

**CORSHAM AREA BOARD**  
**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S FUND – APPLICATION FROM SPLITZ**

**Project summary**

We are seeking £2,500 toward the project costs of SplitzKidz. SplitzKidz is aimed at children who have been exposed to and witnessed domestic abuse. Children are aged from 11 to 16 and are supported on a one-to-one basis with the same worker for up to a year. Seven children from Corsham were helped last year, with support provided by our youth support worker in their homes and at school.

**About Splitz Support Service**

Splitz is a Wiltshire based charity with a twenty year history. We provide support to children, families and adults with experience of separation, divorce and domestic abuse. We achieve this by offering support services for young people who have witnessed domestic abuse; one to one support and workshops for victims of domestic abuse; a mother and baby unit for young mothers; a buddy scheme offering mentoring and befriending to lone parents; housing related support to people living in Wiltshire and a voluntary programme for male perpetrators of domestic abuse to help change their behaviour. Our vision is for a society where people have the right to be respected, have the opportunity to enjoy a happy and healthy life free from fear, and are able to achieve and sustain independence.

**About SplitzKidz**

SplitzKidz helps children overcome their personal difficulties and challenges due to witnessing domestic violence; improve communication at home and at school; and increase their sense of wellbeing. We achieve this through one to one work as well as structured group initiatives. Children are referred by parents, schools, social services and other agencies. One to one support takes place at the home of the young person or other agreed venue such as school, where they can share their feelings and difficulties and build up self-esteem. They may also do group work. The purpose of this is for the young people to share their experiences, be heard, believed, and have their views and feelings validated; providing healthy strategies to manage these feelings. Bringing the young people into a group is carefully managed: it is a safe environment where they no longer feel alone. The members of the group mentor each other and become buddies for other young people who need support having witnessed domestic abuse at home. We have seen some outstanding results with hugely improved communication at home and hugely improved behaviour at school. Some young people were on the verge of being permanently excluded from school: as a result of our work, their communication at school has improved, so too has their engagement. Feedback gives the best sense of this: *"Your service has worked wonders and help with the feelings and behaviour bottled up by A. We still have some tears but of happiness at how wonderful our life is now."* *"I have become more confident and I can trust grownups."*

**What we need funding for**

SplitzKidz costs some £45,000 a year to run, with the majority of costs met by our two main funders: BBC Children in Need and the H&P Blagrove Trust. We're seeking a contribution of £2,500 toward the direct project costs of the project, including an hour per week of specialist support, travel costs of our youth support worker, mobile phone costs, room hire, refreshments and group materials.