The Institution of Engineering and Technology

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T(20)47

29 May 2020

PAPER CLASSIFICATION: OPEN

Board of Trustees

FOOTHOLD – THE BENEVOLENT FUND OF THE IET

(Note by Simon Edwards, Director of Governance and External Engagement. If you have any questions on this paper before the meeting please contact Simon Edwards by email simonedwards@theiet.org)

1. Issue

To provide an update to the Board of Trustees on activities of Foothold.

2. Timing

Board of Trustees meeting, 5 June 2020.

3. For Note

The Board of Trustees is invited to note this report.

4. Foothold

4.1. Professor Amanda Dowd, Chair, and Ms Jane Petit, Chief Executive Officer, have been invited to attend the Board of Trustees meeting to present a progress report on Foothold, the Benevolent Fund of the IET.

4.2. A copy of the report is attached as an Appendix.

5. Risk

None known.

6. Resources

None known.

Appendix to T(20)47

A Foothold in the time of Coronavirus

The IET Benevolent Fund
5th June 2020

Our aim: to see a 3-fold increase in people we support by 2022

2017	2018	2022
909	992	3000

3 broad categories of personal challenge

Work and employment

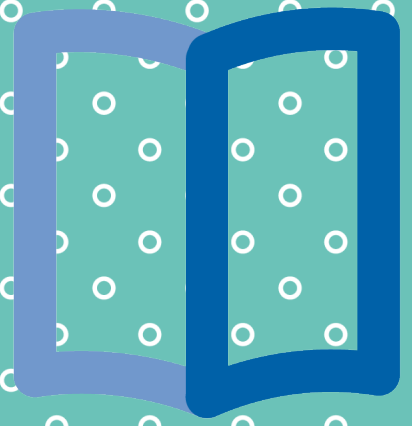
- Returning to engineering
- Retraining away from engineering
- Becoming self-employed
- Unemployment or redundancy
- Career guidance and support (especially for women)
- Disputes

Health and wellbeing

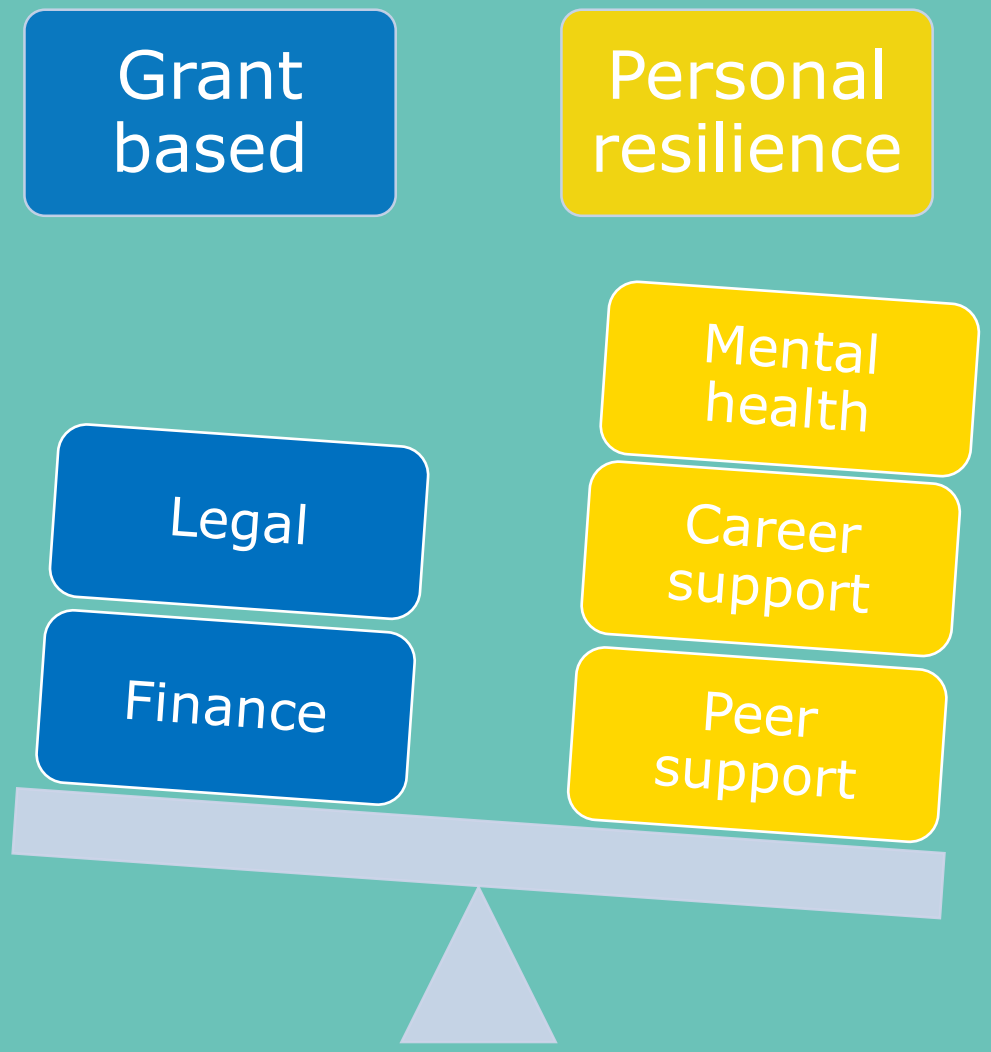
- Mental health e.g. anxiety, depression, stress
- Autism support
- Care
- Bereavement
- Loneliness/isolation
- Ageing/mobility/ disability
- Long-term or terminal illness

