance and aspirations.

Street Talk London



Street Talk offers counselling services, advocacy, referrals and one-to-one mentoring for women trapped in street-based prostitution and women who have been victims of trafficking.

POLICY OVERVIEW: NATION-CHANGING IDEAS

The past year has been one of enormous change. We emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic – during which the CSJ shone a light on the hidden damage of lockdown policy – and were swiftly catapulted into an unprecedented cost of living crisis.

We have witnessed a change of Government, two new Prime Ministers and the turbulence of a major energy crisis. Through all this, the CSJ has renewed its mission to put social justice at the heart of British politics, ensuring the poorest are not overlooked in the maelstrom of political change.

All our policy units have stepped up their game to provide the best policy solutions, addressing the needs of those who are at the sharpest end of these crises. To do this effectively, we continued our ongoing work to address the root causes of poverty through our policy units. We also set up specific workstreams to consider how we tackle the impact of lockdown and respond to the cost of living crisis.

To this end, we have published 20 policy papers with 189 recommendations. And crucially, we have had more impact than ever before, with two in five of our recommendations adopted fully or in part, rising from one in three last year.

1. ONGOING WORK TO ADDRESS THE PATHWAYS TO POVERTY

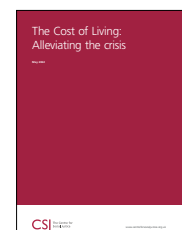
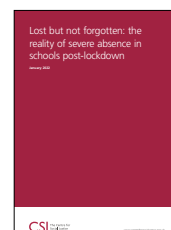
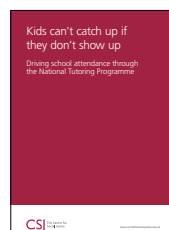
Despite a backdrop of political upheaval and economic uncertainty, the work of our policy units continued unabated to address the root causes of poverty. Our eight policy units of 18 policy staff produced 20 policy papers and achieved record-breaking impact.

2. COVID-19 AND COST OF LIVING CRISIS RESPONSE

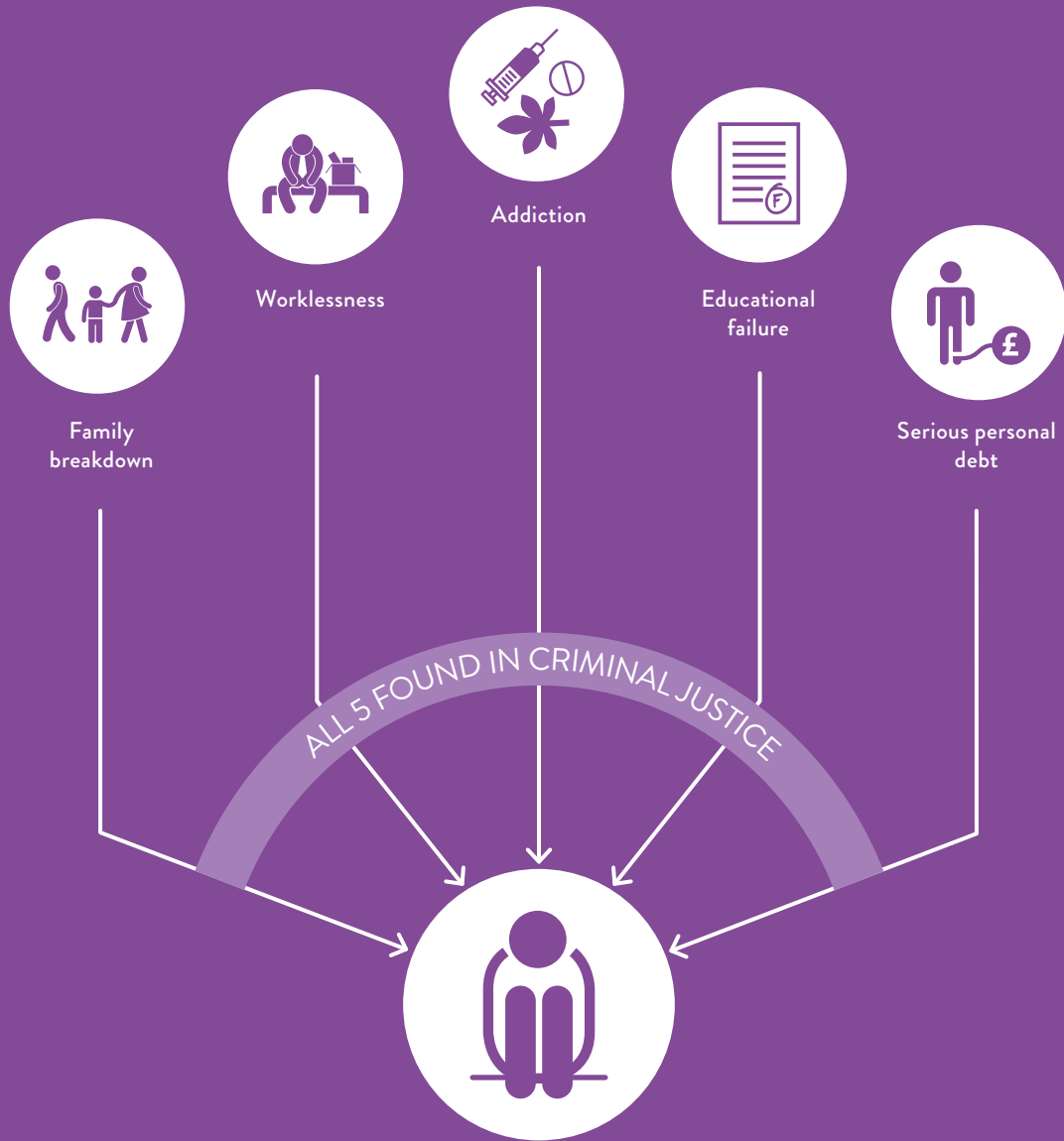
The impact of the pandemic wreaked havoc in many of our poorest communities. School closures exacerbated existing inequalities, low paid work became even more precarious, and the pressures on families grew. No one is talking about the impact of lockdown policy on our poorest communities, but we refuse to overlook this critical area. As others looked away from the fallout of lockdown policy, the CSJ's solutions were needed more than ever.

