



The Centre for
Social Justice

**Connecting the backstreets of Britain
with the corridors of power**

Andy Cook, CSJ CEO

How we work

Over the last 20 years, the CSJ in conjunction with the CSJF, has developed unparalleled understanding of the root causes of poverty, identified through our alliance of over 750 UK wide small poverty-fighting frontline charities.

Understanding the frontlines

Problems are always being solved out there.



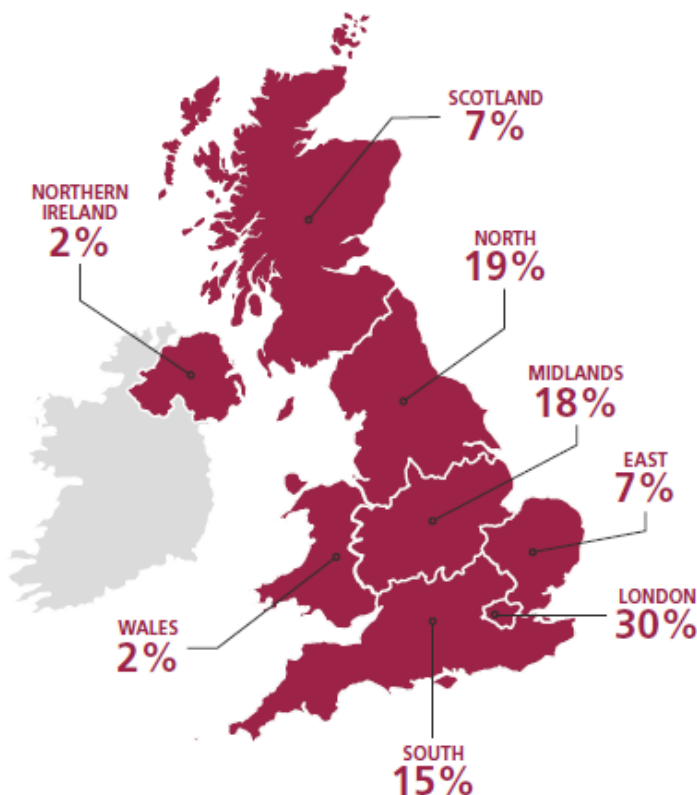
Policy Work

Poverty is about far more than just the absence of money.



Impact

Impact is everything.



God's own county



Since opening our Yorkshire office in 2023;

- Our Alliance of local poverty-fighting charities has grown to almost 100.
- Over £300K has been directed into Yorkshire charities through the CSJF
- Yorkshire charities have actively shaped CSJ work on 'Ghost Children', criminality in the community, the future of addiction support, combatting social isolation and more...



The CSJ's Social Justice Commission

Our cross-party Commission conducted an unflinching inquiry into what life at the bottom of society is really like. '[Two Nations](#)' reveals a widening gap between those who can get by and those stuck at the bottom.

-  Charity Visits
-  Focus Group Organisations
-  Big Listens

350+ small charities, experts and those with lived experience

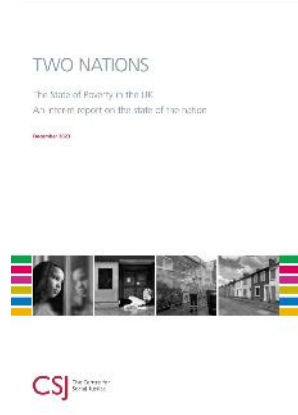
5 'Big Listens' across the UK

20 towns and cites

6,000 adults spoken to

10 cross-party Commissioners

7 major focus groups



Covid has left Britain divided like in Victorian era, says think tank

Centre for Social Justice cites 700% rise in calls to domestic abuse helpline and a sharp increase in mental health problems among the disadvantaged



ANDY COOK
CEO - CENTRE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Covid inquiry has been more about the blame game between politicians... The Centre for Social Justice study reveals 70% rise in calls to domestic abuse helpline and a sharp increase in mental health problems among the disadvantaged... The report warns as many as 2.5 million could have a mental disorder by 2035...

