



**The Police  
Children's Charity**

**Providing a helping hand if  
the unimaginable happens**

**Impact Report 2021/22**







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# Welcome from our CEO Patrick Cairns and our President Baroness Harris of Richmond

Thank you for reading the first Impact Report for the newly renamed The Police Children's Charity which I am sure you are aware used to be called St George's Police Children Trust. I have mentioned in previous Impact Reports that we have been losing donor numbers to the Charity for many years. We have tried to stem the tide of the loss of donors by modernising the Charity and adding a range of extra benefits including cover for Partners, Counselling and Wellbeing Grants for the children of Serving Police Donors and a variety of other improvements to existing benefits. Donor numbers and, of course, the income to the Charity, has continued to fall since 2011. In 2021 as part of a Strategic Review, the Board of Trustees decided that we needed to try something different and a more significant change was called for. This was not an easy decision as the name St George's resonates both with our many hundreds of existing Charity Beneficiaries, but also with the many St George's "Old Boys and Girls" who had grown up in, and been supported by, the original Orphanage in Harrogate.

You will probably not be surprised that there was much discussion as to what the new name of the Charity should be, but after a great deal of reflection, we decided on The Police Children's Charity which the Trustees felt better reflected who our Beneficiaries are and would have immediate name and brand recognition amongst our current and future donors. We have also taken the opportunity to widen the eligibility of the Charity to better reflect the inclusivity of the modern Police Service. In the future, many more groups of Police Staff will also have the opportunity to sign up to and benefit from The Police Children's Charity.

All of us who work for The Police Children's Charity and indeed the Trustees, know that it is an exceptional Charity which provides an unparalleled range of benefits for children when the unimaginable happens. It is always heart-breaking when we learn of a tragedy within the Police Service that has resulted in a death or an early medical retirement, but where the individual was not a donor to the Police Children's Charity, so we are not able to help and support the family and children.

I hope that this change of name and rebranding will allow us to relaunch and refresh the Charity and persuade more individuals to sign up as donors, but you can also do your part by passing on the message. If you are already a donor, then please encourage your colleagues to sign up as donors and if you are not a donor, please consider doing so. I promise you it is one of those decisions that you will never regret and even if your family never needs help from the Charity, you know that your very modest donation of £1.50 each month will go towards helping the children of your colleagues at one of the worst times in their lives and will contribute to making things a little better.

Thank you in advance for all your support and do please share this Impact Report widely with your colleagues when you have finished reading it.



*Patrick Cairns* MBE, DL, MA, BA (Hons)  
CEO



*Baroness Harris of Richmond* DL,  
PRESIDENT

# New Name

## Same Fantastic Grants



Grants  
available  
for Police  
Serving Donors





# Providing a helping hand if the unimaginable happens

The Police Children's Charity is a registered Charity which provides support to Police Families by helping to ease the financial pressures of bringing up children in the face of life-changing circumstances.

These circumstances could include the loss of either parent (whether or not they are Serving or Retired Police) or when the Police parent is unable to earn an income due to injury or illness, sustained on or off duty, or when a child is struggling as a result of mental health challenges.

Support from the Charity can provide a degree of financial certainty in difficult times and is provided for on or off duty incidents to families of all our donors.

## Our Vision

Our Vision is to create an environment where The Police Children's Charity Beneficiary families are free of financial cares and concerns.

## Our Mission Statement

To provide present and future financial and other support to The Police Children's Charity Beneficiaries.



## Our Values

Always put our Beneficiaries at the heart of our work.

Actively seek out new Beneficiaries.

Continue to support all Beneficiaries in an open and transparent way.

Deal with all new and existing applications in a sensitive manner.

# The Thomson Family Story

Martin took the oath to serve as Constable with Strathclyde Police in September 1993 and was 21 years of age.

In the summer of 2001, whilst working in the Force Drug Squad, Martin met an amazing girl called Gillian McColl. Gill worked in childcare and she wanted nothing more than to be a Mum.