As specific lockdown policy issues emerged, we sought to address them through a number of key interventions and campaigns, as well as campaigns to address the cost of living crisis:

- 'Kids Can't Catch Up if They Don't Show Up'
- 'Lost but Not Forgotten: The reality of severe absence in schools post-lockdown'
- 'The Cost of Living: Alleviating the crisis'



THE 5 PATHWAYS



Other areas of work



Housing and Communities



Modern Slavery

POLICY UNIT: WORK AND OPPORTUNITY

The inflation crisis has presented unique threats to personal finances and the cost of energy has made two emergency fiscal interventions by Government essential.

Even with historically low unemployment and rising wages, the cost of living is outstripping salaries, leaving households poorer and more financially vulnerable.

The CSJ has been at the forefront of the campaign to persuade the previous Chancellor to act, calling consistently for proper investment in Universal Credit, cutting the taper rate so work always pays and restoring work allowances so the poorest workers can keep more of what they earn. The lag in uprating benefits has exposed a major weakness in the UK's old, 'legacy' welfare infrastructure, highlighting the need to complete the roll-out of Universal Credit – a much more dynamic and flexible system. We have published two major reports responding to the cost of living crisis, recommending practical, workable and fully costed solutions to Government, seeking to ensure that the poorest are shielded from the worst of the inflation crisis.

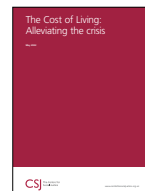
The wider work of the unit goes on. Last September we published a report making recommendations to Government for the post-Brexit re-write of UK procurement rules, calling for levelling up of left-behind communities, job creation and favouring British companies where possible to be adopted as part of the new bill. And we commenced major projects on the role of the manufacturing sector and of green jobs investment in both levelling up and upskilling low-skilled British workers.

This year the CSJ published two major reports on Work and Opportunity including:



Spending it Better: Taking back control of public contracts to level up Britain

Argues that post-Brexit freedoms to redesign UK procurement rules should be used to boost British industry, regional investment, jobs and levelling up.



The Cost of Living: Alleviating the crisis

This report calls on Government to hold a special fiscal event with increased support through Universal Credit to ensure the poorest are protected from the worst of the inflation crisis.



St Edmunds Society
CSJ Award Winner 2022

TOP HEADLINES



conservativehome

There are better ways to invest in Universal Credit than the £20 uplift



conservativehome

Conservative Home: How Sunak can best boost Universal Credit to ease the cost of living crisis

The Guardian

Iain Duncan Smith calls for benefits to rise in line with inflation



conservativehome

Free from EU rules, Government contracts can be used as a tool to help struggling communities



IMPACT

Then Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced a cut of 8 percentage points to the Universal Credit taper rate – a £2 billion effective tax cut for the poorest workers – in the Autumn 2021 Budget and Spending Review, plus increased work allowances by £500

Then Chancellor Rishi Sunak held a special fiscal event in May 2022 unveiling a £15 billion package of cost of living support, with three-quarters of those funds targeted at the poorest through the benefits system

Job creation, levelling up left-behind communities, supporting SMEs, regional investment and favouring British companies adopted as part of the Procurement White Paper and draft bill

POLICY UNIT: EDUCATION

Our most disadvantaged pupils face a barrage of adversity, made worse by the pandemic.

Educational failure can have scarring effects on children's life chances – poor quality education suppresses earning potential and makes unemployment much more likely. Even before children enter the classroom, a three-year-old living in poverty is one and a half years behind their more affluent peers in language development. The attainment gap opens early and, all too often, persists throughout the course of a child's education. Once at school, a child from one of our poorest areas is much more likely to attend a school rated 'inadequate' than a child in one of our wealthiest areas. Too many children also leave school unprepared for work: in 2019 nearly 40% of children left school without five good GCSEs.

