

"How could you not want to be involved with the K+C Foundation once you understand the difficulties our near neighbours face?"

Local resident + donor

# I am delighted to report that we continue to make progress in our mission to improve the lives and life chances of the most vulnerable in our community.

In 2023, we marked the 15th year anniversary of the K+C Foundation and I am thrilled to announce that we have, since our inception, raised an incredible £20 million. This funding has been invested in our work to reduce the significant inequalities that persist in the borough.

From April 2023 to March 2024, we have used our local knowledge and networks to support the most pressing needs in the community, funding 106 projects and supporting over 23,300 of our most disadvantaged residents. We have worked with our supporters – individuals, businesses, trusts and foundations – to connect them to the most vital issues in Kensington and Chelsea and have raised £1.66 million to fund this work. Much of this funding has been directed to support projects in our three core portfolios – Improving Mental Health, Reducing Education Inequality, Skills + Employment.

One of the achievements we are most proud of this year, has been the growth of our work to give a voice to our community. Our track record in this area led to us being trusted by RBKC to manage and distribute its Small Grants Fund. We recruited, trained and facilitated a panel of local residents tasked with selecting small grassroots partners to receive core cost funding over the next 3 years. These grants will deliver improved outcomes for the most vulnerable residents, whilst also helping Kensington and Chelsea to become a fairer borough.

Towards the end of last year, we commissioned an update to our 2021 research – 'Poverty + Prosperity in K+C: A Deepening Divide' and although we found evidence of improvements in some areas, there remain some very sobering statistics which continue to drive our work.

More recently, we were honoured and delighted to be chosen by the new RBKC Mayor Cllr Will Lane as his charity during his term of office starting in May 2024 and look forward to maximising this opportunity to spread the word about the Foundation's work and impact.

I remain most grateful to you, our loyal and committed supporters, for your engagement, encouragement and generosity. I would like also to commend to you the excellent work of our small team, who work tirelessly throughout the year.

Yours sincerely

RILD WIML



# Some key highlights of the year



# **April**

We host an event to celebrate the impact and achievements of the many fantastic frontline organisations we work with in Kensington and Chelsea.



We are delighted to be chosen as beneficiaries of the Chelsea Arts Society's Summer Exhibition, raising over £18,000 for our work through an auction and art sales on the night.

# **August**

We recruit a panel of 10 people from across the borough to decide how RBKC funding for small charities is allocated.

# 2023

# May

Reducing Education Inequalities – Project Visit. We take a small group of donors on a monitoring visit to a tutoring project we are supporting as part of the REI programme.

# July

We host a webinar for our supporters to update them on progress since we published our research report 'Poverty and Prosperity in Kensington + Chelsea' in 2021. We heard from two of our frontline partners on their work.

# September

The Kensington + Chelsea Foundation celebrate our 15th anniversary with an event to thank our supporters. We announce that £20million has been raised since our inception in 2008.





# **October**

45 supporters join us for Walk Kensington + Chelsea – a brilliant, sunshine filled walk from Ladbroke Hall to Chelsea Theatre.

# **December**

We receive the proceeds of Christmas fundraising campaigns from The Knightsbridge Business Group and the Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Chamber of Commerce.

# **February**

We agree a new partnership with Earl's Court Development Company (ECDC) to manage their Community Fund, in conjunction with Hammersmith and Fulham Giving.

# 2024

# **November**

We join the Cadogan Christmas Lights Switch-On event, and our two face painters are a great success!



# **January**

We receive a donation of £25,000 from Omaze, from the proceeds of their raffle for a house in Chelsea.

# March

We publish an update to our 2021 research report, looking at what has changed for residents in Kensington and Chelsea since the end of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis.



# **About The** Kensington + Chelsea **Foundation**

We are an independent local charity set up in 2008 to tackle the key inequalities in the borough. Our vision is of a borough where everyone has the opportunity to live happy, healthy, fulfilled lives. To achieve our vision, we identify and fund impactful local projects which improve the lives and life chances of some of our most vulnerable and disadvantaged residents. We believe passionately in the power of local giving and use our extensive local knowledge and networks to connect donors to the most vital issues in the community.

