



CAMDEN GIVING

WE MAKE CAMDEN KIT YEAR 2 REPORT 2022-2023

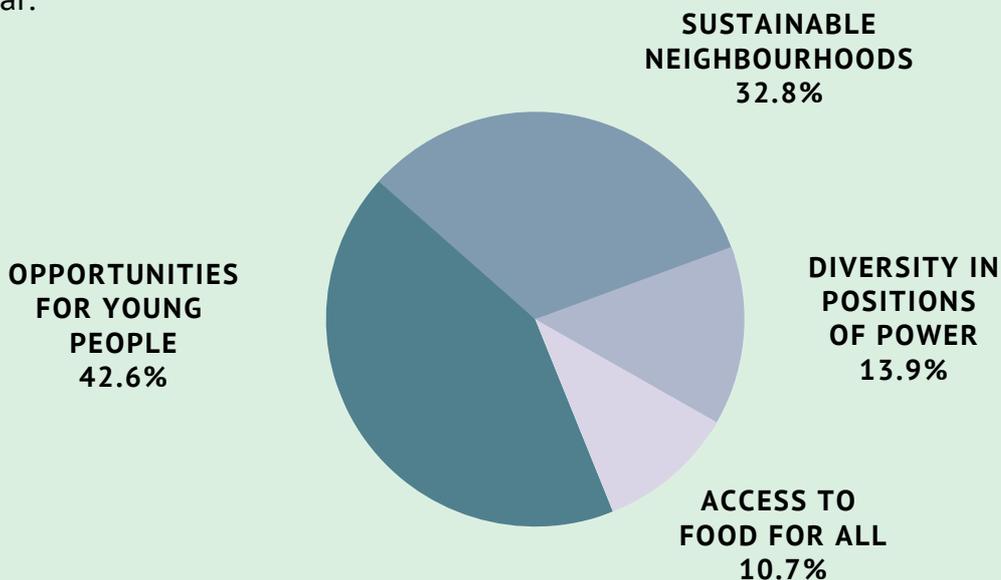


INTRODUCTION

The We Make Camden Kit fund (WMCK) provides seeding funding of up to £2000, as well as mentoring support, to Camden residents and organisations who have inspirational plans for making positive change in their communities.

WMCK panellists live in Camden, and have experience and expertise regarding what projects and work is most needed in Camden. They sit on the panel for a whole year, meeting on a fortnightly basis from September to review applications from individuals and charities alike.

Applications must address one of the We Make Camden core missions. The diagram below shows the amounts awarded to each of those missions in the last year.



The work carried out by WMCK grantees is truly inspirational, and we want to take a moment to say a huge congratulations, and a huge thank you, for their work to make Camden a better place.

SNAPSHOT

11

PANELLISTS RECRUITED

44

ORGANISATIONS FUNDED

78

CITIZENS FUNDED

£235,198.91

TOTAL FUNDING AWARDED

2022/23 GRANTEES

SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBOURHOODS

STAGE 81 CIC
BIANCA BARNES-NUGENT
RAFIQUE ULLAH
TANIA AKTAR
ARTS 4 DEMENTIA
BACTON TOWER T.R.A.
NCI FOUNDATIONS
POSITIVE ACTION FOR FAMILY &
YOUTHS
NURTURE THE CHILDREN INT.
IKRAN MUHUMUD ADAN
KILBURN FOOTY
COOPERATION TOWN
CHADSWELL GARDENING
PROJECT
CANDICE LIEBECK
ALEXIS BILIK
WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE
SAMER
CAMDEN ARABIC ASSOCIATION
MERYEM ELORF
CAROLINE MOWER