The pandemic has further blighted children's life chances. Children have begun to disengage from education at a frightening pace. Many thousands of children have left the school system altogether and experts have warned that school shutdowns have reversed any progress in closing the attainment gap. We need wholesale system reform to ensure that disadvantaged individuals can thrive in education. In response to these challenges, the CSJ has published a broad range of papers this year examining the entire education system from early years through to adult education.



Kids Can't Catch Up if They Don't Show Up
Making the case for attendance mentors in schools to work with children who are persistently absent.



Early Years Commission: A cross-party manifesto

Too many children in poverty fall behind in their first few years. Our country can give every child the best start in life, and this report shows how.



A Level Playing Field

Why we need a new school enrichment guarantee and how to deliver it.



2021 IntegratED Annual Report

This second state of the nation report into school exclusion and alternative provision from our IntegratED partnership brings together all the available data, research, and policy from this historically overlooked cohort.



Lost but Not Forgotten: The reality of severe absence in schools post-lockdown

The damage caused by lockdowns could not be clearer than in the case of school attendance: the pandemic has given rise to a generation of lost children.



2022 AP Quality Toolkit

This toolkit takes an in-depth look at the AP Quality Toolkit approach and makes recommendations on how the toolkit can be implemented.



Oasis Project
CSJ Award Winner 2022

TOP HEADLINES

Daily Mail

The tragedy of Covid's 100,000 'ghost children' will make those who demanded never-ending lockdowns hang their privileged heads in shame

CAPX

Britain must do better for children excluded from school

FEWEEK

The dismantling of a sector – adult education in crisis

IMPACT

The Department for Education has begun an evaluation of the Transition Fund for children leaving alternative school provision

The SEND Review outlined a new vision for a reformed alternative provision system and greater school inclusion

'Severe absence' was recognised by Government, new attendance guidance and data has been published, and £45 million has been invested to help tackle absence

The Skills Bill introduced further powers to enforce the Baker Clause



POLICY UNIT: PROBLEM DEBT

In the midst of a cost of living crisis, more families face a precarious financial future than ever before. With almost half of families saying that they cannot save anything in the next 12 months, Britain faces an extraordinary challenge to its financial resilience and to support its most vulnerable through the financial storm ahead.

But we know that the economic fallout of the cost of living crisis are just the immediate consequences for those in financial hardship. Problem debt has been shown to cause mental distress, damage family relationships, and reduce a person's capacity to embrace their future and act independently. In the months ahead, we will need to be serious about the need for support. However, we must also empower consumers to take control of their own financial situations by creating a healthy credit ecosystem that works for all. This must be paired with a strong financial education offering and sensitive enforcement for our most vulnerable consumers.

In the last year, the CSJ's Debt Unit has delivered on all of this. It has continued to advance policy addressing the root causes of problem debt. We have released ground-breaking research into the state of illegal money lending in England and set out a new focus for the advancement of affordable credit. We have also designed a roadmap for a renewed financial education offering and drove forward our work on raising the standards of debt collection. Moving forward, we must continue to address the rising cost of living and understand the damaging effects debt has on family relationships.



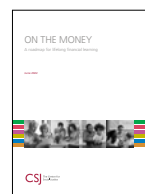
Taking Control for Good: Introducing the enforcement conduct authority

This report introduces the Enforcement Conduct Authority, a body designed in conjunction with debt advisers and the debt collection industry to drive better standards in debt collection.



Swimming with Sharks: Tackling illegal money lending in England

Britain is a nation of money secrets. This report establishes the scale and nature of illegal money lending in England and how we can tackle it.



On the Money: A roadmap for lifelong financial learning

Financial education is in need of a fundamental rethink. This report sets out a roadmap to ensure lifelong learning equips everyone with the skills they need.



Vineyard Compassion
CSJ Award Winner 2020

TOP HEADLINES

BBC
NEWS

Bid for better bailiffs as pandemic debts rise

Daily Mail

More than one million in debt to loan sharks

Daily Mail

Primary school children as young as seven should be given lessons in managing their money

IMPACT

Government warmly welcomes the Enforcement Conduct Board and commits to reviewing the need for statutory underpinning

Chair of the Education Select Committee supports CSJ's Financial Education Initiative

HM Treasury announces changes to the Credit Union Act 1979



POLICY UNIT: ADDICTION

Addiction profoundly weakens British society. In England alone, 1.6 million people are dependent on alcohol and one in five children under the age of one live with a parent who drinks hazardously.

One in 40 children under the age of one, meanwhile, live with a parent who is addicted to drugs. The Covid-19 pandemic has dramatically worsened a situation that was already untenable, and data from Public Health England (PHE) reveals that the situation continues to spiral out of control. According to PHE, consumption of alcohol at home over this period contributed to a 20% increase in deaths from diseases caused by drinking in 2020.

Even before the creation of our standalone Addiction Unit in 2018, the CSJ had long been championing a better approach to drugs, problem gambling and rehabilitation. Our 2019 'Road to Recovery' report played a role in shaping and influencing the direction of travel of Dame Carol Black's Independent Review into Drugs. And, in July 2021, the government accepted all the recommendations from the Review. Over the last year we continued to stand up for those struggling with addiction.

