



Family Fund

Helping disabled children



State of Children's Rights webinar series Disability, Health and Welfare 02/07/20

Breakout session co-host:

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Who we are

Family Fund is the UK's largest charity providing grants for families on low incomes raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people.

Last year, we provided over 100,000 grants and services worth over £35 million to families across the UK, including 8,480 families in Scotland

We provide grants for essential items such as kitchen appliances, sensory toys, family breaks, bedding, tablets/computers, furniture and clothing.





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Our purpose is to improve the lives of low-income families raising disabled or seriously ill children and young people.

Our mission is to provide items and services to all low-income families in the UK raising disabled or seriously ill children, that they could not otherwise afford or access, and that help improve their quality of life, realise their rights, and remove some of the barriers they face.

Our vision is that all families raising disabled or seriously ill children have the same choices, quality of life, opportunities and aspirations as other families.





Grant support

- Family Fund provides grant support to families on a low income raising disabled and seriously ill children and young people across the UK.
- We administer a range of additional grant programmes, including Take a Break Short Breaks Fund: www.takeabreakscotland.org.uk
- Our trading subsidiary Family Fund Business Services (FFBS) are working in collaboration with BBC Children in Need to deliver the Emergency Essentials programme, www.familyfundsolutions.co.uk/emergency-essentials



Registered charity England & Wales no.802052 and Scotland no. SC039557.





Wider support

- Signpost to **local and national** organisations.
- We **develop and deliver** programmes of support.



Wider Support





Rights realised

Article 23 (children with disability)

A child with disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and independence, and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to provide support to disabled children.

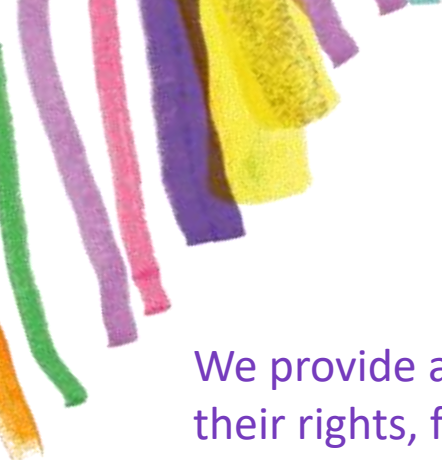
Article 27 (adequate standard of living)

Every child has the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical, social and mental needs. Governments must help families who cannot afford to provide this.

Article 4 (protection of rights)

Governments must do all they can to ensure that all children can enjoy their rights





We provide a wide range of grants and services which support children to realise their rights, for example in relation to their right to health and health services, right to education, right to leisure , play and culture.

Example:

Digital device grants support the **Article 17** which asserts the right to:

“ access to information and material from a diversity of national and international sources, especially those aimed at the promotion of his or her social, spiritual and moral well-being and physical and mental health”

and **Article 15** which asserts their right to:

“freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of the child's choice”





Jamie's story



“Family Fund grants were a great help in creating an outdoor area for him. Somewhere he can enjoy his trampoline and now his sensory toys.”





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Impact of COVID-19 research



Research introduction

The aim of the research is:

- 🇪🇺 To understand **how the Covid-19 outbreak is affecting families raising disabled or seriously ill children** in Scotland.
- 🇪🇺 To understand the **immediate concerns and needs** of families raising disabled or seriously ill children in Scotland resulting from the Covid-19 outbreak.

To date, we have conducted **two waves of online surveys**, as well as in depth qualitative interviews.

The first survey was undertaken between **27 March and 3 April 2020**. The second survey was undertaken between **30 April and 4 May 2020**. 7

The sample for the second survey contains **200 families raising disabled or seriously ill children from across Scotland**. The sample includes more than 250 disabled or seriously ill children.



Summary of findings

- ♥ Half of families have lost income as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak and more than four in five are experiencing increased household costs.
- ♥ Many families are seeing any savings they had rapidly diminishing, with nearly four in five families now having no savings to fall back on.
- ♥ The situation around accessing essentials such as food and toiletries is improving, but many families are still going without.
- ♥ Just more than one in 10 disabled or seriously ill children are still attending their nursery, school or college, although the vast majority are still receiving support.

