

IMPACT REPORT 2025



FAMILY SUPPORT
RECYCLED



WWW.STRIPEYSTORK.ORG.UK

Registered charity in England & Wales (1161613)

WHO WE ARE



THE FUTURE WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS

Every child in **Surrey and Croydon** has access to the essential things they need to develop and meet their potential.

HOW WE CONTRIBUTE

Stripy Stork alleviate the impacts of childhood poverty by providing a **practical way for families to help each other** with kindness and purpose.

OUR VALUES

Local families helping local families – we act as a connector between families, enabling them to pass on quality items their children have outgrown to others who need them.

Family support, recycled – we promote sustainability by giving preloved items a second life, always prioritising safety and quality.

At the heart of the community – our volunteers are at the core of what we do. We provide a welcoming, inclusive space and build meaningful partnerships that benefit the whole community.

A piece of the jigsaw of care – referral partners rely on us to provide a consistent and essential service, helping them support families in need.

Ready to respond – we work at scale with flexibility and efficiency, ensuring every referral is met with care, because behind every request is a family who have trusted us to help.

WHY IT MATTERS

Because every child deserves the same start. **4.5 million children are living in poverty in the UK.** Even in 'affluent' Surrey the numbers are worryingly high.

By promoting the reuse of second-hand items, organisations like Stripy Stork can help to extend the life cycle of essential items for **0-18 year olds**.



WAREHOUSE
51a Albert Rd North,
Reigate, RH2 9EL



WORKSHOP
55 Albert Rd North,
Reigate, RH2 9EL



PROJECT SITE
Raven House, 29 Linkfield Ln,
Redhill, RH1 1JP



FIND OUT MORE

www.stripeystork.org.uk
info@stripeystork.org.uk



@STRIPYSTORK



Across 2025, **Family** has been at the heart of everything we do at Stripey Stork - not just as a word, but as a value and a responsibility...

Too many families across Surrey and Croydon are struggling to meet their children's most basic needs, and we believe that no child's start in life should be limited by financial hardship. That belief has shaped our work this year. From signing the End Poverty Pledge - reaffirming our commitment to working towards a poverty-free Surrey - to listening more closely to the families we support, this has been a year of purposeful change.

One moment captured that spirit perfectly. I was moved to hear that **Volodymyr** - a 16-year-old who arrived in Reigate from Ukraine two years ago with his family and very little else - wanted to take part in Run Reigate to raise money for Stripey Stork. We had supported his family when everything was unfamiliar and frightening, providing the small but essential comforts that help people feel safe. When he shared his fundraising page on a local Facebook group, the community response was extraordinary. Within two days, he had raised over £1,000. He told us he had never experienced kindness from strangers like this. It was one of those moments that stops you in your tracks and reminds you what community really looks like.



In this report, you will hear directly from some of the families we have supported, including Volodymyr below. I am grateful to them for their honesty and trust. Behind every statistic is a real family doing their best in difficult circumstances, with children who deserve stability and hope.

None of our work happens without Team Stork: our trustees, staff, volunteers, partners, fundraisers, schools, businesses, referral partners and supporters. Every referral answered, every van loaded, every bag packed, every cot cleaned, every story shared - it all happens because people choose to make a difference.

I'm honoured to see that power in action every day, and I hope this report captures the impact of that collective care.

With my deepest thanks,

Nicola Dawes DL,
Founder & Chief Executive



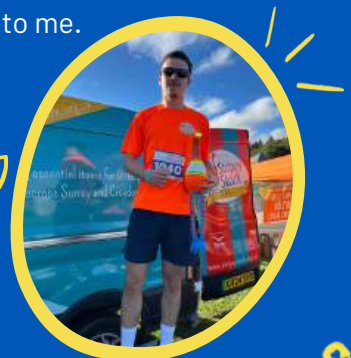
I first became involved with Stripey Stork after arriving in the UK from Ukraine. Like many families forced to rebuild their lives, my family faced uncertainty and pressure while adjusting to a completely new environment. The support we received made a big difference at a time when stability and understanding were needed most.

As I settled into life here, I wanted to give something back by fundraising for Stripey Stork and helping other families who are now going through similar challenges. Being involved with Stripey Stork has shown me how important practical help, dignity and compassion are in difficult moments.

Today, I'm proud to continue supporting Stripey Stork. I'm the youngest member of their **Advisory Panel**, and I use my lived experience and insight as a teenager to help shape their service and communications. This charity helped my family during a difficult period and being able to give back and help others feel supported and valued means a great deal to me.

Forever grateful,

Volodymyr



OUR REACH - 2025



Since 2013...

66,426
Families helped

97,069
Children helped

In 2025...

