



ANNUAL REVIEW

2022-2023



LEWISHAM
LOCAL



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It's real people making real change.

— Joseph Oladosu, Action for Community Development

FROM THE CHAIR

Dear Friends and Partners,

Welcome to the Lewisham Local Trustees' Annual Report for the year 2022-2023. Throughout this year, we have faced new challenges and have celebrated numerous successes as we continued to establish ourselves as Lewisham Local, embracing our refreshed vision, mission, and values.

The year commenced with a significant hurdle when we experienced a reduction in our core funding from Lewisham Council. This placed immense pressure on the charity, compelling us to develop a new project-focused delivery model revolving around our key themes. Despite this setback, we managed to secure new funding for our established projects, showcasing the value and impact of our work.

Additionally, we embarked on new pilot projects to address previously unmet local needs, such as digital exclusion, supporting individuals in work placements, and partnering with community organisations that specifically serve Lewisham's black and ethnic minority community.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated and hardworking staff team, whose collaborative efforts with the Trustees have been integral to our progress over the past year. They have admirably risen to the challenges presented by the cost-of-living crisis, which has placed increased demands on our projects and our local communities as well as our staff team. I would also like to express our gratitude to our funders for their ongoing support and flexibility, as well as our tireless volunteers and project members, whose positivity and unwavering efforts continue to uplift us. Finally, I commend my fellow Trustees for their exemplary commitment and hard work, driving our charity forward.

Moving forward, we remain resolute in our commitment to rise to the increasingly challenging circumstances faced by local residents with determination and flexibility. We are excited for the upcoming year, as we prioritise investing in improving our internal systems, including our digital communications and website. Furthermore, we are delighted to have co-opted new Trustees onto our Board, enriching our team with additional skills and expertise. We will continue to support our staff in delivering their incredible work and work towards enhancing Lewisham Local's sustainability by diversifying our funding base.

Sincerely,

Roy Witter, | Chair of Trustees



FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

2022-23 was another year of change and growth for Lewisham Local. Having recently changed our official charity name to Lewisham Local, we adopted a new Vision, Mission and Values and organised our internal structures around key themes: Improving Health & Wellbeing and Volunteering, Promoting Local Giving to address community needs, Strengthening Lewisham's Voluntary Sector, Promoting Good Healthy Food.

The start of 2022 saw a substantial challenge for the charity as Lewisham Council's Main Grants programme underwent a 33% cut and moved away from unrestricted core funding to restricted project grants. This marked a change of role for our charity, sharing the responsibility of infrastructure support for Lewisham's voluntary sector with partner organisations. This meant a loss of core funding towards essential costs such as management, office, overheads and communications. Whilst we were able to adapt our delivery model, the continuing funding reductions from the Local Authority towards the local voluntary sector were felt internally through our oldest project the Time Bank, no longer receiving funding. Further funding challenges included our Wild Cat Wilderness community green space coming to the end of its grant funding. This was a further reminder we are not immune to the ongoing funding challenges faced by the local voluntary sector, further evidenced by another one of our key partners, Voluntary Services Lewisham (VSL) closing down.



The Staff and Trustees of Lewisham Local once again demonstrated that we are a flexible and dynamic local organisation that is able to adapt to changing needs both internally and in the local community. Whilst still adjusting to life after Covid lockdowns, this was particularly noticed in how the charity responded to yet another emerging crisis, the dramatic increases to the cost of living, collaborating with charity partners and the Council to launch the Lewisham Warm Welcomes programme. This provided

localised support to residents throughout the Winter of 2022-23 and further grew our charity's role as a support to local community organisations as well as a connector of local businesses, residents and the statutory sector to inspire positive contributions to meet community needs.

As we look to the future, we will be launching a new strategy for the charity, improving our communications and investing in our own sustainability as a local organisation, so we are here for many years to connect the community, inspire them to give and meet community needs to make Lewisham a happier, healthier place.

Sam Hawksley | Chief Executive

OUR VISION

A connected Lewisham community that gives, shares and works together to build happier, healthier communities.

