

# **DRAGON HALL ANNUAL REPORT**



**2017  
2018**

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**COUNCILLOR  
SUE VINCENT  
CHAIR OF TRUSTEES**

## CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

At the time to look back, report and reflect on past achievements and events at Dragon Hall, we know that this past year was dominated by the tragic death of Abdul Samad, our clever, funny and kind youth worker and colleague.

Any sudden death is shocking, but the senseless stabbing of a young person coming into their own sent shock waves throughout our community and stunned Samad's friends, colleagues and trustees at Dragon Hall. An impetuous, reckless act changed the lives of all of us at Dragon Hall and Samad's close co-workers felt it most keenly.

We are beholden to these staff in helping manage the bewildering aftermath, managing their own grief and liaising with Samad's family and supporting the astounded young people that Samad taught so kindly and ably.

We would also like to pay testament to these same young people who raised over £700, and our spirits, for Samad's family's chosen charity. Our gratitude also to Camden Council for the support they gave the entire team at Dragon Hall.

The ramifications of this irrational violent act have been huge; it has put into perspective not only how fragile life is, but how vital it is to continue our work with young people who feel they have no way to make their mark, no options or opportunities other than disruptive, vainglorious behaviour that costs us all so much more in the process.

We continue to miss Samad's engaging, self-deprecating humour and his focus on the good in us all.



**Abdul Samad**  
Our clever, funny and  
kind youth worker  
and colleague.



# DRAGON HALL

Delivering a wide range of social, educational & recreational activities & events, developed & delivered in partnership with users to serve the needs of our diverse communities.



## HARD FACTS

**2001**

**Charity Registered**  
on 29th June. Charity  
Number 1087268

**2003**

**Dragon Hall Opens**  
to provide a  
community facility in  
the heart of Covent  
Garden & Holborn

**2012**

**RadioActive 101**  
The first radio  
project starts - the  
catalyst to our digital  
innovation work

**2013**

**LB Camden  
Innovation Fund**  
Supporting the  
direction of travel  
to bridge the digital  
divide

**2014**

**Code Club Hub  
Partners Code Club  
& Samsung as the  
London Hub.**  
Only community  
organisation part of  
London Tech Week

# #1





# SOAPBOX

# N1C CENTRE

**2015**

**Innovation & Technology at heart of our work**  
Launched a successful Kickstarter project as part of London Tech week.

**2016**

**An exemplar of Innovation & Best Practice**  
Chosen by London Youth as a case study in their report 'Local Youth Groups Today'

**2017**

**Opened SoapBox, Islington**  
A brand new youth centre in Old Street, with a focus on digital media, audio visual & technology

**2018**

**Launch of N1C Centre, Kings Cross**  
New centre run in partnership with SYDRC





# YOUTH SERVICES @DRAGON HALL

After School Sessions for Juniors age 8 to 11, Inters age 12 to 16 and Seniors age 16+. All clubs are free for users and are supported by grant funding

Our activities in the After School Club go from strength to strength in the very capable hands of Keeley Reed, our Youth Manager. Our 40 plus attendees per session are kindly and gratefully supported by the William Shelton Foundation, Peabody Community Fund and Children in Need.

We continue with code club twice weekly and we welcome a new youth worker, Michaela who supports a music project, writing, recording and editing a dance video by 8 talented young people. Young people co-design and develop all of the activities being delivered in Dragon Hall and SoapBox Islington.

We also have two new sessional workers Sherice and Chamarl who are settling in well, as well as our amazing volunteers over the year from Kings College, ADC College and Headstart Volunteers. With local partners St Joseph's & Clement Danes Primary Schools, and Peabody Trust, we really couldn't do it without you.



**Keeley Reed**

Keeley has a BA Honours in Youth and Community Work from University of East London and is now Youth Manager at Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust, as well as managing 'The Squad', a youth organisation for learning disabled young people

# LONDON'S LOST YOUTH SERVICES

The dramatic disappearance of support and facilities for young people in London - Sian Berry's report

Youth services have lost large amounts of funding, buildings and staff since 2011. Sian Berry's Report 'London's Lost Youth Services' highlighted the following:

- at least £22 million has been cut from council youth service budgets across London
- more than 30 youth centres have been closed
- at least 12,700 places for young people have been lost
- funding to voluntary sector youth work has gone down by an average of 35 per cent
- In Camden, £1.6 million has been cut from the Borough's Youth Service budget

Good quality youth services help prevent young people from falling into crime and also make them less vulnerable to the exploitation of gangs.

