

THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S GARDENING PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT 2018/19



Tel: 07873 78 58 52 Email: office@cypgardeningproject.org Web: www.cypgardeningproject.org

Registered Charity number: 1176988

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

“We are a charity that aims to promote and support the holistic wellbeing of children and young people through gardening.”



OUR VALUES

Diversity: *We view each child and young person as an individual, recognising and valuing their similarities and differences and will strive to work in a way that accommodates this.*

Integrity: *Our team aspires to work to the optimum standards of personal and professional integrity, always acting in the best interests of our children and young people.*

Passion: *We aspire to remain passionate about the social and therapeutic benefits of gardening and pass this passion on to our children and young people*

Fun: *We strive to keep fun as a central theme that runs throughout the project, allowing children to be children.*

Accountability and Transparency: *We endeavour to use our resources efficiently, achieving measurable outcomes in line with our charitable objects, maintaining accountability to all our children, young people and stakeholders.*

Partnership: *We value and promote mutually beneficial relationships through partnership working that will ultimately benefit our children and young people.*

INTRODUCTION:

The Children and Young People's (CYP) Gardening Project started fully in summer 2018. We aim to use gardening and related crafts to engage children and young people and promote their overall wellbeing - particularly for those at risk of social exclusion.



The project is currently operating on a seasonal basis running from March - November (weather dependent). The activities are open to children and young people in Croydon and surrounding boroughs.

The project aims to work with children and young people aged 4 - 17 and those up to 25 years if they have an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) We work in small group sessions (6 max) or even on a one to one basis if that is more suitable to their needs. We provide taster sessions, a summer scheme and a programme for a period of at least 12 weeks which enables participants to see what they have planted to full term. Sessions take place at least once a week using gardening related activities including vegetable growing and also sessions on garden related

crafts e.g. building bug hotels, making birdhouses.

As of the beginning of Summer 2019, we had 18 children and young people engaged on a weekly basis on site or in an educational provision. We aim to work in a proactive and flexible way that encourages full engagement of all children and young people. Where we have parental permission to look at their child's Education, Health and Care Plan we are able to adjust the programme to try to suit the child's particular needs. For example, where required we can ensure there is a good focus on sensory play. As the project aims to make a tangible difference in the lives of children and young people, all activities have underlying outcomes attached. Whilst it may be viewed that a young person is 'only sowing seeds' this can actually help with their fine motor skills, focus, attention, concentration and a sense of achievement. Every task has a purpose connected to the child or young person's wellbeing. Other activities may focus on team working and leadership skills or reducing stress, anger or frustration.



An example of a taster session would be a task at the table such as sowing seeds for micro greens as this is something that is relatively simple and if they do choose to return the following week they would be able to see that the greens have sprouted and in some instances could be ready to take home to eat. Once that task is complete we may do something with flowers / vegetable plants that are already established, such as watering, deadheading the flowers or even harvesting if some crops are ready. The aim of the taste session is not only to see if the children would like to continue attending but also for us to gain a better awareness of that children's level of understanding and ability for example in following instructions.

The project is located on an allotment in Mayfield Road, Thornton Heath, CR7 6DN in the London Borough of Croydon. The whole site is managed by Thornton Heath & Norbury Horticultural Society.

CURRENT POSITION:

The CYP Gardening Project has completed its first year and so far has engaged 35 children and young people during onsite and offsite sessions. A high number have special needs (25).



We have had the opportunity to work alongside Croydon Council as part of their summer programme for a day of 2 sessions at the beginning of August and within a school for young people with mental health needs, during their summer term from April – July.

Referrals are handled swiftly with the aim to arrange a first taster session within one week of a referral being responded to.

ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT DATA

During 2018-19

- 35 taster sessions for 35 children
- 5 six-week sessions for 5 children (following taster session)
- 21 twelve-week sessions for 21 children (following taster session)



EVALUATION:

Gaining feedback has proved challenging in some ways in terms of having ways of measuring soft outcomes* that are suitable and appropriate for different ages and those with different needs. This is an area for development during the next season 2020. The project has been well received by children and their parents/carers:

***things that are not measured qualitatively, such as self- esteem concentration & self-confidence**

"Coming here is the highlight of my week"
Child (aged 9)

"Thank you for opening up your garden and making my daughter feel safe, confident and welcomed. It was just what she needed during what has been a difficult year, you have made such a difference..." – **Parent**

"...Many thanks for your sessions which she really enjoyed, no doubt she will be back next year..." – **Parent**

"Thanks for having the girls this season..."
Parent

'It's fun' – Child (aged 8)

" Thanks for having _____, he loved it. He would love to return if you would like to have him back.."-
Parent

'I genuinely love coming here' – Child (aged 9)

"Coming here is the highlight of my week"
Child (aged 9)



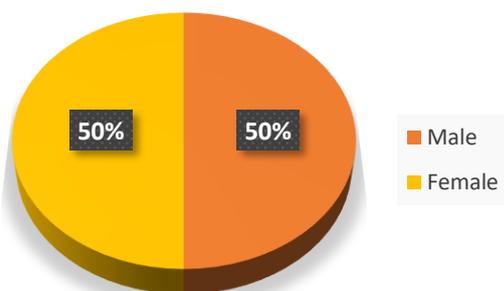
"Thank you for having me and helping me to learn how to care for the garden, I enjoyed learning about growing vegetables..." **Child (aged 13)**

' It has taught me patience because I need to wait for things to grow'- **Child (aged 12)**