OUR MISSION

- **Connect** and **collaborate** with individuals, community groups, businesses and statutory organisations
- **Encourage all** to **give and share** what they can; time, skills, expertise, knowledge, resources and money
- **Respond** to **needs and opportunities** through events, projects and communications
- **Raise awareness** of existing and emerging **community needs**
- **Promote and strengthen** Lewisham's voluntary and community groups
- **Promote asset-based community development**, making the most of what we already have in Lewisham
- Increase the **impact and sustainability** of Lewisham Local

OUR VALUES

- Everyone in the community is an asset and able to contribute, give and share
- We are inclusive, welcoming and open to all
- We are collaborative and committed to working together with a positive attitude
- We are dynamic and responsive to Lewisham's communities' needs and willing to innovate
- We value the diversity of Lewisham's communities and are committed to proactively representing Lewisham's diversity in our Staff, Trustees and projects

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE YEAR



18,000

People Visiting Lewisham's
Warm Welcomes



4,000+

Volunteer Hours
Across our Projects



590

Community Groups Supported



3,221

People Attending
our Events



£149.9k

Grants
Distributed



101,000+

Unique Visitors to
our Website



2,671

Community Meals
Served

PROMOTING LOCAL GIVING

KEY GIVING ACHIEVEMENTS

550

Businesses
Giving Through
our Projects

£149,513

Grants
Distributed

83

Projects
Funded

£50,000

Raised from
Fundraising
Appeals

A key theme across our projects is encouraging all in Lewisham to give what they can in order to make Lewisham a happier and healthier place. We inspire people to give whatever they can, whether that is time, skills, money, or things in kind. Our work aims to build connections between local residents, businesses and the statutory sector and increase their awareness of local community organisations meeting diverse needs in our community. We worked with the Lewisham Local Collaborative to launch and facilitate the Lewisham Funders Network, bringing together local and regional funders with a particular interest in the borough. We would like to thank City Bridge Trust for their ongoing funding and the support we receive through the London Funders network, London's Giving, to share ideas with other charities promoting local giving in their London boroughs. We are delighted that City Bridge Trust will be increasing their support for this work and we look forward to building on our successes, developing our internal governance and expanding our capacity to work with more local people and businesses who are able to give to improve our local community and meet its complex and varied needs.

"Thank you so much for leading and facilitating this funding program. It has made a tangible difference to the people we support."

- Grant Recipient

£148,093

In Grants to

108

Projects

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS FROM THE YEAR

PUBLIC FUNDRAISING APPEALS

The people of Lewisham continued to amaze us with their willingness to donate to our Cost-of-Living appeal which, with match funding from the Merchant Taylors Foundation, raised more than £50,000.

"It was a pleasure to read about groups doing such great work – often with very limited resources. We would have loved to fund them all!"

- Grants Panellist

GROWING OUR GRANTS DISTRIBUTION

We distributed £148,093 in grants to 108 projects. Key themes included food insecurity, supporting local people with energy advice and Lewisham Warm Welcomes, a programme of over 50 local drop-ins with activities and a place to stay warm and receive support. Lewisham Local's knowledge of community needs and our unique connections with community groups have enabled us to develop this work and channel resources towards community needs in a responsive way. Other funds in development include our Essentials Fund in partnership with Lewisham Council, supporting individuals through one-off purchasing of essential items and Food Justice Grants, supporting local food projects to meet the need for equitable access to food in Lewisham.



**Participatory
Giving Fund
Launched**



FIRST FUND DECIDED THROUGH PARTICIPATORY GRANTS

The charity recognises that we are in a position of power, trusted with public funding resources, and that local people with lived experience know what is best for their communities. We were delighted to pilot our first fund distributed through Participatory Grant Making, which was delivered in partnership with Lendlease, a housing developer. Local people who live close to the Deptford Landings housing development in Deptford were recruited and trained by Lewisham Local and facilitated to make the decisions on the 5 grants that were awarded to local projects.

"Such a fantastic scheme and in this monetary crisis where we are all watching our pennies, we can all benefit."

- Lewisham Local Card Holder



LEWISHAM LOCAL CARD

We continue to invest in our local discount card as it is an effective tool that connects local residents, local businesses and community groups. 73 businesses joined the network over the last year and we had an 80% increase on cards sold this year, raising over £2000 with targeted promotional campaigns. With our increased capacity we look forward to promoting the card even more and increasing the number of locals who receive a card.



