

The London Community Foundation



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I'm delighted to share the achievements of the past year with you, and to say a huge thank you to all the donors, partners and grassroots groups we work with.



Welcome

RUSSELL DELEW, CHIEF EXECUTIVE





Above: Just one of the many inspiring projects we support, 'learn to love to read'

2016 was a year of firsts – not least in that this is our very first annual review. It was also my first year as Chief Executive, a role that has made me incredibly proud. In the space of just 12 months, we've invested over £5m in nearly 1,000 grants to community projects across the capital.

Thanks to your support, we're growing as an organisation, and it's vital that we do for the city we serve. London continues to be a city of contrasts: affluent streets and run-down estates, enormous wealth and crippling poverty, opportunities and closed doors. Within communities there are groups and volunteers who have the ideas and ability to drive social change, but because they're small and virtually unknown, they can struggle to get sustainable funding – or even enough support to get off the ground.

When I started here last April, I was struck by the organisation's willingness to take educated risks and back groups in their very early stages. Since then, I've been lucky enough to visit some of the projects we helped get off the ground, like the Ebony Horse Club in Brixton. A community riding centre in the middle of an inner-city neighbourhood, it's been transforming

children's lives for over 20 years with our support – but it could so easily have been over before it began. When I met some of the children inspired by the centre, its impact seemed especially tangible.

As experts standing up for disadvantaged communities right across the capital, we're also here to shape the agenda. It's our responsibility to direct philanthropic support towards the greatest challenges, where it can make the biggest possible impact for London. We're laying the groundwork for another first for our organisation – a report into the capital's most pressing needs. It will help us continue to make forward steps for our city and build on this landmark year. We want to raise more funds towards the most inspiring and impactful projects, working with more partners and reaching even more people.

None of this is possible without the determination of donors and community groups to give back to the city in which we work and live. I'm deeply grateful, and I hope the following pages show you just what a difference we're making together for London's communities.

London is simultaneously one of the wealthiest cities in the world and a region with the highest rates of poverty in the country.



**We help bridge
the gap**



Top left: Choir session at Westminster Arts

Top right: Session at 'learn to love to read'



ABOUT US

We're passionate about London, its people, its communities and its vitality. But we also know it's a place that can exclude and marginalise. We want to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged, and build a stronger and more vibrant London for everyone.

We believe grassroots organisations hold the key.

Charities, social enterprises and groups that spring from the communities they're trying to help often have a deep understanding of the gaps that need filling.

Many are set up or run by people who have specialist knowledge from years of living within those communities. They know what works and what doesn't, how to gain trust, meet people's needs and build lasting relationships.

But while there's a lot to gain from grassroots beginnings, community groups can struggle to keep going. Often surviving on the passion of dedicated volunteers, it can be hard to find the time, resources and support they need in order to grow opportunities.

We're here to harness ideas and talents in the community to tackle deep-rooted problems that can't be solved elsewhere.



WHY WE'RE DIFFERENT

We work across the entire city and we specialise in discovering pioneering ideas.

We're one of the only grassroots funders that does both.

Our work across London gives us a unique perspective. It means we connect groups in different boroughs so they can learn from each other and signpost the people they work with to other vital services. And it's why organisations like the Evening Standard, Comic Relief and the Mayor's Office work with us to invest their grants across the capital.

We're willing to fund a range of charitable organisations, from constituted community groups to social enterprises, as well as registered charities, and we don't require a lengthy track record. In fact, we specialise in finding and funding small organisations who are just starting out or who don't attract mass public support. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the groups we support, and take risks because we believe in local people solving local problems. We base our decisions on the merit of ideas and the talents of the people behind them.

WHAT WE DO

We shine a light on local problems and local people working to solve them.

We advise and direct philanthropists, companies, trusts and public bodies to target investment towards projects that are changing Londoners lives. And we help the people who run them find the funding they need. We spot bright ideas that make a big impact, so we can confidently invest in work that's truly effective.

We help small, grassroots organisations grow.

We strengthen and nurture community-based groups, as well as supporting them with crucial funding. Whether it's advising on sustainability or streamlining the way they work, we believe in sharing our knowledge to help people improve projects so they make an even greater impact. We work with all kinds of groups – from employment support services to educational centres and homeless shelters, to name just a few.

Left: A lesson at Bloomfield Learning Centre

Right: Deptford Reach



WHERE WE'VE COME FROM...

We started out as the South East London Community Foundation before merging with three other London foundations. We've been working pan-London since 2012, building on our heritage as a grassroots funder. In our 22-year history, we've invested over £55 million with the generosity and commitment of our donors. In the last three years alone, we've funded more than 3,000 charitable projects and touched the lives of over 500,000 Londoners – enough to fill Wembley stadium five times over.

...AND WHERE WE'RE GOING

We want to continue to deliver impact and put our expertise to even greater effect for the city we serve. That means partnering with more supporters and growing our investment. It also means pinpointing the greatest issues facing Londoners today, and making them a priority for those who can help.



