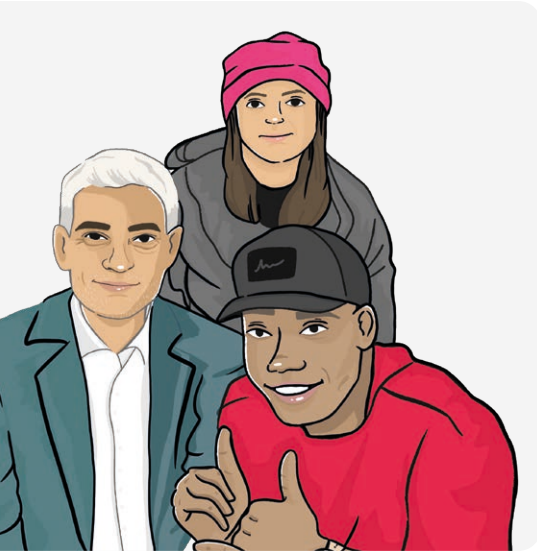


Communities And  
Neighbourhoods Directorate  
Annual Report  
**2018-2019**



We

Do



Things

Differently



# Introduction & Highlights

Welcome to this year's edition of We Do Things Differently. This yearly report highlights some of the most impactful programmes and services delivered by the Communities and Neighbourhoods (CaN) Directorate of Poplar HARCA. We implement most of these in co-operation with a variety of service providers in and outside the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

In this report, we present a number of case studies that reflect how much local residents and the community as a whole appreciate the difference that CaN provisions make in their lives. From children and young people, adults and the elderly, we recount stories shared by people who have been at the heart of everything we do.

For the first time, we are including the social impact value of the opportunities that we offer to local people based on our use of the Social Value Bank developed by the Housing Associations Charitable Trust (HACT). This tool is widely used by housing associations across the UK to demonstrate the social value of their community-focused activities. We have recently received our Certification from HACT, an evidence of the robustness with which we apply the values to our outcomes.

The CaN Directorate congratulates all its staff members, volunteers and partners who have worked as hard as ever to create the best opportunities for everyone as we try to tackle the reality of poverty in our neighbourhoods. We thank our funders, donors and members of Poplar HARCA Board

of Directors and Committees, who continue to trust in the innovative ways by which CaN addresses the needs of our diverse communities especially the most vulnerable and those who face multiple barriers in life.



## Employment & Training

**320**  
People Into Jobs

**493**  
People Achieving Accreditation

**1:9.4**  
Ratio of Budget to Social Value

Social Value Achieved  
**£4.2M**

## Spotlight

**3,780**  
Young People Engaged

**1:8.4**  
Ratio of Budget to Social Value

Social Value Achieved  
**£3.7M**

## Centres & Wellone

**4,070**  
People Engaged in Health Activities

**1:9.6**  
Ratio of Budget to Social Value

Social Value Achieved  
**£8.6M**

## Volunteering

**363**  
Volunteers

**1:8.2**  
Ratio of Budget to Social Value

Social Value Achieved  
**£1.0M**

“

We thank everyone, who continues to trust in the innovative ways by which CaN addresses the needs of our diverse communities especially the most vulnerable and those who face multiple barriers in life.”





# Spotlight

## Engaging Young People

Our youth service hit the headlines when London Mayor Sadiq Khan visited our world-class facility in November 2018 and took part in a studio session with Spotlight's young music talents. He used the occasion to announce a new £13-million fund created to be invested

in local community projects helping young people fulfil their potential and build a better future. This was a massive accomplishment for the service as Spotlight is one of the few organisations awarded the highest amount of funding. This is a testament to how much we have achieved as we approach our 5-year anniversary. The young people who attended were really encouraged