'We should never be locked down again - it was disastrous'
The beauty entrepreneur is researching the impact of lockdown for the Centre for Social Justice, and says it was a catastrophe for the poor and vulnerable. By Eleanor Mills



Michelle Phillips

UK POVERTY
The Sunday Telegraph
Tory 'star chamber' rejects PM's flights plan
The new legislation could 'water down' enough to prevent legal challenges, experts say



COVID'S 'BROKE' UK KIDS
1 in 5 mental toll
LOCKDOWN has left one in five kids with mental health issues - almost double the number 20 years ago. A report warns as many as 2.5 million could have a mental disorder by 2035.

700% rise in calls to domestic abuse helpline during lockdown

Lockdown had 'catastrophic effect' on Britain's poverty gap
Landmark report warns that UK is at risk of sliding back into the Victorian era
Camilla Tomlinson, ASSOCIATE EDITOR
9 December 2023, 10:00pm

Welfarism has robbed a generation of hope
Covid alone cannot be blamed for Victorian-era social divisions and an absence of aspiration
UK POVERTY
Report says lockdowns had 'catastrophic effect on nation' - typically embedding its terror structure into civilian populations

Covid lockdowns had 'catastrophic effect' on UK's social fabric, report claims
Research by centre-right think tank says gap between the mainstream and poorest in society is widening
NEWMAN'S VIEW
The report says 25 per cent of the population are now living in poverty, up from 15 per cent in 2010. The report also says that the gap between the rich and the poor is widening.

'Poverty has many root causes - Labour must tackle them all'
11th December, 2023, 12:00 pm
Josh Nicholson
REPORT CALLS UK A 'DEEPLY DIVIDED SOCIETY'

Sunday newspaper of the year
14.00 only (2.20 to subscribers based on a 7 day subscription)
THE SUNDAY TIMES
The truth about Princess Diana and me
Magazine
Cameron tasked to quell rebels on Rwanda
Letters to my sister

Covid 'turned UK social divide into a chasm'
Report blames lockdowns for 'yawning gap' that mirrors Victorian era of Two Nations
The report says that the gap between the rich and the poor is widening, and that the UK is at risk of sliding back into the Victorian era.

#politicallive
politics live
REPORT CALLS UK A 'DEEPLY DIVIDED SOCIETY'

Headline Findings



Lockdown poured petrol on the fires already alight

SCHOOL ABSENCE TRACKER

A termly analysis of official data relating to absence from schools

157,722

The number of severely absent pupils has soared by 161.8 per cent since the pandemic, to record high levels. In Summer 2023, 157,722 pupils were absent from school more than they were present (severely absent), which is 2.2 per cent of the school population. This compares with 60,244 pupils who were severely absent in Autumn 2019 (pre-pandemic), equating to an additional 97,478 pupils.

1,688,649

Persistent absence has increased by 15.3 per cent since Spring 2023 and increased by 83 per cent since before the pandemic. 1,688,649 pupils were persistently absent in Summer 2023, which equates to 23.9 per cent of all pupils. This compares to 922,566 pupils before the pandemic.

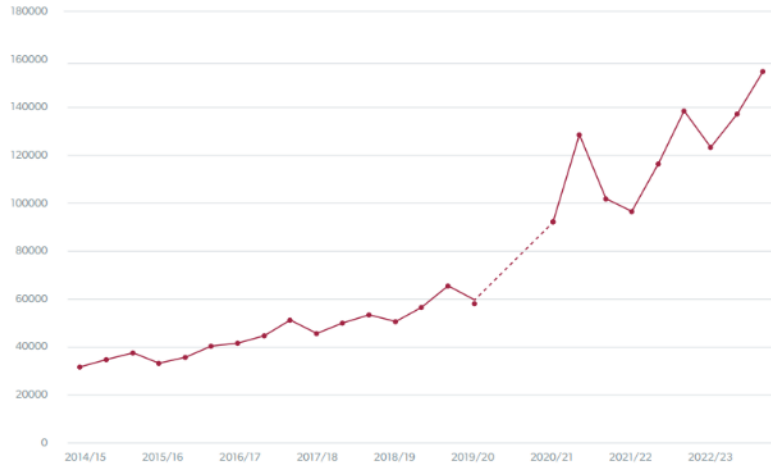
7.6%

The overall absence rate in Summer 2023 was 7.6 per cent. This is an increase of 53.4 per cent since before the pandemic.



