

# HACKNEY GI♥ING

Hackney Giving's response to the Covid-19  
pandemic, March - December 2020

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CVS

## Index

Page 3, About Hackney Giving

Page 6, Hackney Giving Coronavirus Response Fund, small grants round 1, April 2020

Page 9 , Hackney Giving Coronavirus Response Fund, small grants round 2, July 2020

Page 10, Hackney Giving/CCG Response & Recovery Grants, round 1, September 2020

Page 13, Hackney Giving/Public Health Covid-19 Information Grants, November 2020

Page 18, Initial & interim monitoring feedback from organisations supported by Hackney Giving CCG small and large grants during the pandemic:



## About Hackney Giving

Hackney's voluntary and community organisations are continuing to support the borough's communities during the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. Across Hackney, organisations are adapting their delivery so they can help people who need extra support during the crisis.

Hackney Giving, hosted by Hackney CVS, is a single point of giving that supports grassroots organisations in Hackney. We are responding to the coronavirus crisis by raising funds to support voluntary and community organisations as they care for our communities. The extensive local knowledge held by Hackney CVS together with its understanding of the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector on the ground in Hackney puts us in a unique position to be able to respond.

Between April - November 2020, Hackney Giving has distributed grants totalling £690,292.12

Our fundraising continues online: <https://bit.ly/2FYvaXf>, through our partnerships with the public sector and through ongoing corporate fundraising.

## **Summary of Hackney Giving CCG small and large grants during the pandemic**

### **1. Hackney Giving Coronavirus Response Fund (Small Grants)**

The first Hackney Giving Coronavirus Response Fund supported by the CCG happened in July 2020 and focused on providing small grants up to £3000. It utilized funds predominantly from the CCG but matched by funding from Hackney Council and corporate businesses (Vitol Energy, Swamp Motel, and Kingpin) as well as any online donations we received through our Hackney Giving Virgin Money fundraiser.

Applications were scored by Hackney Council and Hackney Giving staff. Grants were for a maximum of £3,000 per organisation and were awarded to constituted non-profits.

A total of 12 small grant awards were made totaling £33,469. Projects were funded to deliver from July 2020 - April 2021.

### **What did the funding support?**

The first round supported projects for young people including Activiteens, a wellbeing puppetry programme for young people from the Orthodox Jewish community and Fame Star Youth who will provide tablets and laptops to young people who are struggling to access youth services and support.

A number of organisations will provide food and essentials to residents at home; Carib Eats will deliver one free weekly meal to 50 isolated residents. Carib Eats are working with a range of Hackney residents including the elderly, single parents and people suffering from health conditions such as sickle cell and cancer.

Hackney People First will use the funding to support disabled people with advice and information on Covid-19 and how to stay safe, whilst Read Easy Hackney will continue their literacy support services for adults. For these and many other organisations, Hackney Giving funding allows services to be adapted to the realities of the pandemic

- developing online resources, zoom sessions and socially distanced face to face activities to support residents who are feeling isolated or in need as a result of the pandemic.

*On receiving news of their successful application, Serena, the Team Leader of Read Easy Hackney emailed: 'What a wonderful email this was to receive at the end of the week! I, and the Read Easy Hackney management team, are both thrilled and immensely grateful to hear that the funding application has been successful as it will make the continuation of our Readers' literacy journey, with the help of their dedicated Reading Coaches, possible. Many thanks.'*

## **2. Hackney Giving Coronavirus Response Fund (Large Grants up to £30k)**

A second round inviting applications for up to £30k commenced in August with a Sept deadline. Funded was solely from City & Hackney CCG. Applications were pre-assessed and scored by staff from City & Hackney CCG and Hackney Giving.

Organisations were funded to deliver larger scale projects from: September 2020 - April 2021. A total of £211,395 was awarded to 13 VCS organisations

## **3. Hackney Giving/Public Health Covid-19 Information Grants (Large Grants up to £20k)**

City and Hackney Public Health Team has provided funding to ensure that messages around the ongoing coronavirus pandemic are reaching all of Hackney's communities.

