



2025

CHARITY INSIGHTS





I feel very lucky to play a part in the extraordinary work that the Raise Your Hands charities are doing with young people across the UK.

This year we welcomed three outstanding organisations to the platform:

StreetDoctors trains young people in life-saving first aid skills, empowering them to be a force for good in their communities. In 2025 alone, they trained 20,364 young people. To put that in context: it took ten years to train their first 25,000; they've now trained over 45,000 young people in just three years. The scale of their impact is breathtaking.

BelEve is a small but powerful sisterhood unlocking the potential of young women so they can reimagine their futures. You can read more about them on page 4.

MyTime supports children who help look after someone at home - young carers - by providing them with opportunities, friendship, and support at school (see page 7).

Some other personal highlights of 2025 included:

- Seeing **Empire Fighting Chance** complete the expansion of their Bristol site, bringing boxing, therapy and careers support together under one roof.
- Reading **Action for Conservation's** Young People Leading Nature Recovery Impact Report — a powerful reminder that when you trust young people to lead, remarkable things happen. Their intergenerational nature restoration projects offer a genuinely new model for conservation.
- Celebrating the government's launch of an HIV Action Plan, including funding for formula milk for babies born to mothers living with HIV — a campaign long championed by **CHIVA**.

In 2025, we reached a milestone of our own: in the ten years since we were founded, we've directed **more than £4 million** to our charity portfolio. Every pound of that has been part of changing a young life. Together we can be proud of that!

Slaney Wright

CEO of Raise Your Hands



We believe that all children and young people deserve to thrive.

For hundreds of thousands of children, this is only possible with the support of small, specialist charities.

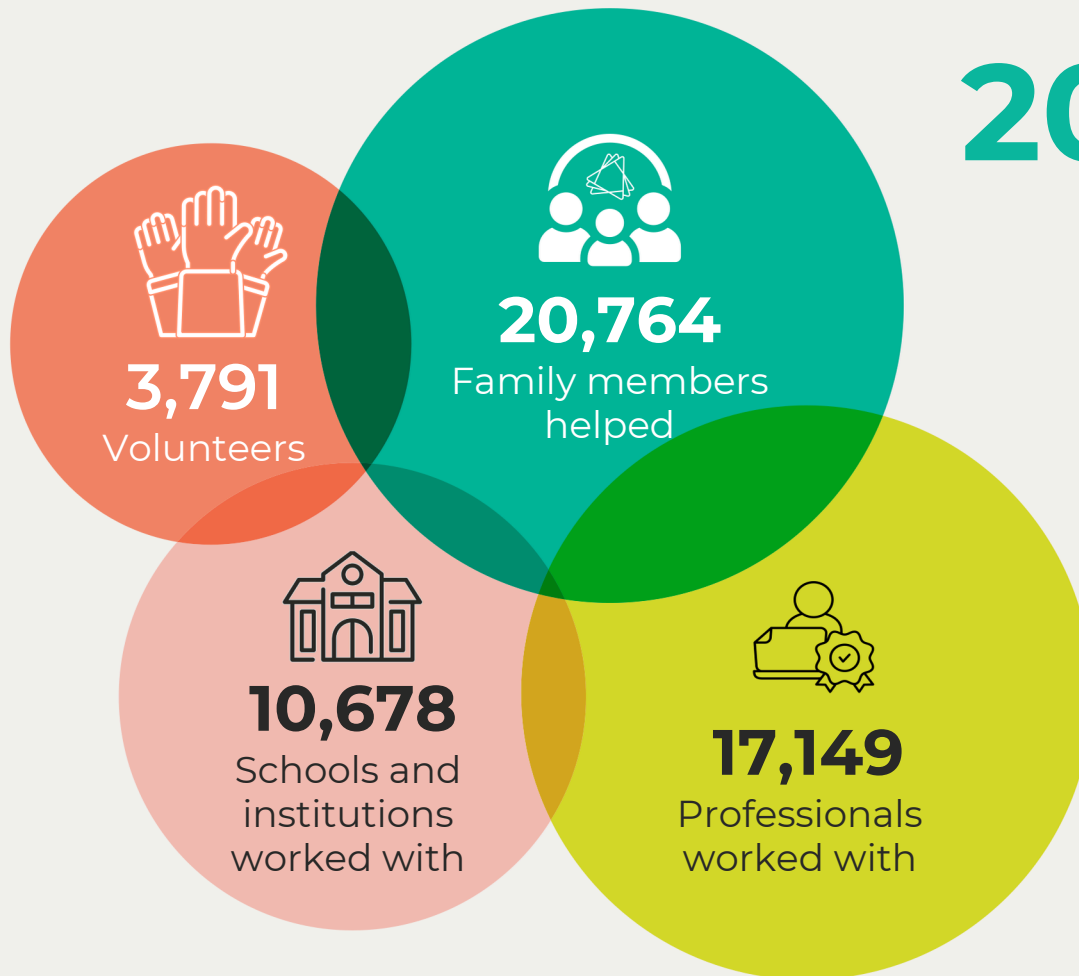


Children and young people helped



76,839

2025 in numbers



Bucking the trend

In a context where many small charities are struggling to stay open, Raise Your Hands' portfolio saw trend-defying growth with an average increase in team size of 5%, a 13% rise in income and most importantly...