LEWISHAM COMMUNITY LOTTERY'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY

After one year, 75 community organisations are now actively fundraising using the platform. 700 local people bought tickets to fundraise for the groups and this has raised over £19,000 for Lewisham's good causes in one year. We look forward to building on this progress over the next year.

We have been developing a new digital platform, the Lewisham Community Exchange, to enable community organisations to put forward their 'requests' for support, and for businesses with social value commitments to put forward their 'offers' of support. We hope to launch the platform in late 2023.



LEWISHAM COMMUNITY TOILETS

Increased our network to over 70 establishments allowing free access to their toilet facilities for members of the public. We were pleased to be able to promote our achievements at an Age UK London event focusing on toilet provision.

REFILL LEWISHAM

A network of over 200 local businesses offering free water refills to the public to help reduce single-use plastic waste.

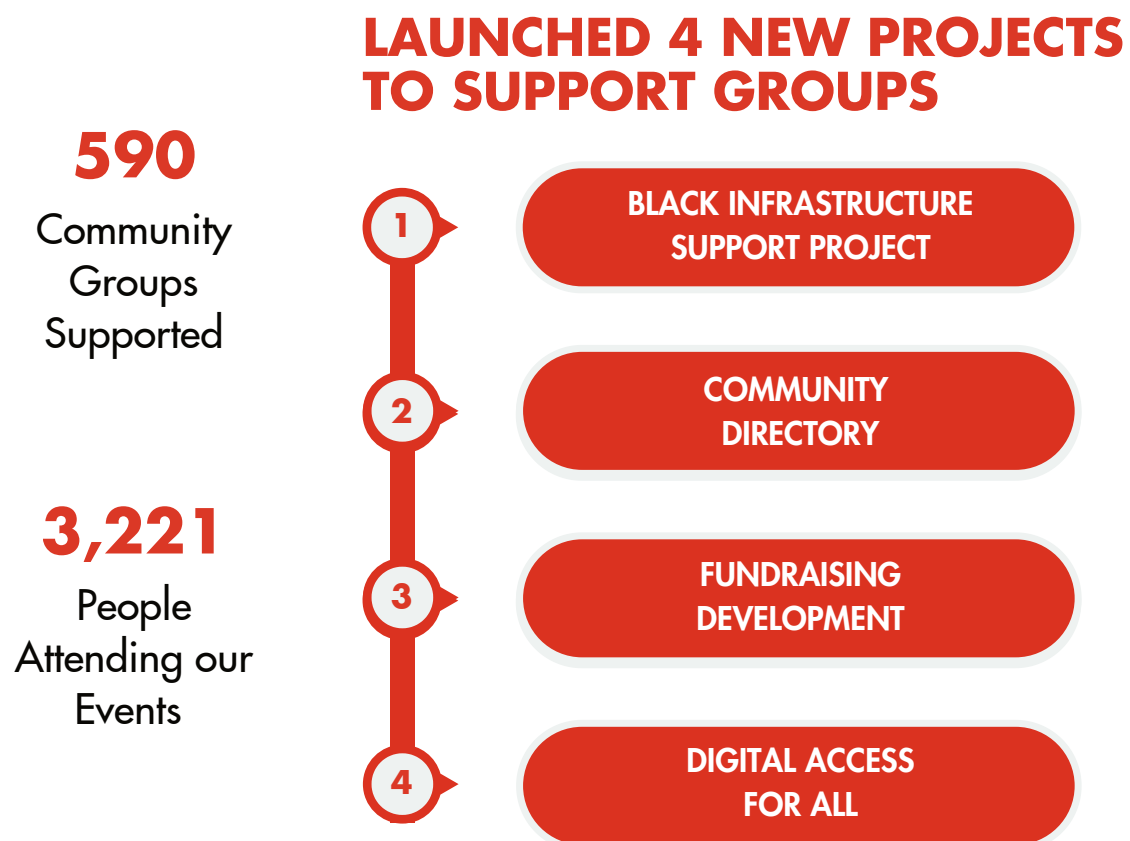


LEWISHAM COMMUNITY EXCHANGE

A new platform to connect businesses and community groups to share time, skills and resources. A local way for businesses to fulfil their social value commitments and for community groups to benefit from receiving goods and services in-kind such as space, equipment, skills and surplus stock. Anyone can register for free and post offers and requests.

