

“WHEN
YOU HAVE
THE RIGHT
UNIFORM
YOU THINK,
YES I CAN
DO THAT!”



Level Trust
gives children
what they need
for learning.

Working across **75 Luton schools**, our aim is to ensure that school, college and nursery age children have everything they need to fully participate in their education.

This report outlines what we did last year, why we did it and what **impact we had.**



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What we did.

Over 2023/24 we worked with children on **12,264** occasions, **1,255** more than the year before. We did this by providing:



children with a computer through our work with **Luton Learning Link**.



8565

children with a total of **14,988** items of free school uniform through our **Uniform Exchange**.

SMASH

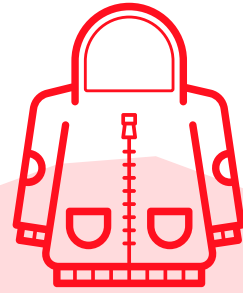
532

children attended **SMASH**.



321

children with **free**
school shoes.



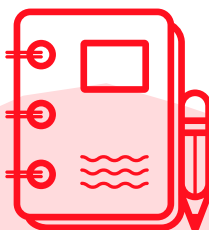
323

children with a **free**
winter coat, bedding
or warmth for their
homes.



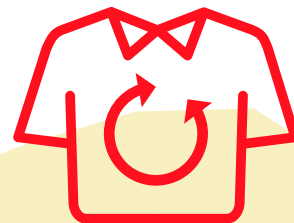
1230

children with **presents**
at Christmas time.



1235

children with **learning**
resources.



and by reusing school uniform
we helped Luton's children and
young people save...

43.2

tonnes of CO²
equivalent.



How did we listen?

To understand the impact our work had we:

- Gathered the views of **532 children** who took part in our activity scheme.
- Surveyed **21 children** and **101 parents and carers** who used the Uniform Exchange.
- Ran feedback sessions with **210 children** in 12 schools.
- Collected case studies and feedback from **23 school** and **community partners**.
- Recorded details of every **Uniform Exchange** order
- Collected diversity data from **532 children** who attended our activity scheme and **3,565 parents and carers** who used the Uniform Exchange.

Why children needed us.

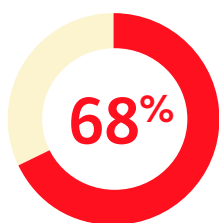
This year's Impact Report fell within the period when the UK had a general election. Sadly, we are entered the election year (2024) with unacceptably high levels of overall poverty, including appalling levels for many groups. Since our last Impact Report was published a year ago, we have seen more and more evidence of the desperate measures that households struggling to make ends meet are having to take. At the same time, families report that they are feeling increasingly financially insecure.

More than one in five people in the UK (**24%**) were living in poverty in 2023/24 – around **16.6 million people**. Rates of poverty in Luton are significantly higher than the UK average with almost **50%** of children in some wards growing up poor. During this period, Luton was named among the top 10 most destitute areas in the UK in statistics published by The Joseph Rowntree Foundation. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation revealed that more than a million children are living in “horrific levels of destitution” across the country. The charity stated that the number of children and

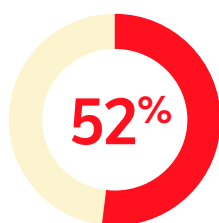
young people in extreme poverty had almost tripled in five years with many struggling to get the food they need.

We know that children have higher risks of poverty overall, but larger families with three or more children have consistently faced a higher rate of poverty. This is because a number of benefit policies have a disproportionate impact on larger families. These include the two-child limit, which restricts eligibility for many child-related benefits to the first two children in a household, and the benefit cap, which limits the total income a household can receive in out-of-work benefits. Families with children also face additional challenges if childcare responsibilities limit their ability to undertake well-paid and high-quality work, which is often the case for lone-parent families and families with younger children. The End Child Poverty Coalition also points out that the two-child cap on Universal Credit payments is a key driver of poverty. A recent Freedom of Information request revealed that the cap impacts over **1,700 families** within Luton, including more than **6,000 children**.

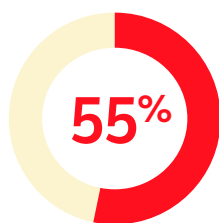
From the data we collected from families using the Uniform Exchange, it is evident that they are finding it increasingly difficult to make ends meet.



were going without essentials.



reported not having enough money for food.



were in arrears with their household bills or behind on scheduled lending repayments.