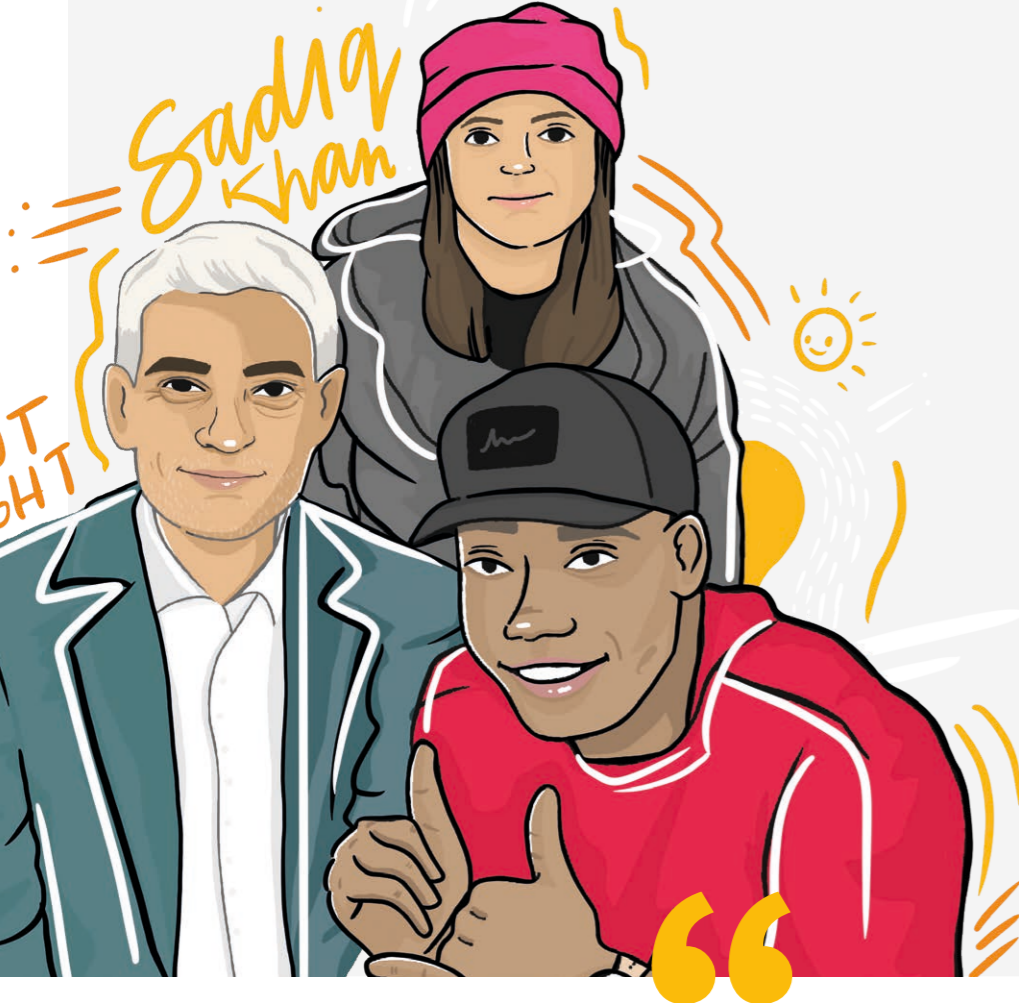
to see the Mayor take the time to engage face to face with them and impress the importance of investing in opportunities for the young.

The occasion, attended by local and national press, enabled the young people not just to showcase their talents through their performances but also to voice their opinions. It gave them a platform to challenge the negative images portrayed by the press about young people in London and offer positive stories of their ambitions and successes.

Isaac, stage name XI, said: "My music is trying to help the young people, trying to put them out of a place, a form of escapism". Praising Spotlight, he added that once young people "see the light here, then they're able to go out into the world and share the light with other people".

Jordanne, who performed her original song 'Red Gold and Green' said, "Through building my confidence I can talk to other people and it just allows me to be the better version of myself".

Aaron, one of our Creative Youth Workers also praised the Mayor's visit: "To have the Mayor here was amazing and I think, more than anything, him giving feedback to the young people is going to give them that extra bit of encouragement to go forward in their careers".



**"My music is trying to help the young people. Once they "see the light here at Spotlight, then they're able to go out into the world and share the light with other people."**

Isaac, stage name XI

**"Spotlight and the Youth Empowerment Programme has taught me not to be afraid of expressing your own opinion. If you believe in it, you don't need anyone else to back that up."**

Atiya Khanom

**3,780**  
Young People Engaged

**1:8.4**  
Ratio of Budget to Social Value

Social Value Achieved  
**£3.7M**

Service Now Covers  
**6 Wards**

Grant Award of  
**£767k**  
from GLA

Atiya joined Spotlight's Youth Empowerment Programme in January 2019. At that time, she was very reserved and would engage in group activity but lacked confidence and self-esteem to fully participate. She has disclosed that she has struggles with her mental health, and that she has a complex relationship with her family.

After months of being in the programme, Atiya has grown in confidence and has become a more empowered young person. She has said that she finds it easier to say 'yes' to things now, and is more open to new ideas and perspectives.

She feels more in touch with her own sensitivity, and has realised that, actually, it's a blessing to be sensitive and emotionally aware.

Atiya has grown personally, professionally and socially as a result of attending the programme. She has named people she now counts as friends, and she plans to apply to the University of Cambridge to study illustration and design, having attended a trip there during the Easter holidays.

“

**"I am more open to new ideas and perspectives now. I feel more in touch with my own sensitivity, and I have also realised that actually, it's a blessing to be emotionally aware."**

Empowerment Programme



**Atiya Khanom**

# Spotlight Inspiring Young People

The mayor's visit is but one of the year's highlights for our youth service. Its achievements have included among many others: engaging 3,780 young people across six wards, release of its in-house record label's second album 'Spotlight Sounds Season Two' and the launch of a music studio in one of its six sites.

Two of the record label's artists, Jasmine and CL, even made it onto DJ Target's show on Radio 1Xtra, where they were interviewed and had the chance to play their tracks.

