

HTCCC PEOPLE, PLACE, PRESENCE

REPORT 2020/2021



HTC HUMANITY FIRST

Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre

Bringing people together, to empower them to
create a strong and cohesive community.

Introduction

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED AND WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT

This has been an unusual year! It has been impossible for us to run our classes and programmes as normal. During the last 3 months of the 2019/20 financial year, it became increasingly apparent that the new financial year would be both confusing and difficult for so many people. Not least for our project lead and Centre Manager, Carl Kelsall, who took leave to visit family in New Zealand only to find that he was trapped in what was a safe country by the sudden changes in arrangements for flying throughout the world. Carl has been unable to return to the UK for a number of reasons which relate to health, frequent late cancellation of flights and the practicalities of travel. For much of the year, he was able to work remotely and sustain the project but more recently in January 2021 we placed him on furlough.



We must start by thanking those who fund our work through grants and those partner organisations who have invested time, energy and finance in the project. So a big thanks to the Community Fund, Manchester Diocese & the Council for Social Aid, Tameside College, New Charter Jigsaw Group, Action Together and the Community Investment Fund they manage. We must also thank the user groups and volunteers who, like us, aim to “Bring people together, to empower them to create a strong and cohesive community”.



Along with Carl Kelsall, I have a commitment to Asset Based Community Development (ABCD). Over the many years that we have worked together, we have pursued a “Grow our own” policy which has borne great fruit over that time. It has proven to be an appropriate solution to the problems our community faces as a result of three generations of poverty and exhausting years of austerity. It is about investing in solutions, not spending on problems. It is transformational in that it aims to put communities at the centre of what we do, and not the top-down model of service delivery which assumes that

experts can determine the best way to address community problems. As Carl often says, “This approach ensures that services are ‘made to measure, not made to fit’ and is empowering for people and communities.” Ultimately, it also represents greater value for money.

Despite the many challenges of the last year, we have managed to continue with our important work. We have supported our learners, their families and our local community with practical advice and help throughout the pandemic; during the first lockdown we cheered up the local area with the spring colours of our annual Hanging Basket Day and led wellbeing walks for local residents; in the autumn we re-opened the centre and successfully ran our English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses, in



partnership with Tameside College; we have secured our vital Information, Advice & Guidance service for a further two years, thanks to a grant from the Council of Social Aid; we've worked with the Council's Community Safety team to help make the local area a safe and pleasant place for everyone to live; and our Centre has had a wifi upgrade, a new phone system and a new photocopier, which has vastly improved our administration capacity and connectivity for Centre users, thanks to a Reaching Communities Awards For All grant.



The pandemic has suddenly and dramatically brought the inequalities in our society into the spotlight: it has shown how disadvantage truly can be a matter of life and death. For us, we have seen how the local community we serve has been disproportionately affected by lockdowns and service closures. The language barrier exacerbates all other problems. In many cases our learners became isolated in their own homes; struggling to help their children with their school-work and unable to access remote learning for themselves. Making an appointment with the GP or understanding a TV news bulletin are things that they need help with. It has underlined for us the importance of our community centre as a safe, welcoming, social meeting place and the everyday English language and ICT needs of our learners.

Despite significant efforts on our part, the circumstances which surround and affect so many people in our immediate area, mitigate against major positive change. For those who find a new confidence and as a result see improvements in their lives there are many more who need support. Our neighbourhood sees an ongoing influx of those in great need and who have much to learn if they are to be able to be an active part of our society. First impressions are often the foundation on which everything is built, we must therefore be a place of safety that is caring and welcoming to all. We must be inclusive and culturally sensitive; we must recognise that many of those we reach have not had an education in their country of origin; our learners lack personal confidence and they have low expectations of support services. Local service providers must recognise that Centre users feel a sense of safety and security here and we think that this is why we have been so successful. However, we also want to encourage women to venture out of their comfort zone to access services outside of the Centre as well, but we recognise that this will be difficult for some of our less confident women, so we will continue to provide services at the heart of the local community

I am new to the Centre. I have been made to feel very welcome. I am very happy. The course was very good. My understanding of Covid is much better. I have made lots of friends. My teachers are very nice.

- Hamida Bibi

The re-purposing of the building and asset transfer to the local community in the formation of a community trust that we are working towards is taking longer to achieve than we hoped. The pandemic has placed this element of our intentions on hold. The building is of an impressive size but more will need to be done to create usable space given the

increasing demands placed upon it. Partnerships are important, but we always need to ensure they have the local community's and the Centre's sustainability at the heart of the initiative - as Carl often says: "if not here then where?" We are committed to being at the heart of the local community we belong to and serve.

Finally, in different places in this document you will find quotes from learners in our ESOL classes many of whom had little English before starting learning with us.

Thank you for reading.

Revd Roger Farnworth

Chair of HTCCC Management Committee

What it all costs

2020/2021 Budget	Income
Reaching Communities	£117,073.00
Centre Contribution**	£17,000.00
Carry forward from 2019/20*	£17,755.00
Tameside College	£35,000.00
TOTAL	£186,828.00

* Equivalent to the sum of 'Surplus' and 'Unspent Commitments' in the 2020/21 Budget Expenditure.