The Mayor's Police and Crime Plan says that "prevention is key to protecting young people and reducing crime over the long-term." But can plans for prevention work if support for young people is fading away?

In the light of all these cuts, it has never been more important for organisations like Dragon Hall to continue working with, and for, young people.

## DATA FROM 20 LONDON COUNCILS



# -35%

**'Have cuts in council-run services been mitigated by higher levels of support for youth work by the voluntary and community sector (VCS)?**

No. Grants to support external youth work have also been cut on average by 35% since 2011/12.'

# -36%

'Over five years, the average council reduced its spending on youth work by £990,410 - a 36 per cent cut since 2011/12'

# -30

'The cumulative cut in youth centre provision by 2016/17 was on average two per council, across all 20 who provided data for any year. One council (Camden) told me they also propose to close a further three projects in 2017/18.'



A briefing by Sian Berry, Green Party Member of the London Assembly January 2017

**THERE ARE NO  
SECRETS TO  
SUCCESS. IT IS  
THE RESULT OF  
PREPARATION,  
HARD WORK, AND  
LEARNING FROM  
FAILURE.**



# OUR WORK

# 17-18

**Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust** working with all our diverse communities to provide activities, support & solutions to their changing needs.

Supporting people, to make a difference.

# APRIL 17

**01** London Youth City Leaders - a new funding programme to enable a group of 10 young people aged 12 to 15 to fundraise for their club. Dragon Hall young people presented to a panel of City of London partners and were awarded £600 for their project.

**01** Dragon Hall in the first year of the Strategic Partner Fund from LB Camden. Starting from Jan 2017 for 4 years to Dec 2020, an allocation of £45,000 per year.

**12** First site visit to SoapBox, Dragon Hall's exciting new contract to run a brand new youth centre in Islington.



# MAY 17

**06** Regular Saturday technology session in partnership with CoderDojo, giving young people the chance to work on their coding skills with the help and support of ninja volunteers.

**25** Our regular monthly Tea Dance now in its 13th year! Led by Brian Cornes and attended by over 35 users per month!

**28** An award ceremony for the young people who worked on the Mental Health advert by Fitzrovia Youth in Action at the New Diorama Theatre.



# JUNE 17

**12** Dragon Hall Tech Day - part of London Tech Week. 232 attendees learning about 3D printing, virtual and augmented reality, coding and social action projects with a focus on emerging technology.

**20** Weekly Pilates class, for the over 50s taught by local resident Rosy Sanders helping to keep us fit & flexible.

**26** Daily pick up of pastries & other produce from Marks & Spencer, Covent Garden offered free to our older users and parents of children who attend the after school clubs.

# JULY 17

**01** Children in Need start funding our staffing costs for the After School Club, 3 year multiple funding, taking us to 2020

**01** John Hayes joined the staff team as Community Development Manager, funded by City Bridge Trust to expand and deliver services for older people in our area & in partnership with the N1C Centre in Kings Cross.

**25** The Dragon Hall team deliver technology sessions for Islington Summersiversity.

# AUG 17

**01** BBC's Strictly Come Dancing hire Dragon Hall to rehearse for the 3rd year running.

**12** Working with Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church on initiatives to support the local community including activities for over 60 age group.



# SEPT 17

**12** Dragon Hall Tech Day. Over 200 attendees learning about 3D printing, virtual and augmented reality, coding, social action projects with a focus on emerging technology.

**27** Peabody Community Fund allocation of £4,620 for our Intermediate club activities.



# OCT 17

**01** Anti-bullying mental health video written, produced, filmed and edited in partnership with Fitzrovia Youth in Action.

**12** Worked with the National Citizen Service as part of The Challenge, a summer programme for 16 year olds that included personal development, skills development and social action.

**17** We lost our clever, funny and kind youth worker, Abdul Samad, a victim of a senseless stabbing carried out by two young people who were stealing phones and wallets. We will continue to try hard to reach, support and help young people choose to avoid a life of crime and violence.

