

Children's Holiday Venture

IMPACT REPORT 2021/22

WHO ARE WE?

Children's Holiday Venture (CHV) is a student-run children's charity that was established in 1963. Our mission is to improve children's emotional wellbeing, confidence and social skills through free fortnightly activity evenings, day trips and residential camps.



The Year in Brief - From the President and VP

Returning after the pandemic, CHV was faced with various challenges. However, we took these obstacles as an opportunity to re-assess how things were previously done and to improve our operations.

We initially had two key goals. Firstly, we wanted to ensure we were reaching the children [who could most benefit from our service](#). We therefore re-assessed our catchment areas using the deprivation map and extended to a new area in Edinburgh (Sighthill and Wester Hailes). In addition, we refined our referral criteria, and built stronger connections with the schools in the areas we work in.

Secondly, we wanted to ensure that the activities we were providing were [best fulfilling our mission](#). To achieve this we shifted our emphasis from holding activity nights at venues such as trampolining parks and bowling alleys to more creative and original activity sessions. Following this change, we observed how the children opened up more quickly to our volunteers and we saw a greater increase in each child's confidence, communication skills and creativity.

Moreover, we re-assessed how we could best equip our volunteers to support the children. We therefore reformed our training programme to offer a vast range of training workshops throughout the year that both built on and refreshed our volunteers' initial training.

In terms of operations, we also rebranded our image by improving both our website and social media, and had numerous insightful meetings with external organisations.

As the President and VP, it has been a privilege to be able to get to know all the children that CHV works with. Seeing every child overcome challenges that they never thought they would be capable of is truly inspiring. Whilst we are graduating at the end of this year and therefore leaving our positions, we look forward to hearing what all the children continue to achieve in the future. We also want to wish good luck to the incoming Committee led by Catie Bytrowski, Lydia Jennings and Avery Woodruff, who we know will do an amazing job.

Anna Sharrock and Louisa Warn
President and VP 2021/22





Who we support

- Young carers
- Children who have been a victim of or exposed to abuse, neglect or domestic violence
- Children who are recently arrived refugees or immigrants
- Children who have experienced the recent death of a loved one
- Children who have siblings with disabilities
- Children who have experienced the separation of parents or a challenging situation around parental separation
- Children with a family member suffering serious physical or mental illness
- Children who have a family member with substance abuse issues
- Children from the most economically deprived areas
- Children with low self-esteem
- Children being raised by a single parent or carer

18%

Of the children we support are young carers

15%

of the children we support are care-experience

10%

of the children we support are recently arrived refugees or immigrants

144

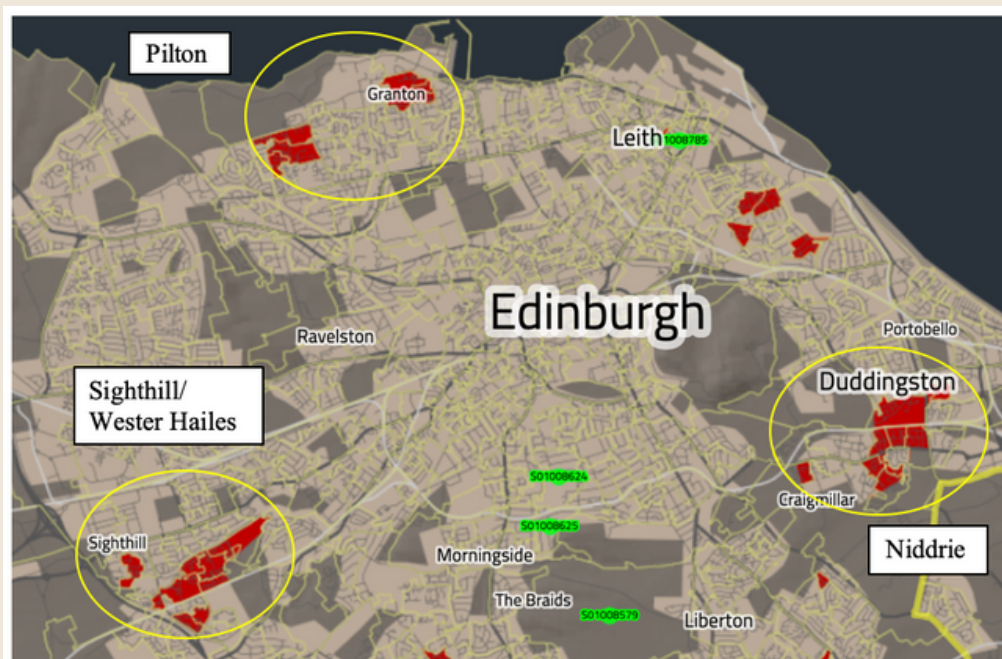
children who currently benefit from our activities