In 2021 our research, Poverty and Prosperity in Kensington + Chelsea, identified significant inequalities in the borough across education, health and employment. In response to this, we established three social investment

portfolios to direct funds towards tackling these issues. Since then, we have made considerable progress and have seen significant impact through the projects we have supported.

In March 2024, we published an update to our original research: Poverty and Prosperity in Kensington + Chelsea: A Deepening Divide and although there have been improvements in some areas of need, there remains much to do to achieve our vision.

We are a small but very effective team and last year, 93p in every £1 donated to The K+C Foundation was spent on our charitable activity. Our projects reached 23,300 residents with support and services, providing a lifeline to those in crisis.

£1.66m 106

raised

projects funded

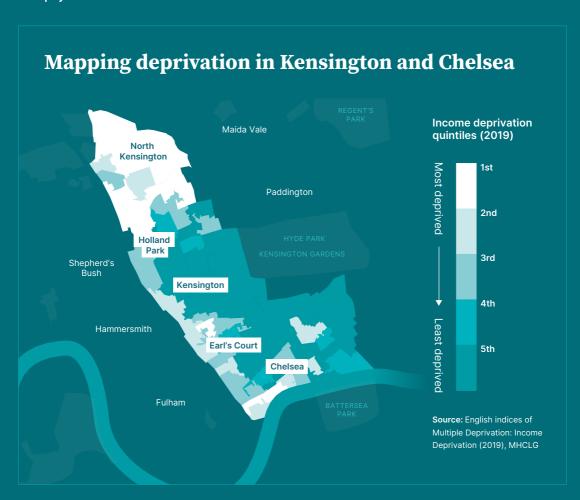
23,300

disadvantaged and vulnerable residents supported

# **Beneficiary demographics**

Ethnicity		Gender	
White	36%	Male	51%
Asian or Asian British	9%	Female	43%
Black, African, Caribbean or Black British	27%	People who describe themselves in another way	1%
Mixed or multiple ethnic groups	13%	Didn't say	5%
Other/didn't answer	15%		

22% of beneficiaries described themselves as living with a disability or long term physical or mental health condition.



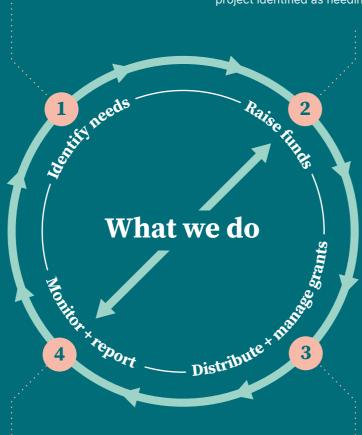
# **Identify needs**

Commission research

Gather intelligence through our extensive local networks

# Raise funds

Develop partnerships with corporate and individual donors, as well as trusts and foundations, to match their philanthropic goals with one of our funds or a particular project identified as needing support



# **Monitor + report**

Visit projects in our portfolio to monitor progress

Facilitate volunteering opportunities

Bring charity partners together to learn and collaborate across each portfolio

Gather and assess impact data every 6 months

# **Distribute + manage grants**

Convene and train community stakeholder decision making panels

Conduct robust due diligence

### **Our funds**

Improving Mental Health
Reducing Education Inequalities
Improving Skills + Employment
Special Projects
Community Spirit
Emergency Response
Donor Advised Funds

# Identify needs using our extensive networks and insights

Our March 2023 report, **Poverty and Prosperity in Kensington** + **Chelsea: A Deepening Divide** highlighted evidence of growing inequalities in our community.