Gill turned 30 in the summer of 2010 and life was on track. It was the 27th November, a Saturday afternoon and Gill took a massive prolonged grand mal seizure.

Life from this day forward was never going to be the same.

December 2010, a biopsy was performed and in the New Year of 2011, Gill received the devastating news that she had inoperable malignant brain cancer. Her tumour was a rare type which is a slow growing tumour.

With Gill's love and support Martin successfully achieved the rank of Detective Inspector at the SCDEA before moving to the newly formed Police Scotland in April 2013.

During the madness and the worry of everyday life, they were shocked to learn that in February 2016 they were expecting a third child, Athena, who was born in October that year. Athena at 6 weeks old was known as the "Beatson Baby." She was a regular visitor for the next year as Gill received exceptional treatment and care.

By early-2018 the tumour had started to regrow. Gill continued with her brave and positive outlook on life however the signs of her deteriorating health was there to be seen. She remained highly motivated and was able to be "maid of honour" at her sister Lindsay's wedding in May.

*"The words of the training Sergeant spoken back in 1993 was a reality for my family. We were part of a big family that have and continue to be well supported."*

Gill passed away seven weeks after returning home from our final family holiday on Saturday 31st August 2019. It was her wish to stay at home with the girls until the end. There are no words that I know of to describe her loss appropriately, Gillian was the centre of our family. She lived for her children and was an exceptional Mum.

With the continuing support of the Police, I was convinced that I should make an application to the St George's Police Children Trust, a Charity that I have supported for over 27 years.

*"The support provided by St George's Police Children Trust has been overwhelming and has made a real difference to the girls not only with the financial assistance they have received, but also they have felt comfort knowing that the trust care about their wellbeing and life ahead without their Mum."*



# The Year in Numbers

## Grants Distributed

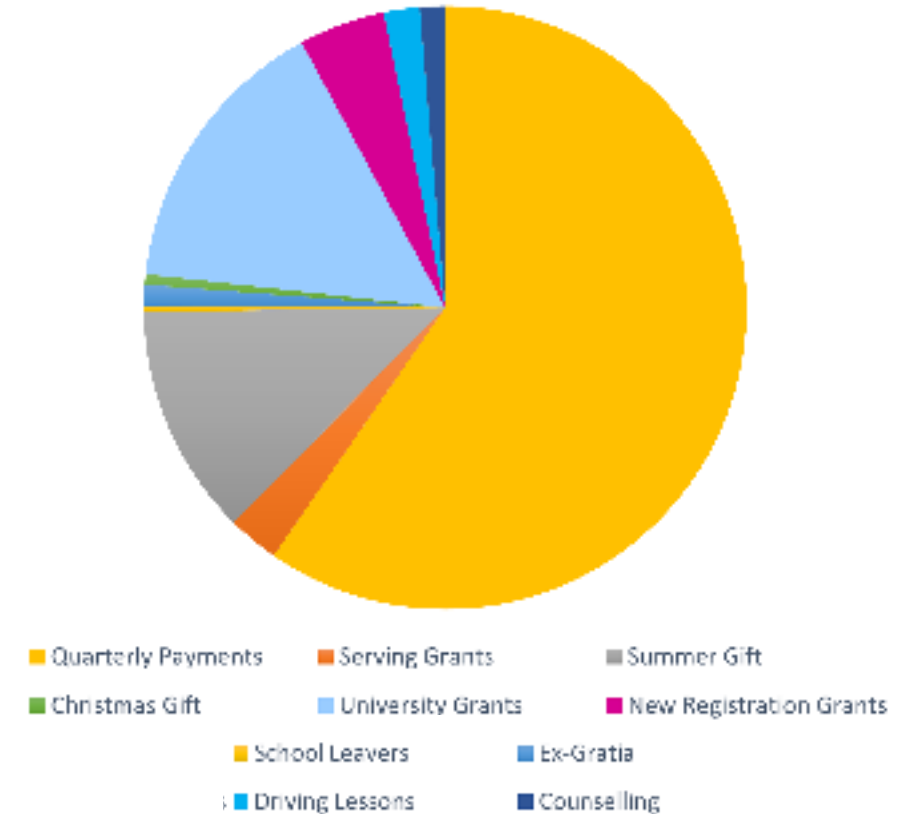
**£** **584K**  
Provided in grants to Beneficiaries