** As agreed with the project grant funders. This includes a contribution from rental income.

2020/2021 Budget	Expenditure
Salaries and Pensions	£123,161.00
General Running Costs	£10,000.00
Training and Childcare	£7,000.00
Community Development	£5,000.00
Utilities & Services	£7,000.00
Capital	£0.00
Surplus	£9,842.00
Restricted Reserves and Redundancy	£10,900.00
Unspent Commitments from Previous Years	£7,913.00
Volunteers Expenses, Petty Cash and Travel	£3,000.00
TOTAL	£183,816.00

2020/2021 Outturn	Income
Reaching Communities	£117,073.00
Centre Contribution **	£17,000.00
Carry forward from 2019/20	£17,755.00
Tameside *** College	£26,196.00
Furlough **** Grant	£7,109.00
TOTAL	£185,133.00

*** Reduced income as for parts of the year no courses were possible.

**** Furlough Grant is to be used in the next financial year for Covid recovery activity.

2020/21 Outturn	Expenditure
Salaries and Pensions	£124,966.00
General Running Costs	£7,867.29
Training and Childcare	£9,465.80
Community Development	£723.20
Utilities & Services	£9,967.18
Capital	£0.00
Surplus	£6,001.33
Restricted Reserves and Redundancy	£3,201.10
Unspent Commitments	£7,913.78
Volunteers Expenses, Petty Cash and Travel	£600.00
TOTAL	£170,705.68

“We are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us”. Jo Cox MP

The Financial Impact of COVID 19

As can be seen in the tables on Page 4, income was not as expected in the 2020/21 financial year. In line with Government instructions to community venues, Holy Trinity Community Centre has been closed for much of the financial year. This reduced the income from casual bookings to zero. In order to meet our commitment to the project, judicious management of income was required. We decided during that 2020 we would not furlough outreach staff as we believed that support should be provided to those most at need in the local community. In the lockdown in 2021, we took the view that we needed to limit expenditure as much as possible to allow Covid recovery work to be undertaken in 2021/22. Outreach staff were furlough from January and returned to work in April 2021.

I have an English class at the College, but I learnt more in the Holy Trinity than the College. Because at the Holy Trinity we can talk more and we have a chance to try speaking.

Sawsan Hadbeh

We note with gratitude, that Tameside College continued to fund courses that would have occurred during lock down in 2020 but which we were unable to deliver as a result of the Centre having to be closed under Government guidance. In the early part 2021, this funding was not available to the Centre, hence the reduced income.

Excellent news received in April 2021 is that our Information Advice and Guidance Service has been secured for the remaining two years of this project with a grant of £30,000 from Manchester Diocese and the Council for Social Aid.

Partnership and Community Working

ASHTON MARTIAL ARTS

Firstly, I wish to thank Holy Trinity Community Centre for their ongoing support throughout the past twelve months lockdown period. They have fully understood we have had to close with no income at all and minimal funds. This could have finished our group, however with their support, we have been able to pause our activities, knowing our equipment is safely stored and we will be ready to restart as soon as it is safe to exercise indoors.

During this period, we have supported our families through our Facebook group, keeping them updated of the restrictions. We have shared news from Holy Trinity Community Centre. We have shared news from Ashton Youth Club and joined in their 'push up challenge', promoted their activities and shared the exciting news that one of their Youth Workers was interviewed by Country File. We have also supported one of our young members who ran a marathon over 10 days to fundraise for an assistance dog.



This past year has been extremely hard on families, affecting fitness and well-being, but we are in a position that when we can re-open, we can quickly inform families and be ready to go.

Rachael Hill, Volunteer.

Partnership and Community Working (cont.)

JIGSAW HOMES GROUP

We have continued to collaborate with Jigsaw Homes Group, who are based just down the road from us in central Ashton. We have a strong relationship with Jigsaw, having worked with them over the years on many projects, including: the prestigious Royal Exchange Theatre sewing project to create costumes for their production of *Wuthering Heights*, sewing classes, International Women's Day events at Oldham Coliseum Theatre, theatre trips, Creative English classes, School Ready classes, support for our entry to the RHS Britain In Bloom Awards and litter picks. This last year, our projects with them have been small scale and local, but arguably more important than ever.

Hanging Baskets

Minaz Aslam of the Jigsaw Homes Group comments:

"In partnership with Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre we organised a socially distanced intergenerational community workshop to create hanging baskets and flower pots to promote a sense of pride in the community and enhance the appearance of homes of Jigsaw residents in Ashton Central.

The aim was to provide an eco-therapy workshop for people living with poor mental health during this pandemic and help to increase self-confidence, reduce social isolation and increase beneficiaries' overall well being. It was also an opportunity to speak to the local residents and gain an insight into what the current issues were and what projects would be welcomed in the community.

The event proved popular as over 30 households took part and it encouraged both children and adults to get engrossed in planting while remaining within their family bubbles. It was a great way of bringing the community together and re-building on community spirit."