ENGAGE HERE
EDITH NEVILLE PRIMARY
SCHOOL & FAMILY CENTRE
HELLO BEAUTIFUL FOUNDATION
THE ZEN PROJECT
JOANA MONTEIRO
DIANA MARK
ASSOCIATION OF SIKH ART &
CULTURAL HERITAGE
KILBURN COMMUNITY GARDEN
KNIFE CRIME AWARENESS
MICHEAL BURWOOD
TEMPLAR HOUSE COMMUNITY
GARDEN PROJECT
MERYEM ELORF
UNITY HUB
JASON THANNI
GOOCH HOUSE T.R.A.
SUZANNE CULLEN
ROBERT TAYLOR
CAMELOT HOUSE STAY & PLAY

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

ISA RAHMAN
SAIFUR RAHMAN
UPRISING
KHADYS DREAM
NDIRI NDILI
AARON OLIVER
HAMPSTEAD CLASSICAL LIBRARY
SHEIKH ROUF
HELPING HANDS
SIAF ALAM
REACHING ALL PEOPLE TRUST
SURVIVORS CAN SHINE C.I.C
CAMDEN COMMUNITY CLUB
GEORGIA WRIGHT
NAZ AND MATT FOUNDATION
MARIIA BEZUSA
ALOMGIR MIAH
REGENTS PARK TIME BANK
NUWAVE PICTURES LTD.
ECLIPSE
GOSPEL OAK F.C.
HEATH HANDS
HVH ARTS

MD SHAMIM AHMED
ERIBRI JUNIORS CLUB
JP.FOUNDATION
TORRIANO F.C.
GRAEME HAGUE
CREATORS HOUSE
LIMITLESS COMMUNITY BOXING
BLEON BACA
ASAD AHMED
PERIOD & PAUSE CIC
NW5 PROJECT
REACHING ALL PEOPLE TRUST
TAWFIQ F.C.
RUSSELL NURSERIES AND JIM'S
PITCH COMMUNITY ASS.
RAYHAN
NAFEEZ AHMED
TORRIANO PRIMARY SCHOOL
CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT
CAMDEN ASSOCIATION OF
FOSTER CARERS
THE FUTSAL STARS
FOUNDATION



DIVERSITY IN POSITIONS OF POWER

SEETHROUGH THEATRE COMPANY
ANNA ALSTON
CAMDEN DEAF VANGUARD SOCIAL
KIMBERLEY TURNER
LONGEVITOLOGY UK
THE CURIOUS CLUB
FATIMA BEGUM
EVA WONG NAVA
THOMAS MARSTON

DAVID TOVEY
SOMALIS IN TECH
DANI TOMLIN
OLIVER CHAN
JORDAN BANGURA
BIKE PROJECT
ARTICULATE
ALISON TURNER

ACCESS TO FOOD FOR ALL

CHARISE OUTRAM
COOPERATION HOLLY LODGE
HERITAGE CHARITY LONDON
HASNARA BEGUM
MITZVAH DAY
SOMALI COMMUNITY CENTRE

SOMALI WOMEN'S SUPPORT GROUP
MALIHE SADEGHIPOUR
MAIDEN LANE GETTING TOGETHER
C4WS HOMELESS PROJECT
EMA HOWLING



SPOTLIGHT ON: OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

When Camden Giving started WMCK, we noticed that the majority of applicants were from women, a common trend in the charity sector. However, during the second year of WMCK, we've noticed a new group of people coming to the fore, young men who are wanting to help and support other young men. This is important because "in the borough, young men make up the majority of young offenders...and have higher rates of unemployment than young women" (Camden Commission Young People Report).

BLEON BLACA

Bleon, a citizen grantee, applied for funding to deliver group and one-to-one sessions to support young people at risk of offending into a plumbing career. Over a six-month period Bleon meets with the young people every two weeks one-to-one, as well as running group sessions around different elements of the industry.

