BIG LOTTERIES REACHING COMMUNITIES APPLICATION HOLY TRINITY CCC PEOPLE, PLACE, PRESENCE 2023



I am delighted to have been invited to write the foreword to this application for the work that is taking place in Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre in Ashton-under-Lyne.

Holy Trinity CCC is located in one of the most challenging areas of Tameside. The statistics on deprivation speak for themselves and describe a community living with significant deprivation and a range of long-term needs.

The Christian Church is about hope and transformation: the transformation of both lives and communities. The vision and aim of the Diocese of Manchester are to be a worshipping, serving and transforming Christian presence at the heart of every community. This involves responding to human needs through loving service and transforming the unjust structures of our society – two of the five marks of the mission of the Anglican Communion. It is this vision that is at the heart of what Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre seek to be and to do.

For over 40 years the people of Holy Trinity have been working in partnership with others in a specific way to alleviate needs and address some of the issues facing the local community. This has been done through the creation of the Community Centre which is now a very established and successful community resource whose work is documented in this report and whose activities have been recognised and praised by the local council, the local police and a range of local and national funding bodies evidenced in the impact statements in this application.

The following report tells its own story. It is a story that speaks of vision, patient commitment and determination, and belief in the power of local people to work together to create a community where all can flourish if they are supported with the resources to do so. It is for this reason that I wholeheartedly endorse Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre's application to the Big Lottery for funding.

My own hope and prayer is that we will find ways of enabling this good news story to continue. For Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre is nothing less than the means by which this particular community will secure a hopeful future.

The Venerable David Sharples Archdeacon of Rochdale

Our organisation

Why we do what we do

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We are dedicated to improving outcomes for those living in the Ward of St Peters and the area known as Holy Trinity in Tameside, Greater Manchester. Our centre is situated amongst a local community in the bottom 10% income bracket who face poor health outcomes. The local demographic is 90% Black and Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME), mainly Pakistani and Bangladeshi.

Given the socioeconomic background of our local community, the Holy Trinity Church accepted that it was no longer suitable as a place of worship only, and that the social needs in the local area should come first. Forty years ago, the church created a community centre taking up approximately 50% of the building across two levels. Today, we call this Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre (HTCCC).

In 2017, we first applied to the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund to support our work to empower local women, mainly from the Muslim community. Our application coincided with the release of a parliamentary report conducted by the Women and Equalities Committee. The report concluded:

"...inequality, discrimination and Islamophobia particularly affect the lives of Muslim women, when looking for work and then once in work...We heard evidence that stereotypical views of Muslim women can act as a barrier to work...these patterns are shifting across generations, but we remain concerned that this shift is happening too slowly and that not all Muslim women are being treated equally."

Women and Equalities Report, 2016

The report calls on the Government to introduce a role model and mentoring programme aimed at Muslim women to increase equality. Our first People, Place and Presence application shared these concerns and worked to address these issues by creating a programme that provides positive role models to help Muslim women realise their full potential. We acted then and we continue to act to challenge the status quo.

Our leadership structure and governance process



Who are you partnering with and how?

We do not have any formal partnerships as part of this application. We aim to work in partnership with organisations that share our objectives, purpose and aims to deliver better outcomes, justice, and equality.

FIT WITH FUNDING PRIORITIES

Our work contributes to all three of the Big Lottery's Reaching Communities priorities:

- 1. Bring people together & build strong relationships in and across communities
- 2. Improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
- 3. Enable more people to fulfil their potential by working to address issues at the earliest possible stage

Bringing people together is at the heart of everything we do. Our organisation has one overarching objective and that is to: "bring people together, to empower them to create a strong and cohesive community". We strengthen

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communities by providing a safe space for celebration, exercise, education, recreation, wellbeing, and practical support.

Importantly, we provide these services in *the heart of the local community*. The space we provide is an affordable community asset that is accessible to our target audience and most-difficult-to-reach user group. The community centre is a valued and well-used resource, where the local women feel comfortable and safe to access important services within our dedicated space for women-only learning.

Whilst our primary user group is elderly generations of Muslim women, we still work to *address issues at the earliest possible stage*. This includes supporting learning with a focus on English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) to empower and build confidence. Deliver Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) service, and focus on wellbeing, mental health and exercise classes to prevent injuries and accidents in old age.

It is important to us that we invest in those who have not been able to benefit from earlier intervention due to language barriers and lack of confidence.

Recovering from Covid-19 and the Cost of Living Crisis

The adverse effects resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic are still visible in our community. HTCCC has been committed to supporting our most vulnerable during the crisis and will continue to dedicate efforts and resources to support our people in the recovery activity if this application is successful.

During the outbreak of the pandemic, we supported our community through the translation of information and public announcements, accessible breakdowns of information, "myth busting" sessions, workshops on hygiene and keeping safe during the pandemic and the distribution of essential care packages hand delivered to the doorsteps of our community.

The continuation of our centre will allow us to further rebuild confidence and connectivity of our users. We have plans in place to mitigate the cost-of-living crisis and continue the recovery from Covid. This includes providing additional resilience and wellbeing workshops and the provision of heat banks and "heat and heat" services that our community can use free at the point of use. These heat banks will provide a space where the community can keep warm during the winter months. We are hopeful this will alleviate some financial strains when it comes to staying warm amongst unprecedented electricity and gas prices increases.

We are already seeing an interest and take up of these services, which further strengthens our community's connectivity to the centre.

VALUE-BASED APPROACH

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Our community development approach supports individuals, groups and organisations based on the following values:

- Social justice, respecting and valuing diversity and difference.
- Sustainable communities, promoting the empowerment of individuals and communities.
- Promoting the participation of individuals and supporting communities with a focus on those marginalised and excluded.
- Working together, demonstrating that collective work is effective, in bringing about change.
- Learning and reflective practice, promoting and supporting individuals and collective learning to gain skills.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

BUILD ON PEOPLE'S STRENGTHS

It's not just what we do; it's how we do it.

We believe that everybody has unique strengths to offer, and we aim to empower our people to give them a voice to be heard. We have a fundamental belief that an Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) or the "Grow our own" philosophy is the best approach.