STRENGTHENING LEWISHAM'S VOLUNTARY SECTOR

KEY GIVING ACHIEVEMENTS



The change in funding through Lewisham Council's Main Grants programme meant an increase in the number of funded partners offering infrastructure support to community organisations in Lewisham. We adapted from a model of core funding to support the sector to project funding, with a particular emphasis on communities adversely affected during Covid-19.

Despite this cut in funding and change in the Council's approach from recognising us as the main infrastructure support organisation to one of several, we remain well positioned to connect and strengthen the local voluntary and community sector through the following projects.

BLACK INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT PROJECT (BISP)



A partnership project with Kinaraa CIC to strengthen and support BAME-led community organisations. BISP identifies and addresses the challenges faced by Black-led voluntary groups, boosting their performance and sustainability. Over the first year of the project over 40 solopreneurs and organisations have benefitted from the programme. More than 50 individuals have engaged directly with the programme, resulting in a notable support capacity increase in the sector. Through tailored one-to-one advice, workshops, capacity building sessions, and participation in local network tailored to black voluntary sector stakeholders, the Lewisham Black Voluntary Network (LBVN). BISP provides an extensive support system including expert facilitators who stand at the heart of these functions, working directly with groups and organisations in Lewisham.

"The [BISP] support programme and especially the LBVN network facilitated by Lewisham Local have been a real lifeline for me. It's more than just a group; it's a family that understands my journey as a black community champion. They've given me the know-how and boosted my courage to serve Lewisham even better. It's real people making real change."

— Action for Community Development (AfCD)



FUNDRAISING DEVELOPMENT



Our Fundraising Development Manager's (FDM) support focuses on groups working primarily on race and disability issues. It is a new project which involves working with other FDMs based in three other Lewisham groups. There are two levels of support. Light touch support is open door. It includes one-to-ones, drop-ins around the borough, signposting funding opportunities through newsletters/WhatsApp/LinkedIn and a weekly 'Friday Fundraising Club'. 265 funding opportunities were shared over WhatsApp or LinkedIn during the period. There were 420 attendances at fundraising events organised by the FDM. In parallel, our in-depth support provides up to six one-to-one sessions over six months, followed by step down support lasting three months. There were two cohorts during this period with a total of 12 groups supported. Support is tailored to the organisation. For example, one wanted to spread the fundraising load so the FDM trained other staff in trust research. Another group received support on a multi-year funding application for £300,000 which was successful.

DIGITAL ACCESS FOR ALL

A new project launched this year in partnership with Catbytes CIC. Catbytes receives donations of digital devices, reconditions them and distributes them through referral partners to individuals in need. In addition, they deliver weekly Digital Drop-Ins at 12 different locations supporting people to increase their digital skills and reduce digital exclusion. Our role includes overseeing the Lewisham Digital Access for All Network (DAFA) and supporting Catbytes CIC to continue to develop their operations.



LEWISHAM COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

A new project for this year was to launch and maintain a Directory of community organisations within the borough. After our first year, the directory represents over 590 community organisations and we have promoted the Directory with statutory and voluntary sector partners and will continue to create new listings and encourage the sector to engage. By creating a profile on the Directory groups can benefit by increasing their online presence and becoming part of a centralised online platform of VCS organisations and their activities in the borough. This creates an easy avenue for identifying available services in one's area and potential partners and collaborators. The Directory also serves as a place to refer people who are looking to find out more about what Lewisham's VCS has to offer.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORK IN RUSHEY GREEN WARD

A pilot project was launched in November 2022 to support Rushey Green residents, organisations and businesses and increase their engagement and understanding of local needs and aspirations for the area. A highlight so far included the Christmas Tree Lights Switch on for Catford bringing together several local choirs for a sing-along with over 100 local residents. We look forward to developing engagement activities to hear from local people, groups and businesses and to support those who want to do something positive in their area over the next year.



'We were successful and got the £10k funding from National Lottery Awards for All! We are overjoyed and will be using it to host a warm hub with lunch for parents of children with additional needs and disabilities. Thank you for your fundraising support!'