In November, 2021 we hosted a roundtable with the Lord Chancellor on the use of methadone in prisons. And, in our 2021 'Not a Game' report, we called for effective protection from the harms of gambling. We are committed to holding Government's feet to the fire on this often-neglected policy space, including ensuring that it follows through on its pledge to take up all of Dame Carol Black's recommendations, as well as ensuring that the party's 2019 manifesto commitment to review the Gambling Act isn't dropped.



Not a Game: A call for effective protection from the harms of gambling

This report focuses on affordability checks as a targeted measure to protect the most vulnerable.



Moses Project
CSJ Award Winner 2022

IMPACT

The Government made the biggest ever investment in addiction treatment services, recognising abstinence as the heart to recovery. This included £780 million for treatment programmes in prison and health services, along with a £300 million pledge to crack down on supply chains and drug gangs

Creation of the Joint Combating Drugs Unit (JCDU); a holistic approach that recognises helping people into recovery requires assistance with housing, education and employment as well as with mental and physical health

Movement away from treating addiction as a criminal justice issue but rather as a chronic health condition to reduce stigma, save lives and help the most vulnerable in our society with the treatment they desperately need

In the 2021 Autumn Budget and Spending Review, the Government committed a further £42 million for new programmes that reduce crime and drug misuse including for County Lines

TOP HEADLINES

THE SPECTATOR

Deaths of despair: How Britain became Europe's drug capital



POLICY UNIT: FAMILY

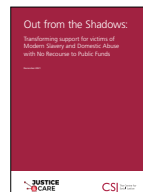
The UK has some of the highest levels of family breakdown in the world. Policymakers should be concerned that this is disproportionately true of the most disadvantaged.

If you're a poor child in the UK today, you're overwhelmingly more likely to see your parents separate than the middle-class child down the road. By the age of five almost half of children in our poorest areas have seen their families break apart compared to only 16 percent of children in middle class homes. The chances of seeing your family break apart shouldn't be defined by birth or circumstance, but too often they are.

The price tag for family breakdown has been estimated at £51 billion but this is a fraction of the likely overall cost in lost productivity alone. There is a 42% gap in employment rates between couple families and lone parents, just under half of lone parent families are out of work compared to around 6% of couple families.

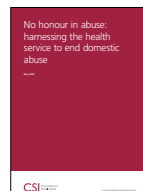
The quality of family relationships lays down the foundations for a child's development and well-being. Covid-19 and its attendant lockdowns have increased the incidence of domestic abuse, with helplines and refuges registering a surge in calls. One in five children are victims of domestic abuse, more than women or men and through our programme, we have identified elements of a successful preventive strategy to keep families stable, and children safe: the Reducing Parental Conflict programme, Family Hubs and grassroots organisations.

This year's highlights include a major programme of work to tackle Domestic Abuse:



Out from the Shadows: Transforming support for victims of modern slavery and domestic abuse with no recourse to public funds (in partnership with the CSJ's Modern Slavery Unit)

Considers how this cohort of victims face additional barriers and deterrents in accessing support, reporting abusers and seeking justice.



No Honour in Abuse: Harnessing the health service to end domestic abuse

Calls on the Government to tackle domestic abuse as a public health issue.



Safe Families for Children
CSJ Award Winner 2019

TOP HEADLINES

THE SPECTATOR

Johnny Depp and the truth about male domestic abuse victims

 conservativehome

Families must play a bigger part in the lives of children in care

Daily Mail

Stop calling it 'honour abuse'

IMPACT

The Department of Health and Social Care agreed to include our definition of domestic abuse as a public health issue in its strategy for women's health

The Government committed to a major expansion of the Reducing Parental Conflict Programme by rolling out an initial 75 Family Hubs

The Treasury Committee invited the CSJ's Head of Family to provide evidence on the impact Covid-19 had on women and children in January 2022



POLICY UNIT: CRIMINAL JUSTICE

The aim of the CSJ's Criminal Justice Unit is to reduce crime on our streets and promote a fair, effective and humane justice system. It is only by creating a just society where crime rates are low and the public feel confident about their safety, that community cohesion and pride in local neighbourhoods can flourish.

With record delays in our court system, the needs of victims have never felt more acute. We must not lose focus on our moral duty to ensure victims receive their day in court in a timely manner and are supported through what is all too often a traumatising and protracted process.

The rehabilitation of those passing through our courts, prisons, and probation services needs to be at the heart of an effective justice system. Only through embedding a rehabilitative and trauma-informed culture throughout the system, can the root causes of offending be tackled.

Yet, this is all too often far from the case. Prisoners are frequently housed in dilapidated and overcrowded buildings awash with drugs and violence. They are often confined to their cells for almost all hours of the day, a situation that was only exacerbated by Covid-19. Prison visits, a lifeline to prisoners and their families, were brought to a halt along with crucial rehabilitative activity across the prison estate.

