

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF STREET-CONNECTED CHILDREN, ENSURING THAT NO CHILD IS LEFT BEHIND.

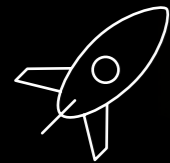
RAILWAY CHILDREN ACHIEVEMENTS 2023-24



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE UK



We supported
186 YOUNG PEOPLE
and their families through a combination of one-off welfare visits, brief interventions and longer-term direct support.



Our Glasgow
PROJECT LAUNCHED,
with three Youth Practitioners working with BTP and the local community to directly support vulnerable young people in Scotland.



We trained
4,295 BTP
and rail staff through our Safeguarding Training.



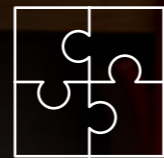
We created two new
SAFEGUARDING ACTION GROUPS
(SAGs), bringing the total number of SAGs operating across the UK to ten.



Our Youth Forum
CONTINUES TO EXPAND
with young people involved in Youth Practitioner recruitment and the design of new communications for young people.

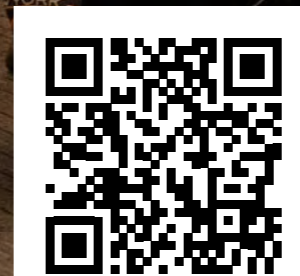


We secured a regular slot at a new Safeguarding Hub at Hull Paragon Station, providing a
CRUCIAL POINT OF CONTACT
for vulnerable and at-risk people who use the railway.



We have worked with
TOCs & SAG MEMBERS
to communicate directly to rail passengers and staff, making them aware of vulnerable children, how to spot them and how to refer them to BTP.

Find out more:



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN TANZANIA



We supported

**1,665
CHILDREN
& YOUNG
PEOPLE**

to move away from the streets and into a brighter future.



We supported

**156
CHILDREN**

under the ACT parenting programme.



We provided

**273 YOUNG
PEOPLE**

living and working on the streets with life skills and income-generating activities.



We provided educational support to

**520
CHILDREN**

including enrolment back to school, provision of school materials and payment of school levies.



We supported

**105
CAREGIVERS**

through business skill training and business grants as part of our family strengthening support package.



We made contact with

**386
CHILDREN**

at our Child Support Desks and, of these, **85% of the children were successfully removed from the streets** upon contact.

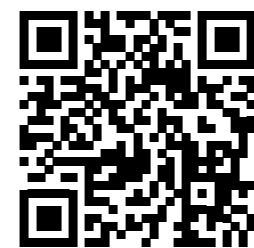


A second

**CHILD
SUPPORT
DESK**

has been established in Mwanza's second busiest bus terminal, in partnership with the local government.

Find out more:



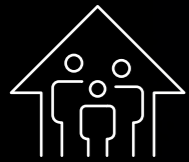
OUR ACHIEVEMENTS IN INDIA



We helped train

**3,851
RAILWAY
OFFICIALS**

on child rights and protection.



We protected

**3,308
CHILDREN
AND 829
FAMILIES**

across four transport terminals and seven communities in seven locations.



We reunified

**92% OF ALL
CHILDREN**

rescued across transport terminals with their families.



Our seven Child Activity Centres have developed into hubs of safety, skills and school enrolment – with

**3,442
CHILDREN**

accessing school and education.



We engaged

**56,858
PASSENGERS**

during 845 awareness campaigns across four transport terminals and satellite stations.



We ran

**7 HEALTH
CAMPS**

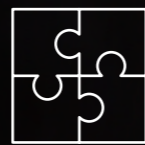
in the community, ensuring children underwent regular check-ups including general health, eyes and dental checks.



We helped train

**21 BOYS
AND GIRLS'
GROUPS**

on their rights, actively discussing issues affecting their lives and facilitating them to take action for themselves and their communities.



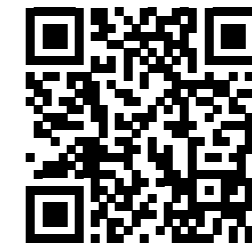
We have activated

**CHILD HELP
GROUPS**

which are now meeting regularly in Patna and Ghaziabad bringing together a variety of railway stakeholders who are enthusiastic about safeguarding.



Find out more:





LAURA'S STORY

Laura was referred to Railway Children by the British Transport Police after she was the victim of sexual assault at a train station by someone she knew and trusted. Laura felt let down, upset and scared, and needed support to help her through. She needed to be listened to and helped to make the right choices – that's where we came in.