Bleon described how this work is impacting the young men that he works with **"It felt great to be able to influence young people to actually think about carefully about their next steps. They really listened when I spoke because I once was in their situation"**



SHEIK ROUF

Similarly, Sheik runs a project providing young men with training and employment. When he applied for funding from the Kit he explained how **"As a young person who was in the same position as these young people not wanting to go to school and offending, I feel it is a good way to show them there is more to life and making money can be done by simply window cleaning."**

It is so powerful for young men from Camden, to be supporting others who have been in a similar situations and can fully understand the challenges. Reaching young men who are out of work can be challenging, but there is automatic trust when it is someone who has been on a similar journey. The proactive efforts of these young men demonstrate that grassroots initiatives can be powerful tools against youth unemployment, and we're excited to see how this work evolves.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

ACCESS TO FOOD FOR ALL

With the cost-of-living crisis only further compounding the inequalities communities in Camden face, in the last year we saw a rise in applications from grantees seeking to alleviate these challenges. Over 88% of project ideas were influenced by the crisis, and ten different organisations and individuals came forward with entrepreneurial activities to meet the mission of everyone eating well. We wanted to highlight the incredible work achieved by two citizen grantees, Malihe Sadeghipou and Charise Outram.

MALIHE SADEGHIPOU



Malihe, based in Holborn, has always put a lot of effort into supporting others in her community. During the winter of 2022 she noticed a lot of homeless individuals in her local area and wanted to do something to support them, so decided to apply to WMCK. She took her incredible cooking skills and combined them with her lived experience of being an asylum seeker, creating a project where she cooked 40 hot meals per week for those in the area in need. Since she has started, she's cooked over 2000 meals.

Malihe described what this work has meant for her: **“I'm so happy and proud of what I've achieved. I love this project from the bottom of my heart. It's not just about giving people food, but about caring about others, those who are vulnerable and really need the help. I can feel their pain deeply, as I was a homeless asylum seeker. I've never been proud of myself before, this is the first time I'm really proud of myself.”**

CHARISE OUTRAM

Charise, based on the Bourne Estate, applied to WMCK as she felt passionately about supporting others to eat healthily, even when people's finances are restricted: “Many assume eating healthily is complicated, time-consuming and expensive. However, I have been eating healthily and living a healthy lifestyle whilst on a minimal income...proving knowledge is essential to make lasting change.” With the funding, she designed and ran holistic workshops to support her local community to shop and cook healthily on a budget, decrease their anxiety and stress, and reduce food waste.

In Charise's words, **“The kit is responsible for getting my community project out of my head and into the real world. It has allowed me to help others with their mental health and well-being, which has also benefited my own personal struggles beyond measure. I have since had the pleasure of bringing these workshops into a school, and am now starting in two new locations, which is very exciting! Without Camden Giving's funding, I doubt I would have found my purpose in life. I can't thank everyone involved enough!”**

PANELLIST EXPERIENCE & DEMOGRAPHICS

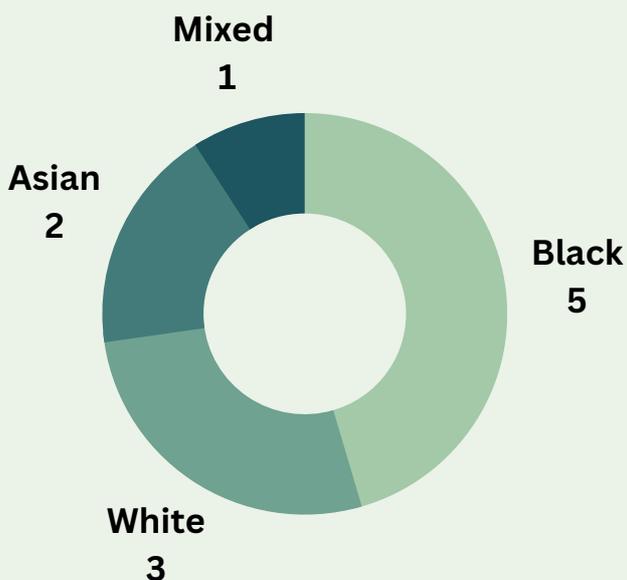
“ I feel like now I can say I have done something that actually made a difference and impacted lives. This experience has made me feel closer to my community and understand the varied and complex needs of different demographics/geographical areas of Camden ”

