

Kensington + Chelsea Foundation

A better life together

2025/26

Impact Report

Chairman's message

It is a testament to the loyalty and generosity of our supporters that, in 2025–26, we continued to show income growth in an environment where so many charities are struggling, raising just over £2.1 million over the year. This meant that we hit an incredible milestone – over £25 million raised for our community since we were founded!

Our commitment to ensuring that the community's voice is heard in our social investments was demonstrated in our two residents' panels – groups of individuals who are 'experts by experience' on the issues we are tackling, and who selected projects to which we pledged £1.65m of funding. The team's careful training and facilitation of our panels over several months ensured that residents felt empowered in their decision-making. We were delighted to receive such positive feedback from those who took part and who commended the fairness and equity of the process.

With our comprehensive local research and extensive partnerships, we are able to identify gaps in service provision and initiate new interventions which can make a difference. In September 2025, we began a new 3 year pilot aimed at reducing school exclusions and providing support to young people most at risk, by introducing a new Inclusions Mentor at Holland Park School. In the first term, the Inclusions Mentor was already having measurable impact with some of the most vulnerable students and we look forward to continuing to monitor and share progress.

Over the course of the year, we were able to support an incredible 106 projects, reaching 12,715 residents in need. We have always believed it is our role to champion and support grassroots local initiatives. Last year, 68% of our projects were implemented by 'small' or 'micro' charities, with income of less than £500,000.

I remain immensely grateful to our supporters, both new and old, who have demonstrated their compassion for their neighbours by giving so generously to community projects. Your faith and belief in our work is a continued source of inspiration. I was particularly heartened to see the growth of our new Philanthropy Circle – a network of like-minded individuals who share our passion for local giving.

Finally, on a personal note, this will be my final message to you as Chairman of the K+C Foundation, as I am stepping down at the end of 2026. It has been a huge privilege for me to carry on the good work of my predecessors, with the support of an excellent Trustee board and our outstandingly committed, engaged and competent executive team.

Yours sincerely



Richard
Chairman, The Kensington + Chelsea Foundation

Highlights of the year



April

Youth Panel Formed

We recruited 10 young people with experience of school exclusion or poor attainment to serve on our 'Closing The Education Gap' Grants Panel

May

Mayor Will Lane's Charity Boxing Showdown

We rounded off a very successful term as the Mayoral Charity with a charity boxing match

2025

June

Philanthropy Circle Launch Event

Our new giving circle launched at an event with Joe Powell, MP for Kensington + Bayswater, interviewed by local journalist Matt Stadlen

July

Corporate Fundraising Event

K+C and Westminster Chamber of Commerce fundraised for us at their summer event

August

Mental Health Panel Launched

We recruited a panel of residents with lived experience for our Improving Mental Health grant round

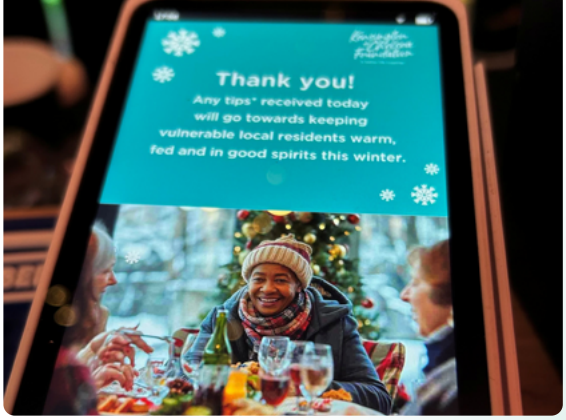
September

Impact Report Launched

We launched our 2024/25 Impact Report with an event at the Stelios Philanthropic Foundation







October

House of Commons Tour

Philanthropy Circle members enjoyed a tour of Parliament and terrace drinks with Joe Powell, MP for Kensington + Bayswater

November

Panel Discussion on Young People At Risk

We held a fascinating panel discussion with local experts exploring school exclusions at The Other House

December

Chelsea Winter Village

We were thrilled to be the charity partner for Chelsea Winter Village and Illuminations

2026

January

Cadogan Arms Lunch

After raising funds for our Give Where You Live campaign, Cadogan Arms hosted a lunch event for our older residents to get together

February

Corporate Volunteering

20 volunteers from our corporate partners enjoyed helping at the Age UK K&C Valentine Party

March

International Women's Day panel event

We heard from incredible women delivering frontline support to people across the borough







About the K+C Foundation

Kensington + Chelsea is a borough usually associated with affluence and wealth, but in reality, it also has pockets of severe deprivation and significant inequalities in the education, health and employment prospects of its residents.