- > Messenger grants of up to £10,000. Messenger grant holders will disseminate information to their communities.
- > Contact Point grants of up to £20,000. In addition to Messenger grant activities, Contact Point grant holders work more closely with the Public Health team to identify and feed back issues arising in the community (such as misinformation circulating).

A total of £385,923 was awarded in November 2020. A second round is scheduled to open in January 2021.

## Details of the organisations funded in each round

### Hackney Giving Coronavirus Response Fund, small grants, round 1, April 2020

- ❖ Funded by: Burberry Hackney, donations to HG Virgin Money fundraiser:  
<https://bit.ly/2FYvaXf>
- ❖ Scoring: applications scored by Hackney Council and Hackney Giving
- ❖ Panel members: Matt Bray - Chair (Hackney Giving) Sarah Watson (Hackney Giving)  
Claire Witney (Hackney Council) Project delivery: April - July 2020

Applicant	Activity	Approved amount (£)
African Community School	Providing food/essentials to residents at home.	2,900
Cambridge Heath Salvation Army	Providing food/essentials to residents at home.	3,000
Community African Network	Providing food/essentials to residents at home.	3,000
Day-Mer Turkish and Kurdish Community Centre	Providing food/essentials to residents at home.	3,000
The Schonfeld Foundation	Providing food/essentials to residents at home.	3,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,900</b>

## Hackney Giving Coronavirus Response Fund, small grants, round 2, July 2020

- ❖ Funded by: City & Hackney CCG, Hackney Council, Vitol Energy, Swamp Motel, Kingpin Communications, donations to HG Virgin Money fundraiser
- ❖ Scoring: Applications scored by Hackney Council and Hackney Giving
- ❖ Panel advisors: Matt Bray - Chair (Hackney Giving) Sarah Watson (Hackney Giving) Panel members: Claire Witney (Hackney Council) Jonathan McShane (City & Hackney CCG) Jake Ferguson (Hackney CVS) Rosemary Jawara (Beersheba Living Well) Reverend Daley
- ❖ Project delivery: July 2020 - April 2021

Applicant	Activity	Approved amount (£)
Activiteens	Puppetry to support the wellbeing of ninety young people from the Orthodox Jewish community.	2,987
Bridge the Gap - Families in Need	Address digital divide and reduce isolation for vulnerable families.	3,000
Carib Eats	Deliver one free weekly meal to c.50 isolated residents.	2,960
Coffee Afrik CIC	To employ a culturally sensitive therapist to support clients, Somali women, who are now facing a mental health epidemic.	3,000
Fame Star Youth	Digital equipment and volunteer mentoring time to support 11 most vulnerable young people from diverse backgrounds in North Hackney. To engage more with home education/services.	3,000
Hackney Chinese Community Services	To fund a project promoting digital inclusion, to bridge the digital divide.	3,000
Hackney People First	A telephony catch-up and advocacy service for members and any other adults with learning	2,963

	disabilities.	
Kanlungan Filipino Consortium	Information and befriending support, internet data access and basic needs for residents from the Philippines and other Southeast and East Asian backgrounds.	3,000
London Saz School	Music classes for children from Turkish and Kurdish speaking communities.	2,860
Outdoor People Ltd.	Get Outdoors after Lockdown, Family Wild Walks.	2,950
Read Easy Hackney	Literacy project for adults.	749
Up 'N Away	Breakfast packages once a week to homes of vulnerable young people.	3,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>33,469</b>

## Small grants, round 2, July 2020 - reserve list

The panel agreed that a reserve list could also be approved, pending further fundraising, which was subsequently been achieved.