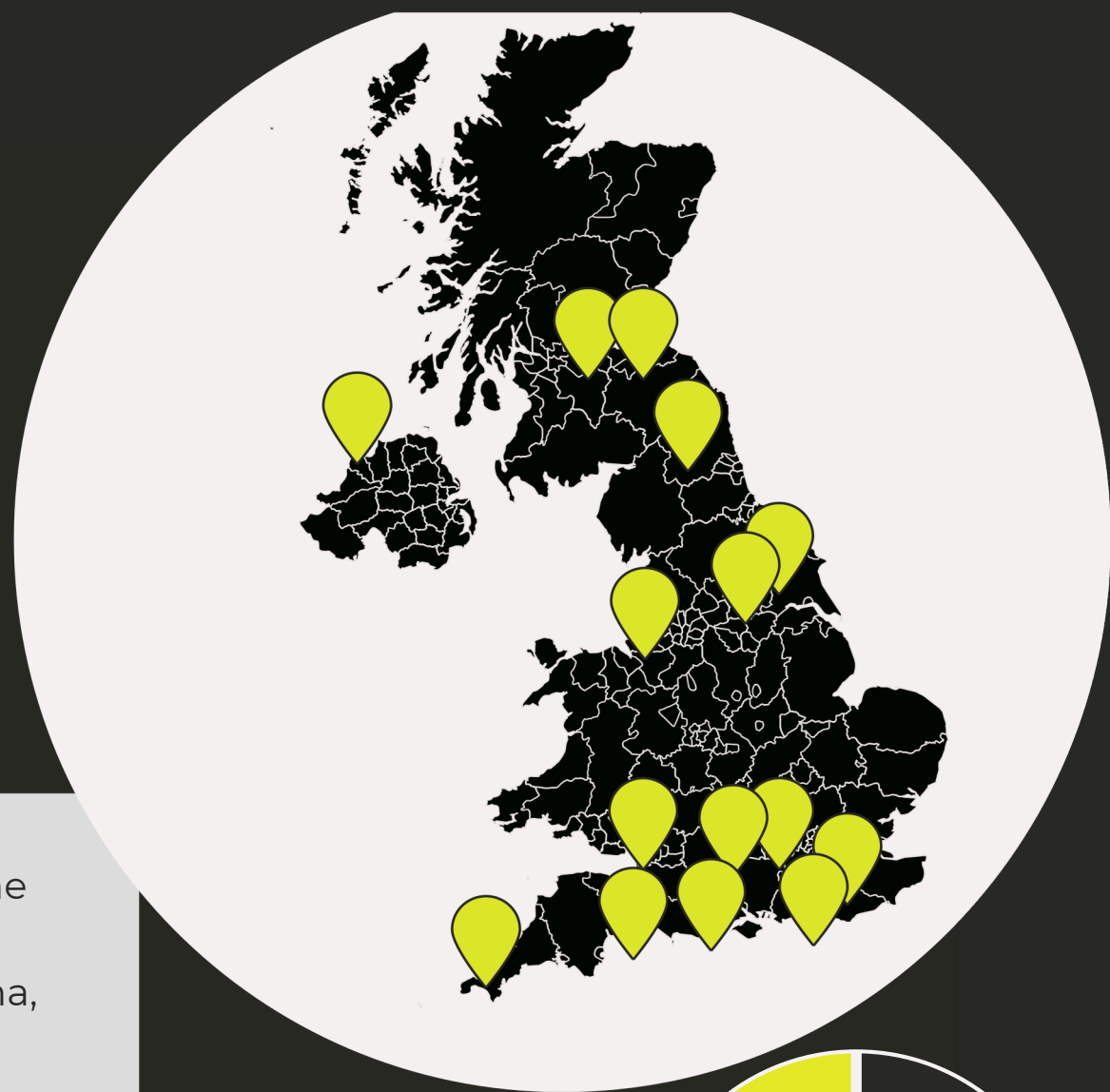
41% increase in number of children and young people worked with.

