

The Childhood Trust

Research Strategy

2025 - 2027



Welcome to our 2025-2027 research strategy summary.

The Childhood Trust is a grant-making charity supporting the 700,000 children living in poverty in London. We fund and support London charities working closely with communities to help children live safer, happier lives with greater opportunity to grow, thrive, and break the cycle of inequity.

We aim to be at the forefront of research in child poverty in London. This involves delving into the key subjects relevant to children and young people, poverty in London, and charities working in this space. Research sits alongside our two other core strands and as part of our broader approach to advocacy and systemic change, sector leadership and informed decision-making.

This strategy gives a clear programme, structure and set of priorities so that our research strand is strategic, consistent and aligned with our organisational goals.

What we will achieve by 2027

Share knowledge, identify gaps, and strengthen the sector

Use research to guide our funding decisions and improve the services we support

Use insights to influence policy and advocate for children and young people

Vision: Where we want to be



Our vision is to become a key source for high quality and insightful research on Child Poverty in London.

Our research projects and their findings should provide information and recommendations for a range of audiences, from other charities to policy makers, that can improve the lives of children and young people living in poverty in London.

Ambition: Our role



We aim to be a trusted source of practical, high-quality research on child poverty in London.

Helping decision-makers, supporting the sector, and ensuring our grants and community programmes reach children and young people where they need it most.

Through our research, we aim to highlight key issues, offer practical insights and recommendations, and continually improve our own work to make the greatest possible impact for children and young people.



Our new Digital Hub will become a space for sharing our research with the sector, making insights more accessible and easier to use. We will explore its potential as a collaborative platform, enabling charity partners to contribute, co-develop projects and access research funding.

Priorities for the next 2 years:

1 Governance and oversight: we will make sure all research we carry out or support is high-quality, ethical, and focused on what matters most for children and young people:

- Young people are at the heart of our research – they help shape it, take part in it, and share their experiences to make sure their voices are heard.
- Every project is carefully reviewed by our senior leadership and Research Ethics Committee to ensure it meets our priorities before it begins.

2 Maintaining and developing relationships: we built strong connections with academics and charities, which has helped improve the quality and credibility of our research. Moving forward, we will continue working collaboratively, using these partnerships to gather better data, generate deeper insights, and make the most of shared resources.

3 Research Programme: to become a trusted source of data and insights for the sector, we will run a clear and structured research programme, including:

- Internal Research Projects – each year, our Research team will lead one in-depth project. Topics may come from our team, charity partners, or experts in the sector.
- External Research Projects: we will invite charities, researchers, and academics to submit proposals for one externally-led project per year (subject to funding). This open call will help us bring fresh ideas and expertise into our research programme.
- Annual Survey: we will run a yearly survey across London Boroughs to gather data, opinions, and experiences on key issues affecting the sector and the families we support. The survey will include a set of standard questions for annual comparisons, providing valuable insights both for our work and for others in the sector. An external agency will conduct the survey to ensure robustness and reliability.

Tracking progress, continuous improvement

This strategy is designed to complement our current Prepared for Life strategy, helping us align our research programme with our future direction. We will continue to track emerging child poverty risks to stay responsive to the sector's evolving needs, while using our findings to refine research topics, processes, and programme development.

At the end of the second year, we will review the strategy and research programme to ensure they continue to meet the organisation's mission, priorities, and the needs of the sector.

All findings will be published on The Childhood Trust's website, with full reports available on our Digital Hub. Annual survey results will also be shared to support charities, policy-makers and other stakeholders.



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The Childhood Trust
Fifth Floor, 83 Victoria Street,
London, SW1H 0HW
United Kingdom

📞 0300 102 4417
✉️ info@childhoodtrust.org.uk
🌐 childhoodtrust.org.uk

 The
Childhood Trust
Alleviating the impact of child poverty