

INSPIRING ELEPHANT COMMUNITY FUND

2022-23 REPORT



Photo: Superarts Academy

INSPIRING ELEPHANT COMMUNITY FUND
ELEPHANT & CASTLE. NEW KENT ROAD. LONDON

SEPTEMBER 2023

THE FUND

The Inspiring Elephant Community Fund aims to support the local community of Elephant and Castle for the next five years through distributing £50,000 per year in grants to charities that support the community in and around Elephant and Castle Town Centre.

Project funding across three priorities

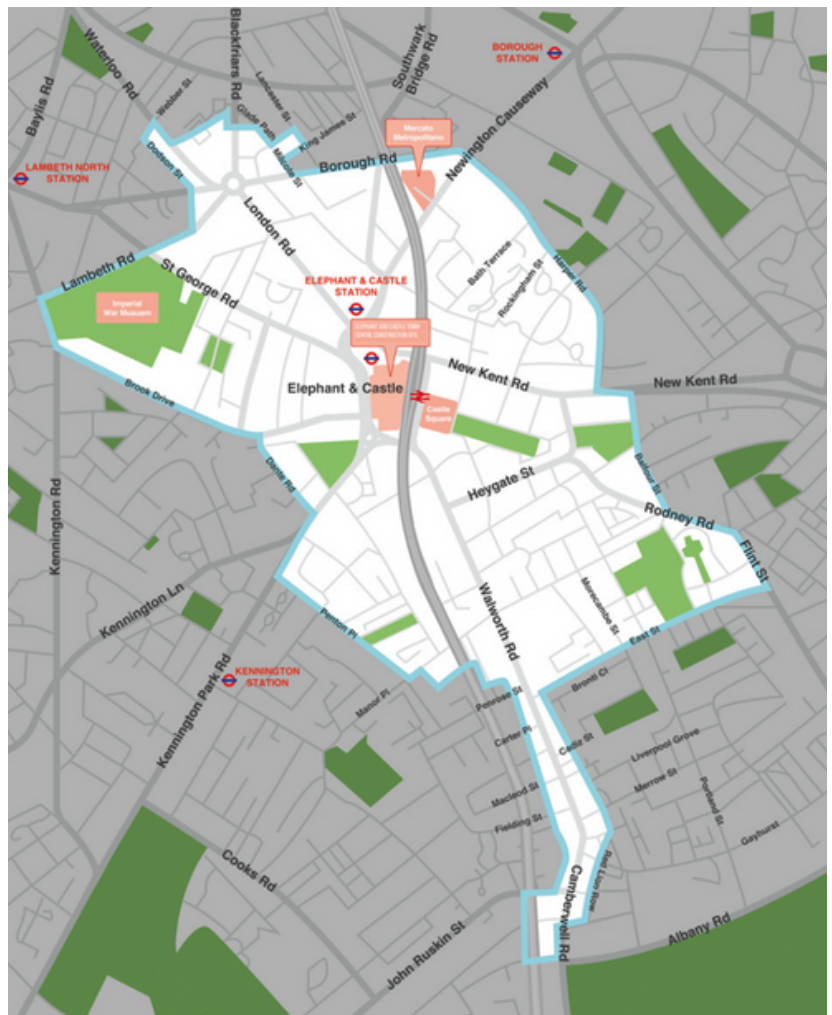
In year one (2022), community organisations could apply for grants of up to £5,000 for projects up to 12-months in line with one of three priorities of Communities & People, Health & Wellbeing and Young People & Training.

Participatory Grants Panel

The aim of the Fund is to deliver greater social value for local residents. A grants panel of local community leaders which includes members of the Community Hub and representatives from Get Living and Southwark Council consider all applications.

Year One

This report covers the granting period of 2022-23 and the outcomes reported from funded projects that delivered up until summer 2023.



“The most significant changes were helping people that have no access to smartphones or the internet”

-Latin American Disabled People's Project on their digital services grant

FUND REACH IN 2022-23

The Inspiring Elephant Community Fund was open for applications in February and March 2022 for local projects seeking funding. The Fund received over 20 applications requesting over £108,000. This was more than double the available budget, clearly highlighting a need for this Fund and support for community groups delivering a wide range of activities in and around Elephant & Castle.