Our year in numbers

GRANTS AWARDED
IN 2016/17

101,049

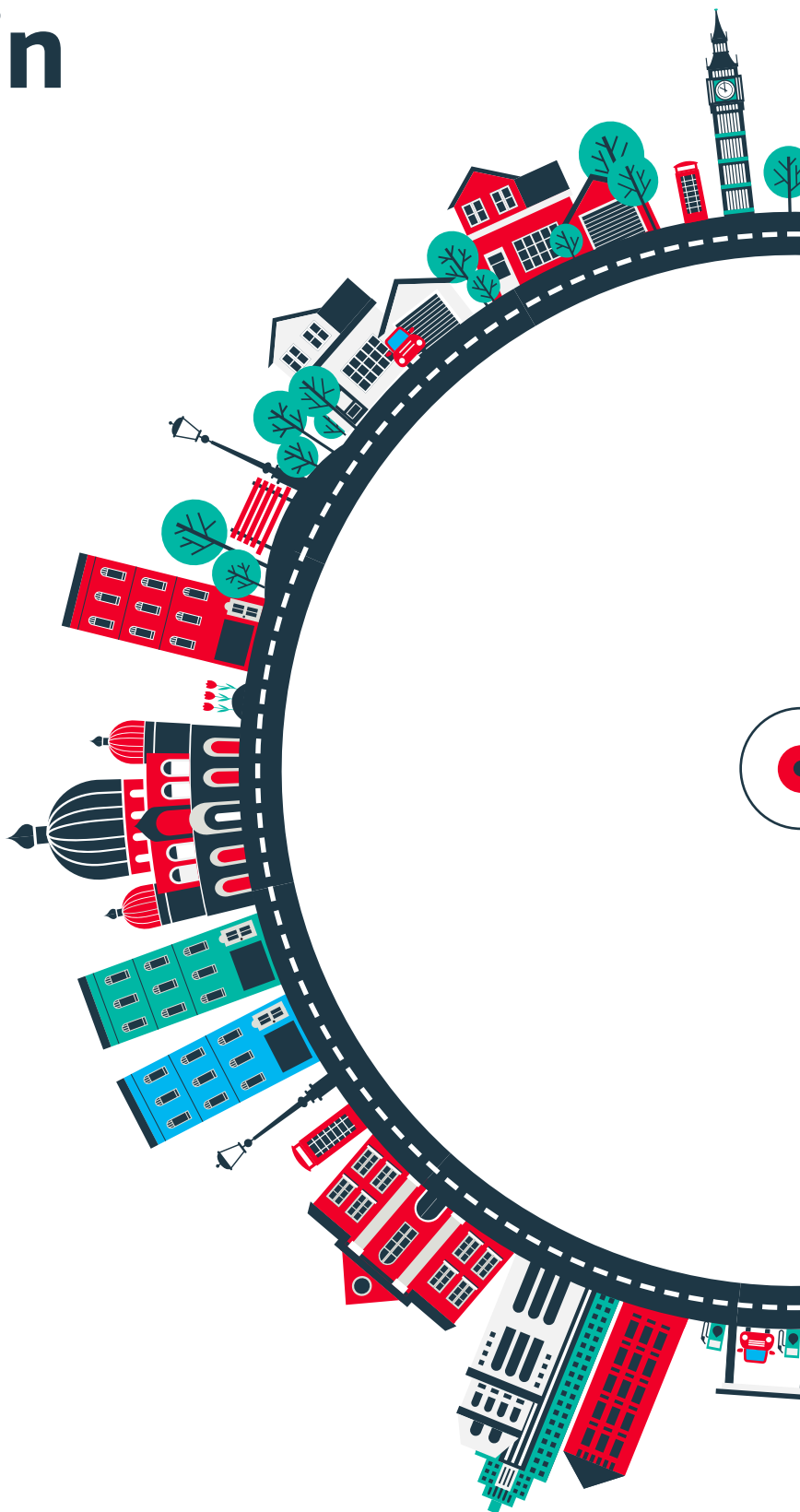
Londoners will be reached

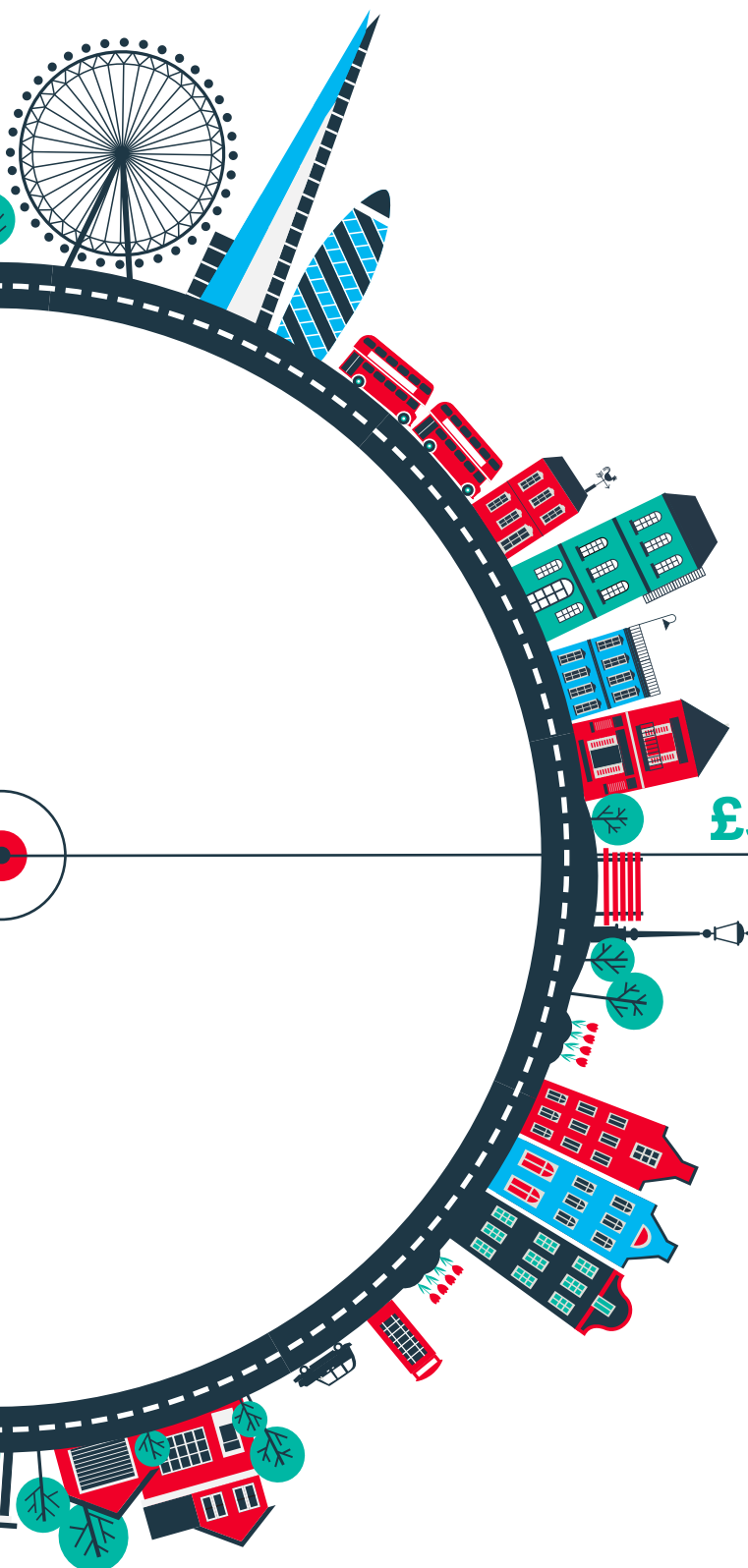
948

grants awarded

£104,109

average annual income
of the organisations we
supported





**£5.2million
awarded** <<

£300,000

largest grant for the
expansion of a large-scale,
pan-London project

£20

our smallest grant,
helping someone
get back into work

£5,514

average grant size

We support small organisations who often have very small teams. Nearly ten per cent of the groups we funded in 2016 had no paid staff and were run entirely by volunteers. More than one in ten had an income of zero in the previous year. For many funders, that would make them too 'high-risk' to support.

Our Impact

Over the following pages we illustrate the difference we've made based on 425 grants completed in 2016/17, where we received detailed information from the groups after the project finished to tell us how it went. Projects which reported outcomes across more than one theme have been included in multiple sections.



DEVELOPING SKILLS AND REALISING POTENTIAL





INVESTING IN
YOUNG PEOPLE



02



IMPROVING
WELLBEING



03



BRINGING
PEOPLE TOGETHER



04

Developing skills and realising potential

There is a clear link between a lack of opportunity to develop life skills and escalating issues like crime, poverty and homelessness. A lack of skills can trap people in a cycle of increasing isolation that often goes hand-in-hand with despondency and low self-esteem.

Small, local organisations are especially adept at tackling these challenges. Because they have a deep understanding of the issues that are specific to their communities, they're well placed to identify those at risk – and can intervene early.

Many are able to provide opportunities for people to build skills and gain valuable work experience, introducing positive role models and a sense of stability to their lives.

That's why education, training and life skills are central to many of the community projects we support. From English classes for new arrivals to woodwork training for travellers and a 'jobs-first' approach to tackling homelessness, we're helping to equip people for the future and strengthen communities.