March 2024

Figure 2: severe absence over time



COVID-19 UC Claimant Rise

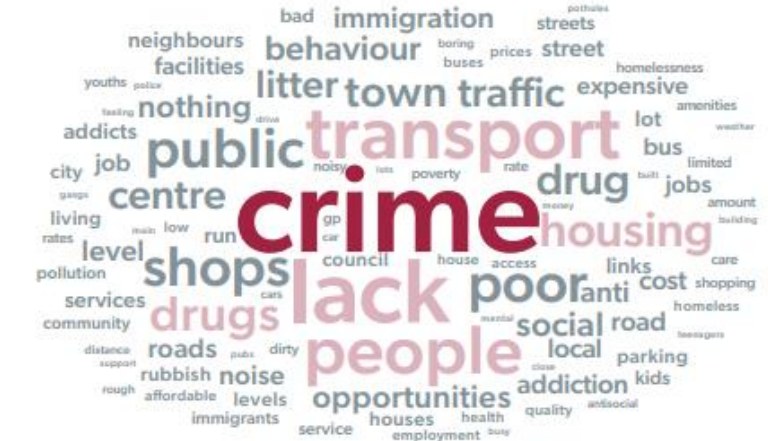
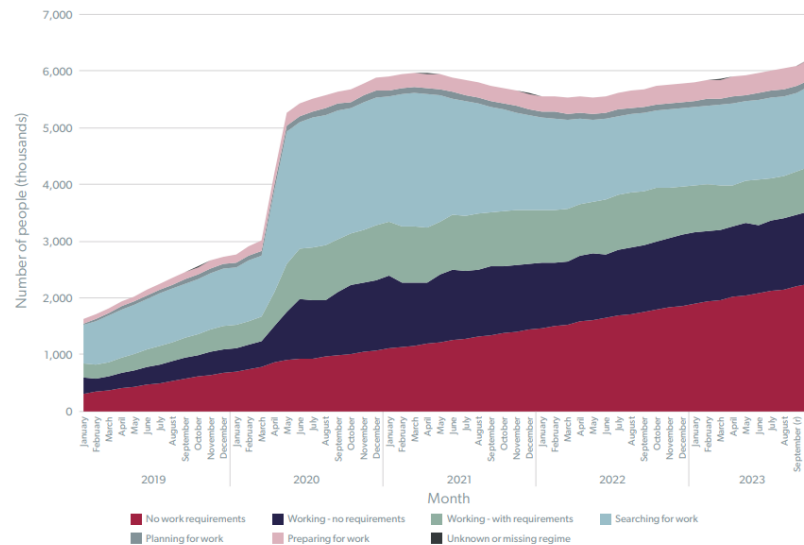
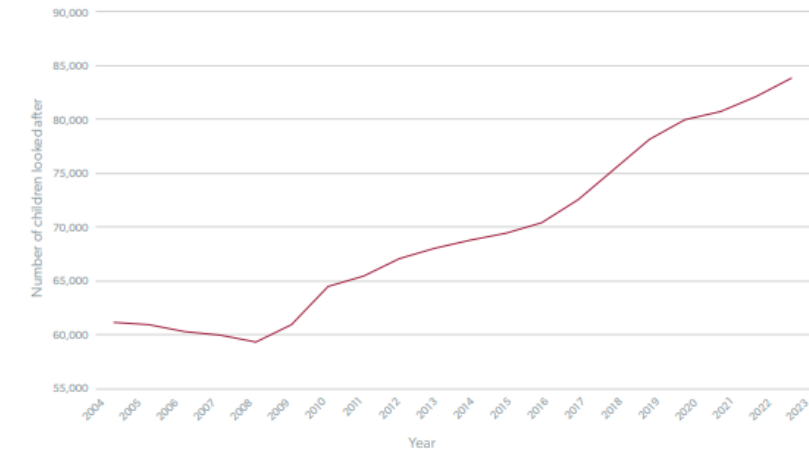
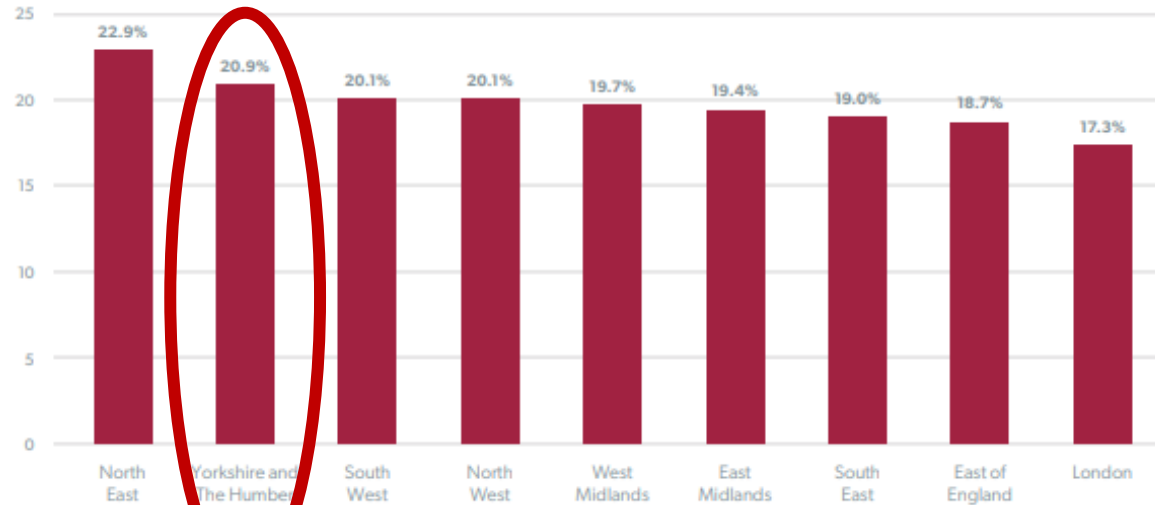