Money raised	Projects funded	Disadvantaged + vulnerable residents supported
£2.119m	106	12,715

The K+C Foundation is an independent local charity working to:

- **Research and raise awareness** of key social issues affecting our community
- **Identify and support** impactful local projects that tackle these issues and improve the lives and life chances of our residents
- **Provide advice, guidance and expertise** to local philanthropists keen to make a different in the borough

Our vision is of a borough where everyone has the opportunity to live happy, healthy, fulfilled lives. 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.

We are a small, but very effective team, and last year, 98p in every £1 donated to The K+C Foundation was spent on our charitable activity. Our projects reached 12,715 residents with support and services, providing a lifeline to those in crisis.

←

Tyrone, Minds United Sports Club

What we do

To address the needs identified in our research, we raise money from local businesses and residents, and target support towards grassroots projects that can make a difference.



With the advice and guidance of local residents who have lived experience of the issues we are trying to address, we select projects for 3 year commitments in each of our Priority Programmes:

1. Closing the Education Gap
2. Improving Mental Health
3. Improving Skills and Employment

We recruit and train panels of residents who are 'experts by experience' on the issues we are tackling. We work with them closely over 3–4 months to design Programme selection criteria, review and assess projects and make final decisions on those chosen for investment. We believe that the panels' insights and experiences enable us to target the projects which stand the best chance of reaching residents in need with trusted, accessible and impactful services.

Alongside these longer term commitments, we offer short term support for one off projects which bring joy, hope and healing to our community through our Community Spirit Small Grants Fund.

We also provide direct support to residents in financial crisis through our Winter Warmth and Cash First grants, which offer access to expert advice on issues such as debt management, housing and benefits support.

As well as tackling existing needs through our Priority Programmes, we are keen to explore early interventions and preventative solutions that have the potential to move the dial on these issues in the longer term. In 2025/26, we began two pilots under our Transformational Projects programme:

- Installing a full time Inclusions Mentor into Holland Park Secondary School
- Designing a new model of wraparound advice, support and guidance for residents of the World's End Estate in Chelsea

← Lauren, Horniman's Adventure Playground



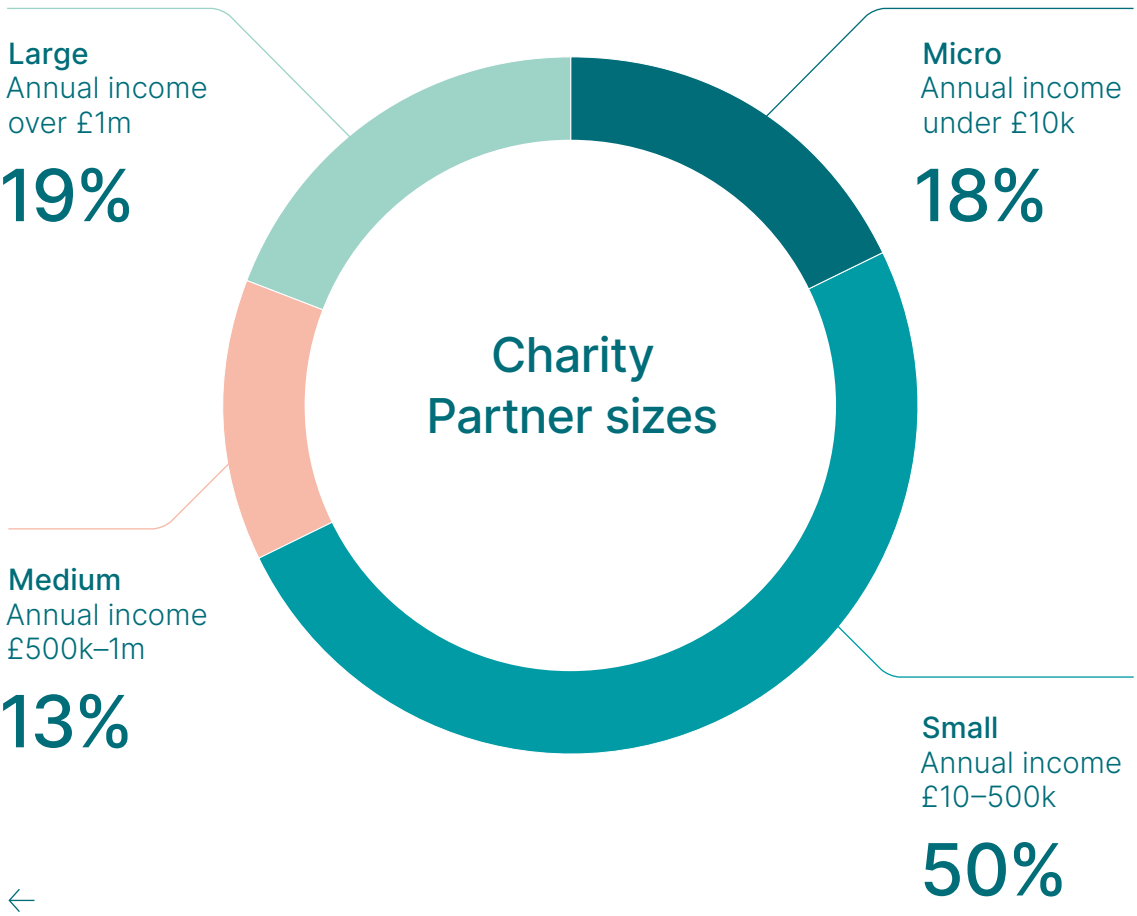
Our Charity Partners – Delivering our vision

