

Communities and Neighbourhoods (CaN)

We Do Things Differently

Annual Social
Value Report
2025-26



Introduction



19,186
attended H & W being
sessions at our Centres;
partners' sessions
attended by 7,777.

There is nothing more fulfilling than knowing the work that you do, the support that you provide, and the services you offer are making a huge, positive impact on people's lives.

Staff and volunteers of the Communities & Neighbourhoods (CaN) Directorate draw strength and inspiration from the positive outcomes of our work year after year. Alongside Poplar HARCA residents, other local people and partners, we create opportunities, build skills, and strengthen overall wellbeing across Poplar & Bow and

surrounding communities. The past 12 months have been particularly rewarding and reaffirming for all of us.

Across four key areas, (employment & training, health & wellbeing, youth empowerment & resident engagement), CaN has gained significant results.

Social Value Generated in 2025-2026

This report celebrates our achievements in 2025-2026 and extends our thanks to our dedicated staff and volunteers, valued partners and generous funders as well as our supportive colleagues across Poplar HARCA.



Elders' Christmas Lunch Dec 26 at The Feldy



£9.9m
Total Social Value Generated

Employment
& Training
£4.4m

Community Development
& Wellbeing
£1.8m

Spotlight
Youth Service
£3.7m

Employment and Training

Skills, Jobs & New Opportunities

“This award reflects the everyday moments we get to witness – someone walking into a centre unsure of themselves, and walking out with a new skill, a job offer, or simply a sense of belonging. That’s what makes our work so powerful.”

Tanzeem Ahmed, Assistant Director, E&T

A Winning Formula

The past year has been truly special for our Employment & Training (E&T) team, marked by both strong outcomes for residents and national recognition for the impact of our work.

Most notably, the team won the Stronger Communities Award at the 2025 Get the Nation Learning Awards—one of the most prestigious celebrations of lifelong learning in England.

These awards recognise individuals and organisations that are transforming lives through adult education, contributing to healthier futures, stronger communities, increased opportunity, and regional growth. Delivered as part of the Get the Nation Learning campaign by the Learning and Work Institute, the initiative is supported by over 100 major organisations, including Channel 4, the National Housing Federation, and Make UK. Winning this award highlights the real difference our team has made in supporting residents to build skills, confidence, and sustainable futures.

Won the Stronger Communities Award
(Get the Nation Learning Awards 25)



Further recognition was given to our Digital Skills Service, as Finalist in the Internet Services Provider’s Association (ISPA UK) Awards 2025, in the category of Digital Inclusion Champions for Charities and Communities. This acknowledgment reinforces the importance of our work in tackling digital exclusion and ensuring residents can fully participate in modern life.

Through The Hive, our community centres, and a wide network of partnerships across East London, we have supported hundreds of residents to gain new skills, access employment, and grow in confidence. These achievements are a testament to the dedication, creativity, and care our team brings to its work every day.

Supporting Jobseekers

249
residents supported into jobs

1,450
Advice & Guidance appointments delivered



Over the past year, our Employment Advisors have delivered intensive, personalised support to residents seeking employment. A total of 384 new clients registered with the service, and 1,450 appointments were delivered, ensuring individuals received tailored guidance at every stage of their journey.

This support has translated into 249 job outcomes, demonstrating the effectiveness of our approach. Residents have progressed into a range of roles, including Health & Care trainees moving into NHS pathways and Security learners securing employment with employers in Canary Wharf. We have also facilitated access to targeted recruitment opportunities, including concierge roles for new hotels in the area.

Our work with young people has also been impactful. A referral from Spotlight, our youth service, successfully transitioned into employment with the LBTH Council, highlighting the strength of our internal pathways and collaborative approach.

Through our work with the East End Community Foundation, clients have benefited from corporate-



led training sessions focused on CV writing, LinkedIn, and interview preparation. These sessions provide invaluable insight into employer expectations and help build confidence. One such opportunity—a paid internship at the Association of British Insurers—was successfully secured by a client, demonstrating the tangible outcomes of these collaborations.

Performance across the service has remained consistently strong. We continue to exceed targets and outperform many other providers in job outcomes, a success that has been recognised through increased funding. This enables us to further expand our reach and maintain the high quality of support we provide.

The impact of our work is best reflected in the voices of those we support.

One resident shared:

“I’d been applying for jobs for months without luck. The team helped me build my confidence and now I’ve started a new role—I feel like I’ve got my future back.”

Case Study

Kakoti's Story

Building Confidence for NHS Careers



Kakoti joined the Community Works for Health Programme through The Hive, seeking direction, confidence, and practical support to get back into work.

With an interest in working in the NHS, she was looking for an opportunity to build her skills and better understand how to present herself to employers.

Reflecting on her motivation, Kakoti shared:

“I found it challenging to get back into work. Being out of employment for a while affected my confidence, and I wasn't always sure how to present my skills effectively. At times, it felt overwhelming not knowing where to start.”

During the programme, Kakoti developed key employability skills, including improving her CV, preparing for interviews, and communicating more effectively. The interactive sessions and supportive group environment played an important role in her progress, helping her to build both confidence and a more positive mindset.

She explained:

“I learnt how to improve my CV, prepare for interviews, and communicate more confidently. The programme helped me build my confidence, develop new skills, and gain a more positive mindset about my abilities.”

Kakoti also valued the encouragement and guidance provided by the employment team, particularly her employment support advisor:

“The tutors and staff, especially my advisor, were very supportive and encouraging. They were always approachable and created a positive and comfortable learning environment.”

Since completing the programme, Kakoti feels more confident in her ability to apply for roles and engage with employers. She now has the tools and motivation to take the next steps toward employment.

As she describes it:

“I feel much more confident applying for jobs and presenting myself to employers. It has given me the tools, motivation, and belief in myself to take the next steps.”

Kakoti's journey highlights how the programme supports participants to build confidence, develop essential employability skills, and move closer to achieving their career goals within the NHS.

80

NHS jobs filled by our trainees each year via Barts Health NHS Trust



Supporting Learners

127
trained in Digital skills

77
gained accreditation

1,220
qualifications achieved by trainees collectively

822
gained qualification

144
laptops and 40 smartphones distributed

Alongside employment support, the E&T team has delivered a comprehensive and responsive training offer designed to meet the needs of local residents and employers. Over the past year, 822 learners have achieved a combined total of 1,220 accredited qualifications, reflecting both strong demand and effective delivery, with learners always leaving very appreciative feedback.

“Being a learner at The Hive is a positive and supportive experience. The environment is welcoming, and the staff are always friendly, patient, and willing to help. The trainers explain things clearly and make learning enjoyable and easy to understand.”

Our course offer includes both accredited and non-accredited programmes across a wide range of areas, including Security Industry Authority (SIA) training, digital skills, English, Health & Care, Mental Health, First Aid, Employability, Food Safety, Customer Service, and Health & Safety. The SIA qualification remains particularly popular, providing a clear pathway into employment within the security sector.

Digital inclusion continues to be a major focus of our work. Over the year, we secured 80 smartphones for community distribution, with 40 already allocated to residents in need. In addition, 144 laptops (donated via The Good Things Foundation and the Poplar HARCA IT Team), were distributed, significantly improving access to online learning and job opportunities.

Our digital skills training has also delivered measurable outcomes. A total of 77 residents gained digital skills accreditation, while 50 completed basic skills training, equipping them with essential capabilities for both employment and everyday life. Additional funding has been secured to further expand this programme and reach more residents across the borough.