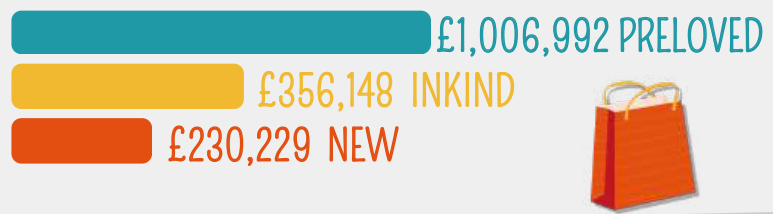
16,907
Families helped

30,280
Children helped

Supporting children ages 0-18

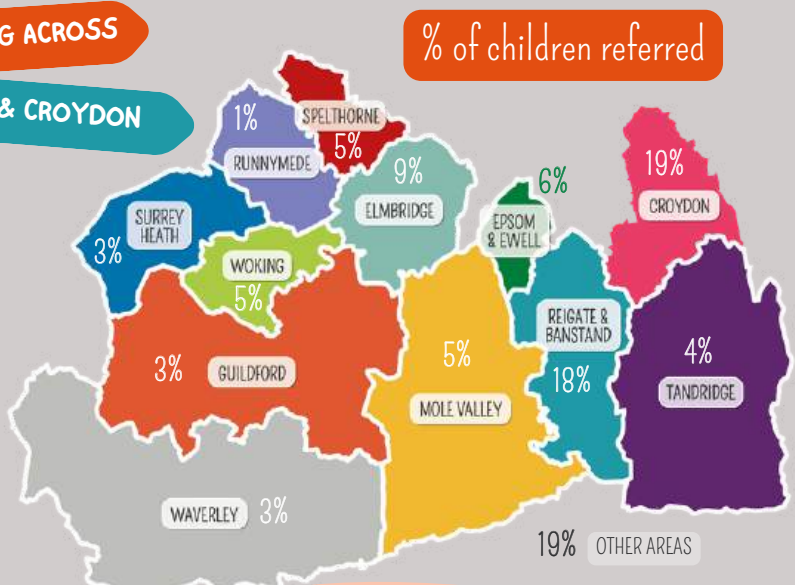
VALUE OF ITEMS

£1,593,369
OVERALL VALUE

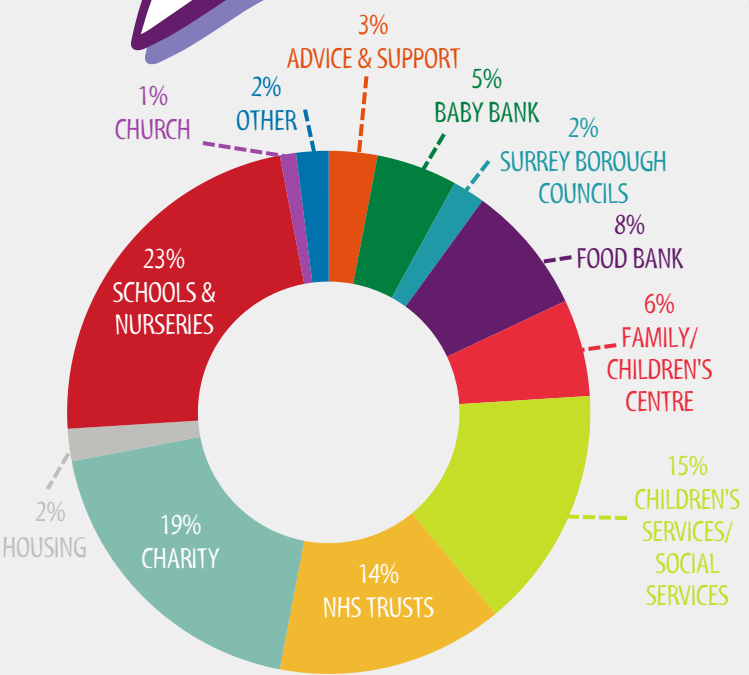


REACHING ACROSS

SURREY & CROYDON



REFERRAL ORGANISATION BY TYPE



Powered by volunteers

297 REGULAR VOLUNTEERS

19,083 VOLUNTEER HOURS

including **2,839** CORPORATE HOURS

1,254 PARTNERS REFERRED from **441** REFERRAL ORGANISATIONS we use **24** DELIVERY HUBS


All figures include Santa Stork


THE ESSENTIALS WE PROVIDE




 **283**
high chairs

 **880**
book bags

 **5,829**
toiletry packs


 **478**
buggies/prams


 **1,480**
bedding bundles

 **115**
baby carriers/slings

 **1,686**
toy bundles

 **369**
teen care packs


 **2,774**
activity packs

 **414**
stairgates

WE RESPONDED TO...
16,907
FAMILIES
 = **30,280 CHILDREN**

 **1,252**
safe places
to sleep

 **323**
baby gyms/
play mats

 **2,567**
school bags filled
with stationery (new)

 **585**
newborn baby packs
(average of 20 items per pack)

 **21,170**
school
uniform items

 **6,165**
footwear

 **5,619**
clothing packs
(prepacked by age/gender)

 **1,299**
mattresses (new)

 **9,643**
packs of nappies/pull-ups/
wipes

STORK STORY From sharing a toothbrush to big smiles




On average, we helped 1,400 families each month...



In 2025, we responded to requests to support **16,907 families** (with **30,280 children**). This overall figure now includes those we've helped through Santa Stork, but if we compare like-for-like with families supported in 2024, it represents a **25% increase**. In terms of the number of items given out, this represents a **21% increase**. Key factors behind this year-on-year growth include our ability to respond to School Days referrals at scale, increased demand for safe places to sleep, and continued development of our delivery model and hubs. Providing these essential items through an accessible service remains our primary focus.

Referrals came from **1,254 referral partners** across **441 organisations**, including health visitors, social workers, housing associations, family support workers, hospitals, advice services and midwives. This year, we began working more extensively with schools, which now account for a growing proportion of referrals. We also work closely with local charities including I Choose Freedom, Oasis Charity in Cobham, the Good Company, regional Citizen's Advice branches and local food banks. As our work in **Croydon** expands, the percentage of referrals going to this area has risen from **9% to 19%**, based on the number of children referred.



The Joseph Rowntree Foundation's UK Poverty 2026 report¹ highlights that family poverty is not diminishing. Overall in the UK, **31% - or 4.5 million - children are in poverty**. That's nine children in every average classroom of 30. Rates rise for children in lone-parent families (43%), families with more than two children (44%), families with a child under 5 (36%), and children from Black and Asian communities (49%).

Closer to home, Surrey's² poverty data reveals that **22,982 children in Surrey (9.8%) live in absolute low-income households**, a slight rise from 2024. As in 2024, **70% of these children are from working households**.

In Surrey, we know poverty is rising more sharply in some constituencies, and in Croydon, poverty rates in both East and West Croydon have gone up in the last year. Trust For London³ states the overall **child poverty rate in Croydon is 35%**.