While our borough has significant inequalities we are fortunate to have a thriving voluntary sector with many grassroots groups striving to provide support to our residents in need.

Our local partners range in size and scope, and include many small and micro-organisations who often find it difficult to access funding.

To foster collaboration, we host networking meetings twice a year with partners in each of our Priority Programmes. These meetings are opportunities to share learning and best practice, increase referrals and build lasting connections between grassroots groups working on similar issues.

We are very proud of our local partners and delighted to feature some of their inspiring and exceptional leaders in the imagery used throughout this Impact Report. With special thanks to Sky Hutchinson, our photographer.



←
Tarik, Minds United Sports Club

Closing the Education Gap

Building brighter futures for our most vulnerable young people

Our 2025 report on the impact of school exclusions on young people and their families in K+C, highlighted the increased vulnerability to child criminal exploitation and serious youth violence for young people outside of mainstream education.

The K+C Foundation's "Closing The Education Gap" programme funds projects which support local young people who are disengaged or excluded from school and who are at risk of poor educational attainment and outcomes. Many of these young people are struggling with unsupported SEND needs, poor self-confidence and self-esteem, and family crisis.

In Spring 2025, we recruited, trained and paid a panel of 10 local young people with lived experience of these issues to design the selection criteria and assess the projects for our new Closing The Education Gap portfolio. The projects they selected offer a wide range of services including tutoring, intensive mentoring, skills-based learning and emotional support.

Invested

£249k

Projects

10

Beneficiaries

282



Mo, Mo1 Youths

Early Intervention

An emotional support programme reached 30 children at risk of exclusion, poor attainment and poor mental health in a local primary school, with 80% of children showing improvements in emotional regulation and overall wellbeing.

Tutoring

We reached 93 young people across the borough with high quality tutoring in trusted community settings. The impact was clear – 95% of the first cohort improved their assessment scores and 88.8% of the second reached or exceeded their progress goals in English or Maths.

Mentoring

Through our mentoring projects, we provided 83 young people at risk with a trusted adult to meet with on a regular basis and address some of their challenges. In one mentoring project reported improved behaviour from 91% of mentees and improved school attendance from 83%.

Mental Health Support

Personalised emotional wellbeing and confidence-building support was provided to vulnerable children and young people experiencing anxiety, with 66% reporting increased confidence in managing their learning and 78% demonstrating improved goal-setting and self-reflection skills.

Skills Development and Training

At a local adventure playground, practical skills training, work placements and employability support reached 18 young people who were at risk of school exclusion or had left school with few or no GCSEs. All of the young people have completed vital training in Playwork including first aid, safeguarding, child mental health and autism awareness. So far, 4 have progressed into paid work.

Case study

Yusuf's Story

"Yusuf" (aged 15) was referred to a mentoring project by his aunt, who was increasingly concerned about his behaviour, disengagement from school and the peer pressures he was facing locally. She described him as "withdrawn at home but angry outside", often spending time with older boys and resisting conversations about his future.

When Yusuf first joined, his attendance was inconsistent. Some sessions he would arrive late or leave early. At times he would sit quietly and refuse to engage. Rather than confronting this behaviour, our team prioritised relationship-building and emotional safety. Early sessions focused on active listening, informal conversation and small achievable tasks to build momentum. Over several months, we observed gradual but meaningful changes.

Yusuf began staying for full sessions and contributing more openly in discussions. He started asking for help with specific Maths topics and showed pride when completing short tasks. While he still has difficult days, he now returns even after setbacks, something his aunt said "never used to happen with other support".

Yusuf shared:

> "I don't like feeling judged. Here it feels different. I can say what's on my mind."

His aunt told us: "He talks about [the mentoring project] at home. That's new. He even tells his cousins to come instead of hanging around outside." She also noted he appears calmer and more communicative, and is beginning to think about "what he wants to do next" rather than dismissing education entirely.

Yusuf's journey reflects the reality of working with vulnerable young people, progress is gradual, relational and built on trust. Choosing to return, engage and speak openly represents a significant, proactive step forward.