DJ Target also praised Spotlight, saying "coming from [Tower Hamlets] as well, there are constant challenges as a young person coming up and trying to pursue your dreams, so it was great firstly to see that there's something like Spotlight that is doing what they do." He also extolled Spotlight's ability to "help to unlock that creativity" in young people.

Its successful outreach programme has been highlighted at a CIH (Chartered Institute of Housing) Conference.

Also in 2018, Spotlight launched its Youth Empowerment Programme, as part of the Home Office-funded project, 'Building a Stronger Britain Together'. This eight-month project brought together a group of young people to empower them as individuals, leaders and members of the community. They were also provided with the opportunity to visit institutions such as the University of Cambridge, UNICEF and Houses of Parliament.

Spotlight has also hosted a series of highly successful events, including its third Young People's Question Time. This packed-out event offered a space for young people to bring their questions and challenges to local politicians and leaders in a productive environment. This was preceded by Spotlight's 'Celebrating Women' event for International Women's Day 2019, a time of sharing with female entrepreneurs, creators and sportspeople, capped with a night of music and performances at Poplar Union.



**"It was great to see there's something like Spotlight that is doing what they do... to help to unlock young people's creativity."**

DJ Target, Radio 1Xtra

**"It has increased my confidence, made me empowered to make life decisions and so happy to have developed healthy relationships with other young people."**

Suraj Sanusi

”

Suraj grew up in the Lincoln area and has been attending the Linc Centre Junior Youth Club since he was in primary school. Now 16, he has started attending one of the new Spotlight sites, Bromley South, in 2018.

Suraj was quite anti-social when he first joined Bromley South. He struggled to manage his anger and also hang around other young boys who were known for taking part in anti-social behaviour. He has just finished school and is planning to go to College to study Media.

At first it was hard to engage with him as he did not want to be bothered. Suraj was a victim of stabbing, something that happened at the back of the Centre while he was in a session sometime ago.

After recovering from the incident, he was referred to Bromley South to do cooking sessions.

While at the sessions, Suraj opened up about being stabbed and carrying a knife for protection as he was traumatised by what had happened to him. After weeks of actively participating in the cooking sessions, he became a real leader and started to take control of the kitchen. He helped others and shared the skills that he had learnt. He had enjoyed the cooking sessions and even started creating his own recipes. Through the sessions Suraj became confident, engaging, funny and more talkative.

Suraj has joined the Youth Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) Team where he is advising Tower Hamlets police on how to improve their services sharing with them his encounter with the police and crime.

Suraj has also been active in Spotlight on You sessions and has also made a big contribution to the Spray Paint Work on the outside of the Linc Centre.

“

**"The cooking was nice, I learnt a lot of new techniques and the support from staff was great."**



Suraj Sanusi



# Employment & Training Getting People Into Work

Our Employment & Training Team (E & T) continues to provide a holistic and targeted service to enable local residents to get into sustainable jobs. This year, the service has catered for a variety of groups like the over 50's and women who want to work in the health sector in partnership with LBTH's Work Path. It was commissioned by North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) to deliver training for disabled people who want to work within the health sector. This cohort did their work placement with the NELFT which is engaging disabled people through a targeted programme for the first time.

The team has likewise completed the delivery of a programme for a cohort of young participants leaving care, which was a real life changing experience for the 18-24 year olds. With EECF, they also delivered E.S.E.Y, a project that targeted young people not in employment. It was delivered over 3 weeks to develop key soft skills and provided one week work placement to young people in the group. Corporate organisations were involved in the delivery.

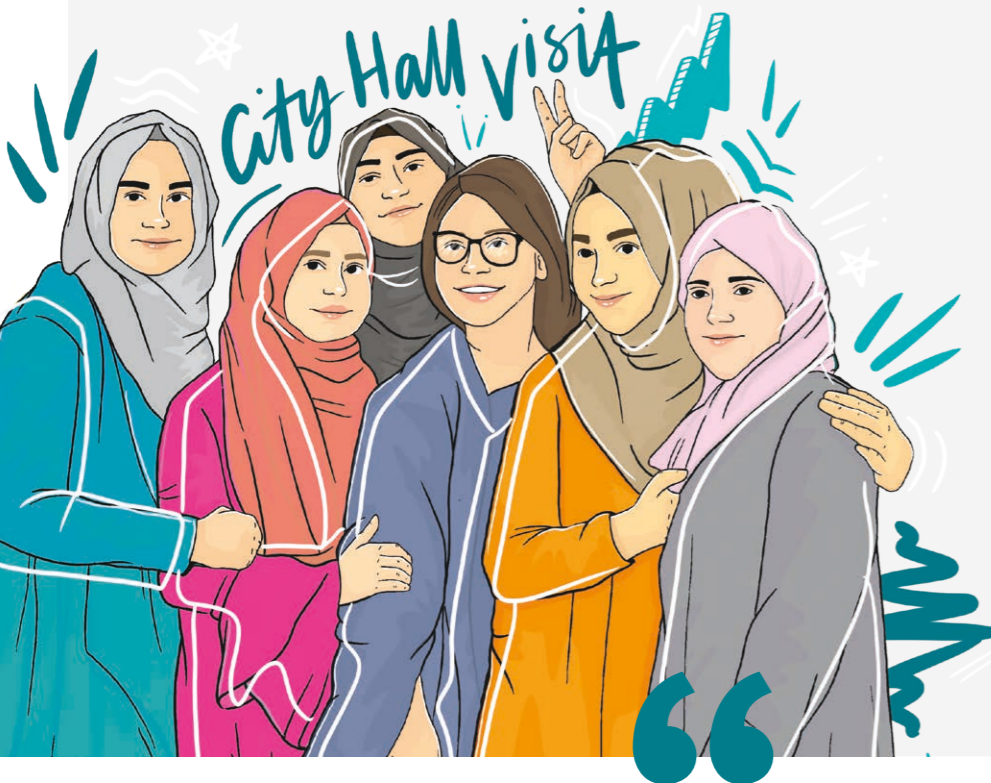
The service also worked with schools like Manorfield School in Teviot to deliver training courses like IT skills and paediatric First Aid.

