

2022-23

# Impact Report

Giving children the start in life they deserve...





*We are delighted to bring you our annual Impact Report for September 2022 to August 2023. Last year was the first year we had produced a report in this format and it was both a challenge and a joy to draw together all the facts and figures and see the journey we had been on in those 12 months.*

*Thanks to continued funding, generous donations and a huge amount of time and support from our incredible team and volunteers, this year we have doubled the quantity of orders we have been able to fulfil, streamlined our booking system, made new partnerships, continued to run our successful toddler groups, and given out more Mothers Day & Christmas bags than ever before!*

*We would love to share both the stats and the stories that have made our 2022/23 year such a special one.  
Thank you for reading,*

*Vix Blythe, The Nest Project Lead*







**GIVE**



**GET**



**GROW**

We believe every child deserves to be warm and provided for  
and to be given a better start in life.

# What do we aim to do?

At The Nest Project we aim to serve families who are experiencing financial pressure, by providing free clothing, equipment, and toiletries to children under the age of 5 in BANES. We want to help give children the start in life that they deserve.

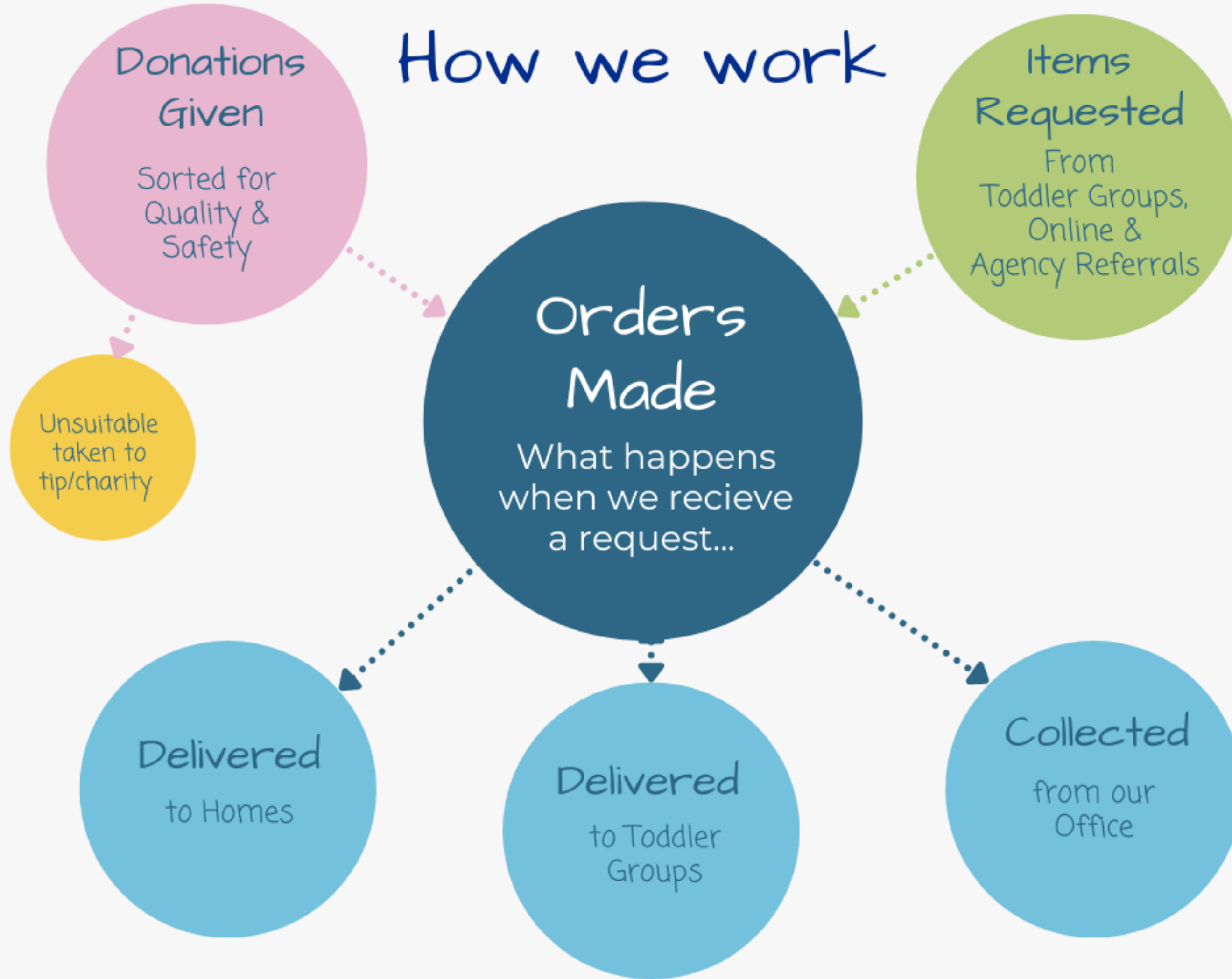


With an emphasis on recycling and reusing, the items we distribute are donations of mostly second-hand items, given to us by other families in the area who no longer need them.