Case Study

Lesia's Story

Building Confidence Through English Learning



Lesia joined English classes at Entry Level 3 while working as a cleaner and adjusting to life in a new country. She wanted to improve her job prospects and build social connections, but a lack of confidence in speaking English was holding her back.

Reflecting on her situation before starting the course, Lesia said:

“I was working as a cleaner. I wanted to get a better job and make friends in this country, but I was afraid to speak English, which made it very difficult.”

Through the course, Lesia steadily progressed from Entry Level 3 to Level 1. Along the way, she developed her communication skills, built friendships, and, most importantly, overcame her fear of speaking English.

“My learning experience at The Hive showed me why they win awards. They are special.”

She described the impact of her learning:

“The most important thing I learned was to stop being afraid of speaking English. I became more confident, found a better job, and made new friends.”

Lesia also highlighted the supportive learning environment as a key factor in her success:

“The tutors were very supportive and patient. They created a friendly and comfortable environment, which helped me feel more confident and motivated to learn. I really admire the way the teacher explains things and makes the lessons easy to understand.”

As a result of her progress, Lesia has secured a better job and continues to look ahead to further opportunities. She now feels more confident not only in her language skills but also in herself.

Reflecting on her journey, she shared:

“I found a better job and I continue to grow and look for even better opportunities. You cannot imagine how much this programme helped me at the beginning of my life in this country.”

Lesia's story demonstrates how language learning can support individuals to overcome barriers, build confidence, and access improved employment and social opportunities.

Partnerships

Partnership working remains at the heart of our success, enabling us to extend opportunities and deliver more impactful outcomes for residents.

We continue to work closely with the London Borough of Tower Hamlets (LBTH) Council's Employment Support Unit. Over the past year, they have commissioned us to deliver targeted programmes for Care Leavers, individuals with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and those who are long-term unemployed. These programmes combine employability training with practical skills development, helping participants overcome barriers to work.

Our collaboration with the Council also includes targeted support for NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) young people. We engaged 31 young people over the year, many of whom completed Licence to Practice qualifications such as CCTV (SIA), alongside customer service training. These programmes provide a structured pathway into employment for young people who may otherwise struggle to access opportunities.

Our partnership with the East End Community Foundation has continued to unlock valuable connections with the corporate sector. Through this collaboration, residents have accessed training, mentoring, and employment opportunities within the specialist insurance industry. As a result, five young people secured fixed-term roles with companies including Enstar, Sirius, and Velonetic, with a second cohort already in development. The successful placement of a client into a paid internship at the Association of British Insurers further highlights the strength of this partnership.

We are also expanding pathways into the finance sector. Residents have participated in employer visits, skills workshops, and networking opportunities with leading organisations. This includes visits to Dentons, where participants received interview coaching, and Barings, where ten young people gained insight into careers in finance. We are also exploring opportunities to strengthen links with Standard Chartered Bank to create apprenticeship pathways.

Our relationship with Canary Wharf Group has reached a new milestone, with Poplar HARCA now recognised as an official community recruitment agency. This partnership

supports residents to access graduate roles, apprenticeships, and entry-level opportunities across a range of sectors.

Healthcare remains another key area of collaboration. Our partnership with Barts Health NHS Trust has delivered particularly strong outcomes, with 48 residents supported into paid three-month placements, and 10 progressing into permanent roles so far. In addition, three pre-employment programmes have prepared 27 individuals for entry-level NHS roles. Due to the success of this initiative, Barts is planning to fund a second cohort, further expanding opportunities for residents.

We have also secured funding to deliver a 12-week NEET programme supporting 50 young people to gain qualifications in CCTV, CSCS, Customer Service, and Stewarding. This initiative will provide structured pathways into employment for participants, particularly in sectors experiencing high demand.

Across all partnerships, we continue to work closely with employers, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), and local stakeholders to deliver sector-based training and recruitment opportunities, particularly in hospitality, security, and customer service.



Case Study

Jerin's Story

Hands-on experience



“I wanted to be in the NHS and to do something that is relevant to my study background. At the same time, the programme gave me the opportunity to learn about Mental Health First Aid, which is important in healthcare and useful for working in the NHS.”

Jerin joined the Community Works for Health Programme with a clear ambition: to secure a role within the NHS that aligned with her academic background.

She was particularly motivated by the opportunity to gain sector-specific knowledge and develop practical skills that would support her entry into healthcare.

Reflecting on her decision to join, Jerin explained:

“I wanted to be in the NHS and to do something that is relevant to my study background. At the same time, the programme gave me the opportunity to learn about Mental Health First Aid, which is important in healthcare and useful for working in the NHS.”

Through the programme, Jerin developed a strong understanding of how the NHS operates and what is required to succeed in its recruitment processes. She received targeted support with writing supporting statements, preparing for interviews, and building her confidence in professional settings. A key component of her experience was a six-week placement, which provided valuable, hands-on exposure to the NHS environment.

Jerin highlighted the impact of this support:

“This course prepared me for the NHS and gave me a clear understanding of how the system works. It helped me with supporting statement writing, learning how to deal with interviews, and most importantly, it boosted my confidence.”

In addition to group learning, Jerin benefited from tailored one-to-one employment support. She described her experience with her advisor and the wider team as consistently positive and responsive:

“The employment support was excellent. My career advisor was extremely kind and helpful, and I could reach out whenever I faced any job-related challenges. The team provided guidance exactly when and where it was needed.”

Following completion of the programme, Jerin successfully secured full-time employment as a Medical Laboratory Assistant at Royal London Hospital. The combination of training, practical experience, and personalised support played a crucial role in enabling this outcome.

Now in her role, Jerin continues to build her skills and confidence within a real healthcare setting:

“I’m now working as a Medical Lab Assistant and it’s going really well. I’m learning a lot on the job, getting practical experience, and feeling more confident in my skills. It’s exciting to be a part of the NHS.”

Jerin’s journey demonstrates how targeted employability support, combined with sector-specific training and work experience, can lead to sustained employment outcomes. Her progression highlights the programme’s effectiveness in supporting individuals into meaningful careers within the NHS while building confidence and long-term employability.

Looking Ahead



15

students expected to form the 1st cohort of Level 2 Certificate in Housing Practice

The year ahead presents further opportunities for growth and impact. The Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) has granted us approved provider status for Housing qualifications, and we are currently in the process of developing and accrediting course content. We aim to begin delivery in the second quarter of 2026, opening up new pathways into new qualifications for housing officers.

Building on our strong foundation, the Employment & Training team will continue to seek additional funding and partnerships to expand our reach. Our focus remains clear: to deliver high-quality support that enables residents to gain skills, build confidence, and secure sustainable employment.

Through a combination of personalised support, targeted training, and strong partnerships, we will continue to create opportunities and strengthen communities—ensuring that more residents can access the tools they need to succeed.



Community Development & Wellbeing

Connection, Good Health & Resilience

Throughout the past year, our Community Development & Wellbeing (CDW) programme has responded directly to the needs of our residents and other local people across Poplar and Bow and neighbouring areas.

Through a combination of centre-based initiatives, targeted support services, and strategic partnerships, the programme has strengthened community resilience, improved wellbeing, and created inclusive opportunities for residents of all ages.



6
Major Festivals held
in 5 estates

9,537
attended community
events

Food and Cost-of-Living support

Food insecurity has remained a pressing issue for local people and the programme has responded through a successful Food Co-operatives pilot. Delivered in partnership with LB Tower Hamlets Food Hub and The Felix Project, the initiative supported 291 families with weekly surplus food crates across our six neighbourhood centres.