Figure 9: Looked After Children, England, 2004-2023



Lockdown poured petrol on the fires already alight

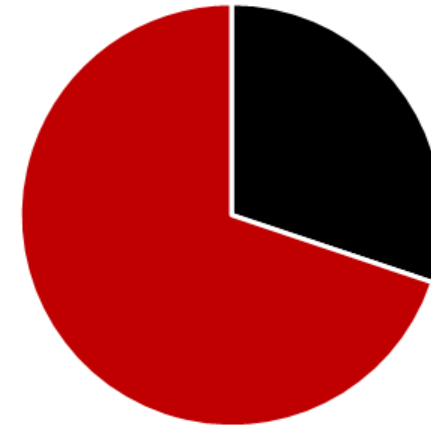
Figure 4: Persistent Absence Rate by Region



- Over 150,000 children are persistently absent in Yorkshire and the Humber.
- Highest rate of Severe Absence in the country.

- In Yorkshire cities Bradford and Hull 1 in 5 people are on out of work benefits.
20.1% Hull / 19.2% Bradford

Care Leavers in Yorkshire and the Humber

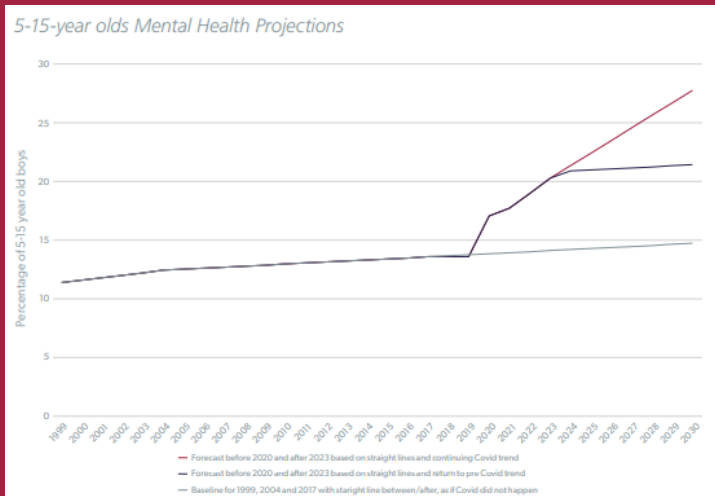


■ In Education, Training or Employment ■ NEET

There are some elephants in the room...

