



Annual Report 2026

1 December 2024 to 30 November 2025

**Working towards a
world where domestic
abuse never defines
a child's future**



Reflecting on the Year, Shaping the Future

This has been a year of renewal for KidsOut. For nearly 35 years, we have been driven by a simple belief: that children facing the most difficult circumstances deserve happiness, hope and the opportunity to thrive. That purpose is as urgent today as ever.

Children affected by domestic abuse face experiences that can have profound and lasting consequences. Around one in five children under 18 in England are estimated to have been exposed to domestic abuse during their childhood. The scale and seriousness of domestic abuse demand greater understanding, support and action to protect children and their futures. Rising living costs, housing pressures and increasing demand for specialist services is placing additional strain on families escaping domestic abuse and, on the organisations, supporting them. In the face of these challenges, KidsOut has continued to make a tangible difference to thousands of children and families. Through toy boxes, fun days out, workshops, digital devices and improvements to refuge environments, we provided support and positive experiences at times when they matter most. In total, KidsOut services supported more than 47,000 children in 2024-25.¹ Behind every number in this report is a child. That is something we should never lose sight of.

Strengthening KidsOut

This year has also brought significant internal change. While this report covers the 2024-25 reporting period, we are writing from the perspective of KidsOut today, as we look towards our next chapter. We have strengthened governance, financial management, processes and organisational structures, creating a stronger foundation for greater and more sustainable support for children affected by domestic abuse. Our staff and volunteers have remained central to this progress, demonstrating resilience and dedication throughout a period of change, with their commitment to children and families continuing to be at the heart of our work.

A key part of our renewal has been investment in leadership. Following a period of interim management, Catherine Kirk was appointed Chief Executive in March 2026, bringing renewed focus and stability to the organisation. The Board has also evolved, with Steve Bird joining as Chair alongside new Trustees Thomas Reading and Olayemi Karim. Together, they bring diverse experience and perspectives, united by a commitment to combining the compassion and energy that have always characterised KidsOut with strong governance, clear accountability and strategic ambition.

Looking Ahead

Our next stage is about deepening our understanding of the lived experience of children affected by domestic abuse and building on the support we already provide. In response to the scale and impact of violence against women and children across the UK, we will work alongside children, families and frontline organisations, putting children's voices and choices at the heart of our approach and strengthening support across a child's journey.

Alongside this, we will strengthen KidsOut as an organisation by developing new and existing partnerships, growing our volunteer community, and investing in our people, systems and leadership. Together, this will enable us to reach more children, deepen our impact and create lasting change in their recovery, wellbeing and future opportunities.

There is still much to do. Demand for specialist domestic abuse support remains high, the fundraising environment is challenging, and expectations of charities continue to increase. These challenges reinforce the need for KidsOut and create an opportunity for us to become an even stronger and more effective organisation.

It is about creating stronger foundations from which KidsOut can deliver greater and longer-lasting impact.

Thank You

None of this would be possible without the extraordinary community around KidsOut. To our supporters and donors, corporate and charitable partners, regional committees and volunteers: thank you for your generosity, time, energy and belief in our work. To the refuges and organisations with whom we work: thank you for your solidarity, expertise and trust. To our staff: thank you for your resilience and commitment during a period of considerable change. And to our Trustees, both those who have provided continuity and those who have recently joined us, thank you for the responsibility and commitment you bring.

Most importantly, to the children and families we support; you are the reason KidsOut exists. Renewal is not simply about transformation today, it is about creating the strong foundations that will allow KidsOut to expand its reach, amplify its impact, and help more children to thrive in the future.



Steve Bird
Chair of Trustees



Catherine Kirk
Chief Executive Officer

*Children may have been provided more than one support service

Our Impact at a Glance

KidsOut supports children affected by domestic abuse throughout their journey, providing access to the opportunities, experiences and practical support they need to recover and thrive.

From toy boxes when children arrive at refuge and festive gifts, to everyday essentials, laptops for learning and digital access, fun days and transformed refuge gardens and communal spaces, KidsOut responds to the practical and emotional needs of children and families.

We help fill gaps in support and create opportunities for positive experiences, while striving to listen to children and understand their needs.