Improving Mental Health

Supporting residents who are isolated, lonely, or struggling with poor mental health

Kensington and Chelsea faces significant mental health challenges amongst its residents, with **1 in 4 reporting high levels of anxiety**, and **1 in 12 having a GP diagnosis of depression.**

More than 1 in 6 young people have a mental health issue, with the most common reasons for GP visits being depression and developmental speech needs. Between 2022 and 2023, there was a significant 28% increase in mental health referrals but waiting times for mental health services are amongst the worst in London.

In Summer 2025, The K+C Foundation recruited, trained and paid a panel of 10 local residents who had experience of mental health services, to help us select a portfolio of projects for which we would fundraise over the next 3 years. The panel designed the criteria for selection based on their own experiences of the most effective services and then chose 12 which they believed offered the most impactful support. Additionally, one project from our previous Mental Health programme was completed during the year.

Invested

£329k

Projects

13

Beneficiaries

1,425



Jose and Chandrika,
Meanwhile Gardens Community Association



↑ Tasio and Ximena, Age UK Kensington and Chelsea

In the last 3 months of the year, our 12 new partnerships delivered a range of projects across the borough, supporting residents facing different mental health challenges:

Counselling and Talking Therapies

Over 526 residents benefitted from specialist counselling, talking and listening therapies in community settings they could trust. Our services reached residents who are particularly vulnerable to poor mental health including domestic violence survivors, disabled residents, homeless residents and those experiencing suicidal feelings.

Loneliness and Isolation

We brought over 580 residents together to build connections through 4 different programmes of weekly activities which included gentle exercise, social gatherings, education classes, sports, and volunteering.

Transition Support

After receiving support in the mental health wards of a hospital, transitioning back into the community can be an extremely vulnerable time. We supported 150 residents through this period with a programme of non-clinical therapeutic activities including creative writing, gardening, self-care and spending time with others who have faced the same challenges.

Case study

Joyce's Story

Joyce's experience shows the impact of a local weekly walking group for older people, which has become a vital lifeline for those dealing with isolation, low energy, and major life transitions such as retirement or bereavement. Joyce joined the group after being referred by a bereavement counsellor following the loss of her husband. Having retired early, she found herself spending her days alone at home in front of the television and was also struggling with a painful knee condition. Since joining, the weekly routine has transformed her outlook. Despite her physical mobility limitations, she says the consistent walking has significantly helped her physical health, while the sense of community has been just as healing.

She shared:

> "It has really helped me in my journey coming to terms with my widowed status. It motivates me to get outside every week... you like the people you meet, so it makes you happy."

The sense of safety created by the group's peer-led model has been central to her progress, and she says she feels well looked after by the volunteers who lead it. Another member of the group, who joined to overcome isolation and rebuild her energy levels explained that walking, talking and laughing together has done as much good for her mental wellbeing as for her body, and given her the confidence to get out and about in the borough again.



Improving Skills + Employment

Supporting ambitions

Our research has shown that residents of Kensington and Chelsea are affected by a number of employment related challenges. Not only does the borough have relatively high unemployment rates, but many residents find that work is not necessarily a route out of poverty, with wages insufficient to meet high living costs.

In Year 3 of our Skills + Employment Programme, our projects supported residents facing barriers to work including young people not in education or training, women returning to employment, adults with learning disabilities, people affected by homelessness, poor mental health, and individuals with experience of the criminal justice system.

Across the programme, support combined employability coaching, practical skills training, confidence-building, employer engagement, and personalised advice to help residents move towards sustainable employment and greater independence.

Invested

£116k

Projects

4

Beneficiaries

237



Jack, Pursuing Independent Paths

Employment, Training and Skills Development

Over the year we supported 4 employability programmes that provided training and practical skills development for a wide range of residents.

75 adults with learning disabilities were supported to build their skills, with 37 securing paid employment.

92 women received interview preparation support, career coaching and a professional dressing services. 82% secured a job within a month and 95% reported increased confidence.

49 young people gained practical qualifications in construction along with industry exposure and work experience. 18 achieved a vital CSCS qualification.

120 residents in North Kensington received intensive 121 employability support, with more than half progressing into employment, education or training. 79% reported feeling closer to achieving their employment goals.

Confidence, Wellbeing and Independence

2 of our projects addressed the barriers to work faced by some residents including poor mental health, confidence and self-esteem. Through intensive support and training, 95% of adults with learning disabilities in one project reported improved physical mental and emotional wellbeing and 100% felt happier following the training.



Case study

David's Story

Before entering custody, David had worked in a series of temporary roles. Following his release, his criminal convictions presented significant barriers to securing employment. During his time in custody, he had accrued rent arrears and was diagnosed with anxiety and depression. As a result of his offending behaviour and time in prison, he had also become estranged from his family and his children. David wanted to find work to achieve financial independence, clear his arrears, support his children, and rebuild his family relationships.

