

**The London
Community
Foundation**

Annual Review



2017-2018

Welcome

The challenges and events in London over the last year have demonstrated once again the importance of community organisations. The trust they hold and their deep connections into London's diverse neighbourhoods are evident, and I know it's these strengths our donors and supporters increasingly value. From groups providing a local lifeline to refugees landing in the capital to those using arts to engage children at risk, the value is clear.

This last year we invested a record £8.3 million into projects across every London borough working with individual philanthropists, corporate supporters and local authority and housing association partners. What they share with us, is a belief that local response is key to tackling some of society's most difficult issues.

Last year, the Grenfell Tower fire brought into the spotlight a community whose voice is now a powerful symbol of community spirit. We will continue to support children and young people affected by the fire, working with the local community on how funds should be spent.

In London the needs of community organisations – and those they serve – are complex. With the funding system changing and the characteristics of disadvantage in London ever more intricate, community organisations are facing a perfect storm of cuts in funding and rising demand. Yet the resilience we witness daily from the organisations we support is matched by the commitment and generosity of our donors.

So with a new Chief Executive at the helm of the organisation we look to the future, confident in the value of community spirit in London. Enabling more community support in London, right on our doorsteps, helps all of us feel connected.

Francis Salway, Chair

170,000

**Londoners will
be reached**

£12,862
**average grant
size**

1,124
**grants
awarded**

11
**start-up organisations
supported with seed
funding**



Our impact themes

Hear from the team about what our themes mean to them

Arts & culture

When it comes to finding new and creative ways to work with communities, arts organisations are, unsurprisingly, leading the way.

From oral history projects for older people to share memories with younger generations, to theatre in schools being used to address difficult subjects, to celebrating the achievements of artists with learning disabilities, the arts can be a powerful tool for bringing people together to create and express themselves.

Over the last year we have connected over 20,000 individuals with arts and culture through our funding.

With London's international reputation for vibrant creative industries, the arts can also be a future career for many talented Londoners. As a result of our funding, 361 people worked in arts or culture for the first time over the last year.

Donna Yay

Life skills & employability

Investing in community-based organisations who support people to achieve their potential is a vital component of our work. In a constantly changing environment, it is key that people are equipped with the employability and life skills to meet the challenges of everyday life.

Through our funding, 142 projects supported people under this theme. From boxing for positive engagement to performing arts opportunities in filming and acting, we want individuals to flourish with confidence in their abilities to succeed.

Seeing the projects in action is my favourite part of the job. Visiting Iconic Steps, who support hard to reach young people prepare for employment through media training, I was amazed by the music videos and adverts they produced and felt inspired by the passion of everyone involved in the project.

This project epitomises the importance of the journey, not just in leading to employment opportunities but in raising aspirations.

Mohima Akthar

Environment

It isn't just the people of London we aim to support – it's also the city itself. Recognising the importance of living in a space which inspires and delights, we are proud to be part of the creation of an environment as diverse as the people who live in it.

Last year, we invested in a range of environmental projects. Orchards and green spaces were supported in Lambeth, trees were planted in Tower Hamlets and over 2,100 volunteers took care of their local public spaces. Yet the impact of these projects is felt far beyond the physical changes. Environmental work teaches skills, improves wellbeing and brings communities together.

I saw this first-hand when I visited Myatt's Fields Park Project, a greenhouse project in Camberwell. Learning how to plant and grow, participants used their new skills to transform disused plots around the community into flourishing gardens. Not only encouraging healthy eating, it was a chance for the community to come together and celebrate their local environment, culminating in a big harvest festival.

Lauren Palmer

Wellbeing

The past 12 months have brought a number of challenges to the mental and physical wellbeing of many Londoners. This has inevitably led to increased demand for support and greater pressure on mental health and physical wellbeing services.

In 2017 we visited community-based organisations working in this space to hear first-hand how they are creating positive, engaging and non-clinical environments in which to respond to complex mental health needs. We found that the strength of these organisations is in their ability to tailor support towards a specific community and context, reducing the risk of disengagement and relapse, which we highlighted in our report 'Keeping it Together'.

Organisations like Streets of Growth show how young people can feel isolated, which puts them at greater risk of being recruited by gangs. Providing an intervention programme that boosts mental wellbeing has enormous benefit in preventing bigger problems down the line.

Merlyn Taylor

Stronger communities

Supporting stronger communities is at the heart of the LCF ethos. With 40 of our programmes addressing this in the last year and over 40,000 people supported, there are many ways the projects we fund meet this theme.

Communities in London are diverse, providing an important sense of belonging, mutual respect and cohesion. However, when that sense of community is missing, perhaps due to a lack of resources or physical degeneration, communities can bear the brunt, experiencing social issues such as increased isolation and heightened levels of fear. An extreme but all too common result of low levels of community investment and solidarity is increased levels of crime and violence.

Our report, 'The Violence Virus' looks at the causes of rising levels of youth violence in London and sets out recommendations for the treatment and the long-term cures. Profiling the powerful work of local experts, who have the knowledge, trust and compassion to tackle crime from within their communities, you can read about the different ways in which community-based

organisations tackle violence, through early intervention, crisis mediation and after care support. These are just some examples of local communities taking action to build stronger communities from within.