- **EXPANSION:** after re-assessing the deprivation map in Edinburgh we expanded our operations beyond Pilton and Niddrie into Sighthill and Wester Hailes.
- **ONLINE:** In addition to refining our referral criteria we moved our referral process online to make it easier for schools and social workers to refer children.

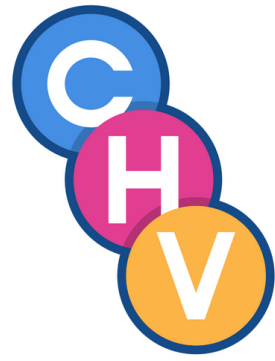
Yellow circles = our catchment areas for referral

The areas in red = the areas in the bottom 10% of deprivation in Scotland

Source: SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation) 2020
<https://simd.scot>



Case Studies



The children's names and genders are not used to maintain anonymity.

Children A, B and C live with elderly relatives. They were removed from their parents after they were sexually assaulted by a family member. Owing to their new guardians' lack of mobility and ill health, they have spent time in foster care and have very few opportunities to do fun activities. CHV allows them to build positive relationships with adult role models, build their confidence and develop their communication skills through regular creative and fun activities. The children also attended our annual activity Camp. Through trying activities like raft building and climbing they were able to challenge themselves and realise that they were capable of so much more than they realised.

Child D is an 11-year-old from a single-parent household. Their mum has significant mental health problems, leaving child D to care for their 4-year-old sister a lot of the time. CHV gives them a break from caring for both their mum and younger sister, as well as getting to do fun activities they don't get to do otherwise.

Child E is a transgender child who has suffered from both anxiety and depression. They were also sexually assaulted by a family member as a child. CHV gives them an outlet to have conversations about their sexuality and mental health with our volunteers in a safe environment.

Group photo does not include any of the children in the case studies and is merely for illustrative purposes



Our fortnightly evening sessions



Every child is placed in a group with 11 children and 6 volunteers. Each group has an activity evening on the same day every two weeks.

When developing our creative sessions we also ensure that we are incorporating all the elements of the GIRFEC wheel.



High ratio:

All our groups contain 11 children and 6 volunteers allowing lots of individual support.

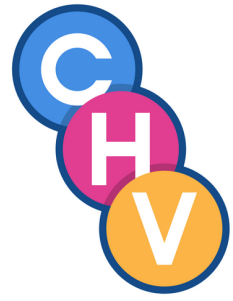
Consistency:

The children and volunteers in each group are the same each time, meaning that positive relationships can be fostered over time.

Accessibility:

All the children are collected and returned to their houses in our minibuses.

A FOCUS ON CREATIVE NIGHTS



In previous years, the majority of our sessions included excursions to activities such as trampolining, bowling and mini golf. Whilst maintaining some of these activities throughout the year, we have increased our focus on creative and unique activity evenings. We believe this allows the children to not only partake in activities which they have never done before, but it allows greater scope for growing their confidence, developing their communications skills and fostering creativity.

Japanese themed night: including an introduction to martial arts, sushi making, and designing their own pokemon.



Minute to Win It
Teamwork Games.

Scottish Themed Burns Night



Easter themed night with an easter egg hunt and the egg drop engineering challenge.



Christmas Parties including gingerbread house making, games and balloons.

Pride Party for older groups, allowing them to dress up and walk the runway whilst encouraging a supportive community.