OUR REACH

£2,205,802

SPENT ON THIS THEME



31

London boroughs were reached under this theme

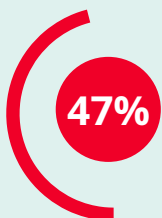


208

groups helped improve people's education, skills and employability

IMPACT THEME 01

WHO WE HELPED



YOUNG PEOPLE



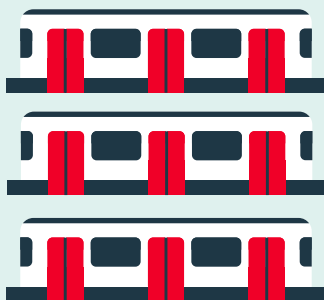
ADULTS



SENIORS

IMPACT SCALE

38,332
PEOPLE
BENEFITTED



THAT'S ENOUGH
TO FILL
45
TUBE TRAINS

WHAT OUR GROUPS ACHIEVED



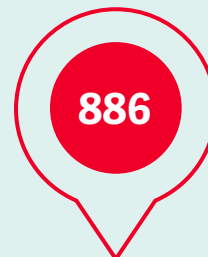
people started on the
path to employment



gained employment



people attended
training; for 663 this
was for the first time



people gained an
accreditation; for 263
this was their first

Investing in young people

In order for children and young people to flourish, they need the right care and support to give them the best start in life. They can face complex issues, and when combined, those issues are often too much for them to deal with alone. Chaotic home lives, a lack of support at school, low self-worth, bullying, learning disabilities or having to care for parents or siblings are just some of the challenges young people can face. We're determined to help them overcome barriers so they can reach their potential.

We believe that with access to the right support and opportunities, everyone has the potential to thrive. Some of the groups we fund take a preventative approach, spotting early warning signs and offering support to those held back by challenges. Groups might reach out to children whose siblings are affiliated with a gang, or young students falling behind at school, and involve them in activities that build on their strengths and talents. Others focus on job skills, encouraging young people to broaden their horizons and feel excited about their future.



OUR REACH

£1,890,394

SPENT ON THIS THEME



28

London boroughs
were reached under
this theme



200

groups supported
children and young
people

IMPACT THEME 02

WHO WE HELPED

5%

EARLY YEARS
(AGES 0-4)

28%

CHILDREN
(AGES 5-12)

46%

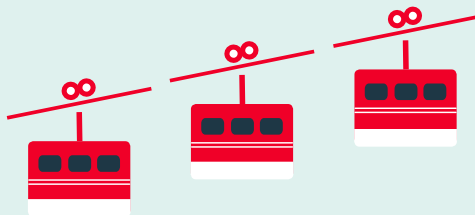
YOUNG PEOPLE
(AGES 13-18)

21%

YOUNG ADULTS
(AGES 19-25)

IMPACT SCALE

40,647
PEOPLE
BENEFITTED



THAT'S ENOUGH
TO FILL
120
EMIRATES
AIR LINES

WHAT OUR GROUPS ACHIEVED

3,540

young people gained
new skills

1,888

started on the path to
employment

2,067

young people felt like
they had an increased
voice

2,367

took part in projects
diverting them away
from anti-social
behaviour

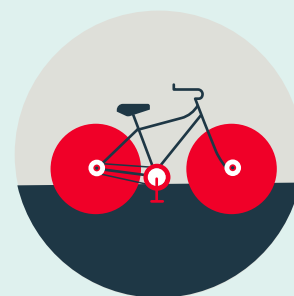
Improving wellbeing

'Wellbeing' encapsulates everything a person needs to feel happy, safe and secure with opportunities and support to succeed. Grassroots groups tell us there's a pressing need to improve wellbeing in their communities, and on an individual level. We know wellbeing can be negatively affected by a huge number of factors, including social isolation, physical inactivity and unemployment.

Last year, nearly one in four of the projects we supported aimed to improve wellbeing.

They tackled a range of issues, from coping with a serious health issue to dealing with the death of a long-term partner, to being affected by crime.

Grassroots groups are able to build lasting relationships with the people they help – offering support, advice and directing them to other services. They see a big improvement in wellbeing, but it takes time, which is why long-term, secure funding is so important.



OUR REACH

£1,971,311

SPENT ON THIS THEME



28

London boroughs were reached under this theme



186

groups helped improve people's wellbeing

IMPACT THEME 03

WHO WE HELPED



YOUNG PEOPLE



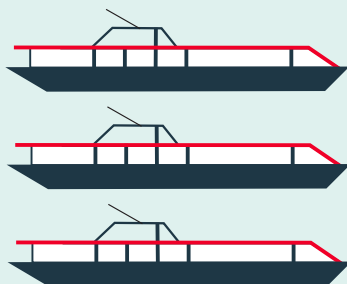
ADULTS



SENIORS

IMPACT SCALE

48,458
PEOPLE
BENEFITTED

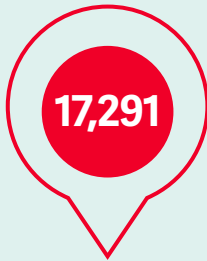


THAT'S ENOUGH
TO FILL
220
THAMES CLIPPERS

WHAT OUR GROUPS ACHIEVED



people we worked with
said their health had
improved



connected or
reconnected with social
networks or support
groups through the
project



people with a disability
took part in wellbeing
projects



people took part in
sport, exercise and
leisure activities; 2,063
for the first time

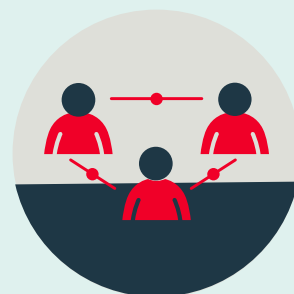
Bringing people together

We all know London to be a fast-paced, exciting city. But for a place that's home to nearly nine million people, loneliness is an all too common problem, particularly for new arrivals or those who don't have a social support network. A drug addiction might have distanced you from your family and friends, or if you're an older person, your children might have grown up and moved away. A physical or mental disability could also leave you feeling cut off from those around you.

Having a connection with others has a profound impact on an individual's wellbeing and sense of belonging.

We support community groups who reach out to those who might otherwise be alone.

In a diverse city such as ours, any one community is often made up of pockets of several smaller communities. Many of the projects we support work to bring people together from all walks of life to celebrate their local area. Whether it's running an intergenerational drama project or a world food festival, grassroots groups are encouraging people to come together to create a shared sense of community.



OUR REACH

£3,094,939

SPENT ON THIS THEME



32

London boroughs
were reached under
this theme



308

groups helped bring
people together

IMPACT THEME 04

WHO WE HELPED



YOUNG PEOPLE



ADULTS



SENIORS

IMPACT SCALE

96,996
TOOK PART IN
COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES



THAT'S ENOUGH
TO FILL
1,212
ROUTEMASTERS

WHAT OUR GROUPS ACHIEVED



people took part in
regular volunteering;
1,895 for the first time



hours spent
volunteering



people took part in
regular social
activities



accessed support
services for the
first time

A journey



OUR STORIES FROM ACROSS THE CITY

through



London.



Gigs at Wembley's 90,000-seat stadium and concerts at the College of North West London have something in common; both showcase the kind of musical talent that changes lives and opens doors. In the tenth year of their partnership with us, Deutsche Bank supported London community group Realtime Arts to help students with special educational needs realise their potential.

- REALTIME ARTS

Realising talent in Brent

"I love ABBA." James made it clear during his first Project Playback session he wanted to play the piano like the band's 'Money Money Money' song. Lucy, one of the specialist staff helping to run the project, made sure it was the focus of his classes. Within a few weeks, he'd finished recording his piano-based track, complete with harmonies and a baseline. "It's one of the best pieces we've created with a young person," says Lucy.

James is 18 and has autism and learning difficulties. When he started Project Playback he was struggling to concentrate during lessons. Realtime Arts, a youth organisation that helps young people fulfil their potential through arts, music, and media, designed the project to help students thrive during what can often be a stressful transition period.