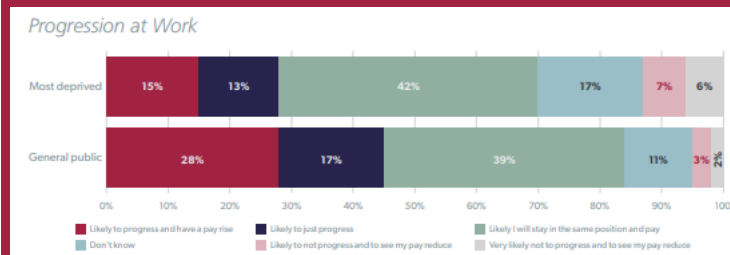
Over medicalisation of society?

- 40% of the most deprived say they have a mental illness vs just 13% of the general population
- 108% more boys with mental health disorders by 2030 than if the lockdown had not occurred



Work isn't worth it?

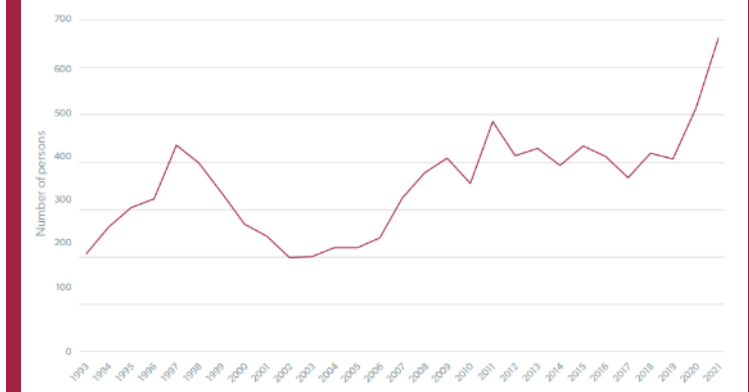
- Just 15% of those of the most deprived expect to progress at work over the next year
- Increasingly, people are turning to welfare, rather than wages, in order to unlock additional income: **Britain is sick but being sick pays**



Maintenance vs life change?

- There has been a 63% increase in deaths of people on methadone than pre-pandemic
- 37% of people in recovery relapsed during lockdown

Figure 34: Methadone Related Deaths, England and Wales, 1993 to 2021



Here in Yorkshire...

- Murders in Sheffield could be avoided with 'Proper Policing'.
- People in the mining villages in Doncaster are scared to leave their homes due to ASB.
- Ex-police officer, based in Leeds, says that the police were only effective for two of his fifteen years of service.



- Opportunity to renovate thousands of empty homes and address homelessness.



- Young People missing relationship 'red flags' – social media has a lot to answer for.



- Class A drugs alarmingly easy for young people to access in Wakefield and Castleford.



- Stories from across Yorkshire about the hit-and-miss nature of awarded disability benefits.

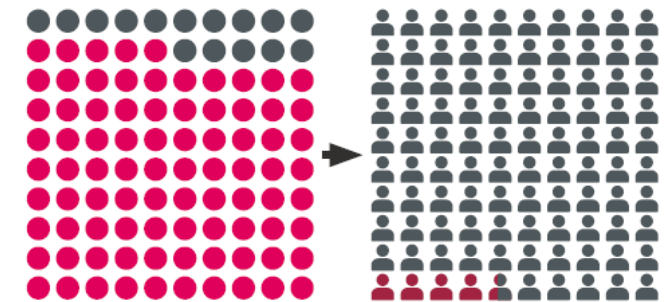
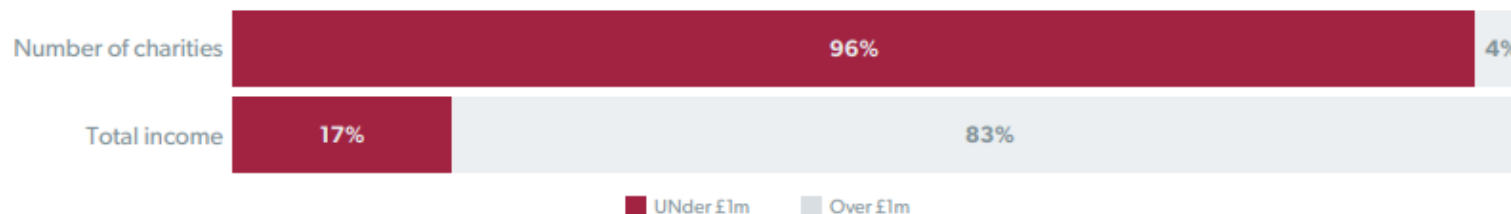