That is why, over the past year, we have continued to push for major reforms to our prison estate, with a particular focus on family and work. In March, we published our report 'The Golden Thread', which sought to shine a light on the challenges facing individuals separated from their relatives through

imprisonment. At the end of this year, we will publish a paper on what more we can do to help prison-leavers access sustained and meaningful employment. In a similar vein, we hosted a roundtable chaired by Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP which explored what more we can do to identify and support those with neurodiverse needs across our education and criminal justice systems.



Dyslexia in the Education and Criminal Justice Systems

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP hosted a roundtable with the CSJ to discuss how the processes of identification, diagnosis and support of dyslexia in educational and custodial settings can be improved.



The Golden Thread: Putting families at the heart of the criminal justice system

The importance of family to our criminal justice system cannot be understated. And yet it all too often remains an afterthought.



Storybook Dads
CSJ Award Winner 2022

TOP HEADLINES

The Telegraph

Criminals leaving prison without a job and accommodation are 10 times less likely to reoffend



IMPACT

Following a decade-long campaign, the Government announced its plans to stop prisoners vulnerable to addiction, mental health issues or homelessness from being released on a Friday

In the Prisons Strategy White Paper, the Government committed to ensuring that any new prisons that are built are digitally enabled to meet the needs of the diverse prison population

The Government committed in the Sentencing White Paper to pilot up to five Problem Solving Courts and the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act Bill contained the necessary legislative provisions to do so, as the CSJ called for in 'Sentencing in the Dock'

POLICY UNIT: HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

Over the last year, we have built on existing policy work to create a permanent Housing and Communities Policy Unit. We published two major reports which drew on vast datasets, each with 5,000 respondents and using cutting-edge analytical tools.

Our report, ‘Pillars of Community’, demonstrated that people believe a strong local community involves a secure livelihood in a safe neighbourhood, social connections, and a sense of local belonging. Further, it showed that many people feel those in their area suffer from loneliness, and that their community lacks good facilities – such as a thriving high street. It was launched with then Secretary of State Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP.

Our report, ‘Exposing the Hidden Housing Crisis’, sets out the extent of our problems with housing – including the prevalence of homelessness and families in temporary accommodation, as well as our lack of truly affordable housing for those with modest means. Launched by Rt Hon Theresa May MP, it highlighted how the electoral shifts of the last election now mean that all political parties have powerful mandates for bold action on social and affordable housing.

Engaging with Government, we held a roundtable on the theme of rough sleeping and health with two government ministers. We were also asked to brief the Department for Levelling-Up, Housing, and Communities and the Department of Health and Social Care on our findings.



Pillars of Community

Examined what a strong local community means, and the thematic and geographic areas where improvement is needed.



Exposing the Hidden Housing Crisis

Demonstrated for the first time how different voter groups think about key housing issues, such as the value of social and affordable housing to society.



Oasis Community Centre
CSJ Award Winner 2021

TOP HEADLINES

The Telegraph

Revealed: the nation's top ten towns and villages for community spirit

itv

May tells Johnson: Build more 'truly affordable homes' and make housing top priority



IMPACT

A new **Rough Sleeping Strategy**: Government committed to £2bn of investment over the next three years, and a £200 million Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme to deliver up to 2,400 homes and wrap-around support by March 2025

A new **High Street Strategy**: Government committed to the Build Back Better High Streets initiative. We recommended that the Government adopt a 'hub street' approach; one where social and cultural hubs form anchors for a thriving retail environment

DCMS launch major review of the VCSE sector in procurement: As we argued, this review clearly demonstrates that larger charities are disproportionately the beneficiaries of public procurement contracts, and that more could be done to enable broader VCSE participation

POLICY UNIT: MODERN SLAVERY

The Modern Slavery Policy Unit is a joint initiative led by anti-slavery charity Justice and Care and the Centre for Social Justice.

The Modern Slavery Unit's core mission is to keep modern slavery at the top of the British political agenda to ensure the UK fights this heinous crime. This means better understanding the nature and scale of modern slavery, increased investment and a sophisticated national response proportionate to the level of threat.

Using the experience of frontline practitioners, developing creative and evidence-based ideas, fostering a new understanding about the scale of the crime and listening to the voices of survivors, the Modern Slavery Policy Unit works to catalyse the political leadership needed to achieve systemic change.

Increasing numbers of modern slavery victims are being identified and referred for support – nearly four times as many in 2021 as there were in 2015 – including significant numbers of British victims who are now the single largest nationality represented. Yet more still go unidentified – in 2020, we estimated there could be at least 100,000 victims in the UK, 10 times the number referred for support that year.

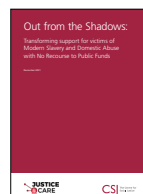
The imperative to stop slavery gangs in their tracks could not be clearer, yet prosecution rates remain low. We need a smarter approach to victim support which recognises its key role in bringing offenders to justice, promoting recovery and preventing further exploitation. We also need a tougher approach on offenders and to harness the influence of business and Britain's place in a global world to fight slavery at home and abroad.

This year we published a significant review of the support available for adult victims and pressed for adoption of some of the recommendations through the Nationality and Borders Act 2022 as well as highlighting the emerging form of modern slavery known as cuckooing.



