

# Save the Children Emergency Response Initiative Report Card

May 2021

Health and Wellbeing Service

# Overview



## **Save the Children and NHSCT Emergency Response for Children and families at Home**

### **Background**

As a result of the pandemic, evidence informs us that many families of low income are being pushed further into poverty, thus needing help to get through the crisis. In December 2020, the NHSCT, Health & wellbeing Team commenced discussions with Save the Children emergency response programme, to implement the initiative within the NHSCT to families with young children most in need. This was initially funded by Department of Communities until end of Jan 2021. Family Support Hubs [FSH], facilitated by Action for Children were approached and offered the opportunity to act as a Lead partner in dissemination of the Emergency Response Programme. 4 Family Support Hubs across the NHSCT agreed to pilot the initiative until the end of January. Within a short period of time the funding had been allocated to families evidencing the need across the localities.

To meet the increasing demand, the NHSCT secured a financial offer to extend the programme until 31 March 2021 with Action for Children FSHs. Additionally, the NHSCT facilitated a further investment from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) to enable their Community Advice Centres to deliver the programme as lead partners with Save the Children during the month of March 2021.

### **Programme criteria**

- Family must have a child 6 years or under to be eligible. Supported by practitioners, families can choose from a range of options up to monetary value of £340 and every family receive resource information packs and early learning education toy packs to encourage parent/child interaction through play.

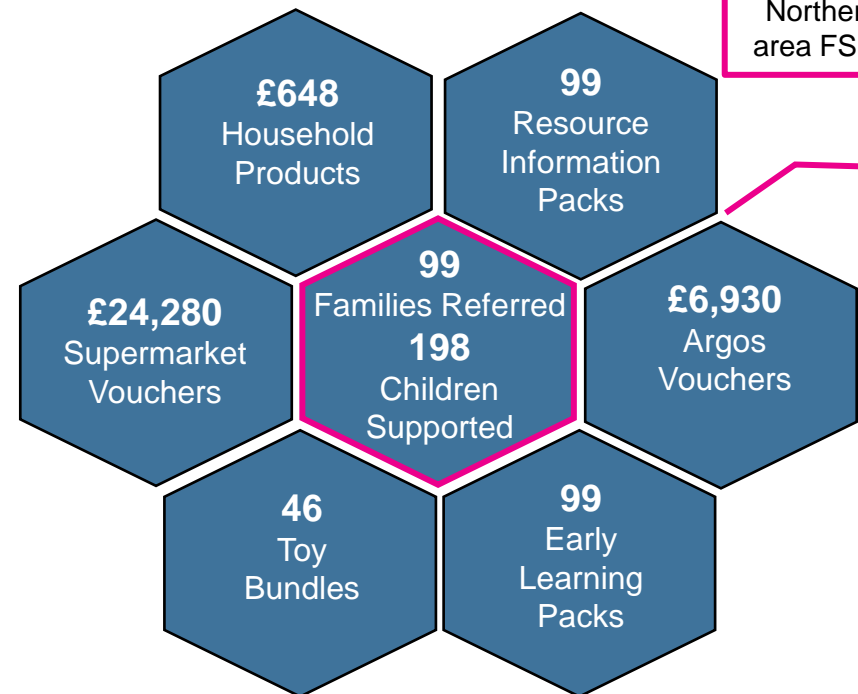
# How much did we do?

## Feb-Mar 2021 (funded by NHSCT)

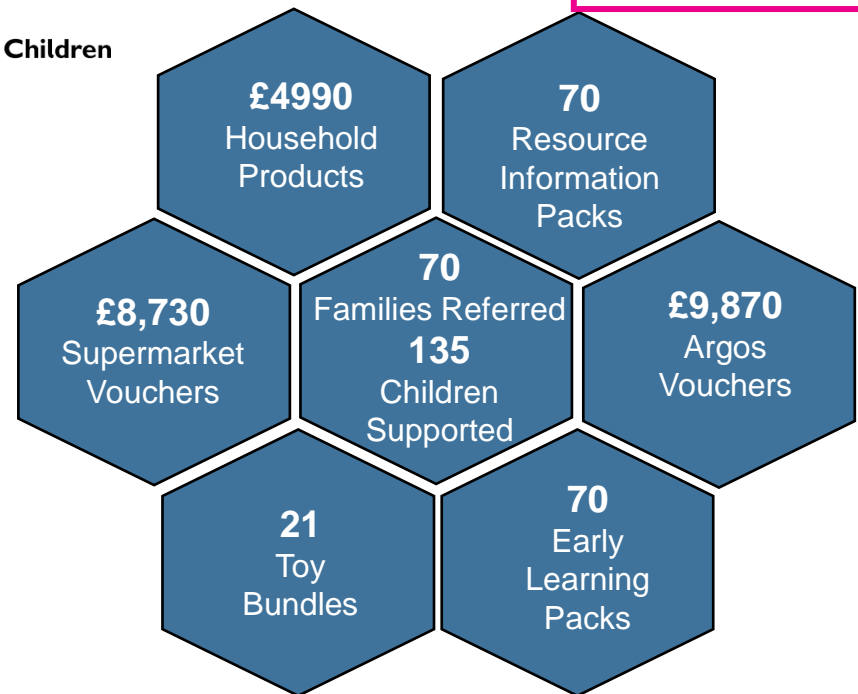


In total between 1st Jan-31st Mar 2021, Save the Children Emergency Response initiative partnered with the NHSCT area FSHs resulted in:

- **158** families referred
- **341** children supported



## March 2021 (funded by ANBC)



The Emergency Response Programme operated on a Save the Children digital platform which captured detailed demographic information at a local level including:

- Family dynamics
- Ethnicity
- Housing
- Income status

as well as the support provided at family level.

# How well did we do it?

### Family Support Hub Delivery Partners

- 21% of families supported were single parent household
  - Average number of children per household
  - 10% reported a member of household experiencing a health problem or disability
  - 28% of recipients were 28 weeks or more pregnant
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### ANBC, Community Advice Centres Partners

- 68.5% of families supported were single parent household
  - Average number of children per household
  - 47% reported a member of household experiencing a health problem or disability
  - 7% of recipients were 28 weeks or more pregnant
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# Is anyone better off?

## Family

'a relief, because it hasn't been easy with everything that is going on in the house'

## Family

'feel like I've won the lottery...it's hard especially when you are the only one paying the bills'

## Staff

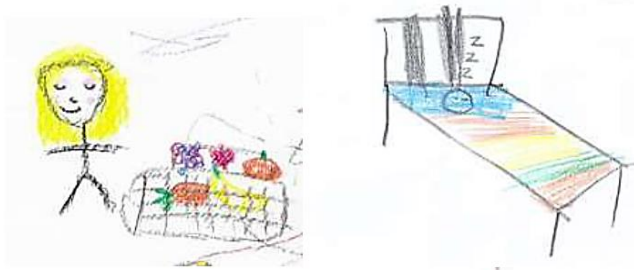
'Left a legacy of new and strengthened relationships for future family support work'...we are able to reach out to parents who otherwise would've been struggling'



## Staff

'The flexibility of the support on offer resulted in the most vulnerable families receiving the right support at the right time, the fund has been a lifeline for some'

## Drawings of children's experiences



It was so much fun