Themed Scavenger Hunts, including photo challenges and team building exercises.

Residential Camps



Thanks to the generosity of our donors, this year we were able to take 45 children to residential camps. For the majority of these children this was their first time leaving Edinburgh. The camps allowed them to be challenged in a safe and secure environment, whilst discovering skills that they never thought they had. The activities ranged from capture the flag, to abseiling, zip lining and raft building.

Day Trips

Day trips give the children an opportunity to spend a longer period of time with their regular groups and allows us to take them further afield. Day trips this year included Edinburgh Zoo, Glasgow Science Centre, Time Capsule Waterpark and Dynamic Earth. The day trip often has an educational element, and older children are also empowered to improve their leadership skills. This is done through giving them the opportunity to plan and lead smaller activities throughout the day with the support and encouragement of our volunteers.



The Year Ahead and New Projects



New Progressions Scheme (starting in September)

We have laid the groundwork for a new Progressions Scheme for our older children (aged 13-17) to develop their leadership skills. Ahead of the scheme commencing this September, newly elected Progressions Officer Freddy and Incoming Training Officer Avery met with the older children in May. This discussion session with the children allowed us to gain insight on how they would like this programme to look.



A Tutoring Scheme



This year several children who were struggling at school were given one-to-one academic tutoring by a volunteer. Other children were also given the opportunity to explore practical skills including coding.

This is a scheme which we hope to offer to more of the children we work with in the coming year.

Supporting our volunteers to support the children



This year we have designed a training programme that encourages our volunteers to attend regular additional training sessions throughout the year. This allows them to continue to improve their skills to best support the children we work with and build more meaningful connections. Some of this year's sessions included: GIRFEC (getting it right for every child), LGBTQ+ identities, Trans Inclusion in Youth Work, Working with children with Autism, amongst others. This programme is in addition to our annual residential training Camp in October for new volunteers, as well as first aid training.

A reformed Training Programme for Volunteers

Monthly Volunteer Meetings

We have also started monthly volunteer meetings to brainstorm ideas for creative activity sessions for the children. These meetings both foster a greater sense of community within the Charity, and better utilise the creativity of all our volunteers.



We were able to begin this process of collaboration at our Training Camp in October. We held a Dragon's Den competition where all the new recruits presented ideas in teams for creative fundraising events. The 7 hills challenge that was presented was then carried out later in the year.

OUR IMPACT: TESTIMONIES



All children and adults are anonymised

"I feel like I can talk to you guys in a way that I can't with my teachers at school because they don't understand me" -

Child (age 11 Sighthill)

"I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone at CHV because since going to Camp my daughter's confidence has increased so much"

Parent of 9 year old child in Pilton

"She can't wait to come this week, it's the only thing keeping her going at the moment" -

Parent of 10 year old child in Niddrie

"Even though I didn't do the abseil at Camp, after going up to the top of the wall with a volunteer I don't feel scared of heights anymore because everyone was so proud of me for having given it a go" -

Child (age 8 Pilton)

"CHV is the only thing I have to look forward to and I love how we get to do exciting activities. I was able to visit the beach for the first time and I loved getting to try martial arts" -

Child (age 9 Sighthill)

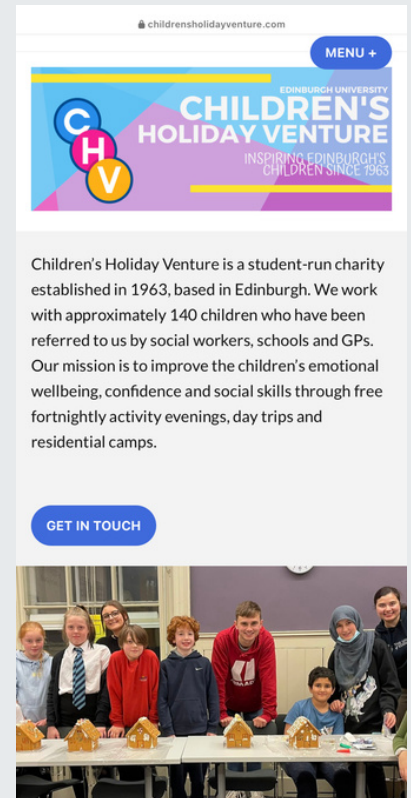
"I feel like I can properly be myself at CHV because everyone is so kind and accepting" -