Beyond immediate provision, the project has laid the foundation for longer-term, resident-led Food Co-op groups, with sites such as Feldy and St. Paul's Way Centre continuing to develop independently. The Power of Food Festival, held to mark the completion of the JUST FACT Programme led by the Women's Environmental Network, further brought communities together through cooking events, exhibitions, and activities across multiple venues, one of which, is our Burdett estate based Limborough Food Hub.

The Greening team has successfully supported 15 gardening groups to access support and build long-term capacity, ensuring community growing spaces continue to thrive. The Good Food Research Project, delivered in partnership with Sunny Jar Eco, engaged 80 gardeners in shaping a deeper understanding of local food systems and food insecurity. This work culminated in a collaborative event bringing together 11 gardeners from seven sites, where participants exchanged seeds, food growing tips, and plans to strengthen the local network. Alongside this, 24

corporate volunteers contributed to maintaining and improving local gardens such as the Linc Centre Sensory Garden, Greening Brownfield, and Phoenix Green.

In response to the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, the programme has delivered a range of targeted interventions. Energy advice sessions have supported residents to access £75 Warm Welcome Crisis Fund grants, while a DWP Employability Workshop engaged 136 residents, complemented by recruitment opportunities with employers such as T.M. Lewin. Digital inclusion has been supported through Get Online Week, ensuring residents can access essential online services. The Communities Keeping Well initiative distributed £15,000 to 20 resident-led groups, empowering grassroots action, while 1,200 books were provided to families with young children through a partnership with Save the Children.

Comprehensive welfare advice & support provided through our partner First Love Foundation, had helped over 50 vulnerable residents to secure proper financial entitlements.



80
growers from 11 food
growing community gardens
took part in shaping Cal's
Good Food Strategy



Case Study

Linda Jestico

Promoting local solution towards food security

3 CaN

Centres - including the Teviot Centre managed by Leaders in Community (LIC) run self-sustaining food co-op and buying groups.



Linda Jestico, a resident of the Lincoln Estate, has been a valued member of the Cooperation Town - St Paul's Way Food Co-op since the project first began in May 2025.

From the outset, Linda showed a strong commitment to the group and quickly became one of its most reliable volunteers. Her involvement has gone far beyond simply attending sessions; she has played an active role in transporting, unpacking and organising food deliveries into crates, helping the co-op run smoothly each week.

The food co-op project was developed to help local residents access good quality food at a lower cost, while also strengthening community connections. The initiative was created in partnership with Cooperation Town and the Tower Hamlets Food Hub. A significant part of the food provided comes from surplus deliveries from farms and supermarkets, food that would otherwise go to waste. By redistributing this surplus food, the co-op not only supports residents financially but also encourages more sustainable living and reduces environmental waste.

Linda first became involved because she wanted to be part of a community project that would help her get out of the house, meet local people and socialise more regularly. The co-op offered her a welcoming environment where she could build relationships with other residents while contributing to something positive within the community. Alongside the social benefits, Linda has also experienced financial relief through access to free and low-cost food, helping her save money on her weekly food shopping. She has often shared food with friends and family, extending the project's benefits beyond herself.

Over time, Linda's role within the co-op has continued to grow. Staff recognised her potential to take on greater responsibility and leadership within the group. With encouragement and support, Linda gained the confidence to independently manage practical tasks such as operating the lift key, setting up tables and organising volunteers during food deliveries. She now helps direct other members when unpacking and arranging food, demonstrating strong leadership and teamwork skills.

Linda has also become an important advocate for fairness and respect within the co-op. She consistently promotes positive behaviour among members and is willing to challenge behaviour that does not align with the group's values. In addition to her regular volunteering duties, she willingly takes on extra responsibilities such as managing the sign-in sheet and helping clean the space after sessions end.

The Cooperation Town - St Paul's Way Food Co-op is designed to be self-organised, with members collectively placing food orders and sharing volunteering responsibilities. Linda's journey reflects the success of this approach. Through consistent involvement, she has not only developed new skills and confidence but has also become a trusted and dependable leader within the group.

Over-all Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing initiatives have addressed both physical and mental health. Events such as World Health Day brought together over 50 families in collaboration with Tower Hamlets Public Health, while targeted sessions like “Let’s Talk: Bowel Cancer” at Aberfeldy Wellness Centre demonstrated strong community interest, with local GPs calling for more initiatives of this kind.

Residents have also benefited from regular energy advice sessions delivered in partnership with National Energy Action, alongside an Emergency Services event at Feldy, where attendees received guidance on safety, fire prevention, and first aid. A Movember exhibition further contributed to raising awareness of men’s mental health, encouraging open dialogue within the community.

Physical fitness has been significantly strengthened through an expanding sports offer. The Oar & Explore Boat Club has got 150 women through the Introduction to Paddle Sports programme, 40 of whom are now regular Club members and 12 had qualified as Paddle Instructors. With the opening of the new Pontoon at Teviot, the Club is looking to run regular sessions in partnership with the East London Canal Network (ELCAN) to widen participation in water sports by residents of the Teviot estate.

Importantly, 17 women took part in swimming lessons to build confidence in water-based activities, helping to remove barriers to participation. The cycling programme has also grown steadily: 14 individuals gained confidence through the Ride-to-Learn scheme, while four structured training programmes were delivered, including a specialist course for adults with learning disabilities in partnership with Apasen. Demand for access to bikes continues to rise, with an average

of 30 bike loans recorded each Sunday and 28 residents using the Cycle Loan Scheme. Social rides have engaged 13 regular participants, strengthening peer connections, while BMX sessions have attracted seven women and eight young people. This growth has been supported by funding from the Canal & River Trust, enabling further expansion.

Pilates sessions, delivered by Open Mat with funding from the East End Community Foundation was a huge success at the Feldy. It was oversubscribed with residents consistently returning and sharing powerful feedback on how the exercise has reduced pain, stress and created opportunities for meaningful social connections. The year saw 60 first timers join making up a total of 142 residents attending 34 classes. Participant’s age ranged from 19 to 65 years old.

Continuation grant from the Big Lottery reaching Communities Programme, has ensured the availability of even more wide-ranging wellbeing provision across Tower Hamlets through the Wellone partnership led by Poplar HARCA.



142
residents (aged between 19-65 yo) attended 34 Pilates classes at Feldy. 60 are first timers



Case Study

Wellone

Supporting Health and Confidence in Tower Hamlets

“The session was really helpful because it was easy and comfortable to attend. Sometimes even small barriers stop people from getting support but having it somewhere I already knew and trusted made a big difference. The advice felt realistic for me and my lifestyle, and I’m already starting to make changes to my diet.”

Well One worked in partnership with Public Health Tower Hamlets to deliver eight healthy heart check sessions across Poplar, Bow, Teviot and Isle of Dogs.

The programme provided local residents with accessible health screenings, including blood pressure and BMI checks, alongside assessments of diabetes risk, smoking and alcohol use. Participants also received tailored advice and resources to help improve their long-term health and wellbeing.

During a health check session delivered in partnership with the Grow TH project at the Crypt of All Saints’ Church, Well One staff met Sam Keba, a young man who had recently been rehoused following a period of homelessness. The session was well attended by members of the local community who regularly accessed support through the Charity, helping to create a welcoming and trusted environment.

After completing his health check, Sam spoke openly with staff about concerns regarding recent weight gain and his desire to improve his health. During the appointment, the nurse provided practical dietary advice, including ways he could adapt traditional Congolese meals to support his weight-loss goals while maintaining familiar foods and cultural preferences.