We need to talk about big charities

Charities with an income under £1million a year make up 96% of the voluntary sector in the UK, and yet...

| Big | vs. | Small |
|--|-----|---|
| 100 biggest charities furloughed 33,000 staff generating £197m | | Half of the smallest charities expanded their frontline delivery during Covid |
| Top 10 biggest charities spend £243 million on fundraising annually | | £243m is the income of 75,000 small charities combined |
| The 16 largest charities in England and Wales have a combined income larger than all charities under £1 million. | | Overall income has declined by over £100 million in real terms in 6 years |

Figure 38: Charity Size Vs Share of Income, 2019/20



85% of charitable income goes to just 4.4% of charities

We need to talk about grassroots charities

UNDERFUNDED AND OVERLOOKED

The perilous state of Britain's grassroots charities

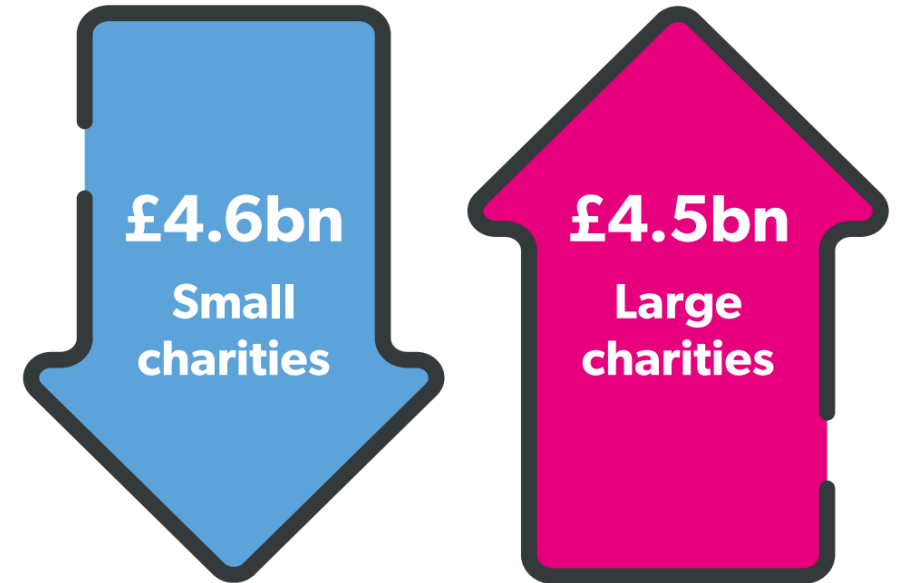


97 per cent of charities that close are small and medium sized charities.¹⁸



Charities in London receive up to **8 times more** public funding than elsewhere in the country.¹⁶

Figure 5: Change in income between large and small charities post pandemic.⁵¹



Charities with an income under £1million a year make up 96% of the voluntary sector in the UK.

Over 20,000 small charities operate at a loss post-pandemic and overall income for small charities shrank by a quarter from 2018-21.

But... there's always hope...

Reasons for hope



Past masters

Government out the way



Debates open

Canaries in mine



Regions calling

Philanthropy hungry

Infrastructure building



The Centre for
Social Justice

Find out more about our work in Yorkshire:

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Twitter (X): @csjthinktank and @CSJFoundation