

A close-up photograph of a young African American boy with curly hair, laughing heartily with his mouth wide open. He is wearing a teal t-shirt with a graphic of two bears on it. His hands are raised in front of him, each with a large, colorful handprint made of clay or paint. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene.

IMPACT REPORT

Kensington
+ Chelsea
Foundation

A better life together

2021-22

A message from our Chairman, Richard Briance



The last twelve months have continued to be challenging for many people in the borough and I am proud of our vital response to the second year of the pandemic and our support of those residents most in need.

This Impact Report shares some incredible achievements over the past year which range from supporting our young people to recover and reconnect after successive lockdowns, to bringing Christmas gifts and food to residents in hardship, to supporting over 4,000 people throughout the year who were lonely or isolated, more than 50% of whom had a disability or long-term health condition.

OVERVIEW OF IMPACT IN 2021/22

165 projects supported

28,907 people benefited

A real milestone has been the publication of our commissioned research – ‘Poverty + Prosperity in K+C’ – revealing the extraordinarily high levels of inequality and deprivation faced by many people living in our borough. Our research delves into the drivers of these inequalities, across education, health and employment to understand how, despite being in the top 10% of UK local economies, some of our neighbourhoods are amongst the poorest in the country.

The Foundation’s priorities for 2022 and beyond will be informed by this research. We plan to launch 3 new portfolios focused on

- reducing education inequalities
- increasing skills and employment
- improving mental health

As the impact of Covid-19 continues to be felt by our community, along with the increases in energy prices and cost of living, we look forward to harnessing the philanthropy and goodwill we know exists in our borough to make a difference to residents in need. We will prioritise supporting services that have demonstrated impact and are able to scale, along with innovative solutions which address long-standing needs.

I hope you will join us and support our efforts to build better lives, together, in our community.

**"Thank you for all your support this year,
it means a great deal to us."**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Briance".

Richard Briance, Chairman,
The Kensington and Chelsea Foundation

MAPPING DEPRIVATION IN KENSINGTON + CHELSEA



THE NEED IN OUR COMMUNITY

Our 2021 research report, 'Poverty + Inequality in Kensington + Chelsea' revealed the startling differences in opportunities and outcomes for residents in our borough.

10%

K+C is among the **top 10% most prosperous local economies** in the UK¹

1 in 5

However, more than **1 in 5** of our neighbourhoods are amongst the poorest in England and Wales²

1 in 4

One in four children in K+C are living in poverty³

50% higher

Unemployment increased from 4.3% in 2019/20 **to 5.5%** in 2020/21⁴

15–17 years

Life expectancy for K+C residents varies by up to 15 years for women, and 17 years for men, depending on which ward they live in

ABOUT THE KENSINGTON + CHELSEA FOUNDATION

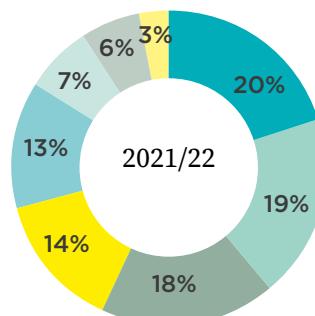
The Kensington + Chelsea Foundation is an independent local charity, with a vision of a borough where everyone has the opportunity to live healthy, happy, fulfilled lives.

We support projects and services addressing key issues facing our residents – reducing isolation and loneliness, improving skills and employment, and helping our children and young people to have the best chance in life.

TOTAL FUNDS RAISED

£1,961,032

Children + Young People	383,254	20%	
Isolation + Loneliness	360,216	19%	
Recover + Reconnect	351,470	18%	
Winter Warmth	279,106	14%	
Unrestricted	259,392	13%	
Christmas 2021	140,266	7%	
Skills + Employment	125,000	6%	
General Charitable Projects	62,328	3%	
Totals	1,961,032	100%	

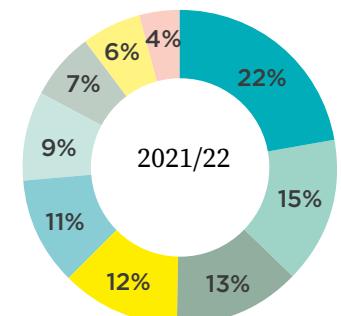


While our priority is to support sustainable and lasting change, we have responded swiftly to emergencies affecting our community including the Covid-19 pandemic and the Grenfell Tower Fire, providing humanitarian aid to residents in crisis. Our 2021 research – ‘Poverty and Prosperity in Kensington + Chelsea’ – has identified key social issues of concern in the borough which will inform our strategy over the next 3–5 years.

