

# Action for Children's Crisis Fund

Addressing Poverty for the Children and Families  
We Support

# A Global Pandemic

- On 11th March 2020, the World Health Organisation declared Covid19 a Global Pandemic.
- On 19th March the first person in NI died from Covid.
- Midnight 23 March 1st "Stay at home" Order comes into effect. (Lockdown).
- Amongst those hardest hit financially in the first lockdown are vulnerable families on low income.
- Particularly the self-employed who were immediately left with no income.

"The Language has often felt  
Trite and Misleading"

- "The Disease is not a great leveller, the consequences of which everyone, rich or poor suffers the same. Those on the front line, bus drivers and shelf stackers, nurses and care home workers, hospital staff and shopkeepers are disproportionately the lower paid members of our workforce, they are more likely to catch the disease because they are more exposed"
- Emily Maitlis BBC Newsnight April 2020.

# Case Examples

- Family with 5 children-parent working in low paid job, other parent providing childcare-could not afford to pay for childcare therefore unable to work. Family do not have transport and are isolated living in rural area with limited resources Cost of living increase have impacted them daily-oil and food vouchers provided. T & T grant for uniform costs.
- Family recently where parent was sick and unable to work-in process of sorting benefits -provided oil and food voucher as well as providing toys for Xmas. Parents were very stressed and worried about the future with the rising cost of bills with 4 small children. Family have never had to seek support in the past and felt very embarrassed asking for help.

## Case Example 16+

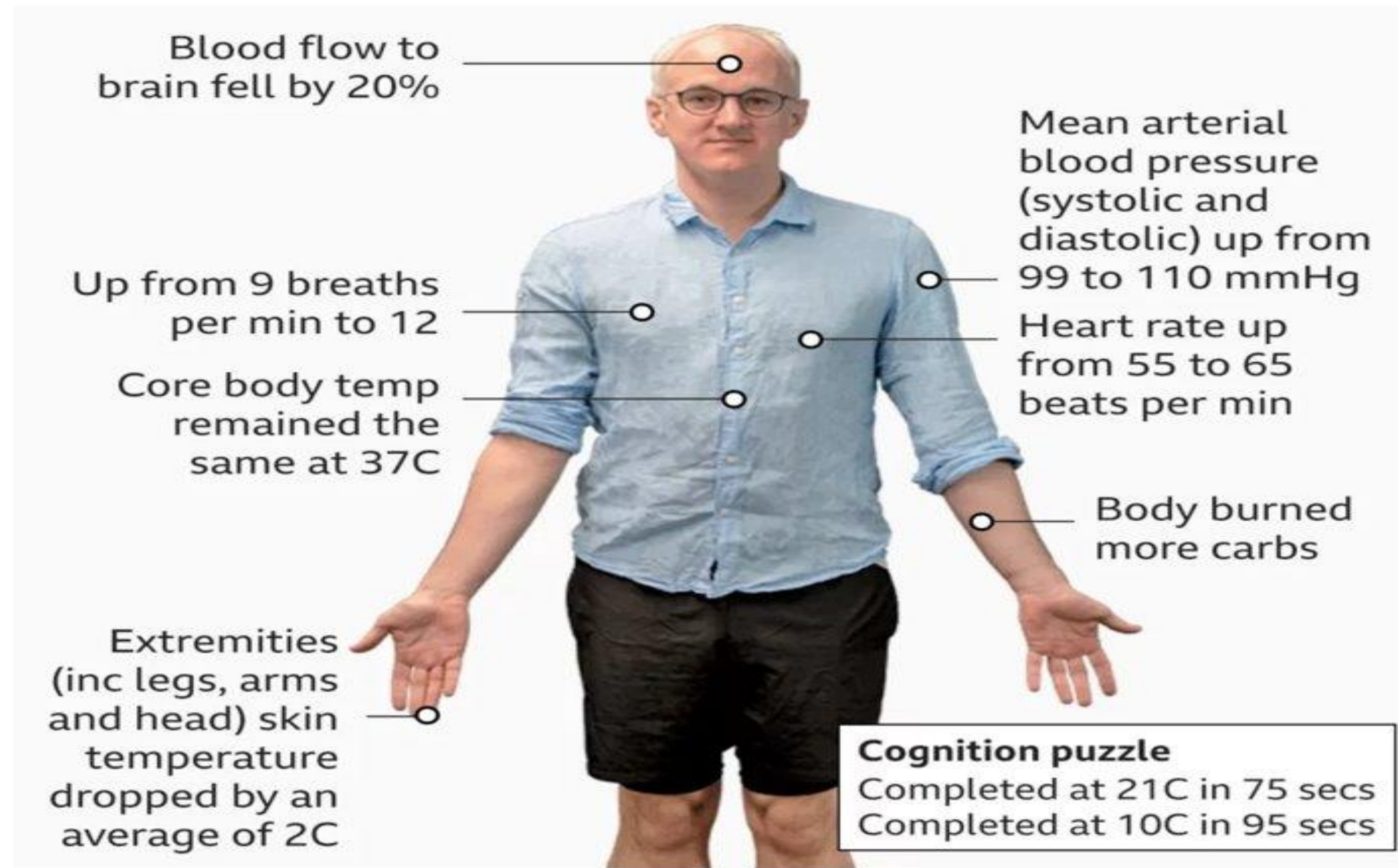
Emergency fund supported refugee young person. Due to increase in energy costs and costs of living, Young person struggled to meet her dietary/cultural needs.

