



The St George's Police Children Trust

"Providing a helping hand if the unimaginable strikes"

Christmas Bulletin 2016





Providing a helping hand if the unimaginable happens

As the year draws to a close, it felt like an opportune time to update you on some of the activities that have taken place during the year at the St George's Police Children's Trust.



The year began with the launch of our national donor recruitment campaign, our **#helpinghand** campaign. We received some incredible support from our friends at the federation and doors were opened up helping us achieve a force representation in many cases too.



Thank you for your support with this campaign and in attracting new recruits. Based on the information we have had back from forces, we have been able to estimate that the campaign and recent surge in recruitment has attracted nearly 1000 new donors to date. As you can see your support has made a big difference, and will continue allowing your members access to financial support if the unimaginable happens.

Whilst this is a magnificent effort we have still unfortunately seen an overall drop in numbers due to the number of officers retiring in 2016 who were donating. Demographics show that this group of officers seem to be greater in numbers for our St George's donors and as such a problem that is most likely to continue.

As we enter into a new year, we will continue to look for new opportunities to promote to officers and do hope we can continue to ask for your support. We are currently producing a promotional film to help highlight the support the Charity provides and if you have any opportunities to present this we would be most grateful. We will be launching this in the New Year and will of course send you a copy once available.

We have found that addressing new recruits is really beneficial and provides a good sign up rate and if there is an opportunity for us to attend their induction we would be delighted. We are now linking up with a number of federations and being included within their presentation slot, please do get in touch if this is something we could become part of.

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Out of a catchment of **60,000** we currently have **36,000** donors signed up to the St George's Police Children Trust; see below a breakdown of donors by force.

	2015			2016			
Force	Strength	Donors	%	Strength	Donors	%	Current Beneficiaries
Cheshire	1974	1674	84.80	2027	1399	69.02	7
Cleveland	1330	586	44.06	1338	556	41.55	10
Cumbria	1127	893	79.24	1149	854	74.33	11
Derbyshire	1850	1042	56.32	1809	980	54.17	13
Durham	1171	787	67.21	1140	715	62.72	8
GMP	6575	5110	77.72	6575	5050	76.81	30
Humberside	1659	418	25.20	1624	369	22.72	2
Lancashire	3003	2147	71.50	2839	2152	75.80	4
Lincolnshire	1108	558	50.36	1090	516	47.34	6
Merseyside	3816	2662	69.76	3816	2605	68.27	30
North Wales	1488	577	38.78	1450	564	38.90	1
North Yorkshire	1400	815	58.21	1373	784	57.10	6
Northumbria	3506	1107	31.57	3306	1018	30.79	4
Nottinghamshire	2105	867	41.19	2037	823	40.40	3
South Yorkshire	1432	829	57.89	2651	799	30.14	8
Staffordshire	1735	246	14.18	1700	230	13.53	7
West Mercia	2096	900	42.94	2050	870	42.44	10
West Yorkshire	4725	2350	49.74	4659	2181	46.81	35
Police Scotland	59594	35635	59.80	60102	34313	57.09	76



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New Beneficiaries

Weekly Support Allowances and Seasonal Grants

During 2016, the Trust has taken on 15 new families, totalling a number of 31 new beneficiaries. These have been received from the following forces:

- Staffordshire
- Lincolnshire
- Merseyside
- Cleveland
- West Yorkshire
- Police Scotland
- South Yorkshire

Out of the 15 families, eight of these applications from an officer's family where the officer had died, and the other seven were where the officer parent had been left incapacitated.

Each child will now be in receipt of weekly support allowances, ranging from between £10 - £60 per week and seasonal gifts. All of our beneficiaries have just received a Christmas grant, ranging from £300-£500 per child.



Ex-Gratia Grants

Please remember Ex-Gratia Grants can be applied for on top of the weekly allowances and seasonal grants and are usually awarded for items such as, trade tools when leaving school to start work, musical instruments, necessary text books etc.

This year we have awarded an ex gratia grant to a child with autism, to help with the upkeep of her horse.