It is clear that the current economic situation is still extremely difficult for the families with whom we work; inflation is still running at around twice its target level, benefits are taking time to catch up with rising prices, employment is starting to fall, and housing costs are increasing. The Office for Budget Responsibility (2023) forecast falling average household disposable incomes between 2021/22 and 2024/25. These effects will have a profound impact on many people's living standards across Luton for years to come.

Families in Luton have now experienced nearly three tough years of accelerating inflation and four years since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

“For a decent standard of living, we all need security and stability in our lives – secure housing, a reliable income, and support when things get difficult. For too many of us, there is no such security. Millions of people in the UK are struggling to get by, leading insecure and precarious lives, held back from improving their living standards. It’s time to take action on poverty and put this right.”¹

We know that poverty has a wide range of negative consequences. It restricts the options and opportunities available to people and limits their access to things that are mostly taken for granted. Poverty at any stage of life can lead to later adverse consequences.

Poverty constrains a person's ability to afford to buy what they need and participate in the activities that others in society routinely undertake. Low incomes also reduce financial resilience to unexpected expenses, such as car repairs or a faulty washing machine, and lead to households falling behind with bills for utilities, Council Tax or other essentials.

1. Joseph Rowntree Foundation, The Essential Guide To Understanding Poverty In The UK, 2024, p. 18

Money worries in turn contribute to low-income adults and their children being much more likely than wealthier adults and children to suffer from depression or anxiety.

Poverty can also affect the prospects of children, who may fail to reach the same level of educational attainment as those from wealthier families. This in turn can make escape from poverty even harder when they become adults.²

Level Trust advocates for vulnerable children in Luton who live in poverty. We work with our partners and the families we serve to find lifelong answers to the problems they face. Our vision is of a town where no child is born without a chance. We believe all children should be free to participate fully in society and fulfil their potential.

Too often, many children and young people in our town are going without enough food which is impacting on their physical and mental health, which is, in turn, impacting on their education and both causing and exacerbating trauma.

Similarly, households continue to go without heating or washing due to the significant cost of utilising these essentials.

This is leaving many children without basic levels of hygiene, with many living in cold, damp homes. Families cannot afford the basic standard of physical care required to make their attendance in education possible, let alone the essential resources required to travel to their education settings, the correct uniform or access learning online and at home.

In conversation with frontline school staff, they told us repeatedly that the situation for families is not improving. The number of families accessing the support of Level Trust corroborates this assertion; demand for services – particularly for essential items such as uniform – continues to increase.

We also asked over 100 families about their ability to be able to purchase basic items that their child(ren) need for school. The majority of respondents told us that they could not afford shoes, coats, school uniform and P.E. kit because of a diverse range of factors. The two most common reasons families gave were being a single parent family or having insecure and/or irregular work.

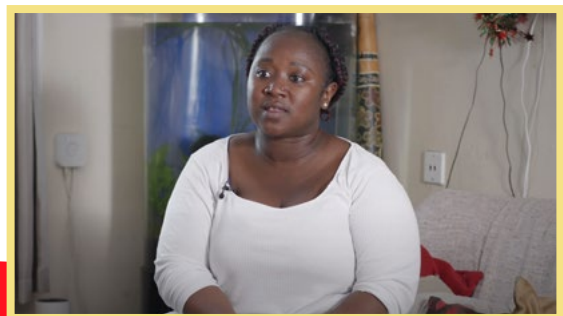
One mother told us she had to leave her job because her mother, who had provided childcare while she was at work, had become unwell and was no longer able to help. With no other family close by, she

². Buttle UK, The Experiences of Education for Children and Young People in Poverty in the UK in 2019, p. 2

Reason cannot afford school uniform*	Percentage of families who gave this reason	
	2022–23	2023–24
Family trauma	5%	3%
Job loss	7%	5%
Long term illness or disability in the family	12%	20%
Insecure & irregular work	48%	59%
Changes in benefits	6%	8%
Debt	29%	31%
More than four children in the household	16%	14%
Recently arrived in the UK	9%	21%
Single parent	60%	63%
Living in temporary accommodation	12%	14%

*This data came from the **101 families** who answered our survey.

had to leave her job as a nurse because she could not afford childcare. She now works in hospitality on a zero-hours contract meaning she does not know from one week to the next how much money she will be bringing into the household. Not only has she had to cope with the loss of a much-loved career, she is dealing with the immense stress of worrying whether her precarious finances will allow her to meet her family's basic needs.