They facilitated training such as barista training via Well-Grounded and money management skills via Quaker Social Action run at our neighbourhood centres. They also worked in partnership with Metropolitan Housing which deliver a programme called Transform and Achieve. This is targeting people who want to develop their soft skills, refresh their CVs and get a reference.

E & T was one of two successful bidders for the Greater London Authority (GLA) ESOL plus programme targeting parents who cannot attend training due to childcare needs. The grant has funded the extra activities which enhanced learning through participation in activities, outings, workshops and volunteering. The project is halfway through completion with 48 women learners sitting their exams.

Also this year, E & T concluded Talent Match, a very innovative youth-centred employment project that lasted 5 years. E & T produced a legacy book that documented the programme's successes.

The team celebrated the achievements of over 120 of its learners this year including 20 Digital Champions who trained more than 100 digital skills learners at a celebration held at London City Hall. The Mayor of London sent a message while John Biggs, LBTH mayor handed out certificates.



**“We can tackle the barriers to social integration and inequalities which divide people with the work that organisations like Poplar HARCA are doing.”**

Mayor Sadiq Khan

**“Talent Match was my saviour and an important milestone in my life. I can finally say that I am proud of myself and have reached things that I never thought I could.”**

Sumaya Begum



### An excerpt case study from Talent Match, A Legacy Book.

We met Sumaya in 2016 at a local jobs fair. She wasn't looking for work at the time but told us that her dream was to work for the NHS. We invited her to take part in our bespoke training programme which gives young people priority access to vacancies within the Health Trust and she accepted.

Early into the course, Sumaya began to open up about her personal life which caused her to break down. She often described herself as a failure who had no qualifications and experienced severe depression. She disclosed a number of difficult personal issues including suffering and escaping from domestic violence at the hands of her husband and felt that she had no hope.

Together with the support of her key worker at Poplar HARCA and her social worker, Sumaya was able to open up about her problems for the first time. We worked with her on a daily basis to overcome her issues in the past and implemented a range of workshops that were focused around emotional intelligence and resilience.

In very little time, Sumaya was able to turn her life around and finally got her life back on track. She has since moved in to a permanent address and has been working for the NHS for the past year. Throughout this time, we have continued to meet with Sumaya to ensure that she is able to sustain work and provide a stable home for her children.

**320**

People Into Jobs

**493**

People Achieving Accreditation

**1:9.4**

Ratio of Budget to Social Value

Social Value Achieved

**£4.2M**

City Hall Celebration for

**120**

Learners



**“I just wanted a safe place to go to and the employment team provided a sense of family.”**



**Sumaya Begum**

# Employment & Training Upskilling For Better Jobs

Michael has worked as a secondary school teacher in a school outside London for six years until 2017. He quit teaching to return to London where he used to live. He had to look after his mother who was very poorly. The situation made him very depressed and he began suffering from anxiety and low self-esteem.

Upon hearing about the Employment & Training Service, he came to register and Akthar Mahmud, one of our advisors worked closely with him and discussed how he could be supported. Akthar referred Michael to other colleagues who encouraged him to attend workshops that enabled him to identify the personal barriers that he has faced.

Together, they worked out ways through which he can overcome these issues. He discussed his wish to set up his own business while deciding whether he would go back to teaching again.

Michael has been very appreciative of the team's support. He says: "Many thanks for checking on me. It is refreshing to see your emails, and reminds me of a community, outside my flat... It cheers me up and inspires me, including writing this email."

"Many thanks for your support Akthar, to Ruki for her advice and to Dermot for his invaluable training"

In April 2019 Michael has been offered temporary employment at a 6th form College. He was offered to cover someone on maternity leave. He taught Animal Management, which made him really busy. This, along with talking therapy sessions have been useful in re-gaining his pride in being a classroom teacher.