Our Platform

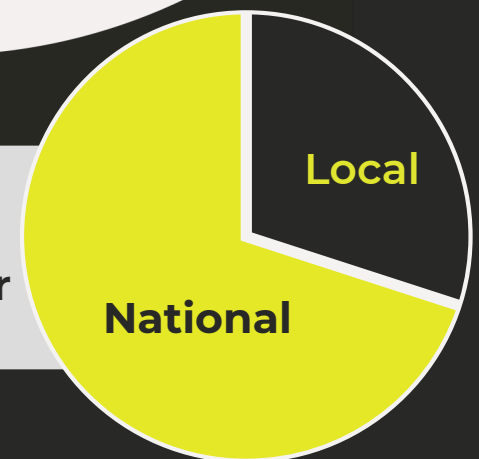
Raise Your Hands' portfolio of charities address a **wide range of issues** - each one using a different and innovative approach.

Approaches range from sending bedtime stories home from prison to using sport, nature, and the arts as therapy for trauma, abuse or bereavement.

Each charity is empowering children and young people - providing them with ways to thrive and fostering lasting positive mental health.



Where our charities deliver



Leadership and employability

One in seven young people in the UK are not in education, employment or training

Our charities are helping tackle the barriers facing the nearly 1 million individuals not yet in the workforce.*



Through workshops, mentoring schemes, residential trips and career events, BelEve empowers girls and young women to become confident, resilient and compassionate leaders.

These young women go on to be successful in their careers and lead with integrity and a commitment to positive change.

In 2025, of the girls that took part in the mentoring programme:

- **93%** felt more positive about their future
- **85%** gained important new employability skills
- **40%** secured internships or work experience, and...

1 in 3 have already secured employment

85%

of girls that took part in the **LeadHerShip** programme say they're now ready to be leaders



“



BelEve Mentee

I completed my mentorship with BelEve and Ralph Lauren in early September. My Mentor, Carol has been an incredible guide, helping me work toward both my personal and professional goals.

SWITCHBACK



Switchback supports young men who are leaving prison through intensive, relationship-centred mentoring and real-work training.

91% of Switchback Trainees do not reoffend within a year of release compared to around half of prison-leavers nationally.

In 2025, at least **59%** of participants reached the Switchback measure of reaching real, sustained change.

56% of Switchback Trainees move into long-term work, education or training – compared to only 10% of prison-leavers nationally*

CASE STUDY

Sina Faily's journey began when he connected with Switchback in prison and was paired with his mentor, Hannah. Through the programme, he completed bakery training and went on to build a career as a chef in several London restaurants. In 2025, just two years after leaving prison, Faily opened his own restaurant, Bundem.



BECOME



Become supports care experienced children and young people, offering advice, workshops and tailored support around education and work.

In 2025, Become helped **743** young people through employment and education programmes, with **98%** developing improved knowledge of how to access employment and educational support services.

97% of the young people Become supports said they felt more ready for university or employment.

“

I had support throughout my entire university application process.

Rebecca was incredibly helpful and stayed with me throughout the journey, always offering guidance, motivation, and reassurance when I felt overwhelmed or close to giving up.

The support I received wasn't just practical but also emotional, and it made a huge difference in helping me stay focused and confident.

- Care-experienced young person

Overcoming challenging family circumstances



MYTIME Young Carers champions the rights and wellbeing of young people aged 5–25 who look after someone at home.

They help young carers to be identified early, supported effectively, and have opportunities for joy, confidence building and future success.

Within schools delivering their programme, young carers recorded an **average attendance rate of 88.23%**, compared to 83.19% in non-participating schools. That's the equivalent of 9.6 extra school days per young carer each year!

“

Sometimes people don't understand what we do and they judge us. That's when we get bullied. But at MYTIME, everyone understands.

- Chloe



MYTIME participants gain so much from taking part:

- **88%** reported ongoing positive impacts for their futures
- **Over 80%** strengthened connections with other young carers
- **93%** broadened their horizons with a new experience
- **84%** felt less stressed





Storybook Dads helps maintain meaningful family bonds for children with a parent in prison by enabling incarcerated parents to record audio and video stories, messages and personalised gifts to send home.

In 2025, Storybook Dads supported **9,318** children, produced over **3,780** stories, and worked with **108** prisons across the UK - their highest number to date!

84% of families said that receiving a story made their child worry less about their parent, and **90%** said it improved their child's wellbeing, including sleep, behaviour and happiness.



“ Receiving the Storybook Dads video from his daddy was wonderful! My son has watched it over and over again and it has helped to heal his broken heart a little. Thank you!

- Mother of boy with dad in prison



Happy Baby Community provides a safe, empowering space for women who have fled violence, trafficking or persecution and are pregnant or caring for a baby or toddler - ensuring those young children are raised in safety and with support.

In 2025, the charity helped nearly **3,000** mothers and over **3,400** children aged four and under, including welcoming over **600** babies.

Their biggest achievement in 2025?

Upholding their core commitment: that no woman meeting their criteria is turned away; there were no waiting lists, and every woman received a call in her own language within 48 hours of referral.