This project was valued by local residents in these uncertain times and the vast majority of them requested to be kept informed of any future engagement projects and events within the area."



Partnership and Community Working (cont.)

JIGSAW HOMES GROUP (Cont.)

Walking Wednesdays

Minaz Aslam again. ...

"Walking Wednesdays was a community walking programme organised and led by us, in conjunction with staff from Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre and started on 1st July for the Ashton Central community.

It was an initiative to encourage people in their local community to get out of their homes and walk with the group as part of a regular and enjoyable walking programme, while adhering to public health recommendations for social distancing. It offered residents a moment of respite from the confines of the home and was a time to explore nature, stretch their legs, and refocus energies.

The programme ran for 6 consecutive weeks for a maximum of 6 families on each programme and the walks were suitable for all ages and abilities. Families walked together in their bubbles and remained 1 metre+ apart from each other."



Christmas Food and Activity Packs

Minaz Aslam again. ...

"In December 2020, we provided Holy Trinity School and the Community Centre with 150 Christmas food and activity packs to help children in the community get into the Christmas spirit with festive craft activities and treats and as a way of keeping children engaged and entertained in the run up to Christmas."

INFORMATION, ADVICE & GUIDANCE (IAG) – A project in partnership with Age UK.

Tayyaba Mirza is our Information, Advice and Guidance Worker. She provides an essential service for her clients, who would otherwise struggle to access services and receive the help and support that they need. She is fluent in English, Urdu, Punjabi and Spanish which enables her to communicate effectively with a wide range of clients. She now has 7 years experience working in IAG and has built strong relationships with the local community. In 2020/21 Tayyaba was continuing to work partly for AGE UK Tameside (TAUK). She has been working from home since the first lockdown in March 2020. She was placed on furlough by TAUK in August 2020 and worked exclusively for HTCCC until November, then worked for TAUK until the end of her contract in March 2021. With the Community Wellbeing / Action Together grant funding for her post coming to an end, we applied to the Manchester Diocesan Council for Social Aid and in April 2021 were delighted to receive a grant award from them of £30,000 to secure the IAG service for another two years.

Partnership and Community Working (cont.)

INFORMATION, ADVICE & GUIDANCE (Cont.)



Tayyaba Mirza writes:

"I felt a little distracted at the beginning of lockdown and drained for a couple of weeks, as it was a big change to work from home. I used to receive phone calls early in the morning, late evenings and during weekends and mostly it was in Ramadan and I felt stressed. I did not switch off my phone as this way clients could leave messages and I used to check them every day including weekends so I could help the most in need. I tried to make them feel hopeful knowing it is a difficult time.

Tayyaba continues: "Clients were panicking, anxious and some of them felt hopeless because they said if we stop delivering the service then they will not be able to access the service and will face issues and requested to keep the service running. There were clients without an income or benefits, some of them were furloughed and on a low income and contacted us during the pandemic to find out if they could claim benefits.

"I use Whatsapp so clients can phone me without extra charges or they can request a call back, send their documents and the information required to make claims on Whatsapp. I know it takes more time this way but I do not have another option as this has been the only way to help them.

"I always check the information with clients before submitting it to Universal Credit or other benefits. I always send them proof of the claim for their records and the information completed online to complete their claim. It is a challenge to explain to

them if their benefits are refused and I have to explain everything in detail and I try my best to help them. Universal Credit's main refusal reason would be the Habitual Residency Test (HRT) and this almost always happens due to the language barrier as clients do not provide the information requested to pass the HRT. I have to give them more information and explain in detail what they need to do when they receive a phone call from the Universal Credit department regarding the above, Also, I always try to leave more information on their journal so the Universal Credit agent can see it and if required to see any documents I upload them for them.

"Clients always inform me by phone when their claims are successful and they appreciate our service and are satisfied with it. They always asked if they need to pay any fee towards the service. I made it clear to them that the service is free for everyone."

Tayyaba Mirza, Information, Advice and Guidance Worker, Holy Trinity Church & Community Centre



"Age UK Tameside have decided to step back from this project as the primary clientele are not solely over 50 years of age. As a Community Centre, we are delighted that the value of this work has been recognised by Manchester Diocese and the Council for Social Aid. The grant funding reported above has secured the IAG service for the next two financial years, until March 2023."

Revd. Revd. Roger Farnworth

Partnership and Community Working (cont.)

KHUSH AMDID

Khush Amdid (KA) is a group that welcomes everyone who attends and goes the extra mile to make them feel happy and comfortable. It has 6 core volunteers, over 80 members and over 200 family members and friends supporting their success and achievements. KA has a focus of educating, empowering and engaging women to lead fulfilling and happy lives through participating in events and activities within the local community. It supports them to be active members of the community and support each other for emotional wellbeing. Some members had issues of loneliness, depression and physical wellbeing when they first joined KA. However, KA, through its focus on education and empowerment is proud that those members overcome those issues.