Knowing that he can still get teaching contracts, the temporary work has re-invigorated his enthusiasm for developing his teaching consultancy business, even though it has been a bit on hold while he tries to gain sufficient capital.

In September 2019, Michael was invited to apply for a part-time job in the College for which he was successful.



“

**“Many thanks for checking on me. It is refreshing to see your e-mails. It reminds me of a community outside my flat. It cheers me up, and inspires me, including writing this email.”**

Michael Newman

**“I know that it can be hard to wake up in the morning if you don't enjoy your work. Luckily for me, that isn't the case.”**

Danielle Obou

”

Danielle took part in Workpath's 50+ programme, designed to help people over 50 years of age to get back into employment or into employment for the first time, with a mix of training, support and an invaluable work placement.

After being unemployed for five years, Danielle felt that her lack of experience, IT skills, a language barrier and age had made going back to work impossible. Job applications were going nowhere, and she was becoming de-motivated.

Poplar HARCA's employment & training service, provided Business Admin and IT training to her 50+ programme. She also secured a six month work placement within the team! We spoke to her as the six-month programme was coming to an end to ask about her journey.

“The training was really interesting” she says. “The Business Admin course, in particular, gave me a great introduction and insight into the field I'd like to go into. I've been learning a lot, and it's really great being able to tie this learning in with a work placement, putting my learning into practice. IT training once a week has been brilliant - I feel so much more confident using computers now!”

“I've also been really happy with the work placement. It's great to get involved with Poplar HARCA and see the variety of work it does within the community. Having this on my CV will really boost my employability, as well.”

“I know that it can be hard to wake up in the morning if you don't enjoy your work. Luckily for me, that isn't the case!”

“

**“I've been learning a lot, and it's really great being able to tie this learning in with a work placement, putting my learning into practice. IT training once a week has been brilliant - I feel so much more confident using computers now.”**

*Business Admin Course*



**Danielle Obou**



# WellOne

## Improving Health & Well-being

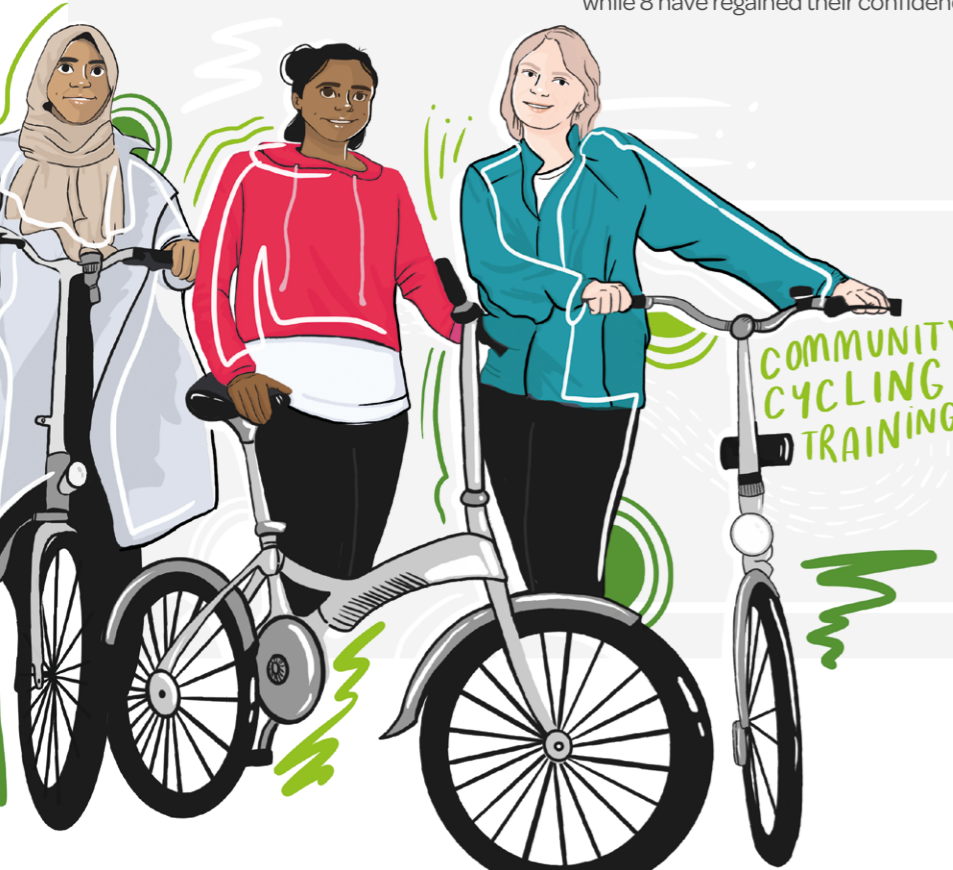
The Well One Partnership continues to grow in size, with more members joining. The network has been established by Poplar HARCA and pulls together local stakeholders (GPs, LBTH, Public Health, schools, QMUL, Morgan Stanley, community organisations, housing associations, etc.) It aims to increase levels of physical activity, healthy eating and social capital in Poplar (LAP 6 & 7). Its website [www.wellone.co.uk](http://www.wellone.co.uk), has been a valuable resource for local people to find out about local health provisions and activities. GPs and other health professionals use it more and more to signpost patients who can benefit from health activities. The website has 750 unique visitors per month while social media (Twitter) followers have increased to 426, 770 (likes) and 3,641 impressions in over 28 days.