 **Christmas gift**  
**£126,350**

**25** **Child Counselling Grants accessed**

**233**  
  
**Beneficiaries**

**4** **School Leavers**  

**7** **Serving Grants**   
**£16,009**



# The Stevens Family - Serving Grant

Fiona is a serving part-time Officer in P Division of Police Scotland. Between Fiona and her husband Mike they have 48 years' service for Police Scotland. Mike is now a full-time carer for their twin boys Ben and Finlay, 13-year-old identical twin boys. They were diagnosed in 2010 with severe autism, a learning disability, hypotonia, hypermobility and dyspraxia. Their parents were told the boys would experience 'significant difficulties for the rest of their lives.' The boys have the capacity of a two-year-old in many aspects of their lives yet they are now tall, strong teenagers. They are non-verbal and communicate their basic needs and wants in pictorial form using an augmentative and alternative communication device.

The boys are very noisy and increasingly need a break from each other. Fiona and Mike need respite too as the boys attend school on a part-time basis. For the remainder of the week, they are educated at home by their Parents learning basic self-help skills such as toileting, showering and dressing.

The boys' height, strength and frustration combine when they have such meltdowns meaning the violence and aggression exhibited are an increasing risk to the physical and mental wellbeing of each other and their Parents. These meltdowns result in great upset and self-injurious behaviour and often lead to the boys hitting each other and their Parents as well as them causing damage to property within the family home, causing distress to all involved.

The application to the Charity was to seek financial assistance to purchase a garden cabin that is insulated and has heating and power so that it can be used all year round.

This will provide a safe and calm environment to remove one of the boys to if they are distressed due to their own meltdown or that of their brother. Such separation is essential given the boys' regressive behaviour and frustration caused by lockdown and the hormonal changes arising from puberty.

This garden cabin will also provide a place where Mike and Fiona can 'educate' one of the boys when they are not in school. They will use this safe place to work on self-help skills free from the distraction caused by the other sibling who could be similarly cared for in the house.

This application sought to improve the family's mental health and wellbeing after their most difficult and challenging year ever.

Fiona and Mike are hugely grateful for the support provided by the St George's Police Children Trust in making this all possible.



# St George's Holiday Home



St George's House is a holiday home located in an idyllic setting in Harrogate, predominantly for our new and current Beneficiaries.

It is hoped the holiday home will prove a useful place for families to come together and escape from the pressures at home, spending some much needed quality time together.

A one week's FREE respite stay at our holiday home is available to all current Beneficiaries (those families currently receiving financial support from the Charity) and can be taken anytime (subject to availability) on an annual basis.

The holiday home closes over the Christmas period for a 2 week break.

The property will be offered on a self-catering basis and benefits from:

- Fully furnished property
- Sleeps up to 7 people (travel cots available if required)
- Children's play room (selection of toys available)
- Fully equipped kitchen with dining area
- Gardens to front and rear (with patio and garden furniture)
- Broadband/Wi-Fi

The holiday home is also available to the wider Police Family (Serving or Retired members of the Police, who do not have to be donating to the Charity) for a discounted rate.



# How You Can Support the Charity

DONATE



Donate to the Charity for as little as 35p per week.

Serving members of the Police who donate to the Charity are eligible to receive a wide range of support.

Your donation will also help us to support your Police Family colleagues at their time of need.



Tell your colleagues about the Charity!

Follow us on  
Twitter  
@policechildrens



Be a Fundraising Hero

Follow us on  
Facebook  
@policechildrens



Select us as your Charity of choice on Amazon Smile  
Or use Easyfundraising to shop.

It's easy!