Sam explained that the simplicity and accessibility of the service made a significant difference to him. Holding the session in a familiar venue where he already felt comfortable reduced barriers to engagement and encouraged him to take part. Motivated by the experience, Sam committed to making positive dietary changes and asked staff to follow up with him in a few months to monitor his progress.



Case Study

Laura's Story

Stepping Out of her Comfort Zone Through Paddle Sports

150

women through
to paddle sports
programme

40

Oar & Explore
members

12

qualified
trainers

When she first joined the paddle sports club, it was driven by curiosity, challenge, and a desire to try something completely different.

For years, whenever she saw people gliding across the water on paddle boards, she admired how calm and confident they looked – balancing effortlessly while floating along.

Although she considered herself a strong swimmer, she also recognised that she had a mild but very real fear of water. The thought of standing upright on a paddle board and remaining balanced seemed almost impossible. So, when the opportunity came to try paddle sports for free, with professional tuition and support, she knew she couldn't let it pass by.

The experience offered more than just physical activity. She had heard that stepping outside your comfort zone becomes increasingly important as you get older, helping to keep both mind and body active. Paddle boarding felt like the perfect challenge – combining balance, confidence-building, and the chance to meet new people.

One of the aspects that appealed to her most was that the sessions were women-only. She valued the opportunity to spend time in a supportive female environment and quickly discovered that the group atmosphere was exactly what she had hoped for – encouraging, cooperative, and welcoming.

“Balancing on a paddle board was completely outside my comfort zone, but that's exactly why I wanted to try it. I surprised myself with what I could do, and the support from the other women made such a difference.”

What began as a one-off experience soon became something much more memorable. While she already dedicates time volunteering at her local school and with the Canal & River Trust, she appreciated how paddle sports allowed her to focus on herself, have fun, and embrace a new challenge without pressure or expectation.

Reflecting on the experience, she would strongly encourage other women to give paddle sports a try.

Her advice is simple: go for it, enjoy the moment, leave your phone behind, wear a hat with a visor, and be ready to surprise yourself.

This journey highlights how trying something new can build confidence, create connections, and remind people that growth often begins just beyond the edge of their comfort zone.



Case Study

Tahmina's Story

Grief Café – Supporting Women Through Grief, Trauma and SEND Challenges



Tahmina is a local young mum of a child with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). She is a certified grief educator and grief movement guide.

Through Breath.Move.Heal, a CIC that she founded, she delivers yoga, qigong movement, breathwork, mindfulness, meditation, acupuncture techniques, tapping, and sound bath sessions. She also works directly with children with SEND, providing gentle and inclusive wellbeing activities tailored to their needs.

Through her work with women experiencing trauma and grief, Tahmina saw the need for safe, compassionate spaces where women could access emotional support without financial barriers. This is why she created a free women-only Grief Café model, offering monthly support sessions focused on healing, reflection, and connection.

In partnership with St Paul's Way Centre, Tahmina is able to access subsidised community space, enabling her to provide sessions free of charge or at a very low cost.

The Grief Café sessions offer women a nurturing environment where they can openly discuss experiences of loss – whether related to bereavement, relationships, identity, health, or changing family roles. Sessions include guided journaling, mindfulness practices, breathwork techniques, and supportive discussions designed to help participants better understand and process grief.

Participants describe the sessions as supportive, healing, and empowering.

One participant, Chantelle, attended the Grief Café shortly after losing her sister:

“My sister died in December 2025. I was only three weeks into grief when I started attending the Grief Café. Before attending, I felt very sad and depressed. I had very little energy and did not want to do much of anything. After attending the sessions, I felt heard and understood. I was able to learn how to direct my emotions in a more positive way.”

Another participant, Iryna, shared how the sessions supported her through multiple personal challenges:

“I experienced many losses – caring for my son with complex special needs and severe challenging behaviour, alongside the tragic death of my brother a year ago. Since then, I began to lose my physical and mental health. After attending the sessions, I feel better. I feel that I am not alone, and I no longer feel guilty about what has happened to me.”

Through Breath.Move.Heal CIC, Tahmina enabled local women and families to gain low-cost if not free locally accessible wellbeing service for women and families, helping individuals build resilience, connection, and emotional wellbeing within their local community.

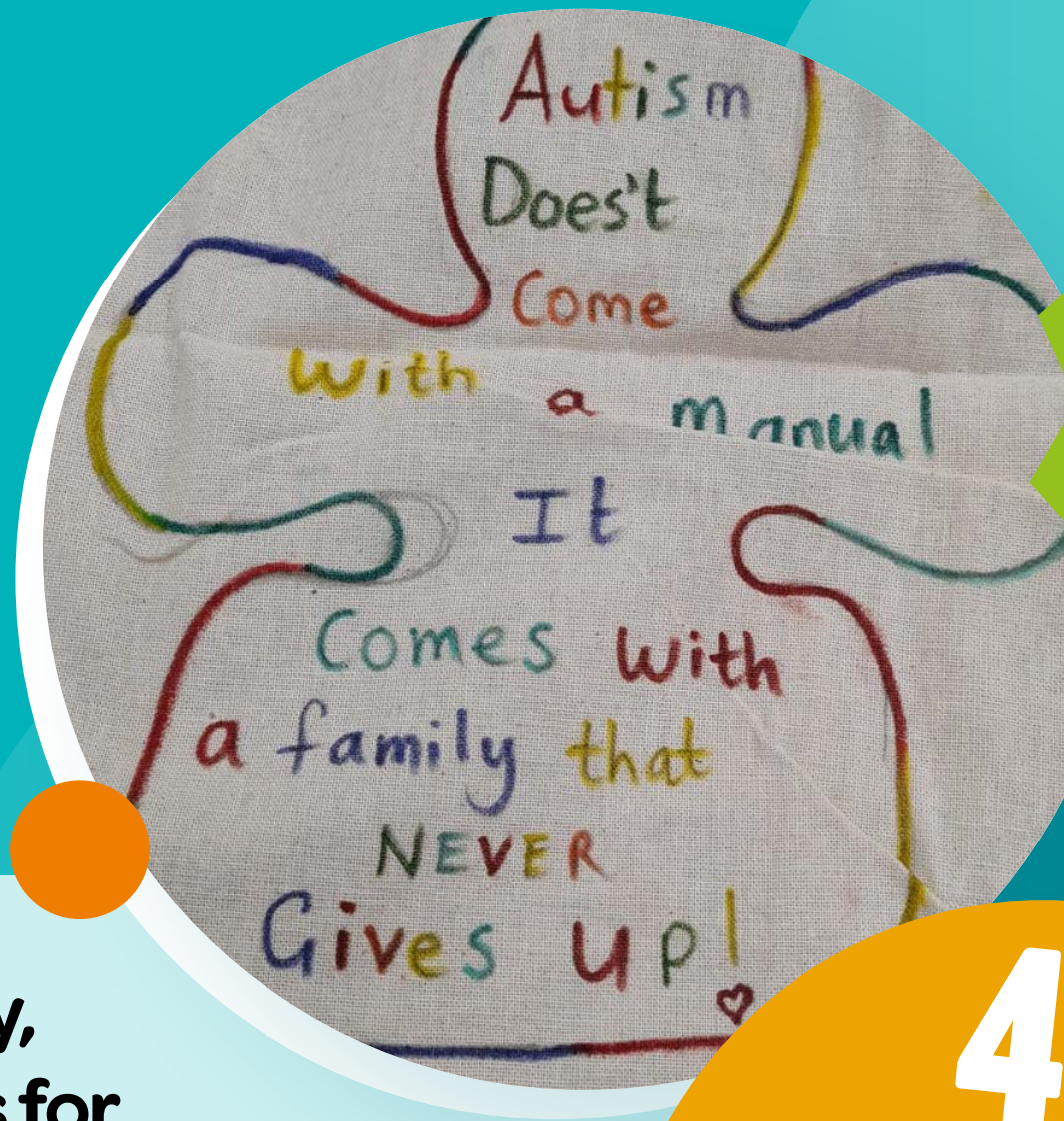
Inclusion

Inclusion has remained central to our delivery, particularly through SEND-focused activities for children and young people and support for the elderly as well as other vulnerable adults.

