

# Aston-Mansfield Impact Report 2015/16





# Aston-Mansfield

We bring together people from diverse backgrounds to tackle the effects of poverty and deprivation and to enrich people's lives. We create the space, connections and developmental experiences to enable people facing some of the worst poverty in England to thrive and flourish.

We have been working in the heart of east London for over 130 years. Providing a wide range of community development support and activities in the London Borough of Newham, we directly deliver services to around 1700 people and 900 organisations each year, with an estimated 2200 people using our community centres annually.



## This year

This year, we focused on the implementation of our strategy to rejuvenate, re-energise and refocus the organisation; concentrating our energies on what we are really good at and where there is potential to grow. Some of the highlights included developing our Children's Work through SupaPlay Saturdays and Cycling Training, and strengthening our Young Achievers Group (young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) by developing independent living skills workshops and a parent/carer group. We also celebrated the successes of the young people from the PARIS group (young people who are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning) many of whom went off to university.

## Where we are headed

We are developing a new strategy designed to build on our current strengths to create the next phase of Aston-Mansfield. We want to create an organisation which uses our strengths, resources and assets to have greater impact on local communities; by becoming a more focused organisation with a stronger organisational ecosystem.

Significant future developments will include:

- Developing a GP/Primary Care Centre at the Froud Community Centre in Manor Park. We hope to use this as an opportunity to create new community based health programmes in partnership with a local GP practice, and to secure a long term tenant for the building.
- Organically growing our current Children's Work.
- Working with the Aston-Mansfield Charitable Trust on the redevelopment of our Forest Gate site, to help achieve financial sustainability and to better meet community needs.

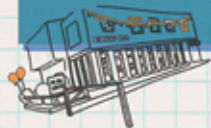
# Overview

This year we delivered services to around 1700 people and 900 organisations

## Community spaces

Our two community centres in Newham: Durning Hall (Forest Gate) and The Froud Centre (Manor Park) are home to many diverse activity and faith groups. Our doors are open to all, offering low cost room and office hire along with a welcoming and safe environment.

Some **70** community groups, organisations and over **2200** people have learned, connected and improved their wellbeing through participating in activities at the Froud Centre and Durning Hall.



## Strengthening the voluntary sector

The Community Involvement Unit helps to upskill and develop the voluntary sector in Newham. We do this through training, information provision, one to one support, and events.

This year over **100** Voluntary and Community Organisations received one to one support, **150** people participated in workshops and over **700** individuals received our monthly e-newsletter. As part of "Newham ESOL Exchange" (English for Speakers of Other Languages) we helped to improve connections and understanding of ESOL learning for **23** organisations and **151** individuals.

## Working with children and families

We work with children and families in Newham, providing high quality low cost childcare including breakfast and after school clubs, holiday programmes and special events.

This year over **300** children have developed socially, physically, and creatively through participation in our children's programme.



SupaPlay Saturdays helped local families come together to be more active and to play together in our outside playground on a Saturday afternoon.

This year we ran **22** SupaPlay sessions and engaged with over **550** children and around **300** adults.



## Working with young people

We focus on working with young people in the borough who most need our support:

**PARIS** is a support group for young people who are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning. The **Young Achievers Group (YAG)** is for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. We also ran a transitional youth group for young people moving from primary to secondary school based in Manor Park and a detached youth work project for young people in the Green Street area. During the year we reached over **120** young people; supporting **50** young people to develop practical, social, and interpersonal skills.



# Children and families

We work with primary school aged children providing affordable, flexible, wrap-around care as part of our "Little Manor" project which includes breakfast and after school clubs, school holiday programmes and one off special events for the whole community.

We provide high quality informal learning opportunities for children, aimed at enhancing life skills and incorporating fun and play into all we do.

We aim to bring the community together working alongside schools and families to promote a holistic approach to childcare.

**This year:** Thanks to funding from Children in Need, we ran our SupaPlay Saturday project along side our core provision. We were also funded by Cycling Grants London to run cycle skills workshops, teaching beginners and novices how to ride a bike confidently and safely.

70% of parents and guardians say that we offer "Excellent" care.

94.7% of parents say their children are more knowledgeable about healthy eating.

86% of parents say that their children are now exhibiting more positive behaviours at school.

7 parents said that we played a big role in helping them move into employment or training.

94.8% of parents say we give their children more opportunities to play outdoors.

99% of parents said that their children are now more willing to undertake new activities.