— Lisa, Parent Carers Forum

LEWISHAM WARM WELCOMES

The Cost-of-Living crisis dramatically increased the needs of local residents with many experiencing food insecurity and fuel poverty. Lewisham's voluntary sector once again showed how dynamic and willing it is to meet a crisis. This included opening local 'Warm Welcomes' to provide a warm drop-in space, refreshments, social activities, signposting advice and in some cases community meals. Lewisham Local liaised with statutory partners to design the initiative, apply for statutory funding from South-East London Integrated Care System and distribute small grants to 24 community groups to launch Warm Welcomes. We also created a support network facilitated by Coordinators and marketing materials to promote the scheme to the wider public. Over 10,000 local residents directly benefitted from this project.



"It's helped me cope with the hard times"

— Warm Welcomes Visitor

84% of users found that the spaces helped them feel more connected and reduced social isolation. This was corroborated through interviews with several residents who visited the spaces. Furthermore, a national study by the Warm Welcome campaign found that "The greatest impact of warm rooms... was in providing a sense of community and tackling loneliness in a safe and welcoming space. Frequent visitors reported positive improvements in their mental health, social wellbeing, and sense of purpose.

52
Warm
Welcomes

18,000+
People Visits
to Warm
Welcomes

What are Warm Welcomes?

Lewisham Libraries and Community groups have come together to offer Warm Welcome spaces where people can pop in free of charge. All welcomes are currently different, days and times. Some may provide hot drinks, others hot food, and others social activities and additional support. Many local community groups have independently set up their own Warm Welcomes and some are working in partnership around local areas. Lewisham Local is working with partners to map and promote the Warm Spaces and provide additional wrap-around support. Partners include Lewisham Council, Age UK Lewisham & Southwark and Citizens Advice Lewisham.

How do I find what I need?

Browse by area or find the different types of offers you are looking for. Check these icons to see what each space offers.

WARM DRINKS
ACTIVITIES
DISABLED ACCESS
FREE MEALS
SIGNPOSTING

Please note that this information might vary. For up-to-date timing and spaces, check [lewisham-warm-spaces/](https://www.lewishamlocal.com/lewisham-warm-spaces/)

How do I get there?

See where each place is on the map to find the nearest station, or call Transport for London to find the bus route at 0343 222 1234.

Other Useful Links

03300583464
communityconnectionslewisham.org

08002315453
citizensadvicelewisham.org.uk

08081691779
celc.org.uk

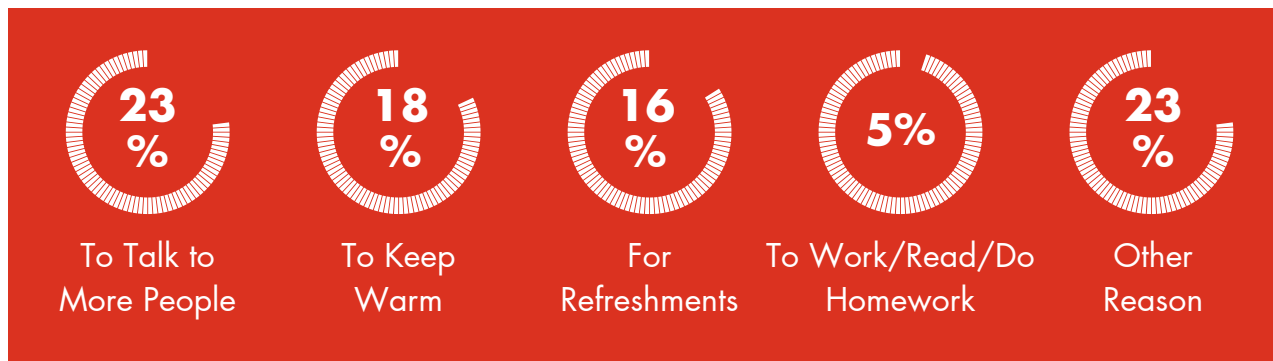
Contact information:

Website: <https://www.lewishamlocal.com/lewisham-warm-spaces/>
Email: warmwelcomes@lewishamlocal.com
Phone: 0208 488 9224

Lewisham Local www.lewishamlocal.com
Charity Number: 1101616 | Company Number: 4661564

LEWISHAM WARM WELCOMES

WHY DID PEOPLE ATTEND WARM WELCOMES?