During the Easter holidays, 37 children participated in tailored programmes including Mindset Football Camp and Independent You. Early intervention has been strengthened through weekly speech and language sessions at Linc Centre, with 18 families participating. New inclusive cycling sessions for disabled adults have also been piloted, while a comprehensive summer programme—funded through Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme and delivered with partners such as Purple Moon and Trapped in Zone One—has

ensured ongoing support for children and young people with additional needs.

Older residents have always been a key priority, with activities designed to reduce isolation and promote wellbeing. The Elders Tea Dance brought together 40 residents for an afternoon of music, food, and social connection, supported by volunteers. This was followed by the Elders Christmas Lunch, where 70 residents enjoyed a three-course meal, music, and dancing, alongside the distribution of 70 winter warmer hampers.



37
children participated in tailored programmes like Mindset Football Camp during Easter 2025

40
residents enjoyed the Elders' Tea Dance, supported by volunteers



Case Study

Victoria's Story

Breaking Barriers Through BSL

10-week
British Sign Language
course offered at our Linc
Centre at an affordable
cost to residents

For years, Victoria had been searching for a way to better communicate with her non-verbal son, Teddy.

She knew that learning British Sign Language (BSL) could make a real difference to their relationship, but every course she found came with a price tag she simply could not manage. As a part-time worker with school-aged children, spending hundreds of pounds on professional tuition was out of reach.

Everything changed when Victoria discovered that Linc Centre was offering a 10-week BSL 101 course locally and at an affordable cost. Excited by the opportunity, she signed up immediately. The course provided 20 hours of guided, in-person tuition across weekly two-hour sessions, giving participants the chance to build their confidence step by step in a supportive environment. Alongside classroom learning, tutors also signposted learners to online resources so they could continue practising at home.

For Victoria, the impact of the course went far beyond learning a new skill.

At home, BSL quickly became part of everyday family life. Victoria and Teddy now use signing to communicate daily, strengthening their bond and creating new ways to connect with one another. Inspired by the course, they have even started learning together using online videos recommended by the tutor, turning learning into a shared family activity.

The experience also had a powerful impact on Victoria personally. Through the course, she gained confidence and discovered a new enthusiasm for trying different activities and "learning new things." What began as a practical step to support her son soon became an important journey of personal growth.

The social side of the course proved equally transformative. Before seeing an advert for the BSL sessions on a friend's WhatsApp story, Victoria had never considered community centres to be places "for her." She assumed they would not offer the type of support, learning opportunities, or personal development she was looking for. Despite her initial hesitation, she quickly found herself enjoying the welcoming and inclusive environment at Linc. She formed friendships with other participants and has stayed in touch with several of the women she met during the course.

Since completing BSL 101, Victoria has become an active part of the Linc community. She recently hosted a stall at the centre's Table Top Sale and joined the Linc WhatsApp channel to keep up to date with future activities and events. Her experience has also changed the way she views community spaces more broadly, and she now actively looks out for opportunities at other local community centres as well.



Community Events



A vibrant programme of events has played a crucial role in strengthening community cohesion. International Family Day welcomed 170 families, while the Spring Craft Fayre supported 12 local entrepreneurs and attracted over 150 attendees.

Seasonal highlights included the Eid in the Community celebration, which engaged more than 400 residents through creative workshops and a mural project linked to the London Festival of Architecture. The Summer Bazaar, despite challenging weather, brought together nearly 100 attendees and raised £1,514 for charitable causes. Creativity and skills were also showcased through the Bow Sewing Centre Graduation Exhibition, attended by 80 people. Cultural celebrations continued with Black History Month, delivered in partnership with City on Hills, featuring

storytelling, performances, and exhibitions celebrating Black British culture and encouraging community dialogue.

Community engagement around sustainable living has also been strong, with over 50 residents attending a plant-based skincare workshop during Plastic Free Month. Creative engagement also played a role, with the "Knitting in the Air" exhibition transforming air pollution data into a powerful visual installation.

£1,514

raised for Charity in a Centre event attended by nearly 100 local people

Case Study

Christine Tuffin's Story

Finding Strength Through Community

“The Cabin is a safe space that provided me and others a supportive friendship circle. There's so much kindness and warm-heartedness.”



Christine Tuffin first joined the Knitters and Craft Group after leaving work to care full-time for her husband, who was living with dementia.

During what was an emotionally and physically demanding period of her life, the weekly sessions at the Cabin became a valuable source of comfort and connection.

Having always enjoyed crocheting, Christine found that the group offered more than just a creative outlet. It provided her with a supportive friendship circle and a safe space where she could temporarily step away from the pressures of her caring responsibilities and focus on something she genuinely enjoyed. The sessions became an important part of her routine, helping to support her own wellbeing at a time when much of her attention was focused on caring for others.

Following the passing of her husband, the kindness and encouragement Christine received from the group became even more significant. The familiar faces, regular meetings, and welcoming atmosphere helped her through a particularly difficult period of grief and adjustment.

“The consistency of the sessions gave structure to her week and reminded her of the importance of staying connected with others.”

As Christine gradually began to heal, her confidence and involvement within the group grew. Wanting to give back to the community that had supported her, she started taking on additional responsibilities, helping to lead some of the sessions and ensuring activities could continue even when staff availability was limited. Her



willingness to step forward demonstrated both her commitment to the group and the positive impact the sessions had on her own recovery and wellbeing.

In support of her volunteering role, Christine recently completed Fire Marshal training provided by Poplar HARCA. The training has given her the confidence and knowledge to respond appropriately should any fire safety issues arise while she is overseeing activities at the Cabin.

Christine continues to play an active role in supporting community activities because she deeply understands the value they provide. Through friendship, creativity, and shared experiences, the group has helped improve social connection and emotional wellbeing – not only for Christine herself, but for many others who attend.

“What I thought was a brief respite became a stepping stone to finding lots of meaningful engagements that gave me purpose and fulfilment. I highly recommend coming to any HARCA Centres if you wish to overcome isolation or need support to cope with any loss or bereavement.”

Volunteering & Partnerships



120
guests joined HRH The Duke of Gloucester in launching the Homeopathy UK Clinic at the Feldy



561
Volunteers engaged in the year.

Our volunteering programme had seen a steady flow of people very willing to share while at the same time learn new skills.

Corporate volunteers have supported projects such as Berkeley Vision Cinema and local gardens, learning new things and building connections with residents.

At the same time, local volunteering pathways have enabled individuals to progress into leadership roles. Residents have moved from participation into active community leadership, supported to apply for grants and deliver initiatives that benefit others. Plans are now underway to launch a volunteer-led Repair Shop, promoting sustainability, skills-sharing, and community collaboration.