This is evidenced by the employment and continued development of local people who started as volunteers, who have demonstrated commitment to our objectives and who have the right qualities and attributes to be a positive force for change and local community asset.

CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

As a well-established community centre, we are in tune with the challenges that our local community face, both socially and economically. We know that this deep-seated deprivation and poverty are not easily overcome. We are confident that we can mitigate the impact of poverty by providing services where cost is not a barrier to participation and increasing household income through increased skills, improved education opportunities, and an accessible IAG services.

INVOLVE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES FROM THE START

This involves building the confidence of our local community and developing "active citizenship" that encourages participation in the decisions historically made without their involvement. By involving our people from the start (through engagement and consultation), we are able to influence service delivery and design our curriculum appropriately. We are able to best meet our

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communities needs and ensure that the services we provide are culturally sensitive to the community we serve.

The impact our proposal will have and the difference it will make

The impact of our project can be measured in two ways; the positive impact the project is already having and is likely to have in the future, and the negative impact if the project is lost. These are difficult to quantify, but we understand a closure of the centre would have a profound negative impact on the local community.

From April 2020, we have supported 144 learners, with 24 moving into formal education, and 24 moving into employment after completing the pre-entry and entry-level training. We have seen all eight volunteers move into employment.

Last year, our IAG service took 629 appointments, benefiting approximately 400 unique users (82 of which were students), and secured over £230,000 in benefit claims for the local community.

We increasingly recognise the value and unique service we provide in connecting people to services promoting inclusion and increasingly we know our service is recognised and valued. We also recognise our limitations in how we can help them, and therefore provide initial support, a triage service, and referral to the appropriate agency or specialist support service.

No other organisation in Tameside provides an IAG service for speakers of other languages. No other body based in the St Peters provides an access point between BAME women and crucial services. No one else provides services made to measure, designed by and for the people of Holy Trinity.

We are a crucial connector between local services and local women. We complement other services and continue to work with partner organisations to meet the needs and wants of our local community; giving them opportunities to come together, learn, celebrate, enjoy, and promote social justice and greater equality.

We believe there is no better testimony than the voices of our users and partners. You can find these Impact Statements at the end of the application.

DELIVERY PLAN

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This application aims to sustain an important local community hub, without it the support we and the user groups provide is simply not possible. This application contributes to the following:

- Improve health and well-being with a focus on those most difficult to reach
- Increased learning opportunities with a focus on those who are the most difficult to reach
- Increased levels of confidence in women to pre-Covid levels
- Improved services thanks to local people having more influence over service design and delivery
- Improved connectivity with and between the local community and services

- Deliver Information Advice and Guidance services in a language people understand
- Support local volunteer groups thanks to affordable rent, space and support
- A strong and cohesive community where people get on and get things done
- Improved access for Young People to Youth Services
- Mitigate the impact of poverty and the cost-of-living crisis
- An active community that has influence and control leads to improved outcomes for all

This application will allow the continuation and development of the following activities:

- Heat and Eat Mondays (hot meal and activities for women and takeaway service for families)
- Ashton Martial Arts
- Neonatal Knitters
- Sewing (beginners and advanced)
- Councillor surgeries
- Youth Provision

- Private hires for family and cultural celebrations
- Mendhi
- Weddings
- Police surgeries
- Meetings
- Host local groups
- Sewing Groups
- Women-only exercise
- Arts and crafts

The below list is an example of previous training that we have offered at our centre. This proposal will help us to continue to provide these training, and others like it in the future (noting that we adjust our curriculum to respond to the client needs):

- Health and Wellbeing
- Getting the most out of your smartphone (targeted at the older generation to help reach digital inclusion)
- Internet and cyber safety

- Community Safety
- Recycling
- Healthy Walks
- How to access GP services
- Domestic abuse awareness

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- Community clean up campaigns
- Youth leadership programme
- Cancer Awareness
- Volunteering opportunities
- Safeguarding

- Mental health seminars
- "Everyday life" workshops
- Health Matters
- Mindfulness
- "First steps in my community"

All of the listed activities take place at, Holy Trinity Church & Community Centre, Dean Street, Ashton-Under-Lyne. They are carried out by our trained staff, sometimes with the help of external partners (i.e. we collaborate with Lindley Educational Trust for the leadership programme for young leaders).

Resources

The team is our greatest asset. Thanks to our "grow our own" approach, both the outreach and IAG workers have walked in the footsteps of those we strive to support. Thanks to their lived experience they have a special understand of the culture, language and religious, barriers, including, social, family, culture, skills and confidence.



We are proud to be a Living Wage Employer. No other service in our local area employs outreach workers from the community they serve who are equipped with the level of trust, respect, local knowledge, and credibility of our team.

Our outreach and IAG workers come from and belong to the local community we aim to reach, women from our local community mainly first-generation Pakistani and Bangladeshi, as well as women migrants who come through partner visas, Refugees and Asylum Seekers from across Tameside. They are the much-needed role models that the Women and Equalities Committee identified as crucial to improve the lives of Muslim women.

KEY DELIVERY STAFF: SALARY, HOURS, MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Outreach Workers x 2	
Core responsibilities	Empower learners and encourage new learning opportunities. Help shape the service we provide to meet the needs and wants of the services users.

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	Improve self-esteem and life outcomes of project participants.
	Outreach and encourage project participation with a focus on the most difficult to reach.
	Safeguard centre users, ensure registers and evaluations are completed, identify and support volunteers to play a full and active role in the project.
	Prepare suitable materials and teaching resources to assist in the teaching of pre-entry ESOL (3 x per week).
Language Spoken	English, Bangla and Urdu
Hours	30 hours per week term time only
Training	Safeguarding training and workshops to ensure knowledge base is up to date and relevant for role.
Salary	£19,693, with 5% per year increase. Negotiated and agreed. Salary including full on cost and pension.