# NOV 17

**06** After School Club start a 5 week programme of movement sessions, exploring movement and dance, great fun that included a spectacular dance battle, enjoyed by all

**25** New Art Class starts hosted at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church

**26** Due to the hard work and co-ordination skills of John Hayes, our new Community development Manager, numbers of users aged 60+ increased from 110 in September to 204 in November.

## DEC 17

**13** Christmas lunch was served at Covent Garden Community Centre, 7 Dials Club. 100 users of activities and services delivered by Dragon Hall and partners enjoyed a traditional lunch, prosecco and raffle prizes donated by local businesses.

*"Dear John*

*Yesterday's lunch was a triumph of organisation and a great success.*

*Thank you for asking us. It did Dad good to get out and he tells me he slept very well last night which might be down to the prosecco he drank!*

*Best wishes, Jo."*



## JAN 18

**19** National Lottery Awards for All grant of £9,920 for our project to Connect Older Men in Camden (COMIC).

**20** The After School Clubs for the 8 to 11 year age group are now being attended by 38 young people each session. Children are picked up from our 2 local primary schools and walked to Dragon Hall. The Clubs are free of charge.

**23** Volunteer numbers have increased over the last year, many are on placement from universities, both from the UK and overseas. We have worked with over 100 volunteers from more than 20 countries supporting our work with over 70 volunteering hours per month.



## FEB 18

**17** The first of many free supported trips to Buckingham Palace. This time to see the Charles II exhibition. Other trips for the over 60s group have been to theatre, concerts & films. Other activities include digital classes in ipads, smart phones & photography. Talks, lectures, aromatherapy classes, art classes & origami have all been popular.

## MAR 18

**14** SYDRC in partnership with Dragon Hall host a launch party for the new community centre in the Kings Cross development. Activities for local people are already taking place and plans are being made to work with local people to support them and deliver services according to their needs.

**16** Soapbox goes from strength to strength with a dedicated evening session for autistic children, a project based around social action and regular drop in sessions for Islington young people.

**17** Numbers of older people attending Dragon Hall activities in different local venues have now reached 290 individuals - an increase from 110 in September.

# THE DRAGON HALL TEAM

The team work across our venues, Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust, SoapBox Islington & partner venues N1C Centre, Kings Cross (in partnership with SYDRC), Covent Garden Community Centre @ 7 Dials Club & Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church



**Nicole Furre**

Director



**James Dellow**

Digital Amplifier



**Keeley Reed**

Youth Manager



**Nick Crivello**

Youth Co-ordinator



**Michaela Crivello**

After School Club Leader



**Chamarl Aforr**

Youth Work Session Worker



**Cherrice Dornelly**

Youth Work Session Worker



**Teresa Molano**

Under 5s Co-ordinator



**John Hayes**

Community Development  
Manager



**Tom Mitchell**

Premises Officer



**Bello Tirmidhiy**

Premises Officer



**Ivana Boskovic**

Bookings Manager  
C4 Administrator

# OUR WORK IS THE PRESENTATION OF OUR CAPABILITIES.



**Chris Farrant**

Finance Manager



**Janke van Uffelen**

Bookings Manager



**Fenella Corrin**

Bookings Manager



# YOUNG PEOPLE AND TECHNOLOGY ARE INEXTRICABLY INTERWOVEN

## BUT NOT ALL OF THEM...

- **THERE ARE ABOUT 10 MILLION DISABLED PEOPLE IN THE UK, 18% OF THE UK POPULATION. THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL STATISTICS ESTIMATE THAT 25% HAVE NEVER USED THE INTERNET, AND 50% OF LAPSED USERS ARE DISABLED**
- **JUST 17% OF PEOPLE WHO WORK IN THE TECH SECTOR ARE FEMALE**
- **828,000 ADULTS HAVE A LEARNING DISABILITY AND A HIGH PROPORTION OF THIS GROUP ARE AMONG THE DIGITALLY EXCLUDED**
- **ONLY 9.5% OF STUDENTS TAKING COMPUTER SCIENCE A LEVEL COURSES ARE FEMALE**
- **THOSE WHO ARE AT A SOCIAL AND FINANCIAL DISADVANTAGE ARE MORE THAN THREE TIMES AS LIKELY TO BE DIGITALLY EXCLUDED AS OTHER PEOPLE**
- **JUST 57% OF LOCAL AUTHORITY TENANTS HAVE BASIC DIGITAL SKILLS, COMPARED TO 85% OF THOSE WHO RENT FROM A PRIVATE LANDLORD**

**WITHIN 20 YEARS**

**90%**

**OF ALL JOBS WILL REQUIRE DIGITAL SKILLS**

# THE SOAPBOX TEAM

The work at SoapBox Islington is delivered for LB Islington by Dragon Hall Trust. Many of the team and various partners work across all venues but have more responsibilities in one centre.