Cuckooing: The case for strengthening the law against slavery in the home (in partnership with the CSJ's Criminal Justice Unit)

Explores an emerging form of modern slavery known as 'cuckooing' and uncovers a worrying gap in the law.



Out from the Shadows: Transforming support for victims of modern slavery and domestic abuse with no recourse to public funds (in partnership with the CSJ's Family Unit)

Considers how this cohort of victims face additional barriers and deterrents to accessing support, reporting abusers and seeking justice.



A Path to Freedom and Justice: A new vision for supporting victims of modern slavery

Explores how we can support victims better so they can rebuild their lives and have confidence to engage with criminal investigations.



The Snowdrop Project
CSJ Award Winner 2021

TOP HEADLINES

DAILY EXPRESS

Report reveals more than 100,000 people suffering under modern slavery in the UK

politics.co.uk

Modern slavery victims are being failed by the system



Priti Patel vows crackdown on vile 'cuckooing' as seen in Line of Duty

The Telegraph

This Government is failing the victims of modern slavery

IMPACT

Support for potential victims of modern slavery during identification process is enshrined in law

Government makes commitment that all confirmed modern slavery victims in need of tailored support will receive appropriate individualised support for a minimum of 12 months

The Home Office's review and revision of the Government's modern slavery strategy begins (a key recommendation of the 'It Still Happens Here' report)



LOOKING FORWARD

During the year in review, we witnessed the emergence of an inflationary surge unprecedented in this century. The economic fallout of the pandemic – and Russia’s subsequent invasion of Ukraine – produced a cost of living crisis with profound implications for those already living on the lowest incomes. The economic outlook over the next several years is bleak, and the poorest in society who continue to be hit hardest.

For this reason, we are more committed to our mission than ever. We are working tirelessly to ensure that the most disadvantaged are at the heart of our cost of living response, and that social justice is at the heart of the political agenda. On top of our pandemic and cost of living related work, we are committed to continuing to tackle the root causes of poverty. We have already embarked on a new State of the Nation report, which will set out the state of poverty in the UK and what we must do to tackle root causes. The following are our priorities for the next year, all of which have flowed directly from listening to the frontlines:

WORK AND OPPORTUNITY

We will publish our work looking at restoring British manufacturing, and driving ‘green jobs’ in left-behind areas. We will also continue to advocate for Universal Support, the counterpart to Universal Credit, to ensure that the most disadvantaged in society and those furthest from the labour market have the support they need.

EDUCATION

We will be completing a series of long-term projects on school exclusions and alternative provision, and will begin a major second phase of this work. We will be launching a report on basic skills (literacy and numeracy) and commencing a major project on apprenticeships and higher education reform.

DEBT

We will be continuing our campaign for debt reform within the welfare system and our work exposing illegal money lending. We will also be commencing work on private debt sector reform, including reviving and harnessing credit unions.

ADDICTION

We will continue to hold the Government’s feet to the fire on the implementation of the national drug strategy and roll out the recommendations of Dame Carole Black’s review.

FAMILY

We will complete our 3-part report series on the injustice of domestic abuse. We are launching a major project on the role of family in adult social care, and a major report on the treatment of families in the tax and benefits system, including childcare reform.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

We will publish our second report on positive pathways from prisons, calling on government to create better employment opportunities for ex-offenders. We will complete a major project on the potential of sport to prevent youth gang violence, and launch new work on knife crime and enforcement.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES

We will publish our major review of affordable housing policy. We will also drive forward our work to deliver a thriving private rented sector. Following on from our work to strengthen communities, we will launch a major new piece of work to tackle the loneliness epidemic.

MODERN SLAVERY

We will continue influencing the formation of the new Modern Slavery Bill, seeking to ensure that vulnerable individuals with the least resources to protect themselves receive full and proper protection, including an investigation into British victims.

OUR IMPACT



In the year under review, the CSJ has published 20 policy papers which have provided 189 policy recommendations to Government.

Of all these recommendations 33 have been fully adopted, 51 can be understood as partially adopted and 105 have not yet been adopted. That means that more than two in five (43%) CSJ recommendations have been adopted by Government – an increase from one in three (33%) last year.

But the numbers do not tell the full story, so here are some of the highlights of the last 12 months that we are most proud of:

1 The Government committed to an effective tax cut for the poorest workers, worth nearly £2 billion, by reducing the Universal Credit taper rate to 55p on the pound – as first designed by the CSJ. The previous Chancellor also extended work allowances by £500 to ensure work always pays.

2 The Government supported the establishment of the Enforcement Conduct Board and launched it at the CSJ's Westminster office. This was recommended by the CSJ last year and will regulate the conduct of bailiffs, improving the lives of thousands with personal debt.

3 The Government committed to a £780 million drugs strategy.

4 Domestic abuse is now considered a public health issue as well as a serious crime, confirmed in the Government's Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy. The CSJ recommended using the power of GPs and the health service to identify and report abuse.

5 The Government committed to a major expansion of the Reducing Parental Conflict Programme by rolling out 75 Family Hubs.