Applicant	Activity	Approved amount (£)
Acheinu Cancer Support	Purchase ipads x 5 for people with cancer and food deliveries.	2,850
Friends of Woodberry Down	To purchase 10 tablets to enable 10 members (older people) to have the opportunity to get online.	2,526
Skillspool Training CIC	IT training and support for older residents.	2,985
Teen Action	Coaching and support for young people from the Orthodox Jewish community.	3,000
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,840</b>

## Small grants, round 2, July 2020 - reserve list, 2nd reserve list

Another 5 applications were approved under delegated authority by the Hackney Giving Team for inclusion on a second reserve list. They will be funded if additional monies are raised, which in turn will be matched by the local authority.

Applicant	Activity	Approved amount (£)
Ability North London	Support disabled adolescents and young adults between ages 15-27.	3,000
African Community School	Provide activities to support vulnerable African and Caribbean and any other ethnicity young people to access remote learning online and by telephone.	3,000
Chesed Hospital Transport	Support elderly, sick and disabled residents, those going into hospital as an inpatient, for a day case treatment, visiting outpatients including chemotherapy and / or radiotherapy and going in for testing or returning home after their appointment or stay in hospital.	2,920
Ezras Hakohol Trust	Pay for basic provisions for families in need. Many of them are already on low income and have seen their income reduce still further.	3,000
Gahu Dramatic Arts	Cultural activities and African Storytelling with young people who are experiencing increased anxiety from lockdown and the trauma of daily reports of death.	2,920
	<b>Total</b>	<b>14,840</b>

## Hackney Giving/CCG Response and Recovery Grants, round 1, September 2020

**Funded by:** City & Hackney CCG

**Scoring:** Applications scored by City & Hackney CCG and Hackney Giving

**Panel advisors:** Matt Bray - Chair (Hackney Giving) Sarah Watson (Hackney Giving)

**Panel members:** Jonathan McShane (City & Hackney CCG) Siobhan Harper (City & Hackney CCG), Nancia Ketsetzis (City & Hackney CCG), Dr K Wenaden (Well St Surgery) Jake Ferguson (Hackney CVS) Sahil Patel (Mind in the City, Hackney and Waltham Forest) Reverend Daley **Project delivery:** September 2020 - April 2021

Applicant	Activity	Approved amount (£)
African Health Policy Network	Holding Hands project will support and digitally connect up to 60 Hackney based BAME adults who have lived experience of mental health and /or long term health conditions or who are at risk of worsening mental health due to the current crisis.	21,420
Choice in Hackney	reducing social isolation of disabled people, offering emotional support, checking wellbeing and encouraging active participation in other local services	25,760
City and Hackney Carers' Centre	Supporting carers who feel increased anxiety from the pandemic. Digital tools to support service delivery/challenge digital divide.	30,000
Coffee Afrik CIC	Employment of a Somali Community Navigator to help 122 vulnerable women who have mental health issues and who do not use community based services.	30,000
Hackney City Farm	Gardening group for adults. Weekly activities that bring together a group of people struggling with acute mental health difficulties.	2,130
Hackney Playbus	Delivery of small carefully risk assessed	15,590

	outdoor play sessions for under 5s. Adults can feel safe to share their experiences, their trauma, delivery of targeted health messages and information about support services available.	
Hatzola	Communications in the Orthodox Jewish community. Dissemination of public health messages eg by engaging with Public Health, the CCG and other health partners.	29,059
Hawa Trust	Practical support for vulnerable families via food and essential items delivered by volunteers and FGM champions plus information on accessing local food banks.	9,500
Koach Parenting	One to one virtual parenting support sessions, mainly but not exclusively to 25 families from the Orthodox Jewish Community.	10,295
Misgav	The project will address the isolation and its mental health impact on 20 disabled adult women and 80 carers (incl.40 elderly) who are shielding, ill, recovering from illness or self-isolating.	17,300
The Sharp End	Supporting older people. Continue the Sharp End on zoom programme for the rest of the year, addressing digital divide and telephone befriending service.	20,061
Skyway	Emergency care packages including food, cleaning and sanitary products.	19,200
Trowbridge	Support local residents aged over 60 to learn skills to get online safely and confidently using their own devices or the 20 laptops purchased by the club.	2,500
	<b>Total</b>	<b>211,395</b>

The panel for the Hackney Giving/CCG Response and Recovery Grants agreed that Turkish and Kurdish communities were not represented well in the larger grants round and requested that the Hackney Giving team run a targeted funding round to address this, using the remaining allocation from City and Hackney CCG of £23,185. This round opened in October 2020.