You can listen to parents and children talking about our impact [here](#)



What happens to children when their families cannot afford costs associated with learning?

Children are at risk of harm

One of the most recent qualitative and quantitative studies carried out by Buttle UK of frontline child support workers shows how children of less well-off families face multiple issues in fully accessing the state education that is available to them and are being further disadvantaged at the very start of life.

- Frontline workers report regularly seeing (i.e. at least once a week) parents who are **struggling to afford the costs associated with school** many times leading to not being able to afford school uniform or the correct equipment which often results in children being unable to take certain subjects, or even attend some schools at all.

“I really wanted to do Product Design for one of my GCSE subjects, but the teacher started telling us that we would need to get our parents to pay for some of the materials every term. Sometimes my mum has to go to the Food Bank to get us something for our dinner so I knew she wouldn’t be able

to pay. When I chose my options, I just pretended that I had gone off the idea of doing it, so she didn’t feel bad.”

Year 10 young person, a Luton Secondary School

- **67%** regularly see (i.e. at least once a week) **children being unable to access after school clubs due to the cost.** Being unable to afford after school activities means that children have limited opportunity to learn beyond core academic subjects or develop their social skills.

“Extracurricular activities foster personal growth, enhance social skills, boost academic performance, and cultivate valuable life skills like teamwork, leadership, and time management, ultimately preparing students for future success. I regularly see our poorest families not being able to afford to pay for extras such as swimming lessons, music lessons, sports clubs and other activities that would be hugely beneficial for their children. This means that the gap just widens between the children growing up in the poorest families and the children who have access to all these opportunities.”

Family Support Worker, a Luton Primary School

- **88%** of respondents regularly see (i.e. at least once a week) **parents being unable to afford the basics** (food, fuel and household items), and **77%** see children having to be **fed** either breakfast or dinner at school.

“Have you ever had to tell your child there’s nothing for their tea because you’ve got no money to get anything in? I have and it made me feel like the worst parent. I am a failure. I couldn’t even get enough money together to make sure that my kids had a meal at home. In the end I asked a neighbour. I was so ashamed.”

Mother accessing Level Trust's services

- **55%** regularly see (i.e. at least once a week) **children without an appropriate bed of their own**, resulting in a lack of sleep and issues in being able to concentrate in class.

“Level Trust provided bedding for some of our most disadvantaged families. This thoughtful initiative went beyond academic support, addressing a fundamental need for comfort and stability at home. Families who received bedding reported improvements in their children’s sleep quality, which in turn positively

impacted their focus, attendance, and engagement in school. This assistance has helped to create a sense of security and well-being for these families, ensuring their children come to school ready to learn.”

Senior Leader, a Luton Secondary School

- **66%** of respondents regularly (i.e. at least once a week) see **parents being unable to afford the cost of cleaning children’s clothes and bedding**. A common theme reported was that families often cannot afford heating or hot water. Not being able to provide a clean, warm living environment means that children are more likely to become ill and miss school, or not attend school due to not having appropriate clothing. These problems can also increase bullying within schools.

“Research by In Kind Direct found that among households with children, 1 in 4 are living in hygiene poverty. Going without essentials from a young age can increase feelings of anxiety and the chance of being bullied, leading to withdrawal. 4 in 10 children are bullied at school as they do not have clean clothes.”

Anti-Bullying Alliance, 2024

- **61%** of frontline workers regularly (i.e. at least once a week) see **families struggling with internet access**. This means that children are unable to complete homework that requires the internet, and parents are unable to communicate with schools or access support that can help with children's education.²



“One of the most significant contributions [from Level Trust] has been the provision of Chromebooks to students from disadvantaged backgrounds. In a world where digital access is essential for learning, this support has been transformative. It has allowed our students to access online resources, complete independent learning, and develop vital digital literacy skills. For families facing financial challenges, this has been life-changing, breaking down barriers to learning and ensuring that no child is left behind in today's technology-driven education system.”