Information, Advice and Guidance Worker x 1		
Core responsibilities	Focus on those with ESOL needs to ensure they are fully aware of their welfare and statutory entitlements, so they can secure respite care, personal budgets and other health and care related support packages.	
	Support users to complete claim forms and associated paperwork. Refer and signpost clients to organisations best placed to meet their needs where necessary.	
	Identify unclaimed benefit entitlements for older people through new claims or enhancements of existing awards.	
	Provide the service through structured face to face appointments and through drop-in surgeries based within the community.	
Language Spoken	English, Urdu, Spanish and Punjabi	
Hours	26 hours per week	

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Training	Participate in supervision, meetings, training and workshops to ensure working knowledge base is up to date and relevant.
Salary	£19,693 per annum with 5% per year increase Negotiated and Agreed. Includes full on cost and pension.

Project Manager x 1		
Core responsibilities	Responsible for the management of the project including finance, supervision of staff, working with partners and producing reports to ensure the project achieves its vision and meets its outputs as required.	
	Manage the PPP project and develop new initiatives to meet the needs of the local community and ensure we deliver on the agreed outcomes.	
	Identify and apply for funding opportunities to ensure future sustainability.	
	Manage the community centre and ensure it is a safe and welcoming venue, promoting community cohesion and wellbeing.	
	Prepare reports to both the management committee and the Big Lottery Community Fund.	
	Support existing groups and promote new centre usage to both maximise income and meet needs of the local community.	
	Actively promote Equality and Diversity across all service areas of this project.	
Language Spoken	English	
Hours		
Salary	£27,478, with 5% per year increase. Salary including full on cost and pension. Negations ongoing.	

Care Takers & Maintenance x 2

Core responsibilities	Responsible for the security of the premises and Early Morning Opening Procedure of the centre as an when required. Routine day to day cleaning of the whole Community Centre including the toilet and undertaking specific cleaning after users as required.
	Inspect the interior & exterior of the building for general cleanliness on a daily basis. A weekly check for any defects & malfunctioning equipment.
	Operation of all emergency procedures & building maintenance i.e., fire alarm, emergency lighting and heating system.
Language Spoken	English
Hours	7 hours per week. Our workers are unable to take up full-time employment due to caring responsibilities and a long-term health condition. They do a fantastic job of looking after the centre on minimum hours.
Training	Attend training courses and complete all the appropriate Health & Safety requirements for the role.
Salary	£4,204, with 5% increase per year. Negotiated and agreed. Includes full on cost and pension

Volunteers

The future project can take on volunteers and celebrate them moving into employment with a target of 10 at any one time. The volunteer roles we have identified are:

- Extra support for ESOL
- Befriending and home visits
- Readers 1:1 support
- Cook and Eat sessions
- The warm welcome (including kitchen and set up duties)
- Childcare and administration

We feel confident that we can transition a target of 30 women volunteers into employment over three years. We are currently reluctant to provide new volunteer contracts as we are unclear of our long-term sustainability and do not wish to make promises we cannot keep.

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SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT

An open-door policy

We have a full team approach to supervision and an open-door policy, to ensure that the issues and opportunities are bottom-up, not top-down. It is the outreach workers who have the knowledge and ear of the community.

Our supervision and support are aimed at growing the skills and competence of our workforce to be leaders. It involves in-depth discussions that inform decision-making based on a full team approach that appreciates, empowers, and motivates staff with a strong sense of purpose. This investment allows us to develop role models and teachers for our community.

We supervise through reflective practice. The participation of workers is at the heart of our supervision, and it is underpinned by the Principals of Community Development.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We aim to build on what is already in place: it's an empowering and more culturally sensitive process, which delivers better outcomes for all.

ABCD recognises that the historical disadvantages in communities like Holy Trinity are best tackled through direct investment in local people and communities. Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is central to our approach. We continue to build and invest in the right people, with the right qualities and attributes to better equip them to meet the identified needs of the community. We recognise that staff and volunteers with family commitments find it difficult to access training outside core working hours so we work hard with partners and training providers to bring courses to the centre and overcome barriers to participation.

We have identified two main development platforms and have invested in both ESOL teaching and community work training over the past five years. In consultation with staff we have identified the next training priorities to be counselling or CBT, NLP and the level 3 award in Teaching and Training.

LEARNING, SHARING AND NETWORKING

What we have learnt and how we apply to improve our work

The current project and centre priorities were created following community consultation carried out in 2015, 2018, and 2021.

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We achieved and learnt a great deal in the first five years of the project from 2017 - 2022. Outcomes and the methodology remain the same, but we alter our operational practices based on what we have learnt, feedback from funders and the increased strength and confidence that comes from our experience.

The most recent 2021 consultation involved local people, partners, Ashton Pioneer Homes, Tameside College, Tameside Adult Community Education, Jigsaw Housing, TMBC Community Safety, Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School, The Parish of the Good Shepherd, Lindley Educational Trust, learners, user groups and local organisations thanks initially to the expertise of Action Together.

Our new funding application will build on our learning and sustain the original idea "to empower women with a focus on those most difficult to reach". Below is a summary of our findings:

- There are a lot of services eager to engage with the local community but lack the recourses or the know-how and community base to do this.
- The progression routes are in place for learners but not the pre-entry educational standard expected to access the learning opportunity; this has been strengthened with Tameside Adult Community Education joining the partnership with Tameside College that will greatly assist in progression routes for local women.
- We deliver during term time only given the costs and complications in delivering childcare. We understand term time is best for the women we serve given their childcare responsibilities in the school holidays and the expense and difficulties in providing childcare.
- We cannot be all things to all people are focus must maintain our focus on delivering services to the most difficult-to-reach women.
- There is a greater need to empower the local community and ensure they fully participate in the issues important to the local community.
- The services offered by others simply do not reach the women we work with for a range of different reasons.

Satisfaction of users

Each term we run an evaluation with learners to understand their experiences and future needs. All of what we do is informed by our local people. For example, we redesigned some services as older members are isolated and lonely.

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The local community agree the overwhelming priority is to keep the centre open so we can bring people together and create a strong cohesive community that gets stuff done and has access to services.

We have also engaged in consultation with the learners of the centre and there is 100% support for us to continue with a focus on ESOL and entry-level learning but increasingly we recognise the high level of Welfare needs or out centre users. Our IAG was assessed as highly valued and is therefore now included in this application.