Simply select The Police Children's Charity and then everytime you shop, at no extra cost to you, they will donate a percentage of the sale to us!

# The Future

We are pleased that throughout 2021, the Charity has been able to continue to provide support to our Beneficiaries, including some new ones who have required the help of the Charity in the last 12 months.

In 2022 we will be running an Amnesty in April and May for any new sign ups to The Police Children's Charity. Alongside the Amnesty, we will be offering a prize of an electric car to one lucky Donor. In the future we will look at many more groups of Police Staff that will also have the opportunity to sign up and benefit from The Police Children's Charity.

Despite this name change, the history of the Charity and references to St George's, will remain prevalent in our promotional literature at St Andrews and through the name of our holiday cottage in Harrogate, which will keep its name of St George's.

During 2022, the DRCE Team and Administrative Teams will be working hard to update our promotional materials and videos. As part of the rebranding, the website will also be updated and modernised for ease of use. The team will be engaging more widely with Forces and Federations to ensure that all are fully aware of the support that we can offer.

Promotion of the following:

- Blogs
- Intranet Messages & Newsletters
- Payslip Messages
- Force Magazine
- Notice Boards & Leaflets
- Updating Fed Website
- Roadshow events



Thank you for your support during 2021, we hope that this will continue in the years to come.

# Employees and Trustees

The Police Children's Charity is governed by a Board of Trustees. The Board provides strategic guidance through business planning; agrees and sets an annual budget; and monitors activity and service provision through regular reports on service delivery, the annual Business Plan and annual Budget.

Our Trustees are drawn from England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland Police Staff Associations.

Patrick Cairns MBE, DL, MA, BA (Hons) **CEO**

Peter Moore **Secretary**

Angela Halliday **Administrator**

Donor Recruitment and Charity Engagement Team

Liam Kelly:

Peter Henson:

Emma Aldred:

Rachel Barber:

Mark Davis:

Raymond Dutton:

Nigel Goodband:

Craig Grandison:

Brian Jones:

Will Kerr:

Serena Kennedy

Sebastian Langham

Alan Lees:

Andy Malcolm:

Dan Murphy:

Richie Murray

Trevor Purcell:

John Robins:

Dave Simpson:

John Skelton:

Lisa Winward:

Richard Wood:

Ciaron Irvine:

Angus MacInnes:

Ian Magee:

Kate Meynell:

Chair, Police Service of Northern Ireland

Treasurer

Association of Police Superintendents of England and Wales

National Police Chiefs' Council

Co-opted Trustee

Co-opted Trustee

British Transport Police

Police Federation of England and Wales

Scottish Police Federation

Scottish Chief Police Officers' Staff Association

National Police Chiefs' Council

Police Federation of England and Wales

Co-opted Trustee

Scottish Police Federation

Police Superintendents' Association

Police Federation of England and Wales

Police Service of Northern Ireland

National Police Chiefs' Council

Police Federation of England and Wales

Police Federation of England and Wales

National Police Chiefs' Council

Scottish Police Federation

National Police Chiefs' Council

Police Scotland

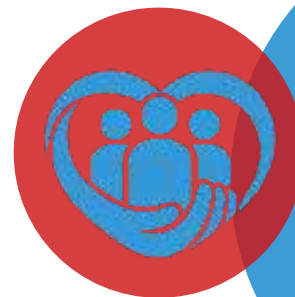
Police Service of Northern Ireland

National Police Chiefs' Council



*"The support we received from the Charity meant Rhianna and I could move forward and start a life together...It really was a turning point in our lives, giving me the boost to be independent." (Sarah, Lancashire)*

*"I would like to convey my family's gratitude to the Charity and also express that my father who paid into the fund would be greatly pleased to know that something positive came from it in terms of my further educational support. It is gratifying to know that the Charity is able to support students in a similar position to myself and I hope it continues." (GMP)*







# The Police Children's Charity

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the unimaginable happens

## The Police Children's Charity

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**Company No.** 07822521

