

# LEADERS IN COMMUNITY

ANNUAL REPORT

# 2018-19



*Where young people build success*

# CONTENTS PAGE

• Chair & CEO's Message	2
• Who are we 10 years on	3
• New Vision and Mission	4
• Strategic objective	5
◦ How we do it?	5
• Our activities	6
• Our delivery/impact	7
• Treasurer's Report	8
• Partners/collaborators	9
• Plans for the future	10

# CHAIR & CEO'S MESSAGE

## Chair's Message

2018-2019 has seen a level of growth and success within the organisation. I am absolutely thrilled with the amount of hard work and dedication each team member and young person has done over the past year.

Leaders in Community (LiC) is proudly known for providing a family of young volunteers to be a part of the youth charity. Every young person gains leaderships skills and opportunities: whether it's working from the office or being involved in the youth board apprenticeships, the young people continue to get an eye-opening experience out of this. LiC does not only aspire for more success but, we also want our young people to have a great and fun experience working with us. LiC is made up entirely by young and innovative workers under the age of 30. As we proudly believe in youth advocacy, we want to have more young people working with us, as this creates a youth-friendly environment for our audience. LiC's aim is to let people feel welcomed when they step through our doors."

Sheikh Abeed  
Choudhury



## CEO's Message

I am honoured to be surrounded by young, creative minds working together and producing great projects for the young people in our community. We believe that constant innovation and growth will result in positive outcomes within the organisation, as well as benefiting the general public.

Between 2018-2019, there has been an increase in the number of volunteers and events being made, and I am extremely proud of the level of contribution each young person brings to the table. We want to change the way society views and treats young people, therefore, collaborating and partnering up with reliable organisations that believe in youth advocacy and youth representation, will help strengthen LiC as we will begin to amplify youth voices and opportunities. Receiving the Queens award, MBE for voluntary services has only highlighted the importance of our work and the importance of empowering young people of Tower Hamlets to be active contributors of their community. With this my team and I have produced an updated Vision and Mission which reflects our strength and where we believe that it will heavily impact on our community, especially on our young people.

Momtaz Ajid



# WHO WE ARE TODAY, 10 YEARS ON...

Leaders in Community is one of only a handful of organisations that can say it is genuinely run by young people, for young people. None of the decision makers on our Board or Management Team are aged over 30, and passionate and committed young volunteers help with every aspect of the development and delivery of our activities. We believe this provides us with a unique opportunity to offer a viewpoint which few other organisations have, and connect with our target beneficiaries in a way that other organisations cannot.

We operate in an area of Tower Hamlets, East London with the highest rate of child poverty in the UK, and many young people experience multiple barriers to accessing opportunities. We know, however, that they are resilient and optimistic about their futures and simply need the necessary support to overcome their difficulties and become role models for those coming behind them.

There is nothing quite like watching young people experience the 'buzz' that comes from effecting positive change by and for themselves.



We believe that youth advocacy and youth voice is essential within our organisation as we want the best for the young people. LIC, invests in youth programmes that create inclusive and positive opportunities for individuals to learn, engage and become a better version of themselves.

## The key to our success

It is said that young people have a lot of energy and optimism, and that's certainly true of us! But that alone is not sufficient to bring about the positive outcomes we are able to support our peers to achieve. We have a fantastic Board and Management Team, made up of people with local knowledge and with a wide range of skills (finance/marketing/strategy) gained from having previously volunteered with us, or working at the offices of our big name corporate partners. These teams steer the progress of the organisation and ensure that we are ready to pounce on new opportunities as they arise, while keeping our clear aims and ethos in sight. We have the confidence of our community, and regular consultation with young people means that our strategic vision and marketing is directly shaped by them; this is probably the reason why 80% of programme participants are self referred- or have been referred by their peers.



# NEW VISION AND MISSION

## Our Vision

We inspire and empower local young people to be active and vocal contributors to the social, economic and cultural well-being of their community.



## Our Mission

Through our Youth Leadership and Youth Social Action initiatives, we will:

- Provide local young people with training to develop their personal resilience and overcome barriers to progression.
- Equip local young people with the skills and opportunities to speak out about community issues, and challenge inequalities.



# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

## How we do it

LiC creates meaningful programmes that encourage young people to become self-resilient and have the capability to voice their opinion.



## This year we launched our Youth Social Action initiative with two new programmes:

Our Saturday Social programme encourages young people to think of the biggest local concerns/ issues facing the borough and consider how these can be resolved. In line with our new vision and mission this offers a unique platform for young people to develop their voice and challenge the inequalities the most vulnerable in the community face.

We have introduced our young people to environmental social action, while giving them a space to make social connections. Through activities like art, cooking and other workshops young people are given the opportunity to explore how they can make their peers more environmentally aware. Through engaging in community activism through an array of creative mediums, participants gain an awareness of the issues facing their community

The Be Inspired Women's programme has focused on youth loneliness, and exploring a way to avoid young women suffering in silence. Response to our surveys suggest that 26% of the young women surveyed engage in antisocial activities and are experiencing poor mental health, with evidence of low self-esteem and depression. Our first cause of action was to group several young girls and actively involve them in the re-design of a local community space 'Teviot Centre/ Café'.



# OUR ACTIVITIES

## Ongoing activities

This year our board apprentices have developed a new Youth Leadership programme offering skills training and guidance.