4 applications were received by the deadline. After assessment by the Hackney Giving team and in discussion with the CCG, the funds were awarded to a partnership led by Daymer Turkish and Kurdish Community Centre.

## **Hackney Giving COVID-19 Information Grants Grants Panel Meeting, 11 November 2020.**

Subsequent decisions made via email.

### **Panel members:**

Jake Ferguson, Hackney CVS  
Frances Haste, VCSE TLG representative  
Jayne Taylor, London Borough of Hackney  
Kate Wignall, London Borough of Hackney  
Claire Witney, London Borough of Hackney

### **Attending meeting and supporting as advisors:**

Martyna Glowacka, Hackney CVS  
Liz Hughes, Hackney CVS  
Sarah Watson, Hackney CVS

### **Assessment process:**

43 applications were received.

All applications were assessed against a written scoring framework, by two scorers (one from Hackney CVS, one from the Public Health team). Each pair of scorers met to agree a joint score for each application.

Joint scores were used as the basis for recommendations for funding. In addition, further consideration was given to ensuring a diverse range of projects were recommended for funding.

The Grants Panel has the power to decide which applications to fund.

Budget available  
£600,000 is available for distribution.

Applicant	Activity	Approved amount (£)
Age UK East London	Contact point grant supporting older people	20,000.00
Community Centre for Refugees from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia	Messenger grant supporting communities from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia	9,790.00
Chats Palace	Contact point grant supporting a range of people in the Homerton area	19,983.00
Coffee Afrik	Contact point grant supporting the Somali community	20,000.00
Day-Mer, Turkish and Kurdish Community Centre	Contact point grant working with Turkish and Kurdish communities	19,775.72
Hackney Cypriot Association	Contact point grant supporting Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities	
Hackney Play Association	Messenger grant supporting children and young people and their families	9,996.00
Hatzola	Contact point grant working with the Charedi community	20,000.00
Hawa Trust	Messenger grant supporting mostly West African communities with a focus on women	9,952.56
Healthwatch City of London	Contact point grant supporting communities living in the City of London	19,861.02
Huddleston Centre	Messenger grant supporting people with learning disabilities	9,879.00

	and autism	
Irish Elderly Advice Network	Messenger grant supporting Irish communities	10,000.00
Kanlungan Filipino Consortium	Contact point grant working with Filipino communities	19,989.14
Made in Hackney	Messenger grant working with people vulnerable to ill health and food poverty, including people with learning needs, in recovery, homeless, newly arrived migrants, people with a long term health issue, who have low income or are in care	9,980.00
MRS Independent Living	Messenger grant supporting older people	9,903.00
Rise Community Action	Messenger grant supporting communities from Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania and Zimbabwe	10,000.00
Round Chapel	Contact point grant supporting people who are homeless or vulnerably housed	19,608.00
Shomrim	Messenger grant supporting mostly the Charedi community	10,000.00
Shoreditch Trust	Contact point grant supporting communities in Shoreditch	20,000.00
St Mary's Secret Garden	Messenger grant supporting older people and people with disabilities and/or long term health conditions	10,000.00
The Vietnamese Mental Health Services	Messenger grant supporting Vietnamese and Chinese	9,406.00

	communities	
Turkish Cypriot Community Association	Contact point grant supporting the Turkish Cypriot community	19,002.00
Xenia	Messenger grant supporting women with low levels of literacy, in English and in their own languages	9,997.68
<i>The following applications were approved on 3 December following a period of review:</i>		
African Community School	Messenger grant supporting people from Black and Asian ethnic groups	10,000.00
Hackney Chinese Community Services Association Ltd	Contact point grant supporting Chinese, Japanese and Vietnamese communities	18,800.00
Minik Kardes	Messenger grant supporting mostly Turkish and Kurdish people	10,000.00
Turkish Cypriot Cultural Association	Messenger grant supporting the Turkish Cypriot community	10,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>385,923.1</b>