Assistant Headteacher, a Luton Secondary School

Research published by The Children's Society last year found that parents spend an average of £422 a year on secondary school uniforms and £287 on primary uniforms. These costs put huge pressure on families who are already struggling to manage high energy bills and inflation. As a result, many families in Luton are having to cut back on other essentials such as food or electricity.

Often parents will elect to keep their children at home if they do not have the correct uniform. This is problematic for several reasons:

- School is the best environment for the vast majority of pupils to learn in. Being surrounded by teachers and friends in school helps keep children safe, and supports them to reach their potential.
- Being in school is important for children's academic achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. There is evidence to suggest that regular school attendance is a key mechanism to support children and young people's educational, economic and social outcomes. Schools can facilitate positive peer relationships, which is a contributor to better mental health and wellbeing.

2. Buttle UK, The Experiences of Education for Children and Young People in Poverty in the UK in 2019, p. 2

- Attendance at school is crucial to prepare young people for successful transition to adulthood, and to support their longer term economic and social participation in society. There is also evidence that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A level results.
- Government research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well. For example, data shows that **84%** of Key Stage 2 pupils who had **100%** attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to **40%** of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.³

Level Trust provides good quality preloved uniform to ensure that not having the correct clothing is not a barrier to a child attending school.

“By supplying free school uniforms across all year groups, Level Trust has ensured that every child, regardless of their family’s financial situation, can attend school dressed appropriately and confidently. This has significantly reduced the financial burden on many of our families and eliminated the

stigma that can arise when students are unable to afford the correct attire. The sense of equality and pride this has fostered among students has contributed to a positive school culture where students feel they belong.”

Senior Leader, a Luton Secondary School

Young people also told us their daily reality is arriving at school having had nothing to eat and no money in their pockets to buy a snack at break time. They spend the entire morning unable to concentrate in class, counting down the hours to their free school meal. On top of this, the amount of money young people on free school meals get for the day often doesn't cover a hot meal.

One young person told us:

“I get free school dinners, but I can't get very much for my money. I am starving by lunchtime because there's nothing in the house for breakfast. The amount of food I get at lunchtime is not enough to fill me up and I spend the whole day just thinking about being hungry and I can't even try to learn when I feel like that.”

³. <https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2023/09/what-are-ghost-children-and-why-is-school-attendance-important/>

We work in partnership with Luton Foodbank to make sure that families are referred and/or signposted to this service should they be experiencing food insecurity. As part of Level Trust's SMASH holiday provision for disadvantaged children, we also ensure that all children who attend are given breakfast and lunch. Where there are concerns that children and their families may not be able to access an evening meal, children are sent home with food parcels that will contain enough food to feed all members of their family that evening.

Children participate less in learning

26 out of 101 parents surveyed said that their child had missed out on lessons because they couldn't afford to purchase the school uniform or P.E. kit required for their child's setting.

One parent told us:

“School, uniform is too expensive for me to be able to buy it new. I look on Facebook to try and find it second hand, but I can't always find things in the right sizes. I know that, if I'm in a position where my kids don't have what they need, I can go to the Uniform Exchange, and they will help me. They never make me feel bad or embarrassed. They're just there to help.”

Children feel worried

18 out of 21 children surveyed said they worried about not having the right things for school and **98 out of 101** parents said they worried about it too. Young people told us that they felt anxious about getting in trouble with teachers or being bullied for looking different.

“Sometimes I get bullied because I don't have the right shoes. My mum goes to ASDA to get my trainers because she hasn't got the money to get Nike. It shouldn't matter but it does. I try and ignore it when some of the others are making fun of my trainers but other times, I can't deal with it and then I pretend to be sick when it's P.E. so I don't have to listen to it. One time she didn't even have any money to get the cheap trainers, so I had to do PE in my normal shoes before I had to go and find some trainers in lost property.”

Year 8 child

The impact we had.

Children's basic needs were met

Over the year we gave **8,565** Luton children **14,988** items of school uniform, **321** pairs of school shoes, **157** winter coats, **1,235** sets of learning resources and **58** laptops.

12 out of 12 (100%) schools surveyed said our work met children's basic needs for warm and waterproof clothing.