Poplar HARCA's contribution to the programme includes working with partners to deliver physical exercises sessions in our network of neighbourhood Centres. This year 4,070 people accessed health-related provision from Centres and other community hubs. The activities ranged from mild to medium physical exercises, indoor and outdoor sports, healthy eating & cooking sessions, gardening and meditative sessions such as Yoga.

Our community cycling training, delivered free via Cycling Confident and later by Bikeworks and both funded by LBTH, has continued to attract local residents especially Bangladeshi women. From September 2018 to March 2019, 4 Bangladeshi women who have never cycled before have now learned to do so, while 8 have regained their confidence

to ride on the roads. Jointly with partners Sustrans, we have organised local practice rides to prepare new riders to join and enjoy the annual Prudential London Freecycle family event.

Our neighbourhood Centres staff have continued to support the work of 15 local gardening groups involved in our Food Growing Programme especially during preparations for the growing season. They also co-ordinate links with corporate volunteers to prepare for their visits during July and August. Limborough Green Hub (which integrates healthy cooking via the Live Well Kitchen, green play and on-site seeds propagation in the community Greenhouse), remains our most visited local garden. Live Well Kitchen in Limborough Green Hub hosted the 2nd Cook Off to showcase success of combined veggie growing & cooking on a budget training for healthier communities.



**"It's incredible how very quickly I have learned to cycle, thanks to my amazing trainers! I can now cycle with my children instead of losing them whenever they go cycling in the park. I feel much fitter and healthier."**

Rita Loggali

**"I love seeing the plants grow, the flowers bloom, it's magic!... Volunteering here is a lifeline for me. Thanks to Poplar HARCA."**

Magdalene Leighton



**4,070**

People Engaged in Health Activities

**750**

Unique Visitors per Month to WellOne Website

**15**

Local Gardening Groups

Bartlett Park Due For Completion Late

**2019**

Magdalene used to be a carer working fulltime in a Nursing home. Two years ago, she was made redundant from the Home so ended up jobless. She has been searching for jobs since then to no avail. She lives on her own as she is single and has no children. She used to spend time with her parents in St. Lucia while she was jobless but when her parents died, she has lost the motivation to leave London. She has been very lonely and felt really sluggish due to lack of work; "I was a workaholic and the care home was my second home. I would ask others to call in sick just so I can take their place to work in the week-ends. Losing a 7-day job just left me depressed.

I am thankful to my Advisor at Poplar HARCA for introducing me, first, to the One Digital Training Course and then to the volunteering opportunity at Limborough garden. I've never known how to navigate the Internet. All I know was look after old people. I have a mobile phone but I never knew how to use a laptop, let alone a PC. They have introduced me to a whole new world. "Going to Limborough garden made me happy. It's a space where I can relax while tending to some of the plants. It makes me come out of my house and spend a productive day." "I love seeing the plants grow, the flowers bloom, it's magic! Volunteering here is a lifeline for me. Thanks to Poplar HARCA."



**"I am thankful to my Advisor at Poplar HARCA for introducing me, first, to the One Digital Training Course and then to the volunteering opportunity at Limborough garden."**



**Magdalene Leighton**

# Volunteering

## Enabling Time & Skills-Sharing

The youth section of our volunteering programme has been in the limelight this year. The hardwork of over 70 young people who contributed their free time, passion and commitment to give something back to their community has been hailed as exemplary. They scooped two awards.

They won Gold at the Eurhonet CSR Awards, an annual ceremony recognising community focused projects implemented by housing associations across Europe who are members of Eurhonet. They also received the London Youth City Leaders – Community Project Award for their project working with the homeless.

At the volunteers’ week in June 2018, the programme recognised the dedication of volunteers by holding a picnic in the park for them and their families. In February 2019, they held a volunteers’ social attended by 40 volunteers across Poplar HARCA.

A grant from Clarion Futures, the charitable foundation of Clarion Housing Group, enabled us to engage and train 20 digital champions (DCs) who in turn supported 100 local residents to learn basic digital skills to improve their job prospects. At the end of the one-year project, six of our digital champions have progressed from being a volunteer to paid employees, some within Poplar HARCA while others got jobs elsewhere. Two of our digital champions got the top awards at the Digital Champion Achievement Awards 2019 run by leading digital learning and skills provider, Digital Unite.

For the first time, we have also introduced volunteering to the Service Hub at our Head Office. It aims to provide opportunities to volunteers looking for some higher level administration experience and public facing engagement. Our first volunteer started in November 2018.