Through a project funded by the K+C Foundation, David received tailored, one-to-one support to tackle some of these challenges. An initial assessment helped identify his skills and the barriers he faced, and he was supported to explore roles suited to his experience. Practical support included help with transport costs to attend interviews, advocacy with his housing provider to agree a repayment plan for his arrears, support to open a bank account, and guidance on disclosing his convictions to employers. He also received support with his mental health, including help to build the confidence to travel independently, which had previously caused him significant anxiety.

This holistic, relationship-based support helped David address financial insecurity, low confidence and housing instability all at once. He has since regained access to visit his children and reports feeling far more confident and motivated to pursue employment.

David said:

"The support made a big difference, especially with transport costs. At times it felt like the system was working against me, but having someone in my corner helped me move forward."

Voluntary Sector Support Fund (VSSF)

During 2023, we worked in partnership with RBKC to manage the VSSF Small Grants Fund.

The VSSF aims to help Kensington and Chelsea to become a fairer borough, to improve the lives of the most vulnerable people and to nurture the talents of our residents and help them to reach their full potential.

We delivered a 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.

After a thorough and transparent assessment process, the panel selected 9 local groups to receive funding for three years. 2025/26 was the second year of these grants and we monitored progress against planned impact and outcomes.

The organisations receiving funding delivered support ranging from inclusive sport and youth work to maternal health, advice services, and community wellbeing.



Chris, Fit for Life Youth

Advice and Practical Support

An advice service supported around 80 people with complex housing, benefits and rehousing needs.

A health advocacy programme helped clients register with GPs and challenge unsafe care decisions.

A community advice service helped 75+ residents with benefits and housing, with 70% going on to successfully access a service they'd previously been unable to navigate alone.

Sport, Exercise and Wellbeing

An inclusive sports club delivered 400 hours of sport and 350 wellbeing sessions for adults with mental health challenges and disabilities. 90% reported improved wellbeing and 98% felt less lonely.

A youth boxing programme engaged 158 young people. 94% reported improved fitness and 87% progressed into regular training.



Reducing Isolation and Building Connection

250 individuals joined weekly sessions and accessed one-to-one support, helping them to understand housing letters, contact their GP and apply for support services. 90% of those regularly joining the sessions reported feeling less isolated and safe and supported in the community. 20 people went on to volunteer at the community sessions and run activities for individuals facing isolation and anxiety, particularly those with limited English.

A youth club reported 91% of the 440 young people it engaged showed increased confidence, forming new friendships and taking greater ownership of activities.

A food bank and advocacy service supported 410 K+C residents, with feedback pointing to reduced isolation and stronger trust with staff.

Maternal and Perinatal Support

A perinatal support programme found 97% of women felt more empowered to advocate for themselves in labour, and 100% reported improved mental and physical wellbeing.

Arts and Culture

A community mural project completed its two largest public artworks, created with a local primary school, reaching around 1,400 people.

A gallery partnership gave 12 young people access to workshops and archive sessions, with two progressing into paid producer roles.



The Fit for Life Youth team

Transformational Projects

Holland Park School Inclusions Mentor

In 2021, we reported that Kensington and Chelsea had the highest rate of permanent school exclusions in London – a worrying finding, as the link between school exclusions and poor life outcomes is well evidenced.

There has been significant improvement on the permanent exclusions rate, since our report highlighted the issue. However fixed term exclusions remain relatively high, with RBKC listed as the 7th highest out of 33 London boroughs.

Fixed term exclusions are often a precursor to permanent exclusions and our youth partners report that they cause disruption and further social exclusion amongst the young people receiving them.

In September 2025, Holland Park School agreed to trial a new intervention, learning and adapting across the 3 year pilot and sharing those outcomes and results with other schools.

From September to March, the Inclusions Mentor worked with 112 pupils, providing a safe space for group discussions and intensive 121 sessions.

The results in the first two terms have been overwhelmingly positive:

- Improved behaviour of mentees leading to fewer suspensions and exclusions and a reduction in behaviour points.
- Increase in the ability of mentees to regulate their emotions and employ appropriate coping strategies.
- Mentees managing challenging/ triggering moments and negative interactions in a far more positive, progressive and calm manner.
- Improvements in school attendance and engagement.

> “Perhaps most importantly, students speak about the Inclusions Mentor as a trusted adult, and this role has strengthened our ability to safeguard our most vulnerable students in ways we simply were not able to do before”.

Billy Egleton, Vice Principal at Holland Park School



Louis, Holland Park School

Case study

Ismail's Story

Ismail was 12 years old and in year 8, when he was referred to the Inclusions Mentor, Louis Levin, by the Senior Leadership Team at HPS at the end of Autumn term 2025.

Ismail was at high risk of lengthy suspensions and then permanent exclusion. His record included regular incidents including lateness to school and lessons; truancy; disruption of lessons and incidents during breaks.

