

# HS2 CAMDEN FUND REPORT

## YEAR 2



# INTRODUCTION

HS2 continues to have an impact on people who live and work in Camden. The HS2 Camden Fund existed to support Camden communities during the construction of the high-speed railway through providing grants totalling £3.15m. The fund aims to create a sense of place by supporting projects that bring people together, improve physical and mental health and create a stronger voluntary and community sector.

Civil society organisations including social enterprises, schools and charities have benefited from grants between £1,000-100,000 over the 2 years.

Projects that have benefited range from conservation volunteering activities, employment training for rough sleepers, community art spaces for families, community theatre programmes for young people, to mentoring programmes for primary school children in Camden.

**£3,150,000 awarded**  
**57 projects**  
**83,000 residents**  
**8 panellists**

The demand for funding and scale of need can be seen by the numbers of organisations requesting support. Over the last 2 years we received 167 applications at a combined total of £8,773,530, turning down around 1/3 of applications.



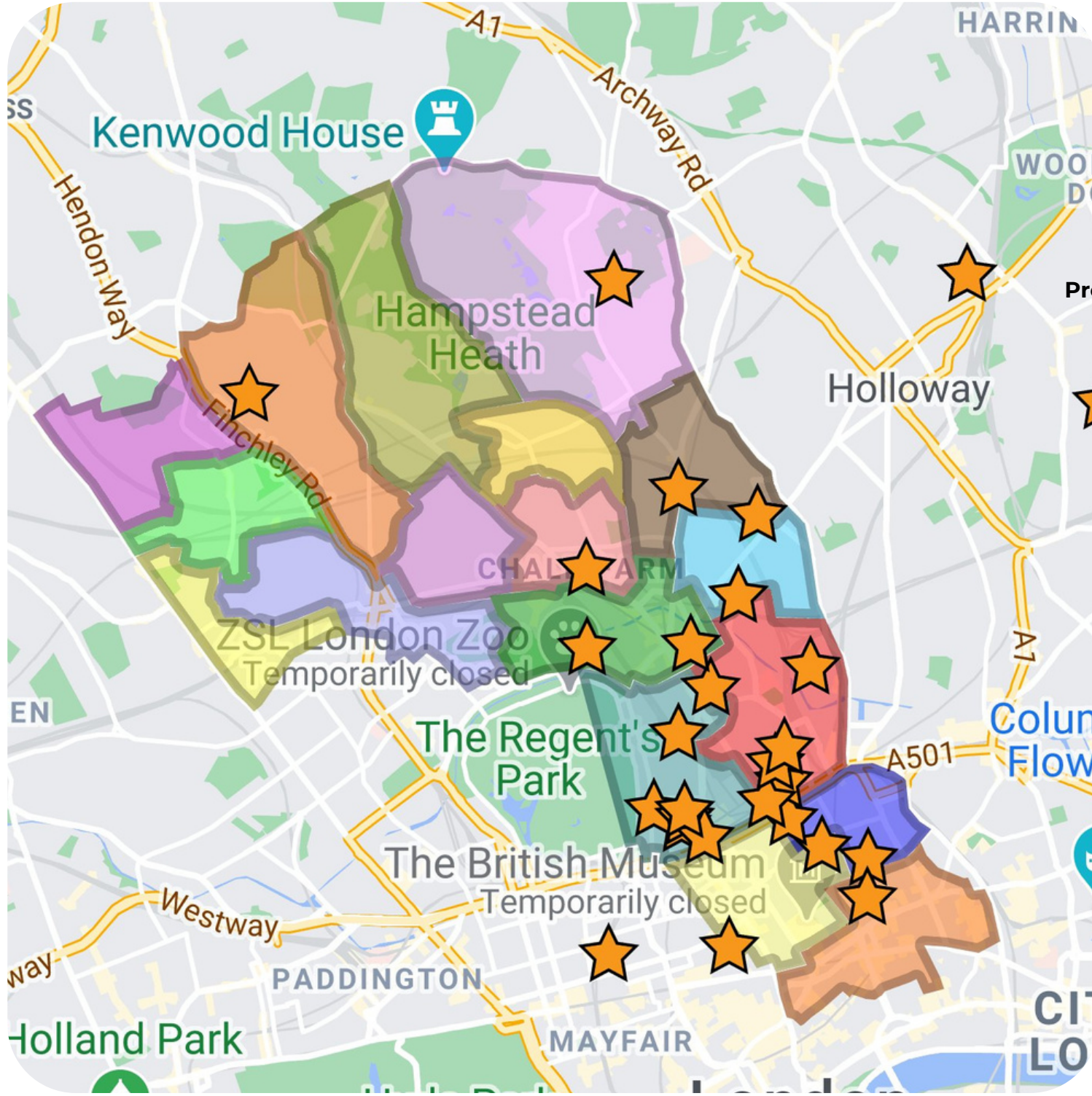
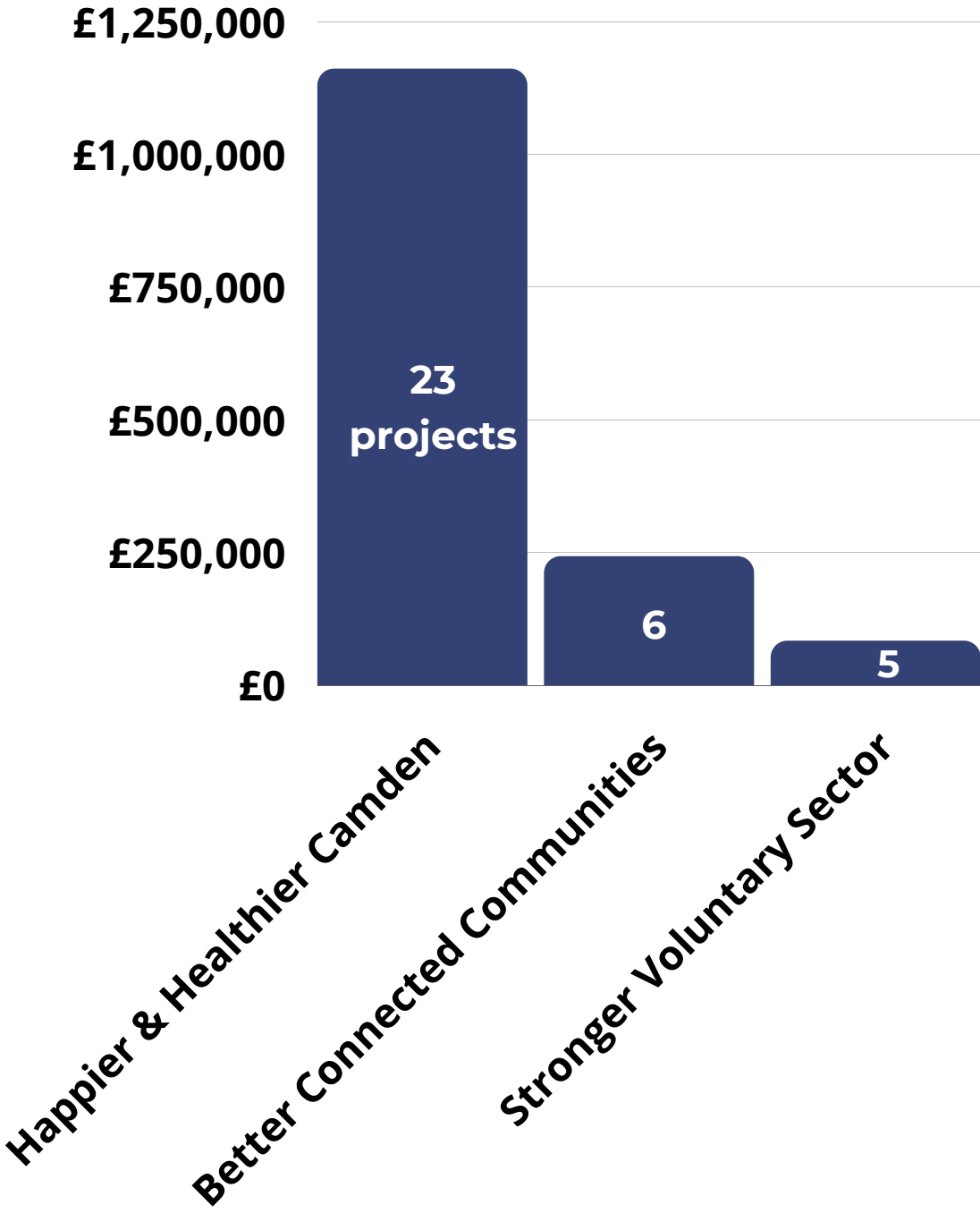
The Camden Fund's cross-sector panel meant local residents voices were at the forefront of decision-making and were able to lead, learn and influence alongside representatives from Camden Council, DfT and HS2 Ltd. The diversity of skills, expertise, lived experiences and local insight is powerful tool to support services that are needed for the Euston neighbourhood to prosper. The panel was chaired by 18 year old student & local resident Ranya who lives on the doorstep of HS2:

*"The Camden Fund is an opportunity to help everyone benefit from the development of HS2. The fund will support projects where local people are at the heart of their work".*

We learnt over the last two years that the impact of the construction on communities continued to evolve, often the impacts aren't visible or tangible, and can emerge over a short space of time. We are proud that the fund could be flexible and adapt to respond the ongoing challenges that were created and exacerbated through the duration of the funds lifetime, that weren't known, or visible, at the beginning of the programme. Such as migration of crime and rough sleeping, the impact on our refugee and migrant communities, the health implications of construction on particular marginalised groups such as the homeless community. It's really important that the fund continued to remain agile, respond to the situation on the ground and not just the needs of the many brilliant organisations in Camden to alleviate the disruption felt by many in the community. The Camden Fund created a much needed opportunity for residents most affected by the construction of HS2 to participate in activities and projects that are reflective of things that they want to see in their neighbourhoods and create a sense of place they can be proud of.

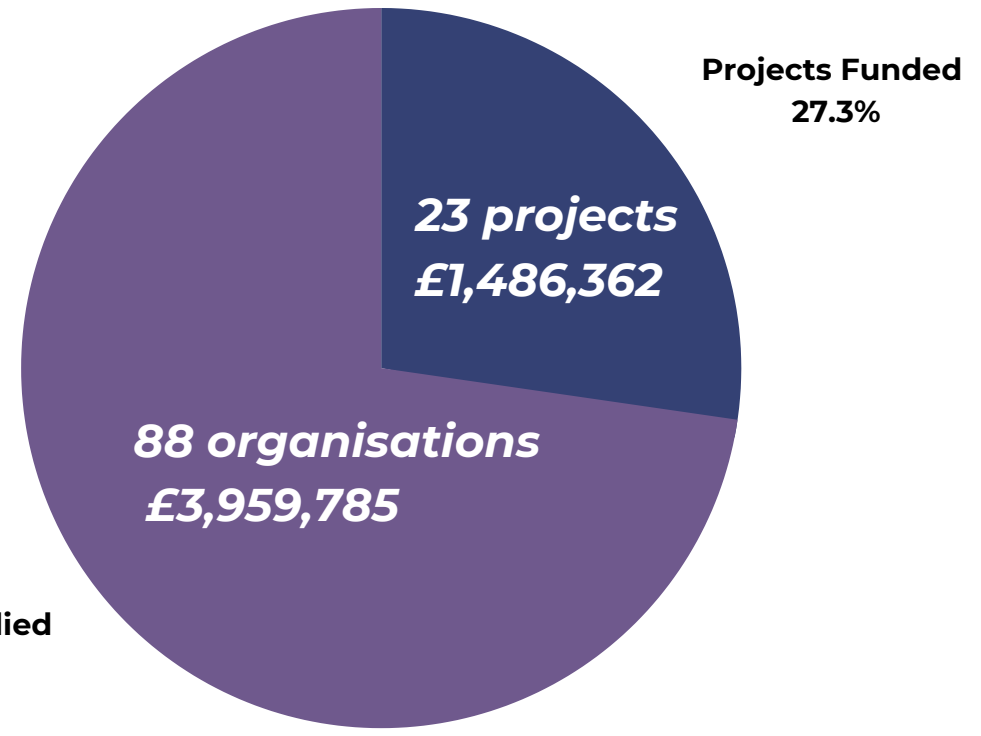
# SUMMARY OF YEAR 2 AWARDS

YEAR 2 AWARDS BY AIM



A MAP OF YEAR 2 FUNDED ORGANISATIONS

YEAR 2 DEMAND FOR FUNDING



In Year 2 of the Camden Fund we anticipate the 34 projects, that have collectively been awarded £1,486,362, will benefit over 43,000 local residents. The report outlines case studies on how this funding is supporting a diverse range of projects that create a sense of place for communities affected by the HS2 development.