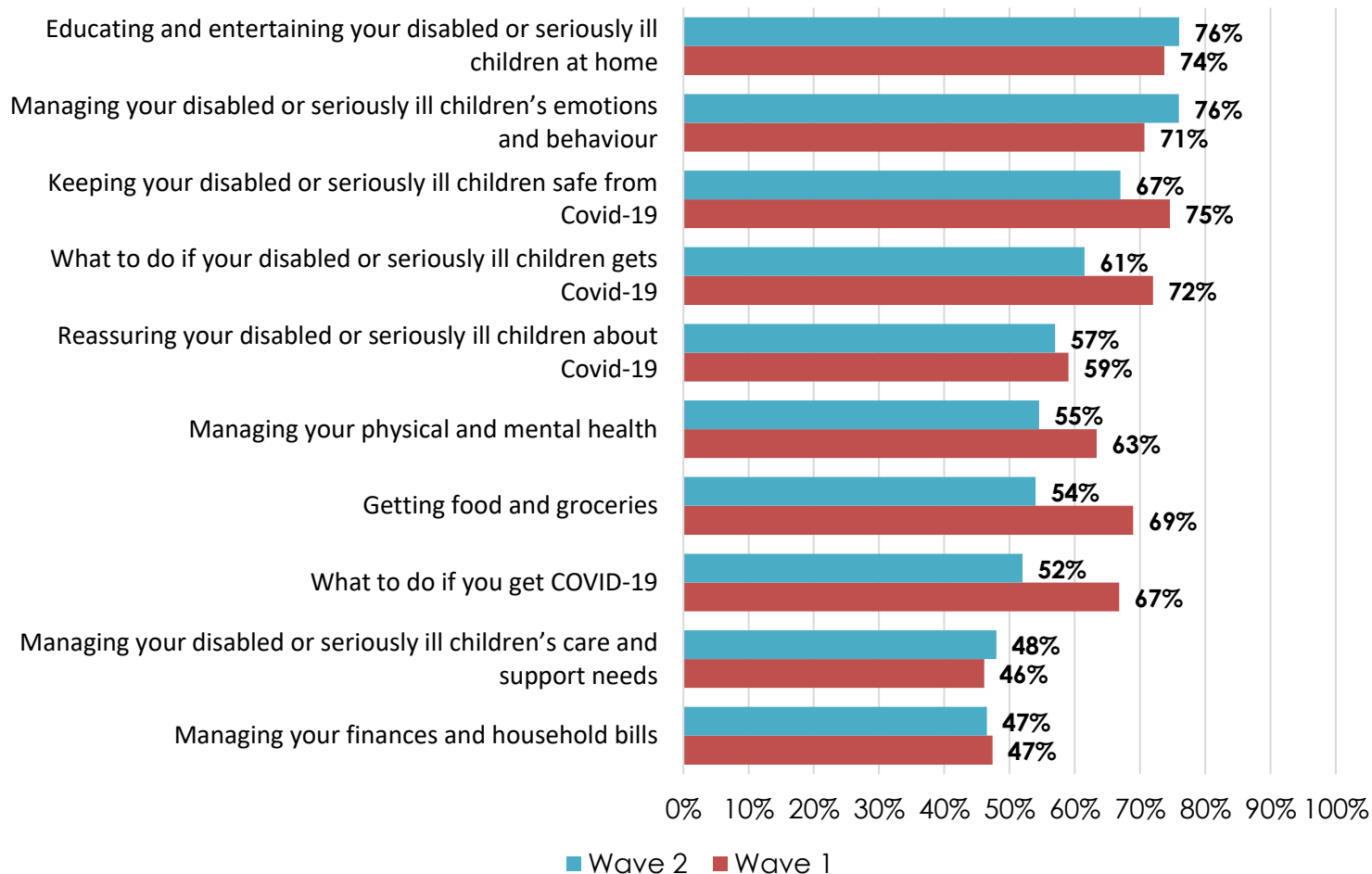


Summary of findings

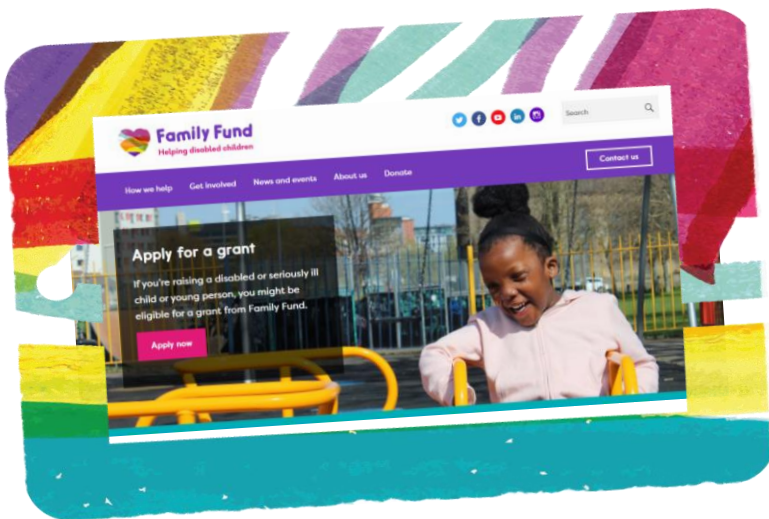
- 💖 The availability of both informal and formal support for disabled or seriously ill children has hugely reduced, with limited signs of improvements since the lockdown began.
- 💖 The mental health and wellbeing of the majority of disabled or seriously ill children, as well as parent carers, is being negatively impacted, and showing signs of deteriorating as the lockdown continues.
- 💖 The biggest concerns for families are around educating and entertaining their disabled or seriously ill children at home and their children's health and wellbeing.
- 💖 In turn, the priority items they require are things that can assist in educating and entertaining their children, as well as help meeting the cost of household essentials over the coming months.

Concerns

Which, if any, of the following things are currently worrying you most?



More information



- All information about Family Fund and our grants and services can be found on our website:

www.familyfund.org.uk

- **Phone:** 01904 550055
- **Email:** info@familyfund.org.uk





Join our community

Family Fund has a **growing online social media community** for families, supporters, and professionals. Join us at:



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