

Case Study: Action for Children Family Sustainment Service



In 2018 the SafeDeposits Scotland Charitable Trust awarded £49,964 to Action for Children to introduce a new service in Dundee – the Family Sustainment Service.

The Family Sustainment Service was developed to support families in the city who are experiencing financial difficulties within private rented accommodation. Recognising that raising a family and running a household can bring many challenges, the service offers support such as: assessing financial situations; ensuring families are receiving all the benefits they are entitled to, negotiating repayment plans with landlords; working out realistic debt management plans; exploring all housing options.

Between April 2019 and March 2020 the Family Sustainment Service supported 59 families, with 150 children in total having been impacted by the support received. This support included the referral of 116 children into a Leisure Active Dundee programme which means that they are able to access the same chances as others.

The Tier 1 vulnerability scheme has been used so that landlords can receive payments direct from day one, reducing potential homelessness. Tenants' access to the SCARF scheme has been supported, meaning that if the tenant is on benefits then their landlord has access to funding to upgrade windows and heating systems. Over £30,000 of rent arrears has been returned to local landlords from different means such as payment plans and benefit applications.

For further information on Action for Children visit www.actionforchildren.org.uk