Further Education Grants

A further 10 applications were received for the further education grants, from the following forces:

- Police Scotland
- North Wales
- GMP
- Merseyside



These beneficiaries will now receive £1500 in three equal instalments throughout the academic year. This form of support is given during their further education studies and individuals are eligible for a course of up to a maximum of four years or to the age of 25, whichever is the lesser.

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Holiday Home



St George's House is a holiday home located in an idyllic setting in Harrogate, predominantly for our beneficiaries. The home provides respite and an opportunity to get away with family without worrying about all of the financial implications associated with having a holiday.

A one week's FREE respite stay at our holiday home is available to all current beneficiaries (those families currently receiving financial support from the Trust) and can be taken anytime (subject to availability) on an annual basis.

All school holiday dates for 2017 have been booked and as such we now have pleasure in opening up our bookings to the wider police family (anyone within the police family serving or retired) to make a booking at a discounted rate for 2017.

The house can sleep up to 7 people and is available for a week long booking (Monday – Friday) or a weekend booking (Friday-Sunday).

(Price Guide Full Week: Peak (June/July/September – excluding school holidays) - £400, Off Peak (all other dates) - £300. Weekends: Friday—Sunday (excluding school holidays) - £180).

For further information visit our website at

<http://www.stgeorgespolicechildrenstrust.org/how-we-can-help/holiday-home>



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Hear from some of our current beneficiaries



“Mark always paid into everything; I used to tell him to remember charity starts at home. He ignored me and never cancelled any of his charitable deductions, good job he didn’t listen to me! Mark died last October from an undiagnosed heart condition on a family holiday. We never would have imagined the Trust would be something we would have gone on and benefited from. No one knows what the future has in store. The Trust currently funds 2 days nursery care for my 1 year old son. This allows me time to get on top of things at home and have a little “me” time. It’s been very hard trying to digest all that has happened, particularly with two young children. I hope in the future to be able to move forward and provide good memories for my two children. I feel assured that the support from the Trust will help allow me to do this.”

“The money we have received from St George’s has made such a difference to the boys lives, it has paid for all the extras; extra tuition, sports lessons, music lessons, not to mention just helping to cover the costs of bringing up a family of five.

The trust has enabled our children to not miss out on all those extra things and has made life enjoyable.

I can’t begin to imagine how different our lives would have been without the support we have received. I can’t begin to explain how grateful we are and so thankful for what they have done.”





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"My husband Martin was a fit and healthy Lothian & Borders officer, stationed in Bonnyrigg nr Edinburgh. We had been together ever since we were 21.

In 2005 our son Alex was born. In 2008, our daughter Olivia. Little did we know he would not be here to see her celebrate her first birthday. He died four days before from a totally unexpected heart attack, aged only 34. No previous symptoms, no family history. We were devastated. We still miss him every day.

The support we receive from the St George's Police Trust's helps us to make special memories with and for our children, like taking them all camping or having special days out. Thank you so, so much St George's Police Trust!"

"The Trust provided us with a lifeline, following my accident at work leading to my incapacity. The fund was used to help us just get by on a day to day basis and bring up our children, who were just six and two years old at the time .

The Trust continued to support my son Elliott with his university course, with funding used to help with extra tuition. The support we received from the Trust was absolutely invaluable to him passing the course and going on to graduate. Thank you to all the officers who contribute to the Trust.

No one knows what is around the corner – you could be one accident/injury away from having to benefit from the scheme."



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Making a Donation

Please remember all serving officers within the Charities catchment, are eligible to donate the 20p per week donation to the Trust. All forms are available to download from our website, visit us at –

<http://www.stgeorgespolicechildrenstrust.org/apply-for-a-grant/eligibility>

From time to time we get asked by police staff or retired officers if they can make a regular donation towards the work of the Trust. We now have direct debit forms available should anyone enquire about this, and again these forms can be found on our website, visit us at-

<http://www.stgeorgespolicechildrenstrust.org/how-you-can-help/Donate>

THANK YOU!

Thank you once again for all your support, and may I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas and wish you all the very best for 2017.

Merry Christmas



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