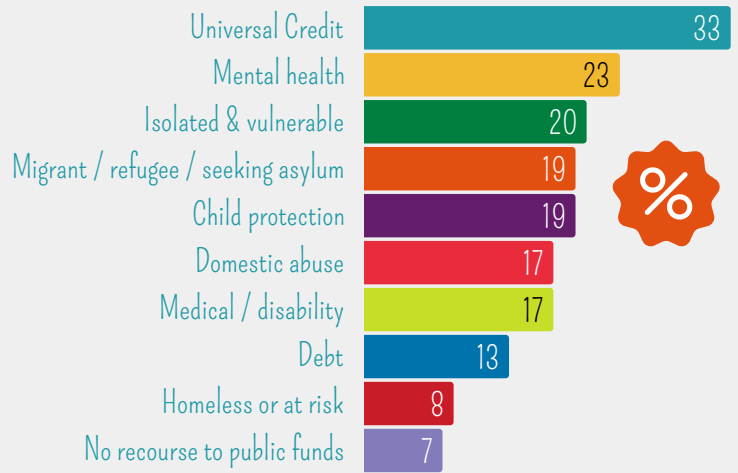
1: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/uk-poverty-2026-the-essential-guide-to-understanding-poverty-in-the-uk>

2: <https://www.surreyi.gov.uk/dataset/child-poverty-and-disadvantage-in-surrey-2nddx>

3: <https://trustforlondon.org.uk/data/boroughs/croydon-poverty-and-inequality-indicators>



REASONS FOR REFERRAL (%):



More than one reason may be cited for each referral so total exceeds 100

All the families we help are impacted by the effects of poverty, and that looks different for everyone. But for many, their **situations are complex, and referrals cite multiple reasons for needing support**. What's clear is that the experience of being in poverty leads to other challenges, such as poor mental health, social exclusion, lack of access to education, and the 'poverty premium' (people in poverty paying more - on average £490 more each year - for the same goods and services as people who are better off financially).

From our referrals data, we see that being in work and receiving benefits does not preclude families from hardship, with **30% of families referred working and 33% receiving Universal Credit**. Debt is also a significant factor - 13% of families state this as a reason for needing our help. There is a rising trend in referrals for families affected by disability or medical conditions, with 17% of referrals in 2025 citing this as a reason (up from 14% in 2024). Poor mental health (23%), and being isolated and vulnerable (20%) still affect many families referred to us, and we continue to see significant numbers of referrals relating to child protection (rising over the last three years to 19% in 2025) and domestic abuse (sustained at 17%).





STORK STORY

SUPPORTING LEILA

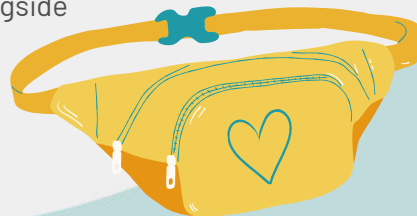


"One particular item - a stylish bum bag - quickly became Leila's favourite. It helped her feel confident and fashionable, while also providing a practical way to keep her glucose monitor close at hand. Each time she was visited afterwards, she proudly wore it."

Leila, aged 12, arrived in the UK with her parents after seeking asylum from **Iran**. Living in asylum accommodation, the family were adjusting to an unfamiliar environment while managing **significant health and wellbeing challenges**.



Leila lives with **Type 1 Diabetes** and uses a continuous glucose monitor to manage her condition. Alongside the practical demands of her health needs,



I have been so worried about how I was going to afford new clothes for my children when I can barely afford to buy food. Your kindness has eased a huge burden.

- Mum -

I just wanted to say how amazing your service is. As a professional, I'm incredibly grateful to have access to it. You may not always get to see the impact firsthand, but it's truly wonderful to witness the joy on children's faces as they go through a bag of clothes. With the cost of living being so high, your support lifts a real burden off families and brings genuine joy.

- Clare, Surrey County Council -

The difference these newborn packs make to families is huge! I have had so many people blown away by this generosity and the quality of the products. I feel very proud to deliver these life-changing packs to our families, who are beyond grateful.

- Caroline, Pre-birth Assessment Team, Surrey County Council -

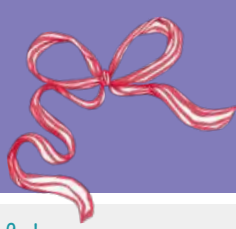
The family were grateful and overwhelmed, facing the most difficult period of their lives. To mum, her children are the most important and precious thing, so being able to help her care for them has also helped us care for mum's wellbeing.

- East Elmbridge Food Bank -

Stripey Stork not only meet families' practical needs but they aim to restore dignity and hope. This support empowers families to move forward, reinforcing the belief that every child deserves the opportunity to thrive in a safe, supportive environment.

- Kechi, Croydon Council -

FAMILY



Family is one of the cornerstones of our strapline: **Family. Support. Recycled.** This year, we wanted to give the families we support more of a voice in our service, so it can be shaped **with** them, as well as **for** them.

At the start of the year, we signed the **Good Company's End Poverty Pledge**, reaffirming our commitment to working towards a poverty-free Surrey. Although we already embed many of the pledge's principles, an important and tangible action was to establish our own **Lived Experience Action Group (LEAG)** and expand our **Advisory Panel** to include more families with direct experience of poverty.

The LEAG consists of members of the Advisory Panel, specifically those with lived experience, and some key members of staff. They meet regularly to discuss potential changes or enhancements to our service, review the language we use, consider how information could be better accessed, and explore improved ways of gathering feedback. As a result, we have changed the structure and content on parts of our website, giving families a clearer and more informative pathway when seeking support from us.

Additionally, we regularly seek input from **volunteers** who have shared their lived experience or who work, or have worked, in caring roles:

"I have experience of working with children and families who have daily and relentless challenges and hope that by supporting Stripey Stork I can be a small cog in the provision of some comfort and a belief that communities care."

"I have worked for many years on the other side of supporting families in need, and now that I am no longer doing so, it means a lot to me to continue to offer that support in a less direct but just as important way."

HOLLIE'S STORK STORY WHEN SUPPORT COMES FULL CIRCLE...

I was referred to Stripey Stork at one of the most critical points in my life. **My daughter was in a mental health crisis and unable to attend school.** Stripey Stork provided essentials, including an **activity pack** that really felt like it was **made for her.**

When I was later offered the opportunity to join the **Advisory Panel**, I felt honoured. I already loved the organisation's values and the way they genuinely help families.

My journey then came full circle when I went on to work for a parent wellbeing service, where I regularly referred families to Stripey Stork. **Being able to help other parents felt deeply important.** To help them

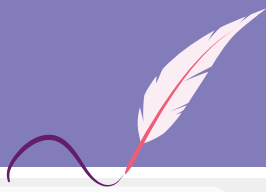
understand that **"it's OK not be OK sometimes"** and remove the shame that's embedded in some families. I understood exactly what those families were going through because I had been there myself.