29,700

Individual toys distributed to children affected by domestic abuse and other charities

10,890

Children received toy boxes

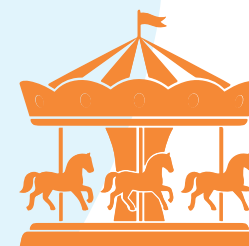
1 Sensory room make over



Improved Refuge environments

MORE THAN
47,000

children supported through KidsOut services*



8,370

Children/families taken on fun days out

30

Children accessing recycled digital devices



Children taken part in therapeutic support workshops

“

“For many years, KidsOut has been a vital source of support for families staying in our refuge. Their commitment to bringing joy, practical assistance and memorable experiences to children has had a profound impact on the wellbeing and recovery of the families we serve. KidsOut helps restore hope, dignity, and happiness, at a time when children need it most”

Birmingham Crisis Refuge Manager

*Children may have been provided more than one support service

Why we are here

Domestic abuse continues to have a profound impact on children across the UK. An estimated one in five children experience domestic abuse before the age of 18, with significant impacts on their emotional wellbeing, mental health, education and long-term life outcomes.

Every year in England alone, an estimated 24,000 children are supported in specialist safe accommodation, and a further 146,000 receive support through community-based services.⁵ Despite increasing demand, only 58% of refuge services had a dedicated children and young people's service in 2025, highlighting the pressures facing service providers.⁴ This scale of need highlights the importance of support for children at different points in their journey. For KidsOut, it reflects the role we play within the wider network of specialist services, providing practical support alongside other organisations working with children and families affected by domestic abuse.



Play and Wellbeing

We know play is an important part of childhood, helping children build confidence, develop skills and experience joy and connection.² For children affected by domestic abuse, opportunities for play and positive experiences can provide valuable space to switch off, reconnect with childhood and begin to rebuild a sense of normality, however for families facing financial hardship, opportunities for leisure are often simply out of reach.

At the same time, children affected by domestic abuse are significantly more likely to experience anxiety, depression, behavioural difficulties and symptoms of trauma, making access to specialist therapeutic support essential.³ Yet access to children's mental health services remains uneven across the UK.⁴ KidsOut helps children access fun and positive experiences, specialist therapeutic support, and toy boxes that provide comfort and joy on their journey of recovery.



Digital Inclusion and Learning

Children entering specialist safe accommodation can experience digital exclusion when a sudden move disrupts access to the devices and connectivity, they rely on for learning, communication and maintaining connections with school and friends.

KidsOut identifies access to technology as an important need for children affected by domestic abuse and, in partnership with Sustainable Tech 4 Good, provides laptops, tablets and mobile phones to help children continue their education and stay connected.



Child Friendly Environments

Limited funding can mean that communal areas in refuges are often functional but stark, with few opportunities for children to play, learn and relax.

More welcoming, child-friendly spaces can provide comfort and a greater sense of normality following disruption, while supporting an environment where children and families can feel safe and access appropriate, trauma-informed support.⁵

In collaboration with corporate partners, KidsOut regenerates play areas, indoor and outdoor spaces within refuges, helping to create more welcoming and child-friendly environments.



Access to Essentials

Families arriving in specialist safe accommodation can face significant financial pressure, making it difficult to afford food and other essentials for their children.

In 2024, 79.8% of domestic abuse services saw survivors struggling to afford essentials for themselves and/or their children.⁶ KidsOut's practical support, including food vouchers, helps ease this pressure and helps to ensure that children have access to food and everyday essentials at a time of considerable change and uncertainty.



Working Together

Children, families, communities, agencies and organisations all have a role to play in supporting children affected by domestic abuse. By listening to children and families and responding to their needs, we can ensure support is accessible, meaningful and effective throughout their journey.

Through strong partnerships, shared responsibility and collective advocacy, we can help create the conditions in which children and families can thrive and work towards a future free from domestic abuse.

Stories of Change

Transforming Refuge Spaces

Working alongside our corporate partner Organix, KidsOut transformed the playrooms of two refuges into more welcoming spaces for children.

Forty Organix employees volunteered their time to paint, assemble furniture, create murals and refresh the rooms with new toys, helping to make them brighter, more comfortable places for children to play and spend time.



A Digital Pathway Back to Learning

In partnership with Sustainable Tech 4 Good children in refuge continue their education as part of KidsOut's digital inclusion programme.

One refuge worker said,

"We've been loving the new playroom! It's such a pleasure, and the young children adore the marble run, stickle bricks, and all the new Duplo."