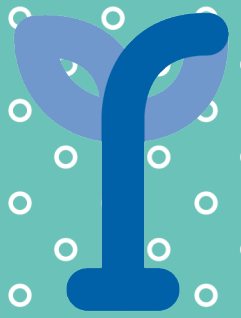
Finance and legal

- Retirement planning
- Financial advice
- Divorce
- Hardship
- Legal issues e.g. work, visa, landlord/neighbour disputes



Altering the balance 2019-2022





The strategy 2019-2022:

Research findings

Main areas of need

- work & employment
- health & wellbeing
- finance and legal

Lack of brand awareness

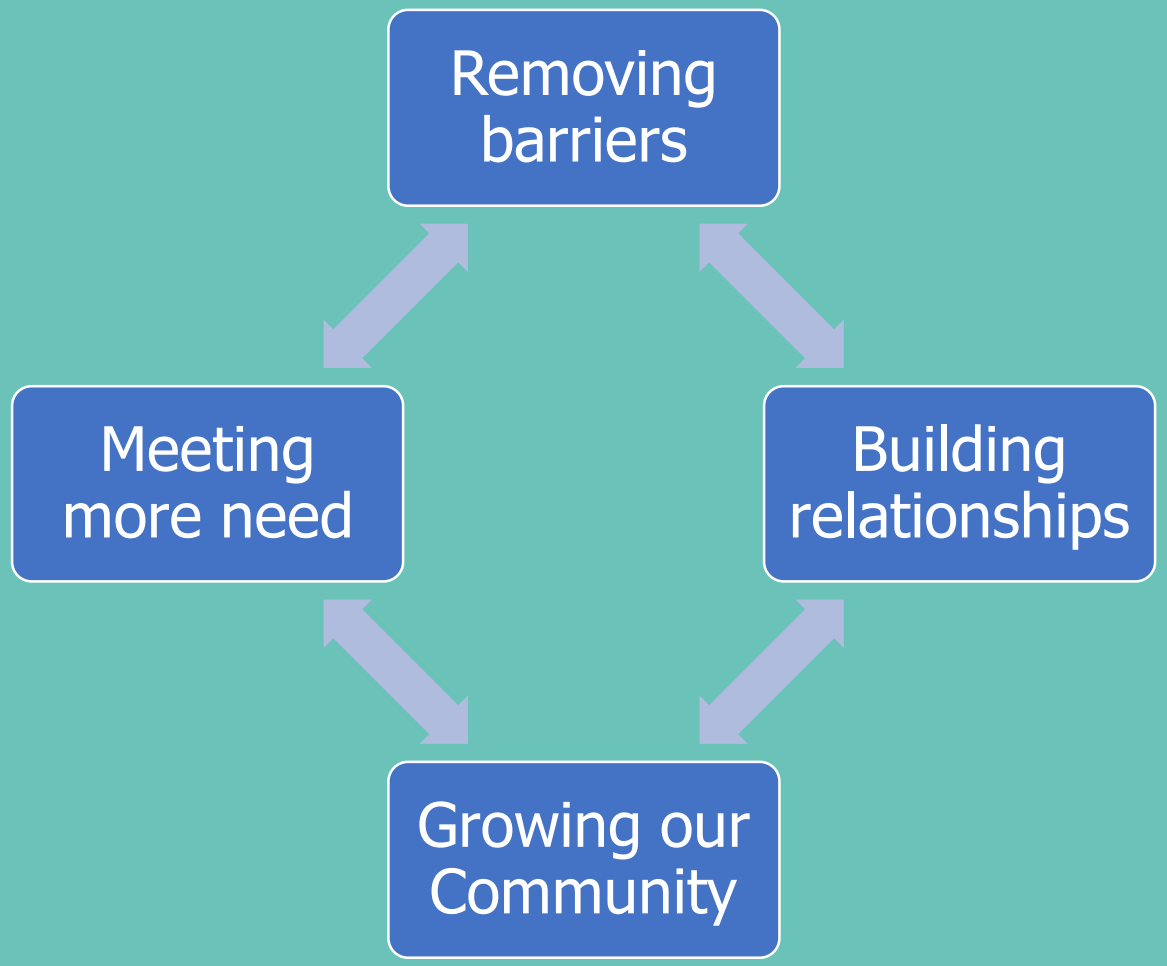
Focused service development

- work life
- health & wellbeing
- peer support
- global availability

Awareness

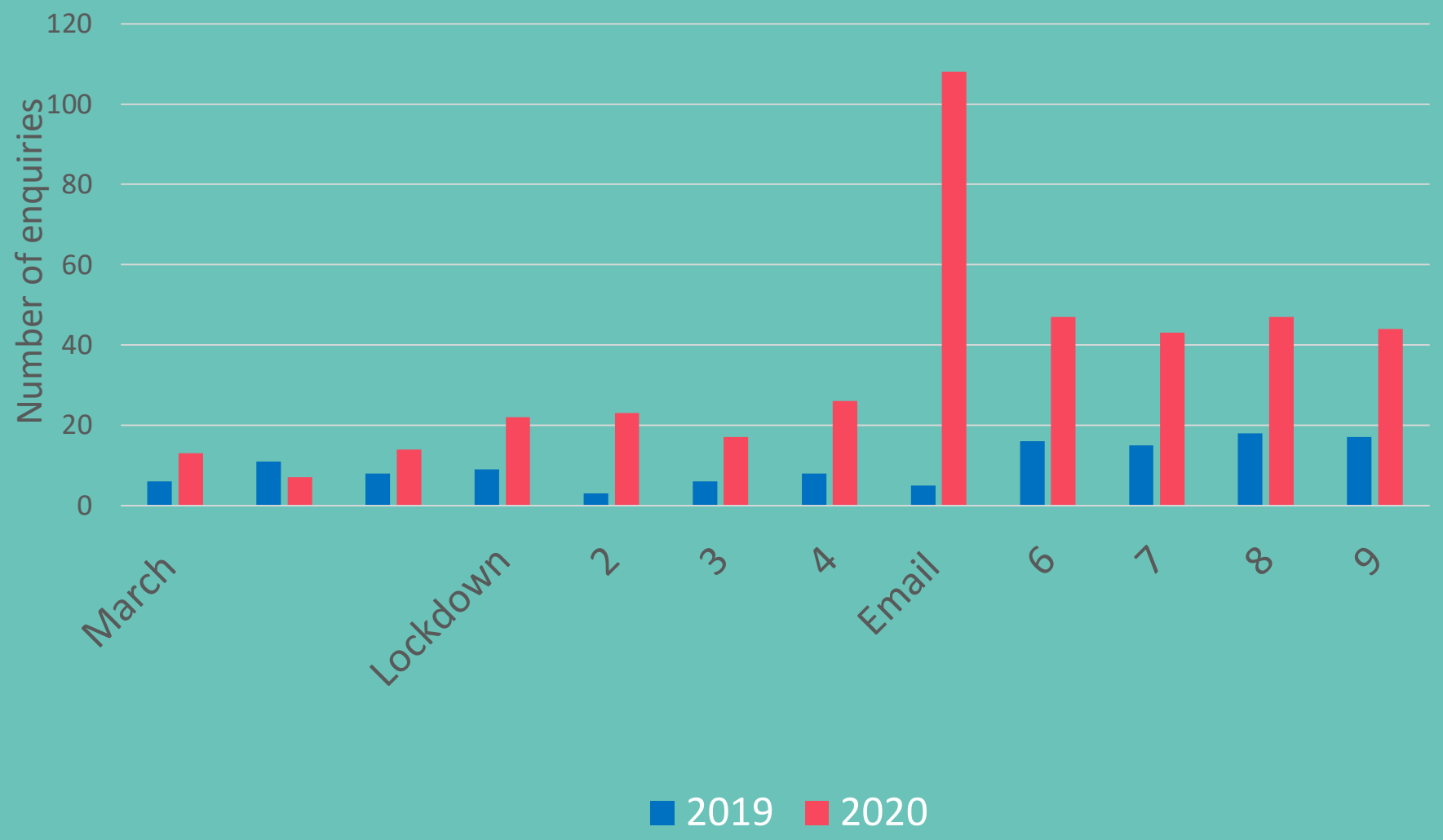
- brand review
- new website
- develop digital and online offers
- amplify external campaigns affecting our community