6 The Government committed to including the potential to create jobs, prioritise British suppliers where possible, support SMEs, level up left-behind communities and provide regional investment within the new, post-Brexit procurement rules, as recommended by the CSJ.

7 The Government committed to making publication of data on school attendance and absence an obligation, as recommended by the CSJ in our work on severe absence, and in line with CSJ recommendations has adopted 'severe absence' (less than 50% attendance) as an official government data category.

TRACKING OUR IMPACT

TWO EXAMPLES OF MANY SUCCESSES

ENFORCEMENT CONDUCT BOARD



2018–19

CSJ policy team engages with the CSJ Alliance, representatives of debt collection agencies and debt support charities, who highlight ongoing issues with debt collection practices

October 2020

CSJ hosts a round table with Baroness Morgan of Cotes to discuss debt collection during the pandemic

January 2021

CSJ establish the Enforcement Oversight Working Group, a unique collaboration of debt charities and bailiffs

SEVERE ABSENCE IN SCHOOLS



April 2021

CSJ surveys over 100 charities and schools working with young people over the pandemic. CSJ attention drawn to issue of severe absence from engagement with alliance charities working with parents and pupils

May 2021

CSJ researchers analyse publicly available data and file Freedom of Information Requests for more data from the Department for Education

CSJ researchers create new category of analysis – pupils who are out of school more than they are present

January 2021

‘Kids Can’t Catch Up if They Don’t Show Up’ report drafted and launched, exposing close to 100,000 children who were severely absent in Autumn 2020

The CSJ paper recommends that the Government rolls out a national attendance mentor programme with funding from the underspend for education recovery

June–August 2021

Intensive media campaign in the press and in broadcast, plus using cross-party MP supporters to raise the problem in Parliament

April 2021

Parliamentarians, including Justice Minister, welcome the progress made by the CSJ Working Group in the House of Lords

July 2021

CSJ publishes 'Taking Control for Good', which outlines a framework for a new oversight body for debt enforcement agreed by both bailiffs and debt charities

March 2022

Government backs the new body, setting out a two-year timeline for statutory review. The Justice Minister launches the CSJ report in a keynote speech at CSJ event space

May 2022

A Chair is appointed to the Enforcement Conduct Board, and prepares for launch of the ECB in Winter 2022

October 2021

Secretary of State vows to tackle persistent absences

December 2021

The Department for Education launches the Attendance Alliance Group to raise school attendance

January 2022

Government commits to measuring severe absence and consults on new prescriptive measures to boost attendance, including school attendance policies and dissemination of best practice

CSJ launches second report analysing the realities of severe absence 'Lost but Not Forgotten'

May 2022

New guidance 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance' is published

FINANCIAL UPDATE

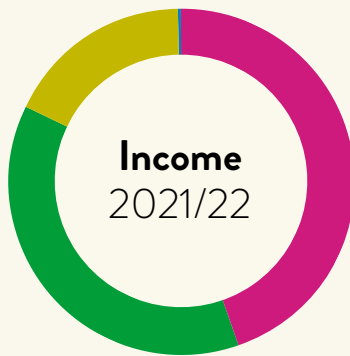
For a list of our sponsors, follow the QR code.



2021/22 IN NUMBERS...

In 2021/22 the Centre for Social Justice received contributions of £2,990,422 from 99 different sources. This represents a 6% growth from 2020/21. This funding supports the CSJ Group, which is made up of three companies: The Centre for Social Justice, The CSJ Foundation and Smith Square Trading, all of which deliver on a specific part

of our strategy. Our expenditure grew by 11% from £2,553,425 in 2020/21 to £2,843,318 in 2021/22, with the most significant growth being in our Alliance. This growth has enabled the organisation to deliver more impact than ever before, as we continue on our mission to put social justice at the heart of British politics.



PRIVATE DONORS

£1,335,010 (45%)
Number of sponsors: 62

CORPORATE

£526,000 (18%)
Number of sponsors: 16

TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS

£1,117,413 (37%)
Number of sponsors: 19

CHARITIES

£12,000 (<1%)
Number of sponsors: 2



ALLIANCE

£500,339 (18%)
Over 507 small charities engaged with the CSJ Foundation through our poverty-fighting Alliance. We opened our third regional office in the North East and have begun developing plans to go further. To combat the fallout of pandemic lockdown policy and address the rising cost of living crisis, we nearly doubled our spend on Alliance-related activity this past year.

CORE COSTS

£286,263 (10%)
We supported more than 35 members of staff to deliver our work, from several regional offices and our headquarters in the heart of Westminster.

POLICY

£1,339,661 (47%)
We published 20 papers which made 189 recommendations, and 2/5 of those recommendations were taken up by Government. We hosted 30 events with over 2000 attendees. We appeared before 3 select committees, hosted 10 roundtables; and hosted Social Justice Caucus events where we presented our policy ideas to keynote speakers including then Prime Minister Boris Johnson and then Secretaries of State including Dominic Raab, Nadhim Zahawi, Sajid Javid, Priti Patel and Rishi Sunak.