# **Poverty**

- Three wards in the borough have child poverty rates that exceed both London and national averages. The gap between the ward with the highest child poverty rate and the one with the lowest is a striking 27.9%
- The percentage of children eligible for free school meals in the borough stands at 33%, significantly higher than both the national and London averages. This figure also reflects a sharp 50% increase over the past five years

## **Education**

- Fixed term school exclusions (also known as suspensions) remain high, with Kensington and Chelsea the 7th highest out of 33 London boroughs
- Children on Free School Meals, with Special Educational Needs and from Black African/ Caribbean backgrounds were more likely to be excluded than their peers

# Life expectancy

 Life expectancy varies dramatically across different areas of the borough. For instance, women living in Notting Dale and Holland wards, located just a third of a mile apart, face a staggering 19-year gap in life expectancy. This disparity has widened by 5 years since our last report

### **Rent Costs**

 In our previous report, we found that an astonishing 69.5% of residents' income was spent on rent for a one-bedroom flat. Our latest data reveals this figure has now risen even further by 6.5%, bringing the total to 76%

### **Mental Health**

- 1 in 4 residents report high levels of anxiety
- 1 in 6 young people have a mental health issue but waiting times for mental health services are among the worst in London
- 1 in 12 adults have a GP diagnosis of depression
- There has been a 28% increase in mental health referrals between 2022 and 2023

# 2 Raise funds working with our donors to support impactful projects

To achieve our vision, we use our extensive local knowledge and networks to identify partners and projects likely to make the greatest impact in our community. We work with corporate and individual donors to match their philanthropic goals with one of our portfolios or a particular project that we have identified as needing support.

Our aim is to provide expert knowledge, guidance, robust due diligence and reporting. We believe that giving to local causes should be an easy, impactful and rewarding process for donors. We are proud to be supported by many local individuals and businesses.

Cadogan has been a vital supporter of our work since 2011, donating an incredible £1.25 million. The Cadogan Estate spans 93 acres in the south of the borough and as a very long-term family business, their stewardship approach focuses on making a positive contribution towards a sustainable environment and thriving community.

They became our Principal Supporter in 2019 – providing a significant proportion of our core funds, allowing us to focus our fundraising efforts on our direct charitable programmes. They also invest, through us, in a dedicated outreach worker supporting young people at risk of serious

violence and criminal exploitation, reaching some of the most vulnerable young people in our community and helping them to move towards more positive futures.

In 2014, Cadogan made an astonishing gift of £100,000 to create an Endowment Fund for the Foundation, ensuring a sustainable source of funding for our work over the longer term. They continue to invest in this fund through a small voluntary levy on their business leaseholders and later in 2024 we will launch an additional Community Fund to further increase the impact we can have together.

Cadogan also supports us in spreading the message about our work and encouraging others to donate through their magazines, social channels and events such as the Chelsea Christmas Lights Switch On.

"Through their established infrastructure, the Foundation has unparalleled knowledge about issues affecting local people and grassroots charities working to address them and reach those who need it most. Whether you are a local individual, family, business or school, working with the K&C Foundation enables us all to make a bigger difference together."

Hugh Seaborn, Chief Executive, Cadogan





# **Our funds**

Between April 2023 and March 2024 we received income of £1,665,500 from 221 donors – individuals, businesses, trusts + foundations, schools, organisations and schools:

Individuals	£329,243
Corporate	£331,331
Organisations (Statutory)	£464,485
Foundations & Trusts	£425,050
Schools	£39,373
Other (Gift Aid, Endowment contributions, interest)	£76,018

# This income was invested in our charitable funds as follows:

				Total	
Programmes	People	Orgs	Projects	Investment	%
Improving Mental Health	4321	11	11	£292,960	16%
Reducing Education Inequalities	6442	13	16	£418,060	23%
Increasing Skills and Employment	325	8	8	£305,709	17%
Winter Warmth	1665	6	2	£353,060	19%
General Charitable/Community Spirit	6234	50	60	£100,519	6%
Voluntary Sector Support Fund (VSSF)	4393	9	9	£220,908	12%
Overheads				£126,161	7%
Total	23,380	97	106	£1,817,377	

# 3 Distribute + manage grants

For our key portfolios, we convene and train community stakeholder panels to determine which projects will have the most impact and select which ones we will support for a 3 year period. As part of this process it is also our responsibility to carry out the due diligence on each project we consider. This year, we have distributed and managed grants to 106 impactful projects.

