

2022 – 2023



Waltham Forest Community Hub

Annual Report



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ORGANISATION DETAILS



Waltham Forest Community Hub

Since 2005

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2023 - 2024



WHO WE ARE

WF Community Hub was established in 2005 by a group of local people whose vision was to create an active community Centre for local residents.

The organisation still operates with these roots at the heart of everything it does: supporting marginalized and socially excluded people through our charitable work.



Our Mission

Our Mission

We are committed to bringing together and leading the community, providing opportunities and resources that value and empower all. The Community Hub is a trusted resource for the local community; a conduit that brings people together. We are open and accessible to more people, especially those who are isolated. The Community Hub is host to a wide range of activities run for the community. People from across the community have the opportunity to share their skills and time through volunteering. More people know about us, get involved, learn new things and develop their potential.

Our Values

- Welcoming
- Collaborative
- Empowering
- Inclusive
- Adaptable
- Ambitious

Our Aims

1. Developing a sustainable organisation that can meet the future needs of the community.
2. Reducing isolation and improving wellbeing amongst marginalised communities.
3. Engaging and empowering young people to participate grow and achieve.
4. Strengthening the community by sharing our space, voice and expertise





WF Community Hub

Our Trustees

The success of our organization is intrinsically tied to the guidance, leadership, and dedication of our esteemed board of trustees. Comprising individuals of exceptional expertise, vision, and commitment, our trustees play a pivotal role in shaping our strategic direction and ensuring the fulfilment of our mission.

Board Composition and Expertise

Our board of trustees is composed of a diverse group of individuals, each bringing a unique blend of skills, experiences, and perspectives to the table. Their collective expertise spans various fields including finance, law, technology, marketing, healthcare, and education. This diversity empowers our organization with a well-rounded and comprehensive approach to decision-making and governance.



Our Trustees



Yoga Singh Kabra
Chair



Steve Hillman
Vice Chair



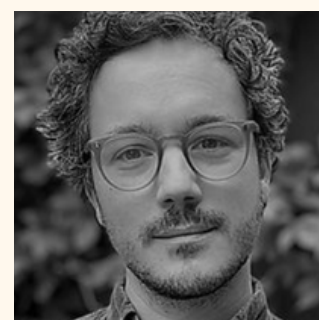
Shelly Hopkins
Vice Chair



Fiona Gilbert
Secretary



Shahid Majid
Treasurer



Finn Grant
Trustee

Our Trustees

Vision for the Future

Looking ahead, our board of trustees remains committed to propelling our organization's growth and impact. We envision a future where our programs touch more lives, our initiatives drive positive change, and our collaborative approach leads to enduring success.

Appreciation

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our esteemed board of trustees for their unwavering dedication and invaluable contributions. Their guidance steers us toward greater heights, ensuring that our organization continues to be a beacon of positive change in the communities we serve.



Anita Sharma
Trustee



Khayyam Aslam
Trustee



Steve Tippell
Trustee



Jess Goodwin
Trustee



Faiz Yunis
Trustee



Imran Iqbal
Trustee



Rosemary Perrett
Trustee



Our Team



Our success is driven by the collective expertise, dedication, and passion of our diverse team members. With a shared commitment to excellence, innovation, and collaboration, our team stands as a testament to the foundation upon which our achievements are built.



Monwara Ali
Chief Executive Officer



Sandra Jerome
Head of Operations



Emmanuel Benedetti
Finance Manager



Rebecca Bethune
Befriending service Manager



Arun Nadarajah
Housing Advice Service Manager



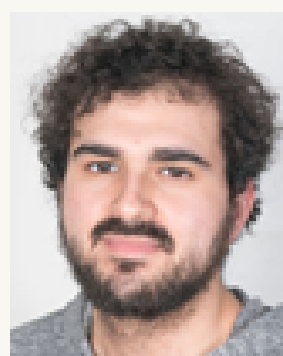
Shaun Scanlon
Youth Service Manager



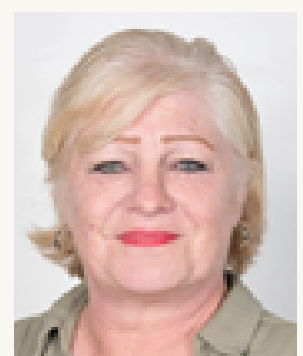
Sonita Turner
Befriending Volunteer Coordinator



Hamza Abdulwahi
Youth Employability Officer



Omar Idrissi
Marketing & Communications Officer



Lyn Jethwa
Intergenerational Project Officer



OUR YOUTH SERVICE

Our Youth services are dedicated to bringing a positive change in the lives of young people, providing safe spaces where young people can interact, engage and develop their skills for the future.