James' classmate Will is also 18. His autism and severe learning difficulties affect his short term memory, which can hold him back in his regular classes. But when he's creating music with help from Lucy and an Apple Mac mobile studio, he's able to write and memorise his lyrics. Lucy says he has "a natural ability for music. He's able to improvise melodies when he's singing as well as learning keyboard parts."

Will's especially in his element when he's performing. The Project Playback team organised a concert at the students' former school so they could share the songs they'd created. "I did a lot of practicing for our concert," says Will. "Lucy made me a CD so I could also practice at home. I like to dance so wanted to do some dancing as well as singing."

The practice paid off. Lucy says: "The younger students now look forward to going to the main college because they think he's a bit of a star."

For other students, Project Playback has been a huge confidence boost. Ali, a fan of the Gypsy Kings and a keen drummer, was very shy at the beginning of his sessions, but when it came to performance time, he was excited about getting on the microphone. "He's very proud of his track and his new-found confidence has been amazing to see," says Lucy.

Both Ali and Will have achieved a Bronze Arts Award through the project, equivalent to a GCSE. And now they're aware of his musical talent, James' teachers are keen to organise more music lessons for the future.



I performed my track live at our sharing concert! I really liked it, everyone clapped along. I remembered all the words and dance routine. I think it was good.

- Will, 18



Deutsche Bank is one of The London Community Foundation's longest standing corporate partners. A partnership that spans over 10 years, the bank's small grants programme has supported grassroots community initiatives focused on youth education, and more recently social cohesion, as a means to support those most vulnerable in the community. In 2016, Deutsche Bank supported Realtime Arts with a grant of **£5,000**, allowing the community group to develop a new project that gave **23 young people** with special education needs the chance to create, record and perform their own music. In the six years The London Community Foundation has supported them, Realtime Arts have changed the lives of nearly **4,000 young people**.



Wander down Islington's Upper Street, past upmarket boutiques and bustling restaurants, and it's easy to forget the borough has some of the worst crime statistics in London. Gang crime is a particular issue, and gang-affiliated girls and women are especially vulnerable to violence – a problem that's getting worse according to a recent Home Office report.

Based on a quiet Islington side street, a small social enterprise with a big ambition is giving gang-affected young women a voice, so they can influence positive change for themselves and others.

- ABIANDA

Empowering gang-affected women in Islington...

Hannah, 20, knows what it's like to live in the shadow of gang culture, but she doesn't let her past define her. While she talks about being "lost" in her teenage years, she wants to focus on the positive steps she's made towards a brighter future for her and her young son.

Abianda is helping her get there. Founded almost single-handedly by Abi Billinghurst in 2011 after ten years of working with disadvantaged young people, it's the only specialist service in Islington for gang-affected young women aged 16 to 24.

Abi's focus is on encouraging the young women she supports

to take the lead in their own recovery. Too-often marginalised and misunderstood, she also believes they hold the key to helping professionals and the media recognise the complex ways women are vulnerable to gang culture – from sexual exploitation to forced drug running or entering into a violent relationship with a gang member.

Through one-to-one mentoring sessions, paid training projects and a business advisory group, Abi puts the power back in their hands. "Often an expert sets the agenda and says what's best. But we say, 'You're the expert on your

life. You tell us what needs to be addressed'."

Hannah has completed Abianda's training course, and now works alongside Abi delivering workshops to the police, social workers and other professionals. She shares her unique perspective on what it takes to help girls avoid or escape gang affiliation – and how to engage with them more effectively.

Passionate about changing the way women affected by gangs are portrayed, Hannah says her role as a young trainer has given her a new confidence, "I've learnt that I can do so much more than I thought I could."





FINSBURY PARK



I feel like getting that trust [to be a young trainer], means I am being looked at as a human, not a 'street rat'. I still had judgements when I was trying to change my life. Trust leads to more stuff. Respect, having a sense of belonging, like you are welcome. Feeling free.

- Hannah, 20

It's a feeling she's determined to pass on. Hannah's in the process of applying for an apprenticeship working with young people at risk, so she can help reach them before problems escalate. She credits Abianda with helping her realise her path in life. "I thought I was lucky to get away from it – but it depends on the professionals and people around you. I wouldn't give up on another young woman now."



Entrepreneur and supporter Sacha Alexander shares our belief that young people should have the opportunity to thrive regardless of where they're from or what's happened in their past. We helped him find Abianda, a group operating under the radar in his area. Sacha's donation of **£10,000** paid for an extra member of staff to provide one-to-one mentoring for girls affected by gangs. Over the last year, the group has helped **15 girls and young women** develop a peer support network and gain work and life skills.

Head north from Upper Street, and you'll find another project supporting young people whose voices are too often lost in the city's noise. Not far from Highbury, where grand, expensive homes overlook parks and squares, young asylum seekers at the Baobab Centre share stories of sanctuary sought and denied. Our supporters Lynn and Simon Dodds are listening.

- BAOBAB CENTRE

...and supporting young survivors in exile

"We're attracted to unpopular causes," Lynn says. "We've been lucky and want to help those who have been less so." The couple have been supporting grassroots charities through us for more than eight years, focusing on groups with "tenacity and the goal of building confidence and hope".

The Baobab Centre is one of them. It's a charity that supports children and teenagers who've experienced horrific human rights abuses in their home countries. Ninety per cent have been separated from their families, and without adults to guide them, must come to terms with the trauma of their past and an uncertain future in an unfamiliar, and sometimes hostile, environment.

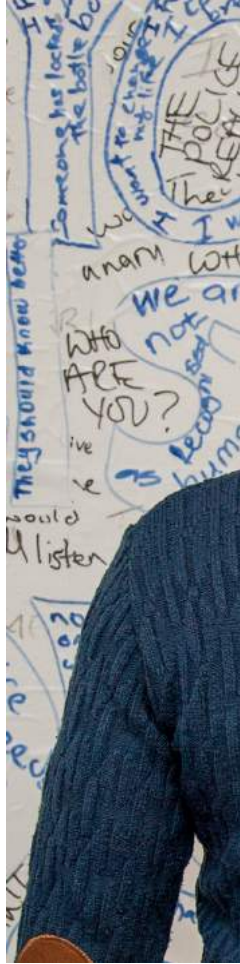
As if that wasn't enough to cope with, many are branded liars by authorities in the 'refuge' they've tried so hard to reach. Only 12 of the 110 young people Baobab currently works with were granted asylum on their first application, including child soldiers and victims of rape.