# Health & Wellbeing

Rates of income deprivation, child poverty and health inequality are higher in Regent's Park ward than in neighbouring wards. It falls within the 10% most deprived areas in the UK and the life expectancy is less than in Hampstead, as more people have long term illnesses. 8 projects are enabling residents to participate in activities that provide support to manage stress, improve wellbeing and enhance physical wellness to alleviate the disruption caused by HS2 construction, which has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic.



*The activities funded range from inclusive Sport Programme that aims for young people to access technology for remote boxing activities. And sessions for adults who are suffering traumatic bereavement and whose ability to recover is further impacted by HS2 disruption.*

## Case Study -Camden Shorinji Kempo

**Grant award: £3,392**

Camden Shorinji Kempo are a modern Japanese martial art class aimed at getting fit, mindfulness and community building. They train weekly and are partnered with clubs across the world through a Federation.

The Camden club was started by local residents Kavita Kapoor and Ofelia Khan and they are the first LGBTQ+ club globally and the only Female led UK club.



### How they will use the Camden Fund Grant

Using the foundations of Shorinji Kempo a Japanese Martial Arts, they have devised a six-week programme that helps women and LGBTQ+ people in the Camden area gain confidence in both in self-defence and their ability to participate in sports. For many women and LGBTQ+ people, especially those already lacking confidence, traditional sports facilities and spaces are inaccessible.

They aim to increase the number of people accessing sports services in the Somers Town area by providing opportunities for people who are perpetually excluded from sports participation. Through the framework of self-defence, this project will teach them practical leadership skills that will enhance their potential as active community members.

# Green Space

The temporary and permanent loss of public open space, displacement of existing communal areas and new homes being built on existing green space, in an already high-density development area, is affecting the social, physical and mental wellbeing of communities in Camden. In addition the development has disrupted the wildlife, habitats and the existing, natural environment along the route. Many residents living here do not have the private garden, often not even a balcony, and many live in overcrowded housing. So access to safe, outdoor spaces for recreation, socialising, sport, respite has never been more important. This funding is providing residents with access to activity and services that enhance their access to nature activities and green space during the construction of HS2.

*Two separate resident-led gardening groups are maximising the existing green spaces by building new planters and through the cultivation and growing of vegetables, fruit, herbs and ornamental flowers. They are greening the local neighbourhoods, creating spaces to nurture, feel proud of and connect with neighbours. They will run community activities here as a holistic way for residents getting to know each other, stay connected, and inspire them to learn more about gardening, nature and growing food.*



## Case Study - London Wildlife Trust

### Grant award: £83,742

London Wildlife Trust (LWT) is dedicated to protecting the capital's wildlife by managing nature reserves, engaging London's diverse communities through outdoor learning, providing access to our nature reserves, campaigning and volunteering. In a city facing development pressure and a rising population, where people are increasingly disconnected from their natural environment, they believe we can create real change.



### How they will use the Camden Fund Grant

Camley Street Natural Park is a green oasis located in the heart of bustling King's Cross and is currently being redeveloped in order to increase capacity for educational sessions, welcome the increasing number of visitors and improve the volunteering facilities at the site when it reopens. This grant will allow them to deliver an expanded programme of activities, and a greater variety of roles, for volunteers, which will include practical conservation, wildlife survey/monitoring, guides/explainers, community learning and engagement, also providing natural exercise and shared outdoor activity. The volunteering sessions will have a beneficial impact on the mental/physical health and well-being of local residents whose lives have been impacted by HS2 and the disruption of COVID-19 as they can come to get away from the construction noise of HS2 and be a space to help them recover from some of the lasting effects from lockdown, when their outdoor exercise and social contact would have been limited.