EFFECTS OF VISITING A WARM WELCOMES HUB

Keeping Warm in the Space



More Connected to the Community



Signposting to Health Services



Signposting to Local Food Support



Information and Advice that Will Help Keep the Home Warm



Signposting to Financial Support Services



VOLUNTEERING HEALTH & WELLBEING

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

77

Individuals Supported
to Volunteer

178

Volunteering
Roles Posted

300

Children a Week Using our
Community Green Space

700

Young People Supported
with Essential Items

473

Borough of Culture
Volunteers

2,763

Cultural Volunteering
Hours

VOLUNTEERING PROJECTS

LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE (LBoC)

In 2022, Lewisham became the Mayor of London's Borough of Culture with Lewisham Local acting as the Volunteering Partner to engage local people to become trained and equipped to develop their own cultural exchange events and volunteer at wider LBoC events. Key achievements included: 473 volunteers signing up, 59 volunteers completing training to run their own events, 28 international volunteers supported and 2,763 volunteering hours logged.



SUPPORT INTO VOLUNTEERING (VOLUNTEERING BROKERAGE)

This was another new project launched as a result of changes to Lewisham Council's Main Grants programme. The Council identified a lack of support for individuals with low confidence, self-esteem, learning disabilities and those struggling with their mental health. We launched a new service focused on supporting individuals one-to-one with a skills audit to understand their experience and aims and tailored support applying for different roles. An additional aspect includes support for community organisations to tailor roles and a network of Volunteer Coordinators to share learning, opportunities and ideas. 77 individuals were supported to volunteer over the last year.

MAYOR'S AWARDS FOR VOLUNTEERING

We continued to work in partnership with Lewisham Council to recognise the outstanding contribution of volunteers in the community.

TIMEBANK



Timebank unfortunately started the year with the challenge of losing our long-term unrestricted funding from Lewisham Council. This was difficult news and, following several additional unsuccessful applications, the Trustees took the difficult decision to reduce the coordinator's hours to 2 days per week, with a focus on fundraising. The Time Bank Members responded admirably with a 'can-do' supportive attitude and took to organising various community fundraising activities including sales of hand-made goods from their Tea & Chat group, fundraising events and promoting the Lewisham Community Lottery. We received successful news of small grant applications but are delighted National Lottery Community Fund have agreed a grant from October 2023 for 3 years.

The current membership stands at around 100 active Members supporting individuals to increase their health and wellbeing through actively giving and sharing their time and skills. Key highlights from this year included:

CASE STUDY

Michael became a Member in late 2021 after retiring at the start of the pandemic. With lockdown easing, he was looking to contribute and join a community of like-minded individuals. Having always enjoyed performing he supported the relaunch of the Timebank Choir. He has been instrumental in leading and accompanying the Choir on guitar together with other members and has also supported members who are unable to look after their own gardens. He also got involved in the Warm Welcomes project and our community repair 'Bring & Fix' events. From engaging with Timebank activities, he has since branched out to supporting other groups in the community. He is now also teaching English to Ukrainian refugees.

"Being a Timebank member has broadened the scope of my social involvement in ways I would have never envisaged, and it has encouraged me to do other new things."

- Michael, Timebank Member

WILD CAT WILDERNESS

The Wild Cat Wilderness community green space continued to expand and improve. The space is maintained by our volunteers with two regular sessions and lots more skips of rubbish removed. It was a year where we were subjected to some terrible vandalism of our outdoor kitchen, outdoor classroom, sheds and polytunnels, however our positivity and knowledge of how many people enjoy and benefit from the site pulled us through. We started weekly sessions with the Community Payback team who commenced work in the new woodland area near the Bellingham end of the site – which will now be the home of our green social prescriptions project, “Woodland for Wellbeing”.



"I love Forest School. It's a place where I feel safe and happy. Forest School is a place where all our worries and anxieties melt away. I will always remember the times we had" - Pupil



It has developed into a community hub with purpose; being used at least 6 days a week by many different groups, organisations and charities either regularly or for one off visits including the Kids Kitchen, Signal, Refugee Council and the Mud Club. **More than 300 children a week** had forest school or related outdoor play on-site and we worked closely with local primary and nursery schools. We also provided one-off outdoor learning sessions and summer visits for other local schools. We had a full programme of events during the school holiday periods and the Nature Club activities proved very popular including bug hunts, bushcraft, campfire cooking, fruit picking, nature arts and crafts. The Timebank also started an outdoor art club who exhibited their work as part of the Catford Arts Trail.