IMPACT

£518,663 (18%)
We had over 535 mentions in the mainstream media; with secretaries of states, ministers and senior backbench MPs taking part in policy discussions and events. We achieved our highest impact to date, with 2/5 of all recommendations being taken up by Government, which played a part in securing over £6 billion in government investment for those who need it most.

GRANT ADMINISTRATION

£198,392 (7%)
Expenditure in this area covers the costs of providing our grant management and administration services to charitable trusts and foundations.

The CSJ is an independent, not-for-profit organisation. We are reliant on the contributions of individual supporters, corporate sponsors and trusts and foundations, who share our commitment to putting social justice at the heart of British politics.

Our views and policy recommendations are based purely on our own research, and we retain all editorial rights to our work. We undertake strict due diligence to ensure our independence is not compromised by any source of funding.

PARTNERING WITH US

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t: +44 (0) 20 3150 2326
Twitter: @csjthinktank
www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk

The CSJ is proud to have made an impact in the fight against poverty and social breakdown. The job, however, is far from done.

The opportunity to set a bold agenda to reform the lives of those growing up in Britain's poorest neighbourhoods as we recover from the devastating impact of the pandemic has never been greater. As we face the biggest cost of living crisis seen for decades the CSJ has the expertise and the passionate commitment to solve these deep-rooted social injustices. But we need help to do this.

The CSJ is a not-for-profit organisation, and we pride ourselves on our independence. Our work involves persuading the Government to change its policies and laws, and therefore we do not take any government money. Instead, we are reliant on the contributions of individual supporters, corporate sponsors and trusts and foundations, who share our commitment to put social justice at the heart of British politics.

None of what we do would be possible without the great generosity of our supporters. We would be deeply grateful if you would consider joining us in the fight against poverty. Our work is as pressing and vital as it has ever been, and your help will make a real difference to our ability to change lives and transform communities.

If you would like to hear more, or contribute to the CSJ's work, please do contact our Development Director:
Rhian.Heasman@centreforsocialjustice.org.uk



OUR INFLUENCE

The CSJ is one of the UK's leading think tanks – connecting the backstreets of Britain with the corridors of power.



“As a secretary of state I have really valued the big ideas the CSJ brings to the table. Their reports are always a must read for anyone looking to tackle the big issues we face as a country. They really do put social justice at the heart of British politics.”

**RT HON THÉRÈSE COFFEY MP,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT,
FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**



“Throughout the entirety of my political life, without a doubt, I have never come across a think tank as important, as influential and as ground-breaking as the Centre for Social Justice. They are leading the way in terms of the policy and language surrounding ‘social justice’ and are helping transform Britain for the better.”

**RT HON ROBERT HALFON MP,
MINISTER OF STATE AT THE DEPARTMENT
FOR EDUCATION**



“The CSJ has shown a willingness to bring MPs together from across different parties on important issues that matter. I welcome their cross-party approach to achieving change and their work as one of Westminster’s leading think tanks.”

**RT HON SIR STEPHEN TIMMS MP,
LABOUR MP FOR EAST HAM, CHAIR OF
THE WORK & PENSIONS COMMITTEE**



“I am proud to be working with the CSJ. It has been refreshing to work alongside an organisation that is driven by impact and a desire to make real change, where it counts.”

**COURTNEY LAWES,
ENGLAND RUGBY UNION CAPTAIN**



“I have been honoured to work alongside the CSJ over the past year, promoting their work and finding common goals as we all seek to fight injustice, tackle poverty and help our communities break the cycle of devastation caused by unemployment, low incomes, crime, addiction and debt. The CSJ really are making a difference to the lives of real people and I look forward to continuing to work with them to improve outcomes for these people by tackling the causes of social injustice.”

**CAROLYN HARRIS MP,
LABOUR MP FOR SWANSEA EAST AND
DEPUTY LEADER OF WELSH LABOUR**



“It was an honour to be recognised as a CSJ Award 2022 finalist. Hetty’s have really benefitted from being profiled as part of the CSJ’s network of charities. Meeting and engaging with the CSJ team enabled them to gain a better understanding of the life changing work Hetty’s delivers to families in Nottinghamshire affected by substance misuse. This also resulted in a generous philanthropic donation from within the CSJ network, which has had a huge impact on the support we have been able to offer to families at this difficult time.”

**DEBBIE KNOWLES,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF HETTY’S IN
MANSFIELD, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**



“There is a strong relationship being nurtured between the CSJ and my centre. The team have visited a few times and really understand the power of Oasis and what this means to the surrounding community. The CSJ helps us have a voice and the network enables us to develop relationships with like-minded organisations in our area.”

**PAUL SCHOFIELD,
CENTRE DIRECTOR OF THE OASIS
CENTRE IN GORTON, MANCHESTER**



“Linking with the CSJ and becoming part of their network has been a game-changer for us. We’ve highlighted the challenges faced day-to-day on the streets and fed back on how Government policies affect our beneficiaries and the most pressing issues facing our clients at a grassroots level. The CSJ listen to and understand us, and really want to know and engage with these issues.”

**BRIAN JONES BEM,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE MOSES
PROJECT IN STOCKTON-ON-TEES,
COUNTY DURHAM**



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