Our plans for measuring the impact of work

- Continue to provide Holy Trinity Community Centre End of Term Monitoring Questionnaire – this helps us gauge what our users thought of our services and if we have achieved our intended outcomes. This feedback allows us to shape our future curriculum.
- The number of students we teach, with a target of 50 students per term
- The number of women who say that HTCCC has helped to improve their confidence and self-esteem
- The number of women who say they enjoy their classes and activities
- The number of women who say HTCCC has helped bring the local community together
- The numbers of users entering employment
- The number of women entering further education
- The number of people using the IAG service
- The financial benefits the IAG service brings to the local community
- Centre usage bookings to demonstrate how the centre is used and how this represents wider benefit to the community

ANNUAL REPORT

We will continue to share our annual reports with more detailed breakdown in our reporting, activities, outcomes, outputs and finances.

Sustainability

Sustainability is by far our greatest challenge at HTCCC. We recognise that we are grant dependent, and a future business model will need to address this grant dependency through a radical repurposing proposal that will help us become less grant-dependent whilst remain affordable to centre users.

We have not made as much progress on our sustainability with an estimated loss of income of £72,000 during Covid. Covid has impacted negotiations with the Manchester Diocese about the asset transfer and the complex decision-making process within the Church of England. Despite these

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difficulties, we can increase our financial contribution by 100%, and reduce what we asked the Big Lottery for back in 2020.

Our new plans will address sustainability and be a central part of our priorities, we will continue to work with the Parish, Manchester Diocese, and management committee and seek advice from Action Together regarding a new model of governance to ensure we are more sustainable and independent of the Diocese and Parish.

We have produced an options paper for the Fragile Churches Committee at the request of the Archdeacon. We do not want to jeopardise the long-promised asset transfer of the building to an independent trust of the Community Interest Company or others. It would be an outcome we will work towards during the life of the funding with a completion date before April 2026.

The reality is that we will always need grants to sustain the work as those we aim to serve are amongst the poorest in the country. Only a large capital investment and repurposing of the building will enable future sustainability.

We have made efforts to develop a partnership with Tameside College, but the amount of funding for none accredited learning is not sufficient to cover all costs in delivery, we are grateful to the Big Lottery Reaching Communities grant for covering costs in this regard.

The Church and Community Centre is impressive in size, but we need to do more to make the space stable for community use.

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION A Humanity First Approach

We celebrate 50% representation of local women on our board. HTCCC is part of the Parish of the Good Shepherd, Ashton under Lyne and celebrates and welcomes rather than tolerates diversity in our organisation and in society as a whole.

We are committed to proactive equal opportunities and welcome all people, with a positive view of age, caring responsibilities, gender, disability, racial/ethnic origin, religion, HIV status or other health-related reasons, sexual orientation, or socio-economic background, as valued Employees, Committee Members and Volunteers.

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SAFEGUARDING

Given that we are currently accountable to the Parish of the Good Shepherd we work to the safeguarding policies and the procedures of the Church of England. Thanks to the subcontract with Tameside College, we go through a rigorous due diligence process for the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) on an annual basis, this also included Monthly Monitoring of Safeguarding and preventing incidents.

Environment

We currently provide free access to high-speed Wi-Fi, a commercial kitchen with level 4-star food hygiene rating, new high-efficiency boilers, a main hall, upstairs meeting room, low energy lighting, confidential office space for IAG, space for volunteer and full-time workers, well-maintained grounds, crèche facilities, community events space, disabled assess with a chair lift, toilets including a disabled toilet. Most importantly it is a safe and welcoming centre for difficult-to-reach women and the wider community.

However, the building was constructed in 1876 and without consideration for the environmental challenges we now face, a new plan for the centre will need to be agreed upon and will need to have sustainability of both the project and the environment at its heart. The building was repurposed into a community centre 40 years ago, and we must accept the real challenge we face to meet our obligations to the environment and modem day standards.

In 2022 we upgraded our heating system with more efficient boilers, thermostats on each radiator, and thermostats on each floor and youth office. We only heat the community centre and not the church; we have replaced the lighting with energy-efficient bulbs.

If the project reaches a future agreement on the asset transfer from the Manchester Diocese the redesign of the building will have three main objectives:

- 1) To be suitable for a broad range of community uses that reflect the needs of the local community.
- 2) To be energy affiant to the current building regulations and highest standards and environmental considerations.
- 3) To have the aim of enabling full sustainability of the building by maximising usable space for projects, classes and rentable space.

PARTNERSHIPS

As previously stated, we do not have any formal partnerships as part of this application, but we do have valued partners that we would like to recognise below.

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Easy-peasy payroll has proven to be a great payroll provider and is happy to help with salaries cost and keep us up to date with changes to legislation. This service allows us to get on and concentrate on achieving our vision.

Jigsaw housing has proven to be a valuable partner over the past five years. We have worked to align our objectives and agreed to continue the partnership and focus on addressing poverty and the cost-of-living crisis. It is because of this partnership that we feel able to reduce the budget heading "community development" from our application for continuation funding.

Lindley Educational Trust Deliver the Youth offer in the area and have a storage office and delivery space, this is of mutual benefit as they provide income to the centre and ensure that we deliver across the full age range of the local community.

Tameside College has provided and is committed to providing a long-term sustainable partnership to the value of £25,000 per year. This is the main source of match funding with the mainly focused on the delivery of ESOL classes and work to build confidence, and employability, we now aim to provide progression routes for learners thanks to Tameside Adult Community Education, they have the expertise to deliver a curriculum we do not currently provide including maths and computers for beginners.

The Parish the Good Shepherd given the delays to the asset transfer and protracted negotiations with Manchester Dioceses we are grateful to the Parish who support the work we do and the continued connectivity to the Diocese, safeguarding disclosure and barring service, policies and procedures, human resources, and management support.

It is still our long-term aim to be an independent organisation in the form of a Community Interest Company, but our plans have been affected by personnel changes within the Diocese and Parish of the Good Shephard. We have also lost two years of development time due to Covid.

Our short-term priority is to sustain the community facility at the heart of the local community, deliver learning opportunities, connect people to much-needed services and deliver IAG.