My name is Emma, I started coming to Happy Baby when I was a baby.

Now I am six. I like Happy Baby because it's very safe and very welcoming for the kids. It looked always like a party. It reminds you of a big family. Happy Baby is always going to be a part of my life.

- Emma, a Happy Baby Community child

Highlights of the year

Raise Your Hands is backing some of the best small charities out there. But don't just take our word for it!

Switchback

Runners up: Sheila McKechnie National Campaigner Awards:

- Amplifying Voices Award
- Best Community Campaign



StreetDoctors

Winner: Third Sector Awards - Volunteer Team of the Year

Finalist: Third Sector Awards - Small Charity Big Impact

Confronted the myth that there is a safe place to stab someone by launching the highly successful 'The Fatal Question' campaign with Saatchi & Saatchi



Empire Fighting Chance

Serena Wiebe, Youth Leadership Coordinator and Community Coach was awarded a British Empire Medal for her services to young people across the UK.



Happy Baby Community

Winner: Charity Governance Awards - Board Equity, Diversity and Inclusion



Go Live Theatre

CEO Sita McIntosh was made a Companion of The Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts



MYTIME Young Carers

Winner: UK Charity Awards - Children and Youth Category

Runners up: UK Charity Awards - Overall Charity of the Year

Silver: Best Businesswomen Awards, for CEO Krista Cartlidge

Our Time

Policy win: Influenced the Mental Health Bill to strengthen recognition and protection for children and young people affected by parental mental illness.

Winners: BBC Radio 4 All in the Mind Award



Wave Project

Winner: High Sheriff Award for Creativity Scarborough

Winner: BBC Make a Difference Awards for volunteering for Sarah Turner

Winner: Circular Economy Award by Cornwall Sustainability Awards



CHIVA

A film about the CHIVA summer camp film – Safe With Me - **won Silver**, Charity Film Awards in 2025.

Policy win: Significantly influenced a new commitment for government funded formula feed to all infants of mothers with HIV.



Dandelion Time

Shortlisted: Kent Charity Awards - Children's Charity of the Year





The Raise Your Hands Charity Portfolio

In 2025 we supported 17 high-impact small charities across five categories

1

Mental Health and Trauma Support



Empire Fighting Chance

Combining non-contact boxing and intensive personal support to challenge and inspire young people experiencing adversity and disadvantage.



CHIVA - Children's HIV Association

Improving health and social outcomes for children and young people living with HIV.



Dandelion Time

Using the therapeutic potential of the natural world to help traumatised children on a farm in Kent.



Jessie May

Supporting families and children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions in the comfort of their homes.

2



Campaigning for change



StreetDoctors

Tackling youth violence and its consequences by equipping young people with the skills and confidence to provide first aid in emergency situations.

BECOME

Become

Helping children in care and young care leavers to believe in themselves, to heal, grow and unleash their potential.

3

Overcoming challenging family circumstances



Happy Baby Community

Providing a safe space for refugee mums and young children who have sought safety in the UK to access advice, support and community.



Storybook Dads

Making sure that children don't pay the price for their parent's imprisonment by sending them bedtime stories recorded by their parents from behind bars.



MYTIME Young Carers

Creating space for young carers to be children; giving them the support, skills and breaks they often miss.



Our Time

The only UK charity dedicated to supporting the one in three children who have a parent with a mental illness.

4

Access to nature and the arts



Action for Conservation

Inspiring young people from diverse backgrounds to become the next generation of nature conservationists.



Go Live Theatre

Enriching the lives of disabled and disadvantaged children through theatre.



The Wave Project

Providing surf therapy programmes to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people facing adversity.



5

Education and Employability



Literacy Pirates

An education charity that develops the literacy, confidence and perseverance of children who are falling behind in class.



Switchback

Supporting young prison-leavers to make real, lasting change through intensive one-to-one support and real-work training.



Kidscape*

Giving young people, parents and professionals the tools and confidence to challenge bullying in all forms.



BelEve

Supporting girls and young women to become confident, resilient and compassionate leaders through workshops, mentoring and career guidance.



The Raise Your Hands Alumni

Since 2015 we have supported a number of charities that have since grown beyond our definition of 'small charity'.



Meet our Success Stories

We are proud to have been part of the journey of these charities as they expanded and moved on to the next stage of their growth.



Create

2016 - 2025

Empowering lives, reducing isolation and enhancing wellbeing through the creative arts.



Little Village

2020 - 2023

Providing emergency baby supplies to struggling parents - now the UK's leading baby bank.



Football Beyond Borders

2017 - 2023

Using the power of football to engage young people in education.



Grief Encounter

2015 - 2021

Helping children and young people through bereavement.



Papyrus

2018 - 2019

Working to prevent youth suicide and promote positive mental health and emotional wellbeing in young people.