Another shared,

"The volunteers were absolutely amazing. They helped so much, and the work they did in the playroom was incredible. Nothing was too much trouble, and everyone mucked in and helped out. You could tell they were happy and honoured to be helping."



RIDE HIGH

Partnership for Positive Change

Through partnership with Ride High children experienced a bespoke horse-riding course alongside other tailored activities.

Some thoughts from
Ride High Children's Manager

"Many of the children and young people Ride High supports are struggling with poor mental health, often due to difficult circumstances including poverty, trauma, abuse and neglect. The continuing collaboration between our two charities enabled us to offer places to 16 young people in urgent need of support on a 12-week programme of horse-riding and clubroom creative activities in autumn 2026.

Spending time in the tranquil surroundings of Ride High has already had a positive impact on their mental and physical health, and they will reap the benefits for years to come. We would also like to thank KidsOut for their kindness in providing Christmas gifts for all the children at the end of their course"



Finding Joy in Difficult Times

Children from refuges can enjoy a range of fun experiences, from cinema trips and pantomimes to family activities and seasonal celebrations.

Reflections from
a Children and Young
Persons Domestic Abuse
Specialist

"Thank you so much once again, I can see how much of an impact these days out have on children who have been through an incredibly difficult period. It's much appreciated".

A mother of three
feedback:

"The land of lights was a wonderful experience. The children loved running through all the lights and finding out what the next wonderful display would be. We couldn't believe how amazing they all were.

I would never have been able to afford to take the children before Christmas, so I thank all who made this possible for me and my children. The smiles on their faces showed that being there made them feel super special".

The Foundation of Our Work

Since KidsOut's inception in 1990, when Rotary volunteers supported a fun day out for thousands of children across the UK, volunteers have been central to our ability to reach children when they need it most.

Today, this commitment is exemplified by our Luton warehouse, the hub of our toy box Service, where more than 10,000 toy boxes are distributed each year, led by our Warehouse Manager and supported by a dedicated team of local community volunteers who ensure every toy box reaches the children who need it most.

Over the year, nine dedicated volunteers contributed more than 1,300 hours of support, helping to manage the significant logistical task of sorting, packing and organising thousands of toy boxes.

In addition to our regular volunteer team, we provide opportunities for businesses to support our work through corporate social responsibility volunteering days.

Particularly during our busiest Christmas period, teams came together to help prepare and distribute toy boxes. More than 250 corporate volunteers from organisations including VINCI, HSBC and Canopus donated a combined 1,290 hours of support.

Our warehouse is not the only place where volunteers make a difference. We are proud to benefit from volunteer support across the charity, from our office in Leighton Buzzard and our annual Question of Sport events to activities taking place within local communities. Through this many volunteers contributed a remarkable 400 hours of volunteer time.

We simply could not achieve what we do without the commitment and enthusiasm of our volunteers.

at our warehouse

9
DEDICATED
VOLUNTEERS

HAVE GIVEN

1,300
HOURS

+

250
CORPORATE
VOLUNTEERS

HAVE GIVEN

1,290
HOURS

+

across KidsOut

400
VOLUNTEER
HOURS

WERE GIVEN

Every Box Brings Comfort When It's Needed Most

Geoff has been volunteering with KidsOut for seven years. After discovering KidsOut through Rotary, he was inspired to get involved and has continued volunteering because he knows that, through his time and dedication, he can make a real and immediate difference to children going through some of the most difficult times in their lives.

I pack toy boxes that are to be the first step for a child building a new life.

From sorting toys and packing boxes to collecting items from supporters and delivering to refuges, Geoff knows that every box can bring comfort to a child who may have had to leave their home and belongings behind.

For Geoff, that practical impact is what makes volunteering so rewarding.

If you want to do charity work that has an immediate impact on someone in need, then KidsOut is for you.

Giving Her Time to Bring Joy Back to Childhood

Pauline started volunteering with KidsOut in 2024, after reducing her working hours and deciding she wanted to give something back. Now retired, she continues to volunteer because she loves knowing that her time can make a real difference to children going through difficult times. For Pauline, KidsOut felt like the perfect fit.

No two days are the same. She helps with administration and fundraising events, packs toy boxes in the warehouse and, from September to Christmas, supports the Giving Tree campaign by organising gift tags and collecting toys donated by the local community. This will be her third Christmas volunteering with KidsOut.

