

Kensington + Chelsea Foundation

A better life together



ACAVA Shoots: Jason Garcia

Impact report 2020/21

A message from our Chairman, Richard Briance



While the past year was undoubtedly exceptionally challenging, it is also one that the Kensington + Chelsea Foundation, our partners and supporters, can be extremely proud of.

We were able to pivot swiftly to address the devastating impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on our community. While continuing to deliver our existing programmes, we shifted into emergency response, launching our fundraising appeal after the lockdown announcement in March and writing to everyone we knew for immediate and essential support.

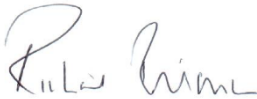
We were amazed and delighted by the extraordinary, generous support that came flooding in. Our appeal raised over £850,000, which we were able to deploy instantly in support of the most immediate priorities such as food deliveries and digital support. The issues that were brought to us were in some cases heart-rending. The food delivery service told of residents who hadn't eaten for several days, confined to their homes and having fallen through the cracks of statutory provision.

At Christmas, we were overwhelmed by the contributions of both supporters and a small army of volunteers, enabling us to fund the Christmas In A Box project led by inspiring local partners. We were able to ensure that 8,635 local residents had 'warm hearts and full tummies' over Christmas, by delivering a delicious festive meal, small gifts and good cheer.

As we started 2021 facing another lockdown, we turned our attention to the children and young people in our community whose educational attainment was hampered by a lack of access to digital equipment for home learning. We were particularly concerned about children for whom home is not a safe or quiet space in which to learn. By the end of January, we had partnered with 9 youth providers across the borough to offer children access to laptops in a safe and

supervised space to complete their home learning. We plan to build on this offer over the coming year to allow catch up learning for children who have fallen behind and need support to ensure they reach their full potential.

We have achieved an enormous amount during the past year and it is clear to us that we couldn't have done it without both our incredibly generous supporters and our inspiring local partners. We are ready to meet the challenges that the next 12 months will bring and confident that we can build a better life for all in K+C, together.



Richard Briance, Chairman, K+C Foundation

*Thank you for all your support.
We couldn't have done it without you.*

About the Kensington + Chelsea Foundation

Kensington and Chelsea is a borough usually associated with affluence and wealth, but it also has areas of severe deprivation. You may not know the following facts about K+C:

- It is one of the least deprived boroughs nationally, yet has several neighbourhood areas which rank in the top 10% of most deprived areas in England¹
- One in four children in K+C are living in poverty²
- 50% of children in K+C attend private school. By contrast, in many of our state schools, up to 60% of children are eligible for free school meals. This is a group national evidence identifies as being significantly disadvantaged in education³
- It has an unemployment rate which is 50% higher than the London and national averages⁴

The Kensington + Chelsea Foundation was set up in 2008 by local resident Jeremy Raphaely, who was aware of these inequalities and determined to tackle them. Our vision is of a borough where everyone has the opportunity to live healthy, happy, fulfilled lives.

In twelve years, the K+C Foundation has raised over £16 million which has been invested in partnerships with local voluntary organisations to achieve lasting change. We support high impact projects which reduce isolation and loneliness, develop skills and employment opportunities, and help children and young people to have the best chance in life.

Our small team played a major role in response to the tragedy at Grenfell Tower and we found ourselves responding to crisis again in March 2020. We launched our Covid-19 appeal to support local partners as they responded to the needs of the most vulnerable in our community during the pandemic and to help rebuild services over the longer-term.