The Manchester Dioceses we have produced a report to the Fragile Churches committee that makes the case for the asset transfer of the building to an independent trust (shared with the Big Lottery). We recognise the difficulties and timescales with this process. It is agreed that we will become a Community Interest Company (CIC) in the next three years, but our current priority is keeping the project and centre operational over the next three years until the CIC and Asset Transfer are achieved.

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CONFIRM YOUR PROPOSAL

On behalf of our staff and users at Holy Trinity Community Centre, we thank you for taking the time to read part two of our application to the Big Lottery. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any more information or would like to arrange a time to visit us at the centre.

- Our plan is accurate, complete and that we will notify you of any changes
- Our application has been authorised by the governing body of our organisation
- Our organisation is able to deliver our funding proposal

"If not here, then where?"

"If not us, then who?"

IMPACT STATEMENTS

In support of this application, we have asked partners to give their feedback on the centre and the courses we offer. This proposal will allow us to continue this hard work and progress. Please read their testimonials below.

Racheal Hill, Volunteer and Chair, Ashton Marital Arts:

"Ashton Martial Arts group has run from the Centre for many years. At several times the group's future had been uncertain, however, HTCCC has always supported us, reducing costs until we could secure funding. We are deliberately low-cost to keep it affordable for families, mainly run by volunteers, and we provide all equipment, members train in normal sports clothes.

"Over the past 5 years, our group began to thrive. The Centre advertised our group on their weekly planner. We had such high levels of members that the Church kindly let us use the actual Church space as well as the hall- this we appreciated as it meant we did not have to turn anyone away. We were able to outreach to our community through word of mouth too, we had a high proportion of Pakistani/Muslim members (around 90%) and many of our members were Asian girls- parents were happy for them to train as they trusted the volunteers. We were then able to engage with their parents, often

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mothers, and point them to other services within the Centre. We are much more than a sports group, we are family, somewhere people can turn to for help and support.

Then Covid hit. This was a terrible time, especially in Manchester as we had the longest lockdowns than any other city and high Covid rates. The Centre recognised we could not open but still needed storage to be able to restart afterwards (they did not charge us for this). When restrictions were lifted, the Church supported us with managing the building safely, providing cleaning equipment and helping with risk assessment.

It was clear how badly the area was affected. Many people had lost family members to Covid or struggled severely with well-being through the isolation. It has taken a long while for some families to feel safe enough to engage with groups again.

We hope the future is much brighter and we can grow in strength again with the security of having a place to train at the heart of our community, with a caring Centre behind us that understands our mission and supports us fully".

Pennine Care, NHS Foundation Trust:

Carl, Hasna and Razia have been very welcoming to Healthy Minds and working with them has been a rewarding experience. We have seen how they all go above and beyond to support women and how passionate they are about their work. They have been very welcoming, and they are doing an excellent job of supporting diverse groups. It has been pleasurable working with them, and we wish to continue and/or strengthen our connections with the community centre.

We feel that there are multiple benefits of your project and centre and recognise how invaluable it is. You have been supporting those most difficult to reach in a very proactive, effective, and approachable way. We have seen first-hand the huge positive impact you make in these women's lives. Without this project, we feel that the ladies may be at further risk of isolation and mental health problems.

We have seen how happy they are when they attend the centre and how comfortable and content, they feel with their peer groups. Undoubtedly, the project and centre promote health and well-being and improved quality of life for those predominately from a BAME background who are often under-represented in mental health services.

The project and centre at Holy Trinity, in collaboration with Healthy Minds (Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust), have worked together to help under-represented women from a BAME background have easier access to mental health education and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) techniques to help manage common mental health problems such as anxiety and depression. In turn, this has helped the women increase their knowledge and understanding of what mental health is and what they can to do help manage anxiety and depression. The project helped Healthy Minds easily deliver

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workshops in a flexible and timely manner as it was integrated into their current programme.

The project and centre have provided easy access to difficult-to-reach, as they provide a safe and open space where these women can drop in face-to-face, without the barrier of traditional preface-to-face self-referral processes. They also help with applications such as assisting with filling out registration forms for different services that can support their health and well-being. With the knowledge of the project and community centre, we have easily signposted patients from Healthy Minds to the centre.

Sue Carrigan, Co-founder, Neonatal Knitters:

"As the co-founder of Neonatal Knitters, I am so grateful for the use of such a fantastic facility in our community. Our knitting group makes items for the Neonatal Units of Tameside Hospital, Royal Oldham Hospital and St Marys Hospital Manchester. These items are not only much needed but also often lifesaving.

We work closely with the NICU staff as to the suitability of items, and staff from St Marys' Hospital came to visit our group and did a presentation of the work they do and some of the equipment used on the unit. Holy Trinity Community Centre is the perfect place to hold our group.

Initially, we had 30+ members ranging in age from 20+ to 90 years old, and we have a number of home knitters who for various reasons cannot make it to the weekly group. The Centre is a very safe, warm, and welcoming place for all our members. We also have storage space for our completed items which we distribute to the hospital approximately four times a year. We also have the use of the kitchen for making hot drinks.

Our numbers are smaller now due to the Covid pandemic and some of our people isolating, but those who do not attend the group now knit from home for us. We have built many firm friendships during our time at Holy Trinity Community Centre which has lasted for many years and hopefully for many years to come. Having a physical Centre to meet at combats isolation and loneliness, not only for our group but for everybody who uses the Centre. Everybody's mental health has been severely impacted due to the pandemic, so we all need a stable central hub to meet up and feel safe. Without the Centre, our group along with others who use the facility would not be able to continue. For Neonatal Knitters, this would not only impact us but also the Neonatal babies and their families who we help, some of whom bring their babies in to see us when they come out of hospital. People from the other user groups call in to see what we are doing and Razia and Hasna bring ladies in to see if they would like to join in with us. We really are a close-knit community, and this Centre is ideal for us all"



Holy Trinity Community Centre – Impact Statement December 2022

The Digital Healthcare Support Service (DHSS) is a service working across Tameside and Glossop, which aims to help patients to access GP online services and health apps, enabling them to manage their own health and healthcare more effectively.

We began working with Holy Trinity Community Centre in December 2021, where we jointly organised and delivered a pilot session on health apps and online healthcare resources. The attendees were a small group of ladies that the centre had identified, and the session was supported by two members of staff at the centre who helped with translation.