TOTAL FUNDS INVESTED IN OUR COMMUNITY

£2,066,305

Recover + Reconnect	464,695	22%	
Isolation + Loneliness	307,329	15%	
Grenfell Tower	264,280	13%	
Children + Young People	253,024	12%	
Winter Warmth	225,522	11%	
Christmas 2021	196,283	9%	
Skills + Employment	138,342	7%	
Special Projects	129,756	6%	
Overheads	87,075	4%	
Totals	2,066,305	100%	



CHILDREN + YOUNG PEOPLE

Ensuring children and young people in our community have the best chance to fulfil their potential.



THE LOCAL NEED

- ▶ **1 in 4 children** in K+C live in poverty⁵
- ▶ The number of children in K+C eligible for **Free School Meals** has increased by 50% over the past 4 years⁶
- ▶ The borough has **the highest permanent exclusion rate** and 3rd highest temporary exclusion rate in London⁷

THE K+C FOUNDATION RESPONSE IN 2021/22

£253,024 invested

18 projects funded

2,367 people benefited

Children and young people in K+C have vastly unequal opportunities and outcomes which affect their long-term life chances. To support children who had been particularly affected by the pandemic and successive lockdowns, we launched Recover + Reconnect, which funded summer projects aimed at rebuilding social skills, confidence, resilience and healthy habits. Projects included regular physical, social and mental well-being sessions, a healthy eating course for families and 1-2-1 support through a befriending programme. We also provided access to laptops for many young people who were otherwise unable to continue with schoolwork.

Alongside the summer programme, we continued the third year of our partnerships to address longer-term issues for children and young people in the community, which invested in a broad range of services supporting academic, social and emotional needs.

**CASE STUDY TAILORED SUPPORT
TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE IN NEED**

Neil was matched with a Family Friends Befriender called Michael. During their time together Neil and Michael worked towards the goals set out in Neil's tailored support plan: this included helping Neil to find ways to regulate his emotions, trying new activities together, and researching extracurricular clubs outside of school so that Neil can find peers who share his interests.

Michael and Neil have been cycling around London and it has become apparent how much Neil loves being outdoors. Neil says this is because at home the conditions are so cramped, and he doesn't get any time to himself without his brothers and sisters around. They have also taken trips to museums and games cafes. Michael is working closely with Neil's mum to try and identify the root of his frustrations.

Michael explained: 'We have bonded by doing activities outdoors and at each visit slowly Neil is coming out of his shell'. Neil dreams of becoming a heart surgeon.

"We have bonded by doing activities outdoors and at each visit slowly Neil is coming out of his shell."



COVID-19: RECOVER + RECONNECT



£464,695 invested

19 projects funded

2,625 people benefited

Early in 2021 we launched our Recover + Reconnect Fund with the aim of supporting services for children and young people designed to help them catch up on core subjects, encourage social interaction and support their mental health.

We were able to provide significant funding for catch up literacy programmes, specialist support for children new to the English language and a programme to help improve the mental health and well-being of children in North Kensington.

"It's really fun, you get to create stuff and you can see the baby rabbits and play on the computers and go places and I liked going on the mini bus to trips it was the best summer holiday!"

"The program has helped my child build her self-confidence and enhance her communication skills. She learned about many aspects of performing arts and was encouraged to devise the final performance together with the other young people using their own ideas, imagination and creativity. The program also gave my child some insights to professional work in theatre. Most importantly she made some new friends and had tonnes of fun!"

In addition our Recover + Reconnect: Summer Youth Programme reached 2,000 children and young people from all over the borough, helping them to rebuild confidence, resilience and social skills after a year of successive lockdowns.

This was only possible thanks to our donors, support and our partnership with The Kusuma Trust, which collectively raised £164,000 for summer holiday activities.