“ I feel empowered - I can guide and inspire others ”

“ I feel more connected to my community ”

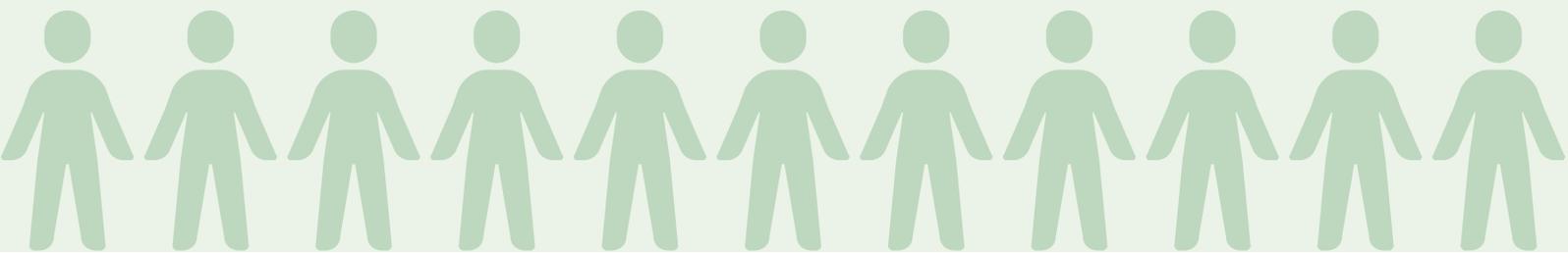
72%

Female



100%

felt their involvement changed how they view their role in the community



SPOTLIGHT ON: NAZMA BEGUM, WMCK PANELLIST

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

I'm Nazma, an environment manager for TFL, a mother, a Somers Town resident and a panellist for WMCK.

I've been part of the panel now for almost a year and I've thoroughly enjoyed myself, helping to make decisions on community project and being able to support community members trying their best to proactively make positive changes.

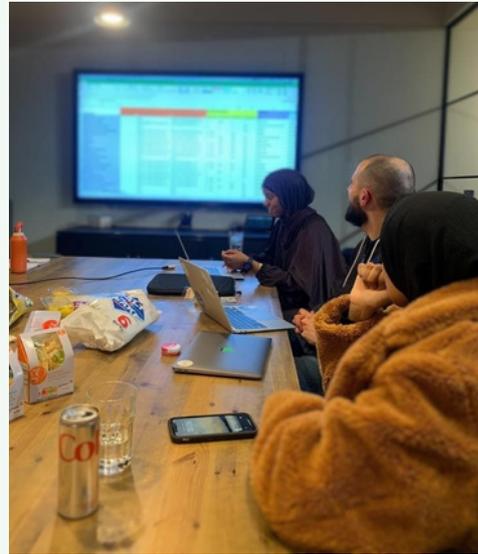
WHAT ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES IN YOUR VIEW OF BEING A PANELLIST ON THE FUND?

One of the challenges I find, is seeing some of the hardship many people are going through in our communities. Things like making ends meet and trying to help themselves and their families with food and heating can be mentally challenging and frustrating as a panellist. Projects that support single mothers are heart wrenching as these individuals have it tough as it is, I'm hopeful to know someone somewhere actually cares and is able to access funds to support with targeted projects. Camden Giving is an avenue that allows this support to happen otherwise I'm not sure there's much support for single parents.

In terms of decision making, the Camden Giving team have set up a great framework for panellists to have discussions, taking into account different views and opinions, allowing a diverse insight, resulting in well informed decisions. Sometimes it can be tough due to experience and information presented but we get there in the end through open dialogue.