**Nicole Furre**

Director



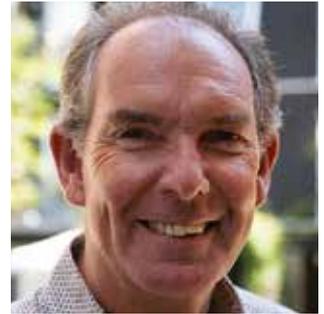
**James Dellow**

Digital Amplifier



**Nick Crivello**

Youth Co-ordinator



**Chris Farrant**

Finance Manager



**Michael Mathura**

Youth Worker, Radio Tutor



**Chris Thiele**

Youth Worker



**Bradley Watson**

Wipers Senior Youth Worker



**Jamil Mongul**

Games Design & 3D Print  
Co-ordinator



**Laura Turner**

Employability Youth Worker



**Sammi Odoi**

Wipers Director



**Sat Bansal**

DJ Engineer Youth Worker



**Kimberly Mambongo**

Engagement Co-ordinator

# SOAPBOX ISLINGTON

Launched in September 2017 Soapbox LB Islington's brand new youth centre.

## DRAGON HALL TRUST & SOAPBOX ISLINGTON

In 2016 Dragon Hall won a competitive tender to manage and deliver youth services at a new building on Old Street. This brand new, state-of-the-art facility replaces Spectrum, a youth centre that specialised in digital media, delivered from a basement facility which is now being developed into housing. The new building was ready to go in late August with the launch on 21st September, 2017.

## FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES & TRAINING

SoapBox has state-of-of-the-art music studios and courses in music production and sound engineering. Young people can also book the studios for recording, rehearsing or production supported by sound engineers.

The internet radio station, Lit Radio is active and young people learn how to use radio, interview & presentation techniques. There is also the opportunity to learn the theoretical and practical aspects of being a DJ.

SoapBox has a dedicated dance space with wooden sprung floor and mirrors. There are 2 regular sessions per week.

There are a number of spaces dedicated to cutting-edge technology including an audio visual suite, virtual reality cave, and innovation lab with 3D printers, computers and high tech equipment. Regular sessions include discovering virtual and augmented reality, learning to code, social action



## ISLINGTON

sessions and all things to do with the latest tech.

Live performance opportunities are on Wednesday and Friday evenings, giving young people the chance to share their talents by performing live.

A weekly session for people in care has been established, supported by a member of staff from Drive Forward Foundation, alongside a University placement student from UEL and an industry tech professional.

In addition SoapBox runs a digital and tech night for young autistic people in conjunction with Islington's Autism Project and supported by a UEL placement student.