We engaged a total of 433 young people aged 11-19 by offering open-access Youth Clubs 3 evenings a week in areas across Waltham Forest in addition to an 8-week Stronger Futures program.





OUR YOUTH ACTIVITIES



SPACES MADE SAFER

Spaces Made Safer is a project providing free football coaching to young people in the borough of Waltham Forest. We also offer employability opportunities throughout the year. This project runs every Friday night from 6 pm - 8 pm.

Clients	Sessions	Attendances
306	52	2182



STRONGER FUTURES PROGRAM

This course covers a multitude of activities which are geared to unlock and develop new skills. Participants create and pitch social action projects, manage awarded projects, and conclude with a four-week employability skills course. Young individuals undertake workshops, craft CVs, attend job fairs, and undergo interview training.

Clients	Sessions	Attendances
40	32	260



OUR YOUTH ACTIVITIES



PRIORY COURT

Priory Court Youth Club is one of our longest-running youth provisions. We offer 1-2-1 mentoring sessions as well as upskilling workshops to provide young people with the opportunity to grow and develop. We also offer activities such as outdoor football, table tennis, board games and more.

Clients	Sessions	Attendances
57	50	642



ALDRICHE WAY

This youth club is a hub of activity, offering table tennis, foosball, and air hockey for lively recreation. We look to foster creativity with cooking sessions and diverse workshops, providing a space where young people engage in both leisure and skill-building activities, harnessing a young person's personal growth.

Clients	Sessions	Attendances
30	52	397



YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS

COLLABORATION

This year we collaborated with Morgan Sindall and Aston group. By pooling our efforts, we've harnessed collective expertise to address the multifaceted needs of our service users.



CREATING PARTNERSHIPS

These partnerships have fostered community engagement and continuous learning, ensuring that our services remain responsive to the evolving needs of the young people in our community.



COMMUNITY HOUSING ADVICE SERVICE

We have made significant strides in our mission to support individuals in need of housing assistance. We are proud to report that we have successfully assisted a total of 452 individuals in their pursuit of housing stability.

Our dedicated team and partners have been unwavering in addressing a wide range of housing-related issues

This service is made possible through the generous funding of Trust for London, an organization dedicated to addressing pressing social issues and improving the lives of Londoners.



Trust for London

Tackling poverty and inequality



HOUSING IMPACT IN 2023!

138

- Hackney Community Law Centre -
138 service users were seen by a legal advisor and were given further legal support relating to their housing case.

239

- Shelter -
239 service users approached the WF Community Hub Housing advice service needing advice in relation to their current housing situation.

52

- One-Off Advice -
52 service users were seen by a housing advisor at the community hub on Tuesdays once every three weeks.

10

- HEET -
10 service users' properties were checked for structural defects

HOUSING ADVICE SERVICE KEY COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS



We are working in unison with Hackney Community Law Centre to provide free legal advice to those with housing-related issues.

Our collaboration with the HEET project has been instrumental in advancing our commitment to community well-being.



Shelter is a renowned charity dedicated to helping people struggling with bad housing and homelessness.

Citizens Advice have helped to deliver free, confidential and impartial advice surrounding income maximization





Cadent

Your Gas Network

In the pursuit of our commitment to enhancing the well-being of residents in our borough, we are pleased to report on our collaboration with Cadent Gas Energy in establishing a Warmth Center.

1. Energy Efficiency Education: To educate residents on ways to optimize energy consumption in their homes.
2. Utility Assistance: To offer guidance and assistance in accessing available energy assistance programs, grants, and resources.
3. Promotion of Sustainable Living: To promote sustainable practices, through informative workshops and materials.
4. Distribution of Slow Cookers: To enhance energy efficiency and cost savings.





WHAT WE HAVE DONE DURING THIS COST OF LIVING CRISIS

Our charity has taken a proactive stance to make life easier for those in need. We are proud to highlight our impactful partnership with Cadent Gas, which has allowed us to provide a valuable lifeline to our residents. We have distributed 85 slow cookers to individuals and families who have been significantly affected by the rising costs of daily essentials.



SLOW COOKERS GIVEN BY SERVICE

Youth Service	Befriending	Housing Advice
14	21	50



BEFRIENDING SERVICE



The past year has been particularly challenging, with the ongoing cost of living crisis affecting the mental health of many in our community.

