



Working together to keep families together

OUR IMPACT 2021/22

Working together to keep families together



St Michael's Fellowship works directly with parents to secure the best possible future for children

Last year 191 families were helped through one of our services:



Residential Family Assessment & Support: Working with families in fixed-term residency.



Securing Change: Our follow-on service, supporting mums and dads after they leave.



Jigsaw: A family contact service to rebuild family relationships.



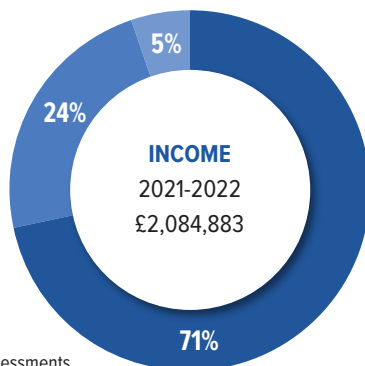
Outreach: One-to-one and peer support groups for young mums and dads in Lambeth.

Our numbers reflect the highly bespoke nature of our programs. We work together with parents on what they feel is most important.

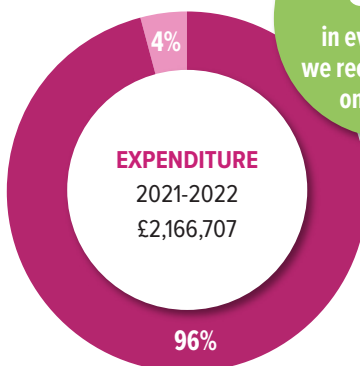
“I am just glad there are places like here that accepted me, so I could prove I could look after her and give her what she needs”

Mum in residential assessment

Where our money comes from and how we spend it:



- Family Assessments
- Community Projects
- Donations and Supporters



- Charitable Activities
- Raising Funds

We spend **96p** in every pound we receive directly on families

Holistic Family Support



Writing this in October 2022, with Covid restrictions fast becoming a memory, it is easy to forget how challenging the past couple of years have been. From the start of the pandemic, we made the decision to keep our residential assessment centres open and to carry on with our Securing Change and Outreach programs. This was a difficult decision; we knew how important it was to continue our services, but we had to keep our staff safe.

I am grateful that we found a way to continue supporting so many families and their children, in what proved to be a hugely challenging period. One mum we work with told us that her St Michael's practitioner was the only person she had seen in weeks.

On behalf of the trustees, I thank all our staff for their work and commitment during these difficult times. We are also incredibly proud of the parents we support who adjusted to living with Covid restrictions which made their lives yet more challenging.

Finally thank you to our supporters and donors. Your gifts and fundraising change children's lives and allow us to continue our work.

Philippa Owen,
Interim Chair

Our impact report pulls together the work of the past year showing our achievements in the face of challenging times. Through our support of families we have changed the futures for children for the better, whether enabling a parent to provide the care a child needs, or supporting a family who have returned to the community to cope with the stresses of living independently, or re-establishing a relationship with an absent parent through Jigsaw. None of this would be possible without the perseverance of families, the skills and dedication of staff, the support of funders and the wise counsel of trustees. Thank you to all who help us keep families together!

Sue Pettigrew, OBE
Director



St Michael's Fellowship has been helping families since 1903, our longevity is testimony to our impact. A gift in your Will can ensure we are around to help families for another 100 years.

Residential Family Assessment & Support



Despite Covid restrictions, last year we worked with **25 families including 33 children**

Our residential assessment service is trusted by local authorities and courts to give at-risk families the best chance to stay together.



“The judge wanted to separate the baby from his mother, she felt the complex needs of the family could not be met by a residential family assessment setting. Upon hearing from the Local Authority that they had a placement with St Michael’s, she changed her position.

A mum is getting the opportunity to receive parenting support. It’s a chance to show whether she can make changes to her parenting. Her son’s getting the opportunity to remain within his family, rather than be placed in care from birth.”

Kate Hopkins, Crawford House Manager



Why are families referred to our houses?