Prior to Lockdown, KA met at the Community Centre 11.30 – 2.30 on Mondays. The Centre has been very supportive of KA and has accommodated and supported them in many ways. KA works with the Community Centre to build community cohesion and reach out to vulnerable and disadvantaged members. On Thursdays KA met at Cranbrook Gardens 10.00 – 2.00pm. Both the sessions provided the members with a healthy 2-course lunch. On Monday it was cooked on site. Members have the option to request something they would really like to eat – as long as it is healthy. Speakers were invited to offer information and guidance regarding health and mental wellbeing. The sessions are in either in Urdu or translated to ensure access for everybody. Trips were organized on a number of occasions to a variety of destinations, and events to promote community cohesions, such as International Womens' Day celebrations and Fun Days.

During Lockdown KA has kept in touch with members and hopes to restart its face-to-face provision soon. KA was able, in the autumn, working to government guidance to put on one course for its members at Holy Trinity Community Centre. Aisha Naeem writes:

"Khush Amdid were given a grant pre-Covid and started the '**Social Enterprise is for Me**' course during Covid. Having been based at Holy Trinity Community Centre (HTCC) before, we were very keen to continue to use the venue as we knew the staff there were always very helpful and supportive and we had an excellent working relationship with them.

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE IS FOR ME!

Are you 18 - 60 years old?
Are you unemployed?
Want to work from home?
Want to learn new skills?

Free course from Khush Amdid
-Funded by European Social Fund

Learn	Sessions
Flower arranging Decorating cupcakes Balloon modelling	-Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings (To be confirmed)
- All materials provided	-10 weeks
- Free lunch provided	-10am till 1:30pm
- Special reward for full attendance every 4 weeks	-Start date : Tuesday 8th Sept 2020
- Enrolment and Registration - Tuesday 25th August	

For more information/
reserving a place contact:
Aisha Naeem

KA
European Union
European Social Fund
Investing in jobs and skills



Partnership and Community Working (cont.)

KHUSH AMDID (Cont.)

“Due to Covid19, HTCC took into account all the guidance that changed many times and made the venue Covid safe. They produced a risk assessment and had the forms for ‘NHS track and trace’. Stringent cleaning procedures and social-distancing measures were enforced as well as a one-way system. HTCC worked with us to ensure we felt safe & happy in the room.

“The caretaker was also very helpful, ensuring the hall and equipment was all Covid-compliant and safe. Our course was 18 weeks and we successfully completed 12 weeks face to face. During this time we had 3 incidents of isolation due to positive testing by a person and the risk assessment was clear with procedures and protocol. Having done 12 weeks of face to face the learners knew each other well and were able to support each other and complete the rest via Zoom. Obviously, we would have preferred to be at HTCC.”

Aisha Naeem



ASHTON YOUTH CLUB - Lindley Educational Trust

Young people have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic, there has been very limited support for young people over the last 12 months.

Lindley Educational Trust who work from the Centre have felt duty bound to support the children and young people in Ashton-under-Lyne. Throughout the pandemic we have looked at what ‘we can do’ rather than what ‘we can’t do’. We have worked in all sorts of ways within Ashton. Offering online support, detached youth work, local activities such as team building, street games and walks. Once restrictions eased and allowed us to, we made various trips to the Peak District to participate in outdoor activities.

Follow the link below to our Covid-19 impact report, where you will see full details of what we got up to.

<https://www.lindleyeducationaltrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Covid-Impact-Report-Oct-2020.pdf>

*Rehna Yaseen – Ashton Community Project Lead
Lindley Educational Trust*



Partnership and Community Working (cont.)

PARTNERSHIP WITH TAMESIDE COLLEGE

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES (ESOL)

We hear from two of the Centre's own staff – first **Liz Young** and then **Razia Bibi** and **Hasna Khan**.

“We reopened the community centre in the autumn of 2020, excited to be back and keen to start some new ESOL courses. We did have the drawbacks though of both reduced capacity in the building and reduced demand from our learners.

Our Covid 19 Health & Safety Risk Assessment, drawn up by **Les Smith** from our Management Committee, limited the number of people we could teach safely, to a maximum of 16 in our downstairs hall and 8 in our upstairs room. Also, although some learners had already been asking us when we would re-open, others we contacted were anxious about going out or coming to the Centre and so did not want to join the courses this time. However, we recruited for the new term and 38 women started a total of 50 courses with us – an impressive number given the circumstances, down from 75 women starting 96 courses, in January 2020.

It was immediately obvious to us that we would not be able to run the courses that we had previously intended to, as they were based on a planned progression from course to course for each learner. It was also clear that we should directly address the extraordinary situation that we were all in, in the middle of a pandemic. When we asked our learners, they told us that first and foremost they just wanted to come back to the Centre, to see their friends again and resume learning English. They wanted to talk about and share their experiences of the last few months; they were confused and anxious about public health messages and wanted reassurance and information about Covid 19 and the situation, expressed in a way that they could understand, to protect themselves, their families and community.