“Level Trust has been a tremendous support to our school community by providing uniforms, shoes and coats to families in need. This has made a big difference, helping children come to school feeling ready and confident. Level Trust has relieved financial pressure from families who are struggling. We are very grateful to Level Trust for their ongoing, invaluable support.”

Family Support Worker, a Luton Primary School

101 out of 101 parents who answered our survey question told us they would use the money they saved through using Level Trust to help them pay for more essential items for their children and families. This included food, school trips, clothing, household bills and paying off debts.

“If I don't have to find the money for uniform and shoes, I can put money on the electricity key. It's helped me a lot.”

Parent of four children

“At first, I was too embarrassed to ask for help. The Family Support Worker at school told me about Level Trust and sent them an email asking if they could help. When I went in, the staff were so nice. One of them told me she used to go in to get uniform for her children before she started working there.”

I knew that she understood what it was like for me, and it made me feel better.”

Parent of three children

Families also told us that using the Uniform Exchange stopped them from going into debt, stopped them struggling to afford the basics and meant they had more resources to support their children.

Children participated more in learning

89 out of 101 (88%) children and families surveyed said that using the Uniform Exchange reduced the risk of them missing school. Children told us that they now could take part in P.E. and go to school. Schools told us that through the provision of digital devices, their young people were more engaged in their home learning and removed one of the barriers to them attaining in line with their non-disadvantaged peers.

“Students have been able to access technology resources, such as laptops or tablets, to support their learning and development. These initiatives have not only benefited our students but also strengthened the connection between school and home.”

Senior Family Worker, a Luton Primary School

Schools also noted that Level Trust supported families and children by providing educational toys and also helped children to remain dry and warm by donating weather-appropriate clothing.

“Level Trust support is an invaluable service; I know when I ask Level Trust for support for a family that they will do their very best to provide the family with school uniform, shoes vouchers, bags and a coat. Families tell me how welcome they feel when they go to the Level Trust shop and how they have received additional items for their children (toys etc.) and how nice it is to be made to feel so welcome by the staff.”

Refugee Support Worker, Luton Borough Council

“We have been lucky enough to receive some free school vouchers after families reached out to us that simply couldn’t afford new shoes. This kindness from Level Trust made sure these children had warm and dry feet this winter.”

Primary School SENDCo

Our activity scheme, called **SMASH**, gave children the opportunity to try new things and do fun activities. It also supports parents to continue to work during the long school holidays.

“Level Trust has supported us to help several of our families in times of financial need. Thanks to Level Trust, we receive amazing offers of days out for families which means that children of our most financially vulnerable families get to have experiences they would otherwise miss out on. For example, days at Mead Open Farm, cinema tickets and other exciting events that give them magical experiences.”

Primary School SENDCo

Children grew in confidence and had fun

100% of children who took part in **SMASH** (532) showed an improvement in their confidence.

“This is SO much fun! I got to do clay modelling and try rugby for the first time ever. I want to come every day.”

Key Stage 2 child who attended Summer SMASH

Children also told us that they enjoyed the activities, trying new things and valued the interactions with trusted adults. One child said their favourite thing about **SMASH** was “that it’s like one big happy family.”

“Boteko plays football with us and listens to us at lunchtime. He is the funniest person I have ever met. I kind of feel like I am walking on a cloud when I laugh.”

Mohammed, age 9

Schools also remarked on children’s improved confidence when they had access to appropriate footwear.

“In addition to uniforms, Level Trust has provided free shoe vouchers for students in need. Proper footwear is often an overlooked necessity, but it plays a crucial role in ensuring students feel comfortable, safe, and ready to participate fully in school activities. This support has not only removed financial strain from families but has also helped students feel more confident, which translates to improved participation in both classroom and extracurricular activities.”

Assistant Headteacher, a Luton Secondary School



***“SMASH is the best.
Virginia is always
smiling and telling me
to believe in myself
when I am feeling
anxious.”***

Katy, age 11



***“I feel like I am helping
as well as getting help. I
like to **play my part** and
not just get given stuff for
free. I feel like we are all
in it **together.**”***

Father of one, Uniform Exchange customer

Children and parents felt less worried and had a sense of pride.

Schools told us that our work helped to lift the financial burden off their families and parents told us that because of this they felt less worried.

