



Our Impact

Variety Impact Report 2021



Ethan in his new chair. Read more about our wheelchair programme on page 9

A warm welcome to the Variety 2021 Impact Report

When we look back at 2021, it's hard not to think about the ongoing pandemic and the huge impact it had. It was a devastating year for those who lost loved ones, coped with illness or lived with isolation. For disabled and disadvantaged children, it was a time when the right support was hard to come by, and many saw their physical and mental health go downhill.

For Variety too, it was a year of challenges. Our fundraising took a big hit at a time when children needed our services more than ever. We had to review how we raised money, how we were structured and how we delivered our programmes. However, as you'll read on the following pages, we're proud of how we adapted and how we continued to deliver our support in tough times.

Thanks to you, our brilliant supporters, we're confident that we can develop and grow our services in 2022 and beyond - making sure children don't miss out on the experiences that should be part of every childhood.



Cameron's story

Seeing him in that wheelchair makes me so happy. Even when he talks about playing murderball! The sports chair opens up all sorts of opportunities for Cameron and we just want to encourage him to explore them. It's all about him doing his own thing and boosting his confidence. When Cameron's happy, the whole house is happy.

Nicola, Cameron's mum

Cameron is a typical 14-year-old who loves hanging around with his friends, playing on his X-box and following his favourite rugby league team, Castleford Tigers.

But Cameron, who has cerebral palsy, has had a tough few years. He had problems with splints on his legs, which meant a lot of hospital visits and pain from blisters that sometimes stopped him going to school. On top of this, Cameron and his family had to cope with the pandemic and lockdown measures.

Playing basketball has been one of Cameron's favourite things since he was six or seven. It's a great way for him to see his friends, get exercise and enjoy a buzz from competing. However, when he recently grew out of his sports wheelchair, funding wasn't available for a new one.

It was a difficult situation, but Variety was able to help out by paying for a new chair. Now Cameron's out and about on his wheels and back on the court again. He sees his friends, and like any teenager, he's enjoying being independent and finding his way in the world.

Cameron said: **"I love basketball and I'd like to play in a league and then for England. I'd also like to play murderball, which is where you ram into other people."**



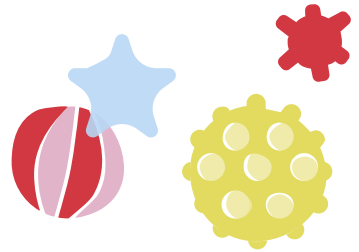
Making a positive difference in tough times