From this, our ideas coalesced into our course ‘ESOL Covid: Health & Wellbeing’. We drew up new screener assessment forms and found that many learners did not understand or were confused about the social distancing and mask-wearing instruction signs that had sprung up everywhere.



We were aware of the disproportionate impact of Covid on the BAME community and the myths, rumours and misunderstandings that people could be prey to if they did not know how to access, or they didn't trust, official sources of information.

Partnership and Community Working (cont.)

PARTNERSHIP WITH TAMESIDE COLLEGE (Cont.)

So our course aimed to: improve awareness and understanding of Covid 19 (protecting yourself and others); increase awareness and understanding of new laws and guidance and where to get help; encourage talking about the impact of the pandemic, personally, on the community and on wider society; improve awareness and understanding of mental wellbeing and looking after your own health.

We are very fortunate to benefit from good relationships and great support from Tameside College, the local council, police, primary school and many other organisations. The College were understanding of the difficulties of the situation and supportive all the way through. Terry Finn from Tameside Council's Community Safety Team and Simon Brereton, Headteacher of Holy Trinity Primary School, both kindly made time in their busy schedules to give talks and Q&A sessions on Covid safety – Terry via Zoom!

I enjoyed this course and look forward to coming every Wednesday.

Fatemeh Hazareh

I love my teachers, that you are good people. Thank you so much for all that you help me speak English.

Francisca Viera Te

The learners doing the Covid course were split into three classes and I also taught two small classes of our beginner's English course, ESOL First Steps. I was ably assisted by one of our Casual Workers, Ruksana Sharmin. This course is an introduction to basics of learning English - phonics, pro nouns, speaking in the simple present tense, handwriting practice etc – but starting to learn a language is probably the most difficult stage. People are often lacking in confidence and feel inhibited about speaking it and 'having a go', so I try to make the classes feel relaxed, non-judgemental and above all, fun! Having smaller, socially distanced classes helped with the teaching and made encouraging participation from the learners easier. I will try to keep the format even when things return to 'normal'. I've missed the women and I'm looking forward to seeing them return to the Centre and teaching them again."

Liz Young, Business Support Manager, Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre



Razia Bibi and Hasna Khan continue:

"The Covid classes proved to be very beneficial and informative for our learners. This was clearly illustrated within their feedback. It was a course that was much needed at a time of uncertainty and confusion.

We were constantly engaged with the women during lockdown, so were fairly confident that they would settle in nicely after 6 months of staying at home. They were eager and ready to return to classes and socialise and have some normality back in their lives.

But we were still weary, due to social-distancing rules and how women would take it. Previously, our classes had been very interactive and involved a lot of group work and contact. We would look forward to our tea breaks where women would go to their peers and have a good chat over a cup of tea and biscuits. Covid has changed this now. However, throughout the course, the learners observed the Centre's rules. They were very keen to protect themselves and those around them.

As the classes progressed, we noticed the women became more and more confident each time. We had women from various backgrounds, colour, race and religion and everyone was everyone's friend. We were like one big family. It was a fun and happy atmosphere, despite the challenging times of Covid. It gave the ladies opportunities to express their feelings and thoughts and release their tensions and worries.

Partnership and Community Working (cont.)

PARTNERSHIP WITH TAMESIDE COLLEGE (Cont.)

They'd had both positive and negative experiences. Covid had changed the lives of many people. Each was affected differently - some were financially affected, some socially - each learner had a different experience and story to tell. One woman's sister was severely ill in hospital, due to a fall she had from a high building, she was very upset that she was not able to go and visit her.

Another woman's husband was stranded in Pakistan. Others had to cancel planned holidays, weddings, etc. Helping with children's homework was a challenge for many. Even more so for those with language barriers and no digital skills. One woman started a new job but was very keen not to miss the classes. She would start an early shift which involved travelling to Manchester. After her shift she would travel back to Ashton to attend the class. She was sometimes tired but was keen to learn English and not miss a class.

One woman spoke about losing her baby and another was very upset as she lived very far from her son and was unable to see him. These were just a few of the many experiences shared. ...

Furthermore, we also invited professionals to the classes, to speak to the learners directly and address any concerns. This proved to be very successful. The police, the school head teacher. Terry Finn, the Community Cohesion Officer, who we had a Zoom meeting with.



Because the Covid rules and regulations were constantly changing, it was important for everyone to be up to date with them. This is what the main problem was for our learners- due to language barriers, they did not understand the rules at all. It is fair to say that many of the ladies, without this Covid course, would be quite clueless as to the new laws and what various terms meant. Also, how to book a Covid test etc.

So from the Centre's perspective, we have definitely fulfilled a community need and made many more out there aware of Covid and everything related to it. These women would then pass on the knowledge to their family and friends and so spreading it further."

*Razia Bibi and Hasna Khan, Outreach Workers,
Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre*

NEO-NATAL KNITTERS

Neo-Natal Knitters are a community group with an age range of 20's - 90's who, prior to the pandemic, met weekly every Wednesday 10.30 – 13:00 to knit, crochet and sew vital and often lifesaving items for the babies on the Neonatal units of Tameside, St Mary's and Oldham hospitals. Their average attendance was around 30 members weekly before lockdown.