"I like that my son was getting a little bit more confident in sport everyday. When I picked him up he always had something to tell me about something new that he did."

ISOLATION + LONELINESS

Reducing isolation and loneliness in the borough, and its negative impact on mental health.



THE LOCAL NEED

- ▶ K+C scores in the worst 20% of local authorities for mental health⁸
- ▶ K+C has a high rate (47%) of **one-person households**⁹
- ▶ In 2020–2021 **anxiety levels** in K+C were over 13% higher than London levels¹⁰

£307,329 invested

19 projects funded

4,163 people benefited

Our Isolation + Loneliness programme celebrates our diverse community and provides meaningful engagement to those who might otherwise struggle to connect with their neighbours. We support a range of innovative projects run by local partners and, together, we have made a positive impact on over 4,163 isolated people this year by connecting them with other residents, social activities and support services.

The projects we funded helped communities who are often isolated due to their circumstances – refugees, older people especially older men, those recovering from mental ill-health, teenage girls and people isolated by language barriers.

CASE STUDY REDUCING ISOLATION + BUILDING CONFIDENCE

The ClementJames Centre offers isolated local domestic workers the opportunity to take time off work, helping them form meaningful relationships and establish a network of support outside of their work environment. It has also helps domestic workers improve their English and ICT skills so that they are able to communicate with the wider community.

When Marilyn first joined the class she was very low on confidence and lacked friends. When asked about her life before coming to the centre, Marilyn said, "Before I came here I didn't know anyone; I only spoke with my boss. Coming here changed my life. I am always waiting for Sunday."

Marilyn has made huge progress since then "I have had a big change completely. I come here every Sunday because everyone here is my family. I now feel more confident speaking English. The teachers always help us with things. I feel more confident living here. I have developed myself as a person. I can ask the prices, I can understand posters, I can ask for a full English breakfast."

"Before coming here I didn't know anybody. My life has changed totally since coming here. I met friends here. Before I came here I was alone. I have friends I can share things with."



SKILLS + EMPLOYMENT

Improving opportunities for local people to access meaningful employment through advice and training.



THE LOCAL NEED

- ▶ **Unemployment increased** from 4.3% in 2019/20 to 5.5% in 2020/21⁴
- ▶ There has been an **increase of 51.5%** in residents claiming **out-of-work benefits**. While claims for in-work benefits, reflecting in-work poverty, almost tripled¹¹
- ▶ Almost **1 in 5 jobs** in the borough paid **less than the London Living Wage** in 2020¹²

£138,342 invested

2 projects funded

327 people benefited

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic meant that young people felt particularly bleak about their employment prospects, so we were delighted to be able to continue our partnership with the Spear programme to fund 6 employability courses reaching 62 residents age 16–24. The courses have real and tangible impact on the trainees, many of whom face complex multiple barriers to employment.

This year Spear trainees have achieved employment in a range of industries and roles, including Software Development, Social Media Co-ordinator, Events Assistant, Construction, IT support and TV production.

We have also been delighted to fund an Employment Support Programme which helps approximately 130 people a year to find meaningful and sustainable employment or further training.

CASE STUDY LASHAY'S STORY

Before the pandemic, I was going through a lot of emotions. I felt like lockdown was my moment to escape from reality, and stay in my little emotional bubble. I would literally sleep all day. I wouldn't talk to anybody. I got to the point where I lost confidence in myself. I had poor motivation and time management just didn't exist for me. I honestly felt miserable and trapped; it got to a stage where I felt sick feeling like this, because it wasn't who I was. I felt like I really needed to change.

And that's when I came across the Spear Programme. Spear helped me gain my confidence back.

Being on the Zoom calls with so many different people was nerve-wracking and uncomfortable, but being on Spear got me to a point of feeling comfortable. I realised that the other trainees could relate to how I feel and what I was going through. That gave me a boost – I could see other people pushing themselves; they were so capable of things, which made me believe 'OK, I can do that, too.'

Spear helped me gain a routine and time management, and overall I've received so much knowledge, encouragement and support. I believe that Spear has bettered my mindset and it's bettered me as a person.