OUR COMMUNITY SPACE

Our commitment to building a vibrant and inclusive community is at the heart of our mission. In the past year, we have taken significant strides through a diverse range of free community events that have brought people together and empowered individuals to thrive.





COMMUNITY EVENTS



COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

We established 'Community Open Days' as a platform for organizations to connect with the public. We provide a platform to collectively address the numerous challenges our community encounters.

Our Community Open Day!

- 80 attendees and 23 service stall holders.
- 91% felt they learnt more about other services from attending the COD.

Quotes from Attendees of the Community Open Day

"It was a great opportunity to network and find out what is happening in the borough."
"There were a wide variety/broad range of organizations present and services available."
"Great to see and meet so many other people from the community"



VOICES OF OUR SERVICE USERS

AALIYAH

“I first came to the Waltham Forest Community Hub through the Stronger Futures program. The project was really fun and gave me a number of tools which I could use later in life. I created a CV and was able to apply to colleges in Waltham Forest. The Community Hub also helped me get my first job which I am forever grateful. So when I needed to do my work experience I couldn't think of a better place. I really enjoyed my time here and it has truly been an absolute privilege.”



PAULINE

“I have been coming to the Community Hub for the past 4 years. We started coming to the lunch club on Thursdays which I thoroughly enjoy. I really enjoy all the meals we have had, they are really lovely and It's nice to see different people. We also started coming to the coffee morning which is completely different but also very enjoyable. There have been a few times where I have been unwell and I really do miss it, I always look forward to the following week.”



VOICES OF OUR SERVICE USERS

BOB

“I come here because I like the food and because I like the company, it saves me sitting in doors talking to myself. I come to the coffee morning, seniors lunch club and the Christmas dinner. The people are really friendly and nice. The meals are also something I really like, especially the Christmas lunch.”



HOUSING ADVICE QUOTE

“At the Waltham Forest Community Hub I approached the housing advice service. The support I received was beyond my expectations. Arun was extremely helpful and compassionate. He assisted me and my family in our time of need, he directed me to the right people who helped me regain control of my situation. I am forever grateful to Arun and everyone at the Waltham Forest Community Hub. Thank you for your service.”

A background image showing a financial chart with a magnifying glass. The chart features a blue line graph and a blue bar chart. The y-axis has numerical values: 1,200, 1,500, 2,000, 4,000, 6,000, and 8,000. The magnifying glass is positioned over the right side of the chart, focusing on the bar chart area.

FINANCIAL REVIEW (INCOME)

INCOME 2022-2023

Hall Hire	£60,119
Inter - Generational	£11,030
Youth Activities	£1,152
Donations/Fundraising	£5,236
Grants	£268,281
Total Income	£345,818

We are pleased to report a substantial increase in grants received during the year. This is a testament to our effective grant application strategies and the recognition of our community-driven initiatives by funding organizations.

While we continue to engage with our generous supporters, we did experience a slight dip in fundraising efforts compared to the previous year. This challenge has prompted us to explore new fundraising avenues and revisit our existing strategies to ensure sustained support for our mission.

Despite the challenges in fundraising and donations, our organization has made remarkable strides in optimizing venue hire revenue. This achievement reflects our commitment to financial sustainability and our dedication to serving the community.



FINANCIAL REVIEW (EXPENDITURE)

EXPENDITURE 2022-2023

Expenditure Breakdown	Total
Salaries Administration	£22,222
Salaries Services	£192,753
Fundraising	£7,957
Project Management	£20,832
Training & Consultancy	£40,355
Other	£50,647
Total	£334,766

We have increased our level of investment in project management, fundraising, and training. As an organisation, we are looking at where we spend our money and how impactful those areas are to the development and expansion of our organisation in order to meet the needs of our local community.

The increased budget for project management, fundraising, and training is not just an expenditure but an essential component of organizational growth, sustainability, and impact. These areas contribute to our organization's ability to effectively deliver on its mission, attract supporters, and remain adaptable and competitive in our ever-changing climate.



The Year Ahead 2023 - 2024

We believe that everyone has the skills and potential to grow and develop. By providing resources, our space and expertise we look to strengthen the community of Waltham Forest.







Learn More about our work

Follow us on Social Media



Website

www.wfchub.org



Twitter

@wfchub



Instagram

@wfcmmhub

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Facebook

@Waltham Forest Community



Email Address

info@wfchub.org



Youtube

The Community Hub