We receive regular progress reports for the projects in our key portfolios, which allow us to monitor and ensure grant funds are being used as expected and projects are on track, and to update our donors.

Networking meetings are held twice a year for organisations receiving grants from three portfolios – Reducing Education Inequalities, Improving Mental Health and Improving Skills + Employment. These meetings promote sharing of best practice, increasing referrals and building lasting connections between grassroots groups working on similar issues.

Our team arranges regular monitoring visits to see the projects we are supporting in action, accompanied by our donors where possible. As part of our commitment to shifting the power and giving the community a voice in social investments, we have transitioned towards a participatory grant making model. We partner with and train local residents who have lived experience of particular social issues and bring their experiences and insights in deciding which organisations stand the best chance of making a difference.

Our recognised experience and expertise has resulted in requests for advice and guidance from other funders who, as a result, have directly invested over £100,000 into charitable projects in the borough. Projects we have recommended included two which support local residents into employment and one helping children across 3 Chelsea schools to improve their attainment, behaviour and social skills, and reduce their risk of exclusion.



# **Reducing Education Inequalities Fund**

# Supporting children and young people to reach their potential

Our report 'A Deepening Divide' demonstrated that while there are considerable challenges for some young people in our community, there has been significant improvement on the permanent exclusions rate, since our original report highlighted the issue.

Kensington and Chelsea has dropped from having the highest rate in London to 17th on the list of London boroughs, but fixed term exclusions remain relatively high – the 7th highest out of 33 London boroughs. There is clear evidence that fixed term exclusions are extremely damaging for young people who receive them and we remain committed to tackling the causes and impacts of exclusions.

# Reducing education inequalities portfolio

The K+C Foundation's Reducing Education Inequalities programme funds 9 impactful projects reaching 6,128 children and young people with tailored and targeted support. This has been the second year of our three year commitment to reduce education inequalities in our community. We have been monitoring the progress and impact of our projects across the first 24 months and are delighted to share this example of how they are making a real and tangible difference to young people in our community.

£418,060 invested

16 projects

6,442 beneficiaries



# **Ben's story**

Ben is enrolled on a project which helps over 40 young people who are already experiencing school exclusion and/or disengagement with education. They are engaged in a programme of constructive activities, alternative learning provision, vocational training and volunteering opportunities, to reduce their social isolation and increase their confidence, self-esteem and resilience.

Ben was being bullied at school and his mental health was suffering. He had been excluded from mainstream school and did not want to return to formal education at all. His mum said she felt lost and "like a bad mum sometimes" as she saw her son struggling.

The project case worker met with Ben and his mum regularly to discuss different options for alternative education provision, including home schooling, trying to find a solution acceptable to them both.

While Ben was not attending school, his case worker encouraged him to engage with organisations who could help with tuition or extra support, attending meetings with him and monitoring his progress.

After 6 months out of education, Ben agreed to attend a local Alternative Provision Academy where he would receive the additional support and help he needs. Ben said that he feels relieved to be getting the chance to do his GCSEs again, and his mental health has improved.

His mum was grateful for the support received and was happy to see her son attend school again.

# **Improving Mental Health Fund**

# Combatting isolation, loneliness and mental health challenges

In Summer 2023, 1 in 4 residents reported feeling high levels of anxiety, with 1 in 12 having a GP diagnosis of depression. Residents suffering with depression are more likely to live in the most deprived wards of the borough. More than 1 in 6 young people in Kensington and Chelsea have a mental health issue, with the most common reasons for GP visits being depression and developmental speech needs.

# **Improving Mental Health portfolio**

We support a number of projects addressing mental health issues. The K+C Foundation's Improving Mental Health portfolio funds 8 impactful projects reaching over 3,200 people. All of the projects provide individualised, tailored support to clients, building trust and a safe space in which they can make connections and access services.