I have a job now, an office-based role of Junior Apprenticeship Recruiter. It feels so amazing; if it weren't for Spear, I would have never gone for this type of job. Because of my dyslexia, I've always avoided anything that puts me in a situation where I've struggled. But being on Spear made me believe like I'm so capable – I can actually do it, and I'm not going to allow my dyslexia to hold me back.

I'm always going to keep pushing myself no matter what.

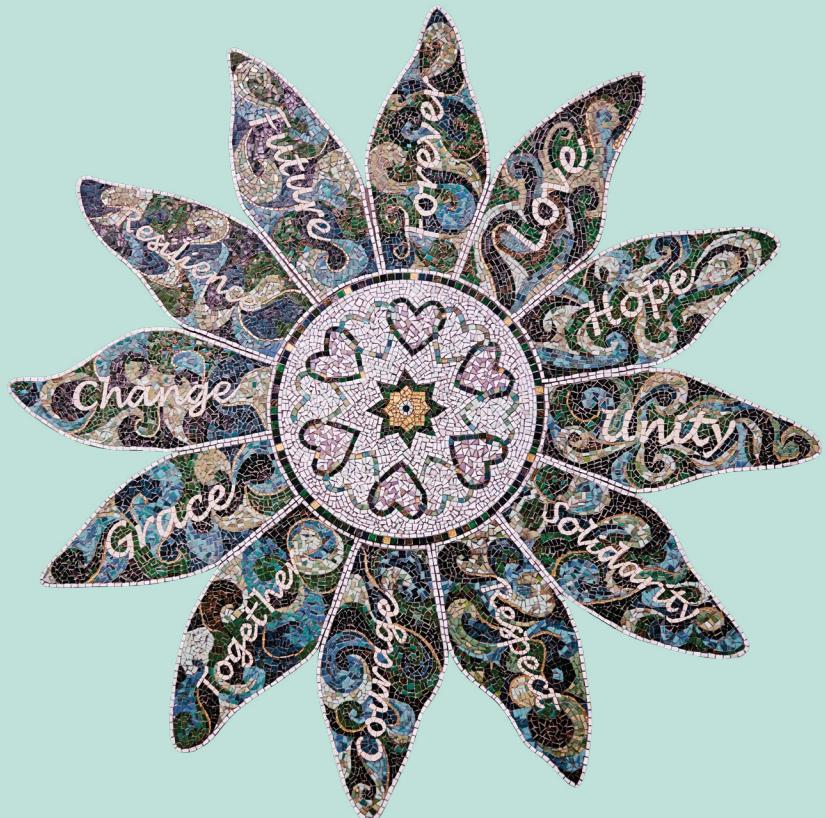
"Knowing that Spear is going to continue supporting me keeps me going. I'm so grateful for being on Spear; I appreciate everything that the coaches gave me and helped me with."

K+C FOUNDATION'S GRENFELL TOWER FUND

The Grenfell Tower Fund was set up on the morning of the fire, 14 June 2017.

The fund provides help for those who lived in Grenfell Tower, and the surrounding community.

Almost five years later the donations received after the tragedy continue to support local people and in 2021/22, 6,645 people in North Kensington benefited from our investments in investments in projects and grassroots groups in their neighbourhood.



GREEN SHOOTS

An easily accessible fund offering small grants for community projects, the Green Shoots Fund came to an end in 2021/22. In its final year £43,100 was invested in 19 local projects.

COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PROGRAMMES

We continue to work with local residents and organisations to support longer term projects which will help the North Kensington community to rebuild and flourish. We are acting as a catalyst and encouraging partnerships which have the potential to significantly enhance local life. The fund is fully committed and in 2021/22 £206,128 was invested in 9 programmes.

CASE STUDY HELPING FAMILIES ENJOY THE OUTDOORS

Meanwhile Gardens Community Association received a Green Shoots grant to upgrade the educational and play spaces at the gardens.

A local parent explained how much they love the Garden and how important it is to them. "I used to come to the Play hut as a child, now I bring my children here to meet other children, this is where they learn to play and share. I would be crawling up the walls if it wasn't for Meanwhile Gardens, it's not easy being stuck in a flat with two small children. We don't care what the weather is like we are happy to be outside exploring this little piece of the natural world, it feels like our own. We love being here and we value it especially as we know this is a community space set up and run by the community.