## Language provision

From the providers detailed above, public health messaging will be cascaded in the following languages:

Arabic  
Bengali  
Chinese  
ENGLISH  
Ewe (Ghana)

Filipino

French

Greek

Hebrew

Irish

Krio, Patois (Caribbean, West Africa)

Kurmanji (Kurdish) occasionally in printed form, often in spoken form  
Lingala (Congo)

Luganda

Other Filipino languages

Somali

Swahili

Themne, Mende, Koranko, Limba (Sierra Leone)

Tigrinia

Turkish

Vietnamese

Yiddish

Yoruba, Ibo, Hausa (Nigeria)

**The second round of Covid-19 Information Grants will open early in January 2021.**

Initial & interim monitoring feedback from organisations supported by Hackney Giving CCG small and large grants during the pandemic

## Coffee Afrik CIC

Awarded £33,000 The funding had a dramatic impact on our service provision, reaching hundreds more and serving additional needs with a 180% increase, YTD. Our clients are receiving signposting via our Community Connector, become a member of our food coop (foodbank) and now attend our peer to peer mental health women's digital support group.

This funding has been transformative and life changing for our clients. The fact is, if this funding did not occur, they would potentially have joined BAMER excess deaths as evidenced by ELFT.

We are addressing new and additional mental health inequalities, such as access to services, translation of documents and overall signposting to services outside of the statutory bubble. This involves the LGBTIQ community and Somali youth, who are hard to reach.

## Resident Feedback

'Without Coffee Afrik and Abdi, my family would not have survived. I had suicidal thoughts, no food and lost my job during Covid19, they are like our family. Nobody else is helping like Coffee Afrik, they are the only Somali support'.

## Hackney City Farm

Awarded £2,130

The Garden Therapy project is supporting 9 people. They come every Monday from 11-3 and take part in a mix of talking therapy led by Chand, a trained psychotherapist from Gaia Therapy, and outdoor activities in the Farm's gardens. We also share lunch together.

## Responding to the pandemic and addressing health & social inequalities

All of the participants have long standing, diagnosed mental health problems and have limited or no access to other therapeutic services. Their mental health problems have been exacerbated through the pandemic, making symptoms worse or/and limiting access to support services. 7 of the 9 participants are from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities, a diverse group that is over represented in mental health statistics nationally but is not adequately provisioned with suitable mental health services (see over for more detail). Addressing this particular racial inequality is something the project has made a priority.

The group has found solace in being outdoors in nature and are enjoying learning new skills in the garden. Particularly rewarding is the way in which people are finding meaning in the natural world, helping them to understand their own lives. When talking about difficult experiences, people are using things like the changing weather or the leaves falling from the trees to help articulate how their experiences have impacted them. People often bring an object from nature into the group which is then used as a way to describe how the week has been for them.

As evidence of the impact of the project, we presented the option of carrying on through the second lockdown and every member of the group expressed a strong desire for the project to continue. In many ways, the thoughts copied below from members of the group articulate better than I can the impact this project is having.

### **Resident Feedback**

'The project has been very refreshing and innovating for me in these challenging times. It has helped me to express myself, hear other people's stories, speak on mine and get out to be surrounded by beautiful nature. I really love and enjoy the way the project is running and wish it was a bit longer.

The project at the farm has been an incredible opportunity for me to mix and engage with everyone during this difficult time. It is amazing to learn from each other and to encourage one another. I have built friendships. I also like spending time gardening outdoors in nature and petting the animals. This has improved my mental health. My confidence has grown and my anxiety has reduced.