We also provide warm, safe spaces for young families to come along to mid-week for a listening ear and a place for children to play. We aim to be welcoming and non-judgmental, and where further support is needed, to sign-post families to other services in the City.



# How we work





# What others say about The Nest Project...

"Volunteering with you today was enlightening, and inspirational and it really has had a profound effect on me.

The things you do are amazing, and I really hope to work with you guys again in the future.

You were so patient with the children, and we are truly grateful for the experience."

*Teacher at a local school.*

"Without this project, I would feel a deep sense of loss in our community. The support has been exceptional."

"Every little helps to ease financial pressure. The groups have also helped to get a routine for my family and I feel less isolated. Everyone is so friendly, kind, supportive, welcoming and non-judgmental."

"Doing my placement with the amazing Nest team was incredibly valuable in gaining the understanding of the inner workings of a charity, seeing the first-hand impact of serving, and learning how to recognise, respond and reach those needing support who may be just next door. Thank you to the Nest Project."

*University 6-month placement studying Education & Psychology*



# This year's stats...

We made  
**263**  
deliveries

Fulfilled  
**1235**  
orders

We have  
given away...  
**29,170**  
Items!!

**510**  
Christmas  
Bags given  
away

Seen **159**  
different families  
attend our  
toddler groups

Thankful for  
**915**  
volunteer hours  
to help make this  
happen!





We believe every child deserves to be warm and provided for and to be given a better start in life. We are a Vineyard Bath Church compassion project that is committed to blessing and serving those in our community.

We were set up in recognition of the needs of some families in the area who are unable to provide the basic necessities for their children due to poverty and/ or other extreme circumstances, such as abusive relationships.



2022 Report,  
'It Takes a Village':

*1.3 million of the 4.2 million children in poverty in the UK are babies and children under the age of five.... We know that poverty can have a devastating impact on the health, development, and prospects of both adults and young children. Poverty in a child's earliest years can mean children go to sleep hungry, wear ill-fitting clothes, develop respiratory issues as a result of damp, poor-quality housing, develop mental health difficulties, or struggle to concentrate while learning.*



# Thanks for your donations this year...

We distributed **29,170** items, including **89** buggies, **89** cots and new mattresses, **46** highchairs, and **10,641** items of clothing and shoes, **56** stair gates, and **30** baby monitors, **64** items of maternity clothes, and **18,091** other items ranging from bedding, weaning equipment, sterilisers, breast pumps, & bouncy chairs, to books, and blankets.

*September 2022 to August 2023*





"The Nest Project is a fantastic service with friendly welcoming staff and volunteers that go above and beyond to sort and source quality used equipment for families in BANES."





# More from others about The Nest Project...

*'I came along to The Nest Project at a really vulnerable point in my life, after separating from a domestic abuse relationship, I hid for 4 years.*

*Whilst the post-separation abuse has continued, the weekly playgroup has been a sanctuary for me, a safe and welcoming space to come and be myself.*

*They have listened to me each week, supported me, and signposted me to other services that have been able to help.'*

*'I just wanted to say thank you because when I was at my worst, you helped me raise my babies with essential items I couldn't afford at the time.*

*And now I have two toddlers you helped me with some clothes and shoes last year.*

*These little things transformed my stress and were just really lovely. Absolutely beautiful service.'*

# Additional things we've been up to this year...



## **New Online Booking System:**

We have created a new online booking system on our website where parents and agencies can now easily request items directly themselves choosing a collection or delivery slot at a location and date that suits them.

## **Learning from Others:**

- we visited Little Village Baby Bank in London to learn from their successful model that serves families across London,
- have joined in with Little Village, The Baby Bank's Alliance, and GrowBaby networks to learn and share best practice, training, support, and advice,
- our staff and volunteers partook in training from 'Voices' charity who support victims of domestic abuse.

## **Deliveries:**

Thanks to our environmentally friendly electric van purchased 2 years ago, we have been able to continue to make deliveries to families unable to access our service otherwise. We made 263 deliveries this year!





## Sharing what we do with others:

This year to highlight the work we've been doing, the need for donations and volunteers, and to highlight the need for baby banks like ours we:

- were featured in BBC Points West News on TV and Radio,
- spoke on Radio Somerset,
- Shared information for The Sun newspaper's article on Baby Banks in the UK,
- spoke at the Bath Rotary Club,
- featured on 'The Giving Box' in Southgate Shopping Centre in Bath,
- made a new video for our website that visually demonstrates what we do, to help both donors and clients see a quick visual summary of the support we offer.





# Christmas bags

At Christmas, we distributed over 510 bags via food banks, hostels, children's centres and midwives. Each bag is valued at £20 and is filled with toys, toiletries, craft items, books, chocolate, and clothes. (33% more bags given away than in the 2022 Christmas appeal)

This Christmas appeal has both provided bags for those in need and has been a great aid in promoting what our project does with the affluent in the City - it's a great way of the community feeling part of what we do, finding out more about our service for future donations.





## MOTHER'S DAY

On Mother's Day, we provided 20 mums with gift bags and 35 mums with flowers, prioritising mums who would not receive anything otherwise.

“As a single mum of young children, Mother's Day often goes unnoticed. Being provided with a Mother's Day gift full of luxury items, including flowers, made my day and enabled my children to bring me something in the morning.”