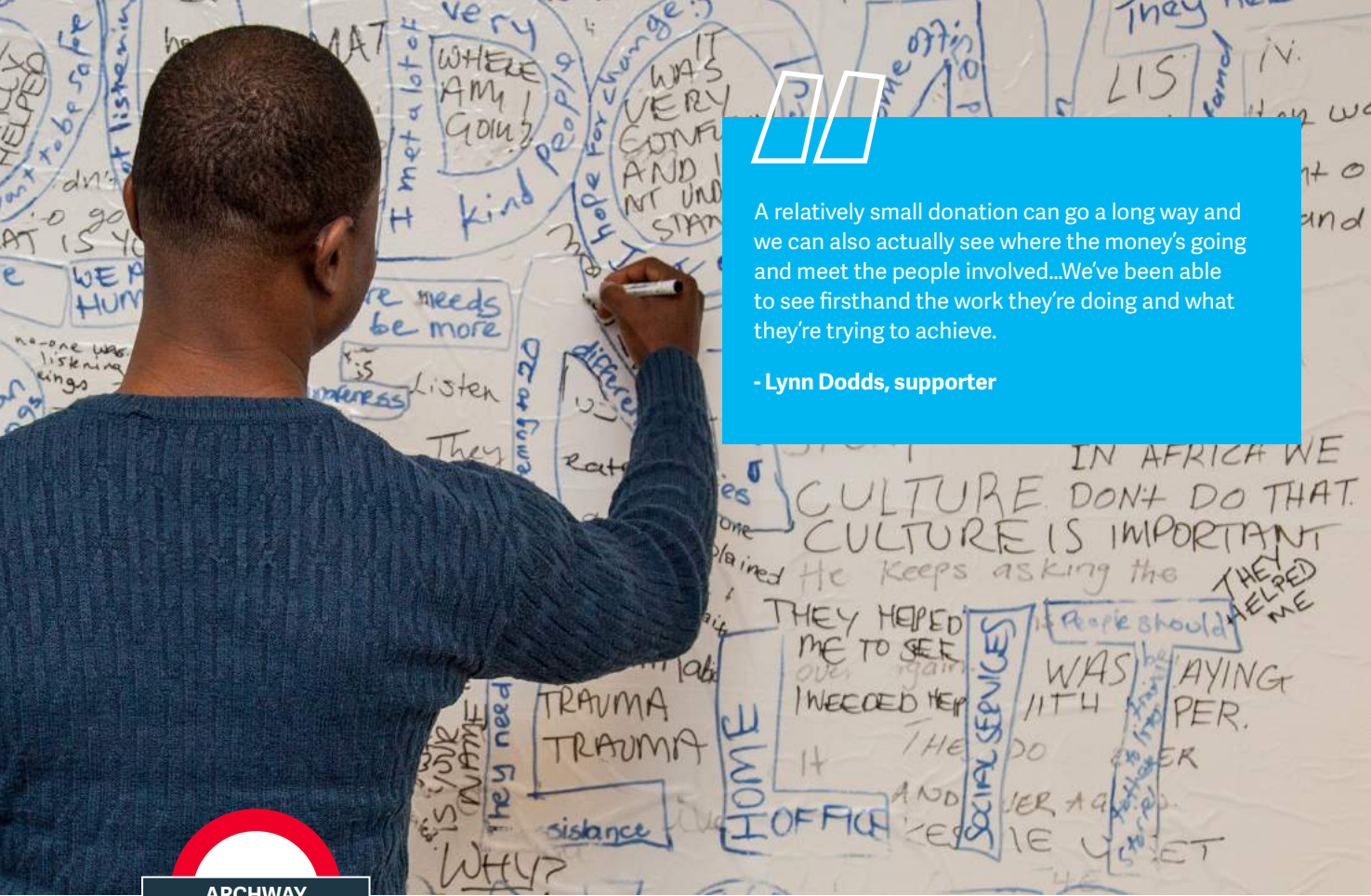
It's a situation Nasir is all too familiar with. He comes from a country in the grip of a long-running conflict, and at the age of 15 was arrested in connection with his father's political beliefs. He was tortured, beaten and held in solitary confinement.

Just before his sixteenth birthday, family friends managed to negotiate his release and traffic him out of the country. But the ordeal

wasn't over; some of the people he was travelling with died during a harrowing journey to the UK. And when he arrived, immigration officers refused to believe his age, denying him asylum. It took four years to overturn the decision.

With the help of donors like Lynn and Simon, Baobab not only supported him with his asylum appeal, but also provide psychotherapy to help battle the anxiety and depression that haunt him as a survivor of violence. Perhaps most importantly, the centre gave him back a sense of belonging. "When I started coming to Baobab I felt like I'd found my family", he says.





A relatively small donation can go a long way and we can also actually see where the money's going and meet the people involved...We've been able to see firsthand the work they're doing and what they're trying to achieve.

- Lynn Dodds, supporter

ARCHWAY

Surrounded by others who've been through similar experiences, the youngsters are encouraged to support each other and share feelings and memories. Those who attend the project say they're better able to handle powerful emotions, and feel a stronger sense of control in the most uncertain of circumstances. It's helped give Nasir the confidence to consider applying to college and start building a new life in London.

To protect his identity, we've changed Nasir's name and kept back some details of his story.



Like us, Lynn and Simon Dodds are committed to supporting small, local charities tackling important issues. Last year, we helped them donate **£6,000** to the Baobab Centre to help run the charity's psychotherapy group for adolescents arriving in the UK as unaccompanied minors. **Thirteen boys and young men** took part during the year, from countries as diverse as Vietnam, Afghanistan and South Sudan. All had experienced violence, separation and loss in their early years.



The Royal Opera House. Tate Britain. The National Portrait Gallery. London's most central borough is packed with world-class arts venues, bringing inspiration to tens of thousands every day. Sitting side-by-side with heavyweight institutions, Westminster Arts is harnessing the power of creativity for those who can't easily visit – and it's doing it on a shoestring. With our help, Grosvenor funded the charity's Creative Befriender programme to improve the lives of local people with dementia.

- WESTMINSTER ARTS

Connecting people through art in Westminster

"There's proof that if you're more active and engaged and do things that keep you happy, your overall health will benefit and you'll stay living independently for much, much longer." Kathryn Gilroy, Director of Westminster Arts, is passionate about her charity's volunteer programme, Creative Befrienders. It recruits and trains painters, musicians, actors and writers who want to share their craft with older people living with dementia.

One in six people over the age of 80 have dementia. As their condition develops so does a sense of anxiousness – a fear of embarrassing themselves or their carers means social appointments and visits to public places dwindle.

And, as they feel their skills decreasing, many will give up hobbies they've enjoyed all their lives. But, as Kathryn explains, it's one of the worst things they could do. "Keeping social and connected is paramount. Having a friendly voice or face they can chat to is vital, someone who will remind them to come to things, support them getting there and keep them feeling like they are, as one person put it, 'staying with real people, in the real world.'"

Each Creative Befriender plays a different role in their befriender's life. For Sally, Kate's friendship and support opens up possibilities she thought she'd lost. Suffering from macular degeneration as well as dementia, she no longer feels

safe going out by herself, but with Kate by her side, she can revisit the artistic side of her personality. Although her vision means she can't enjoy galleries like she used to, Sally still loves attending concerts.

Then there's Alexander, who's anxious about leaving his house. His Creative Befriender, James, brings the outside world in. For the first time since he retired, Alexander has someone he can talk to about music on his level; James is with the Royal Academy of Music, and plays the clarinet as Alexander once did. It's a connection that can't be underestimated.

To protect their identities, we've changed the names of the people mentioned in this story.



My mother has always been creative – sewing, knitting following complex patterns, cooking – and she used to make the most beautiful things. It's still there...

-Kim, whose mother Isabella took part in a Westminster Arts project



We're here to shine a light on small community groups whose ideas have the power to change lives. Our partnership with Grosvenor has 'local' at its heart, focusing on improving the lives of people living and working in South Westminster through community-building activities. A donation of **£2,655** towards the Westminster Arts Creative Befriender project paired up **25 volunteer artists** with local people living with dementia.

Although it's less than a 20-minute train ride from Central London, the borough of Barking and Dagenham can sometimes feel far removed. A 'forgotten' corner of the capital, it experiences the poverty of the inner city without its pockets of wealth, and it has the highest unemployment rates of any London borough. For those in the area struggling with mental health issues, finding a job can seem like an impossible task. Community organisation The Work, Skills and Independence Group (WSIG) is helping people who are increasingly isolated to reconnect.