What Pauline enjoys most is knowing that even the smallest things she does can have a real impact. She values the friendly, supportive team and the variety of ways to get involved.

I get a lot of satisfaction from volunteering with KidsOut because I know that whatever I do, I'm helping children through tough times. Knowing the toys we provide can help children play, have fun and experience some happiness again makes my time volunteering really worthwhile.



Making a Difference Together

500+ Refuges



Our impact is made possible through strong partnerships across the UK, with more than 500 refuges at the heart of our work. Their vital role in providing safety and specialist support enables us to reach children and families at a critical point in their lives and provide support where it is needed most.

We also collaborate with other allies, including Solace, Women's Aid, Refuge, Embrace Victims of Crime, and Hestia bringing together expertise, insight and shared commitment to improving outcomes for children affected by domestic abuse.

Partner Networks



Our wider network of partners is equally important to our work. Organisations such as Sustainable Tech for Good who repurpose surplus tech play a vital role in helping us extend our reach and support for the children we serve.

Corporate Partnerships



We are hugely grateful to the businesses that partnered with us this year. Together, they contributed their time, resources, financial support and influence to amplify our cause and make a meaningful difference to the children that we serve. Some of the highlights include:



For more than 14 years, **FedEx** has been a valued and dependable partner of KidsOut, helping us ensure that toy boxes reach children living in refuge across the UK.

Their generous in-kind logistics support has been fundamental to the success of our toy box programme, helps us connect with refuges and communities nationwide, ensuring toy boxes are delivered safely, efficiently and when they are needed most.



For six years, **Pokémon** has been a valued partner. Through generous donations of high-quality toys and games, Pokémon provides children of all ages with much-loved gifts. Pokémon's unrestricted funding is equally important, enabling us to collect, store and distribute donated toys from our supporters and deliver Pokémon toy boxes directly to children across the UK.



Homes by Honey employees took on the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, raising an incredible £5,686. They also continue to support us through regular attendance at our Leeds Question of Sport event and remain enthusiastic advocates for our mission.



For more than 14 years, **Hasbro** has been a steadfast partner. In 2025, the partnership reached new heights through the donation of 1,200 toy boxes. Alongside this remarkable contribution, Hasbro donated a wide range of beloved toys and games.

In addition, through their inspiring Operation Smiles, employees volunteered their time, energy and creativity to transform a London refuge into a welcoming festive environment. Decorations, gifts and seasonal treats helped create a magical Christmas experience for children and mothers alike.



Organix donated 10p from every Oaty Bar sold through the Tesco website during a six-week summer campaign, helping to raise vital funds and awareness for us. They also supported the renovation of two play rooms in refuges transforming them into warm and welcoming spaces.



Canopus demonstrated outstanding commitment through its Month of Giving initiative. More than 25 employees volunteered at our Luton warehouse, helping to pack toy boxes for children in refuge. The company also gave us core funding and donated digital devices and selected us as its raffle partner, generating further support for our work.

Trusts and Foundations



Our vital services were made possible thanks to the generosity of charitable trusts and foundations.

One of our standout supporters this year was the Roger Raymond Charitable Foundation, whose funding enabled children to attend Ride High, an equine therapy children's programme.

We were also incredibly grateful to ShareGift, who selected us to receive a £15,000 donation. As unrestricted funding, this generous contribution allowed us to direct resources where they were needed most.

We are deeply grateful for the support of all our partners in supporting children affected by domestic abuse.

We couldn't deliver our services without them.

The Support Behind Our Impact

This year, supporters from across the UK showed incredible creativity, generosity and determination, raising money through sponsored walks, community events, challenge events and personal fundraising initiatives.

From the national challenges to local events, businesses, community supporters, schools and volunteers took on challenges and brought their communities together to help raise vital funds for KidsOut.

Highlights included our flagship Question of Sport events, National and Yorkshire Three Peaks, the London and Brighton marathons and charity golf days.



Every contribution, large or small, has helped us continue delivering essential support to children and families rebuilding their lives after domestic abuse. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who chose to support KidsOut this year.

Community Supporters and Regional Committees

KidsOut is fortunate to be supported by a network of dedicated Regional Committees who give their time, expertise and enthusiasm to help us achieve our fundraising goals and amplify the needs of children affected by domestic abuse.