Child (age 12 Pilton)

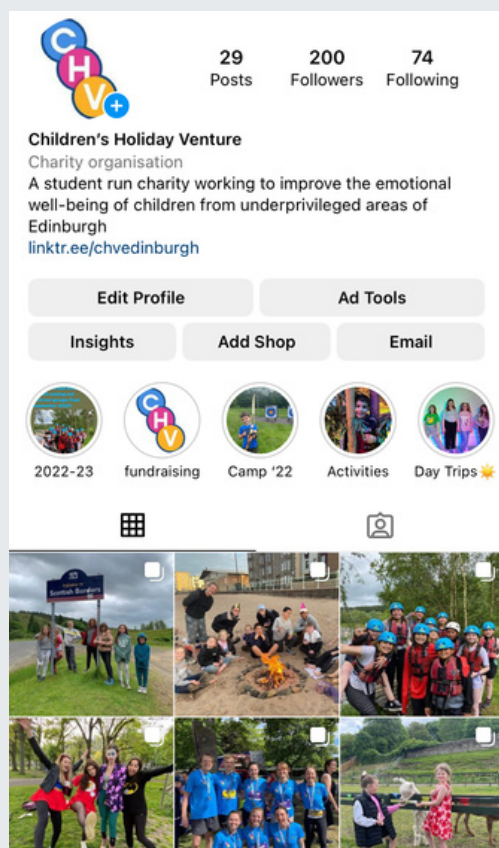


Rebranding

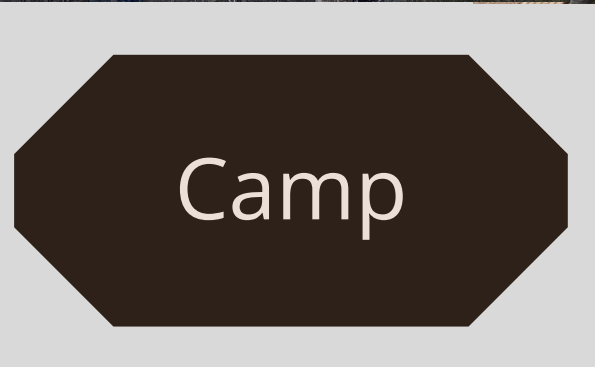
We have rebranded our website to place a greater emphasis on what we do as a charity and highlight our new referral criteria for schools and social workers.



Improving our social media



We have also started an Instagram account which allows parents and guardians to see photos of their children during activities.

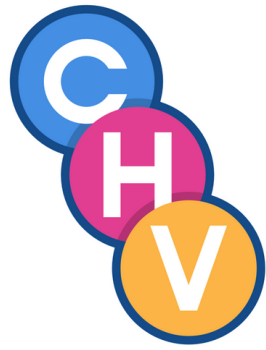




Evening Activities



THANK YOU



... TO OUR TEAM

We would firstly like to thank our Committee for all their time and hard work this year. In particular, our Training Officer Frankie Johnson, who is also graduating this summer, for all her innovative ideas and support.



We would also like to thank our volunteers and drivers for giving up so much of their time to make a difference to the lives of the children we work with.

... TO OUR DONORS



Finally, we would like to offer a massive thank you to both our donors and those who attended our fundraising events. Without your support we would not be able to offer any of our services. This year we raised £27,591 thanks to:

- Allander Youth
- Activities Charitable Trust
- ASDA Foundation - Green Token Giving Leith
- ASDA u-18 better starts grant
- Chance to Flourish
- Cruden Foundation
- Dr Guthrie's Association
- Edinburgh Local Micro-Grants
- Magic Little Grants (local giving)

- Quayside Wholesale Foods
- Tesco Community Grants
- The Mercers' Company
- The Pleasance Trust
- Scotmid Community Grant
- Ponton Trust
- Edinburgh Children's Holiday Fund