“Level Trust plays a huge part in our school. We have been able to signpost parents to get support from the Trust as well as give our students access to education through the amazing support offered by the organisation. Parents truly appreciate the uniform support as well as the stepping stones to access education. We send our girls every year to do work experience with you and they always come back really proud of the work you do.”

Senior Leader, a Luton Secondary School

It was notable in the feedback that children and parents had a sense of pride in using the Uniform Exchange because they could donate school uniform to help other children and support the environment at the same time.

Parents also felt less worried knowing that Level Trust would be there to support them.

“Level Trust helped me and listened to me when I was at my lowest point. I really needed the hug that the lady who helped me in the shop gave me. I thought she would think that I couldn’t look after my kids properly, but she just told me that she had been poor when she was a little girl, and it was not my fault. She told me that I was a good mum, and I just really needed to hear that.”

Mother accessing the Learning Locker & Uniform Exchange services

Children were able to enjoy their childhood

Thanks to the very generous donations from partners at Christmas, we were able to provide **1,230 children** with gifts at Christmas time. This meant that families did not need to worry about the additional cost of buying presents and prevented many families from going into debt. Father Christmas was able to visit hundreds of children on Christmas Eve and via events held in Luton providing gifts for children who otherwise would have been without presents at this special time for many members of our community.

“At Christmas time Level Trust donates toys/gifts to my service. I can share these toys/gifts with this community bringing much needed joy to the lives of these children and their parents. What an amazing organisation the Level Trust are! They offer so much to some of the most vulnerable people/communities in Luton their commitment to this work is truly outstanding. Sharing is truly caring, and they do.”

Refugee Support Worker, Luton Borough Council

“I can’t afford treats for my children at any time of the year and so Christmas is a time where I just pretend it is like any other day. It’s not special – it’s stressful. When I went into the Uniform Exchange to get some school shirts and they asked me if I needed any support with Christmas presents for my children, I couldn’t believe it. It was the first time in four years that my children had presents to open on Christmas morning. The woman at the Uniform Exchange was like my own Christmas angel.”

Mother of two, Uniform Exchange customer





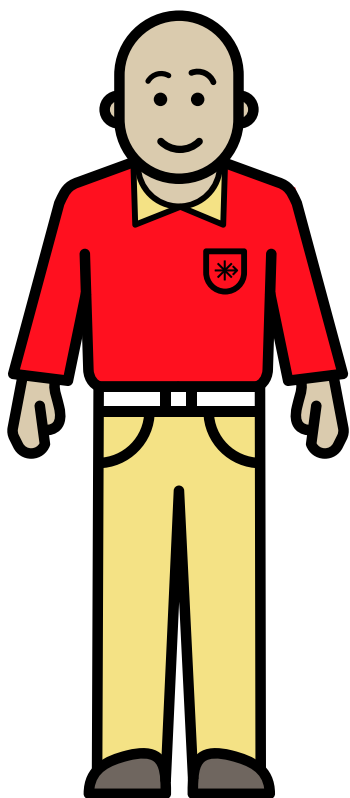
"I used to think the top global environmental problems were biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and climate change. I thought that with 30 years of good science we could address these problems. But I was wrong. The top environmental problems are selfishness, greed and apathy, and to deal with these we need a spiritual and cultural transformation, and we scientists don't know how to do that."

Gus Speth

James Gustave Speth is an American environmental lawyer and advocate.

Thanks to the very generous donations from partners at Christmas, we were able to provide **1,230 children** with gifts at Christmas time.

Children's Stories.