¹ Bi-borough Inclusion Strategy 2021

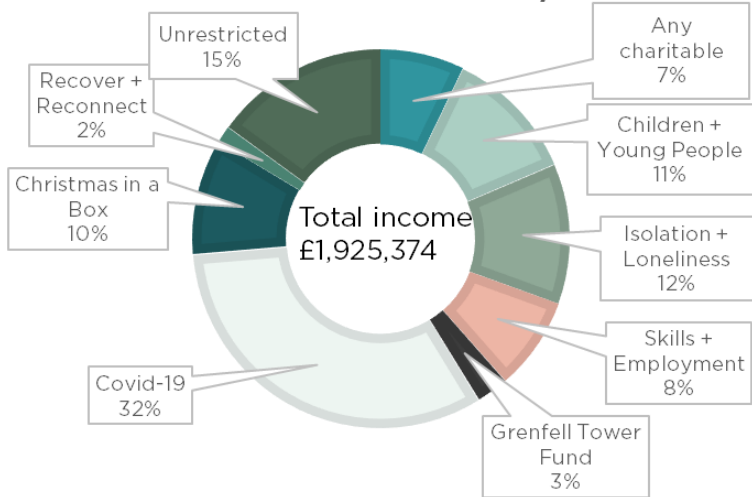
² Bi-Borough Inclusion Strategy 2021

³ Department for Education, 2019

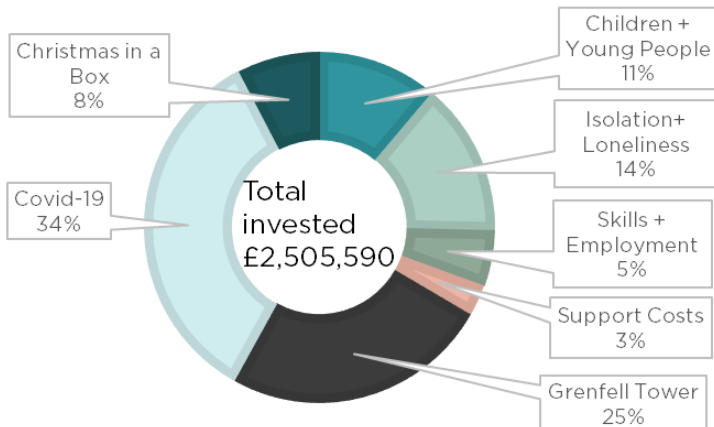
⁴ Trust for London, 2020

The year in numbers

YOUR DONATIONS IN 2020/21



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



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 appeal of gang involvement in the area as a means to escape poverty has led to the increased grooming and exploitation of children and young people through county lines drug running⁶
- The number and rate of permanent school exclusions across primary and secondary schools in K+C is above national and regional rates⁷

The K+C Foundation response

	£278,140 invested in
	18 Organisations
	21 Projects delivered
	1814 People have benefited

We are committed to addressing the inequality of opportunity for children and young people in our borough, and we support impactful projects which improve their lives and life chances. Over the course of the year, many of our projects had to adapt to comply with Covid-19 guidelines and ensure that the changing needs of young people during the pandemic were met safely.

⁵ Bi-borough Inclusion Strategy, 2021

⁶ St Giles Trust, 2019

⁷ School Exclusions in K+C, Family Services Working Committee, 2020

Through our partners, we ensured that food and essentials were delivered to families who needed it, whether due to shielding or financial hardship. The lockdown exposed the stark realities for many children in K+C, living in overcrowded accommodation, without access to digital resources or safe outdoor space for play. We are very proud of the role our partners played in delivering services and support to vulnerable children and young people in our community throughout an extremely challenging and uncertain year. We remain committed to supporting them through the post-Covid recovery process, to ensure that no child in our community is left behind.

Case studies

Catholic Children's Society

Empowering disadvantaged young people attending All Saints Catholic College in North Kensington to achieve their full potential and have better chances in life.

Fawzia's story

Fawzia, age 15, lives in severe poverty and shares a cramped two bedroom flat with younger siblings, her mother and extended family. Her father was the main bread winner, but died a few years ago leaving the family in extreme financial difficulty. Mental health issues and low self-esteem led Fawzia to feel that she was failing at school and unable to cope, she also began to self-harm. Fawzia found it impossible to study at home and fell even further behind.