*"The activities they provide are innovative and the trips they provide at no extra cost are amazing. I can highly recommend Little Manor"*

*"My kids love it, they don't want to be picked up. I love it because it means my kids are happy and content."*

**Mum says:** "We waited on the waiting list for two years, but the wait was worth it. Little Manor go the extra mile, picking up my children from school and keeping them until I finish work. It's great, my daughter doesn't want to get picked up until the very end, I just knew that she was happy, she developed interests she didn't even know she could have. I've noticed lots of changes. She used to be so shy but when she started coming to Little Manor she just found her voice."

**Rosie says:**

*"It was really nice to hang around with different children from different schools and making friends from different years. We go to so many places I have never been to, I would always be in the arts and crafts areas!"*



# SupaPlay Saturday

Our regular interactive playdays enable us to engage with and support more local children and their families by offering the chance to participate in safe, structured and active play. Aimed at families with children between 3 and 11 years old, activities include gardening, art, healthy eating, game playing and crafts. SupaPlay helps us to expand the reach of our existing children's work and to highlight the local resource of Toronto Avenue Playground.



*"My son and daughter both love coming along to SupaPlay as it gets them out of our small, crowded flat and allows them to play freely and to try out new different activities that we couldn't possibly do at home due to lack of space. Having lived in Manor Park for over 7 years there aren't really any local activities for the kids to do. I know getting them out of the house is important, so before SupaPlay I would take my children to other places to play all of which cost money to get to and admission prices for them and me, which I cannot often afford."* -A Parent

This year we had **600** children and around **250** parents and carers participating in **22** sessions of SupaPlay.

**76%** of parents thought their family had become more active and **79%** of parents said they repeated activities at home.

**80%** of parents and carers, felt that their child had become more active after attending SupaPlay

**100%** of parents said that their child had become more sociable, confident and more independent.

# Youth Work

We aim to create a vibrant and inclusive learning environment so that young people can become successful, happy and active citizens contributing to their communities. We are a founding partner of the Youth Providers Partnership (YPP) a Newham based CIC which works to make youth provision more joined up and accessible for young people in Newham.

**This year:** After receiving funding from the Morrisons Foundation and others for YAG (our group for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), we created a series of independent living skills workshops and established a parent and carers support group. Thanks to a generous grant from the East End Community Foundation, we were also able to run a summer programme for each of our core groups. This year we were also delighted to see a number of our PARIS group head off to university.

We invited specialist art practitioners to work with the YAG group and designed our own greetings cards which are now available to buy.

The PARIS group used their Jack Petchey awards to take some trips to the theatre.

"...(at PARIS) you don't have to act or pretend to be someone else, or worry about what you say or do."

"I don't want to tell anybody else about YAG, I want it to be my secret"

"The change in me has come just through PARIS"

Ellie and Jay started coming to the PARIS group in 2011, they heard about the group through their school. The last two years have been spent building relationships, learning, asking questions and sharing advice and support within the group. Jay says:

**"PARIS has kind of been like home, like my LGBT home. The past four years have just been crazy. I wouldn't have become the person I am today, if it wasn't for the staff, or if it wasn't for the people that I had met."**

Ellie has now started university and Jay is focusing on achieving a career in performing arts.



## Memorable moments

- PARIS visited Google HQ to attend a full day workshop on branding with the Google team.
- We ran a successful crowdfunding campaign, raising over £5,000 and gaining lots of awareness for the PARIS LGBT+ group.



# Community Involvement

The Community Involvement Unit is a group of specialists whose aim is to grow, develop and sustain voluntary and community groups. We offer services to keep groups informed, supported and connected. We can take a group from an initial idea, to winning funding and employing staff. We work in partnership with sector leaders to give groups easily accessible, high quality support.

**This year:** Our services have provided much needed support for Newham's voluntary and community sector, which is experiencing increasing demand and a very tough funding environment. We are involved in a number of partnerships, including the Newham ESOL Exchange and Newham Poverty Partnership. This year we worked on research projects with University College London and the London Commission on Fairness.

**97%** of our users say that working with us has had a positive impact on their organisation.

**86%** feel more in touch with what's happening in the sector in east London.

**89%** say they now have improved participation in networks and partnerships within the borough.

**82%** say they feel more confident about the future.

**80%** said that we have helped them with fundraising.

**"Essential point of reference and resource for Newham's Voluntary and Community sector"**

**"We continue to benefit from a range of regular services from the CIU, for which there is little alternative in our borough"**

**"A balanced and well-run organisation with quality staff at all levels"**

## Memorable moments

- As part of Newham Poverty Partnership we submitted evidence to the London Communities Commission Report. Our pilot 'community buddies' scheme featured as a case study in the report.
- We completed research and evaluation projects for the Irish Womens Survivors Support Network, and Survivors Together charity.
- University College London's Institute of Global Prosperity undertook some pro bono work focusing on the Newham ESOL Exchange.