Our youth-led approach towards unemployment is achieved by listening to our young people. We have developed a model that encompasses young people's need for workplace skills and opportunities to develop their aspirations. We designed this so that the participants can get real life experience through running LiC activities, they will not only gain everyday work requirements but also project delivery and management skills as well as the opportunity to network with employers, gage real life stories and lived experiences from LiC.

The course welcomes all participants to sign up as board apprentices for 2019-20, where they can take their leadership skills one step further and have a better chance of building successful futures for themselves.

Together with our partners from UBS and Barclays we have piloted our first-year programme to local young people, with 7 graduating from the course and taking up positions within our main board!

## BeHeard Events

Most recently, with the thanks to funding from Children in Need we have launched our Be Heard events; working with partners such as Poplar Harca (housing association), Spotlight Youth Centre, the Metropolitan Police and Tower Hamlets Council to offer coaching support ahead of the councils "Young People's Question Time". The event encouraged every young individual to question and debate with community leaders and important decision makers such as: Central East Police Commander, Sue Williams and the Tower Hamlets Mayor John Biggs. We had a turnout of roughly 50 young people for both the events and the workshop. There have been high levels of interactions amongst everyone.

Groups of young individuals conversing on a range of topics such as: knife crime, drill music impact on violence, housing concerns when they get older, LGBT issues, social issues they face, racism and sexism among more.

This allowed young people to open up about their own circumstances and how they were being rehoused as a result of the Chrisp Street regeneration projects.





# OUR DELIVERY/IMPACT

This year, 380 young people have participated in LiC's programmes, 40% who have been supported into employment and 60% supported into further education or training. In addition, we have supported 50 local young people, ranging from 5-11 years old with taking part in violin, guitar and ballet classes. We aspire to continuously elevate and attract more young people to be a part of LiC's programmes.

## But that's not all we're buzzing about...

In 2018 we had our first stint at crowdfunding, and we decided to expand our bee-keeping project to include a children's bee learning centre. This provides an amazing opportunity to bring the community together to learn about environmental issues and local food production, whilst developing environmental knowledge, skills, and the chance to explore business opportunities. We believe that it is important to speak up and acknowledge the importance of bees and the significant role they play in our environment. We have raised over £40,000 for our Bee-spoke crowdfunding campaign via Spacehive. Also, gaining 117 backers and gaining a backing from the Mayor (who donated £20,000 for the crowdfund).



# TREASURER'S REPORT

## Treasurer's Report

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2019

Income	2019	2019	2019	2018
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total £	Total £
Income from charitable activities	11,171	120,829	132,000	76,298
Income from other activities	56,283	-	56,283	85,395
Investment Income ( Bank Interest)	3	-	3	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>67,457</b>	<b>120,829</b>	<b>188,286</b>	<b>161,693</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Expenditure on charitable activities	65,779	112,579	178,358	174,046
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>65,779</b>	<b>112,579</b>	<b>178,358</b>	<b>174,046</b>
<b>Net Income / ( Expenditure)</b>	<b>1,678</b>	<b>8,250</b>	<b>9,928</b>	<b>(12,353)</b>
Total Funds brought forward	21,481	8,871	30,352	42,705
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<b>23,159</b>	<b>17,121</b>	<b>40,280</b>	<b>30,352</b>

### Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019

	2019	2018
	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
Tangible Assets	1,989	Nil
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash at Bank / in hand	44,192	27,943
Debtors	7,234	11,080
<b>Less Current Liabilities</b>		
Creditors: amount falling due within a year	(13,135)	(8,671)
Net Current Assets / (Liabilities)	38,291	30,352
<b>Net Assets / (Liabilities)</b>	<b>40,280</b>	<b>30,352</b>

The Funds of the Charity:	2019	2018
	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	13,159	11,481
Designated Funds	10,000	10,000
Restricted Funds	17,121	8,871
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>40,280</b>	<b>30,352</b>

## Message from the Treasurer

It's been a great year for Leaders in Community -we received The Queen's Award for Voluntary Services, secured another years funding for our Café, launched an extremely successful crowdfunding campaign and have continued many of our great projects, all whilst enduring an increasingly more challenging funding environment.

Our full year income increased from £161,693 to £192,131, whilst spending stayed relatively flat, falling from £174,046 to £173,893. This resulted in a net yearly gain of £18,238 and as a result, we've strengthened our financial position to £48,590 at the 18/19 year-end period.

As we look to the new year, we continue to focus on targeted funding for our projects, whilst analysing where our shortfalls are. We have an exciting bid in process to expand our services and move premises, and, if successful, would result in a dramatic expansion of almost every area of our charity.

Our aim, as ever, is to build a resilient charity that continues to support the lives in our community and make a positive, lasting difference. Please read on for a more in depth view of our 18/19 financials.

Joshua Hughes



# PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS



SUPPORTED BY

**MAYOR OF LONDON**



**The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service**

*The MBE for volunteer groups*

# East End

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

## London Youth

QUALITY MARK  
GOLD ACCREDITED

**2016-19**



Creating Possibilities  
in East London





# FUTURE PLANS



We understand the importance of LiC remaining innovative and dynamic in our approaches to funding. We hope to prioritise an increase in the number and scale of projects and events offered over the next couple of years.

We want to increase our brand awareness and use the appropriate funding to benefit the local community.



Our plans for 2020:

- To grow our 2020 Bee-Spoke learning centre for children
- To launch a new social action campaign, tackling youth loneliness
- To develop our brand locally to ensure young people identify LiC as their go-to charity
- Establish our new Leadership project to new partners.