I'm seeing a counsellor at the moment - it's a 13 week talking therapy programme and I really don't find it very beneficial at all. I had suffered from a psychosis and had lost everything, my wife, children, home and business. I'm finding that this kind of talking therapy is not working for me for a number of reasons, firstly all the emphasis is on me and my problems. I really don't look forward to it.

The first interesting thing that both you and Chand did with this project is that you both talked about your own struggles in life and your own vulnerabilities. This was really groundbreaking for me and had the effect of creating a sense within the group that we were all equals and here to support each other as fellow human beings on a journey through life - not experts here to fix a group of dysfunctional people. I found this a very honest, humane and compassionate approach which encouraged me to open up and share with the group.

Secondly, in contrast to conventional individual talking therapy, being part of a group and sharing our stories together helps by taking you out of your own head, out of your own story, and you feel part of a supporting community. Sometimes you see similarities in other people's stories and that's comforting. Sometimes you see that others are struggling even more and your compassion for them puts your own issues into the background. I think a lot of issues we face are compounded by feelings of isolation and this therapeutic approach profoundly addresses that. We are social creatures not just individuals with issues.

Finally, the act of participating in ecological practices, working with the plants and animals and working with each other, eating with each other is immensely satisfying and puts you in a state

of service to something other than yourself, something much bigger. Following the cycles of nature, seeing rhythms in life, the patterns of the seasons, observing and being in the now, and sowing seeds for the future. Participating in timeless activities that have been practiced and developed by our ancestors - feels right, grounding and fulfilling. Working collaboratively, teamwork and seeing the results and progress of the work done together and having a vision and goal for the future. And there's something restorative and energising about just being outside! I'm very grateful to you for putting this wonderful programme together and I hope that more will get to benefit from it too'.

## **Kanlungan**

Awarded £3,000

The funding has helped vulnerable people among Filipino community receive befriending and psychosocial support. We have also provided emergency food and grocery vouchers especially those who have lost their jobs or income.

### **Responding to the pandemic and addressing health & social inequalities**

Many members of our community work in frontline and low paid jobs so during COVID, those working in restaurants and service sector, lost their jobs or their income got reduced dramatically. Those in the NHS and care sector Filipino workers suffered high level of infection and deaths.

The knowledge that they have someone to speak with, cry with and voice out their fears and anxieties, who understand their language, background and aspirations, made a lot of difference in their well being.

Many Filipinos are migrants, mostly in public and private service sector jobs. These are in low paid jobs. Many of them support not only families in the UK but also families back home in their country of origin.

The long hours of work and double shifts make them vulnerable to illness due to lack of time and resources for healthy food, physical and mental exercise and leisure.

They suffer many underlying health conditions such as diabetes, heart problems and depression. Our work has highlighted these issues to government authorities and service providers. We have increased the ability of the Filipino community in Hackney to access proper services, improve understanding of their rights and engage with the wider community for practical support. However, the short period and under resourced support is not enough to address systemic inequalities.

### **Resident Feedback**

'I am extending my endless thanks for all that you have done for me ever since and all the Filipinos whom you have helped through Kanlungan ..You have saved my life .. and I am sure you will continue to do so for other Filipinos who need help in their most critical times. Through Kanlungan there is heaven for weary souls like me. I pray to God all of you will have the strength, energy and wisdom and zeal to continue what you do and more support for all your activities. God Bless!!'

### **London Saz School - music classes**

Awarded £2,860

As London Saz School we are proud to say Hackney Giving has granted funding for our charity during Covid 19. Our project has supported 45 disadvantaged children and young people from Turkish/Kurdish and other ethnic minority who reside in Hackney.

### **Responding to the pandemic and addressing health & social inequalities**

This project made a huge progress on disadvantaged children and young people's mental health as we have provided music classes for them via Zoom classes and some one to one in our premises after the lockdown.