The K+C Foundation supports a project in North Kensington for disadvantaged young people who are unable to study at home due to lack of space and digital access. Selected pupils are invited to a Homework Club three times a week, where they are given a nutritious hot meal and the use of ICT facilities in a safe and supervised space to complete their homework. Fawzia attended these sessions and the impact has been remarkable. Fawzia's mental health improved, she stopped self-harming, and her self-esteem was noticeably better. After 3 months her core subjects improved by two grades.

“This project has been hugely beneficial for Fawzia – we’ve seen a real transformation, both in terms of her grades but also in her wellbeing and engagement in school life. She is a very capable girl and this has given her the boost she needed to really thrive and achieve her potential despite the many disadvantages she faces” - Head teacher at Fawzia’s school



The SOS Project

The award-winning SOS project is based in K+C, where there are areas of great affluence and extreme poverty. Both factors specifically contribute to the appeal of gang involvement in the area as a means to escape poverty and have led to the increased grooming and exploitation of children and young people through county lines drug running.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic started, the risk of exploitation for vulnerable young people in the borough has increased as their routines and support networks (school, youth centres, sports activities, etc) have been removed and they are feeling increasing pressure to support their families as financial difficulties set in. In addition, mental health issues are arising or increasing, leaving young people more vulnerable and with little access to support. Combined with deepening poverty and the demand for drugs set to increase and supply predicted to drop, it is likely that serious youth violence and criminal activity will escalate.

Through our CYP Programme, and with direct funding from Cadogan Estates, we have been able to support the SOS Project with an additional case worker in K+C, who focuses on reaching at risk young people under the age of 18. Case workers with lived experience of

gang involvement are vital in reaching out and developing relationships with young people at risk, helping them to make better choices and build a future for themselves away from crime.

Jonathan's story

Jonathan was identified as a vulnerable young person being exploited to carry and sell drugs, which has previously led to contact with the police. He tried to escape this life, but faced an immediate risk of violence, receiving threats from those who were exploiting him, leaving him scared to leave the house.



He was referred to St Giles' services, who saw that Jonathan needed support to move away from this negative lifestyle and enable him to stop living in fear. Jonathan had very low expectations from life, with no goals and very low self-esteem having not left the house in over two months. A caseworker built up a rapport with Jonathan and met up with him on a regular basis, encouraging him to take up more positive activities.

Funds from the emergency Covid-19 appeal were used to provide Jonathan with a laptop, mobile phone and WiFi dongle to reduce social isolation, boost confidence and help Jonathan disengage with illegal activity.

SOS liaised with social workers and facilitated for Jonathan's mother to be supported by a St Giles Family Worker who supported her with mental health issues, housing and other medical needs. This holistic support helped improve relationships.

"I am so thankful for St Giles and my Caseworker entering my life. I see life more positively; I am no longer worried about what people think and I want to follow my dreams more."

*Jonathan is now reintegrated back into the community and his future looks positive and free from fear and danger. **

*Names changed.

Isolation + Loneliness

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

The local need

- There is a greater risk of loneliness in wards that have been identified as having poorer wellbeing than the London average, in K+C that includes Golborne, Notting Barns and St Charles ⁸
- K+C has a high rate of 47% one-person households⁹
- 75% of mental health conditions are established by the age of 24¹⁰

The K+C Foundation response

	£357,789 invested in
	21 Organisations
	25 Projects delivered
	7142 People have benefited

Our Isolation + Loneliness programme has focused on bringing people together to make connections, learn new skills, socialise and offer support. The Covid-19 pandemic forced most of our face-to-face projects to stop overnight and we were immediately concerned about the mental health impact of the lockdown on some of our most vulnerable residents.

Our partners responded swiftly, moving their services online wherever possible and offering opportunities to connect on zoom if not in person.

⁸ The Roads to Wellbeing, Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2017

⁹ JSNA Health & Wellbeing, K+C and Westminster, 2019

¹⁰ Mental Health and Wellbeing, JSNA, K+C 2019

This meant not only providing residents with digital access, but in many cases the training and skills to be able to use their devices with confidence rather than becoming increasingly isolated. From quizzes and chats to yoga and dance, our projects and partners worked tirelessly to provide a sense of community online during a year when isolation and loneliness was a constant challenge.

