

There are a range of external learning projects and evaluations that have been undertaken and are underway, using a range of qualitative and quantitative methods. These include: UCL Centre for Education Policy and Equalising Opportunities, Nesta, CFEY and Shift.

In regards to community-level impact, through evaluation by ATQ consultants, AllChild was able to evidence **an £81k per child average in savings to the state and/or wider economic benefit, modelled on 500 children in Brent, based on past outcomes achieved.**

Coram Impact and Evaluation are the commissioned Learning Partner for AllChild's expansion of their programme to Wigan. The learning partnership will include an evaluation looking at the implementation and emerging outcomes of the programme, which is designed to identify and support children at risk of negative outcomes through trained Link Workers based in schools.

Coram are working with AllChild and partners to develop a theory of change and an outcome framework which will underpin our evaluation for the programme. Their approach includes using methods such as qualitative stakeholder interviews and a series of creative qualitative evaluation sessions run with participating children, as well as analysis of participant outcome data collected by AllChild and administrative data from Wigan Council. The evaluation will follow a participatory approach working with a team of young (16 to 18 years) Peer Researchers, who will play a fundamental role in co-producing the evaluation and ensuring the evaluation is child centred. Coram plan to produce a number of learning outputs for a variety of audiences over the course of the learning partnership, the first of which will be published in spring 2025.

30-40



CHILDREN ARE
IDENTIFIED FOR SUPPORT
IN EACH PARTNER SCHOOL

Upstream England

By [Centrepont](#), a registered charity

Centrepont is the UK's leading youth homelessness charity. Alongside their partners, they support almost 14,000 young people every year and are campaigning to end youth homelessness by 2037.

They are tackling youth homelessness through [Upstream England](#), **a school-based prevention programme designed to identify and support young people aged 11–16 who are at hidden risk of homelessness.**

Drawing inspiration from successful initiatives like the Geelong Project in Australia, Upstream Cymru, and research from Cardiff University, this pilot programme operates within secondary schools across England to deliver targeted, evidence-based interventions.

Upstream England utilises an internationally evaluated digital survey, [Upstream digital survey](#), to identify young people at risk of homelessness. By analysing responses, the programme pinpoints individuals who may be facing hidden challenges that place them at a heightened risk of becoming homeless in the future. The programme then partners with local organisations to deliver **tailored support, which includes:**

- Family mediation and support
- Holistic health interventions
- Homelessness prevention education, including support for parents and caregivers

These interventions are driven by a psychologically informed approach, designed to address the unique needs of each young person and their school community.

The initial pilot focuses on secondary school students aged 11–16 who are not in care but are identified as having a higher risk of homelessness. These students are often overlooked within their school and local communities because their

risk factors are not immediately visible. **Risk indicators include:**

- Sleeping away from home
- Underperforming or disengaging at school
- Involvement in offending behaviours
- Being "hidden but at heightened risk"

Research highlights the importance of this approach. For example, a Welsh study of over 800 young people found that more than 60% of those identified as at risk of homelessness showed little or no signs of school disengagement, reinforcing the need for a nuanced approach to identifying and supporting these young people.

Schools play a pivotal role in the success of Upstream England. As safe and familiar spaces, schools offer a unique opportunity to engage with young people who may be struggling. Students complete the Upstream survey in the classroom, and the subsequent support is tailored to meet the needs of both the individual student and the wider school community.

By partnering closely with schools, the programme ensures that interventions are embedded within existing support structures, making it easier to address challenges early and effectively. Schools are essential collaborators, helping to shape and refine the prevention approach while creating an environment that supports vulnerable students.

Centrepont's vision for Upstream England is to build a robust evidence base that supports the expansion of effective interventions. By starting with small-scale pilots, the programme aims to develop a scalable model that can be implemented more broadly as additional funding and support are secured.

The ultimate goal is to break the cycle of youth homelessness for future generations through early intervention, local partnerships, and tailored support strategies.

See more: [Pre 16 prevention pilots](#)