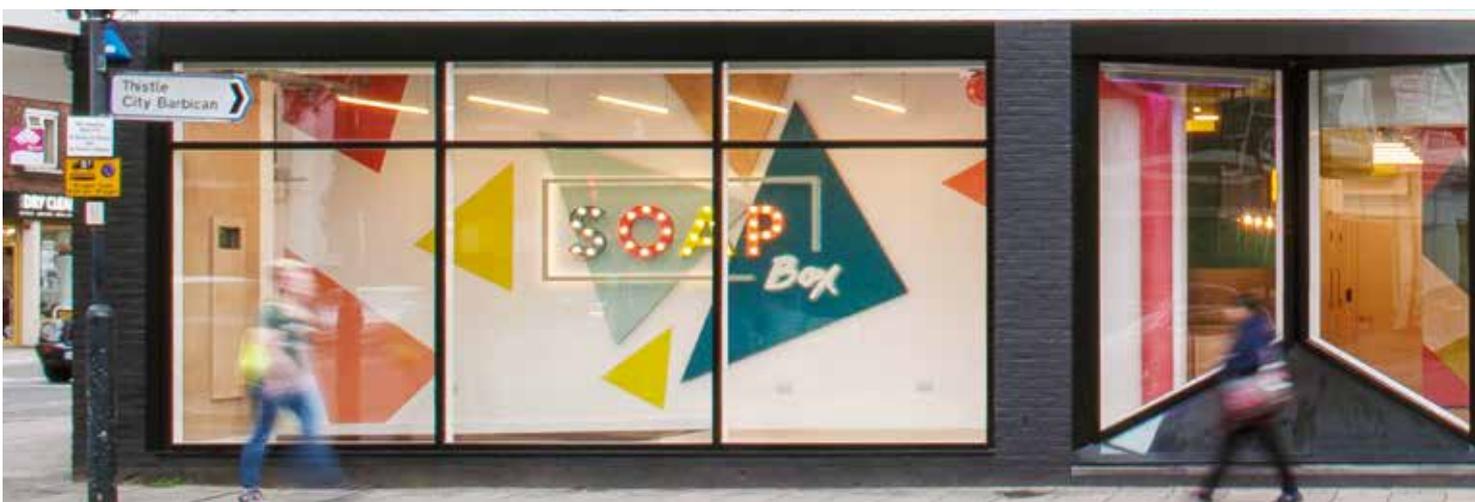
More recently SoapBox hosted a week-long Get Started Programme in Games Design delivered by The Prince's Trust. This is a precursor to SoapBox delivering its own Get Started programmes from September onwards.

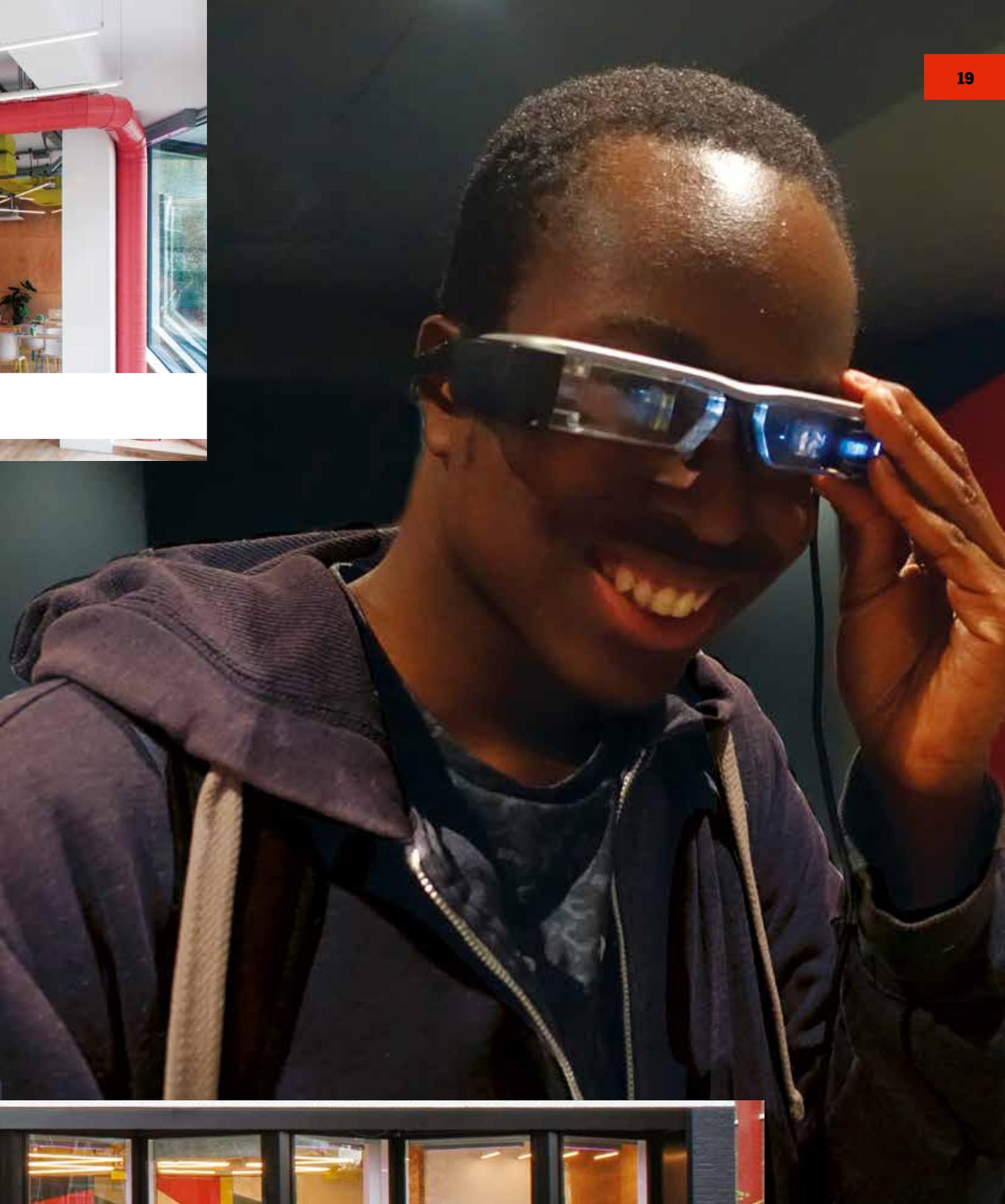
SoapBox, with lead partner New City College, form one of the three successful bids to the Mayor's Digital Talent Fund. This Fund is designed to provide training and pathways to employment in digital facing/ producing roles for 360 young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET).