Case studies

Playground Theatre - Well Read

Well Read is a weekly play-reading project which takes place on the wards of the St Charles Hospital, for service users with acute mental health diagnosis. Members of the group are encouraged to read different characters, changing every few pages. Discussion is encouraged, especially about the themes of the play. It has proven to be an extremely popular and beneficial programme, developing confidence, communication skills and community connection.

“it was the first time I’ve laughed in weeks.”

“I will definitely do this group again as i did not feel like a “patient” but a creative and a human.”

As a result of the pandemic the sessions moved online, increasing to two per week. Feedback from participants was very positive.

M’s story

M was incredibly shy and very quiet when he came to his first session - he spent most of it circling the room but was encouraged to read a couple of lines. In those early sessions he’d commonly need to take breaks - leaving the room. Gradually he’d stay for the whole session, not only reading when encouraged but volunteering to read main parts. His voice became stronger, louder and more confident and his body language shifted completely. He has now been discharged and commonly joins the calls from home. He volunteers to read large sections of text and encourages other group members to take part.

Al-Hasaniya Moroccan Women’s Project

Al-Hasaniya is a small organisation supporting the health, welfare, educational and cultural needs of Moroccan and Arabic-speaking women and their families in the borough. They set up a food delivery service during Ramadan in 2020, feeding over 60 households and delivering 1002 freshly cooked meals. Their project - Iftar-fi-Dar proved to be a catalyst; it did not just provide a balanced diet to those fasting on their own and isolated, but it also provided continued security, self-worth, support and confidence that they were not alone, that they were part of the community and not forgotten.



Mrs T's story

Mrs T came to the UK with her children after her husband, a British national, died in Morocco. The pending application to formally allow the family to settle here meant that they had no recourse to public funds including benefits and Mrs T was not allowed to work. The lockdown in a small, one bedroom flat, without a minimum income, created panic, isolation, and fear of the unknown; for both, mother and children. The food delivery and regular calls meant the family was not lonely isolated, and forgotten, but rather supported, reassured and that it belonged.

Skills + Employment

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

The local need

- Unemployment is expected to rise in the coming months, and bold action is needed to retrain workers and create good quality new jobs¹¹
- There has been an increase of 51.5% in residents on out-of-work benefits. While need for in-work benefits, reflecting in-work poverty, almost tripled¹²
- Hard to reach and disadvantaged young people are twice as likely to not be in education, employment or training (NEET). Covid-19 will only exacerbate this gap¹³
- The unemployment rate in K+C compared to the London and national averages is nearly 50% higher

The K+C Foundation response

	£127,708 invested in
	2 Organisations
	5 Programmes delivered
	64 People have benefited

Unemployment rates in K+C were already higher than average before the pandemic hit in March 2020. Unfortunately, as a community heavily reliant on employment in the hospitality sector, the successive lockdowns hit our residents hard. 1 in 5 adults who were employed pre-Covid-19 are now unemployed or on furlough.

¹¹ Joseph Rowntree, 2021

¹² Department of Work and Pensions, 2020

¹³ The Employment Gap in London, Impetus, 2020

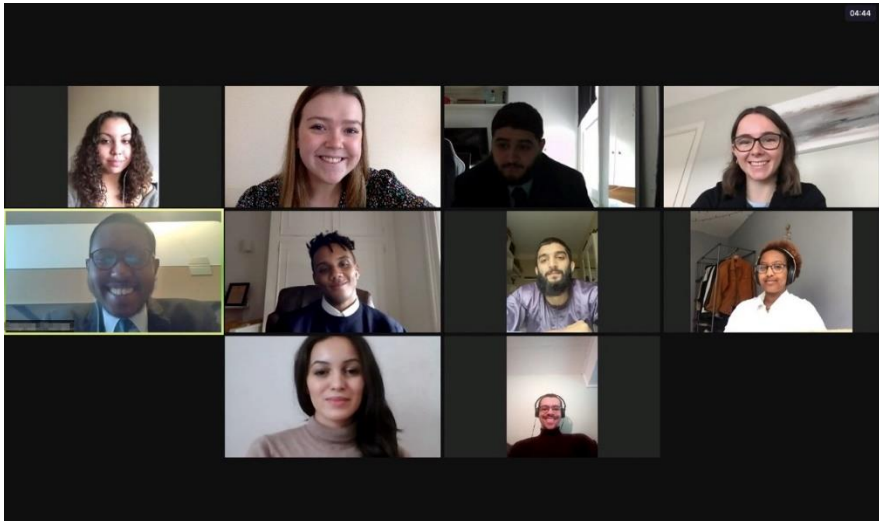
The resulting financial hardship was evidenced at food banks across the borough, with many reporting their demand doubling and some even tripling.