Following this, we were then able to provide a series of input sessions, workshops and 1-to-1 support for all of the ladies at the centre on:

- Searching for health information online safely
- Translating web pages
- Downloading and accessing the NHS app
- Using online consultations

Our collaboration with Holy Trinity Community Centre over the past year has been really interesting, exciting and brilliantly positive. From the first moment we worked together, the centre provided a fantastic level of support and engagement with our project, and has enabled the DHSS to work with a cohort of patients we would never have been able to reach otherwise.

The women that HTCC work with fall under the radar for many services – many of the women we worked with relied on partners, children or grandchildren who had better levels of English language, and/or were more confident with tech, so the majority of attendees were not able or empowered to engage with healthcare services independently at the outset. Over the course of the time we worked with HTCC, we were able to support two-thirds of the group of 31 women to access the NHS app, and all attendees knew how to look up healthcare information online safely by the end of the sessions. It was absolutely wonderful to see the attendees gradually becoming more confident week on week – without the support of the centre staff who identified and invited the women to the sessions, helped with translation, and supported attendees with the tech alongside the digital champion volunteers, we would not have been able to deliver the service.

It was also fantastic to be able to collaborate on joint aims, for example delivering the sessions in English to encourage language learning, but with the translation support from centre staff to ensure that the meaning was fully and accurately understood.

The strong trust built up between the staff at Holy Trinity and the community of women who were attending the centre also contributed to the high levels of engagement that we saw from the women who attended, showing the importance of the centre in bridging the gap to other services. The care, attention and focus on the needs of each individual that comes through the door is unparalleled, and in the time I was working with the centre, it was abundantly clear that the women feel completely safe, valued and supported there.

Holy Trinity Community Centre is an absolutely fantastic local resource for the community in Ashton, providing learning opportunities, support, advice and guidance to those most difficult to reach. Their support and engagement with other services provides a joined up service to those accessing the centre, minimising confusion and difficulties for those already having to navigate significant challenges such as language barriers, past trauma, and difficulties with integrating into a new place.

Roberta McIntosh, Prevention Education Instructor, Bury Safety Centre, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service:

"Such a lovely welcome as I arrived every morning, to be met with smiling faces and refreshments on arrival, people are made to feel part of the family within the church. I realise how vital this help within our community is, people need to have somewhere to go, to talk to others about things they are experiencing. Times are hard and getting harder, Holy Trinity provides essential support to people, and the advice they receive can be life changing. I have thoroughly enjoyed visiting to deliver information to the groups about Fire Safety. So many fires happen in the home and the figures got a lot worse during the Pandemic when everyone had to stay at home. I aim to make sure people have working smoke alarms at home. If not, then I will arrange for these to be fitted Free of Charge. I look forward to seeing everyone again soon".

Olivia Peer, Dance Tutor, Born and Bred Dance Theatre:

"A key element to the success of engagement with women from the South Asian Community is Hasna and Razia and who truly bridge the gap between visiting artists like myself and the community that they are a part of. They recruit for the group, often phoning around or even knocking on doors. They break down the language barrier by translating things for me in the session and by taking part themselves in such an enthusiastic and supportive way they pave the way for the other women in the group. By participating themselves and welcoming the sessions with open arms they give me confidence as a visitor and the women the confidence as a group to try something new. Their roles are integral to building trust between communities. Over the last six weeks, I have delivered a series of creative dance sessions at HTCCC and I have noticed a marked improvement in several areas that I feel show the impact that these sessions have had:

• General Fitness - our first session was delivered entirely seated. I think part of this was due to a lack of confidence from the women themselves in their ability but also many of them are not very fit and not used to moving or using their bodies to exercise. Over the six weeks, I have encouraged them to get off their chairs over time to the point that we are now standing for at least an hour and a half out of the two-hour session. I have been able to put the dances in more sequences that are more cardio vascularly challenging. This is such a huge improvement.

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- Coordination / Movement Memory the group has improved their coordination massively and I have noticed this most when we are doing standing dances that involve shifting the weight from one foot to the other. At first, it felt like a risk to ask them to do these sequences, they were stumbling over their own feet and coordination was poor, but we have worked on this (using fall prevention techniques) to improve vastly over the last six weeks. They are also remembering sequences much better, especially in the creative tasks where they are now able to remember their movement with fewer and fewer prompts from me.
- Language Skills I think hearing the same words linked to an activity each week have helped some of the group improve their English. I have laughed so much at the way they mimic my voice - they sound just like me on certain words and phrases, that I say in a certain way to emphasise movement accents!
- Confidence "the sense of community at the centre is just amazing and I have seen some of the women really come out of their shells during the last six weeks. As their confidence has grown so has the size of their movements! If the movements are bigger, they will be working harder and improving their technique and fitness quicker. They are also able to laugh at themselves and just enjoy moving which is fantastic to see as a teacher".

Mark Williams, Head of Centre, Lindley Educational Trust:

"The risk of closing brings lots of uncertainty and has been a worry for us. Being able to tell our funders that we are based at HTCCC with an office, equipment store and community rooms have been very positive.

HTCCC is valued by the local community. When we use other local venues we struggle to gain the same engagement and momentum. It is hard to describe, but whenever I attend community events at the centre local people feel at ease and have a sense of belonging. Working closely with HTCCC and being so well supported by you guys has benefitted our work in Ashton.

In terms of engaging 'hard to reach groups' the relationship that HTCCC and AYC have with the local community is so important. Local families, elders and other groups Trust us.

The collaboration between HTCCC and Lindley does help us reach people. Families see connections in our work, which gives us the privileged position of being able to achieve far-reaching outcomes.

Both AYC and HTCCC look to invest in and build the skills, qualifications, and confidence of local people. So that they can engage more in community activities, they take responsibility and break the cycle of low aspiration.

I believe that this is why HTCCC is so valued by the local community. AYC staff come from the local area and understand their community.

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AYC value being at HTCCC and it is such an important community asset. Within ongoing grant support, HTCCC would be lost and this would leave a deep hole in the vital support that this venue provides.

HTCCC is seen as a place where local people are safe and can mix and enjoy themselves. Certainly young people feel they can come to the centre and can engage in our activities".