Tania Skae



£1,285,291 spent on this theme

Life skills & employability

"Almost all of our services were piloted using funding from LCF. They have continued to support us with grants to help us innovate and develop new interventions that help eradicate poverty."

Mohammed Mamdani, Sufra NW London

£195,752 spent on this theme

Arts & culture

Igniting conversation with EdenTree

We strive to create new partnerships that can address the changing needs of London's grassroots. So we were thrilled when EdenTree, an ethical investment management firm, approached us in 2017 wanting to do things differently.

Eager to focus on hard-hitting issues that often get overlooked, it was also important for EdenTree to make a multi-year commitment to improve capacity and sustainability.

As part of the application process EdenTree visited the applicants and after a staff vote, made a three-year commitment to Futures Theatre.

This long-term support enabled Futures Theatre, an organisation that promotes a fairer society for women and girls through theatre, to tour 'Underwater Love', a production raising awareness of the negative consequences of sharing sexual imagery and helping young people to identify abusive behaviour.

Developing each production in consultation with young people from local schools and youth groups to ensure the content is relatable and engaging, Futures Theatre has worked with more than 100,000 young people across London to date.

The figures on this chart illustrate the difference we've made based on 525 grants completed in 2017/18. Projects which reported outcomes across more than one theme have been included in multiple sections.

£1,477,684 spent on this theme

Wellbeing

Across **26** London boroughs

11,245 people took part in sport, exercise and leisure activities

Increased leadership skills & voice

510 gained an accreditation for the first time

Promote opportunities for creativity

Supporting vulnerable people

67 became self-employed

Increased enterprise

Improved economic wellbeing

454 people gained employment

256 came off work-related benefits

3,317 people attended training

5,102 gained a new skill

4,069 people achieved independent living

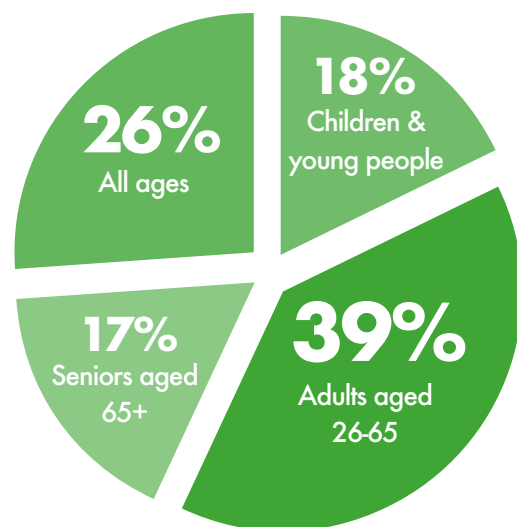
16,787 people improved their physical, mental or emotional wellbeing

"We greatly value the knowledge and experience of the team at The London Community Foundation in supporting applicants and ensuring the grants we make through our Community Fund achieve the maximum social impact."

Helen Parker, Wimbledon Foundation

£1,681,596 spent on this theme

Stronger communities



33,123 took part in community activities

25,707 people attended cultural events

85 orchards and green spaces supported

Safer communities

845 accessed support services following unfair treatment

Improved health



Improved public spaces

57 trees planted

6,779 used a public space as a result of funded projects

£73,211 spent on this theme

Environment

Transforming Wembley Park

Redevelopments aren't just transforming the physical make up of London's communities, they can also bring challenges and opportunities for local residents.

That's why Quintain - along with the London Borough of Brent and key contractors, Wates, McLaren, John Sisk & Son, and McAleer & Rushe - partnered with us to set up the Wembley Park Community Fund.

The strength of our partnership lies in Quintain's desire to support resident and community-led beneficiary organisations, paired with our

knowledge of community-based organisations operating under the radar in the area. Together our goal is to create better places, better lives and a better Brent for residents local to the development.

In 2017, an inaugural round of funding saw seven grants awarded to a range of community-led activities. From Sufra NW London, who received funding for an accredited cookery and catering programme for unemployed vulnerable adults, to Musicus CIC, who were supported to deliver guitar sessions and intergenerational performances - the Fund aims to create opportunities and ensure local networks and services are accessible to all.

Our response to the Grenfell Tower fire

The Grenfell Tower fire started in the early hours on the 14th June 2017, eventually claiming 72 lives. On the day of the devastating fire, the Evening Standard newspaper and LCF launched a fundraising appeal to raise funds for those affected. Funds were also received from the #Game4Grenfell football match, the Artists for Grenfell fundraising single, and the FA Community Shield football match. The generosity from individuals and businesses across the world was overwhelming and in total, nearly £9.6 million was raised from 64,000 donations.

So far £8.8 million has been made available to surviving households, next of kin of the deceased and to local organisations working to address needs arising from the fire. One year on, our long-term commitment in supporting the local community remains and the £800k in remaining funds will support children and young people over a period of three years. The Grenfell Children and Young People's Fund will be overseen by a panel of local representatives, including former residents of the tower and young people and will help support the community in the long term.

View our digital annual review at www.lcf2018.com

23% Living in poverty

56% Local residents

12% Children & young people

9% BAME

AVAILABLE ONLINE AT WWW.LCF2018.COM

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