Emergency fund enabled young person to access foods required for her diet (has celiac condition) and purchase Halal food/meats to meet her cultural needs.

Emergency Fund also provided support with energy costs; this reduced financial burden current placed on young person and contributed to healthy adequate diet.

# What happened in the cold chamber?

Air temperature reduced from 21C to 10C for 30 mins



# Our Crisis Fund

- By 19th March 2020 Action for Children had launched an Emergency appeal for funds to help Children and families.
- Three weeks later we approved our 1st application in Northern Ireland.
- Since then, our Crisis fund has supported 28,345 children and young people, spending £1,531,973.<sup>(31/10/22)</sup>
- Crisis fund applications are made by our staff working with families for up to £250 per application. Turnaround is usually same or one working day. Authorisation within NI Leadership team.
- We have spent almost £80,000 in the Western Trust area supporting families with small grants since the beginning of the pandemic.

# Spend By Nation

	Applications	Spend
England	4,968	£737,525.98
Scotland	2,253	£325,114.77
Wales	1,405	£289,694.84
Northern Ireland	988	£155,549.54
Not stated	158	£24,088.34



# Spend by Category

Category	Total Spend	Percentage
Food	£674,743.25	44%
Cleaning and hygiene	£16,393.16	1%
Clothes	£73,917.10	5%
Fuel bills	£105,585.24	7%
Other (non-fuel) bills	£31,828.17	2%
Home appliances	£182,244.71	12%
Home repairs and furnishings	£135,017.74	9%
Physical health	£22,429.09	1%
Learning and play	£138,117.02	9%
Access to learning – educational	£13,900.71	1%
Access to learning – technology	£65,456.32	4%
Other	£72,341.86	5%

# Number of Applications

0-4 year olds	7,526
5-11 year olds	15,817
12-17 year olds	7,118
18+ year olds	2,368

# Average spends

Average spend per application	£156.84
Average Spend Per Family	£156.84
Average Spend per CYP	£54.05

# Action for Children Crisis Fund:

Data (October Only)

Reporting period: 1st October 2022 to 31st October 2022

<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>£38,363.68</b>
<b>Total Number of Applications</b>	214
<b>Total number of Families Reached</b>	213
<b>Total Number of CYP Reached</b>	400