Families were extremely grateful as parents did not know how to occupy their young ones at their homes as they were always on social media and not doing anything useful for themselves. Our project has made them make new friends and learnt how to play a musical instrument.

## Resident Feedback

One of the parents has said " My 15 year old son would not come out of his room during the lockdown and I didn't know what he was doing, he would isolate himself and be on social media for long hours.

London Saz School's online lessons made him make new friends, he learnt how to play guitar and not only during lesson hours, he would rehearse good 5 hours a day and would spend his time with us and was always excited to make us listen his music".

## Read Easy

Awarded £749

Read Easy Hackney has used the funding to supply our volunteer Reading Coaches with additional resources in order to successfully move from providing face-to-face reading support to remote coaching during the pandemic.

## Responding to the pandemic and addressing health & social inequalities

In supporting adults in Hackney to learn to read, we are making a start on addressing social inequalities by supporting our Readers to improve their life chances. Many of our Reading pairs have, after the initial shock of lockdown, moved very successfully to the new mode of delivery: via WhatsApp or Zoom.

We have had the pleasure of seeing 3 Readers complete the programme since the first lockdown and more will follow. We have supported 25+ people so far

## Resident Feedback

.I can't read – that is a disability.

I felt disappointed in myself. I wanted to apply for a job but couldn't fill out the form. Learning with a coach has done so much for me. It helped my confidence and self-esteem'

## SkyWay Charity

Awarded £19,200

SkyWay Charity has been distributing emergency care packages at our center every Thursday and has also been delivering packages on Wednesday and Thursday evenings to the homes of our most vulnerable. Packages contain essentials such as bread, milk, cereal, tea/coffee, rice, pasta, potatoes,

beans, fruit and veg, toilet roll, nappies (if required) along with some luxuries such as juice, drinking chocolate, crisp etc.

## **Responding to the pandemic and addressing health & social inequalities**

Most of our families are single parent families with 3 or more children, some having a least one child with SEN and some with the parent suffering from a mental health condition. We also have many vulnerable users who are over 50 with health conditions who simply could not get out the house.

It would be fair to say that 90% of our users struggle with food shopping due to financial reasons. The added stress of the pandemic only created more worry and anxiety. 243 individuals are being supported

Our activities complement and help to reduce the impact on statutory health services. Many of the people we support, or someone in their household, have underlying health conditions or advised to self-isolate wherever possible. Our activities support them to be able to do this.

In addition, many of the people we're supporting struggle to provide and eat healthy meals each day. It is common for parents to tell us they have gone without food for a few days (especially during holidays) so that their children have something to eat.

We are also supporting families that are referred to us through Social Services, Hackney council and primary schools by acting as an early stage community support and care. This complements the statutory services because we can offer the beneficiaries support at an early stage before they hit the crisis point which is when they would normally present to services.

## **Up n Away**

Awarded £3,000

The funding from Hackney Giving helped us send out breakfast packages once a week to homes of 100 vulnerable young people aged 13-16 years, and their families, who were affected by the crisis and could not go out of the house including those who have lost their jobs and cannot afford basic food bills.

## **Responding to the pandemic and addressing health & social inequalities**

The grant paid towards a 6 week project during the transition of this pandemic to get back to the new normal. 3 volunteers were involved in the project, the 3 volunteers did the purchasing, packing, and delivering the food packages. Funding was used to pay towards the food parcels which included bread, milk, tuna and egg spread, cereal and vegetables.

Our project is addressing health and social inequalities by providing food packages which helps our users living healthy life and addresses the most important issues that people are facing during this pandemic. We have supported so far 100 disadvantaged, low income young people and their families.

## **Feedback**

Before Up 'N Away's breakfast packages I just skipped breakfast and was grumpy all day long. Up 'N Away really changed it for me, and now I'm able to stay healthy and go about my day with a clear mind.

## Hackney Giving

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