Fahim was a very shy and quiet young person, very reserved and avoided taking part in activities having a very low self-confidence. After hearing that the Spotlight Mile End site is led by a youth worker from the same background as him, he decided to pay the Centre a visit. Since then, he has been a regular at the Mile End Spotlight site.

The youth worker identified that he faces several challenges so they have arranged weekly one to one sessions. As he developed, Fahim expressed a wish to be like his youth worker who makes a difference to the lives of others.

Fahim agreed to take part in an accreditation that will improve his chances of finding part time employment and also agreed to be part of a youth committee whereby they have to volunteer and run a campaign. The Youth committee got the best out of him as he quickly managed to convince others about his passion to make a real difference. He motivated his peers and came out of his shell. Fahim was so

committed he never missed a single session for the past year ever since the youth committee was formed. All the experiences he has gained counted towards his work experience as a Spotlight Representative.

He was equally active in the team’s ‘wash out hate’ campaign which swooped up two awards at the London Youth Awards held in August. One award was for the team and the other was for Fahim demonstrating excellent leadership and commitment.

‘I have come a very long way from when I first started almost a year ago; I remember it was just a normal conversation I had with my youth worker.



**“I have come a very long way from when I first started almost a year ago... Now, I am buzzing with confidence and have my face in billboards.”**

Fahim Faisal



**363**  
Volunteers

**1:8.2**  
Ratio of Budget to Social Value

Social Value Achieved  
**£1.0M**

**10**  
Volunteers Have Progressed Into Jobs



**“I have won 2 awards! This would not have been achieved, without the support of my youth worker.”**

**Fahim Faisal**



# Community Centres Building Resilience

Our neighbourhood centres have been buzzing all year welcoming over 10,000 people from all ages and backgrounds. A grant from LBTH Public Health enabled the Linc Centre to provide breakfast and lunch club for 20 days for 44 local children. Funding from Kitchen Social over 3 years allowed us to run Holiday Food Clubs at Bow Brew Community Café at St. Paul's Way Centre and the Linc Centre.

In co-operation with the Tennis Foundation, centre-based staff have been trained to deliver community tennis. Children's tennis was very popular and enjoyed by kids who have never before held a tennis racket.

One of our Centres also delivered weekly inclusive football sessions. They catered for 5- 12 year-olds with physical disabilities, special educational needs and/or mental health issues and are provided by The West Ham Foundation.

The sessions have made an impact on the participating kids. One of them named Abdullah has loved being able to take part in a sport which he loves so much. The fact that the coach was from a popular team was just the cherry on the cake for him. The coach adapted each of the football skills so that he could join in with his wheelchair which gave him so much confidence. There are few sessions in Tower Hamlets for inclusive football but unfortunately, according to Abdullah's mother Arifa, they do not have suitable grounds for a wheelchair.



**"I really hope the sessions carry on at the Linc as Abdullah has loved attending and being part of a team and gave him something to look forward to after school."**

Arifa,  
Abdullah's Mother



She says that the sessions at the Linc Centre are just right indoor and outdoor.

Also this year, 140 children aged 8-12 enjoyed a fun summer through our Centres' annual summer scheme that included trips to the seaside and adventure parks outside London. Over a hundred of our older residents on the other hand, were treated to an Elders' Tea Dance and Christmas Lunch in Dec 2018. The Christmas do is a culmination of a year-long engagement with Poplar HARCA's older tenants who attend various activities at our different Centres to break isolation and keep fit, happy and healthy.

Our Centres were also hard at work improving our community café offers at St. Paul's Way Centre, the Linc Centre, Teviot Centre, Spotlight and Poplar Union. The Teviot Centre hosted weekly training sessions on beekeeping for adults and awareness workshops for children as part of our partner organisation Leaders in Community's (LiC) Bee Spoke Learning programme. LiC currently maintains two hives that are being hosted in the apiary of local gardening club, Greening Brownfield. Trained beekeepers are encouraged to find suitable locations to set up hives that will enable local residents to have access to locally produced honey.

**"Poplar honey has helped me manage my hay fever each year. It's very effective apart from having such a unique flavour. I love it!"**