Bilal*

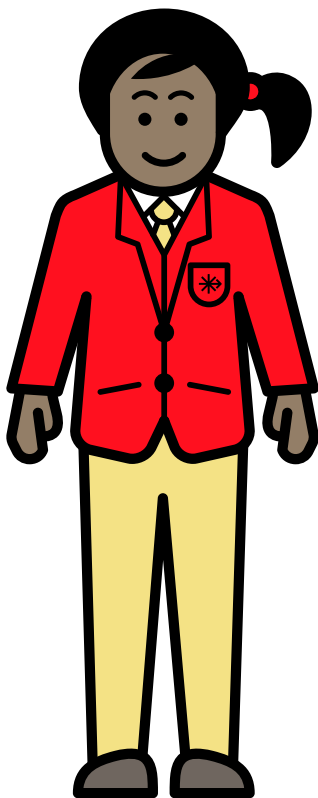
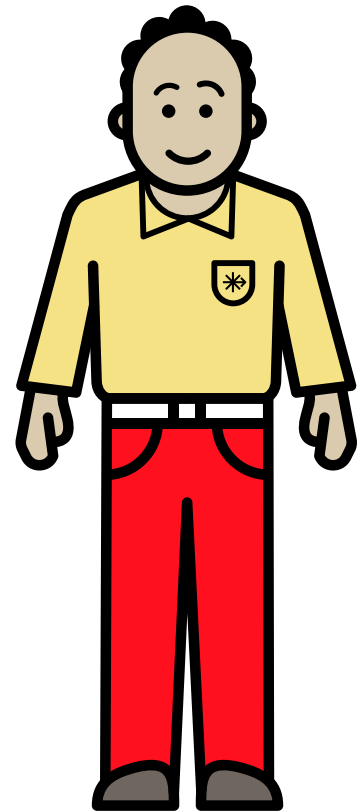
Bilal is 6. His mum suffers from anxiety and depression. She is a domestic abuse survivor, and they are currently living in temporary accommodation. They do not have any family close by because it is not safe for them to know where they live. When they left their family home, they were not able to take anything; they are starting from scratch. Bilal's mother was referred to Level Trust by another charity in Luton for support with bedding, clothing and learning resources. When Bilal's mum came into the Uniform Exchange, she didn't just need support with the essential items for school and home, she needed time to talk about what had happened to her and how she was feeling. Level Trust staff are trained to support families in times of crisis and to empower families to take the first steps towards rebuilding their lives. Staff have a wide range of lived experience including growing up in poverty, domestic abuse, drug and alcohol addiction in families and the death of a parent. Their understanding of how it feels to be in Bilal's mum's position helped them to welcome her with kindness and to ensure that her experience was dignified and respectful. Bilal's mum was referred on to other charities and her local mosque who are currently supporting them. Bilal is in school and, with mum's permission, the family worker has told us that he is thriving.

"He's happy, looking so much healthier than when he came to us and is such a sweet boy. He's always laughing and has lots of friends. Mum has started volunteering in school listening to readers and has made some good friends."

Family Support Worker at Bilal's school

Kai*

Kai is 15. He has been in and out of care because his mum and dad found it difficult to cope and are addicted to alcohol. He is now living with his aunt who is a care worker and his uncle who is a painter and decorator. There are 7 children in their family including Kai and his 2 sisters. His aunt and uncle are finding it difficult to make ends meet despite them both working full time. Kai was refusing school because he felt embarrassed that he did not have the right uniform for his new school. It's his GCSE year and the more he missed, the further behind he got with his studies. His aunt contacted Level Trust after she heard about the Uniform Exchange at church. After speaking to a member of staff, we provided a laptop for Kai to complete his home learning and coursework, learning resources so he had the right equipment at school and the branded uniform of the school he now attends. Kai went to school the next day and has been in school every day since.



Precious*

Precious is 9 and lives with her mum. Her dad moved to another part of the country with his new partner and does not see Precious. Her mum works but there are four children in the family and there's not enough money to pay for essential items such as food, heating and clothing. Precious's mum was referred to Level Trust by a family worker at her primary school. The staff team were able to support Precious by providing her with school uniform that fitted, a school bag and appropriate school shoes. Precious's mum told a member of staff that she had been going without food to try and save money so she could afford to buy new uniform. With Level Trust's support, she could use the money she had been saving for uniform to pay for other essential items for her family.

"I can't believe that I have been able to get her sorted in one go. I feel less anxious knowing that you are here, and I can come back when she's outgrown her uniform and exchange it for the next size."

Who did we work with?



Gender

101 out of 101 Uniform Exchange parents surveyed answered our gender question. **89%** (90) were female and **11%** (11) were male.

532 children who attended SMASH provided information about their gender.

204 children (47%) who attended SMASH stated that they were female and **231** (53%) that they were male.



Disability and special educational needs

From a sample of **101** Uniform Exchange parents **7%** (7) said they had a disability and **13%** (13) said they had a long-term illness.