### James Dellow

James has a Master's Degree (at Distinction Level) in Youth & Community Work and is currently undertaking a Doctorate in Education, with a focus on the use of youth work and technology to reconnect young people with their local communities.





# **N1C CENTRE - IN THE HEART OF THE KNOWLEDGE QUARTER**



# N1C CENTRE

**A BRAND NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE IN A BRAND NEW POST CODE IN KINGS CROSS.**

**DRAGON HALL TRUST DELIVER ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SOMALI YOUTH DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE CENTRE (SYDRC)**

## KINGS CROSS

Over 20,000 people now spend their work, home or leisure time in this desired part of Kings Cross. To cater for the growing community, a purpose-built facility is situated in the heart of the main residential neighbourhood, in The Plimsoll Building.

## SYDRC

SYDRC and partner Dragon Hall Trust are committed to providing activities and services from the new community building. We will focus on activities that meet the needs, and respect the diversity, of local residents and community, as well as of those that work, study and play in the locality.

## THE N1C CENTRE

The N1C Centre gives a voice to residents, encourages civic participation, builds local social capital and bridges different groups, as well as mobilising volunteers and ensuring sustainability by utilising all resources, including major funds from trusts, businesses, individuals, philanthropists and profit-making enterprise.

The Centre was launched in March 2017 and has been in consultation with residents, business and other organisations to establish a programme of activities and services for all of the communities in the area, with a focus on young people, older age group & under 5s.

**SYDRC & DRAGON HALL TRUST**  
are Strategic Partners with  
LB Camden



### Main Hall

10.2m x 6.3m. 70 theatre style, 80 standing.



### Garden Room

7.3m x 4.2m. 15 people board room style, 30 theatre style.



### Conference Room

7m x 5.7m. 10 boardroom style, 15 training room style.



### Meeting Room

6.3m x 3.7m. 4 to 6 attendees. Available for training.

**ROOM HIRE AT N1C CENTRE. All income raised goes back into our services!**

# OVER 60?

Join 290 registered users taking part in 51 co-ordinated activities taking place in 4 different venues

Our over 60's, senior activities have exceptionally expanded under the stewardship of John Hayes, our Community Development Manager, generously funded by City Bridge Trust and the commercial activities of Dragon Hall and Seven Dials Club. With 290 registered users and 51 coordinated activities including art classes, yoga, meditation, chair yoga, coffee with cops, talks, Bridge, outings, line dancing, Pilates, tea dance, choir and a kelle ball, John's superb organisational abilities come into their own.

We continue our partnership working with Westminster and Camden Police teams, Soho Housing, Chinese Community Centre, Mary Ward, St Anne's Church, YMCA, Bloomsbury Church, Phoenix Garden and St George's Church.

A highlight of our social activities are the trips out to The British Museum, Buckingham Palace, West End Theatre shows, concerts and films. Teaming up with other local organisations trips out to the seaside have also become available to our users.