Our funding with City Bridge Trust ended in December 2022 so we had had to be creative in fundraising through events including our Christmas wreath making workshops being incredibly popular, as were the jams and chutneys which were sold. Hiring out the site was also a focus for income generation during the year where we hosted children's birthday parties as well as our first wedding!

BUILDING PEOPLE, CHANGING MINDS



Building People, Changing Minds (BPCM) is a new pilot project that brokers voluntary work placements for adults with learning disabilities and mental ill health. It is a partnership project between Lewisham Local, Lewisham Speaking Up and Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network, who have developed a similar project focused on supporting refugees and migrants. The projects have been co-produced by people with lived experience of the issues.

The project started in April 2022 and began accepting referrals from partner organisations focused on supporting people with learning disabilities and mental ill health.



SUPPORT FOR PLACEMENT HOST EMPLOYERS

- **Inclusive Champions Training** with content covering all the considerations and adaptations needed to make when hosting a placement for adults with learning disabilities and mental ill health.
- **Access Budget** for reasonable adjustments to help ensure you can meet the access needs of placement participants.
- **Ongoing Support** from the Coordinator to meet with Employers and Placement Participants to help make the placement a success.

IMPACT SO FAR

12

Individuals
Supported into
Placements

15

Employers
Trained to
become Inclusive
Champions

BANK OF THINGS



Bank of Things Lewisham (BoT) supports young people aged 11 to 25 living, working and/or studying in Lewisham with everyday essentials to support education, employment and/or training. We have a shop in a central location in Lewisham Shopping Centre that is open Wednesday and Friday for young people to drop in and receive support.

BoT celebrated its first birthday in February 2023 and has served over 700 young people in its first year. We are seeing our young people using the service increase, showing the need in the community but encouraging that we are also becoming recognised and meeting a need. We have continued our outreach engagement working in partnership with local organisations such as Young Women's Hub, Baseline, Lewisham Works, and Youth First.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS THIS YEAR

- **Launching a Community Youth Fridge** – focused on supporting Young People with surplus food collected from local partners including Co-Op, Greggs and the Felix project.
- **Uniform Swap** – repurposing second hand uniform, supporting young people and families in need particularly during Summer and return to school.
- **Book Swap** – text and reference books swapped and shared between pupils, reducing the need to purchase new ones.
- We were delighted to receive an award from the **Mayor of Lewisham's annual volunteering award** for our project.

700+

**Young People
Served**

We are very grateful for Landsec, the owner of Lewisham Shopping Centre, for providing us the space and service charge in such a privileged location. The next year we will be focusing on delivering our funded commitments of pop-up's at various locations around the borough, including Clarion Orchard Community centre and Bellingham leisure centre. We will be developing our fundraising strategy, increasing our applications to trusts and foundations to build on our initial pilot phase. We also will be looking to build our partnerships with local businesses and sponsorship and individual donations and fundraising opportunities.



GOOD FOOD

Good Food Lewisham, Lewisham's Food Partnership, is a network of passionate people working together to change the world of food in the London Borough of Lewisham. The vision is to see our home become a diverse and lively community that connects people to healthy, sustainable and affordable food that is grown, produced and prepared locally to promote a vibrant food culture and prospering local economy.

Good Food Lewisham (GFL) was founded in 2016 as part of the Sustainable Food Places (SFP) project to help Lewisham become an official Good Food Borough in London by achieving an SFP Bronze Award. Lewisham Local took over as the hosts of Good Food Lewisham in April 2022 from GCDA to build on their great work establishing and building the network, with the aim to grow the good food movement in Lewisham and achieve the Silver Award for the food partnership by 2026. The project is funded by Lewisham Council.