- THE WORK, SKILLS AND INDEPENDENCE GROUP

Developing life skills in Dagenham

Caroline, aged 21, had to be persuaded to join WSIG's project. She was on medication for her depression and anxiety, and felt overwhelmed by the outside world. Simply leaving her house was often too big a challenge. Experts in working with young people like Caroline, WSIG knew the first step was gaining her trust. The second was inviting her on one of their accredited training courses.

From food hygiene to customer service, the group run courses designed to develop people's job skills and counter the stigma associated with mental health – something that frequently stops them moving on with their lives. "Many people who are diagnosed with a mental health condition are isolated from their communities and find it difficult to access mainstream services," says the group's Director, Chris Andrews.

Caroline chose to study food hygiene, and made a tentative start. "At first she couldn't look anyone in the eye, but after a week she was answering group questions," explains Chris. As her confidence grew, so did her ability. She scored an 80% pass mark, which earned her a catering work placement with one of WSIG's partners.

At first, Caroline had the support of a job coach, but soon found her feet and her independence. Doors kept opening, and now she's got a part-time job in a café that's allowed her to come off benefits. With the help of Prudential's funding and WSIG's patience and encouragement, she's "a model employee, and has flourished as an individual." The world no longer seems such a daunting place.

To protect her identity, we've changed Caroline's name.



The intense feeling of isolation can mean those with a mental health condition stay on benefits much longer in comparison with those with physical disabilities, and have a higher mortality rate than the general population. You've allowed us to prove the success of working with people with disabilities and supporting them back to employment.

- Chris Andrews, Director of the Work, Skills and Independence Group



Improving life skills and employability is at the core of many of the projects we support. We recognise that a lack of skills can not only negatively effect a person's life but can also impact the overall wellbeing of the community. That's why our partnership with Prudential through the company's Skills for Life Fund is so crucial. With a donation from the fund, the Work, Skills and Independence Group were able to work with **60 young adults** with mental health issues, helping them gain a qualification through a 12-month training course. **Fifteen have already found jobs** with companies like Costa, DPD and Eddie Stobart.



On opposite banks of the Thames, Canary Wharf's wealth and power contrasts sharply with everyday poverty in Lewisham. According to London's Poverty Profile, more than 1,600 people were registered homeless in the borough in 2014. Those at risk face complex issues and need long-term answers. That's why, together with the Deptford Challenge Trust, we're championing longstanding grants for homeless charities like Deptford Reach and Bench Outreach.

- DEPTFORD REACH & BENCH OUTREACH

Breaking the cycle of homelessness in Lewisham

Packed into a run-down, five-bedroom property in New Cross, 40 people were paying a notorious rogue landlord for shelter. Many were struggling with drug, alcohol and mental health issues. Someone had tampered with the electricity meter and gas supply. As Declan Flynn, Bench Outreach's CEO, puts it, the house was an "overcrowded death trap."

It's where charity workers first met Michael. Aged 55, he'd been living in New Cross for over 30 years, but "never lost his Brummie accent." A survivor of childhood abuse, Michael drifted between low-paid jobs and never managed to buy his own place. Instead, he rented rooms when he could, stayed with

friends and slept rough when times got tough. Declan describes "a very kind, gentle and caring man, caught in the poverty cycle."

Deptford Reach and Bench Outreach help homeless people like Michael get back on their feet. In 2015, the two charities saw potential to work together and launched a joint project as a way of sharing expertise, the Deptford Reaching Out Project (DROP). Its aim is to help people find a home for the long-term, supporting them to hold down steady jobs and keep up with rent payments.

To set up a sustainable project that could offer ongoing support, it was crucial for the charities to secure three years of funding

upfront – no easy feat for grassroots organisations. Stella Brown, Director of Deptford Reach, says "It's increasingly difficult to secure long-term funding, but it's vital for smaller organisations like us. It means we can concentrate on developing services and evaluating progress, rather than spending time fundraising."

That's where our work with the Deptford Challenge Trust (DCT) came in. We manage the Trust's grantmaking, identifying and monitoring projects so its trustees can be sure they're making the biggest possible impact. We also use our knowledge of small charities' needs to help steer its funding priorities, and last year we



It is reassuring to see healthy positive attitudes being nurtured through engagement of activities such as yoga, meditation and faith in action that I as a client, volunteer to facilitate onsite at Deptford Reach. These activities equip people who have experienced homelessness and other issues to face and conquer daily challenges with awareness, objectivity and patience.

Marc, Deptford Reach client and volunteer

worked with the Trust - who receive their funding through the London Borough of Lewisham - to launch a new grant programme offering long-term support for 'difficult-to-cover' costs like staff salaries.

It's made all the difference for Deptford Reach and their partnership with Bench Outreach. And it's made all the difference for Michael. With the charities' support, he's found a private room in a house in Greenwich and completed a construction health and safety course at Lewisham College. Currently volunteering to build his skills and work experience, he regularly checks in with his caseworkers, and is confident his new qualification will see him find steady, paid work.



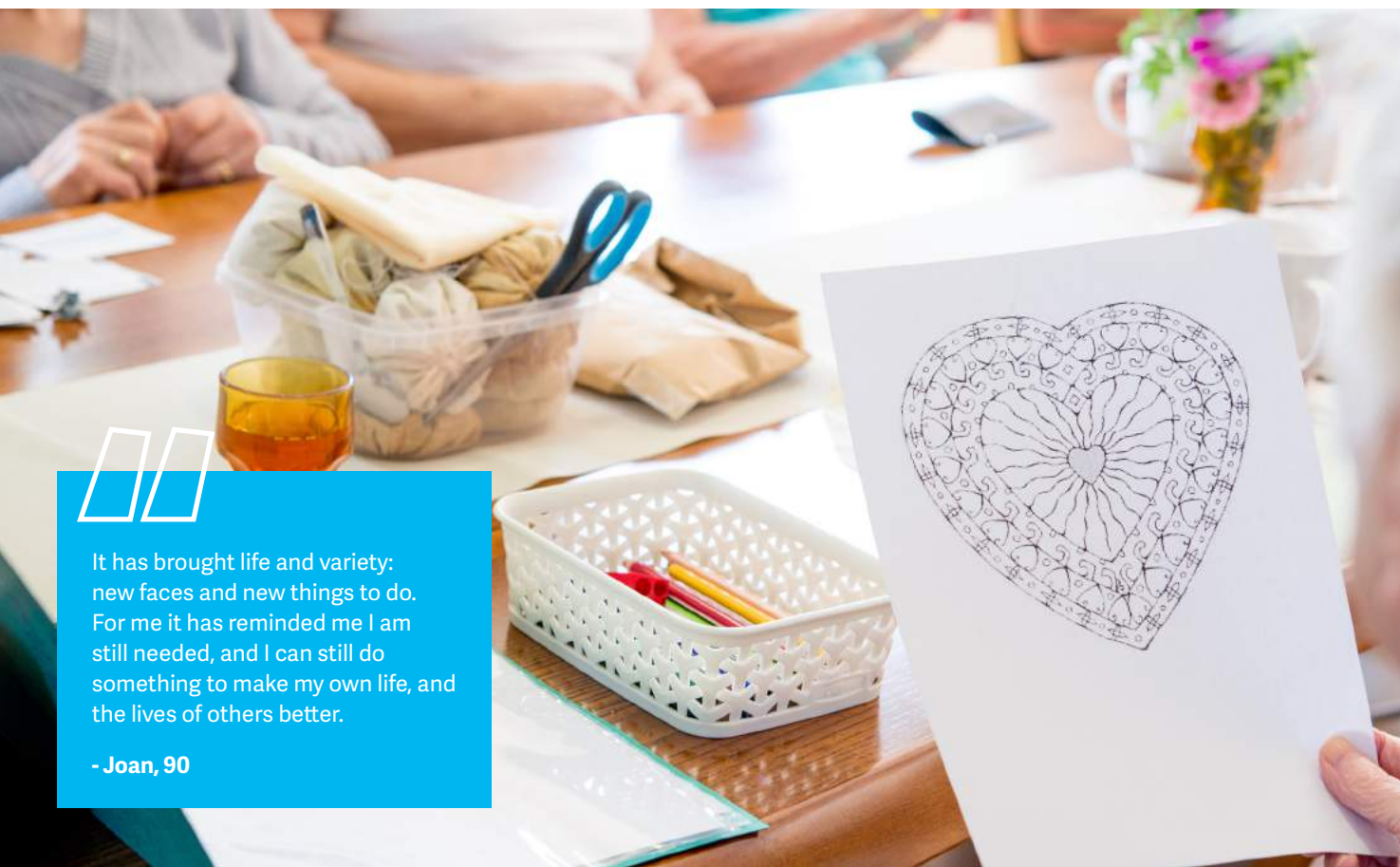
Our partnership with the Deptford Challenge Trust (DCT) began in the 1990s, pairing our commitment to positive social change across London with the Trust's dedication to improving lives in and around Deptford. With our support, DCT is in the final year of a three-year commitment to homeless charity Deptford Reach, donating **£30,000 annually** to the Deptford Reaching Out Project (DROP), run in partnership with the charity Bench Outreach. So far, it's helped **53 homeless people** rent a place of their own and **62 others find emergency shelter**.