They are a fully inclusive group who encourage people of all abilities and visible and non-visible disabilities to join them.

They make clothing items such as tiny beanie hats which every baby wears from the moment of birth, these have to have holes round the edges to allow breathing and feeding tubes to be held in place. They also make cardigans, blankets, bonding squares - one of these is placed in the incubator under baby and one is kept with mum, on the next visit they swap the squares so that mum and baby keep the scent of each other with them at all times. It has been proven that, as well as baby recognising mum's voice, they can also recognise her scent.

Partnership and Community Working (cont.)

NEO-NATAL KNITTERS (Cont.)

They also knit 'boobs' which show mum how to express vital milk that is then often tube fed into baby. They sew incubator covers to ensure no light gets into baby's eyes (which can cause massive eyesight problems throughout life) and help differentiate between night and day.

Many Neo-Natal members have been shielding throughout the pandemic, but they have kept in touch with each other by phone, email, their facebook page and other social media. They haven't put down their knitting needles either! Simonne Ellams and other members recently knitted some very cute Easter chicks for the SPOONS neonatal charity (pictured). They are hoping to restart their sessions at the Centre from July and we'll be very happy to see them again when they return



OUTREACH WORKERS

Razia Bibi and **Hasna Khan**, Outreach Workers, talk about their work during Lockdown:

"Throughout the lockdowns and disruption we have supported our learners, their families and the local community. We keep in touch with the women by phone and text anyway, but when the Centre has been closed we've made regular wellbeing phone calls, to offer our help and support to them. It's been so important for them to hear a friendly, reassuring voice – we've told them that they're not alone and that we're always available if they need to phone us. When it's been permitted we've seen the women face to face, for socially distanced meetings outside and walks. Some couldn't go out, because they were shielding, so we've visited them at home and had a chat on the doorstep. A mother and daughter were in that situation and felt low and another lady had anxiety and was afraid to leave the house.

"Some women and families have needed a lot of support. One very sad case was when we helped a pregnant young lady with no English to get a GP appointment; her health got worse and she was diagnosed with last stage bowel cancer and died three weeks later. We supported her and her family throughout. One lady has ongoing health issues and we've helped her to make GP and hospital appointments. One woman's father and brother in law died within a week of each other, so she needed emotional support and just someone to talk to. As does a vulnerable, elderly lady, who usually comes to lots of classes at the Centre. We've also supported a young refugee who has a very limited income. She is hoping to settle here and get a job in the future.



Partnership and Community Working (cont.)



OUTREACH WORKERS (Cont.)

“As well as emotional support we’ve offered practical advice and help. We’ve helped women to book Covid tests and to access the results, which you have to do online, so they’ve struggled with that. We’ve helped them to access other services they need, such as applying for benefits, especially for households where people have lost their jobs due to Covid. One lady needed advice about her marital situation and another needed assistance with phone calls about housing repairs.

“We’ve attended the weekly Independent Advisory Group meetings (by Zoom), organised by the council’s Community Safety Team. We liaise with different services and partners at these meetings; we’re informed of the latest information and advice about Covid and about community issues in general, and have passed that on to our learners, to keep them up to date. We have built up our own knowledge which enables us to confidently advise others.



If we have any questions or community issues we need to raise, then Terry Finn, the Community Cohesion Officer, has always helped us. For instance, one household in the area was littering the Millennium Green with food waste, so we raised that with Terry and he engaged with the household and they changed their behaviour.

We’ve really enjoyed getting out and meeting up with the women for walks around the neighbourhood. We’ve gone on walks with ladies from the Centre and also in partnership with Jigsaw Housing. With Jigsaw we did a project where we took six families (the maximum due to Covid restrictions) out for walks every Wednesday – ‘Walkie Talkie Wednesday’ – for six weeks. It seemed to make it so much easier for people to open up and talk about their feelings and anxieties. We’ve also discovered many new walking routes and more of Ashton’s nature! We’re definitely going to continue with the ‘walk and talk’ initiative as it has such a beneficial outcome for our learners.



We put on our own annual Hanging Basket Day as well as one with Jigsaw. Our baskets were ready made up and we sold them at a discounted price to local households. Jigsaw offered theirs for free and people made their own basket up. For both events we had to phone and knock on doors, to see who wanted a basket. Everything had to be carefully planned to be Covid safe, with social distancing rules adhered to etc. They were very positive events: people were happy with their beautiful flowers and the community looked so colourful and vibrant once the baskets were hung up. Many residents praised the initiatives and people stopped to admire the flowers. It was a real uplift for the community.

At Christmas Jigsaw provided ‘goody bags’ filled with games and sweets, for us to distribute to local children. The children were thrilled with these and it brought smiles to their mothers’ faces too. We’re hoping to do more projects in future with Jigsaw, such as healthy cooking via Zoom. For the near future we’re

looking forward to doing more of our own activities, like sports such as rounders, as well as walks. We’re also planning to put on drop in ESOL / wellbeing sessions, prior to starting a new term of ESOL courses with Tameside College.

