



# Our Impact

Variety Impact Report 2022



# A warm welcome to the Variety 2022 Impact Report

**In 2022, amidst the backdrop of a world slowly recovering from the throes of the pandemic, we continued our remarkable journey of resurgence. After a challenging period, we rekindled our unwavering commitment to bettering the lives of disabled and disadvantaged children and their families.**

This impact report stands testament to the dedication and resilience of our team, volunteers, and supporters. As we navigated the complexities of a post-pandemic landscape, we took great strides in re-establishing our programmes, expanding our reach, and adapting to new and emerging needs. The pages that follow offer a glimpse into our accomplishments and the tangible difference we made in the lives of countless children during 2022, inspiring hope for a brighter future for all.

Thanks to you, our brilliant supporters, we're confident that we can develop and grow our services in 2023 and beyond - making sure children don't miss out on the experiences that should be part of every childhood.



# Leyton's story

**9-year-old Leyton loves playing in his Boccia team, playing football, PlayStation, and going to the shops. He has Spinal Muscular Atrophy, which means he is fully reliant on a wheelchair for mobility. With a new powered wheelchair from Variety, Leyton is gaining independence and discovering new places with his family.**

After three years of fighting, Leyton's parents managed to get him on a trial in Paris that would give him medication to help motor neurons in his body multiply and give him more of a fighting chance. Now nearly 10-years-old, Leyton has defied the odds. He still has his medication and he and his parents hope he will maintain his strength. With his fighting spirit, he continues to surpass expectations!

Leyton's family were told about Variety when at Kidz up North, a free exhibition dedicated to children and young adults with disabilities and special needs. Thankfully, Variety was able to fund an off-road wheelchair for Leyton and he's now gaining the independence he's been craving.

Leyton himself is ready to tackle whatever life throws at him, saying: **"I may have SMA, but SMA doesn't have me!"**



***As soon as Leyton had a demo in this chair, he fell in love with it. It gives him the freedom to play on the beach with no restrictions and without having to be pushed around. It's made everyday life more inclusive for him.***

**Tammy, Leyton's mum**

# Making a positive difference in tough times

We helped

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137,615

The number 137,615 is rendered in a large, bold, black font. Each digit is filled with a different photograph of a child or young person. The '1' shows a young girl with a rainbow lanyard. The '3' shows a young girl with dark hair. The '7' shows a young girl with dark hair. The '6' shows a young girl with dark hair. The '1' shows a young girl with dark hair. The '5' shows a young girl with dark hair. The background is yellow with red hearts.

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children and young people in 2022



# Where we worked in 2022

Variety supported children in over 90 towns and cities across the UK - from Bolton to Portsmouth to Dundee.

We provided:

.....  
**Equipment** for children in **75** towns and cities.  
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.....  
**Sunshine Coaches** in **44** towns and cities.  
.....

.....  
**Variety Great Days Out** in **47** towns and cities.  
.....



# In 2022, we supplied 80 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 2022 Variety provided **80 equipment grants** for:



- |                                       |                                                |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>19</b> items of sensory equipment  | <b>3</b> walkers and standing frames           |
| <b>11</b> specialist car seats        | <b>4</b> lots of outdoor play equipment        |
| <b>11</b> specialist beds & cots      | <b>5</b> seating systems                       |
| <b>4</b> pieces of bathroom equipment | <b>4</b> safe spaces                           |
| <b>5</b> hoists or harnesses          | <b>2</b> pieces of sports & training equipment |
| <b>1</b> sleeping system              | <b>11</b> miscellaneous items                  |

# Lillie enjoys safe nights in her new safety sleeper

13-year-old Charlotte (known as Lillie by her family) lives in Hertfordshire with her mum, Gemma, her dad John, and her older sister, Sophie. Since birth, she has surpassed all expectations and defied the odds, achieving what doctors predicted would not be possible for her.