"We see the staff and volunteers working everyday and we are so grateful for the lovely green space, thank you."

RESIDENTS IN NEED

K+C Foundation working in partnership to provide direct support for residents in need.

WINTER WARMTH

The K+C Foundation's Winter Warmth programme was set up ten years ago and has provided help to older people in the borough struggling to pay fuel bills. In 2021, in partnership with four advice agencies in the borough and with generous financial support from Julia and Hans Rausing and RBKC, we extended the programme to residents of all ages finding it hard to cope with rising fuel costs. We also began a new pilot to offer cash support to residents in financial crisis, to prevent them spiralling into unmanageable debt. 200 residents received cash support in the last 3 months of 2021/22 and the pilot will continue into the next financial year.

CHRISTMAS 2021

We are proud to be part of a collective of community and frontline organisations, which for 2 years has worked to ensure everyone in our community has warm hearts and full tummies at Christmas. In 2020, following the challenges of the Covid19 pandemic and multiple lockdowns, the K+C Christmas Collective was able to deliver hampers filled with food, toys and gifts to over 8,000 local residents in need.

In 2021, a combination of factors such as the end of furlough, the reduction in Universal Credit and rising fuel prices, meant many people in our community were facing financial hardship. So the Christmas campaign was launched again.

We were able to help more than 11,000 people



10,800 vulnerable people and families received a food parcel and voucher allowing them to make their own Christmas meal



3,633 children also received brand new toys and gifts



836 elderly residents received a warm meal, thoughtful gifts and handmade cards from local children



250 specially tailored boxes were delivered to refugees living in temporary accommodation in our community

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

The K+C Foundation is keen to support collaborations between frontline charities working together to support residents, and to test new ideas to tackle long-standing social problems.



INNOVATION + COLLABORATION FUND

In 2021/22, we launched a new Innovation + Collaboration Fund, to invest in projects which either work collaboratively across 2 or more partners, or pilot new ideas or ways of working. Grants were made to five partnerships:

- **Fire Cadets** is an exciting youth engagement programme offering young people the opportunity to train with London Fire Brigade, gain a credible qualification and life skills they can use in the workplace.
- **The Harrow Club**, in partnership with Young Enterprise will offer 20 young people in the Chelsea Youth Club the opportunity to take part in the Company Programme. This programme empowers young people to set up and run a student company under the guidance of a business volunteer.
- **The Oppidan Foundation** runs peer-mentoring programmes uniquely designed to raise individual aspirations in young people and to support those young people at risk, to realise their potential both in and out of school.
- **The Next Step Foundation** supports students from underprivileged backgrounds through the process of applying to selective UK universities.
- **My Life Mix** run by the Portobello Business Centre offers a business start-up course designed specifically for women with caring responsibilities.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT SMALL GRANTS FUND

In September 2021, we launched the Community Spirit Small Grants Fund – an easily accessible fund to support events and activities that bring joy, hope and healing to the community after the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This funding is for one-off events and short-term projects such as cultural and celebration events, school holiday activities, workshops, sports sessions. So far, 28 projects have received grants of up to £1,000 each.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Legatum Institute (2021) Kensington and Chelsea, Centre for UK Prosperity Index.
- 2 Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019) English Indices of Deprivation – Income deprivation.
- 3 Rate of poverty measured After Housing Cost, based on data from the local indicators of child poverty, Centre for Research in Social Policy, Loughborough University for End Child Poverty.
- 4 ONS, 2021.
- 5 Bi-borough Inclusion Strategy, 2021.
- 6 St Giles Trust, 2019.
- 7 Department for Education 2021.
- 8 UK Prosperity Index, 2021.
- 9 JSNA Health & Wellbeing, K+C and Westminster, 2019.
- 10 Personal wellbeing estimates by local authority (ONS).
- 11 Department of Work and Pensions, 2020.
- 12 WPI Economics analysis of data from ONS, 2020.



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We are immensely grateful to the following funders who contribute to our operating costs. This allows us to focus our efforts entirely on raising funds for our priority programmes.



THE
JULIA AND HANS RAUSING
TRUST