This has been the second year of our commitment to support projects tackling a wide range of mental health needs. We have reached residents of all ages suffering with challenges including addiction, isolation and anxiety. Our projects have been a lifeline for very vulnerable residents in mental health crisis including those recently admitted to hospital, and newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers.

£292,960

invested

11

projects

4,321

beneficiaries



# **Case Study**

In the south of the borough, a Micro-Bakery and a DIY Project, staffed by residents living with long-term mental ill health, have provided purpose and access to formal and peer support. These initiatives have successfully reduced hospital re-admissions and mental health crises among participants.

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Frank is in his late 40s. He suffers from crippling anxiety and has long periods of time when he cannot leave the house. He relies on his sister for everything which has had a detrimental effect on her wellbeing. Their relationship has suffered and it has led to a vicious cycle of her losing patience and him feeling worthless. Frank joined the DIY project and with the support of staff has been able to increase the length of time he is able to stay there and focus on something productive. He recently upcycled a mirror for his sister, learning how to use a chop saw and chisels. This has improved his self-esteem and his sister was extremely pleased with the gift. People have noticed how charming and charismatic he now is. People love talking to Frank and he has been well and not needed additional support for several months.

# **Improving Skills + Employment Fund**

# **Supporting** ambitions

Residents in Kensington and Chelsea face a number of employment related challenges. Not only does the borough have a relatively high unemployment rate, but many residents find that work is not necessarily a guaranteed route out of poverty and need to claim Universal Credit. The number of residents claiming in work benefits has increased from 2,139 people in 2020, to 3,125 in 2023, a significant rise of 46%.

# Skills + Employment portfolio

Our Skills + Employment portfolio aims to support residents into meaningful and sustainable employment, through impactful projects reaching over 300 people with tailored and targeted support. This was the second year of our commitment to providing opportunities for people to develop skills and find rewarding employment.

Our projects help residents who are often quite far from the labour market, including young people at risk and with a history of offending; neurodiverse adults; women looking to return to employment and vulnerable or marginalised residents.

The organisations delivering projects in the Skills + Employment portfolio have built strong partnerships with employers and specialist agencies which are invaluable. We have also been able to involve our Corporate supporters in volunteering activities such as interview skills workshops.

£305,709

8 projects

325
beneficiaries



# **Case study**

Local residents like Jonathan are often forgotten about and overlooked in the world of work. Jonathan has a moderate learning disability, is autistic and can become very anxious and agitated in social or 'responsible' situations. He also has a huge amount to offer, and with the support of a local charity has learned new skills which have helped him to grow in confidence and find purpose through work.

Jonathan enrolled on a project funded by The Kensington + Chelsea Foundation, which teaches local adults with learning disabilities how to cook and garden as a pathway to employment.

Jonathan is thriving as a Catering Assistant, offering advice and support to other adults with learning disabilities about food preparation and health and safety. He is nurturing new talent by showing a few individuals how to prepare some delicious cakes and pastries.

His confidence has grown enough that he mustered up the courage to ask a woman he liked out on a date and now they are a couple – with Jonathan using his newfound skills to impress her with meals and cakes. He has also won a second catering role at a local college.

"When I moved away from home I was very nervous and did not really know how to cook meals for myself until I joined the group.

Over the last 2 years I have learned lots of skills. Now I can cook for myself at home too. Best of all, I applied for a job as a Catering Assistant on the project and I got it. Now I can support the new trainees to learn just like I did. I am one of the leaders in the baking group."

# VSSF – Small Grants Fund

During 2023, we worked in partnership with RBKC to manage the VSSF (Voluntary Sector Support Fund) Small Grants Fund. The Fund aims to help Kensington and Chelsea to become a fairer borough, to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable residents and to nurture the talents of our residents and help them to reach their full potential.

VSSF offers voluntary and community sector organisations essential core cost funding to support their continued service delivery. It was open to small charities with an annual income less than £100,000, or CICs, for grants of up to £30,000 per year for a three year period.

We delivered an 11 week programme which involved recruiting a panel of 10 residents, training them in grant-making, supporting them to design the criteria for the fund and make the final decisions on which applications should receive funding. This project cemented our expertise as a local participatory grantmaker and helped shift the power of grantmaking decisions to local residents.