### Forest Gate Community Garden

We are very proud to have been working with the team of volunteers who run the Forest Gate Community Garden. We have helped the team apply for funding, fine tune their governance, address administrative issues and advise on growth. They have attended our health and safety and fire marshal training. The group have now opened the garden to the public, inviting them in to reap the health, well-being and education rewards which a community garden offers.



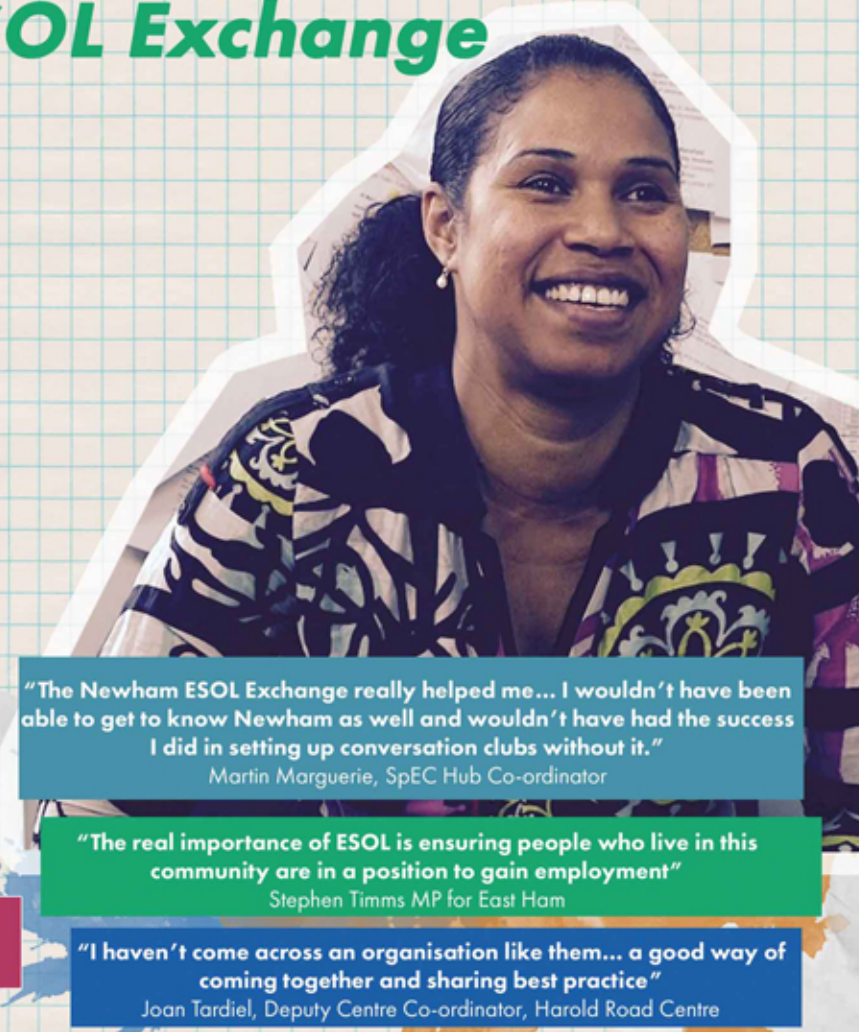


# Newham ESOL Exchange

Newham ESOL Exchange is a genuinely collaborative network of organisations from the voluntary and statutory sectors, initiated by a small group of voluntary sector workers in 2007. We meet every two months at various venues around the borough to share news and discuss issues important to ESOL provision - new members are always welcome.

This year we launched our new interactive directory, thanks to the hard work and technical capabilities of our volunteer Ana. The website enables people to easily search for ESOL provision within Newham.

[www.newhamesolexchange.org.uk](http://www.newhamesolexchange.org.uk)



**"The Newham ESOL Exchange really helped me... I wouldn't have been able to get to know Newham as well and wouldn't have had the success I did in setting up conversation clubs without it."**