THE NETWORK'S CURRENT PRIORITIES ARE:

FOOD JUSTICE - Good Food Lewisham supported the development of a Food Justice Action Plan for Lewisham in partnership with Public Health Lewisham. The launch which kicked off the process started at a Good Food Lewisham network event in June 2022. We support a network of local food giving groups, with 175 attendances at our monthly meetings throughout the year and develop popular resources to direct people to financial support and food provision in the borough, including a regularly updated list of free and cheap food provided by projects. The most popular blog post on the GFL website all year was the Christmas food provision list. We organised an in-person roundtable for food giving projects together with Lewisham Homes which was well received. We updated the 'Worrying About Money?' leaflet and provided training for groups. We launched a Community Food Justice Fund in partnership with Lewisham Public Health to distribute over £100,000 to food giving projects in Lewisham to support them during the cost-of-living crisis and build capacity to engage with the Food Justice Action Plan.

"We are thankful for this food network group which has professionals from a variety of backgrounds including people helping children and youth. This community group is changing the lives of hundreds of people daily!"



FOOD GROWING - Supporting the development of a Food Growing Network for Lewisham connecting community gardens and other gardeners, with funding and resources through the Sustainable Food Places programme. With funding from London Challenge Poverty Week and Lewisham Council's We Are Lewisham programme, we organised a mass foraging and food growing activity programme in line with World Food Day to engage more people in foraging and food growing in Lewisham. 11 foraging and food growing events were organised in October 2022. Around 400 people engaged in the programme.

LOCAL GOOD FOOD ECONOMY - Developing a new network of Good Food Businesses in Lewisham. In March 2023, we developed a Good Food Lewisham Business Charter to encourage Lewisham businesses to engage with the good food movement. Organisations who can demonstrate their commitment to good food practices by signing up to the charter, and businesses who meet five of the criteria will be added to a new directory of Lewisham Good Food Businesses. Find out more - www.goodfoodlewisham.org



"Hearing from other local businesses at the network meeting who are working as a positive force for good and not just profit was inspirational and gave me hope. Thank you!"
- Lewin from Homestead Café



PROMOTING ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

53

Food Projects Supported

125

People in the Good Food Network

550

People Engaged in Food Growing Networking Events

2,577

FoodCycle Guests Served

8,147

FoodCycle Lewisham Meals Provided

5,313kg

Of Surplus Food Rescued

FOODCYCLE LEWISHAM

Every week FoodCycle Lewisham serves a three-course vegetarian community meal at the Lewisham Irish Community Centre in Catford that is made from surplus food that may go to waste, saving food from landfill and providing a community dining experience to those who may not have access to cooked food, suitable cooking facilities or who struggle to access nutritious food. The project provides a welcoming space during the winter to get a hot meal and warm drinks.



2,671
Community
Meals Served

5,313kg
Of Surplus
Food Rescued

2,577
Guests
Served

1,661
Volunteering
Hours

WHAT ARE GUESTS SAYING?



Felt More a Part of
the Community



Felt
Happier



Had a New Reason
to Leave the House

*"Amazing service,
friendly staff who are
hardworking and
kind. Delicious food,
always tasty and a
lovely atmosphere."*



We receive funding from Lewisham Council through Rushey Green's NCIL fund which provided funding for a Project Coordinator to support our project and our partner projects Catford Fridge and Catford Soup Kitchen.

Guest numbers have doubled since Covid from 40 to 80 guests and there has been a 41% increase between 21/22 to 22/23. While the community meal is open to everyone, since the cost-of-living crisis, the majority of guests are people on low-incomes who are food insecure. 62% of our guests said that they worry about not having enough food over the next few months and 62% are worried about the cost of keeping warm. 38% have indicated that they are on very low incomes and 4% have told us that they are homeless.

Shared meals have been shown to promote community resilience and social cohesion, and many of our guests have made new friends of different ages, gender and from different cultural backgrounds.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Our trading figures for 2022/23 show an income of £917,344 and an expenditure of £800,299. Net assets at 31/03/23 were £559,341 made up of £260,830 restricted funds and £298,511 unrestricted funds. Full accounts are included in our Annual Report, submitted to Companies House and the Charity Commission. They are also posted on our website and copies are available on request.

OUR FUNDERS

The charity is grateful for the financial support funders have kindly provided, without whom the charity would not be as successful. The principal funders were The London Borough of Lewisham, The City Bridge Foundation. Lewisham Local is grateful to all of its funders as well as members of the community that also gave generously to the organisation and its causes through community fundraising appeals and projects.









Lewisham Local

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