Coming into the warehouse to **volunteer with my daughter by my side** has been especially powerful. Seeing the love and care that goes into every referral shows how deeply Stripey Stork values families. It's not just about items – it's about **dignity, compassion and community.**

From one family to another

Hollie x





FROM SURVIVAL TOWARDS STABILITY

In 2014, **I fled domestic abuse** with my three young children and arrived in this community with very little. I had no income, no family support nearby, and we were living in temporary accommodation. Everything felt uncertain, and my focus was simply on keeping my children safe and meeting their basic needs.

During this time, I was supported by a kind and dedicated Outreach Worker who visited Stripey Stork on our behalf. Every six months, she was able to collect essential items for us, including clothes, shoes, toiletries and toys. This support continued consistently from 2014 to 2019, and it made an enormous difference to our lives.

What always stood out to me was the quality and care with which the items were prepared. Although the clothes were not new, they were beautifully packed, clean and looked brand new. This dignity mattered deeply. It allowed me to feel that my children were cared for and valued, even in one of the most difficult periods of our lives.

Because Stripey Stork met these essential needs, **I was able to breathe, rest and redirect my energy towards rebuilding our future.** Instead of constantly worrying about clothing and basic necessities, I could focus on finding work, stabilising our situation and settling my family.

That practical, compassionate support gave us more than items - **it gave us time, space and hope.** Stripey Stork played a quiet but powerful role in helping me and my children move **from survival towards stability**, and I remain deeply grateful for the impact of those five years of support.

My deepest gratitude

Bola



Hollie, Bola and Yssy all sit on our Advisory Panel, where they use their lived experience to help shape our service and communications.

A LETTER FROM YSSY

Hi, my name is Yssy. I'm a single mum to a four-year-old with learning disabilities. I used to be able to look after myself and my family, but I've had to come to terms with not being able to work and earn money like I used to. I've had to learn what 'poverty' means for me, and how to ask for help.

Stripey Stork was the first charity I ever accessed, and initially I felt frustrated with myself because I didn't understand how it worked. For about a week, I sat with my discomfort and kept thinking, "Could I find a way without their help?". Eventually I took the leap and asked my Health Visitor. She was so kind and handled everything with such dignity.

When the parcel of essentials arrived, I felt such a warmth inside - I cried, and I saw a light. Little did I know then that **being vulnerable and asking for help is a huge strength.** It's about not being too proud to say, "I'm unable to do this. How do we fix this? How do we move forward?". I had to find that strength for myself and my child.



Four years later, I've had many interactions with the people at Stripey - the volunteers and staff - and they're all such gorgeous human beings, always ready with open arms. It's a reminder that there are nice people out there who want to help. It's just pure love and care - and it helped me see clearer. What I'd say to someone where I was, who feels too scared or proud, is: You might not know it yet, but you are loved. **You are loved by people you've never met**, and they're here to help make your time on this planet a bit easier and more fun - because life can be fun!

Lots of love, Yssy



CONTINUING TO 'SPREAD OUR WINGS'



With the support of a three-year grant from the **National Lottery Community Fund**, we have continued with our programme of change this year, which we call **Spreading Our Wings**. It's about expanding our services so that we are **operationally ready to respond to 20,000 referrals per year**.



Our workshop - working hard



Our new workshop, which officially opened in 2025, has been integral to our operational expansion. The space, which is adjacent to our warehouse, is primarily used for **sorting, cleaning and safety-checking large equipment** items such as buggies, prams, highchairs, cribs and cots, while also significantly increasing our **storage capacity**.

We are now able to process larger volumes of essential items much more efficiently. Without the workshop, we undoubtedly would not have been able to provide **1,252 safe places for babies and children to sleep** this year (compared with 928 in 2024), which was the opportunity presented to us by our first Big Give campaign at the end of 2024 (see page 12 of this report).

An added benefit of having more space is that we've been able to welcome more volunteers, further increasing our impact. The new **space is fully accessible**, with step-free access and an accessible toilet.



IN 2025...

Regular delivery hubs = 24

Families supported through deliveries = 8,111
(figure excludes Santa Stork)

Referral partners using this service = 286

A 'wheelie' good delivery service

Our **electric van** remains an essential 'team member', playing a vital role in managing the flow of referrals and maintaining a high standard of service.

Our **delivery hubs** allow referral partners to conveniently collect items, especially when travelling to us was previously a barrier. Each hub operates in partnership with a local organisation embedded within its community. These trusted spaces encourage greater use of our service and make it easier for families to access support. 78% of partners using our delivery service say it is 'very important' to their ability to access us.

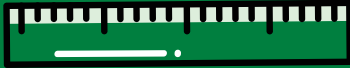
Opening hubs in boroughs across Surrey and in Croydon has truly allowed us to Spread Our Wings. In **Croydon, we now work with 65 referral organisations**, most accessing our service through deliveries. Croydon has been a key focus due to high levels of need and previous underrepresentation by support services like ours. We have also extended across West Surrey – specifically Woking, Spelthorne, Guildford and Waverley, with rising referral numbers in Surrey Heath.

The van also enables us to collect donations from schools, volunteers and corporate partners running collections on our behalf, further strengthening our community links.



Fab organisation – referral system is easier now and excellent to have the Guildford hub to pick up from. Makes my life so much easier knowing I don't have to factor a long drive into my busy diary.
- Referral Partner -

READY FOR THE SCHOOL DAY



Our year-round School Days project provides practical items children need for school. Without the right uniform, equipment and well-fitting shoes, children can struggle to access education, face stigma and bullying, and miss out on important activities. Equipping children properly builds confidence, supports inclusion and eases financial pressure on families. We supply both **pre-loved and new items for children from pre-school up to Year 13.**

School Days is supporting more families and referral organisations than ever before. Partners report that without the project, 60% of families would have gone without items or into debt, and 50% would have used unsuitable items.

Our dedicated site at **Raven House** enables us to sort, store and prepare stock at scale. This year, we **expanded our range** to include more PE essentials and additional blazer options for older children.

