



# Family Support Service by SCTSP

## Annual Report 2021 - 2022



Over the past 30 years, our ambition has remained consistent - supporting families to improve their quality of life. Our aim is to increase the strength and resilience of families and empower families and children to reach their full potential.

During this year, our service has faced some constraints in terms of direct service delivery such as health promotion, face to face and home visits due to Covid-19. We continually endeavoured to meet the client's needs using a combined approach to include telephone, video calls or personal visits, as per government guidelines..

In this period the Board of Directors have continued to meet regularly (virtually and in person) to include attendance at subgroup meetings to include Finance, Governance, Safeguarding and Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia.

### Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Support

From April 2021- March 2022, we received and processed 526 unusual blood results. Across Wolverhampton and Walsall, a total of 835 individual's received counselling via the Antenatal and Neonatal screening programmes.

We have supported Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Clients with their health and financial welfare. We've worked with schools to provide a health care plan for our affected children in an educational setting.

No. of Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia Clients  
108 Adults  
198 Children

Areas of Support  
Wolverhampton  
Walsall  
Dudley

### Family Support Service

During this year we received 1104 referrals into our service. We successfully supported 484 families; our annual target for this period was 487.

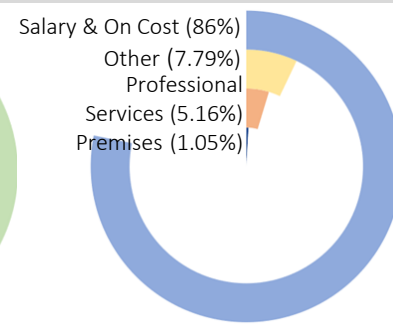
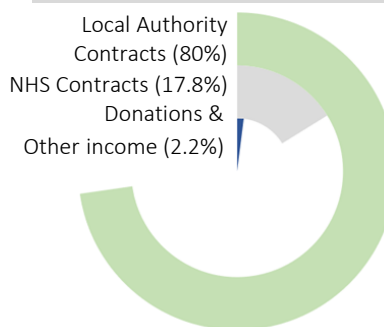
During our intervention we helped families with a range of issues such as family routine, boundaries & behaviours, education & learning, parent's progress to work and meeting emotional needs amongst others.

No. of Families Supported 2021-2022	
Cannock	151
Lichfield	112
South Staffs	116
Stafford	105

### Types of Support Available

- Health and social care
- Behaviour and boundaries
- School and education
- Housing
- Financial and welfare
- Anti social behaviour
- Positive parenting and behaviour management

### Finances



### Testimonials

- "(Keyworker) went above and beyond to help my family and I cannot thank her enough for the amount of help and relief she has given to us"
- "The change has been brilliant with my daughter and a nighttime routine"
- "Overall, this service was a lifeline for me, and my family. Our keyworker was always supportive and easy to contact and always got straight back to me"
- "I enjoyed meeting new friends, and both the activities were fun"
- "Thank you for today's appointment at the hospital, thanks to you support we now have a better understanding with what's coming over the next few weeks with our child's bone marrow transplant"
- "Thank you for your support and filling out the disability living allowance form for our child, I've been fighting for this for years and we've finally got it thank you."

## Meeting with MP Pat McFadden

On the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022, SCTSP had a meeting with Pat McFadden MP, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia. Pat is a Labour MP for Bilston since May 2005.

He is also the Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Councillor Beverley Momenabadi, representing Ettingshall and Cabinet lead for Children and Young People, also attended.

The APPG recently produce a report on sickle cell care, No One's Listening. The purpose of the meeting with Pat and Beverley was for Pat to tell the Project and a group of service users about the report, and to hear from those present about their experiences.

The users spoke powerfully about their experiences and concerns, many of which had been told by others to the APPG authors when they were preparing their report. There was agreement of the need to reduce the inequalities faced by sickle cell patients in UK, and to improve their care and experience. Pat and Beverley acknowledged the problems and were determined to continue to pursue the road to improving the experiences faced by the sickle cell community



## Thriving Communities Workshops

We were grateful to receive a grant from WVSC to run a series of health and well being workshops for our affected young people. We delivered face-to-face group sessions with young people with Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia conditions. These conditions can lead to a range of associated health problems which can impact daily life. At the time, the service was working with 32 young people aged between 13-17 years in Wolverhampton. We offered creative, sports and performance-based activities whilst also supporting them as a collective to manage their condition and promote health and well-being.

We ran a series of music workshops with Beatsabar Music Project, art, cooking and rock climbing – our young people tell us that they enjoyed being able to share their experiences with others who understood their condition and asked for more such events.