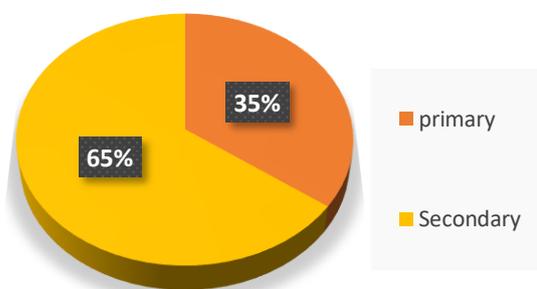
'I've learnt some new things' – Child (aged 10)

A SNAP SHOT OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ATTENDED THE PROJECT:

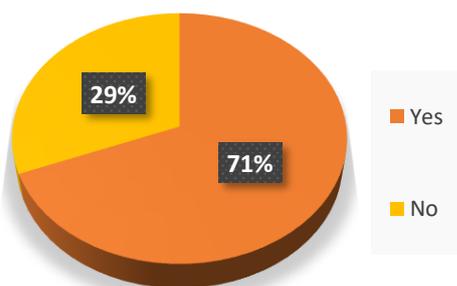
Gender %



School Age %



Additional needs*



*Additional needs includes those children and young people who present with Autism, emotional, behavioural challenges and other special needs.

OUR CAPACITY AND CAPABILITIES:

The charity to date has been running solely on a voluntary basis. Current volunteers all have enhanced DBS checks. Many of the sessions requested have been on a one to one basis and some children have been brought by their parent or teaching assistant, who has stayed throughout the sessions. There is still a great need to recruit volunteers so that sessions can be running simultaneously on and off site. And, for multiple or larger sessions to take place on site with each young person having an adult.



The Charity is organised and delivered by the project leader and founder, Sheree Vincent, who is currently carrying out most sessions.

There is a board of three Trustees who carry out various reviews and receive regular updates from the project leader. All trustees are DBS checked. Trustees as at 22nd Aug 2018: Mrs Irene Antwi-Buasiako - Ms. Sabrina Bovell - Mr Rian Davis.

FINANCE

Since the charity's formation in February 2018, an income of £13,470 has been received. The project leader and Trustees are grateful for the funding awards received which were essential in helping with the charity's start up and opening in Summer 2018:

- Awards for All (£10,000)
- Invesco Cares (£400)
- Thomas Cook Children's Charity (£1,035)
- Postcode Local Trust (£1,500)
- Croydon Councillor Khan (West Thornton Ward) £500
- Bank Credit (£35)

A total income of £13,470

End of year balance sheet attached (Annex A)

Summary of Expenditure:

Expenditure from February 2018 to the end of this financial year (31st July 2019) £9,374.39

- Site prep. (incl. Shed, Green House, Fencing, raised beds, table, chairs, site rental) £3933.95
- Tools £469.07
- Operational costs (incl. DBS, Phone, laptop, insurance) £1275.56
- Marketing (incl. Website, promotional flyers, T-shirts) £312.95
- Other (incl. seeds, plants, compost, arts & craft supplies, session refreshments & other equipment) £3382.86

BUSINESS PLAN 2019/20:

We aim to develop the project over the next 12 months to increase the presence of the organisation within the community, schools and other organisations. We also aim to increase the number of sessions we are able to offer throughout the week, which will involve the recruitment of more volunteers. Our long-term aim is to seek funding to enable the project leader to work on at least part time basis to promote and further develop the offer available to children and young people.

Actions for 2019-2020:

- Recruit more volunteers to assist with gardening or supervising children and young people – or both
- Recruit a volunteer to help with some administration tasks, social media and local fundraising
- Develop a Fundraising Strategy
- Develop working relationships with other organisations across Croydon and surrounding boroughs
- Develop specific programmes to enable children with special needs to access and make best use of the gardening and craft related experiences



- Increase the number of children and young people who attend taster sessions, holiday schemes and the 12-week programme
- Develop meaningful feedback methods for children and young people and their parents or carers to better evaluate the impact of the project.
- Consider funding applications in Summer 2020 for building capacity.

OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

This year we have worked in partnership with:

- Tharreo House School (*New Addington, Croydon*)
- Sankofa Care Children's Home (*Selhurst, Croydon*)
- Cressey College (South Croydon and South Norwood)

Thanks also to:

- The Thornton Heath & Norbury Horticultural Society for their cooperation in agreeing for the project to take place on their site.
- Howard Baines who has offered advise on the charity's development and completed funding applications as a volunteer.

Sheree Vincent
Project Leader

Irene Antwi-Buasiako
Chairperson of Trustees

If you require further information please contact Sheree Vincent:

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UK Registered Charity number: 1176988

CYP Gardening Project – Balance Sheet - 31-07-19

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Current Assets		Current Liabilities	
Cash	£3,951.67	Accounts Payable	-
Accounts Receivable	-	Wages Payable	-
Inventory	£2,251.85	Interest Payable	-
Supplies	£4,273.83	Taxes Payable	-
Insurance	£198.48		
Total Current Assets	£10,675.83	Total Liabilities	-
Investments	-		
		STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	
Land	-	Retained Earnings	
Equipment	£2,669.97	Comprehensive Income	
Less: Depreciation	(£267)	- Big Lottery Fund	£10,000
Equipment CY	£391.20	- Invesco Cares Foundation	£400
		- Thomas Cook Charity	£1035
Total Assets	£13,470	- Postcode Local Trust	£1500
		- Bank Credit	£35
		- Croydon Council	£500
		Total Stockholders' Equity	£13,470
		Total Liabilities +	
		Stockholders Equity	£13,470

Signed:  (Rian Davis – Trustee Treasurer)

Date: 12/03/19