Strong partnerships have underpinned the programme's success. Collaborations with organisations such as Middlesex in the Community have expanded sports provision, while

the launch of the Homeopathy UK Community Clinic at Feldy—attended by over 120 guests, including HRH The Duke of Gloucester—has introduced new health services. Work with the Dementia & Alzheimer's Society UK has created safe and supportive spaces for those affected, while partnerships with National Energy Action and Nunnery Gallery have enhanced both practical support and cultural engagement.

Overall, our delivery this year has engaged hundreds of residents, strengthened community networks, and provided tangible support where it is most needed.

Spotlight Youth Service

Leadership, Confidence & Success.



2,462
YPs engaged
(plus 1,700 by
partners)

48kg

NAC Title won by boxer
Billy Macey. Also named
Boxer of the Tournament.

Billy trains under
the DiSE programme run
by the Limehouse Boxing
Club and Spotlight.

Over the past year, Spotlight has continued to provide a vital space where young people can grow, connect and thrive. Through a combination of safe environments, trusted relationships and meaningful opportunities, the service has supported long-term positive change across the community. By integrating sports, creative programming, targeted intervention and wellbeing support, Spotlight engaged 2,462 young people across its main and satellite hubs, alongside a further 1,700 through partnerships with other youth service providers.

The outcomes achieved this year demonstrate both the breadth and depth of Spotlight's impact. Many young people progressed into employment, apprenticeships and further education, while others gained qualifications

or successfully re-engaged with learning. Across all programmes, there has been a consistent focus on building confidence, resilience and aspiration.



Get Active



“This experience is unforgettable. Thank you Spotlight and West Ham Foundation”

Change to During the last 12 months, young people accessed a wide range of opportunities designed to improve physical and mental wellbeing while developing teamwork and confidence. A standout highlight saw 12 young participants selected as ball assistants at West Ham FC’s final home game of the season—an unforgettable experience that broadened their horizons.

Individual achievements have also been notable. Boxer Billy Macey won the National Amateur Championships (NAC) title at 48kg and was named Boxer of the Tournament. His success reflects the strength of the Diploma in Sporting Excellence (DiSE) programme delivered in partnership with Limehouse Boxing Club, which continues to nurture talented athletes and positive role models.

At grassroots level, participation remained strong. Weekly girls-only boxing sessions engaged 24 participants, with three progressing to complete the England Boxing Leaders

Course. Swimming sessions supported nine beginners, five of whom successfully learned to swim—gaining essential life-saving skills. Enrichment trips, including paddleboarding, go-karting and football experiences, introduced young people to new challenges and opportunities.

During the summer, the Sports Fun 4 All programme provided four weeks of structured coaching alongside nutritious meals, reinforcing the connection between physical health and wellbeing.

12
young Spotlight members with West Ham FC star Tomas Soucek after serving as ball assistants at the London Stadium

Case Study

Spotlight

Daniel's Happy Place



Daniel became a member of Spotlight in February 2024 after being introduced to the service through outreach work by Hodon, who met Daniel and his mum in the community.

Although initially quiet in his engagement, Daniel began attending regularly a few months later and quickly became a familiar part of the Spotlight community.

Daniel has diagnoses of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and ADHD, and during his early engagement at Spotlight, staff identified several challenges around communication, emotional regulation, and boundaries. At times, his behaviour included aggression, stealing, and difficulties expressing himself appropriately, which raised concerns about his vulnerability and wellbeing.

The Spotlight team worked closely with Daniel, his family, and external professionals to ensure he received the right support. Meetings were held with his school, who shared similar concerns, and Daniel attended a Health Spot appointment alongside his mum. During this process, further concerns were disclosed about challenges at home, leading to a Multi-Agency Referral Support Team (MAST) being completed. Following this, a social worker was allocated to support both Daniel and his mum.

Despite these early challenges, Daniel has made significant progress during his time at Spotlight. Staff have seen a huge improvement in his communication, listening skills, and understanding of boundaries. He has developed positive friendships with other young people and has even become a protective influence for some of his peers.

Daniel is now known for his willingness to help both staff and young people, and he regularly contributes positively to sessions and activities. Spotlight has become a place where he feels safe, accepted, and able to be himself.

“Spotlight is incredibly important to Daniel; he considers it a second home.”

The relationships Daniel has built with trusted adults at Spotlight have played a key role in his development. Through activities such as boxing and daily youth sessions, he has gained positive role models and consistent support that has helped him better understand appropriate behaviours and build confidence.

“Daniel really looks up to Dr. Kenny as a positive male role model, helping him understand appropriate behaviours.”

Daniel's mum, Jing, has spoken positively about the impact Spotlight has had on both Daniel and their family, particularly highlighting the care, communication, and consistency provided by the team.

“Daniel has received a lot of support and love from Spotlight. Your team is amazing. You guys have done a great job. Special thanks to Treaser, Ozzie, Kenny, Hodon and Sam”

Daniel now attends Spotlight regularly, often spending several hours there each day, and continues to grow in confidence, emotional awareness, and social connection. His journey highlights the importance of trusted relationships, early intervention, and creating safe spaces where young people can feel understood and supported.

“Spotlight is a space where Daniel can be himself without being judged.”

Get Creative

Spotlight significantly expanded its creative offer this year, delivering projects that combine arts, health and social action. A major milestone was the launch of the HEART Project, funded by a Place Partnership National Lottery grant from Arts Council England.

This two-year initiative addresses health inequalities among young people in Tower Hamlets by exploring the link between creative engagement and wellbeing.

Delivered in partnership with Queen Mary University of London and Kazzum Arts, the project will generate insights into how creative health services can better support young people, particularly those facing socioeconomic challenges. It aims to build confidence, resilience and self-awareness, helping participants become healthy, fulfilled adults.

Creative programming has included a range of impactful activities. During the Easter Holiday programme, 16 young people worked with Do Things Differently to produce a film showcasing their work. Participants also collaborated with Daylight Studios, specialists in SEND music provision, to create an original track performed live in April 2025.

In another project, 11 young people partnered with artists BRIGHTBLACK and Queen Mary University's public health team to explore the theme of "Freedom" through virtual reality,

animation, game design and music. The project culminated in a playable outcome and documentary released in June 2025.

Spotlight also completed a successful partnership with Tower Hamlets focused on inclusive programming for young people with SEND. Working alongside Mile End Community Foundation, participants created an animation reflecting their experiences of local services, premiered at BLOC Cinema in May 2025.

Creativity and Wellbeing Week in May provided further opportunities for engagement through activities in the Spotlight café space. A film capturing young people's perspectives on how the arts support their wellbeing is due for release.

Dance participation has grown significantly under the leadership of the new Dance Partnerships Producer, Omar Ansah-Awuah, with a 220% increase in engagement and 34 regular attendees at weekly sessions. Additional highlights include Winterfest, which attracted 151 participants, Black History Month's Art of Defiance programme, and a fully subscribed free music tuition initiative.



425

YP in summer
creative
programme with
19 artists.