Volunteers are the backbone of these activities for older people and our sincere thanks to Stella – chair yoga, Gerald our Choir Leader, Ling Yeung for origami and session support, Diane for session support, Lux in our writers class and Karen, Ingrid and Noor - all session support, which is setting up the rooms, taking registers, supporting the tutor and meeting and greeting users as well as being critical friends and giving open and helpful feedback so we can continue making our sessions enjoyable and valuable.

## AGE BREAKDOWN OF USERS

■ AGE 55 TO 64	49%	26%
■ AGE 65 TO 74		
■ AGE 75 TO 84		18%
■ AGE 85+		7%





**PARTNERS**

**&**

**FUNDERS**

# PARTNERS & FUNDERS

Our recent contract to run Soapbox in Old Street for young people aged 13 upwards in music and digital technology is working well with Islington young people taking part in digital music, video, technology and arts related activities.

We partner with Somali Youth Development Resource Centre (SYDRC) to deliver activities at the new N1C Centre in the Plimsoll Building in Kings Cross, we are sharing resources to help expand activities for older people in the area.

Other partners and funders include:-





NAVIGATING A  
TUMULTUOUS  
POLITICAL AND  
ECONOMIC LANDSCAPE

# DRAGON HALL LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

It is crucial for the success of many poorer communities within inner London that the provision of activities provides stability and safe, enjoyable learning environments

Through our management of Soapbox Youth Centre we are helping to forge cross-borough partnerships and relationships between young people and the organisations that support them on the ground. In partnership with the Somali Youth Development Resource Centre, Dragon Hall will help run a brand new community centre in the Plimsoll Building, Kings Cross where community facilities are much needed and those relationships will be extended and strengthened.

We will consolidate our partnership work with Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church and Covent Garden Community Centre at 7 Dials Club and continue to find opportunities to work with other local organisations. Dragon Hall will actively contribute to the voluntary sector in Camden with our work as a Strategic Partner and as a founder member of C4 - the Camden Community Centres' Consortium. We will continue to be innovative both in the support for our communities, but also in the diversity of our income streams.

As we face the consequences of a fairly tumultuous political and economic landscape it is crucial for the success of many poorer communities within inner London, that the provision of activities and working with users provides stability and safe, enjoyable learning environments. A sustainable income base with the flexibility to adapt quickly will be our survival baseline.

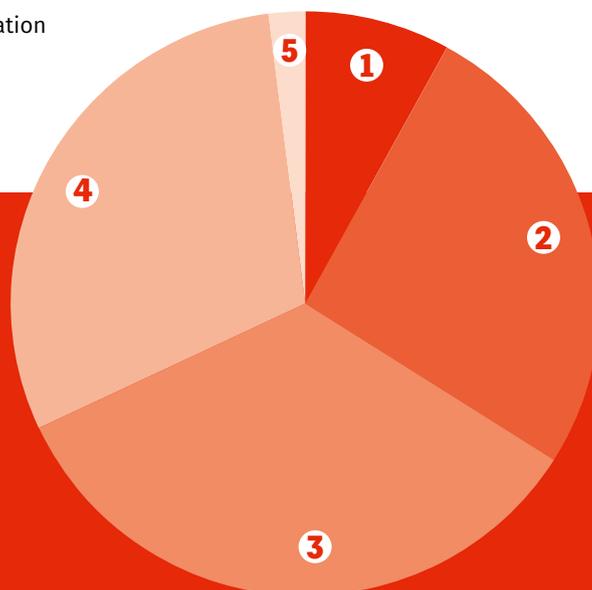
Our sincere thanks go to Volunteers, Staff and Trustees for their dedication and commitment this past year.



**The main hall at Dragon Hall. Available to be hired when it is not in use for community activities. Sprung floor with dance mirrors. 13.2m x 9m. Ceiling height 5.2m. Often used for rehearsals, auditions, workshops, large meetings, parties, dance and performance. Capacity of 200 or 'theatre style' 120. Free wi fi. Kitchen area with hatch to hall.**

