



### Message from Buttle UK CEO Joe Howes on our response to COVID-19

I wanted to update you on how Buttle UK is responding to the current crisis. COVID-19 has impacted us all in different ways. Having found ourselves in an unprecedented new situation, we are having to deal with things that seemed unimaginable just a few short weeks ago. It may be that now is a particularly difficult time for you and your family as a result of the crisis, and if so our thoughts are with you.

Here at Buttle UK, we have, overall, felt very lucky. We have been able to easily move to home working and the legacy left by our founder, **Frank Buttle**, is still providing the charity with a secure financial base of operation.

It is because we are in such a privileged position, that we know we must step up and do everything we possibly can for the children, families and young people, who were already struggling to get by, and who we are seeing are among those hardest hit by this crisis.

We have been listening to the people we work with and the families we support. They are facing enormous challenges - [here](#) you can see some of the feedback we have had. We have seen application numbers starting to rise, and expect many more as those who were managing to just get by before all of this, suddenly find themselves no longer able to cope.

While it is difficult for all of us to stay at home for such a prolonged period, there are some children and young people are now forced to spend many more hours in homes that lack the bare essentials and comforts most of us take for granted. They are more isolated than ever before, with very little to distract them from their troubles, or to keep them focused on positive activities.

Parents are seriously worried for their children's wellbeing and for their ability to keep up with education. We are letting them know that we hear them, we care about their worries and that our Chances for Children grants can help.

We are committed to helping children, families and young people get through this health crisis and to recover. Our Chances for Children grants still provide up to **£2,000** worth of support, and we can release that in stages, to help with their most immediate needs now, but also ensuring that families and young people have a real chance to get back on their feet over the next year.

**Due to COVID-19 restrictions we are no longer funding any activities outside the home. However, there is a lot we can do to make homes a safer, healthy and more comfortable place for children, families and young people:**

- **£20 is paying for books or toys for children who do not have any to keep them entertained during the lockdown**
- **£50 is paying for emergency essentials for the home, such as cooking items**
- **£75 is paying for a desk so a child can do their school work, in a house that is otherwise bare of furnishings**
- **£400 is paying for a children to keep up with their education and also provide entertainment for the family**

**If you are looking for funding for a family you are working with, you can find more information [here](#).**