Lillie has four-limb Cerebral Palsy with global developmental delay and severe learning difficulties. She is non-verbal, doubly incontinent and has no sense of danger or safety awareness. She needs adult supervision at all times during waking hours.

Although doctors predicted that she would never be able to even sit up by herself, Lillie is now able to walk and she continues to surpass expectations. As mum Gemma says, **"She's just incredible really."**

Lillie's family got in touch with Variety when her safety sleeper bed broke beyond repair. This is a vital piece of equipment for Lillie and her family as it stops her from getting out of bed and wandering in the night, which could lead to her causing herself serious harm.

When her previous bed broke, Lillie's family knew that she would need a replacement in order for her to stay safe in the night. It is not possible for her to be in a standard bed without being closed in.

The new Variety-funded safety sleeper has more than met the family's expectations. Not only does this new safety sleeper

make bedtime calmer and more comfortable for Lillie, it also helps Gemma and John with their morning routine.

**"People do not realise, but it's people like you and charities that really do make such a difference. It is incredible."**

Gemma, Lillie's mum



# In 2022, we committed 52 wheelchairs

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.



In 2022 Variety provided **grants** for:

6 all terrain wheelchairs

18 manual wheelchairs

10 powered wheelchairs

17 sports wheelchairs

1 standing wheelchair



# A great day out at West Midlands Safari Park

Over 5,500 children, along with their parents and carers, were given tickets from Variety to enjoy a Great Day Out at West Midlands Safari Park.

The children enjoyed meeting the animals up close, getting the chance to go through the safari drive-through, visit the red panda retreat, walk through the African village, go through lorikeet landing, visit the land of the living dinosaurs, and much more.

There were plenty of animals to meet, including rhinos, lions, and giraffes, as well as rides to make the day even more enjoyable.

Parents and carers enjoyed an incredible day out with their children, taking the opportunity to bond and create precious memories.



**66** *Days out like this would not have been possible without your generosity. We made sure we made the most of all the experiences and we took our time to explore. Thank you so much for providing us with such a wonderful day.*

**Louise,**  
Mum of two students

# We put 44 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 2022 we delivered our 5,780th Sunshine Coach!

**Sunshine Coaches per region**  
delivered in 2022:

**3** in Scotland

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**3** in Wales

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**7** in the Midlands

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**7** in Northern England

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**24** in Southern England

# Legends gifted Sunshine coach to little legends!


Moorfield Community Primary School was gifted a Variety Sunshine Coach that was sponsored by people from the Legends of Industry Awards 2021.

The Legends in your life Coach made an appearance at this year's Legends of Industry Awards outside the Hilton Hotel in Manchester for sponsors to see the names of their friends, family, children, and loved ones.

The Legends of Industry Awards celebrate outstanding achievement of individuals in their chosen fields of business and industry, including fashion, sport, and the arts. The event also raises money for Variety, raising over £100,000 this year.

This Sunshine Coach was presented to Moorfield Community Primary School, who have a high percentage of pupils with special educational needs and disadvantaged children.

The new Variety Sunshine Coach will be used to give pupils opportunities they do not usually get at home, and that would not be possible without their new bus. The children will experience outings to supermarkets, cafes, and other specialist provisions that will support their social skills, experiences, and confidence.



***This bus means that that barrier has been removed and our children can explore everything that our fantastic area has to offer, and means that they can continue their learning, not just in the classroom. So thank you to everyone at the Legends of Industry Awards for this coach.***

**David Nightingale,**  
Headteacher at Moorfield Community Primary 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



## To get help:

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

## To donate:

To make a donation visit: [variety.org.uk/donate](https://www.variety.org.uk/donate)

## To fundraise:

To find out more about how you can fundraise for Variety visit: [variety.org.uk/fundraise](https://www.variety.org.uk/fundraise)

## Stay in touch:

Variety, the Children's Charity  
Variety House, 93 Bayham Street,  
London NW1 0AG

t: 020 7428 8100

e: [info@variety.org.uk](mailto:info@variety.org.uk)