Mohammad Sadek

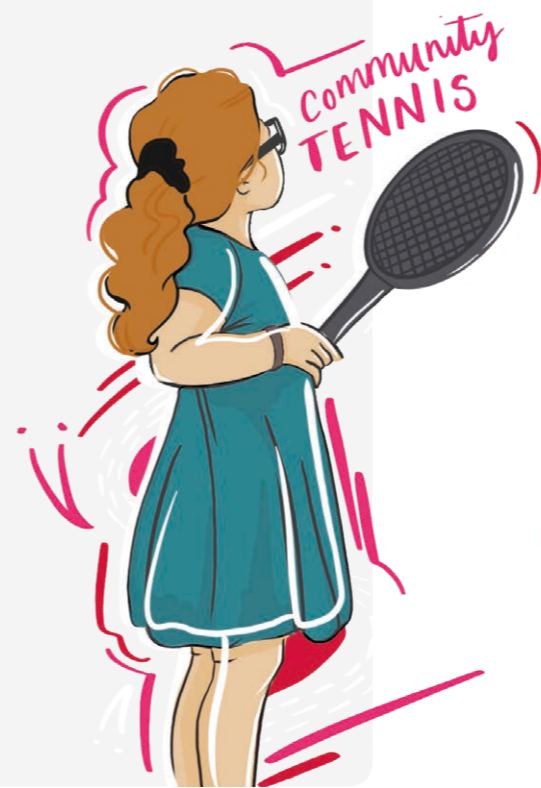


**10k**  
Local Residents  
Engaged

Summer Scheme for  
**140**  
Children Aged 8-12

New View Tube  
partnership with  
Elysium

**100**  
Plus Older  
Residents Attended  
Elder's Tea Dance and  
Christmas Lunch



**" Our Bee-spoke Learning Centre would not have happened if not for PH/Can's pioneering joint work with us on rooftop beekeeping and producing the first Poplar Honey. We are now continuing to train local beekeepers to roll out this amazing project. Thanks to all those who donated to our Crowdfunding campaign."**

Momtaz Ajid  
Head of Leaders in Community





# Community Centres Promoting Cohesion

Jake Barber has been involved with the East End Canoe Polo Club (EECPC) since September 2018. He found out about the club through another member who happens to be a friend with whom he used to paddle when he was younger.

Moo Canoes, our partner since 2017, is a water sports provider created in 2012. They founded the EECPC which operates from Poplar Union (PU), a local arts and culture hub supported by Poplar HARCA. They also work with local primary schools in Poplar introducing schoolchildren to the joy of paddling and kayaking.

They have involved local volunteers in canal litter picks and have run other water sports events for the local community.

Jake has been kayaking with the canoe polo club as often as his schedule could allow.

“I’ve benefitted from being in the club in two ways: firstly, it’s great to have met such a nice group of people and to get fitter while hanging out with them. Secondly, I just really enjoy getting out on the water in the open air, especially after a long day at work”.

He has since been trying to encourage others to come along and join the club. He feels that others can benefit from the club in the same way that he does. That is, fitness, friends, and unwinding after work.

He believes that the club is great value to the community because it helps to illustrate the potential of the Cut for sports and activities (and not just as a place/thoroughfare for narrow boats), and illustrate that the area between Mile End and Westferry is actually an interesting place with exciting activities with which to get involved.

Jake looks forward to the completion of access works down to the cut which will really open the canal up to people. He thinks the canal could be a really good location for a canoe polo tournament in the future.



“

**“I believe that the club is great value to the community because it helps to illustrate the potential of the Cut for sports and activities and illustrate that the area between Mile End and Westferry is actually an interesting place with interesting activities with which to get involved.”**

Jake Barber

**72**  
Members of the  
Teviot Steering  
Group



## REST Empowering Local People

Our Resident Empowerment Support Team (REST) has developed a wide range of consultation mechanisms that have empowered local residents to shape a regeneration offer for the Teviot estate.

Teviot residents voted overwhelmingly in support of the offer. They are currently working with Poplar HARCA through a procurement process, and will be involved in the selection of a Joint Venture (JV) partner.

Residents are taking part in study visits to regeneration schemes across London to learn lessons that can inform the Teviot scheme.

Residents attend regular training sessions examining aspects of design, planning and procurement. 72 residents are currently members of the Teviot Steering Group, and REST continues to engage the whole community.



# Thank You

Poplar HARCA acknowledges the generous support of funders and donors who have made financial contributions for the projects and services delivered by the Communities and Neighbourhoods (CaN) Team. We also thank our various partners for their co-operation in delivering our successful joint projects. Their support and partnerships are valuable to all our community investment work.

## Funders

Action for Bow  
Big Lottery  
Clarion Futures  
Department for Education  
East End Community Foundation  
European Social Fund  
Foundation for Future London  
Garfield Weston  
Greater London Authority  
Home Office  
Kitchen Social  
LBTH Integrated Youth Service  
Lehman's Foundation  
London Borough of Tower Hamlets  
London Legacy Development Corporation  
London Marathon Foundation  
London Youth  
Mayor of London (Young Londoners Fund)  
NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)  
SHINE  
Tennis Foundation  
Unitas

## Partners

Access Sports  
ADAB Trust  
Apple  
Art Clubbers  
Barts Health NHS Trust  
Bike Works  
Boundless Theatre  
Canals and River Trust  
Cracked IT  
Cycling Confident  
Digital Unite  
Good Things Foundation  
GroundWork  
Jobcentre Plus  
Limehouse Boxing  
LBTH Work Path  
London Cycling Campaign  
London Legacy Development Corporation  
London Youth  
Metropolitan Housing  
Moo Canoes  
Morgan Stanley  
North East London Foundation Trust  
Poplar Union  
Ruff Sqwad  
Sports England  
Sustrans  
Tower Hamlets Youth Offending Team  
University College London (UCL)  
Well Grounded  
Women's Environmental Network

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