Get Supported: Health and Wellbeing



165

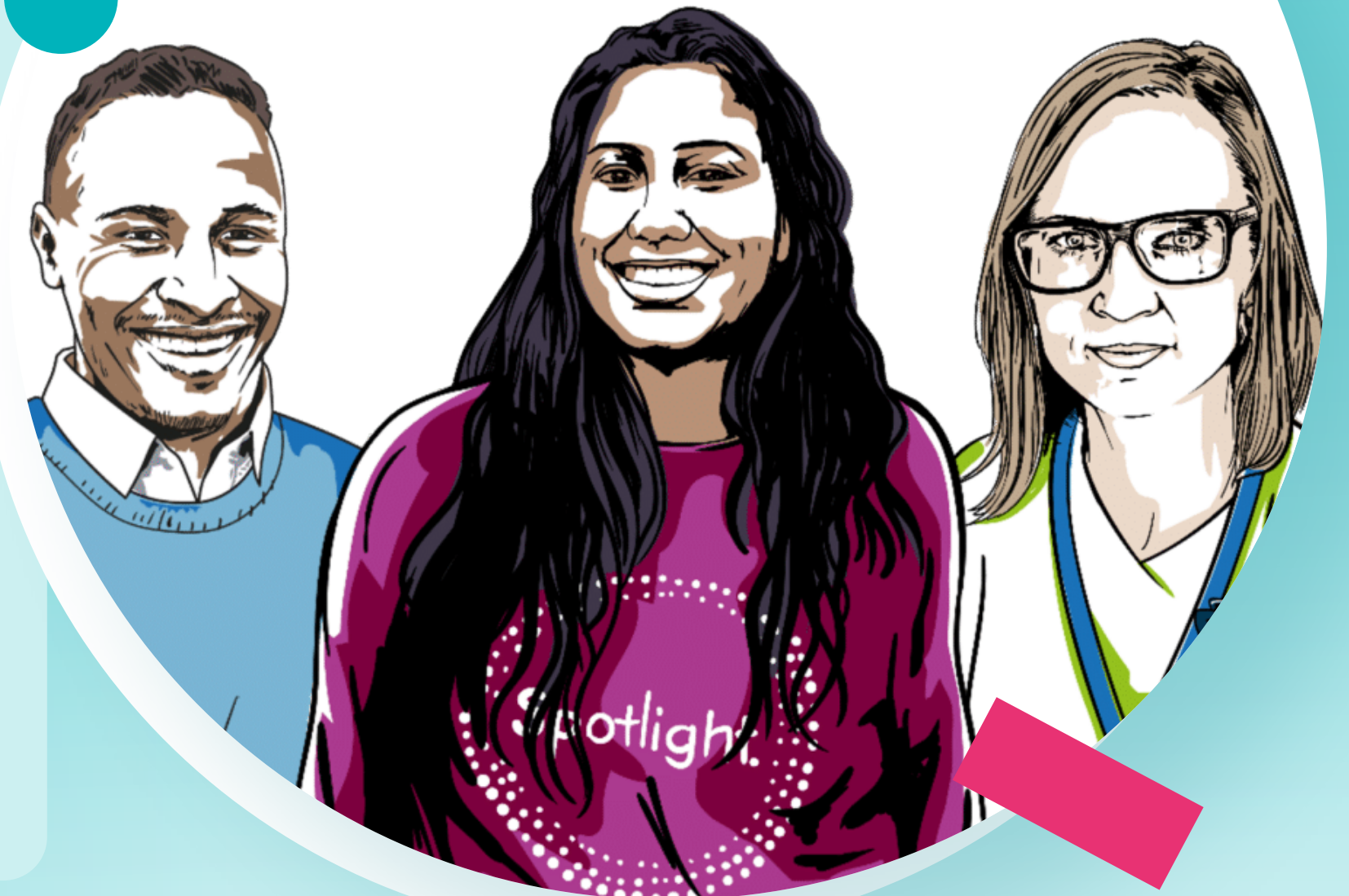
YPs attended 820
appointments provided
by the in-house GP
Service - Health Spot

Beyond activities, Spotlight has played a critical role in supporting young people and families affected by the cost-of-living crisis. Over the year, 800 food bags were distributed to 493 families, while 150 young people accessed the free Brunch Club, which provides 25 meals daily. These initiatives not only address food insecurity but also create safe, welcoming spaces.

Community cohesion has been strengthened through events such as the Spotlight Eid Celebration, attended by over 60 young people and families.

Health and wellbeing programmes have continued to grow. The Girls' Club recorded 93 attendances from 39 participants, while additional engagement included 32 young people in boxing and 33 in Fit Club activities.

The Health Spot model remains a key innovation, offering accessible and confidential GP services. At Langdon Park alone, 165 young people attended 820 appointments. The service has been widely praised for its accessibility and confidentiality, and its success has led to expansion into the London boroughs of Newham and Hackney. Spotlight was also invited to present the model at the NHS Violence Reduction Academy Symposium, highlighting its wider significance.



Youth Voice, Volunteering and Employability



Young people have played an active role in shaping services and influencing decision-making. The Youth Empowerment Board (YEB) contributed to consultations and strategic discussions throughout the year.

In September, 29 young people attended the launch of the new YEB cohort. Members provided feedback on Poplar HARCA's Corporate Strategic Plan (2025–2031), supporting its focus on inclusive and empowered communities. They also contributed to the national "Deliver You" youth strategy campaign, sharing their priorities with government stakeholders.

Engagement extended to consultations with organisations such as Canary Wharf Group, where young people shared ideas on strengthening youth voice in East London.

Meanwhile, up to 70 Wellbeing Ambassadors completed the Royal Society for Public Health Level 2 Award: Young Health Champions. They have begun

applying their training in schools, supporting peers experiencing stress and mental health challenges.

The volunteering programme has also supported employability, offering clinics for UCAS applications, CV writing and job preparation. Six young people with SEND completed a Barista training course, while Community Heroes participated in environmental and community improvement activities, including litter picking along the Thames and refurbishing the Langdon Park Café.

Volunteers were recognised at a winter celebration event, and Spotlight joined the Historic Royal Palaces Community Access Scheme, expanding opportunities for young people.

70

Wellbeing ambassadors completed the Royal Society for Public Health Level 2 Award: Young Health Champions



Case Study

Alysha's Story

Volunteering Journey at Spotlight

Alysha joined Spotlight as a Youth Support Volunteer in September 2025 and has since completed an impressive 273 hours of volunteering.

Initially joining to build her confidence and gain experience, Alysha quickly discovered a passion for working with young people and supporting them to thrive.

After expressing an interest in pursuing youth work as a future career, the youth work team supported her to enrol on a Level 1 Youth Work course in October 2025. She fully engaged with the training and shared positive feedback about the experience, explaining that it significantly increased her knowledge and understanding of working with young people in a youth work setting.

“I first joined Spotlight to build my confidence and gain experience, but I quickly realised how much I enjoy working with young people and being able to support them.”

In recognition of her commitment and impact, Alysha was awarded Volunteer of the Year in December 2025. Throughout her volunteering journey, she consistently demonstrated dedication, reliability, and a strong ability to build positive relationships with young people attending the service.

Due to her enthusiasm and leadership potential, the team invited Alysha to take a leading role in planning and delivering an International Women's Day event between January and March 2026. She embraced the opportunity and worked closely with the youth work team to organise the event from start to finish.

Alysha took responsibility for developing the session plan and budget, coordinating presentations and performers, arranging technology and activities, and supporting promotion through a takeover of Spotlight's social media channels. The event centred around the theme "Give to Gain" and successfully engaged more than 40 young people.

“This experience helped me learn many skills, such as developing my ability to organise, building confidence in public speaking and learning how to communicate with my colleagues.”

Alongside this, Alysha has become a key part of the girls' engagement programme at Spotlight. She has since regularly supported weekly Girls' Club sessions and girls-only boxing sessions, helping to create safe, welcoming spaces where young women can build confidence, resilience, and positive relationships.

“This role has helped me to take responsibility and support participants in building both physical and mental strength.”

As Alysha continues to grow in confidence and experience, she will be supported to take on more leadership opportunities, including planning and delivering sessions independently and mentoring other volunteers.

