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Children's lives have been visibly changed in a day because of the additional funding made available to the schools. We were able to buy a child a coat after he came to school in the rain and told us he didn't have one at home. Seeing him walk home with his hood up might seem like a trivial thing to most people, but it was actually a huge deal for him and his family.

Ringwood Junior School

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Every penny raised goes to help the families and children from our local schools so please consider a donation or partnering with us.

Account name: Stronger Together Across
Ringwood & Fordingbridge
Sort code: 30-99-50
Account number: 21973462
or pay by card on www.starf.uk.

**Stronger
Together
Across
Ringwood &
Fordingbridge**

SUPPORTING LOCAL FAMILIES OUT OF HARDSHIP



No child should
have to face
poverty and
mental health
problems alone!

Helping Local Families in crisis

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SUPPORTING LOCAL FAMILIES OUT OF HARDSHIP

Who are we?

We are a group of local people and organisations who have come together to raise funds and secure services to address the issues of poverty and hardship in the locality of Ringwood & Fordingbridge schools.

Our schools are:

- Burgate School
- Fordingbridge Junior School
- Fordingbridge Infants School
- Poulner Junior School
- Poulner Infants School
- Ringwood School
- Ringwood Junior School
- Ringwood Infants School

What is our vision?

All families at Ringwood & Fordingbridge schools should have access to the support they need to develop and grow. No child should have to face poverty and mental health problems alone.

Is this a problem in Ringwood & Fordingbridge?

- In the 8 local schools there is a significant number of parents, who are working and are not on benefits, who have asked for financial help
- In another local school, 30% of families are unable to cope on the money they have (Oct 2023)
- Last year Ringwood Foodbank needed to provide over 46,000 meals, 18,000 of those were to children. 20% of their clients are working
- Incidences of self-harm and behavioral problems are escalating
- On average 5 children in every classroom have probable mental health issues (source: youngminds.org.uk)

But surely there is counselling help provided locally?

- Hampshire Children & Mental Health Services (CAMHS) website states there is a 54 week wait for treatment.
- 2/3rds of children with a diagnosable mental health condition are unable to access NHS care. (source: pro-bono-economics report 2022)

What are we doing with the money?

We have begun to provide these services in our local schools and community:



Financial First Aid

Helping families with essentials in a financial emergency



Financial Doctor

Partnering with Citizens Advice Bureau we have a Hardship Support Worker to work with families in crisis; signposting local help and ensuring the right government and charity support is being accessed



Mental Health Practitioner

We have a Counselling Team to help heal young minds and reverse damaging behaviour patterns



Financial Surgeon

We plan to contract a Debt Coach to help struggling families to become debt free and learn ways of money management



Vaccination for Life

A range of educational interventions to grow budgeting and healthy lifestyle skills, building on existing parenting skills and supporting lifelong and generational change

How can I support STARF?

- Donate your money – see www.starf.co.uk
- Donating your time – can you help our Charity by running an event?
- Donating your services – is there any way your business can partner with us?
- Could you be a member of STARF 20?

To find out more, please contact our team at help@starf.uk or visit our website www.starf.uk