We have also **strengthened relationships with schools** across Surrey and Croydon, making referrals easier and working more closely with communities. We are also grateful to the schools, PTAs and community groups who have run **donation drives.**

In 2025, we **delivered 53% more School Days referrals** (by families helped), saving partners time and reassuring them that they can refer as often as needed. We also expanded our **pop-up shop model**, supporting **14 events** where families could try on and choose items.

We thank our funders - including the **Hargreaves Foundation, National Lottery Awards for All and RELX Cares** - whose support has enabled us to resource the project and purchase new stock when required.

IN 2025

SCHOOL DAYS HELPED...
7,503 CHILDREN
from **4,116 FAMILIES**



WORKING WITH...
201 REFERRAL PARTNERS

BY PROVIDING...
21,170 SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS
3,648 PAIRS OF SCHOOL SHOES & TRAINERS
2,567 NEW SCHOOL BAGS (+ STATIONERY)
611 PE BAGS & LUNCHBOXES

"The child was being kept home because mum could not afford school uniform if she were to feed her family, and the child was being teased for wearing the wrong school shoes..."

"The school uniform pop-up event alleviated so much financial stress and my son felt so special being able to choose what he needed."



"The children's school uniform was too small, marked and stained. This opened them up to bullying, embarrassment and a reluctance to engage. Since receiving the items, the children feel more included and mum feels less guilt about not being able to provide for them."





A BIG year for Stripy Stork

2025 was the year we tackled **local bed poverty** head-on. Increasingly, we had been hearing about children with unsuitable bedding, dirty mattresses or, in some cases, no bed of their own. **At the end of 2024, we took part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge** matchfunding campaign for the first time, focusing on our strategic priority of providing essential items, with a particular emphasis on safe, warm places to sleep.

The response to the campaign exceeded our expectations. We raised **£94,343** (against our £80,000 target), enabling us to go into 2025 with the confidence that we could respond to every request for a safe place to sleep - including cots, toddler beds, new mattresses and warm bedding - which we were successfully able to do.

In September 2025 - **three months earlier than anticipated** - we hit our campaign objective, distributing our **1,000th bed**. By the end of the year, we had provided **1,252 safe places to sleep**, each including a new mattress. In addition, we distributed **1,480 bedding bundles**, containing mattress covers, sheets, duvets, and blankets.

STORK STORY

A cot, a fresh start and a new beginning



"When I received the Moses basket from Stripy Stork it was a big weight off my shoulders - I could now enjoy my pregnancy instead of worrying that my older kids would have to go without."

In early 2025, we were awarded the Big Give Christmas Challenge **Newcomer Award**, recognising both the success of the appeal and the strength of its delivery. This came with a further £1,000 prize.

OUR WORK WASN'T YET DONE...

The high demand for beds, mattresses and bedding is ongoing. Families grow, and new families continue to be referred to us. With winter posing the additional challenge of staying warm, we extended the **2025 Big Give Christmas Challenge** to include winter clothes bundles, coats, prams and cosy toes.

Our target was to raise £108,000, with £54,000 in supporter donations unlocking the equivalent funds. We are incredibly grateful to the funders and organisations that made up the matchfunding pot.

Thank you to:

- Pledge funders - **Wisley Foundation, Borrows Family Charitable Trust, esure, Alchemy Foundation, Unum and Celtic Contractors.**
- Champion funder - **Shanly Foundation.**
- Supporter donors - special thanks to **Reigate Heath Golf Club** and **The Barratt Redrow Foundation** for their generous donations.

By the end of the campaign, we had raised **£115,011**, which allowed us to begin 2026 with the reassurance that we could continue to say 'yes' to every request for a safe place to sleep - and ensure we include **warmth in every bundle** during the colder months.





Winter coats

As the colder months approach, a warm winter coat becomes essential. Schools sometimes contact parents when a child arrives without one, and some children may be asked to stay indoors at break time, missing out on fresh air, play and social interaction. However, winter coats can be costly and quickly outgrown. This makes them ideal items to pass on and give a second life to - helping another child stay warm, active and included.

Our aim is to **include a winter coat in every clothing pack during the colder months**. This is only possible thanks to the generosity of individuals, families, schools, PTAs and community groups who understand the difference a warm coat can make. Thanks to everyone who supported our **Coat-ober campaign** in October, particularly **Rory** for organising a coat collection for the third year running, and long-term supporter **Jayne** for sourcing and donating pre-loved coats online.



Household Support Fund and Surrey Fuel Poverty Programme

We have provided thousands of families with **essential items in high demand** - those that must be provided new or are often in low supply, such as Moses baskets, bedding, double buggies, highchairs and stairgates. Through the Household Support Fund we have supported thousands of families. We also provided essentials to allow kids to stay warm whilst having fun outside.



Thanks **Wildwood Talent** for collecting winter items through their connections

STORK STORY



HOW A FREEZING FAMILY FOUND WARMTH

"The children were huddled together under towels, trying to keep warm in a bitterly cold flat."

Andrea, a single mum with three primary school-aged children, unexpectedly lost her job and was forced to leave their family home. They moved into emergency accommodation, spending three months living in a small hotel room, trying to create a sense of normality in a place that was never meant to be called home.

Eventually a one-bedroom flat became available. It wasn't ideal, but after months in limbo it offered stability and hope. With very few belongings, the move was quick, but it also highlighted just how little they had. During a conversation with a support worker, Andrea mentioned that they had little bedding in the flat. A referral was made to Stripey Stork for bedding and pyjamas, but before these could be collected, temperatures plummeted.

At midnight, Andrea called the support worker in a panic, admitting the children were freezing and

sleeping under towels. They didn't have warm coats, either - as they arrived at school the next morning, school explained they would not be able to play outside.

As snow began to fall, the support worker arrived at our warehouse, a day earlier than planned. Our volunteers responded quickly, gathering duvets, sheets, winter clothing packs and cosy pyjamas. Thanks to generous community donations, we were able to provide winter coats, and winter warmer bundles - funded by Surrey County Council's Fuel Poverty Programme - containing hats, gloves and blankets, with a larger sized bundle for Mum.

That night, instead of shivering under towels, the children slept under cosy duvets. Instead of facing the cold alone, the family felt the comfort and kindness of their community.



