

INSPIRING ELEPHANT COMMUNITY FUND

2023-24 REPORT



Photo: Southwark Kaleidoscope

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

SEPTEMBER 2024

THE FUND

The Inspiring Elephant Community Fund aims to support the local community of Elephant and Castle for five years from 2022-2026 through distributing £50,000 per year in grants to support projects in and around Elephant and Castle Town Centre. Year 2 of the Fund was completed in 2023-24.

Project funding across three priorities

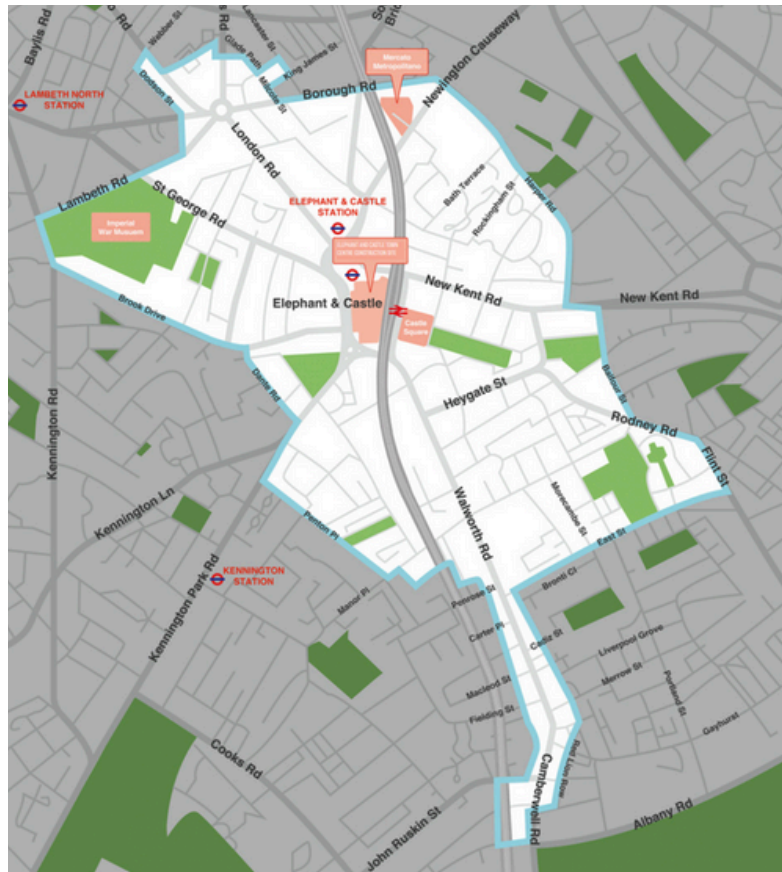
Community organisations could apply for grants of up to £5,000 for projects up to 12-months in line with one of three priorities of Health & Wellbeing, Young People & Training, and Cost of Living & Sustainability.

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 Two

This report covers the granting period of 2023-24 and the outcomes reported from funded projects that delivered until summer 2024.



“Great that projects such as this are funded as they really bring the history and heritage of the local area to life in a fun and interesting way! It was also great to see lots of newer residents on these tours as its very important that they get to understanding the amazing history and heritage of the Elephant and Castle.”

Southwark Kaleidoscope
(Front cover photo)

YEAR TWO 2023-24

The Inspiring Elephant Community Fund was open for applications in February and March 2023. The Fund received 32 applications requesting over £135,000. This was more than double the available budget and more than requested in 2022. This highlights continued need for this Fund and support for community groups delivering a wide range of activities in and around Elephant & Castle.