One of our Youth Practitioners, Rachel, completed a welfare visit with Laura. They hit it off from the start, and Rachel became someone Laura could trust to talk to about what was going on and what she was worried about.

Due to her ADHD, Laura had problems forming friendships and relationships – which led to her making some unsafe choices. She lacked clear boundaries, which caused difficulties with her parents and led to her running away. We worked with Laura to help her understand healthy relationships, explore boundaries and build emotional wellbeing so she could make safer decisions.

We also supported Laura through the trauma of her sexual assault – helping rebuild her confidence and process what had happened. Laura was very brave in giving evidence against her perpetrator, who was convicted of assault. Knowing she was believed and could start to look to her future led to a visible change in Laura.

Her parents continue to be brilliantly supportive and, as a family, they are moving forward and thriving together.

LAURA HAS NOW LEFT SCHOOL AND STARTED COLLEGE, WHERE SHE HAS MADE FRIENDS AND IS ENJOYING HER COURSE.



AKASH'S STORY

We met 13-year-old Akash when he was spotted, seeming scared and worried, wandering around the bus terminal with his friend. Initially, the boys were hesitant to talk to our team but once we told them about our work and offered them food, water and space to get comfortable, Akash opened up. He told us he had been staying with his older brother for some time, but left without telling him in order to find work. He boarded a bus and arrived at Anand Vihar bus terminal, where luckily for him we have a Child Help Desk to protect children just like him.

Akash was at risk of being trafficked, becoming a victim of child labour, being exploited or suffering abuse – likely never to return home. Our outreach workers were at the bus terminal looking out for children at risk, and spotted Akash as soon as he arrived, reaching and protecting him before anyone looking to exploit and abuse him could.

We are now helping him enrol back at school so he can look forward to a bright future.

WE WERE ABLE TO TRACE AKASH'S BROTHER AND RETURN AKASH SAFELY HOME, EXPLAINING THE RISKS OF LEAVING SO HE WOULD STAY AT HOME FOR GOOD.



JOSHUA'S STORY

Joshua, aged 11, lived a happy life with his mum and dad in Mwanza, Tanzania. His parents were entrepreneurs and were able to provide for Joshua and his two siblings. However, life took an unexpected turn when Joshua's parents separated, and his father took away all the family savings – including money his wife had saved to expand her business. By the time his father left, Joshua's mum was pregnant, with three other children to provide for and a business that was struggling to stay afloat.

With his mother unable to provide for her children, Joshua started visiting the streets to look for casual work like fetching water. With the little money he earned, he would buy food for his family. Joshua began to join other children on the streets more regularly and would frequently miss school. When he did attend school, the class teacher would shame him by calling him names, and his classmates would laugh at him and isolate him, leading him to drop out of school completely.

One day Joshua went to the streets and lost track of time. Too afraid to go home for fear that his mother would punish him, he instead stayed on the streets, spending time around the bus terminal.

We have teams at the bus terminal looking out for and protecting children like Joshua – which is where our staff met him during their outreach work. Joshua was placed with one of our Fit Persons – someone who could look after him in a safe family environment while we traced his family. Luckily, at the same time, his mother had reported Joshua missing to the police and was desperately trying to locate her child.

Our teams spent time running therapeutic sessions to help Joshua's family solve the issues they faced so they could stay together for good.

We helped Joshua and his siblings enrol back in school so they could get an education and build a brighter future for themselves. The family received clothes donations and food supplies to help them get back on their feet. And we provided business skills training and a grant to Joshua's mother so she could grow her business and comfortably provide for her family, meaning Joshua and his siblings would not need to find work and could stay in school.



WHETHER, IT'S REUNITING CHILDREN WITH THEIR FAMILIES, EMPOWERING MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR FUTURE, OR INSPIRING AND EDUCATING MORE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC IN SAFEGUARDING, TOGETHER, WE'VE HELPED BRING POSITIVE CHANGE TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES ACROSS EACH OF THE COUNTRIES WHERE WE WORK.

**WE BELIEVE IN A WORLD WHERE NO CHILD
EVER HAS TO LIVE ON THE STREETS.**

**TOGETHER WE WILL CONTINUE TO
ENSURE THAT **NO CHILD IS LEFT BEHIND.****

Railway Children

1 The Commons, Sandbach, Cheshire CW11 1EG.

T: 01270 757596

E: hello@railwaychildren.org.uk

W: www.railwaychildren.org.uk



Registered charity number 1058991

RAILWAY
children
No child lost to the streets