For the children who engaged in our holiday scheme **9.5%** (42) had a disability, long-term illness or special educational need.



Pupil Premium Children

56% of children who attended our SMASH programmes were eligible for free school meals. Applicants for free school meals who are in receipt of Universal Credit must have an equivalent annual net earned income of no more than **£7,400** in order to be eligible for free school meals.

Ethnicity of UE users 01.09.23 – 31.08.24			
	%		%
Afghan	0.1	Italian	2.1
African	10.1	Jordan	0.08
Albanian	2	Kashmiri	0.08
Algerian	0.02	Kurdish	1.24
Angolan	1	Kuwaiti	0.08
Arab	4.1	Lebanese	0.08
Asian	3.3	Lithuanian	0.08
Bangladeshi	2.6	Mix	0.45
Black African	2.2	Moroccan	0.18
Black African & Caribbean	0.09	Other	4.9
Black British	1.4	Pakistani	13.2
Brazilian	0.01	Filipino	0.11
British Asian	4.2	Polish	0.9
Caribbean	2.2	Roma	1.1
Chinese	0.15	Romanian	2.2
Eastern European	1.6	Sri Lankan	0.35
Egyptian	0.03	Ukrainian	2.3
European	1.9	White & Asian	1.3
French	0.5	White & Black African	2
Greek	0.6	White & Black Caribbean	0.9
Hungarian	0.5	White Asian	0.85
Indian	5.1	White British	13.1
Iranian	0.45	White European	3.1
Iraqi	0.14	White Other	1
Irish	4		

THANK YOU.

A huge and heartfelt
thank you to the
children, families
and schools who
contributed to this
report. You are
amazing and we feel
so privileged to work
with you all.

Contributors

Main Funders & Donors

Thank you to all those who make our work possible.

BLCF Community Investment Fund

Brown Dog Trust

EasyJet

Energise Luton

Garfield Weston Foundation

John Aphthorp Charity

Luton Rising

Mrs B L Robinson Charitable Trust

National Lottery Community Fund

Postcode Places Trust

The Amateurs Trust

The Connolly Foundation

The Hobson Charity

The Steel Charitable Trust

Swire Charitable Trust

Wixamtree Trust

*The generous donors of Luton and
Bedfordshire and beyond.*

Partners

Partnership is key to how Level Trust works. Our partners refer children to our services and share their skills, experience and resources. The expertise they bring and the time they give, makes our work possible. To deliver this work we worked with **75 schools** and multiple partners across Luton.

This year our partners included:

Adventures Into
Boxing Saves Lives
Caritas-Diocese of Northampton
Citizens Advice Bureau
Dan The Skipping Man
Discover Islam
Hygiene Bank
Inspire FM
KidsOut
Luton Council Education Service
Luton Council Refugee Service
Luton Foodbank
Luton Total Wellbeing
NGYT
NOAH Enterprise
Raise Up
Salvation Army
Stepping Stones
University of Bedfordshire Access Partnership Team
Wholehearted Childhood Charity
Youthscape

Thank you for all your time, advice, effort and generosity. A special thank you to the following schools for your engagement and commitment to partnership working:

Al Hikmah Girls School
Beechwood Primary School
Bushmead Primary School

Challney High School for Boys
Challney High School for Girls
Chantry Primary Academy
Dallow Primary School
Denbigh High School
Denbigh Primary School
Downside Primary School
Farly Junior School
Ferrars Junior School
Foxdell Junior School
Gill Blowers Nursery School
Hillborough Junior School
Larkrise Primary School
Leagrave Primary School
Lealands High School
Lea Manor High School
Maidenhall Primary School
Norton Road Primary School
Pirton Hill Primary School
Putteridge High School
Putteridge Primary School
Riverbank Primary School
Sacred Heart Primary School
Southfield Primary Academy
St Joseph's Catholic Junior School
St Margaret of Scotland Catholic School
St Martin De Porres Catholic Primary
& Nursery School
St Mathews Primary School
Stockwood Academy
Stopsley Primary School
Surrey Street Primary School
Tennyson Road Primary School
The Ferrars Academy
The Meads Primary School
Warden Hill Junior School
Waulud Primary School
West Herts College
Whipperley Infant Academy
Whitefield Primary School
Wigmore Primary School



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