After a thorough and transparent assessment process, the panel selected 9 local groups to receive funding and The K+C Foundation will monitor the progress and impact of these organisations over the next 3 years.

Photo: North Kensington Community Energy (Community Spirit project)



# The projects receiving funding are

# Minds United Football Club CIC

provides wellbeing and employment activities to actively improve the mental, physical, social, and emotional wellbeing of adults and young people.

## **Our Power Hub CIC**

offers a diverse range of activities including technology based initiatives, sports activities, job placements, mentoring, art and crafts sessions.

# Community Development 4 All CIC (CD4ALL)

aims to empower and uplift the local community by providing a wide range of projects and initiatives that address their diverse needs and aspirations.

# Ethiopian Women's Empowerment Group (EWEG)

works with all refugee and migrant women in need, regardless of their country of origin. EWEG empowers women through education and employment projects, social gatherings and family learning programmes which increase skills, knowledge and confidence.

# Fit for Life Youth CIC (FFLY)

offers a range of services and activities for local young people including sports coaching, employability training, youth programmes, holiday schemes and apprenticeship opportunities.

# Neighbourhood Doulas

offers a free, specialised doula (birth companion) service. It works with the most at-risk pregnant women and new parents in Kensington and Chelsea to provide them with a high standard of emotional and practical support.

# WAND UK

is a women's organisation led by African women, which supports over 1,000 women and girls, including Black and ethnic minority and refugee women, across London annually. It supports women who are isolated, going through hard times and have poor mental health.

# Cuban Boxing Academy

works with people of all ages in the community who struggle with a range of additional challenges. Aside from sports-based group work they also focus on intensive one-to-one support programmes, incorporating exercise and formal mentoring/life coaching.

# **Urban Eye**

creates public art with the local community in Kensington and Chelsea, using art and design to improve neglected public spaces. The aim is to increase civic pride and help improve public safety.

# **Community Spirit Fund**

# Bringing joy and healing to the community

We have continued to offer our easily accessible small grants fund, designed to support events and activities that bring joy, hope and healing to the community after the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent cost of living crisis. The funding available is up to £1,000 per grant and supports one-off events and short-term projects such as cultural and celebration events, school holiday activities, workshops, sports sessions and project equipment. Since the beginning of April 2023, we have had 96 applications of which 72 were approved.







### Arts

10 events 1085 beneficiaries



### Children's events

6 events 250 beneficiaries



### **Christmas**

9 events 684 beneficiaries



# **Community event**

19 events 1390 beneficiaries



### **Eid**

4 events 495 beneficiaries



### **Environmental**

3 events 340 beneficiaries



## Food

7 events 530 beneficiaries



### **Health**

6 events 385 beneficiaries



## Other

3 events 1100 beneficiaries



## **Party**

6 events 845 beneficiaries



## **Trips**

6 events 237 beneficiaries

# **Supporting Our Community**

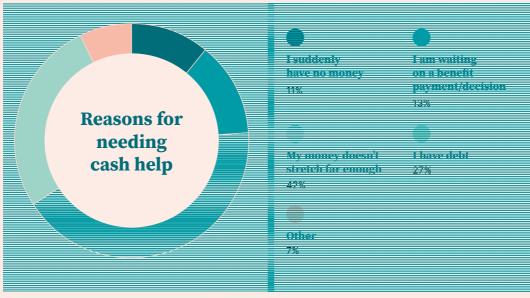
# Winter Warmth + Cash First

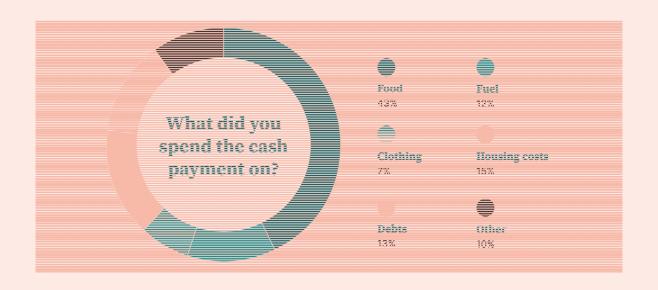
Originally started in 2022 as a Winter Crisis Campaign, we have continued to support low income households across the borough who are struggling to make ends meet and having to choose between heating and eating. Help includes financial support with fuel bills, cash to assist with buying urgent essential items like food, and wrapround advice from professional agencies on issues such as debt management and income maximisation.