23 Applications received 

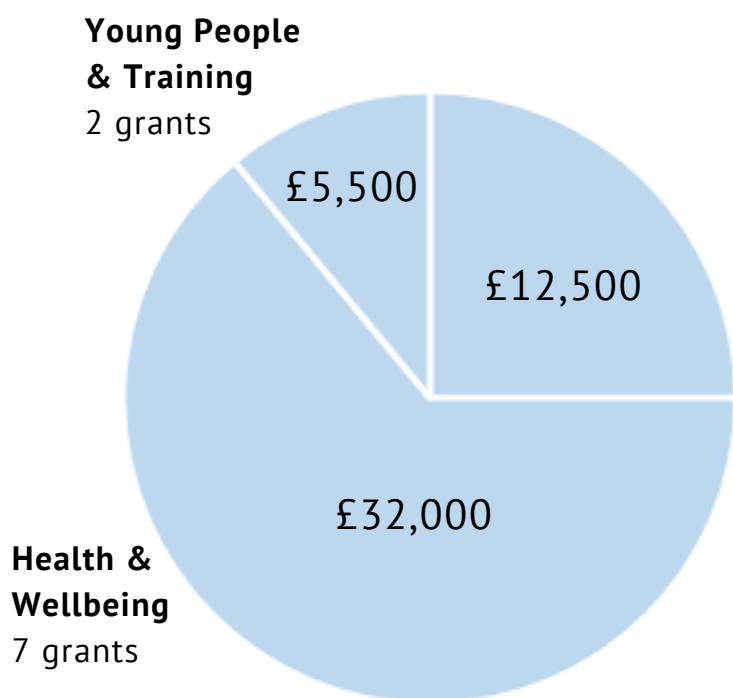
£108,203 Requested 

GRANT RECIPIENTS

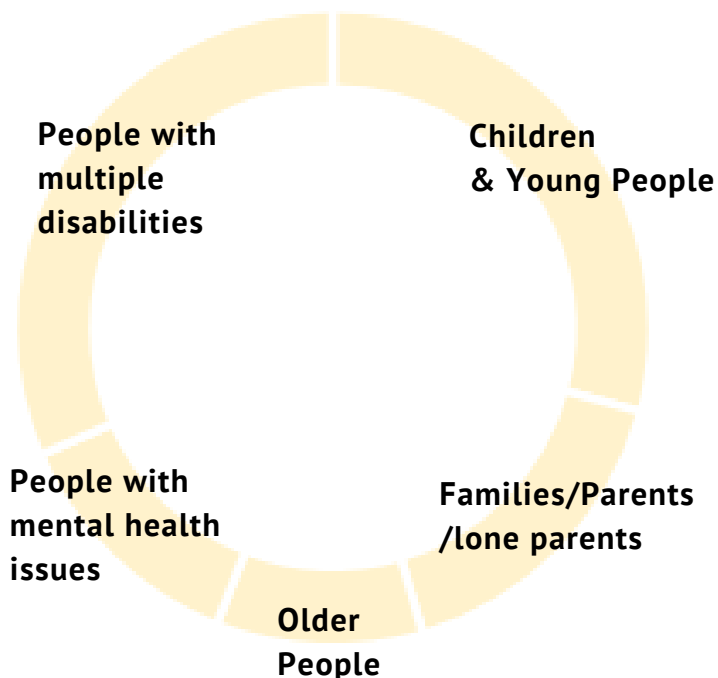
£50,000 was granted to 12 community projects

1,387
BENEFICIARIES
REACHED

61
VOLUNTEERS
INVOLVED



Communities
& People
3 grants



Top Chart: The number of grants and total awarded in each Fund priority

Right Chart: A breakdown of beneficiary reach across all funded projects by primary beneficiary grouping. **However, all projects most likely had beneficiaries that were in various and overlapping groupings**



Photo: Latin American Disabled People's Project

GRANT AWARDS

Organisation	Project Name	Priority	Grant Award
Blackfriars Settlement	Positive Ageing at the Elephant	Communities & People	4,500
Latin American Disabled People's Project	Training in Digital Services	Communities & People	4,500
St. Jude's Senior Citizen Club	Social Club	Communities & People	3,500
Afro-Brazilian Arts & Cultural Exchange Institute	Fighting Inequality	Health & Wellbeing	4,000
Draper Together CIO	Empowering Parent Project	Health & Wellbeing	4,950
Mental Fight Club	Dragon Cafe at The Elephant and Castle	Health & Wellbeing	4,500
Pembroke College Settlement	Dt17	Health & Wellbeing	4,000
Platform Cricket	Platform Cricket Elephant & Castle	Health & Wellbeing	4,850
Silverfit Ltd	Silverfit in Elephant and Castle	Health & Wellbeing	4,900

Superarts Academy of Performing Arts	Dance around the world for 2-4 yrs	Health & Wellbeing	4,800
Southwark Playhouse	Southwark Playhouse Young Company	Young People & Training	3,000
The Sapphire Community Group	The Sapphire Employability Academy	Young People & Training	2,500



COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

A few collective outcomes achieved from the 12 completed projects, compiled from data provided by groups in the end of grant reports.



