

We are waving goodbye to 2024 and reflecting on the positive impact we have made in our community over the past year



2024 in words

Police Children's Fund is pleased to report another positive year for our long-established charity which supports the children of deceased and medically retired police officers.

The non-profit sector has experienced a shift in fundraising since the pandemic where both donors and charitable organisations have been impacted by financial pressures. This has led to a move towards finding new and innovative ways to raise funds. We have seen a drop in regular officer donations but thankfully, this has been counteracted by an increase in recognition through fundraising events and corporate support.

Following our rebrand and name change, we launched our new website in January 2024 in the hope that our new look and a stronger social media presence would extend our reach to the wider community, raising awareness and attracting new supporters.

The news we received in May 2024 that His Majesty, King Charles III had accepted the patronage of Police Children's Fund gave us the royal seal of approval which can only help highlight our cause and assist us in continuing and developing the support we offer.

We are currently supporting 470 children and young people throughout their education having welcomed 61 new beneficiaries in the past year and we are delighted to be in a position to help in the way that we do.

2024 in numbers

£640K

Given in
grants

61

New
beneficiaries
welcomed

471

Children &
young people
currently
supported

1

New patron



Our beneficiaries in 2024

Our beneficiaries remain at the heart of all we do and all we aim to achieve. As in all previous years, we have continued to support our children and young people to ensure they don't miss out on valuable educational and developmental experiences.

Some of our young beneficiaries have witnessed the loss of a parent whose job it is to protect our community; some have witnessed the effects of medical retirement on a parent and the subsequent changes in the financial dynamics of the family.

We step in at a time when we can ease the pressures of change and financial burden by assisting eligible children in the hope that they can 'carry on as normal'.

We understand that each beneficiary is unique and the grants we offer are used in a myriad of ways. This year our charity is honoured to have played a small part in the successes of our beneficiaries as they get their first driving licence or graduate from university. Our beneficiaries have learned new skills and enjoyed enriching experiences which develop their understanding of the world. Some have ventured far and wide exploring different cultures, increasing their knowledge of local and world history, participating in sports tournaments and sometimes just having all the fun!

In 2024 we were chosen



To mark the anniversary of Their Majesties' coronation, in May 2024 we received the good news that King Charles III was delighted to accept royal patronage of the Fund. The late Queen Elizabeth II had been royal patron since her ascension to the throne having inherited the patronage from King George VI.



We were chosen as a partner by Uniform Mortgages Ltd who provide a free mortgage service to police officers. We receive a donation of five pounds for every recommendation which leads to a transacted mortgage. We hope to encourage more partnerships and sponsorships in the future.

Our impact in 2024

Our Mission

... is to provide police children with financial support and stability throughout their educational and developmental years following a significant change in family life

Our Vision

... is that every child of a deceased or medically retired officer from our 22 contributing forces has financial stability throughout their education

Our charity has evolved over time, starting out as an orphanage for children of deceased police officers and becoming a grant-giving charity in 1948, continuing the original intention of our founder, Catherine Gurney, to support police families.

The children are referred to us following either the sad loss or medical retirement of a parent. This significant change in family life can result in both emotional and financial difficulties for the family which heavily impacts on the children who require stability and a sense of 'carrying on as normal'.

In 2024 Police Children's Fund awarded £640k in grants to support our beneficiaries' education, development and wellbeing.

Weekly Allowances have helped towards the everyday basics for school including uniform, study books, sports kits and attendance at after school clubs where children develop social skills and interests.

School Holiday Activity Grants have supported children expanding their interests and skills during holiday time whilst allowing the parents to continue working.

School Trip Grants have ensured children can experience the exciting world beyond the school gates, alongside their peers.

Driving Lesson Grants have helped with the expense of learning this important life skill, providing a vital tool for the future.

Computer Grants have ensured that any beneficiary requiring an expensive IT tool for their studies, homework and educational projects has received what they need to keep up.

Mental Health Support Grants have alleviated the stress of long waiting times providing speedier access to vital services to support children with grief, low self-esteem and other issues which can adversely affect their studies, home life and friendships.

Higher Education Grants have been provided to university students to pay for course related equipment and to encourage financial independence whilst alleviating the pressure for the parents who may already be experiencing financial difficulties.

Celebratory Gift Payments to every beneficiary for Christmas and birthdays have provided an extra treat to put a smile on their faces and let them know the Fund is here for them.

Our impact in the words of our beneficiaries



'My ambition is to become a paramedic and the Fund very generously awarded a grant towards the cost of my driving lessons and test for my C1 licence...Without the Police Children's Fund this would have been extremely difficult and would have delayed my career progression.'

'Thank you Police Children's Fund for your support and funding to help my boys achieve their potential.'

'Suddenly, not only had our world shattered but we were left alone and I didn't know how we would manage financially. Someone from Dan's old police force told me about the Fund so I applied... It took some of the strain away in an already devastating time. I can use the grants for anything school related and it's helped with days out for the girls. It has taken the pressure off me so I can focus on getting myself and our children through the grief.'

'In a few years my boys will have outgrown their eligibility for the Fund's assistance but I will never forget the wonderful work they do. It's been tough and none of us ever asked for what happened to happen. Life has been slightly less painful with the help from Police Children's Fund.'

Our hopes for 2025

During 2024 Police Children's Fund continued to provide the same level of support to our beneficiaries despite witnessing a decline in the number of serving police officers choosing to sign up to donate monthly via their payroll. This has highlighted the need for us to explore alternative fundraising activities and to identify the potential for new initiatives to ensure we are meeting the needs of our beneficiaries in the continually evolving spheres of policing, education and wellbeing.

The Fund will continue to encourage support from officers and police staff in addition to raising awareness in the hope that all eligible children are referred to us for assistance. We will build on attracting new partnerships and expand collaboration with our fellow police charities whilst adhering to a business strategy to ensure sustainability whilst continuously developing the quality and diversity of support we can offer.

Our trustees and team behind the scenes play an integral part in the success of the charity and the three new trustees welcomed in 2024 will bring a fresh contribution to the collective decision-making to further develop the work we do.

In the words of our trustees, we hope that 2025 can be a year of consolidating the brilliant work of the Fund and ensuring our community is recognised so that we can support the children of police officers who have given so much and, at times, paid the ultimate price. During a time of uncertainty we will continue to assist families who are enduring acute emotional and financial hardship as they navigate their way through personal trauma.

Our trustee, Rachel Nolan, Assistant Chief Constable of Essex Police says "the charitable sector plays a major part in creating opportunities which might not otherwise be available to people and this will be as necessary as ever in 2025".



Please get in touch



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