# Toddler Groups

159

different families  
welcomed  
across our two  
toddler groups

1193

times our  
Twerton and  
Mulberry groups  
were attended

We have continued to run two toddler groups across Bath - both of which are in areas of deprivation in Bath.

We have found these to be invaluable as our face-to-face service of supporting and getting alongside families in the City.

Many families attend weekly, as a welcoming, warm, and free space for their children to play.



# Stories...

“One lady who received a Christmas bag was living in a refuge fleeing domestic violence with only the clothes she was wearing. Although the refuge is able to offer clothing and essentials the gift bag made her feel special and being a mum to be, feeling vulnerable in a town where she knows no one, she is hoping to come along to one of your mother and baby groups, she also knows she will be able to ask for anything she may need for when her baby arrives.”

Lotus Midwives





# Stories...

“\*\*\*\* has fled domestic abuse from the children's father and he is refusing to offer any financial support for his two children. The buggy that \*\*\*\* had has broken and she can't afford to replace it. She has a back problem and struggles to transport her child by carrying her (she has to do this daily to take her other child to school on the bus). I can't tell you what a weight lifted it is for this family to know they can have one delivered from you. Thank you” (Social Services)







# Stories...

We were referred a mum who has 5 children but is in a 2-bedroom flat. The last two children are twins, and she has very little space for anything. We were able to provide her with two space saving cots with new mattresses, and foldable highchairs.

*"Finding out we were having twins was very exciting, but terrifying because I am in a terrible position financially. We are on benefits and rely heavily on food banks. This will help so much and take a lot of stress off."*



# Involving people from our community in the work we do

We have links to a wide range of organisations who refer families to us, share local knowledge with us and to whom we can signpost those we work with.

We host visitors to our groups from some of these local projects or services, providing them with an opportunity to share information on the services they offer or to talk about specific issues relevant to our clients.

## Work Experience

This year we hosted a 6 month and a 6 week University Internship and a 4 week Women's Work Lab placement. We provided volunteering opportunities and work experience for Norland Nannies, Training Health Visitors, School children from The Paragon School, Year 12 pupils from Haysfield Secondary School and volunteering groups from Good Gym, Bath.

## Volunteers

We invite volunteers to come and feel a part of serving their community either in our donations office, at our toddler groups, administratively, or by baking. We provide them an opportunity to give us valuable feedback via surveys.

## Local Organisations and agencies

## Users of our service

Giving them a voice of what services are needed, and how we can meet that need. Offering a chance to feedback in our surveys

## Donors

Individuals or businesses are invited to donate new or second hand items, Christmas and Mother's Day gift appeals, give financially or order items from our Amazon Wish List. Vital to the service we provide. We love that we can bridge the gap between the wealthy and those in financial need, and pass items from one family, to another. Recycling and re-using items is a fantastic way of also doing our bit for the environment.




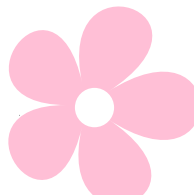

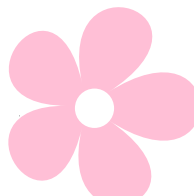
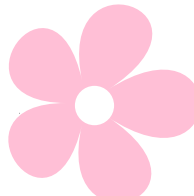


# Our plans for the year ahead...

- We expect to continue to be more in demand and busier as each year goes on and we aim to continue to meet the demand, strengthening our systems, awareness, and connections within the City.
- We have a Bath University placement already signed up to work with us for a year.
- Continue Christmas bag and Mother's Day appeals. We expect these to have a bigger response rate as we become more known.
- We have a number of individuals running The Bath Half in October 2023 on behalf of The Nest Project. We hope this will raise a good amount of money and create more awareness for the project. We hope to partner with more businesses like this to run fundraising events so that we can buy new mattresses for each cot donated.
- To investigate further training in how to support vulnerable women well.



# With thanks to...

-  The local charities, agencies and services we work alongside in BANES (a list of these can be requested),
-  St Michael's Church for providing us space for our Toddler group in Twerton,
-  The National Lottery for funding our project,
-  Local businesses and individuals for your support, donations and financial gifts,
-  All of our volunteers.





# How can you support our work going forward...



## Give Financially

We are reliant on funding to cover running costs so that this project can continue to have a positive impact on our community. We would love to invite you or your business to financially support us by giving a one off donation, or a regular donation, please contact [vix@thenestproject.co.uk](mailto:vix@thenestproject.co.uk)



## Donate Items

Check out our socials to see what we are looking for, and guidelines for giving can be found on our website:  
[www.thenestproject.co.uk](http://www.thenestproject.co.uk)



## Volunteer

We have several volunteering opportunities including helping us sort donations, make up orders, do deliveries, serve at our toddler groups, and helping us gain funding or support from local businesses. Please contact [vix@thenestproject.co.uk](mailto:vix@thenestproject.co.uk) to find out more.

**We thank you for your continued support!**





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1148576

For our full impact and latest news visit:

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Email: [info@thenestproject.co.uk](mailto:info@thenestproject.co.uk)

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