521

PEOPLE ACCESSED
SUPPORT SERVICES

350

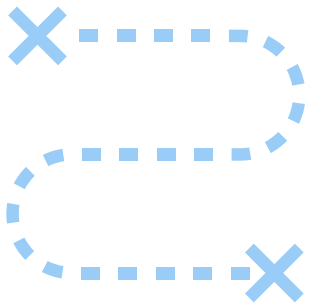
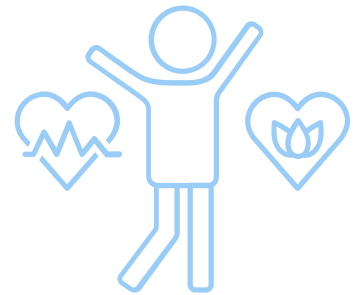
PEOPLE PROVIDED WITH
SUPPORT THAT ASSISTED
WITH INDEPENDENT LIVING

466

PEOPLE ATTENDED REGULAR
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES AS A
RESULT OF THE PROJECT

418

REPORTED IMPROVED
PHYSICAL/MENTAL/
EMOTIONAL HEALTH



36

PEOPLE GAINED
NEW SKILLS

11

PEOPLE ATTENDED A
PROJECT DESIGNED TO
DIVERT AWAY FROM ANTI-
SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

“Thank you for your support this year. It has helped us to provide the day to day activities and community so valued by local people. Having somewhere to go to meet local people brings people together and builds community. This is so important in helping people to be able to beat isolation and increase their resilience - so important when tough times come.”
- Blackfriars Settlement

Photo: Blackfriars Settlement



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Afro-Brazilian Arts & Cultural Exchange Institute

The group ran 100 project hours of various local activities such as music, dance and Capoeira martial arts to improve the quality of life for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Among many reported outcomes, the group states most importantly it contributed towards the inclusion of participants that were at risk of becoming socially excluded. Many children and young people made new friendships that they trust will last beyond the life of the project.



Photo: Afro-Brazilian Arts & Cultural Exchange Institute

“Thanks to the Capoeira project I have met many new people and make a few very good friends. I feel like I am much more confident.” - participant, 11 years old

Draper Together CIO

The group delivered violence prevention workshops for parents. Themes included gangs, county lines, knife violence, grooming, social media and online safety, drugs and young people, and girls who are involved in gangs. The group developed materials that parents could refer to in order to stay informed. By having a direct impact on families, the group aims to bring comprehensive change for their communities. They state there is a need for projects such as these because many of the parents feel cut off from society or that they are unable to cultivate a good relationship with the school or the services they may come into contact with.



Photo: Draper Together CIO

“I can't thank you enough for what you have taught me, why doesn't school offer this to parents? It would be so beneficial for parents whose children are faced with these issues because it's really hard for young people nowadays”- parent

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Mental Fight Club

The group ran three full-day creative wellbeing events in their Dragon cafe. The group emphasises how invaluable these sessions are to participants. Many are in desperate need of a venue where they can connect with their peers, engage in arts activities and on a basic level communicate with other members of the community. They also invited Southwark Wellbeing Hub to be in attendance to assist and signpost residents towards any necessary statutory services or essential help.



Photo: Mental Fight Club

"I don't know what I would have done without mental fight club, it's been a literal lifeline for me" - participant

Pembroke College Settlement

The group delivered Dt17, a dance programme for those aged 9-13 with two performances over the course of the year. They also delivered a few school-based workshops at the South Bank University Academy in the Spring to pupils identified by the school as struggling with mood. The group reported an unexpected surge in recruitment/popularity for the project and notes learnings from this on pacing recruitment to ensure class progression. The group states to adjust their content from beneficiary feedback to empower students to have input and the ability to lead.



Photo: Pembroke College Settlement

"Dt17 has gone out of their way to include my son, as well as help him learn solid repetitive routines as well as spontaneous expression in dance, and vital life skills off the dance floor such as how to self-regulate when things get too much. In particular, the team was outstanding when my son needed to change schools urgently. They went out of their way to help him develop a dance routine, and sent videos and detailed text by email to support his endeavour. I was bowled over by their rare degree of dedication and skill..." - parent

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Southwark Playhouse

Southwark Playhouse's two Young Company groups (aged 11 -13 and 14 - 18) each took part in 36 workshops and rehearsals. The 11 - 13 Young Company devised their own short performance entitled 'Roots', which was shared with friends and family at the Playhouse. The 14 - 18 Young Company took part in the National Theatre's Connections project and performed 'Circle Dreams.' This grant allowed them to secure a lead facilitator for the majority of the academic year.



Photo: Southwark Playhouse

"I'm really grateful for the Young Company because I've never had a chance to do these things before; I've never found a drama group where I loved being, and I've found out that I really enjoyed acting in a way I didn't know before. I also found a lot of new people and made a lot of new friends" - participant

St. Jude's Senior Citizens Club

The Club offers signposting services, befriending services, and various social activities. This funding went towards activities over the last year including subsidising outings for members who had financial challenges. It enabled activities such as board games, exercise classes, cooking sessions, health-related workshops and day trips including Horniman Museum, Kew Gardens and a seaside trip to Margate. The additional laptop this grant helped to purchase has supported members to be more comfortable with online learning and has given the group more resources for their media training.



Photo: St. Jude's Senior Citizens Club

"I love the social side of this group, I would normally be at home on my own and each week I feel encouraged to come out"

***"I like the open discussion we have and it's a safe space and the different topic"
-two participants***

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Photo: Silverfit

**REPORT COMPILED FROM END OF GRANT REPORTS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED
FROM 2022-23 PROJECTS OF THE INSPIRING ELEPHANT COMMUNITY FUND**

Elephant & Castle. New Kent Road. London. SE1 6TE

SEPTEMBER 2023