LASTLY, BUT DEFINITELY NOT LEAST: IF THERE WAS ONE MESSAGE YOU COULD SHARE WITH THOSE APPLYING TO THE FUND, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

One message to those applying to the fund or to be a panellist would be - if you have a great idea, apply for the fund and see how far you can go with it. Everything starts from a dream and Yasmin from Camden Giving will guide you through the application...Being a Panellist has changed my life and supported me to feel a sense of belonging and a sense commitment to my community.



NAZMA IN THE MIDST OF DECISION-MAKING

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNT?

THE POWER OF CITIZENS

When we first launched WMCK, we had no idea if citizens would be interested in running their own projects- but their enthusiasm and uptake has been one of the biggest revelations in the last two years. 78 citizens were awarded funding in this last year, making up 64% of the cohort.

92% of the citizens who were awarded funding reported that it was their first time leading a community project, demonstrating not only the very grassroots nature of this work, but also how the funding is tapping into previously untapped expertise and potential.

THE IMPACT OF THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

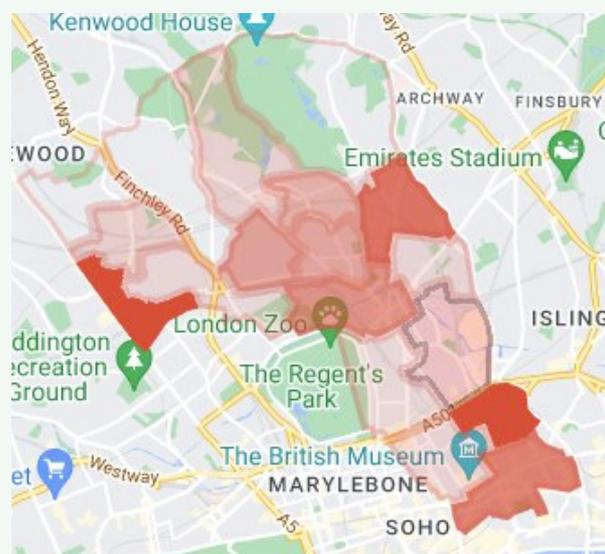
In the second year of WMCK, we increased the size of the grant to £2k to factor in the higher cost of living.

- 88% of the projects that were awarded funding had been influenced by the cost-of-living crisis
- 14 projects addressed the basic needs of Camden citizens. Examples of this work included:
 - Distributing free personal hygiene care packages
 - Cooking food for homeless people
 - Supporting Ukrainian refugees
 - Giving away free fleeces for the elderly

THE IMPORTANCE OF OUTREACH

In the first year of WMCK, we noticed there was a greater presence of grantees in the South of the borough. Knowing there was a huge untapped potential in the northern wards, we focussed our efforts on expanding our presence there, using and growing our existing networks with an outreach programme to ensure there was awareness of this opportunity.

Our efforts hugely paid off, with 53% of funded projects this year being based in northern wards, including Kilburn and Gospel Oak.



A NOTE ON PARTICIPATORY GIVING

We've seen the power of participatory grant-making in practice, it's changing the way that people in Camden see themselves as agents of change. [This](#) video sums up how we operate and why we think participatory giving is important.

Currently 0.3% of grants given in Camden are awarded via participatory grant-making and we want to see that change in our borough and beyond. We've made our resources public [here](#) and you can pay our grant-makers to support your participatory work [here](#).



We also want to say a huge thank you to those we've partnered with to make this model work.



THANK YOU

We wouldn't be able to facilitate this incredible work without the support of businesses and individuals in Camden who are willing to step up and be good neighbours.

Thank you all so much, not only for your financial contributions, but also for being so wonderful to work with.



The demand for WMCK is only increasing, this year we funded an extra 56% of projects compared to 2021/22. We are excited to kick off the third year with a brand-new group of panellists.

For WMCK grantees, this work represents a chance to see their vision come to life. In the process they make countless connections within the borough and truly make Camden a better place to work, live and play.

As this work grows, so does its potential and we'd love to welcome more partners to be involved with this, to re-shape how the private sector support communities in Camden to hold power.