Throughout the year, committee members worked tirelessly to champion KidsOut within their local communities, using their professional networks to introduce new supporters, strengthen existing relationships and create opportunities for fundraising.

Their knowledge, influence and commitment have been instrumental in helping us grow our events programme and reach new audiences.

If you are able to put something back into the community and help those children who need it most, then there are fewer deserving charities than KidsOut.

Helping children who need it most

Ian has supported KidsOut for around 15 years, first getting involved when a former colleague asked him to help organise an event to support the charity. When his colleague moved on, Ian took on a leading role and has continued his support ever since.

As a member of our Leeds Committee, Ian's key contribution is helping to organise KidsOut's flagship Question of Sport fundraiser in Leeds each year. From coordinating the event and filling the venue to creating an enjoyable experience for guests, Ian brings people together while helping raise vital funds and build awareness of KidsOut.

For Ian, supporting KidsOut is about giving back and helping children who need it most.



For details on KidsOut's income and expenditure please see our Annual Accounts 2024-2025 available on the KidsOut website or Charity Commission.

Our Ambition for the Future

The need is urgent. Too many children affected by domestic abuse face disruption, uncertainty and lost opportunities at the very point when they need stability, connection and hope.

As we look ahead, KidsOut will strengthen both what we do and our voice for change: listening to children, families and frontline organisations, using evidence and lived experience to understand what children need from the moment they reach safety and as they rebuild their lives. We will use that insight not only to improve our own support, but to advocate for children's needs to be recognised alongside the needs of adult survivors.

Our focus is clear:

To contribute to a world where domestic abuse never defines a child's future.

OUR PRIORITIES for the year ahead

Consolidating our foundations

Embedding the changes we have made across our leadership, governance, organisational structure and ways of working, while continuing to build a positive, collaborative and inclusive culture.

Developing our new strategy

Creating a co-produced, evidence-based strategy shaped by lived experience, research and the voices of children, parents and our partners.

Evolving our services

Continuing to develop practical and meaningful support that responds to the experiences and changing needs of children rebuilding their lives after domestic abuse. Our four service pillars will remain central:



CREATING FUN & HAPPINESS

providing opportunities for children to play, have fun and make happy memories.



ACCESS TO ESSENTIALS

Helping families meet everyday needs and reducing financial pressures.



SUPPORTING WELLBEING

Supporting emotional recovery and creating safe, welcoming refuge environments.



LEARNING & DIGITAL ACCESS

Helping children learn, stay connected and fulfil their potential.

Resourcing for success

Continue to invest in our people, strengthen our volunteer community and develop new and existing partnerships

Building sustainability

Strengthening and diversifying our income, making the most of our resources and investing in systems, digital presence, communications and fundraising.

Strengthening partnerships and advocacy

Working with refuges and partner organisations to improve support for children affected by domestic abuse, share learning, and advocate for the changes needed to prevent and ultimately end domestic abuse.

These priorities provide a clear direction for the year ahead while recognising that our strategy will continue to evolve as we listen, learn and deepen our understanding of what children and families need from us.

Demand for specialist domestic abuse support remains high, while the fundraising and operating environment is challenging and expectations of charities continue to grow. This reinforces the importance of working together and provides an opportunity for KidsOut to become an even stronger, more connected and effective organisation: one that stands in solidarity with children, families and the organisations supporting them.

We extend our sincere thanks to every Committee Member, Trustee, Community Supporter, Donor, Businesses, Volunteer, School and Individual fundraisers and supporters for their generosity, dedication and belief in KidsOut's mission.

Together, they are helping KidsOut to reach more children affected by domestic and create an even greater impact in the years ahead.

Website: www.kidsout.org.uk

Telephone: [01525 385252](tel:01525385252)

Email: info@kidsout.org.uk

Head Office Address: Unit 1, Vimy Court, Vimy Road, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1FG.

Social Channels: /kidsout



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Charity Registered in Scotland No. SC039477



Reference List

1. This figure represents the total number of children supported across KidsOut services. It does not represent unique individuals, as a child may benefit from more than one service.
2. Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2024), Support in Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation 2023 to 2024, published 3 October 2024
3. Women's Aid's Annual Audit 2025
4. Women's Aid (2026). The Annual Audit 2026.
5. Women's Aid (2024), The Domestic Abuse Report 2024.
6. Home Office (2024), Domestic Abuse: Statutory Guidance.