# Youth Safety

Huge regeneration projects and the gentrification of the Euston and Kings Cross areas are increasingly making young people feel locked out of opportunities, the feel new jobs created are "not for them" and "worried about finances living in a place we cant afford to live in".

Only 7% of jobs in Camden go to locals, youth unemployment is high, and there is a higher percentage of young people living in households with no adult in employment. So often being involved in illegitimate activity can be seen as an easier 'route' to money. With the development of HS2 on the doorstep of some of the most vulnerable communities it will enhance the sense of hopelessness. Alongside this, crime and anti-social behaviour is being displaced to more concentrated areas, due to layout of spaces, hoarding that creates concealed, ill-lit spaces and the lack of CCTV that makes criminal behaviour and recruiting vulnerable youth easier.

*Creating pathways to alternative, transformative opportunities for local young residents is a vital factor needed to improve youth and community safety. The fund provides this by supporting projects like youth-led mobile Foodbanks that improve their career and life prospects to youth mentors providing training to young people in non-combat boxing and discipline sport to support at-risk young people in to stay in and engage with school.*



## Case Study - Your Bike Project C.I.C

### Grant award: £10,000

YourBikeProject is a grassroots not-for-profit community social enterprise, specialising in up-cycling and cycle maintenance. They provide an exit strategy for young people who are involved in violence, gangs and NEETs; giving them an opportunity to train as mechanics. They are working with Camden Police to secure bikes stolen, abandoned and unclaimed, which are stored and fixed by young people In Camden.



### How they will use the Camden Fund Grant

Your Bike are delivering a 10-week programme for at-risk youth most affected by the development of HS2, teaching them cycle maintenance, cycle provision and cycle safety, using stolen bikes to create a positive outlet and opportunity for them. They are offering an activity that educates and informs, while encouraging an alternative healthier way of life by using a bike as a mode of transportation. They endeavour to help increase youth employment, through accreditation, developing new skills and apprenticeship training that provides them with a legal form of income and skills for work. The project also empowers young people to be creative in a non-hostile environment which in turn will boost self-esteem and confidence through craftsmanship and artistry skills. The bikes fixed by the young people will be sold to the public acting as a showcase for their work.

# Arts & Culture

Despite so much cultural vibrancy and diversity in the Euston area, with significant arts & cultural sector on the doorstep, there are many barriers to participation to these opportunities for local residents. The area has substantial number of people with no qualifications or low attainment and local jobs are not accessible; families do not feel they 'belong' in these spaces; many live in low-income households and don't always have access to diversity of the arts & culture, some cannot pay for children to participate in educational trips, alongside decreasing focus on arts within the school curriculum; there's a large refugee and migrant community, a large number of people are disabled, the older neighbours are isolated. These factors can make it difficult to access resources, assets and opportunities to access the arts. The arts sector is heavily underfunded but entry into arts and creative sector is important as the sector grows in Euston alongside HS2. So breaking down barriers for

people who wouldn't consider this as a career or have the opportunity to experience otherwise is important to maintain wellbeing, connectedness and prosperity. Engagement with the arts sector is important to cohesion, to maintain and build community relationships as well as improve wellbeing, sense of belonging and employment opportunities. The fund has supported 7 projects that will engaged over 5000 people in these opportunities.



## Case Study - STORE Schools & Projets CIC

### Grant award: £19,260

STORE is a London-based association of artists, architects and designers composed of three core elements: an educational programme of design, art and architecture courses, wide-ranging public events and exhibitions, and a socially engaged design practice. STORE currently has a shop and after school club in Coal Drops Yard; STORE STORE.



### How they will use the Camden Fund Grant

This grant will enable STORE to run 12 design, architecture and art after school clubs for 72 state school students in the affected HS2 areas. The students will learn everything from glass blowing to 3D printing, ceramics and pattern cutting preparing them for further education and equip them with insight and skills into potential career pathways in the growing arts and creative sector. It will give young people a place outside of school to further their interests, a place for them to come and meet new people, building skills and their portfolios alongside University tutors and design professionals, so that they will be in the best possible position to apply for scholarships to university or progress into the job market after secondary school. This extracurricular activity for young people in and around the affected HS2 area is only one of a few opportunities within design, art and architecture and this will bridge the gap between secondary school education and higher education. This is important for young people to know what the options are for higher education and confidence to explore what going into the creative job market entails in Camden.