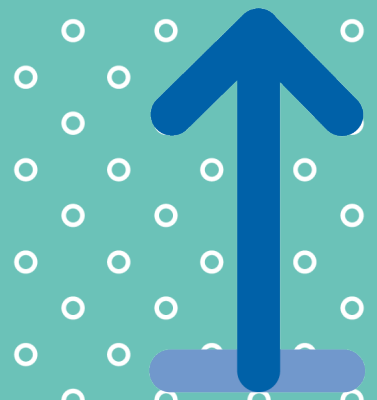
New brand and language help us in



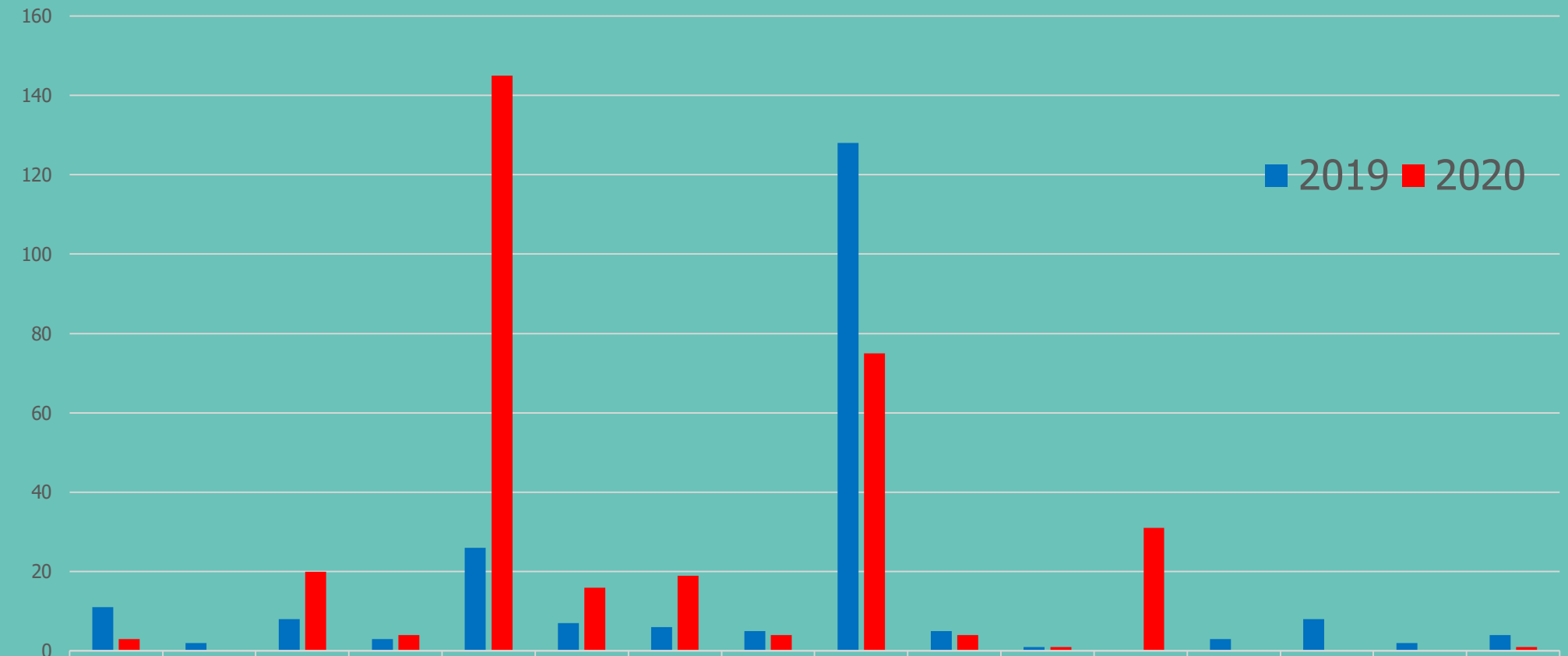
The last three months…..