OUR SEASONAL CAMPAIGNS

SANTA STORK



Santa Stork remains our biggest seasonal campaign, as we respond to increased pressures faced by families experiencing hardship across Surrey and Croydon. Each year, it brings the community together to ensure local children have **a gift to open on Christmas Day**.

Now in its 12th year, we supported **5,650 children**, with a further **1,200 helped through our partners at Truly Giving**. This highlights the scale of the financial strain over the Christmas period.

Once again, **Raven House** was transformed into Santa's grotto, with elves - from regular volunteers to corporate teams - sorting and packing gifts.







We received incredible support for popular and timeless gifts from individuals, schools, community groups and businesses far and wide, ensuring a constant flow of gift bundles were collected by referral partners or delivered directly.



These gifts have made our Christmas. For the first time I can wake up on Christmas Day and not feel worried or depressed that my children are missing out.



“One family that were gifted presents were walking the streets in the evening to view Christmas lights because they couldn't afford a tree or decorations.”

-  **Penguin Random House** and **Booktrust** donated new books, while **Gibson Games** gifted puzzles.
-  **Morr & Co** delivered gifts.
-  **Royal Caribbean Cruises** created an Amazon wish list, donating 150 gifts.
-  Schools across the county organised collections, including **Racoons Nursery, The Hawthorns School, Glyn Secondary School and Nescot College**.
-  Community groups including **Plaides Netball Club** and **Reigate Methodist Church** supported us.
-  **Emily and Jo** donated lots of new **Lego** sets, and **Stephanie's** family fundraised with a gingerbread house decorating party.

A GIFT FOR MUM

Our **Mother's Day campaign** supports mums and female carers facing difficult circumstances, many of whom would otherwise go unrecognised on the day.

Each gift bag contains new toiletry treats and a handwritten card from volunteers, offering practical support and a message of care.

The campaign relies on volunteer effort and community donations. We're grateful for the ongoing support from **Beauty Banks** and **The Hygiene Bank**, a generous donation from **Jurlique**, and a donation and wrapping event organised by **LNRS**.



770 gift bags



There are many dads who are battling with similar circumstances, so we always give equivalent gift bags around Father's Day



We also like to bring joy to the Islamic celebration of Eid. We made up 483 gift bags for children taking part in the festivities.

STRIPES4STRIPEY



Once a year, our community turns stripey for Stripes4Stripey Day, our annual fundraiser. Held this year on **Thursday 19th June**, it once again showcased the creativity and generosity of supporters.

Schools, community groups, businesses and individuals across Surrey took part, wearing stripes and organising themed fundraisers and collections. Donations included both financial contributions and essential items such as toiletries, stationery and school bags. Schools played a key role, helping ensure we could meet the upcoming demand for school readiness support. Community groups and local businesses also contributed through donations, promotion and in-kind support.

The day concluded with our annual **Quiz at Reigate Manor** - a sell-out event attended by supporters, volunteers, trustees and corporate teams, kindly **sponsored by Unum**. Due to its success, we held another Reigate Manor quiz later in the year in support of Santa Stork.

Through Stripes4Stripey 2025, we raised an incredible **£6,933**, making it a record-breaking year.



RUN REIGATE

On **Sunday 21st September**, we returned to Priory Park with a fantastic team of **50 runners** for Run Reigate. Alongside our loyal individual and family runners, we were delighted to cheer on teams from **Unum, Total Energies, Rand Associates, Celtic Contractors, Moon Hall School, Holmesdale School, Reigate Heath Golf Club, Reigate Squash Club, Pen Underwriting and nTrust**.

Volodymyr, introduced on page 3, was the hero of the hour, while Sam and Jackie stole the show in their cowgirl costumes.



What an amazing team effort - collectively raising **£20,360**.

CHALLENGE EVENTS

We've been incredibly lucky to have some amazing people take on fantastic challenges for us, including:

- **Ecem and Georgina** who both ran marathons.
- **Anna, Susie and Lauren** who completed the Royal Parks Half Marathon.
- **Josh and Alex** for doing the Kingston Half.
- **Rickard and Neil** who cycled to Paris.
- **Naomi and her colleagues from the Surrey Children's Services Pre-Birth Team** who took on the Surrey Three Peaks Hike.



PEPPA PIG

It isn't every day that you get to host a baby shower - let alone for a cartoon piglet. When we heard the news that Peppa Pig was welcoming a baby sister, we jumped at the opportunity. It was a creative and playful way to highlight a serious issue: the growing number of families who need our support when welcoming a new baby.

In collaboration with **The Belfry Shopping Centre** in Redhill, we ran children's activities throughout May half term, giving families the opportunity to donate new items for the parents and newborn babies we were supporting. The event may have been for a fictional pig, but the need it highlighted is very real.



Our achievements this year would not have been possible without our incredible volunteers. They continue to rise to the challenge, growing alongside us to meet increasing demand and seize new opportunities. Several experienced volunteers have stepped into **Area Lead roles**, using their knowledge to guide and support others.

Volunteers are active within the community, coordinating **remote teams** who act as collection points and sort donations from home. Particular thanks go to **Penny** and **Kate**, who work closely with our Donations team to make this happen so seamlessly.

We have uncovered a wealth of skills within our volunteer community, including talented **DIY enthusiasts** like **Rod**.

"I'm really glad that I can use my DIY skills to make a difference. There's always something new to do from putting up signs to assembling items. I enjoy coming each week, the people are great and I like being useful."