# Homelessness

Rough Sleeping, Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in Euston, Regents Park and Somers Town is migrating to areas in a more concentrated capacity, impacting the local communities living there. Alongside this, our Homeless residents' face existing impacts on their health and wellbeing and the construction is exacerbating the stressors which they are experiencing every day. In year 2, the funding supported 2 further homelessness services to help with employability, training and welfare to this community.

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*“It’s one of the things about living between two national/international stations that lots of people arrive on our doorstep and have nowhere to go. This will inevitably worsen over the next 17+ years as more and more people will come here for opportunities. It’s also going to be a hotspot for gangs as new ‘custom’ will be coming into Camden. What is needed is dedicated localised and bespoke interventions.”*



## Case Study -Camden Shorinji Kempo

### Grant award: £41,359

Set up in 2006, C4WS Homeless Project exists to respond to the needs of homeless people that need vital access to service. Wherever possible they act to prevent homelessness becoming a long-term problem in people’s lives and the issues that can develop as a result of this by providing services that focus on access to housing, welfare support, jobs and employment and wellbeing. activities.



### How they will use the Camden Fund Grant

This grant will support the coordination of the Winter Night Shelter by managing the logistics of ensuring the shelter venues are viable spaces, training volunteers and supporting Church Coordinators, maintaining relationships with referral agencies and managing referrals to support 240 people in the homeless community. This grant was awarded at the start of the pandemic and is needed now more than ever to support one of the most vulnerable communities in Camden . This is an unprecedented time for many rough sleepers enduring extremely volatile situation alongside existing complex challenges. The demand for their services is likely to increase as more people are pushed into poverty, working in precarious jobs and have unstable housing situations, meaning more people are at-risk of homelessness. This grant is vital so their dedicated team continue to support and care for those who need them.



# Community Cohesion

There are high levels of deprivation in Euston and regeneration displaces residents further, impacting the sense of community cohesion. Residents feel the opportunities created by HS2 and other developments nearby are not for them, they feel they are not part of the changes and there's a lack of connection to their neighbourhoods. The population of Regent's Park is growing fast, with a growing younger population (university students, young professionals moving here, business employees commuting in) creating a sense of gentrification. Older people feel increasingly isolated, with some fearful to leave their homes in unfamiliar environment. The migrant community can find it challenging to feel connected and a sense of belonging. Heavy development can make living day to day very challenging for disabled people who have to adjust to new environments and being isolated at home throughout construction works can heighten existing health problems.



*This fund awarded 10 grants to projects that are bridging digital divide for people to access advice online, to a free community cafe for residents, and training to improve English reading, writing, spelling and grammar and opening school spaces that their extended community can access during evenings and school holidays.*

## Case Study - Songhaven

### Grant award: £9,355

Songhaven brings authentic, meaningful human connection to people living with dementia (including carers and companions) through professional music performances, in a relaxed, inclusive, and joyous atmosphere. They organise over 80 dementia-friendly events annually featuring classically-trained artists, deliver performance visits to care homes and community centres, group singing workshops and their new 'Songhaven at Home' concerts.



### How they will use the Camden Fund Grant

People living with dementia are disproportionately affected by any change and disruption in their community - in this case by the loss of public spaces, changes to familiar environments, construction works increase the noise, vibrations, business and air pollution, all of which make day-to-day living more confusing and difficult for this vulnerable group. 'Songhaven At Home' is an online concert for people living with dementia - and their family and carers - who are currently at home and in care homes - unable to experience many of the events that bring them joy and happiness. Their cultural and social lives are severely diminished and they are not allowed family visits under current guidelines. The lockdown further isolates an already extremely vulnerable group of people impacted by HS2 and removes their ability to connect with others and or feel a sense of community. Carers tell them that they are playing the films over and over and live concert series usually provides a safe, familiar space for beneficiaries to experience the joy of music, form connections with others and get away from the noise, bustle and potential confusion of the outside world. "I can see first-hand the comfort this brings at such an uncertain time"