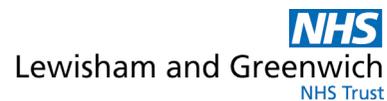


The Lewisham Deal

Maximising social value

2020/21



Mayor's foreword



It has been a particularly challenging 18 months for us all. The COVID-19 pandemic has triggered an economic crisis and although, in many ways, it feels we are turning a corner, the impact continues to be felt across the borough by both businesses and residents.

As a Council we have delivered a package of support including practical advice and financial help to support our businesses so they could weather the ever-changing restrictions and reopen safely.

Since the start of the pandemic we have distributed over £76 million in 14,000 grants to local businesses. Many have done an incredible job at adapting their services and the way they operate, in order to continue serving their local communities although sadly some had no choice but to close.

With all restrictions now lifted, we are focussed on building an economically sound future for all in Lewisham.

We continue to encourage and support local businesses in providing local employment opportunities, including six month placements through the Kickstart programme for young Lewisham residents. As a Council we have committed to providing 25 placements across our own services this year.

Last summer we launched a campaign to hire 100 new apprentices in 100 days, ensuring residents could still access high quality training and employment opportunities during the pandemic. We exceeded this target by 86 and are well on the way to our four-year target of finding 250 apprenticeship placements by 2022.

We are also reviewing our procurement processes to ensure any future spending and contracts are in line with our commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030 and so we will be looking to partner with more sustainable businesses in order to achieve this.

Small businesses will always be at home in Lewisham. Our high streets and town centres reflect the borough's diverse cultures and history of migration. We know that small family-owned shops and businesses can disappear all too quickly and all too quietly. This year we became the first Council to launch an annual census of the number of independent retailers and the number

of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic-owned businesses on Lewisham's high streets. We are publishing the results soon and will provide support based on the recommendations.

The Mayor of Lewisham Business Awards are the annual opportunity for our local businesses to celebrate their successes and to acknowledge the outstanding contribution they make to the borough. We have added a new Social Value category to reward those businesses that go the extra mile, positively influencing the community around them and bringing social value to our residents.

The Lewisham Deal is the place where the borough's anchor institutions and major employers come together to make progress, share best practice and work collaboratively to deliver on our values.

The Lewisham Deal is as important now as it has ever been.

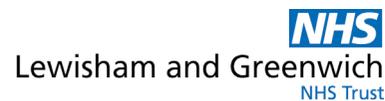
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Damien Egan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Damien Egan, Mayor of Lewisham

The Lewisham Deal

The Lewisham Deal is a common commitment by local public sector institutions to promoting inclusive growth in the borough. Based on the principles of community wealth building, the Lewisham Deal seeks to ensure we build an economy that works for everyone in the borough. The anchor institutions involved in the Lewisham Deal are:

- Lewisham Council
- Goldsmiths, University of London
- Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust
- Lewisham College
- Lewisham Homes
- Phoenix Community Housing



The Lewisham Deal

Lewisham Deal commitments

Apprenticeships

- We support the growth of apprenticeships by transferring levy funds.
- We advertise apprenticeship opportunities through the Mayor's Apprenticeship Programme.
- We review all our entry-level roles in order to identify suitable roles that can become apprenticeships.

Procurement

- We make our contract opportunities more accessible to small and medium size enterprises (SMEs).
- We organise a minimum of one Lewisham Meet the Buyer event a year for our SMEs.
- We publish an annual social value report.

London Living Wage

- We promote the London Living Wage (LLW) accreditation to businesses in the borough.
- We support local business to become LLW accredited.
- We procure at the LLW rate, where possible.

Information, advice and guidance

- We develop a new online information and guidance (IAG) portal for residents and businesses.
- We explore the gaps in the IAG provision not currently being met.
- We explore opportunities for funding projects to plug these gaps.

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Progression

- We teach people to recognise unconscious bias and to cope with the disparity of power in relationships.
- We track progress and focus action in addressing inequalities including ethnicity pay gaps; management workforce composition; and job application success rates in typically underrepresented roles.
- We explore the value of inclusive mentoring through conducting and assessing pilot projects across the partnership.

Climate Emergency

- We create opportunities to engage with residents and partners from all sectors to inspire action on climate change across Lewisham including through a Lewisham Climate Conversation in 2021.
- Demonstrate leadership on carbon reduction by measuring and reporting emissions across the Lewisham Deal partners in a consistent way.
- Identify opportunities to use procurement policies and delivery of retrofit programmes to reduce emissions and benefit the local economy.

Apprenticeships

Meet the Apprentices

The economic impact of COVID-19 saw a rise in unemployment across the borough. To address this, the Council spearheaded the '100 Apprenticeships in a 100 days' initiative in August 2020. Calling on Lewisham Deal partners and local businesses to join the drive to support local people into jobs, by providing opportunities for real workplace experience and accredited training. The scheme exceeded its target and advertised 186 new apprenticeship opportunities for residents during the coronavirus crisis. We caught up with some of the newest apprentices to find out how they are getting on.

At Lewisham Council

"It has been a bit weird starting my apprenticeship during this time with so much communication online rather than in person. Everyone has been so kind and taken the time to meet with me. I've been working on supporting local COVID-19 testing and vaccination work, developing guidance for local organisations and businesses, and working on the COVID-19 database which can help us identify patterns and hotspots for infections."

Genesis Adeleye, Public Health Apprentice



Genesis Adeleye



Amber McCoy



"I had been keeping an eye on the council's job website when I saw the vacancy. After taking a career break for childcare reasons this seemed the perfect opportunity. The application process was straight forward and there is no upper age limit so it is a possibility for anyone."