Reflecting on her journey so far, Alysha said:

“Overall, my volunteer role has helped me grow in confidence and has taught me some valuable skills that I will continue to use in the future.”



Detached Youth Work and Targeted Intervention



Targeted intervention work has remained central to Spotlight's mission, supporting young people most at risk through mentoring, creative opportunities and consistent adult guidance.

The MyEnds programme has engaged 118 young people in Bethnal Green and the Isle of Dogs, delivering sports, employability support and intervention work. Outcomes include young people securing jobs, apprenticeships and volunteering roles, demonstrating the impact of sustained, personalised support.

Creative projects have enabled participants to explore themes such as identity and freedom through film, music, animation and virtual reality, providing platforms for self-expression and storytelling.

School-based mentoring supported 35 young people at risk of exclusion, helping them re-engage with education.

Their progress was celebrated through group trips, recognising their achievements and personal growth.

Workshops addressing the dangers of nitrous oxide use reached over 50 young people across five centres, responding to growing concerns among families.

Spotlight has also contributed to wider discussions on youth violence and community safety. Senior Manager Nahim Ahmed participated in a panel at the London School of Economics, emphasising the importance of investing in trusted adults and community-based support rather than relying solely on research.

50 YPs
attended workshops
addressing the dangers
of Nitrous Oxide

118 YPs
engaged with MyEnds
programme



Satellite Centres



Bow East
Eastside
115 YPs
in 26 sessions

Bromley South
Linc Centre
75 YPs
in 22 sessions

St. Paul's
Way Centre
91 YPs
in 21 sessions

Across three satellite centres, young people engaged in a variety of activities that built skills, confidence and connections.

At Bow East – Eastside, 115 individuals attended 26 sessions, generating 362 attendances. Activities included games, arts, music and educational quizzes, with 43 young people participating in music sessions and up to 10 accessing Health Spot consultations.

Bromley South – Linc Centre recorded 349 attendances from 75 participants across 22 sessions. The programme combined recreational activities with personalised one-to-one support and contributed to the development of future youth workers through volunteer opportunities.

St Paul's Way Centre reached 91 individuals across 21 sessions, with a focus on sports and social engagement. Football sessions were particularly popular, helping participants develop teamwork and confidence.

Across all centres, key achievements included 21 young people attending workshops on Violence Against Women and Girls, 41 gaining Level 2 Food Hygiene qualifications, 62 completing work experience placements and 13 participating in music production sessions.



Resident Empowerment & Support Team (REST)

Voice & Influence

Last year, our Resident Empowerment & Support Team (REST) celebrated a number of important milestones alongside residents, colleagues, and venture partners, marking significant progress across Poplar HARCA's estate regeneration schemes.

On 8 July, LBTH Council approved the planning application for the Teviot Estate redevelopment. Residents welcomed the decision, highlighting that the project represents more than just new buildings: it is about creating a future where families can grow, thrive, and take pride in their community.

Since then, the joint venture has been working closely with LBTH to meet design and planning conditions. This stage is all about getting the technical details right and finalising a thorough plan to take the scheme forward.

500+
residents attended the
Annual Teviot Festival in
Summer 2026



In December 25, the Resident Steering Group (RSG) meeting was held to get their views on the design and retail options for Phase One. The meeting reiterated the joint venture's promise to the Teviot residents:

- ▶ **Keep the community together**
- ▶ **More social rent homes**
- ▶ **Current estate parking permits guaranteed**
- ▶ **Reduction in crime and ASB through better design**
- ▶ **Rent levels for HARCA tenants as if you hadn't moved**
- ▶ **Move to the same size home, or larger if you're overcrowded**
- ▶ **One move to a new home**
- ▶ **Financial compensation, and moving costs**
- ▶ **Options to suit every leaseholder**
- ▶ **Door-to-door moving support for older and vulnerable residents**

Part of the key promises is the strengthening of the Residents' Steering Group (RSG) representing residents at every decision and central to shaping the future Teviot. REST will ensure that the RSG is supported throughout this process.

REST



“Really hoping for more local shops.”

“A new mosque will mean a lot to our community.”

“I hope the new shops bring more job opportunities.”

“Can’t wait to see the new homes- they’ll make such a difference.”

“It’ll be great to have safer, cleaner streets to walk around.”

“More green spaces and parks for the kids.”

At Aberfeldy Estate, the new masterplan continues to move forward into its next phase.

The feedback has been extremely positive. Residents say the Aberfeldy Square feels alive and with more people around, the area has a fresh sense of energy and community spirit.

Community events have gathered local people who have taken part in joyful summer and winter festivities hosted by The Feldy and the LLP with support from resident volunteers and local partners. Future pop-ups and installations are already being planned in the new space.

The development reflects the priorities and aspirations of local residents, with every detail shaped by what they have said matters to them the most. Residents are clear

in what they wish to see moving forward. These views will definitely shape what are delivered in the immediate future.

Meanwhile, at Stroudley Walk, new family homes have been occupied, including ten accessible properties—two of which have been specifically designed to be autism-friendly. These homes are already making a meaningful difference, offering calm, secure environments that support independence and wellbeing.

Together with partners and residents, REST led well-attended community events, including summer and winter fairs, VE Day celebrations and Social Value workshops.

REST remains committed to ensuring that residents affected by all regeneration schemes are actively engaged and continue to shape plans at every stage.



Our Funders



Huge thanks as ever to our major funders and donors who have continued to support our work:

Active Communities Network

Arc'teryx Equipment

**Asif Rangoon Wala
Foundation**

Barts Health NHS Trust

**Big Lottery Fund (Reaching
Communities)**

**Diploma in Sporting
Excellence (DiSE) - Boxing**

**East End Community
Foundation**

Good Things Foundation

**The Greater London
Authority**

**London Borough of Tower
Hamlets**

**London Marathon
Foundation**

London Cycling Campaign

London Assembly

Mount Anvil

Paddle UK

**Queen Mary University of
London**

The Royal London Hospital

**TED LLP – Community Chest
Fund**

Canal & River Trust

**Tower Hamlets Island
Community Network
(THICN)**

**Department for Work &
Pension**

Network Social Prescribing

Looking Ahead...

Celebrating the Festival of Britain's 75th Anniversary

June-September 2026



Did you know Poplar helped shape modern Britain?

In 1951, Poplar played a starring role in the original Festival of Britain. While the main attractions were based on London's South Bank, thousands of visitors were brought by bus to east London to see completed sections of the Lansbury estate, then under construction. Visitors marvelled at show flats with light-filled rooms, indoor bathrooms and modern conveniences, features that symbolised a hopeful, forward-looking post-war Britain.

Seventy-five years on, Poplar remains a place shaped by ambition, creativity and community.

Poplar HARCA is proud to celebrate that legacy once again, recognising both how far we've come and the people who continue to shape our neighbourhood today.

From June to Sept 2026, we are commemorating the festival's 75th anniversary, shining a light on our past, present and future through a series of community-focused events across E14.

From creative activities and cultural celebrations to a free festival event in Bartlett Park, this summer's programme brings Poplar's history, culture and strong sense of belonging back into the spotlight.

Festival of Britain: Poplar 2026 is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FESTIVAL
 OF **BRITAIN**
 POPULAR
 JUNE-SEPT 2026

Let's Celebrate Together

Scan and search 'Festival of Britain' for the full list of our activities. Updated regularly

HARCA

Made possible with
 National Lottery
 Heritage Fund

Festival of Britain: Poplar 2026 is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, we have been able to bring you 75th anniversary celebrations