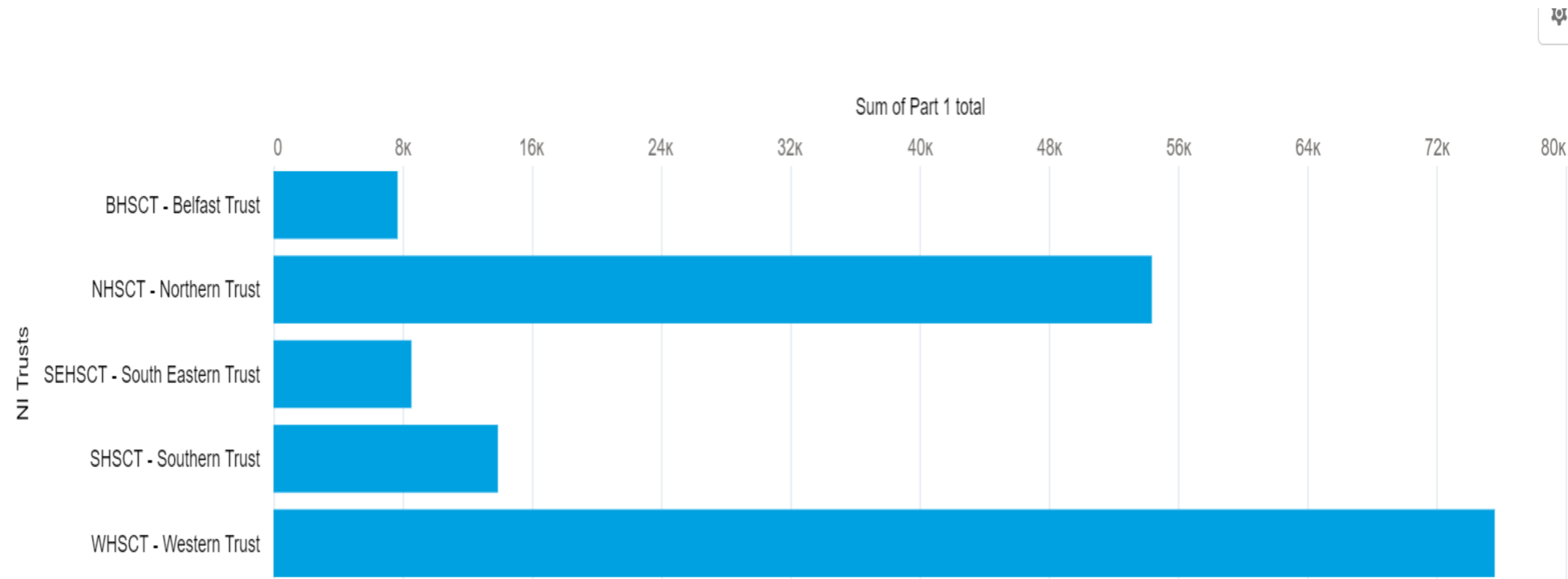
# Spend by Nation October 22 (1 Month)

	Applications	Spend
England	102	£19,071.44
Scotland	53	£9,130
Wales	34	£4,118.23
Northern Ireland	27	£5,844.01
Not stated	1	£200

# October 2022 Spend by Category

Category	Total Spend	Percentage	Percentage Change
Food	£18,911.00	49%	Up
Cleaning and hygiene	£740.00	2%	Up
Clothes	£3,158.93	8%	Up
Fuel bills	£5,604.01	15%	Up
Other (non-fuel) bills	£827.00	2%	-
Home appliances	£2,532.99	7%	Down
Home repairs and furnishings	£2,829.10	7%	Down
Physical health	£424.94	1%	Up
Learning and play	£160.00	0%	-
Access to learning – educational	£100.00	0%	Down
Access to learning – technology	£340.00	1%	-
Other	£2,735.70	7%	Down

# NI Spend - Breakdown by Trust



# Feedback from service users

- "I found [keyworker] was able to provide good advice and guidance and was very helpful in getting some funding for oil, food shopping during a time of financial difficulty. I was also very grateful for the gifts for the children at Christmas and all the other support as well. Thank you."
- "I am very appreciative of the financial support for oil and food shopping when I was struggling financially due to increased cost of living."



# Supporting our Staff

- Recognition that Social Care employees are also directly impacted by #CostofLivingcrisis.
- Action for Children announced in early 2022 that it will align pay rates for our lowest paid staff with that of the Living Wage Foundation and received its accreditation in Autumn 2022.
- our lowest hourly rate of pay increased from £8.91 per hour to £9.90 from 1st April 2022. This works out at an annual salary of £19,100 based on a 37-hour working week



# What actions should we take?

- Individually?
- As a professional?
- As an Outcomes Group?