- FRIENDS OF ONE TOWER BRIDGE ROAD

Beating loneliness in Southwark...



As one of London's best-known landmarks in the heart of a busy capital, more than 40,000 people cross Tower Bridge every day. Just a 15-minute walk away, life is much quieter at One Tower Bridge Care Home, where one in five elderly residents spend their days without a single visitor. We introduced the Gordon family to a community organisation determined to fight the growing problem of loneliness among older Londoners.



It has brought life and variety: new faces and new things to do. For me it has reminded me I am still needed, and I can still do something to make my own life, and the lives of others better.

- Joan, 90



We know that feeling connected makes a profound impact on an individual's wellbeing. That's why we're always keen to champion projects combatting loneliness and isolation. We've been supporting Friends of One Tower Bridge for nearly three years and can see the enormous value of their ability to engage with and motivate the local community. A donation of **£5,000** from the Gordon Family Fund meant the group were able to recruit **15 volunteer 'befrienders'** for care home residents like Joan.

As she learns how to digitally crop and tint photos, 90-year-old Joan proves it's never too late to try "new-fangled" gadgets. "It's amazing to use computers and cameras. It's not like in my day with a box Brownie."

Too frail to live on her own and living with memory problems, Joan's been a resident of One Tower Bridge Care Home for two years. Her three children live far away and it's not easy for them to visit, but she's doesn't want to leave the area she's always known, and she doesn't want to be a "burden" on her family.

She's gaining her new camera skills through her friendship with Harry, a final-year university student and volunteer with Friends of One Tower Bridge Road. The group recruits and trains people from the local community to befriend isolated care home residents, help them overcome loneliness and give them more choice in their everyday lives.

Relationships develop through one-to-one visits and outings, as well as special social events. Joan is a big fan of 'Ladies that Lunch', a monthly get-together organised by the volunteers in the care home's dining room, with feasts like

roast turkey followed by strawberry flan. For Joan, it "feels like going to out to a restaurant, but it all happens where I can get to it."

While she and Harry bonded over a shared love of photography, Joan became close with another volunteer visitor, Liz. Sharing 180 years of life experience between them, the two quickly found they had a lot in common. And when Liz fell ill and became housebound, it was Joan who played the role of befriender, using her mobile phone to call everyday for a month until Liz was well enough to visit again.

Joan wanted to feel like she could still "contribute", but before she had the Friends' support, she didn't know how. It's made a big difference to her life, and the care home staff have noticed its effect on many other residents too, who say they feel happier, more stimulated and part of a community within the home. "Sometimes all people need to hear is laughter... and they realise there is still a little fun to be had out there", says Wendy, one of the home's nurses.

Sadly, Joan passed away before we went to print.

- BLOOMFIELD LEARNING CENTRE

...and breaking down barriers to learning



Walk west towards Borough Market and you might pass theatres, office blocks, libraries and university campuses – London streets brimming with possibility. But without the right support in a crucial time of their lives, many children are in danger of being shut out of opportunities. It's why services like the Bloomfield Learning Centre are so vital. A stone's throw from the Shard, it's the only specialist service in Southwark helping disadvantaged children struggling with dyslexia. We've been helping its team secure funding for the last three years.

Imagine the frustration of being eight years old in a classroom full of children, struggling to make sense of the words in front of you while others confidently read out loud. Your teacher encourages you to try to keep up, but you have trouble sounding out the letters, let alone blending them into words. You feel like everyone can do it but you.

Dylan's dyslexia and a lack of support at school meant he'd switched off from learning, despite being smart and full of potential. He was angry and refused to cooperate with adults who didn't seem to understand. For his mother, the Bloomfield Learning Centre was a lifeline. "When things were continually not going well at school and my child was seen as trouble... Bloomfield gave us hope."

The centre's staff understand that children with dyslexia come to associate the classroom with failure. They don't think in-class teaching – treating all children the same rather than identifying the needs of individuals – works well enough. It's an opinion shared by the 300 parents who refer their children to Bloomfield each year.

As a specialist assessment and teaching centre, the team aim to provide the 'most direct route to literacy' for children with dyslexia who are struggling at school. They also want to help children grow in self-esteem and train teachers and parents to give them the support they need.

Dylan's increased his reading and spelling age dramatically. He's better able to cope at school,

but the impact goes far beyond the classroom. Statistics show he's now more likely to go on to higher education, explore wider job prospects and help his family thrive when he's an adult. And he's less likely to struggle with mental health issues, or be drawn into a life of crime.

With such big stakes at play, the Bloomfield Learning Centre are intent on giving all children a fair chance to learn to read. As a charity, they prioritise those from disadvantaged families who can't afford to pay for the help they need. The team dealt with 1,500 enquiries last year. It's no surprise their services are so in demand – they can change the entire course of a life.

To protect his identity, we've changed Dylan's name.



My son could not recall his alphabet correctly at age seven. He can now read short chapter books at age eleven. The tutors are so skilled and child-focused...Even though my son is in school, I would not stop him attending Bloomfield...this is where the real learning takes place.

- Maryam, Dylan's mother



Recognising the importance of tailored, dedicated support for children with dyslexia, we championed the work of the Bloomfield Learning Centre to secure a **£10,000 grant** from the First Foundation Community Fund last year. It helped support **five children** who have such severe dyslexia they would never learn to read or write without specialist teaching. On average, a student's reading age increases by 20 months within a year of attending Bloomfield. For some, it's as much as five years.



Lambeth's Kia Oval hosts some of the biggest sporting showdowns in the world. Just over a mile away in Brixton's Angell Town Estate, there's another pitch that's scored its own historic victory. It might be smaller scale, but it's no less important for the aspiring young footballers on the local estate. We partnered with The London Evening Standard and education charity Football Beyond Borders to provide new opportunities and broaden horizons.