We helped



children and young people in 2021

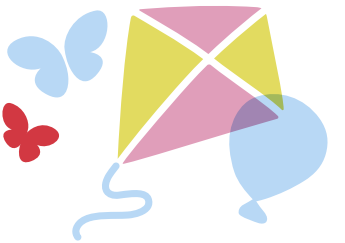
Rising to the year's challenges



105 children benefitted from **equipment and wheelchairs**

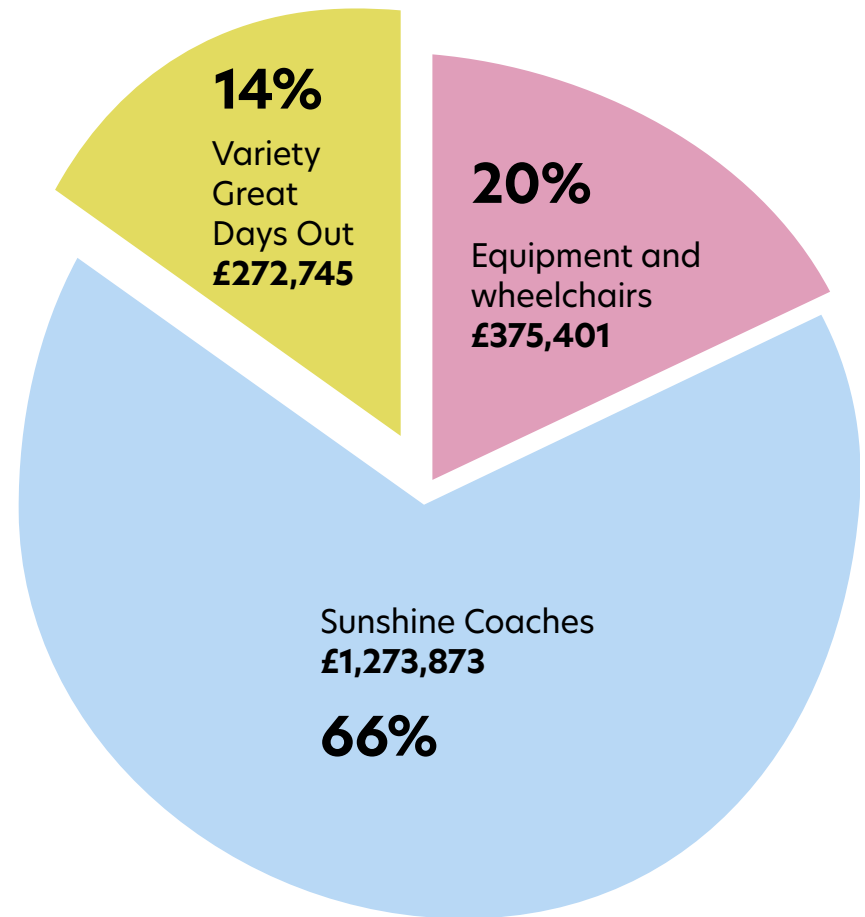


7,800 children were provided with **Sunshine Coaches**

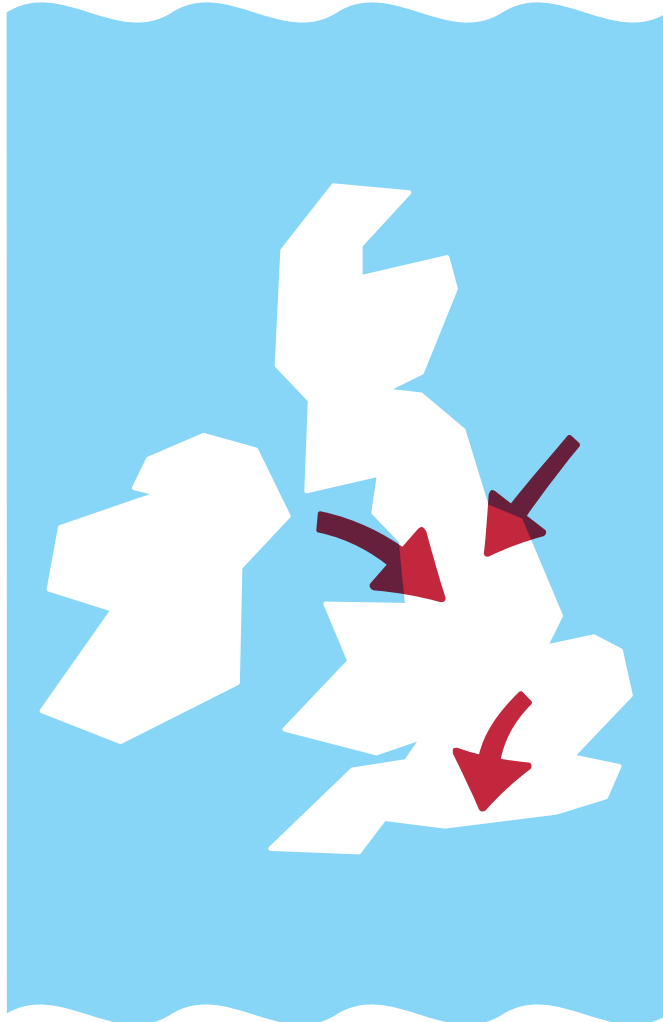


10,533 children went on **Variety Great Days Out**

Total: £1,922,019



Where we worked in 2021



Variety supported children in over 90 towns and cities across the UK - from Bolton to Portsmouth to Thirsk. We provided:

Equipment for children in towns and cities. **90**



Sunshine Coaches in towns and cities. **32**



Variety Great Days Out in towns and cities. **17**



Bournemouth pupil on a Variety trip. See page 10 for more details

In 2021, we supplied 107 equipment grants



Our equipment grants included funding for sports, sensory and play equipment. We also funded hoists and orthopaedic furniture for children at home.

Variety pays for assistive devices for children irrespective of disability, illness or cost.

In 2021 Variety provided 107 **equipment grants** for:

6 assistive devices enabling better care (such as bathing equipment, sleep systems and orthopaedic seating)

.....

10 items of play and sports equipment

.....

19 items of sensory equipment

.....

6 assistive devices enabling mobility (including car seats and walking frames)

.....

25 other items (including assistive technology and IT equipment)



Zuzanna with her new Mollii suit and sensory equipment

Making Lilee-Anne's hydrotherapy easier



Nine-year-old Lilee-Anne from Wolverhampton received a grant from Variety to pay for vital equipment. She relishes new experiences and trying different activities, but aspects of everyday life are a struggle as she has various life-limiting conditions, spastic quadriplegia and scoliosis.