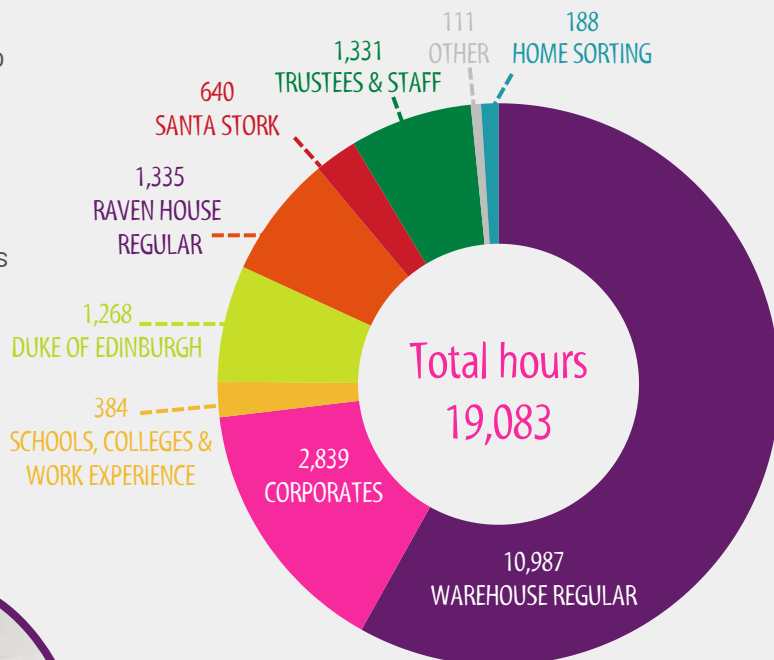


The ripple effect

As well as the vital impact volunteers have at Stripey Stork and the communities we serve, the personal benefits of volunteering should never be underestimated:

- I feel that I get so much more from Stripey Stork than I give.
- Since joining Stripey Stork, it has given me purpose, self-worth and great satisfaction.
- I love my days at Stripey Stork. It has helped me with my mental health. It's fun and we have a laugh when doing our work.
- It gives structure to my week. As a retired person I find this very important.
- We gain so much from our time helping. I go home uplifted.

VOLUNTEER HOURS BY TYPE:



When additional support has been needed to drive the van, accompany our driver Chris or provide an extra set of wheels, volunteers have readily stepped in to help.

Volunteer **Sam**, a familiar and much-welcomed face at the warehouse, was recognised at the **Mayor of Reigate and Banstead Volunteer Awards**, receiving an Individual Award for her dedication, kindness and collaborative approach.

We are committed to being **accessible and inclusive**, recognising the importance of creating opportunities for those who may face barriers to volunteering or work.





Duke of Edinburgh

Now in its third full year, our Duke of Edinburgh volunteering programme continues to go from strength to strength and frequently has a waiting list. The students' contribution to our **teenage offering** is invaluable. Our Duke of Edinburgh volunteer team - **Jo, Ann, Sue, Nicky and Sally** - were honoured at the **Mayor of Reigate and Banstead Volunteer Awards**, with a Team Volunteer Award for creating such a positive and productive experience for the students.

IN 2025, WE'VE HAD...

1,268 HOURS BY		
50 DofE STUDENTS		
FROM 7 SCHOOLS/COLLEGES		
STUDENTS COMPLETED AWARDS		
36	13	2
BRONZE	SILVER	GOLD

YOUTH WITHOUT LIMITS!



Teen to Teen project

This is an important initiative by and for young people aged 11 - 18 years. We provide essential teen clothing and toiletry packs - items less frequently donated but which remain in high demand, particularly during the winter months. What makes Teen to Teen so special is its **youth-led approach**, with young volunteers packing and preparing items for their peers, building empathy, skills and connection along the way. We're grateful to **Raven Housing Trust's Brighter Communities Fund** and the matchfunding from **Reigate & Banstead Borough Council's Thriving Communities Fund**, for helping to bring this important project to life.

Inclusive young people volunteering

We continued our work with **Woodfield School** in Merstham, welcoming pupils with learning and additional needs. We also welcomed back a group of SEND students from **East Surrey College** through their Skills for Independence course, alongside ongoing placements from **Surrey Choices**.

This year, we began working with the **Orpheus Centre**, a local charity supporting disabled young people. They joined us weekly for 6 weeks, keeping busy with sorting through games and puzzles to check for all the pieces or damage, replacing batteries in toys, and sorting and folding clothes. It's been a pleasure to watch them grow in confidence and independence, whilst helping them improve their employability skills.



The teen care packs are especially valuable. They not only provide essential items but also open up important conversations around personal hygiene, giving young people the tools to put those discussions into practice.

- Referral Partner -



PARTNERSHIPS - CORPORATES

In-kind donations received
£356,148



Corporate support remains vital to our work. Through our team volunteering programme across all our sites, we benefited from **2,839 corporate volunteering hours** this year. Some organisations are new partners, while others have supported us for years.

Many organisations support us through the products they market, and **MAM Baby** is a great example. They donate **baby bottles, sterilisers, breast pumps and soothers** which helps maintain essential stock, as well as their team regularly volunteering with us.

Charity of the Year Partnerships

Unum

This year marked the second year of a three-year partnership with Unum's Dorking office, and the relationship continues to flourish. A strong culture of volunteering saw **170 employees** take part in **17 team sessions**, contributing **780 hours** of support.

By the end of 2025, Unum had also **raised over £45,000**, supported our seasonal campaigns, fundraised and donated pre-loved items. Following a senior management volunteering day, Unum generously pledged to cover the **first year's rent for our workshop**. We are hugely grateful for the time, energy and resources they have shared, which have made a real difference to the families we support.

- Mark Till, CEO Unum -
Unum is so proud to be supporting Stripey Stork as our charity partner and we are delighted to have been able to play a part in their growth journey. The work that the charity does is so impactful and I cannot wait to be onsite sorting donations again soon.



Reigate Heath Golf Club

Another partnership highlight was being chosen as Charity of the Year by Reigate Heath Golf Club, **led by Captains David and Susie** after visiting our warehouse. Over the summer they took on impressive fundraising challenges: David (with his friend Keith) **cycled 1,000km** from St Andrews to Reigate Heath, while Susie played **90 holes in five days across ten clubs**, raising over **£20,000**.

This was followed by a fantastic **Captains' Day** in September, raising a further **£18,000**, which was doubled during The Big Give week!



- David, RHGC Men's Captain -
It's amazing what you can achieve when you have a real sense of purpose and belief. Knowing what it means to Stripey Stork and the families they help was a huge motivation throughout the ride, as was the incredible support from so many people.