32
APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED



£135,571
TOTAL
REQUESTED



£50,000

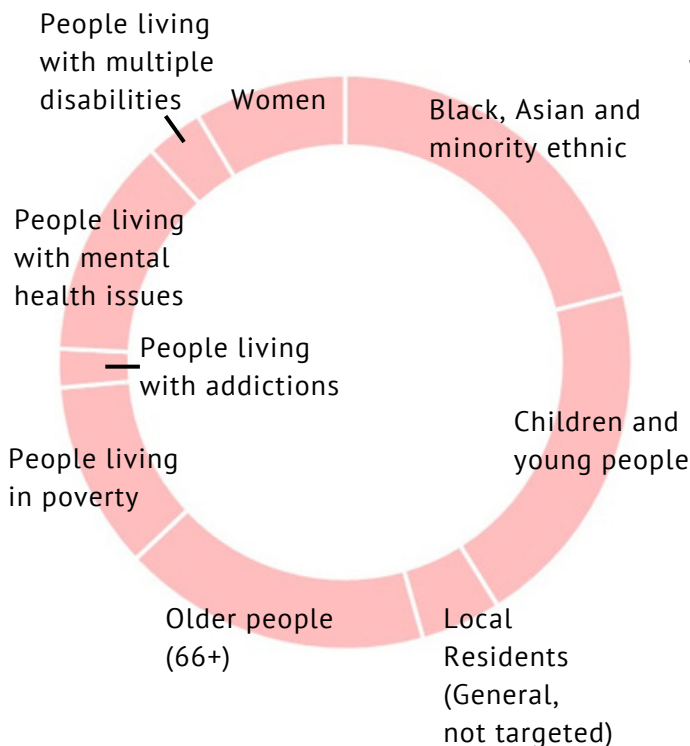
awarded to **13**
community projects

GRANT RECIPIENTS

1,609
BENEFICIARIES
REACHED



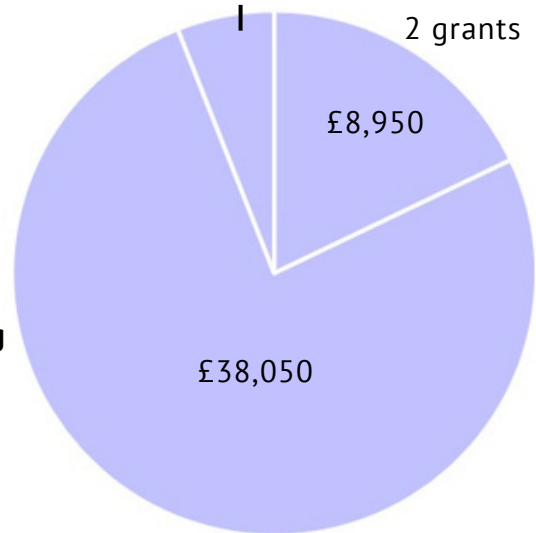
61
VOLUNTEERS
INVOLVED



Young People & Training
1 grant £3,000

Cost of Living & Sustainability
2 grants £8,950

Health & Wellbeing
10 grants £38,050



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

Left Chart: A breakdown of beneficiary reach across all funded projects by primary beneficiary. To note that these are broad categories and based on the reported primary beneficiary group only. **All projects worked with beneficiaries that may reflect various and overlapping groups shown here.**



Photo: Friends of Crampton's after school sessions

GRANT AWARDS 2023

Organisation	Project Name	Priority	Grant Award
Draper Together CIO	Draper Stay Warm Hub	Cost of Living & Sustainability	4,950
Inspire at St. Peter's	'2InSpire' Friday Youth Club meals	Cost of Living & Sustainability	4,000
Blackfriars Settlement	Positive Ageing at the Elephant	Health & Wellbeing	3,000
Disability Sports Coach	Inclusive Sports Club	Health & Wellbeing	2,700
Melanin Health & Wellness	Girls Football Skills Project	Health & Wellbeing	4,770
Mental Fight Club	Dragon Cafe at The Elephant and Castle	Health & Wellbeing	4,980
Outside Edge Theatre Company	South London Drop-in Drama	Health & Wellbeing	3,000
Southwark Black Parents Forum	More Vim, More Life (MVML)	Health & Wellbeing	4,500
Southwark Kaleidoscope	Design, buildings, and people of E&C	Health & Wellbeing	3,700

St. Jude's Senior Citizen Club	For club's activities	Health & Wellbeing	4,500
Superarts Academy of Performing Arts	Dance Together for toddlers and children	Health & Wellbeing	3,600
Superarts Academy of Performing Arts	Find Your Story - Through Qigong	Health & Wellbeing	3,300
Friends of Crampton	After Hours School Clubs	Young People & Training	3,000



Photos: Disability Sports Coach

“People with learning disabilities tend to rely on regular schedules to build trust. That's why so many have been attending our club for the past 10 years. It's vital we continue to gain support from local organisations so we can keep running our club for disabled people in the local community.”

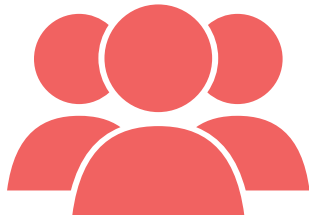
Disability Sports Coach

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

A few collective outcomes achieved from the 13 completed projects, compiled from data provided by groups in their end of grant reports.

1,609

TOTAL BENEFICIARIES INVOLVED IN FUNDED PROJECTS



690

REPORTED IMPROVED PHYSICAL/MENTAL/EMOTIONAL HEALTH



1,058

PEOPLE PARTICIPATED IN SPORT, EXERCISE & LEISURE ACTIVITIES

73

PEOPLE VISITED A LOCAL HERITAGE SITE



129

PEOPLE ACCESSED SUPPORT SERVICES

180

PEOPLE RECEIVED ESSENTIAL ITEMS (SUCH AS FOOD AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS)

189

PEOPLE ATTENDED REGULAR SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

“The individual activities are much appreciated by our members, but the factor that really makes a difference to them is community. The Settlement, and the Positive Ageing service, provide a place for people to meet, make friends, support each other, and be community. And that is what we all need at a very human level.”