An occupational therapist pointed out the many benefits hydrotherapy would have for Lilee-Anne. Being immersed in water allows her to move more easily and with less stiffness. It also enables her to do her physiotherapy exercises with the effects of gravity removed, plus it soothes the joint pain caused by her spastic quadriplegia.

Her family installed a hot tub at home but her manual hoist didn't fit, so they approached Variety for help. The good news was a grant was approved, and a new hoist was purchased - and this has made a huge difference to the whole family.

“With Lilee-Anne's life limiting conditions, every day with her is a bonus. As she's a bit of a water baby, the hoist means we can easily transfer her every day into her hot tub (weather permitting), whereas before we had to wait for a few family members to assist us.

Lisa, Lilee-Anne's mum



In 2021, we provided 40 wheelchairs and accessories



Erin with her new wheelchair

In 2021, Variety provided **grants** for:

16 manual wheelchairs



14 powered wheelchairs



8 sports wheelchairs



2 wheelchair accessories

Having the right wheelchair can make all the difference when it comes to being more independent, improving medical outcomes and boosting confidence.

We fund wheelchairs for any purpose, provided they are not available through local authority wheelchair services.



...and we took 10,533 children on a Great Day Out



For disadvantaged children, a day out can become a cherished memory. Variety runs its Great Days Out programme, and each year we take thousands of children to all sorts of venues.

In 2021, Variety partnered with 84 schools, youth and community organisations to take 10,533 children on a Variety Great Day Out.

5,610 children visited zoos, safari parks, wetland centres and farms

.....

2,369 children attended Variety Christmas parties

.....

185 children went to beach parties

.....

20 children went to theatre shows

.....

25 children went fishing

.....

2,324 children went on other Variety Great Days Out, including Zoom parties



Bournemouth pupils on a Variety trip

Giving Bournemouth young carers a break

“

Some of the children have only been at Bethany for a few weeks. To be able to take them out of school on a trip, after all they have been through over the last 18 months, felt amazing. They finished off their day in the play park zipping down the zip wire and climbing wonderful rope structures, simply having the freedom to run and play, to be children and have fun. They loved this.

Liz Rawson-Jones, pastoral lead at Bethany School



Variety funded an outing for a group of young carers and pupils from Bethany Junior School, Bournemouth, to the New Forest Wildlife Park, near Southampton.

Among the highlights of the day were encounters with a snowy owl, a pair of wallabies, a sleepy fox, some pacing wolves and a gang of playful otters.

The trip gave the children a much-needed break from caring, as well as the chance to have fun, reconnect with the natural world and create some fantastic memories.



We put 39 Sunshine Coaches on the road



Variety Sunshine Coaches make it possible for children with additional needs, or who are growing up in economically deprived areas, to learn practical skills, get access to sport and play facilities and enjoy trips out with their friends.

In 2021 we delivered our 5735th Sunshine Coach!

Sunshine Coaches per region delivered in 2021:

1 in Scotland

2 in Wales

9 in the Midlands

3 in Northern England

24 in Southern England



Red Gates School
pupils with their new
Sunshine Coach

Enabling learning beyond the classroom at Maes Ebbw

The Maes Ebbw School in Newport has a brand new Variety Sunshine Coach, funded by Variety and St. James's Place Charitable Foundation.

Trips in the Sunshine Coach will enable the school's pupils to benefit from group activities that they otherwise would not be able to do, and in the process equip them with skills that will be beneficial throughout their lives.

The school has already planned for groups of pupils to visit Able Radio – a local radio station – to take part in and produce radio shows.

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The new minibus will allow the pupils so many opportunities to take part in activities in the community. Having a specialist minibus for the pupils to travel in safety and comfort allows us to take learning beyond the school.

Nicola Allan, Headteacher at Maes Ebbw School





About us

In the UK, there are more than one million disabled children and nearly four million children living in poverty. Our mission is to improve the lives of those children.

Since we were founded in 1949, we've raised over £200 million and supported more than 800,000 children affected by ill health, disadvantage and disability across the UK.

When statutory funding cannot adequately meet a child's needs, Variety steps in. We support children in four ways:

- **Education** - our grants encourage learning, develop skills and boost confidence and mental health
- **Mobility** - from funding wheelchairs to providing our famous Sunshine Coaches
- **Experiences** - we love creating memories with our Great Days Out
- **Health** - from providing specialist equipment to funding the Variety Children's Hospital

Get involved

To get help:

If you or someone you know needs our help, visit:
[variety.org.uk/what we do](https://variety.org.uk/what-we-do)

To donate:

To make a donation visit:
variety.org.uk/donate

To fundraise:

To find out more about how you can fundraise for Variety visit:
variety.org.uk/fundraise

Stay in touch

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