Families typically present with 7 or more issues leading to referral, the five most common are:

Neglect



Mental ill health



Domestic abuse



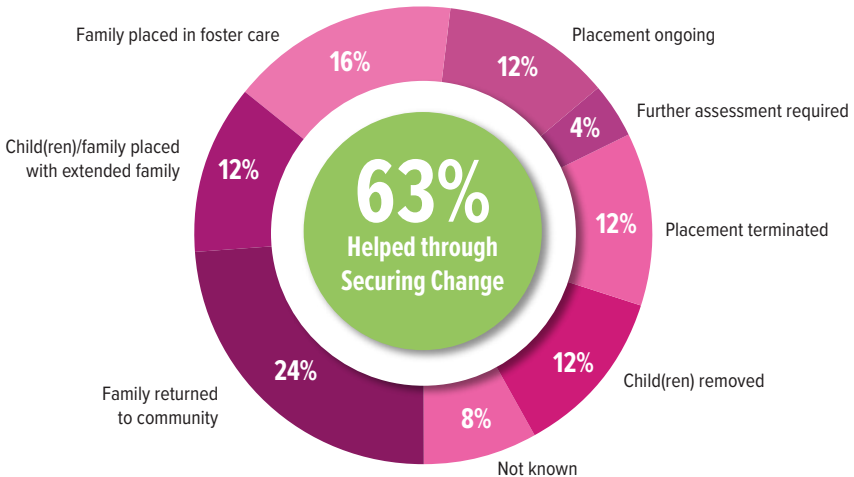
Learning difficulties



Struggle to put child’s needs first



Our outcomes 2021/22:



Securing Change



36% of families we worked with last year had a child removed before working with us

33% returned home with their next child

The number of children in care is the highest it has ever been. Parents are at their most vulnerable when they leave an assessment with or without their child. Securing Change is there for them.



We want to reduce the number of children going into the system by supporting their parents and bringing about positive change.



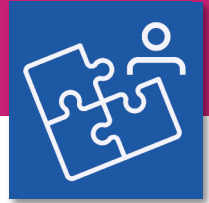
- In December 2021 we completed our pilot program
- We worked with 25 families
- Support is tailored to each family
- Working closely with a small number of families we make a big difference

“Securing Change has done very valuable work in supporting parents who have undergone care proceedings and have had children recently or previously removed. The flexible and personalised care provided has supported them with their loss or their ongoing parenting and other needs. It filled a service gap and worked with a very disadvantaged client group. We would like to see it continue and grow.”

Independent evaluation of ‘Securing Change’ project,
Centre for Abuse and Trauma Studies, Middlesex University

We will continue to develop and deliver Securing Change. With your help we can continue making sure families have the support they need to thrive.

Jigsaw child contact centre



56 families and 76 children kept in contact through Jigsaw last year

All children deserve the best experience possible

Children have told professionals they want to see their families in places where they feel welcome



“The first time I saw my daughter in contact she didn’t know who I was. I didn’t even recognise her. She was apprehensive but in no time, she was sat on my lap handing me things babbling away and now when she sees me she’s like daddy, daddy!”

Dad who uses Jigsaw

“Honestly [the Jigsaw team] have been brilliant, they make you all feel so welcome. You can tell it’s more than a job to them, you can feel the warmth and so can the kids. At St Michael’s it seems like a small family.”

Foster Carer who uses Jigsaw



Your donations keep families together and create strong support networks for children who don’t live with both or one of their parents

- Thanks to your support we were able to subsidise the service for 7 families in acute financial need who received 51 hours together

Supported by:



Outreach: one-to-one and peer support groups for young mums and dads in Lambeth.



64 Mothers and 31 Fathers received one-to-one help from dedicated practitioners

“Now I have learnt I need to meet my daughter’s needs and how I can improve on this. Every word that the project worker says in our sessions is always constructive towards me being a better parent instead of being lectured on what we’re doing wrong.”

Dad we work with



We support parents with:

Housing and benefits



Financial stability



Child safety and development



Substance misuse



Domestic abuse



Moving to education or work



Your donations mean parents have a chance to work long-term with our practitioners

- 10 women took part in Lotus group for Domestic Abuse survivors learning how to move forward and how to break cycles of abusive relationships
- 60 parents took part in Friday Group and Cook Up over the year. They had a hot meal and increased their confidence in parenting and relationships
- 7 Dads took part in the Caring Dads program learning how their behaviour affects their child

“Being in this group has helped me understand how my life choices can affect my child in the long run - understanding risks, negative and unhealthy relationships.”

Mother participating in group

Outreach is partly funded by:



Change a Family's Life



There are many ways you can support St Michael's Fellowship's work and change the lives of children

Donate

Help fund our vital, ongoing support— through a one-off donation or regular direct debit:

Donate via our website

<https://stmichaelsfellowship.org.uk/donations> or scan this code ▶



If you prefer to make a bank transfer

Our account details

NatWest Bank


Account: 82008329


Sort Code: 60-05-34

Leave a legacy


A gift in your Will can ensure St Michael's Fellowship goes on helping children and families for decades to come



Support in other ways


Contact Kineret Kahana  kineret@stmichaelsfellowship.org.uk


 020 8835 9570 or write to her at Head Office


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