Louis placed Ismail onto his intensive mentoring programme and they had a number of sessions – the first was focused on really listening to Ismail and allowing him space to speak and be heard; the second making an action plan for the new term.

Starting in Jan 2026, Louis and Ismail met each Monday morning and Friday afternoon, to set up the week and then reflect on it. Ismail said that he has a keen interest in content creation and filmmaking and Louis arranged for him to attend after school sessions with a local film production charity.

In the following weeks Louis liaised with Ismail's teaching staff, holding restorative conversations or informal meetings so that they could have a better understanding of how to communicate in a positive and progressive manner.

As time progressed, Ismail's attendance began to improve and he became more peaceful, calm and happy at school. He did well in the after school creative arts sessions. Ismail has become one of Louis's Programme Ambassadors and played a big role in planning and delivering a community party.

At the end of year awards, **Ismail won the Most Improved Behaviour Award and the Aspiration Award**. His family have said they have seen a significant, positive change in him.



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. The funding available is up to £1000 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.



Age UK Community Spirit Grant Celebration

In 2025/26 we funded 52 projects, including these examples which had a tangible impact on participants:

1

Community Integration Project Remembrance Day event

"For years I watched neighbours pass each other on the street like strangers. Loneliness crept in quietly, especially after I retired and my children moved away. These gatherings have been life-changing. They break isolation in the most natural way: you arrive feeling separate, and within an hour you're laughing, dancing, or just sitting and talking with people you never knew lived two doors down."

2

K&C Over 50s Forum Seasonal Celebration

"I was feeling very low and worried about spending Christmas alone, but this afternoon changed everything. It reminded me I'm not forgotten. I met lovely people and for the first time in a long time I felt part of the community again."

3

Strengthening Kensington Youth & Families Football & Health & Wellbeing Project

"The football sessions helped clear my head. It didn't feel like a mental health programme, but it helped my mental health more than anything else I've done. It was good to just talk and feel normal.

4

Sudanese Association Winter Social Gatherings

"I am always happy when I come back home from the group activities and all the laugh and jokes. I sometimes remember the jokes at home and I laugh. My husband is used to it now. Thank you to the organisers of the activities"



Abdi, Earls Court Youth Club

Supporting Our Community

Winter Warmth and Cash First

This is our longest running campaign which first began in 2012. We support people 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 help with immediate crises, and wraparound advice on issues such as debt management and income maximisation.

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

During the year, thanks to these donations, more than 900 residents in the borough received emergency financial support and invaluable advice.

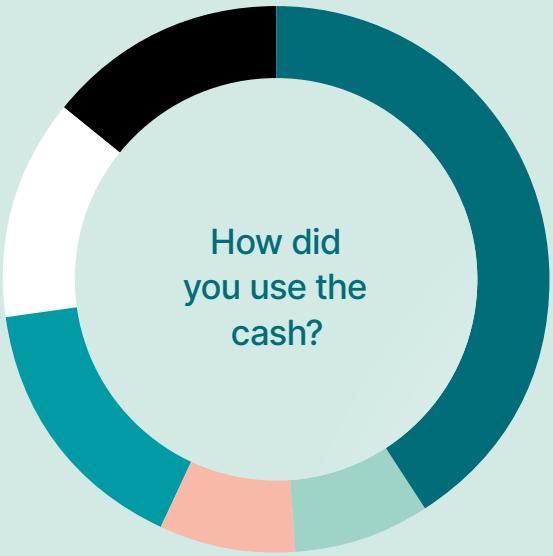
This included a review of their financial situation, benefits check, debt advice or housing referrals as necessary, helping residents to make a permanent improvement to their circumstances.

Feedback from supported clients indicates the urgency of crises they are facing:

"When I applied I only had £5 in my account and £20 in cash. It bought me some groceries to last us for 4 days and the £130 cash bought us enough to last us until the benefits pay date. I can't thank you enough for the support."

"My fridge was empty and the cash payment really helped and I paid some debt off."

"This was an absolutely life saver, I really did not know what I was going to do for the next two and a half weeks, I'm extremely appreciative, as I feel I can breathe for the rest of the month."