Terry Finn, Tameside MBC Community Safety:

"TMBC Community Cohesion Project Officer for Tameside MBC "Part of my role is to try and involve community groups in raising Hate Crime Awareness. Since my appointment in 2019, I have had the pleasure of working with the staff at Holy Trinity to do precisely what I have been employed to do! During five face-to-face inputs and one "online" input during COVID, I was able to emphasise to the ESOL classes what Hate Crime was and reporting methods. These were always lively and well-attended events, and I am confident that we have reached many women who would not have otherwise had the confidence or knowledge of what to do if they were victims. My job was made easier by the excellent staff at the centre that would interpret for me and clear up any ambiguities. I offer them my sincere thanks. One such input led one of the women to have the confidence to disclose ongoing Domestic Violence which we were able to act immediately.

My experiences at the centre more generally have also been extremely positive. At my request, they have hosted two IAG (Independent Advisory Groups) at the centre allowing members of that group to scrutinise policing activity in Tameside. Two of the staff from Holy Trinity are members of the IAG and always offer help and advice on community sentiment. Holy Trinity is very much an embedded community facility that I am always happy to support"

Lesley Ainsworth, Family Link and Safeguarding Officer:

"I am writing to support our local community centre. I am in hope that they achieve extra funding, to be able to continue the excellent work which has been both beneficial to the school and the local community. I feel that there is a very strong team who works with the most vulnerable people in Tameside. They provide a large variety of activities each week and cater for all adults who have different Cultures and Nationalities. Some of the sessions support women who are new to English, which has given them opportunities to build trust and friendships within their local community. I have signposted a lot of parents who are new to the area and got them a place on a recent healthy minds session, cook and eat English and sewing classes.

I have also seen the impact of some individuals who are now achieving and becoming very confident, and are now able to express themselves, as they are more familiar with English. The staff also go the extra mile and signposts some of the ladies who are suffering from mental health and medical health

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problems to external services, and helps them access these services by making appointments, or helping them to fill in relevant paperwork, to enable them to get the correct services to meet their individual needs".

Ilaria Passeri, Writer, Performer, Storyteller:

"My name is Ilaria Passeri, I'm a storyteller and creative facilitator. Over the summer I lead lots of creative workshops with Stute Theatre for the families who engage with the community centre.

The atmosphere at the centre is wonderful, warm, and welcoming. The staff are brilliant and go above and beyond for the community and the people that work for them.

It is such an important place for families, and I was very sad when the project came to an end.

It was extremely well attended which shows how important these sessions are and how much they are needed as they play such an integral part in the community and the people's lives.

I saw confidence and language skills develop from week to week. Some children were very nervous on the first week and were mainly choosing to watch but a few weeks down the line were joining in, chatting lots, and even coming up with their own voices and characters with the puppets I bought in.

I also saw how much their social skills were improving from week to week, children by the end had all made friends and were helping one another.

The sessions were also a great way for parents to communicate with one another. I had a great summer with the staff and families at the centre and I hope to come back soon with more stories, some more puppets and even more fun!

Brilliant work everyone".

Jackie Moores, Principal, Tameside College:

"Tameside College has worked in partnership with Holy Trinity for several years under a subcontract arrangement. Through this partnership more women who would not otherwise access education have been enabled to develop their second language English skills, develop their confidence and are better able to access life in modern Britain. The co-design of high-quality community-based programmes ensures learners are successful and as a result increase their contribution to their families and their wider communities. We believe this is a sustainable long-term partnership. It meets the needs of a group who are furthest from the labour market and every year we see the benefit of learners progressing to formal study at the college or elsewhere and improved outcomes for individuals, families, and the community of Tameside".

Sophia Hatfield Stute Theatre:

"Since the summer of 2021, Stute Theatre CIC has been working with the team at HTCCC to offer creative activities for local women and families in Ashton-under-Lyne already engaging with HTCCC. These activities have included adult dance classes and dance workshops, live professional theatre performances for adults and children, family storytelling and song sessions, dance, creativity and crafting workshops, and adult creative writing workshops; all to improve the health and wellbeing of participants, helping confidence and communication and inspiring positive change within the local community through the arts.

The engagement and community reach achieved by the team at HTCCC are outstanding. The project regularly engages difficult-to-reach families, offering a safe space to learn skills, access information and support, make new friends and positively engage with the local community. Their community engagement and support work has enabled Stute Theatre CIC to reach diverse audiences who otherwise might never have the opportunity to benefit from creative work, in an area with little arts provision for families.

Through our work with HTCCC, we have witnessed significant benefits to local women and families. Our programme of creative summer family activities with HTCCC in August 2022 achieved attendance of around 300 adults and children across twice weekly sessions, from diverse and hard-to-reach backgrounds, with many children and adults speaking English as a second or third language. Written feedback collected suggests that the majority of attendees 'never' or 'hardly ever participated in creative activities prior to these sessions.

During the sessions, which covered dance, crafting, storytelling and drawing, I observed a marked improvement in confidence and communication skills, both among the children (aged from 2-12 years old) and among adults. We noticed good retention across sessions, with many families attending every single session. This is extremely hard to achieve with community activities and I believe this excellent engagement was due to the skilled engagement team at HTCCC, who went the extra mile to ensure local people felt welcome, comfortable and encouraged to attend.

Participants fed back that they were able to make friends, meet new people and try new skills in an accessible community space on their doorstep. From the early sessions, I saw children express themselves with more confidence. I saw a marked improvement in the behaviour of young people, their ability to take turns, share, build upon ideas together and confidently share their creative work and ideas. Adults and children fed back that they had fun, tried new things and learned new skills.

When we conducted an interview feedback session with children after the final activities, many children talked about the excitement that they felt before sessions and how much happier they felt at the end of each session. Many

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children remarked that being able to come to HTCCC gave them something fun and different to do, something that was good for their health and well-being and something that offered an opportunity to spend quality time as a family. In the first sessions, many children struggled to speak in front of the group, however by the final session, children we confidently speaking about sessions and activities they had enjoyed and creative work they would like to do within their local community in future".