*Razia Bibi and Hasna Khan, Outreach Workers,
Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre*

Partnership and Community Working (cont.)

OTHER GREAT NEWS!



ANSAR ZAMAN

We are very pleased and proud that in January one of our Casual Workers, Ansar Zaman, moved onto full employment in the NHS. Ansar originally came to us as a volunteer and was then employed to help in our ESOL classes and with office administration. She also successfully completed a Level 3 Community Organising course with us. We wish Ansar every success in her new job. We will miss her.



TIMMY ASHRAF

Another of our Casual Workers, Timmy Ashraf, who works in the crèche, started her own business during lockdown, life and business coaching online. Timmy was already an entrepreneur, running sand art classes for children and she has self-published a Hungarian/English children's story book, which she illustrated herself. We hope to see Timmy back at the Centre in due course, if she can fit us in!

BEHIND THE SCENES

We have a part-time paid Caretaker, a part-time cleaner and a number of volunteers who undertake building maintenance. Mike McDonald, our caretaker, and Les Smith talk about their work:

MIKE MCDONALD – CARETAKER

"The last year has been different! There has been less work when the centre has been closed, but a lot when it's been open. I haven't enjoyed sanitising everywhere but it's been necessary to keep my colleagues and visitors safe. I've had a lot of litter to pick up until recently. It's been very worrying because I've found pieces of wood that could be used as weapons, a knife and 'molotov cocktails', which the police dealt with. I'm not worried for my own safety but for what happens when the centre is closed in the evenings. I've spoken to some of the centre users during the lockdown and I've almost been in tears because of the stories of illness and deaths that I've been told whilst outside litter picking. One lady comes and sits in the grounds each morning and I asked her how she was and she told me her story. Several people have lost their jobs and are unable to get work at the moment. For me personally the lockdown has not been too bad as I've had work to come to break up my days. I've missed talking to my colleagues in the mornings and when I lock up in the evening as we often have fun and laughter. I look forward to the centre returning to full capacity and interacting with all the centre users."



Mike McDonald – Caretaker

LES SMITH – CHURCH WARDEN – MEMBER OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

"In March we had to close the Community Centre and the Church. My priority was checking, with Mike, on the security of the building and keeping it safe. Church services had to stop, or we had to alter how we did them, to match Diocesan rule changes. Judith Hilton and I cleaned the church weekly, when we could have services. I attended when engineers needed access to the building for the wifi upgrade and new phone system installation in spring/summer. We were also changing electricity supplier, which had been a headache.

Partnership and Community Working (cont.)



BEHIND THE SCENES (CONT.)

“When we reopened, we had to do a deep clean. I did a Covid health and safety risk assessment. I ensured that the whole building, Church and Centre, was Covid compliant with government and Diocesan requirements. The risk assessment was reviewed regularly and updated according to government guidelines. I liaised with user groups about their requirements. I worked hard to make the building Covid safe; marking out a one-way system for access/egress to the building, marking out social distancing, seating and table arrangements, I bought and installed hand sanitiser units and set up a QR code for track and trace. I was ably assisted with ongoing repairs and maintenance to the building by Brian Hilton. Mike painted the downstairs hall and corridors. There was also the normal boiler services and fire extinguisher services and I did the PAT testing of electrical equipment. One good highlight was the primary school children using the church for their Christmas nativity and Easter passion play, which they filmed in the church and showed to classmates in school. I arranged that with the head teacher Simon Brereton.

“It has made life different, challenging. We’ve had to meet different challenges, done things we’ve never had to do before and lost things that we took for granted. It affects your social life. Sometimes in the lockdowns it wasn’t permitted to play golf, which I love. All the meetings that would normally take place face to face have been via Zoom – the Management Committee, Church, Parish and Diocese meetings. The annual visitation by the Archdeacon to the church was by Zoom.

“The pandemic has reduced the amount of work that we can do in the community, we’ve been less accessible. I’m hoping that we can get back to some kind of ‘normal’ this year. In the meantime, we’re working to keep the building going and keep the church going, for community use.”

Les Smith – Church Warden.



People Place and Presence, Year 4 2020/21

PROJECT OUTCOME ONE

“A learning community that creates learning opportunities with a focus on those who are the most difficult to reach”

INDICATORS

To create learning opportunities that reflects the needs of learners and with community education embedded.

Local women involved in entry level learning with a focus on those most difficult to reach with a target of 100 per year, 300 by the end of the project.

INDICATORS (Cont.)

Provide learning opportunities for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers.

5 learning opportunities per year to develop skills and confidence of learners year one ESOL first steps My health , My Life , My Community , My Future, ESOL sewing into employment Community Work level 2, ICT, Driving Theory, Life in the UK

EVIDENCE

Please see page 11 for details about our ESOL courses in the autumn term of 2020.

Of the 38 learners 5 were asylum seekers/ refugees.