- FOOTBALL BEYOND BORDERS

Levelling the playing field in Lambeth

Scarred with potholes and exposed concrete beneath a worn rubber surface, Angell Town's football pitch was at best dangerous and at worst unplayable. Whenever someone fell, it was "cutting".

Growing up on an estate suffering from high unemployment, gang violence and turf wars, Angell Town resident Timon Dixon dreamed of something better than a crumbling space, "for the younger generation in my community". The 21-year-old youth worker and his friends led a petition to inject new life into their pitch, winning over 1,000 signatures and kicking off a new footballing legacy for the estate.

With our support, The Evening Standard helped Timon lobby the

council for permissions to fund the new pitch. In November 2015, it was ready, complete with quality 3G AstroTurf.

And that was just the beginning. Football Beyond Borders, a south London charity that uses the sport to help disadvantaged youngsters transform their lives, had backed Timon throughout his campaign, supporting him to publicise the petition. When the new pitch opened, the charity started running twice-weekly free training sessions for Angell Town's young men and women. Run by FA-accredited coaches, they culminate in the Unity Cup, designed to break down barriers between young people from different parts of the capital.

Orrico, 13, is making the most of the coaching. "I've come to every session, even when the weather was bad. I was told if I show commitment I'd be able to go on tour in the summer holidays. I've improved as a player and had the opportunity to join other Football Beyond Borders players on tour and in tournaments."

Football Beyond Borders know that sport can have a big impact on young people's self-esteem and aspirations – and create a sense of belonging. Since the sessions started, Angell Town residents say they see the pitch as a safe space in the community with a welcoming atmosphere. It's come a long way from the broken concrete the estate's young residents once knew.



It's not good enough for people to complain that our local communities are lacking in opportunities. Those who feel strongly about it have to be the ones to make the change. I see a young me in many of the boys I work with and hope that one day they will come back to Angell Town or somewhere similar and support young people through the work they do.

- Jack Badu, Head of Coaching at Football Beyond Borders



Having worked in and around Brixton for years, we had witnessed first-hand the potential of local groups like Football Beyond Borders to transform lives. A grant of **£30,000** from The London Evening Standard's Dispossessed Fund went towards revamping the pitch and providing free, inclusive coaching sessions. During the ten-month project, **120 young men and women took part**, and the charity went on to secure further funding to work in local schools and launch two youth football teams on the estate. They hope to recast the image of Angell Town as a hotbed of footballing talent.



- THE ESTATE WE'RE IN

Making headlines with The London Evening Standard

We joined forces with The London Evening Standard in 2010, after they ran a series of investigative articles on poverty and inequality in London entitled 'The Dispossessed', published over the course of a week. Working together made sense: the newspaper had the ability to raise awareness and vital funds; we offered expert knowledge of London's community groups and years of experience allocating grants. The Dispossessed Fund was born.

Seven years later, the fund has raised over £18 million from the general public, businesses, the Government, Comic Relief and the Big Lottery – more than any other newspaper campaign outside of war or natural disaster. Together, we're directing record-breaking sums to help grassroots charities tackling poverty, inequality and exclusion across the capital. We've touched the lives of more than 150,000 people and counting.



Every year, we work with The London Evening Standard to spotlight a different theme and focus grantmaking on the biggest issues facing the capital – all supported by a high-profile media campaign. In 2015/16, it was *The Estate We're In*, helping grassroots charities tackle social exclusion on deprived housing estates.

Home to one in five Londoners, estates are hard hit by poverty, but they're also places of hope and potential. We know that with the right support, their communities have the power to bring about

change. Through the initiative, we wanted to improve residents' lives by responding to the issues they identify as important.

The Estate We're In was the biggest Dispossessed Fund campaign yet, and saw a record £1.2m invested in 96 diverse groups, from youth projects tackling gang culture to organisations using sport to bring communities together. Many were small groups led by residents based on the estates, who were receiving grants for the very first time. To help them deliver their projects and strengthen their organisations, we

agreed with the fund's trustees to set aside money for a professional capacity-builder; someone who would always be on hand to lend crucial support to each of the groups we funded, from planning and budgeting to fundraising and publicising their work.

Brixton's Angell Town was the flagship estate, and it's where the initiative was launched before reaching 124 other estates across 23 London boroughs.



Think of Wimbledon and it's likely that tennis courts, summer crowds and leafy streets spring to mind. But despite the area's prosperous image, there are families struggling with disadvantage – and grassroots groups dedicated to making a difference. In nearby Wandsworth, where one in four children lives in poverty and a high proportion of young people leave school without qualifications, we helped a visionary volunteer nurture a spark of an idea to get families reading.

- LEARN TO LOVE TO READ

Starting new chapters in Wandsworth

"How would you have coped today if you couldn't read?" asks Teresa Harris. "Maybe you've already browsed the internet, helped your child with their homework, used a cashpoint and texted a friend? Reading is an essential skill. It opens so many doors."

Passionate about those doors "being open to as many people as possible" – and motivated by an urgent need for local action in tackling the UK's deep-rooted literacy crisis – Teresa saw an opportunity to help young families in her community foster a love for books.

She set up a project through her church, St Michael's Southfields,

reaching out to young pupils at local Ronald Ross Primary School. The group trained in-school volunteers to give children one-to-one literacy support, ran family events and provided free weekly sessions to help parents give toddlers a headstart with their reading. 'Learn to love to read' was born.

Whether it was because English wasn't their first language, or they were from a big family who struggled to find one-to-one time, or if their parents just lacked confidence encouraging early reading, the project offered support to any child who needed extra help – whatever the reason.

Spurred on by progress reported by teachers, and recognising how it helped parents develop confidence to "sit with their child and enjoy a book together," a second primary school registered interest in the programme. But Teresa couldn't expand without funding.

Because we know great ideas need support to blossom, our team helped 'learn to love to read' make a bid to the Wimbledon Foundation, despite it being early days for the project. It worked, and now the group run their sessions in three Wandsworth schools and have boosted their volunteer workforce from 6 to 30 people.



Mums are enormously receptive to being given guidance on how they can best support their child's first steps towards reading, especially when we explain why it is so important. A relationship of trust builds extraordinarily quickly once they realise we're reliable and caring.

- Teresa Harris, Founder of 'learn to love to read'

It's meant they can help more families like Josephine's, whose young son has made impressive progress during his reading sessions. Josephine also brought her three younger children to the group's preschool sessions, where she found support as a mum settling in to a new country and encouragement to play an active role in her children's education. She says, "When I see my children progress, it gives me more energy to go on helping them."

Josephine has since joined the local library with her family, and has told Teresa she'd like to train as a 'learn to love to read' volunteer, to pass on everything she's learned.



Our partnership with the Wimbledon Foundation (the charity of The All England Lawn Tennis Club) has improved the lives of more than 10,000 people over the last three years. When the Foundation wanted to support young people's education in their area, we drew on our knowledge of community groups working in Merton and Wandsworth and encouraged the trustees to invest in 'learn to love to read'. The Wimbledon Foundation Community Fund donated **£3,450** towards the project, helping the team expand to a second primary school and provide extra literacy support for another **50 children**.



"Thank you to everyone who worked with us in the past year to tackle disadvantage in London. We are proud to work with a wide range of dedicated supporters and partners, who recognise the importance of supporting local community groups and charities.

From individual philanthropists and trusts, to companies, social enterprises and central and local government, it is our supporters who make our work possible. Alongside the incredible work being carried out by the community groups we are pleased to be able to highlight some examples of our fantastic partners and supporters in this year's review."

-Francis Salway, Chair

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Football Beyond Borders,
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Eli Gaventa

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