

2023-2024 Achievements Report



Natausha van Vliet
Chief Executive Officer



Wes Cuell
Chair of the Executive Board

"It continues to be an honour to be part of an organisation that has such a positive impact on people's lives. This report highlights some of the key achievements in the year, which have been considerable given the difficult times that many charities are navigating.

Our team has worked with unwavering determination, creativity and resilience. We recognise the difficulties impacting our staff, those we serve and the organisations we partner with, and we are committed to supporting them in every way we can.

Every day our amazing team of staff and volunteers prioritises the wellbeing of children, women and families and are also committed to supporting each other. I am delighted that we have been able to develop our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion so that everyone feels a sense of belonging at PACT.

Our fundraising team has raised more income for our services than ever before, a truly significant achievement in this climate, meaning that we can change even more lives.

We have been able to place more children with permanent, loving families through our adoption service, added to our specialist support offer for our families, we have grown our Bounce Back 4 Kids project to meet the increasing demand for domestic abuse recovery services and we have extended the reach of our women's community project Alana House through new partnerships with Royal Berkshire Hospital and in courts and custody suites.

We express our deepest gratitude to our staff, volunteers, supporters and funders – their contributions are what make it possible for us to make a tangible difference in the lives of those who need us most. We also acknowledge our beneficiaries – the children, families and women we support. Many of them face significant challenges yet their courage to move forward is truly inspirational."

"We felt respected and cared for by everyone we dealt with at PACT, right from the start. Both panels were thoughtful and supportive. We have already accessed support since placement and it was brilliant."



ADOPTION

78 children placed with **54** families **43** families approved as adopters **67** applications from prospective adopters **61** adoption orders were made

1,131 enquiries from prospective adopters **24** adoption information events were held **730** prospective adopters attended information events

10 single adopters had children placed with them **35%** of parents who adopted identified as LGBTQ+ **28%** of children placed were of Black, Asian and mixed ethnicities

29% of adopter were families of faith **45%** of children placed were girls and **55%** were boys

8 children were placed through early permanence

Diversity of the adoption panel
PACT's adoption panel is made up of 27% male and 73% female panel members. 35% of members are from Black, mixed and minority ethnicities, 19% identify as LGBTQ+.

ADOPTION SUPPORT

4,334 people were registered to use CATCH **47** families supported by education specialist **48** adopted adults supported to access their birth records

25K views of CATCH webinars and videos **193** referrals to FACTS for therapeutic support



18 support sessions for adoptive parents **120** families were supported by the Strengthening Families Team **16** Adoptee Voices groups were offered for older children

93 families accessed the support of an adopter champion

86 families attended our family fun days

"Before I started Adoptee Voices I felt like I was the only one who was adopted but now I feel more connected to other people who were adopted and that it's OK to be adopted."
- Adoptee Voices attendee





ALANA HOUSE

181 women attended Alana House groups, courses, café drop-in sessions or one-to-one support

232 counselling sessions were provided to **19** women

220 group sessions were attended by **75** women



Overall, women have seen improved or sustained progress across all outcomes scores, with the top 3 being mental health (**80%**), experience with domestic abuse and rape (**68%**) and finance debt, and benefits (**56%**).

ACHIEVEMENTS Alana House successfully placed **3** women in unpaid work placements in our Community Café, as part of community orders.



"Without the support from Alana House I know that I probably would not be here right now and I certainly wouldn't have my daughter with me."
- Alana House service user

"It is hard to describe the amount of support [my support worker] has given me over the past year. I had a deep mistrust of professionals when first engaging with Alana House and it is to her credit that she is one of the few professionals that I trust."
- Alana House service user



BOUNCE BACK 4 KIDS

133 children directly supported by the BB4K team

16 children received play therapy

257 parents supported by the BB4K team

401 children supported directly and indirectly



80% of parents self reported improvements or sustained progress in 'play and enjoyment' with their child and **77.5%** reported improvement in 'learning and knowledge'.

"It has helped my child overcome what he went through and hasn't had any night terrors or bad dreams since, he gives me a cuddle and kiss every night and tells me he loves me a lot more and I get bear hugs from him. He is so much happier in himself, like a weight has lifted from his abuse from his dad - he is a very happy child again." - BB4K parent



FUNDRAISING

£1.2m total fundraising income

£11k donated by our Friends of PACT

£22k raised through our events like Marathon In May, and our Carol Concert

£6.5k donated by churches

Some of the exciting things that happened this year

We partnered with Buckinghamshire Council to support them to launch the Buckinghamshire Adoption Partnership – a regional adoption agency.



We began a two year project with Adopt South to help recruit and support early permanence carers.

We opened a new office in Milton Keynes for adoption services.

Bounce Back 4 Kids received funding through the Foundations Programme, as part of a national five year plan to transform domestic abuse services.



PACT TEAM

1575 hours of staff time were invested towards learning and development goals

15 new employees were welcomed to PACT

At the end of the year, PACT had **39** volunteers

Find out all the ways we made a difference in 2023-34



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