This year 38 learners started 50 courses with us. Of these learners, 28 successfully completed 36 courses, for which we received £5,801.78 in funding from Tameside College. To pass, a learner had to attend at least 50% of classes and achieve all of the Learning Outcomes for the course. Each course had ten classes with a total of 25 Guided Learning Hours. Attendance rates for those who passed were very high, with 11 learners attending 100% of classes, 9 attended 90% of classes, 8 attended 80%, 6 attended 70%, one attended 60% and one 50% of classes. Of the 10 learners who did not complete a course, 3 could not attend because they or a family member had to self-isolate because they had Covid 19; one was unwell; another has daughters with ongoing health problems; one returned home because of a family bereavement; one could not attend because she was working and another needed a more advanced course and moved onto Tameside College.

This year we ran two ESOL courses – ESOL Covid Health & Wellbeing and ESOL First Steps.

In addition, we have been involved in two different partnerships with the goal of ensuring this provision in our immediate area:

We have partnered with our next-door Church of St. Peter's to ensure ESOL provision at their Red Cross associated drop-in centre; and

We have been involved in Tameside ESOL Wrap Around Support Service, which aims to develop more effective partnership working in Tameside.



We submitted information about our ESOL classes for their website: gmesol.org/esol-in-tameside and have attended online meetings with partners about the service.

We submitted two bids for funding to Action Together. The first was for a Community Wellbeing grant for £24,940 to deliver ESOL to refugees and asylum seekers throughout the borough. The bidding process was put on hold because of the pandemic. The second was to the Social Infrastructure Fund for a digital inclusion project, to deliver a digital skills curriculum, for £10,950. Our bid passed stage one approval but did not pass stage two.

PROJECT OUTCOME TWO

“Create a stronger more cohesive community that has influence and control leading to action and change.”

INDICATOR

150 learning opportunities per year 450 end of project.

EVIDENCE

This year we provided 50 learning opportunities for local, difficult to reach women.

PROJECT OUTCOME THREE

“Women reporting increased confidence as a result of the project.”

INDICATOR

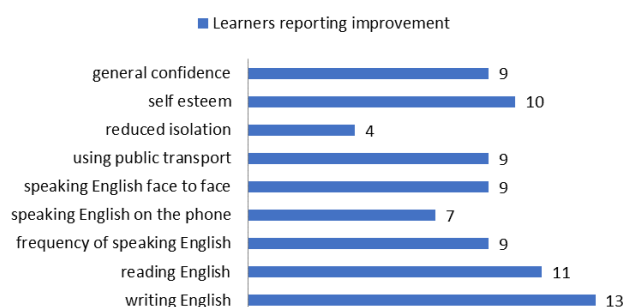
100 per year and 300 at the end of the project

EVIDENCE

At the beginning of our ESOL courses, we asked all our learners questions about how they felt about their general confidence and self esteem, if they felt isolated and how confident they felt about using public transport on their own. We also asked them to say how confident they felt about all aspects of using English, namely; speaking English face to face, on the phone, how often they spoke English and reading and writing English. We then asked them again at the end of the course.

The following table shows the improvements reported by the 26 learners who responded:

Learners reporting improvement



We are very pleased that our ESOL courses and involvement at our Centre has such a positive impact on the lives of local, difficult to reach women. We continue to carefully monitor the progression of each individual who attends the Centre, offering her ESOL and other educational courses at the appropriate level, enrichment activities and the support that she needs to continue to develop her confidence and skills.

INDICATOR

Five new learning opportunities over the life of the project.

EVIDENCE

This year we provided two ESOL courses – ESOL Covid Health & Wellbeing and ESOL First Steps.

I made lots of friends, we help each other. ... The teachers explain very good. I understand.

Jannatul Maowa

This course has helped me build my confidence.

Rukhsana Kousar

PROJECT OUTCOME FOUR

“Sustaining an affordable, accessible local asset at the heart of the local community.”

INDICATORS

3 community Campaigns or ABCD projects completed

A re-modelled centre fit for purpose with an estimated works value of £2.5 million investment

A new model of governance in the form of a trust more representative of the local community

A fully developed business plan to ensure future sustainability of the centre

EVIDENCE

This has been a difficult year. We have been unable to run any large scale projects involving the wider community - as we would and have in previous ‘normal’ years - such as our entry into RHS Britain In Bloom Awards, or our summer annual Fun Day. Our plans for the repurposing of the building and its asset transfer into a trust for the local community have also been placed on hold. However, this is our ultimate goal, and to that end, our Management Committee have very recently approved our plans to place an expression of interest with the Big Lottery Heritage Fund for a grant award. We aim to put together a committee, drawn from all interested parties of the local community – individuals, families, the local primary school, mosque, councillors, other third sector partner organisations and businesses. Our aim is to put together as strong a bid as possible, as success will mean that we can secure the Centre’s place at the heart of the local community for generations to come.

We would like to thank the following organisations for helping us
'bring people together, to empower them to
create a strong and cohesive community.'



Ask yourself...
If not here, then where?



Holy Trinity Community Centre, Dean Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7HD
T: 0161 339 0236 E: holytrinityccc@outlook.com W: www.htccc.org