## DIVERSITY OF INCOME

①	LB CAMDEN INVESTMENT	8%
②	OTHER GRANTS	26%
③	CONTRACTS	34%
④	SELF GENERATED INCOME	30%
⑤	DONATIONS	2%

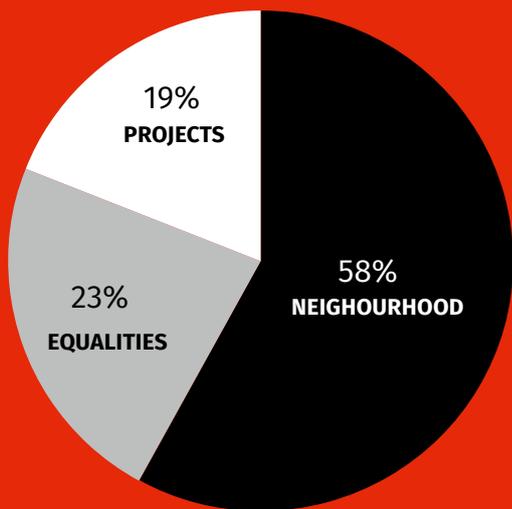


# **C4 CAMDEN COMMUNITY CENTRES' CONSORTIUM**

**SUPPORTING THE STRATEGIC PARTNERS**

**DRAGON HALL IS A STRATEGIC PARTNER AND A MEMBER OF C4 - WORKING TOGETHER FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE WHO LIVES, WORKS AND STUDIES IN CAMDEN**

# A CONSORTIUM OF COMMUNITY CENTRES IN CAMDEN - WORKING TOGETHER FOR POSITIVE CHANGE



### STRATEGIC PARTNERS

The consortium members are also strategic Partners with LB Camden, receiving funding from either the Neighbourhood or equality strands, with a few receiving project funding. The funding amounted to £1,898,000

### STRIVING FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The C4 consortium was formed to enable organisations to team up to share resources, eliminate duplication and to have the ability to bid for larger contracts that would be out of reach for a small organisation.

### SHARING RESOURCES & EXPERTISE

The Consortium generated over £8,000,000 worth of income during 2017 - 2018. The Community Centres are at the centre of our diverse Camden Communities, they lead the response to local need & respond to the opportunities and problems that occur, large or small.

# 17

**Camden Community Centres' Consortium - C4 improves the living conditions and the mental and physical well-being of people in Camden by galvanising private, public and voluntary sector support to provide services and facilities.**

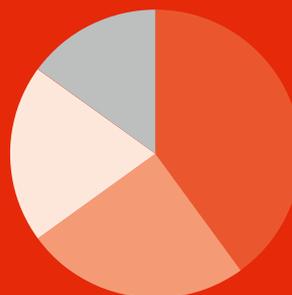
# 25,000

**As a consortium we provide:**

**Local support – 17 centres located at the heart of the community. Local people – more than 25,000 people access our support every week. Local impact – we tackle poverty, inequality, unemployment, ill-health, disadvantage and social isolation.**

- Abbey Community Centre
- Bengali Workers Association
- Calthorpe Project
- Castlehaven Community Centre
- Dragon Hall Trust
- Holborn Community Association
- Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre
- Kentish Town City Farm
- Kentish Town Community Centre
- Kings Cross Brunswick Neighbourhood Association
- Kingsgate Community Centre
- Maiden Lane Community Centre
- Queen's Crescent Community Association
- Sidings Community Centre
- Somers Town Community Centre
- St Pancras Community Association
- Swiss Cottage Community Centre

### STRATEGIC PARTNERS GENERATED £10,054,994 IN 2017



EXTERNAL FUNDING	40%
CAMDEN FUNDING	25%
SELF-GENERATED	20%
CONTRACTS	15%





# VR

**Trying out the VR kit  
at our Tech Day**



# VIDEO

Anti-bullying project with  
Fitzrovia Youth in Action

# CONTACT

## **COVENT GARDEN DRAGON HALL TRUST**

17 Stukeley Street, London, WC2B 5LT

020 7404 7274

[info@dragonhall.org.uk](mailto:info@dragonhall.org.uk)

[www.dragonhall.org.uk](http://www.dragonhall.org.uk)

## **SOAPBOX YOUTH CENTRE**

69 - 85 Old Street, London, WC1V 9HX

020 7527 5121

[info@soapboxislondon.org.uk](mailto:info@soapboxislondon.org.uk)

[www.soapboxislondon.org.uk](http://www.soapboxislondon.org.uk)

## **N1C CENTRE**

1 Handyside Street, Kings Cross, London N1C 4BP

020 7164 6931

[info@n1centre.org](mailto:info@n1centre.org)

[www.n1centre.org](http://www.n1centre.org)