- Celtic Contractors
- Cisco
- Edrington Spirits
- esure
- HCPC Registered Practitioner Psychologist
- HSBC
- Kroll
- Lactalis
- LNRS
- MAM Baby
- Monty's Bakehouse
- Mostrim Groundworks Ltd.
- Naked Ideas
- NatWest
- Nestle
- Opustech
- P&G
- Partners Group
- Pen Underwriting
- Peoplesafe
- Pfizer
- Powertutors
- Rand Associates
- Shawbrook Bank
- Space & Time
- Surrey County Council
- Telus
- Total Energies
- Toyota
- Unum
- Vinarchy
- WTW
- Your Finance Team

* Includes organisations where individuals have used CSR hours

“ Meet Sarah, our Corporate Partnerships Manager... ”

Working with our corporate partners is incredibly rewarding. Seeing businesses come together to support families in need - whether through fundraising, volunteering or donations - shows the real power of collaboration and shared purpose. ”





Schools

At Stripy Stork we believe that kindness starts young, and we love seeing children embrace this. Schools support us in many ways - from donation drives to gift collections, and everything in between - and we're incredibly grateful to every school that chooses to help. It's no surprise we're often front of mind, as many schools also benefit from this kindness.

Here are some highlights of the amazing support we've received from nurseries, schools and colleges this year...

A group of Year 8 students from **St Johns School in Leatherhead** organised a 10-mile sponsored walk as part of the **First Give Competition**, after selecting Stripy Stork as their chosen charity. As a powerful act of empathy, they also took part in a 'Go Without Day', arriving at school without bags, snacks or other essentials. They went on to win the competition, securing £1,000 in additional funding on top of the money they had already raised.

Banstead Preparatory School has fully embraced their charity partnership with us. The school organised Mother's Day and Christmas gift collections, a winter coat drive and raised Stripes4Stripy funds during their Enterprise Week - a shining example of consistent and wholehearted support from a school community.

The **Reigate Grammar School family of schools** have been longstanding supporters, spanning several Surrey schools and ages 2 to 18. As part of **Reigate Grammar School's 350th anniversary**, students committed to filling 350 secondary school bags for their Giving Day, with the school providing the bags and 20 students volunteering to help pack them. They also donated gifts for Santa Stork, while **Reigate St Mary's School** continued their fantastic support with collections of shoes, winter coats, warm clothing, stationery and Christmas gifts.

It was all hands-on deck at **Dunottar School**, on their 'Dunottar Does Good Day' in July. Students volunteered with us, sorting uniform and packing school bags, while classmates back at school did the same - they all achieved an incredible amount in just one day.

Two schools also deserve a special mention for their Christmas support. **King Edward's Witley** donated hundreds of wonderful gifts, while **Trinity Oaks CofE** in Horley organised a large chocolate collection and donated 100 pre-loved coats.

Community groups

We are fortunate to have such strong support from our local community. **Reigate Squash Club** extended their partnership into a second year, organising a charity BBQ and competition, running collections, taking part in Run Reigate and supporting both of our quiz events - showing true team spirit both on and off the court. Continuing the fitness theme, **The Nourishment Academy**, a women-only gym, organised several toiletry and period product collections, including one for International Women's Day. We also want to 'sing' the praises of **Voicerox Choir** and **Walton Voices**, who raised funds through charity concerts. Finally, thanks to **Hartsfield Manor** for hosting another successful **Family Fun Day** in June.



“ Meet Millie, our Community Fundraiser... ”

I absolutely love seeing such acts of kindness every single day. I've never worked in such a giving community, and it's my pleasure to help bring these fantastic fundraising ideas to life.



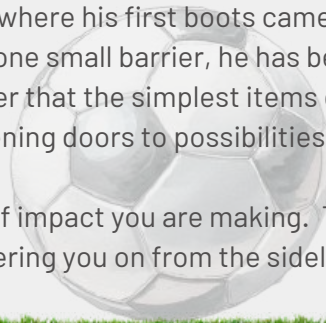


At Stripey Stork, we often see small gestures having a huge impact. We believe that every child deserves the same start, and your support helps children to access opportunities they might otherwise miss.

We were helping a family with clothing and school uniform at a time when money was extremely tight and even essentials were difficult to afford. Their referral partner shared that the young boy loved football and wanted to join a local club, but his family couldn't afford the boots he needed. Without them, he was unable to take part in something he clearly loved and excelled at.

We don't hold many football boots in stock due to low demand. When they do come in, they're usually passed on quickly to community projects. But on this occasion, we had a pair waiting - the right size, in great condition and donated by a child who had simply outgrown them. A family had donated them, hoping they might bring joy to someone else. And they did. Those boots unlocked a young boy's dream. He joined his local football team and a few months later, his talent shone so brightly that he caught the attention of Chelsea FC scouts.

The referral partner later joked that he should remember where his first boots came from when he achieves great things. As lovely a sentiment as this is, it's true that by removing one small barrier, he has been given the chance to pursue his passion and show his potential. This is a powerful reminder that the simplest items can make the biggest difference in shaping a child's future, building their confidence and opening doors to possibilities that might otherwise remain closed.



To everyone who supports Stripey Stork, this is the kind of impact you are making. To the young footballer, we're proud to have played a small part in your journey and will be cheering you on from the sidelines as you chase your dreams.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donate FUNDS: either a one-off or regular contribution
[HTTPS://CAFDONATE.CAFONLINE.ORG/9010](https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/9010)

Is there something you wish to DONATE?
DONATE@STRIPEYSTORK.ORG.UK

Can you VOLUNTEER some time to help us?
VOLUNTEER@STRIPEYSTORK.ORG.UK

Are you a business or community group who would like to PARTNER with us or FUNDRAISE?
PARTNERSHIPS@STRIPEYSTORK.ORG.UK

Are you a professional wanting to make a REFERRAL?
REFER@STRIPEYSTORK.ORG.UK

SCAN ME



I've never seen a community rally to a charity in quite the same way as this community rallies to the Stork. Everyone from big businesses to the youngest person; from the local group to the marathon runner.

This is our cause!

- Cliff, supporter -

We'd like to extend our heartfelt gratitude with **one big collective thank you** to all the staff, trustees, volunteers, referral partners, donors, corporates, schools, and funders for your incredible support this year. We couldn't have had such an impactful year without you. And finally, thank you to the families we support for entrusting us to help, we promise to never forget that behind every referral is a family that needs a helping hand.