As young people felt particularly bleak about their employment prospects, we were delighted to be able to continue our partnership with the Spear programme to fund 4 employability courses reaching 64 residents age 16-24. The courses have real and tangible impact on the trainees, many of whom face complex multiple barriers to employment.

Case study

The North Kensington Spear programme

This is the second year of our partnership with Resurgo to offer the highly successful Spear employability programme. The programme provides young people who face employment barriers such as criminal records, few qualifications and mental health issues, a 6 week course with a year of further support, where they learn practical and soft skills, so that they are ready to enter the job market. Young people are also offered a further year of support and coaching after completing the course.



Between September 2020 and February 2021, despite the evident challenges of Covid, 3 programmes were delivered online to 48 young people. Although the job market for young people in particular is difficult, they have been able to secure a range of jobs including in distribution, construction and security. Whilst others have embarked on further training or education in, for example, accountancy, coding, preservation and historical conservation and applied science.

We have recently partnered with finance technology company, LMAX Group, which has supported the Spear programme not only financially, but also through staff volunteering and, most recently, by offering apprenticeships to young people from the North Kensington Spear cohort. The apprenticeships will give local young people a unique opportunity to develop their skills and experience in a professional environment.

“Every day is a new adventure, learning something new.”
Hassa, Apprentice,
LMAX Group, 2021

Jason's story

"I was kicked out by my father at the age of 16, and ever since then I've been looking for places to stay. I've had access to supported housing, but only 16 hours a week - which was a big barrier to me finding work. I was hanging out with friends who led me down the wrong path - I was arrested left, right and centre for drugs and anti-social behaviour. I realised that I needed to distance myself from those friends, but that led to a lack of socialisation which I felt like had an impact on my interview skills and looking for work.

The Spear Programme helped me realise the barriers within myself, by providing constructive feedback and by pushing me to put myself out there. I was encouraged to show self-leadership and to take things into my own hands. I got in touch with my key worker, and now I have my housing situation fully under control. After the group session on the open and hidden market, I accessed my hidden market and got myself a job in retail. I'm happy to be back on the career ladder and am looking to self-fund a course and do some studying."

K+C Foundation's Grenfell Tower Fund

We set up our Grenfell Tower Fund on the morning of the fire, 14 June 2017, to provide help for those who lived in Grenfell Tower, others directly impacted and the local community. We helped survivors, the bereaved and the hospitalised with grants totalling £5.07 million, to support those worst affected by the fire at the beginning of their long journey to rebuild their lives. Phase two of our response began in 2018 with our Community Development Fund.

Three funding schemes are in place to support local people and in 2020/21, 16,190 people in North Kensington benefited from our investments in local organisations and projects.

Green Shoots

An easily accessible fund offering grants usually up to £2,500 for projects which bring hope and joy to the community such as street parties, sports equipment, community barbecues and planting new green spaces. In 2020/21 £80,000 was invested in 39 local projects.

Organisation Champions

Guided by a panel comprising community representatives, and in partnership with the National Lottery Community Fund, 3-year grants have been made to 10 local organisations so that they can continue their excellent work in the aftermath of the fire. In 2020/21 the third year grant payments were made, totalling £240,000. We facilitate regular meetings to encourage collaboration and information exchange among the ten grant recipients.