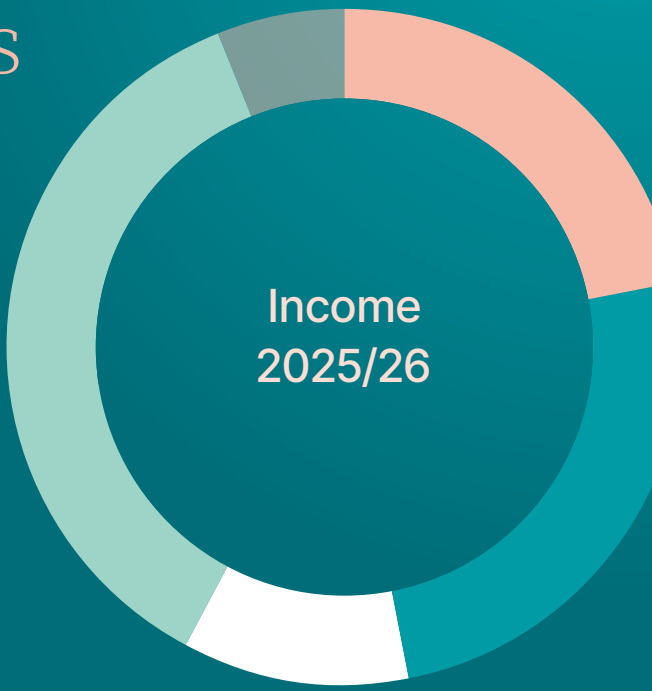
- Food **41%**
- Fuel **8%**
- Clothing **8%**
- Housing costs **16%**
- Debts **13%**
- Other **14%**



- Gone into arrears on my bills **16%**
- Borrowed using personal loans, overdrafts or credit cards **6%**
- Borrowed from family or friends **16%**
- Gone without food or other essentials **52%**
- I would have coped **7%**
- Other **3%**

Funding our work

Our supporters



- Individuals **22%**
- Businesses **25%**
- Organsiations **11%**
- Trusts & Foundations **36%**
- Other (Gift Aid, Endowment contributions, interest) **6%**

We work with corporate and individual donors to match their philanthropic goals with one of our programmes, or a particular project that we have identified as needing support.

Our aim is to provide expert knowledge, guidance, due diligence and reporting for supporters keen to make a difference in their community. 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.

This year, we launched The K+C Foundation Philanthropy Circle, bringing together like-minded supporters donating £5,000 or more per year

Philanthropy Circle members are invited to:

- Visit impactful local projects to see our work in action
- Storytelling events that offer a behind-the-scenes look at some of the borough's most innovative projects
- Hands-on volunteering experiences to make a real impact in the community

Corporate Fundraising Overview

The Kensington + Chelsea Foundation received over **£519,000** from corporate supporters in 2025/26, accounting for nearly a quarter of our total income.

This represents a significant contribution to our work and reflects the generosity of local businesses and their employees. It also stands in contrast to the national picture, where charities receive, on average, around 3% of their income from corporate sources.*

*https://www.ncvo.org.uk/news-and-insights/news-index/uk-civil-society-almanac-2024/financials/where-do-voluntary-organisations-get-their-income-from/

Understanding corporate giving in Kensington & Chelsea

The Foundation's strong connections with grassroots organisations across the borough give corporate partners and their employees the opportunity to see first-hand the difference their support makes. A high proportion of businesses in Kensington and Chelsea are privately owned, with proprietors who live in the borough, or have deep personal and professional roots here. There is a strong sense of stewardship and responsibility towards the community.

Our principal supporter, Cadogan, is a prime example. With roots on the King's Road stretching back generations, the company sees its role as extending beyond operating in the borough to being a long-term custodian of place and community.

The stark inequalities that exist alongside the borough's considerable wealth also play a role. Businesses can see first-hand the contrast between thriving commercial areas and communities facing significant challenges. For many, this creates a genuine desire to share their good fortune and help ensure that local residents have the opportunity to thrive.

"As a long-term family business, it is vital that we contribute towards a flourishing and sustainable community for future generations. The K+C Foundation has unparalleled knowledge about issues affecting local people and grassroots charities that address them.

Working together enables us all to make a bigger difference and reach those who need it most."

Hugh Seaborn, Chief Executive, Cadogan



Corporate Volunteering Day at Horniman's Adventure Playground

Connecting local businesses with our community

Our Corporate Patrons are a growing network of businesses that make a long-term commitment to supporting their local community and provide reliable, ongoing funding.

Patrons have the opportunity to see the impact of their support in person by visiting the projects they fund and taking part in volunteering days. We work closely with each organisation to ensure volunteering reflects their needs and provides a meaningful experience for employees. Opportunities have included everything from spreading play bark at an adventure playground, to helping older residents develop their digital skills, and hosting a coding camp for young people.

For many volunteers, these experiences also offer a chance to visit communities and parts of the borough that they might not otherwise encounter in their everyday working lives.

Dining to make a difference

We raised over £22,000 in 2025/26 through 'Give Where You Live' a fundraising campaign inviting restaurants and hospitality businesses to add a donation to each bill. With a large number of privately owned and highly acclaimed restaurants in the area this is a great opportunity to raise funds and spread awareness of the Foundation's work.

A year-round connection

Seasonal campaigns provided another way for businesses and their employees to engage with local causes.