Enquiry levels 02/3-25/5 (2019/20)



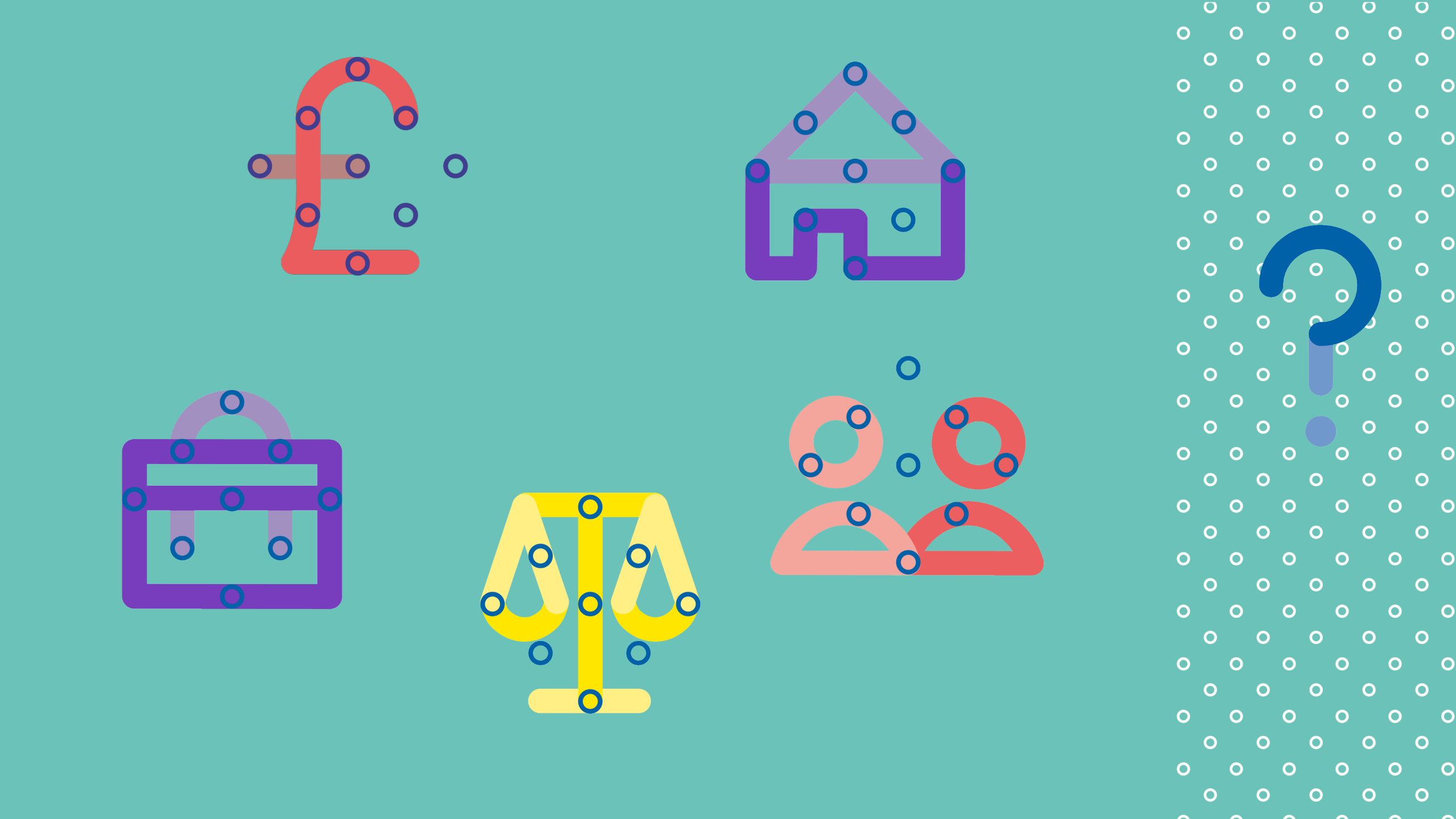


Comparison of support categories 23/3-25/5 (2019/20)



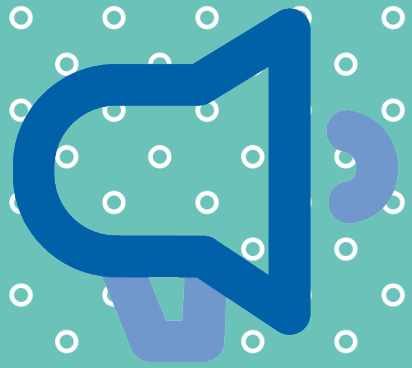
	Anxiety UK	Autism support	Work support	Counselling	Financial grants	IET Query	IET Subs	Information	Legal	Lord Hirst Fund	Referral	Sleep support	Shelter	Signposting	STEM Returners	Student / apprentice
2019	11	2	8	3	26	7	6	5	128	5	1	0	3	8	2	4
2020	3	0	20	4	145	16	19	4	75	4	1	31	0	0	0	1

The next 6 months



Our responses

- Law Express app
- 2 new programmes for work life support
- Social media campaign with Shelter
- Friendship team launched



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Foothold

Supporting engineers