Minaz Aslam, Jigsaw Homes, Neighbourhood Engagement Team:

"As a large housing provider, we are approached for involvement with wider local and national initiatives, as housing is seen as a key partner agency.

Due to the nature of the work done within our communities, Jigsaw Homes have worked in collaboration with the Holy Trinity Community Centre for many years. I took over the Ashton Central area for Neighbourhood Engagement in December 2019.

HTCCC has always had an amazing ability to engage difficult-to-reach women and we have worked in a very successful partnership that has contributed to the empowerment of women's families and the community.

We have co-worked on litter picks and environmental projects, trips to the seaside, supporting women fleeing from Domestic Abuse, sewing projects to improve employability and breakdown social isolation, cook and eat projects, exercise classes and joint work with local schools, partnerships with Stute theatre, Oldham Coliseum theatre and the Royal Exchange theatre in Manchester.

Their Outreach workers Hasna and Razia are so caring and committed to the local community and have an amazing ability to connect people to services. They never disappoint and services are always delivered in an inclusive and empowering way. Their work supporting the local community through the Pandemic was so impressive and their work to deliver services safely since has been first-rate ensuring the centre is safe clean and welcoming.

When I drop into sessions, I am always impressed with the level of engagement friendliness and work. I always receive a warm welcome from the staff and the service users.

The Information Advice and Guidance service has had an incredible impact and I'm delighted that it is contained within the application as I know from residents how highly valued the service is rated, this service Maximises the assistance available to our customers and communities.

I am delighted that they have gained first-round approval for funding and look forward to continuing to develop, maintain and make the most of this community partnership, and to continue to influence the work of this centre for

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the benefit of the local community which includes our customers and the work we do within our communities".

Simon Brereton, Head Teacher, Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School:

"Holy Trinity CE Primary is a small urban school serving a diverse population in an area of high deprivation. We have worked closely with the adjacent community centre for many years.

Over the past five years, we have strengthened this partnership through joint work on specific issues such as school readiness and how to recognise a controlling relationship. During Covid, we worked very closely with staff and were able to put on joint sessions to reassure families and ensure that parents understood the regulations and how to keep themselves safe. Many of those who attended were very fearful and would not have accessed support from any other source.

Parents know and trust the staff at the community centre as the overwhelming majority of workers live in the local area. Because of this, there are many examples of where they have been able to support the most vulnerable school families who were not confident to access other services. This includes working with women who were in abusive relationships and those who were previously isolated within the community.

Having a centre at the heart of our community, with services that are free to access and relevant to parents' needs, is vital. We know from experience that many of our most vulnerable families lack the confidence to engage with services even if they are within the Ashton area.

Without the support of the community centre, it would be difficult for us to meet the needs of our community which would inevitably lead to worsening social, emotional and academic outcomes for our children".

Emma Kulbacki, Volunteer ,The Conservation Volunteers:

"The Conservation Volunteers TCV would like to say a massive thank you to Holy Trinity Community Centre. The participants and staff have been engaged, helpful, and a pleasure to be around. Without community groups like Holy Trinity, these projects would not be able to be delivered to such a high standard, nor reach such a diverse audience."

Peter Marland Chief Executive Ashton Pioneer Homes:

"The main benefits of the Holy Trinity Church and Community Centre (HTCCC) have been inclusion and accessibility. HTCCC's impact on the local community is wide-ranging and has made a huge difference to families and individuals who live in the Holy Trinity area of St Peter's Ward in Tameside, which is an area where there is poverty and deprivation, with the wider St Peter's Ward being one of the poorest Wards in the Borough of Tameside.

HTCCC's main aim is to bring people together, empower them and create a strong cohesive community. In this regard, I am very much aware of the great work and real outcomes that come from the many HTCCC initiatives by working together in true joint community partnerships.

Our association with HTCCC is based on HTCCC being a key partner to us at Ashton Pioneer Homes (APH). We are a small social housing Landlord with many of our tenants living in St Peter's Ward, many of whom benefit from the services provided by the volunteers at HTCCC. Ashton Pioneer Homes, like HTCCC, are based in the heart of the community and have a similar ethos of connecting communities and inspiring change.

Many of the projects facilitated and run at the centre are aimed at excluded groups who experience isolation, language barriers, and lack of IT skills. The centre provides a safe, welcoming social meeting place where many of these barriers can be overcome. Projects such as walking Wednesdays, Grow your project (fruit & veg), English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), martial arts classes and youth clubs, and making a huge difference.

The ongoing proactive work carried out by HTCCC has enabled APH to engage with a section of our tenants who historically have been hard to reach, namely BME females. APH now have some BME females who attend tenant consultation panels and have the confidence to take part in tenant engagement activities.

It is for this reason that APH feels privileged to provide this endorsement. APH has seen first-hand the difference good volunteers make and I have seen tenants of Ashton Pioneer Homes from the BME community, who would not usually engage, benefit from some of the joint volunteering initiatives led by volunteers from HTCCC".

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All correspondence to: Angels Rayner MP House of Commons LONDON SW1A 0AA





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Our Ref: DM/AR

30/11/2022

Dear Carl and all at Holy Trinity Community Centre,

I am writing to thank you for sharing your draft funding application to the Big Lottery reaching Communities programme.

Holy Trinity Centre is a truly wonderful place and a real jewel in the crown for the local community. It is one of my favourite places to visit and I always look forward to the warm welcome.

I am always so proud of what you achieve but I am especially impressed with your work during the pandemic.

We all struggled and some of our most vulnerable citizens were very severely impacted but the efforts you put in helped to keep people connected and got them through a very difficult time.

I hope things are becoming easier as we move out of restrictions.

Your partnership working is bringing so many excellent opportunities to so many of my constituents, young and old, and I know you are making a real difference to so many families.

I am so proud when I look at the range of reasons why people came to you for help as I know that you have transformed what could have been a very stressful situation for them. You provided a friendly ear and reassured them that they were not alone.

I will most definitely be visiting HTC soon for a brew and a catch up!

Thank you once again for writing to me. You make me a very proud MP to serve such a wonderful bunch of people.

If I can ever be of any assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP

Blayne

Representing Ashion, Droyladen & Fallsworth
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