“I joined here and it’s the best thing I’ve ever done. I come here at least two or three times a week, sometimes more; it depends what activities are going on. I joined the choir, the Nightingales. We also meet up outside the club as well, we go to theatres or to the Queen’s Gallery. You do make friends. If I didn’t come to Blackfriars Settlement and there would not be no clubs, I would be so isolated.” Participant, 68 years old

Blackfriars Settlement

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Inspire Walworth

With their grant, Inspire Walworth provided hot meals, drinks and refreshments for around 60 young people at their weekly Friday Youth Club. Their club creates an inclusive space for 11–18 year-olds to enjoy Friday evenings and engage in activities, build friendships, seek guidance and support, and make positive choices.



Photo: Inspire Walworth Youth Club

“A parent whose children attend our Friday Youth Club weekly called the session 'a lifeline' and said that they can relax every Friday knowing their children are playing somewhere safe with people that care about them, and they don't have to worry about feeding them as they are getting a hot meal.”



Photo: More Vim More Life event

Southwark Black Parents Forum

The grant supported the More Vim More Life health project in parks across Elephant & Castle focused on fitness and wellbeing activities for Southwark Black families and all local residents. Activities included fitness circuits, dance, sports, healthy eating sessions, talks with Southwark social prescribers, and kids activities such as a bouncy castle and face painting. The group reports the project was full of discussions to educate and empower Southwark Black parents and local residents.

“The most significant learning from our feedback form was that 85.7% said that they would do something different after today. The idea that people felt pushed to change their health outcomes just from our sessions was extremely powerful.”

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Mental Fight Club

The group ran creative events in Elephant & Castle through their Dragon Café, with activities such as singing, dancing, creative writing and art. Benefits for participants from the project are improved wellbeing, a sense of connectivity with each other and reduced loneliness. The group setting allows each person to build confidence by sharing work that they have created and to build empathy towards other people in their community by hearing their stories.



Photo: Mental Fight Club

“The thing about creativity and mental health is that it gives you a way to approach your feelings and experiences from a different direction. It’s not head on, stark and loud and unmanageable. It’s gentler, so you don’t even really realise you’re doing it until you finish and share it and realise that you’ve spoken from your heart without the fear and avoidance that’s such a part of dealing with challenging mental and physical health.” - Participant

Outside Edge Theatre Company

A theatre and participatory arts charity focused on supporting people that are going through addiction, the group delivered 13 sessions of their weekly South London Drop-in Drama group at Southwark Playhouse. They also delivered six Taster Sessions based on the Five Ways to Wellbeing in treatment facilities and community groups local to Elephant and Castle.



“I didn’t know what I was coming up to. I got here in the end. It was really amazing, everyone has such talent. Thank you for the support. I think I am going to learn a lot about being inside of myself and outside of myself. I think I can get into this.” - Participant

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Draper Together CIO

The group ran a series of activities to address food poverty, the energy crisis, and social isolation within the local community. Their main activity was the weekly Warm Hub, where people could come together with a hot meal, social activities and workshops to learn about services available to them. The group notes an unexpected positive outcome of the emergence of community-led initiatives and collaborations among attendees, strengthening community resilience and empowerment.



“Draper has made it easy for me to meet people and have a hot meal. I don't get much benefits but with the food bank I am able to pay my gas and electric bill. I hope they keep doing this for us as i enjoy the food and people and look forward to every Wednesday”

- Participant

Superarts Academy of Performing Arts

The grant went towards 'Finding Your Body's Story' Qigong classes in Elephant & Castle, which invited people to listen, observe and care for their body. Qigong is a system of coordinated body-posture and movement, breathing, and meditation. They report that feedback from participants included a deeper sense of calm. People arrived at the course with frozen shoulder, hip issues, lower back pain, migraines, and other symptoms. On completing the course, over 75% said these had improved.



Photo: Superarts Academy

“It's like I met myself for the first time! I'm building a deeper relationship with myself and as I continue to learn/practice I'm becoming more aware of my thoughts, emotions and physical sensations. The more present I am, the more I can feel the flow of energy.” - Participant

INSPIRING ELEPHANT COMMUNITY FUND



Photo: Mental Fight Club's Dragon Cafe

**REPORT COMPILED FROM END OF GRANT REPORTS AND PHOTOS RECEIVED
FROM 2023-24 PROJECTS OF THE INSPIRING ELEPHANT COMMUNITY FUND**

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

“The grant has enriched our group and has helped us to achieve and provide a fantastic resource for the community, where we can give share and partake.” **St Jude's Senior Citizens Club**