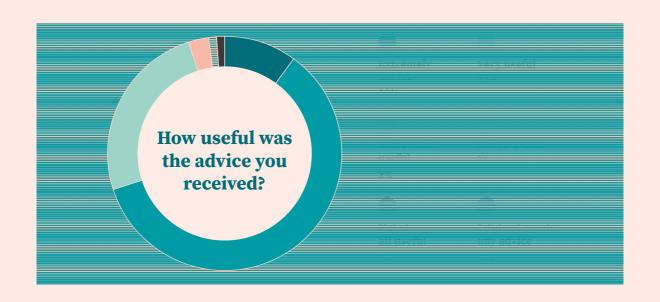
This support has been delivered in partnership with key local advice agencies including Citizens Advice Kensington and Chelsea, Age UK Kensington and Chelsea, Nucleus and Nova New Opportunities and with generous funding from RBKC, local businesses, trusts and residents.

During the year, thanks to these donations, more than 1,665 residents in the borough received emergency financial support and invaluable advice.

People who receive an emergency cash payment are asked to complete a short survey which gives us an insight into the financial struggles our residents are facing.







# 4 Monitor + report getting closer to the community

We know that the high quality of the work we do relies on close relationships based on mutual trust and respect between us and our local partners. Throughout the year we are in regular contact with them, we monitor their progress and provide six monthly and year end updates to our donors on all projects.

We arrange project visits throughout the year for our supporters to connect with the work they are funding and see it in action. This allows donors to appreciate first hand the importance and impact of the work they are supporting and we receive overwhelmingly positive feedback from the visits. We also provide opportunities to our supporters to volunteer in the borough, giving them a hands-on experience of making a difference in their community.

Our local partners are as positive about our work as our donors, valuing the trust and support we are able to provide.

"Thank you for your amazing support over the last 5 years. It's helped us build a network of groups who believe in the transformative effect of the arts for helping people struggling with their mental health. Your support has given us a platform – and a way of working – which we hope to continue for many years to come."

**Playground Theatre** 

"The past 12 months of working together have been a pleasure. We are very thankful to the Foundation for your kind support and for connecting us to the other organisations working in Kensington and Chelsea. We look forward to our continued partnership."

**Construction Youth Trust** 

# Acknowledgements

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.

- Cadogan
- · Julia and Hans Rausing Trust
- LMAX Group
- City Bridge Foundation
- Kilfinan Trust
- DMGT

We also wish to thank our wonderful members, patrons and champions for their continued support of our work.

"We would like to thank The Kensington + Chelsea Foundation for their ongoing support. We appreciate the close and trusting partnership that we have built together and the continued commitment to supporting children and young people through the AllChild programme."

AllChild

The Kensington + Chelsea Foundation raises funds and works in partnership with local charities to support and deliver impactful projects that improve the lives and life chances of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community. The Foundation provides guidance and support to residents and businesses seeking to connect with the local community. In our approach we are flexible and responsive to the changing local needs, providing imaginative and bold solutions and in all that we do, we seek to create long-lasting, positive impact.

Over the last 12 months we have raised over £1.66 million and invested in 106 local projects benefitting 23,380 of some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable residents in our borough.

If you are looking to make a real difference in the community and support us in our vision to create a borough where everyone has the opportunity live happy, healthy, fulfilled lives, we can advise you and support you on that journey. Please contact us to discuss our work and how we can work with you to support some of our most vulnerable residents – team@thekandcfoundation.com

**⊗ ⊚** kandcfoundation www.thekandcfoundation.com