At Christmas, businesses helped provide pampering gifts for 'hero mums' – women who are often focused on caring for others and put their own needs last – as well as gift cards for vulnerable teenagers. The gift cards gave young people the freedom to choose something for themselves, offering both a practical gift and a sense of choice and independence at a time when many families were under pressure.



Corporate Volunteers clearing the art room at one of our charity partners

Delivering the community side of sustainability

Our corporate donors want a closer, more meaningful connection with the causes they support – and increasingly want their community investment to contribute to their wider sustainability goals.

This means using their own expertise, networks and workforce to support local people: employing locally, offering mentoring and skills development, creating routes into work and helping people access opportunities. There is a genuine interest in supporting economic mobility and creating opportunities, alongside continued financial support for the charity partners delivering this work.

The Foundation is ideally placed to provide the local knowledge and due diligence that businesses need to make this meaningful. We know the grassroots organisations working across the borough, understand where the greatest needs are and can help businesses identify credible opportunities for their funding, expertise and employee engagement.

"Our partnership with the Kensington & Chelsea Foundation has been instrumental in helping us deliver on our ambition to build fairer markets. Over the past five years, we've been proud to work together to create lasting opportunities for individuals and communities, and to support initiatives that drive meaningful social impact. We care deeply about investing in grassroots programmes that strengthen our local community. As Kensington & Chelsea is our home, we're committed to helping ensure everyone has the opportunity to thrive and prosper."

Aidan Alberico, Head of Corporate Sustainability, LMAX Group

The Numbers

Between April 2025 and March 2026 we received income of **£2,118,659.**

Individuals	£468,196
Businesses	£519,593
Organisations (including Statutory)	£241,868
Trusts + Foundations	£767,020
Other (Gift Aid, Endowment contributions, interest)	£121,982

This income was invested in our charitable funds as follows:

Programmes	People	Orgs	Projects	Total Investment	%
Improving Mental Health	1425	13	13	£329,950	20
Closing the Education Gap	282	10	10	£249,993	15
Increasing Skills and Employment	237	4	4	£116,752	7
Winter Warmth + Cash First	904	6	2	£185,000	11
Community Spirit	4341	52	52	£48,514	3
Voluntary Sector Support Fund (VSSF)	1890	9	9	£200,000	12
Transformational Projects	112	1	1	£78,000	5
Managed Donor Funds	3524	15	15	£383,350	24
Fundraising Costs				£35,437	2%
Total	12,715	110	106	£1,626,996	100%

The Future

There is no doubt that The K+C Foundation, alongside our local partners, is working in an increasing challenging funding environment, while the community that we serve faces growing financial crisis from continuing cost of living pressures.

However, as bleak as the bigger picture can often feel, we draw hope from the generosity and commitment of our local donors who are determined to make a difference with their philanthropy, and we are inspired by the impact and reach of the local services and projects we support.

Our programmes have a track record of delivering support to some of the hardest to reach residents, and standing with them over the long term, building trusted relationships that deliver results.

In 26/27, we will enter the second year of our new Community Inclusions pilot, testing our intensive mentoring model in two new schools and exploring further expansion to reach young people who are already out of mainstream education.

We will also launch our new, wraparound support and advice service on the World's End Estate in Chelsea, testing and learning from a new model, designed to listen to residents' needs and provide holistic support.

We will step up our fundraising efforts to ensure sustainable funding for the essential projects in our core programmes, as well as our transformational work. Over the coming year, we aim to grow our Philanthropy Circle, inviting K+C residents to join us in learning more about some of the key issues facing our community, and contributing to sustainable solutions.

We believe that many local residents and philanthropists share our vision of a borough in which everyone can live happy, healthy, fulfilled lives and we look forward to working together to achieve that goal.

Acknowledgements

We are immensely grateful to the following funders who contributed to our operating costs in 2025/26. This allows us to focus our efforts on raising funds for our priority programmes.

Cadogan

DMGT

Kilfinan Trust

Kusuma Trust

LMAX Group

The Julia Rausing Trust

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

K+C Foundation Philanthropy Circle

The John Armitage Charitable Trust

Monica Baro and Zak Hydari

Richard and Claire Bruce

Helen Brunner

Sylvia Cervoni

Fergus Chamberlain

The CMF Charitable Trust

Charles Cormick

Sue Crosland

Stephen Curran

Guy and Sam Dawson

Carol and Andrew Gare

Willie Gething

Grant Gordon

Toby and Jennifer Greenbury

Paul Kirkby

Ahmad Lari

Jeremy Lloyd

The Mercer Foundation

Jacky and Paddy Sellers

David and Linda Walker

Peter and Jan Winslow

Sean Yazbeck

Alex Wardle and Edward York

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

Registered Charity Number 1125940

Kensington + Chelsea Foundation

A better life together