Martin Marguerie, SpEC Hub Co-ordinator

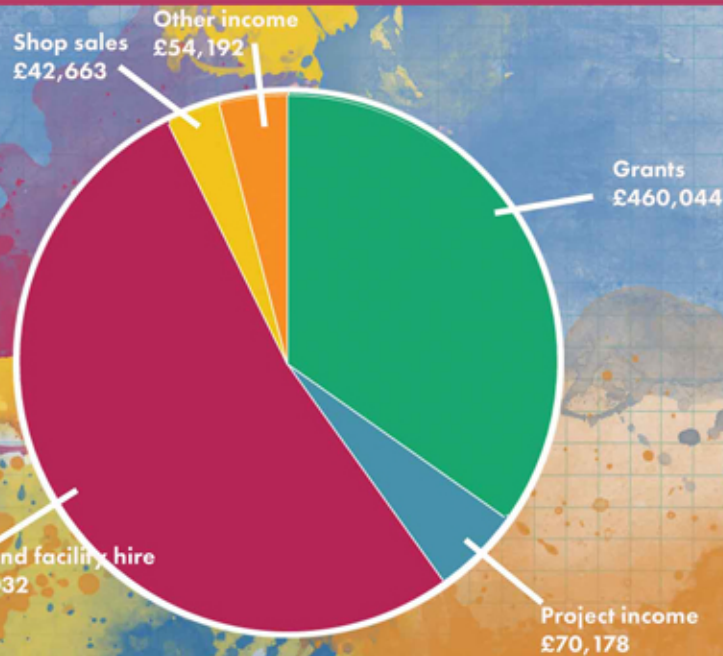
**"The real importance of ESOL is ensuring people who live in this community are in a position to gain employment"**

Stephen Timms MP for East Ham

**"I haven't come across an organisation like them... a good way of coming together and sharing best practice"**

Joan Tardiel, Deputy Centre Co-ordinator, Harold Road Centre

# Income and Expenditure

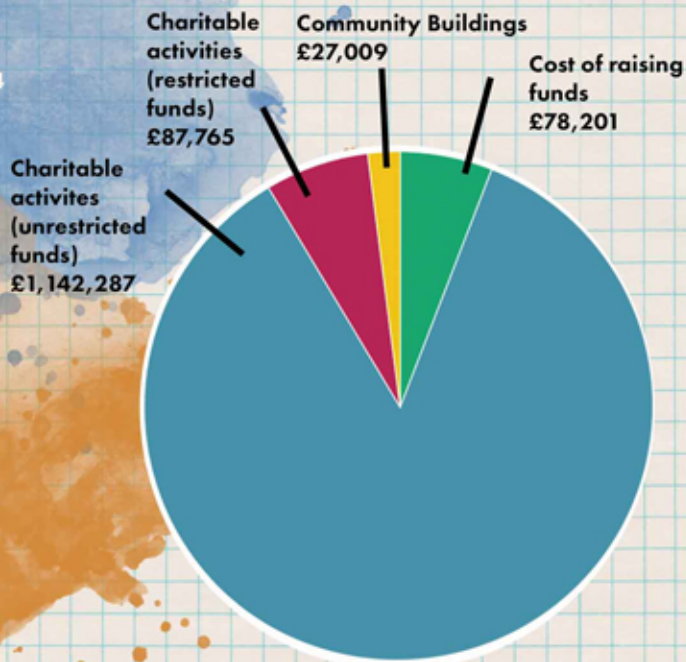


2015/16 Income

Total Income: £1,323,109

## Reserves

Total free reserves at 31 March 2016 were £385,478 (2015: £349,942)



2015/16 Expenditure

Total Expenditure: £1,335,262

# THANK YOU

There are many individuals and organisations who we would like to thank for collaborating with us or supporting us over the last year. We couldn't have achieved all that we did without you.

## Our Volunteers

*We really value the assistance, expertise and enthusiasm we receive from our dedicated volunteers every single day. We would not be able to offer the services that we do without them.*

*This year we were helped by around 50 volunteers, providing support across the organisation.*

*Volunteers ranged from charity shop assistants and youth work assistants to graphic designers and coding experts, each bringing with them different gifts and abilities.*

## Our funders

*City Bridge Trust, Heritage Lottery Fund, East End Community Foundation, London Catalyst, BBC Children in Need, Cycling Grants London, Morrisons Foundation, London Borough of Newham.*

## Partnerships

*This year we worked with many organisations including:*

*Bonny Downs Community Association, Alternatives Trust East London, Community Links, New Choices for Youth, University College London, Renewal Programme, Fight for Peace, T Rowe Price, The Prince's Trust, Foolproof, University College London, Goodgym and ELBA.*

**Visit: [www.aston-mansfield.org.uk](http://www.aston-mansfield.org.uk)**



# ASTON-MANSFIELD

Creating Stronger Communities



**INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE** Registered Charity number: 220085

With thanks for design contribution from Usman Aziz and Nelly Camacho

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**A\_Mcomms**



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