Community Investment Programmes

We continue to work with local residents and organisations to identify 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. In 2020/21, £279,024 was invested in 12 programmes.

Case study



Morley College Enrichment Programme 2020

With support from a Green Shoots grant, the Morley Summer Enrichment in partnership with Tayshan Hayden-Smith of Grow2Know, proved to be a great success. It involved a group of 16-18 year old learners, several of whom were new to the College, as well as wider involvement from the local community.

Happening as it did at the end of the first lockdown, the project provided a significant and hugely appreciated burst of outdoor activity for six weeks from mid-July to the end of August. As well as the transformation of the outdoor space at the front of the College, the clearing and planting of raised beds and the creation of new garden features and signage, the project also immersed the participants in a whole range of wider outdoor activities, with visits to other local projects. The Morley Heart Gardens is a welcome addition to the Morley North Kensington College.

K+C Foundation's response to the Covid-19 pandemic

In March 2020 we launched our Covid-19 Appeal for K+C, to support local partners as they worked to meet the needs of the most vulnerable in our community during the pandemic and to rebuild services over the longer-term.

As a result of the incredible donations we received from our community, we reached over 17,000 residents in need. Food parcels were provided to elderly people and to families who were struggling; digital equipment to provide care and company online; safe spaces for children to play and exercise; online literacy lessons for children whose reading was behind; and employment and debt advice to the increasing numbers of residents who had lost their jobs and faced an uncertain future.

Case studies

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust played a central role in responding to the initial outbreak of Covid-19 across our communities. It became evident that many patients were lonely and, in some cases, distressed, as visitors were no longer allowed, particularly those in the ICU wards. Through our partnership with LMAX Group, we were able to provide funding for 60 tablets for use by patients who faced isolation and loneliness as they recovered from their illnesses. In addition, the tablets were and continue to be used by staff for remote working.



"This support has been instrumental in getting our hospitals through this incredibly challenging period."

Tejinda Pan, Head of Development, CW+

North Kensington Hearts and Minds

Bay 20 Community Centre closed to the public in March 2020. A grant from the Covid Appeal Fund was used to equip a community kitchen with equipment, food, transport and staff. The team supported homeless people, vulnerable individuals and families who were self-isolating in their homes without a support network to help with shopping and cooking.



Each day, for the first twelve weeks of lockdown, 85 people received a main meal with salad and fruit. Once a week a mini-foodbank was run on site in collaboration with Unity Grove CIC.

B's story

B was homeless when he first went to Bay 20 pre-Covid. He was suffering with mental health and drug abuse issues. The team had been working with B and had started to make a real breakthrough with him. B is very musical, and Bay 20 arranged were exploring a prospective music programme for homeless people to give back to the communities that support them by offering free music lessons. During the first lockdown B was supported with meals but his mental health worsened, and he was admitted to hospital.

Just before Christmas 2020 B returned to Bay 20 to thank the team for the meals and advice he had received. B is now receiving full support through the hospital and living with his son.

K+C Foundation working in partnership – Christmas In A Box

Christmas In A Box was a project organised and executed by The K+C Christmas Collective, a group of frontline charities working across the borough to deliver services to vulnerable residents. The aim was to ensure that, in the context of extreme restrictions on social interaction during the Covid 19 pandemic and the financial hardships caused by successive lockdowns, vulnerable single residents and families received Christmas In A Box parcels providing a delicious Christmas meal, gifts and good cheer for the festive season.

- In total the boxes reached 8,365 people in need including 220 homeless people
- In addition, we supplied Christmas gifts to 20 in-patients at the children's eating disorder unit in Kensington



This project would not have been possible without the support of our incredible army of volunteers and supporters.

- 262 volunteers donated their time and efforts to the project, clocking up 1,080 volunteer hours
- 14 local schools and 1 local nursery supported the project with donated gifts, handmade cards and/or fundraising activity

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.



To speak to us about our work and any of the projects we support, contact team@thekandcfoundation.com