"I'm office based so although it is about half full I've met my colleagues and am enjoying supporting our tenants with resolving their housing issues, queries and complaints. With an apprenticeship you get a recognised qualification too. I'm glad I put myself forward and applied."

Amber McCoy, Housing Apprentice

Apprenticeships

At Lewisham Homes

Lewisham Homes is committed to supporting and investing in local young people with nine residents currently on programmes with further opportunities looking likely later in the year. Apprenticeships are not just for entry-level school leavers. They have now evolved to be highly valued training and education routes, emphasising quality, knowledge and practical skills. Lewisham Homes is also investing in apprenticeships to upskill new managers in line with industry standards.

Hands-on experience



Olivia Douglas is Lewisham Homes' newest apprentice working in the Recruitment team, studying the Level 3 Recruitment Consultant Apprenticeship.

Olivia admits the field can be very competitive and difficult to get into without the relevant hands on experience, so the opportunity that Lewisham Homes is offering will be extremely beneficial. The opportunity to study whilst learning on the job is fantastic for providing an individual with all the experience needed to succeed within that field. She is really enjoying working for the company and looking forward to seeing where it takes her in the future.

New challenge, new career!



Lawrence Duckett works in Lewisham Homes' Compliance department, as a multi-skilled apprentice. In his role he contacts residents, contractors and collects information always adhering to the government guidelines.

Before lockdown, Lawrence was employed as a chef, so the apprenticeship at Lewisham Homes offered him the opportunity to move into a new role and change career whilst working and learning a completely different industry.

"The apprenticeship programme is a brilliant way of introducing learners to new, like-minded people who want to make a difference to the local area", Lawrence says.

At Lewisham College

Lewisham College celebrates National Apprenticeship Week

Lewisham College ran a series of Virtual Roadshow events for schools to celebrate National Apprenticeship Week 2021 and spread the word about the many benefits apprenticeships offer.

Asfa Sohail, Principal said: "At Lewisham College, we are excited to take part in National Apprenticeship



Bricklaying competition winner Shaun Wigzell

Week and bring the Virtual Roadshows to our local community to showcase and highlight the many benefits of apprenticeships and to encourage learners to take a different route to achieve their career ambitions."

Lewisham students show off their skills at the NCG Annual Skills Competition

Last December, trainees studying bricklaying, plumbing, and painting and decorating at Lewisham College's Deptford Construction Campus competed for a place in the finals of the inter-college NCG Annual Skills Competition which are due to take place later this year.

Apprenticeships

The trainees faced tough competition. After carrying out a number of skills-based tasks, their work was presented to the judging panel who then selected the two top learners or apprentices for each discipline. Lewisham College apprentice Shaun Wigzel was named overall winner of the Bricklaying competition. Shaun is currently completing his Apprenticeship with Flahive Brickwork Ltd.

Rob Lynch, Head of Construction and Engineering at Lewisham College, said: "We are delighted to be part of such a collaborative event. Winning has been a testament to the hard work of all the students who competed and the staff supporting them. It has been a great experience for everyone and will help them to prepare for future skills-based competitions and the types of practical work they will do in future employment."

At Phoenix Community Housing

Phoenix is proud to continue to support the Mayor's Apprenticeship Scheme. Working with its partners it has helped more than 50 Lewisham residents gain invaluable skills and training, and many have progressed to permanent jobs at Phoenix.

In 2020/21 five new apprentices were recruited to support the Lewisham Deal and 100 in 100 days initiative and as part of efforts to sustain the local economy through the coronavirus pandemic. Phoenix also have two apprentices currently learning



Ben Ogunsanwo

new skills with their subsidiary organisation the Phoenix Repairs Service.

Phoenix apprentices flourish since joining during lockdown

The past year has been a learning curve for all of us, but especially for the five apprentices who joined Phoenix in the midst of lockdown. They had an unusual start as they navigated their new roles while working from home. We caught up with two of the new apprentices, Molly and Ben to see what they enjoy about their apprenticeship and why they would recommend it.



Molly Buttigeig

"I've found that an apprenticeship is a really good way to get into the workplace. The combination of on-the-job training and supervision by an apprenticeship tutor means that I will finish my course with all the skills I need to move forward with my career."

Financial Wellbeing Apprentice, Molly

Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust Apprenticeship performance:

The trust is keen to develop, train and retain its workforce. Apprenticeships remain a great way, to support staff and provide high quality care for every patient, every day.

Apprenticeships

There were 64 new staff apprenticeship starts at the trust in the past year with some of the most popular roles being in Business Administration and Nursing Associate.

The trust is now working with The Prince's Trust to support recruitment and create a talent pipeline of ready candidates who have completed bespoke employability programmes (Get Started and Get Into) for available jobs at the Trust. A partnership with The Prince's is expected to continue in 2021/22.

Aida Popescu – now a Lead Maternity Support Worker and who completed the Health Care Support Worker (HCSW) apprenticeship at the trust said, "I would definitely recommend the apprenticeship programme for anyone considering working as a healthcare assistant and I always use myself as an example of what can be achieved in career progression."

The Apprenticeship Forum

Learning from home has been a challenge for our apprentices so to support them, the Council runs the Apprenticeship Forum. It is a one-hour monthly get together aimed at supporting and enriching the apprentices' journey and delivers workshops such as public speaking, resilience and health. During National Apprenticeship Week attendees also got an opportunity to meet the Mayor.

In June 2021 the forum was extended to placements in Lewisham schools and our partners, Lewisham Homes and Phoenix Community Housing. This led to increased attendance and broadened the support network for apprentices.

Apprenticeships levy transfer policy

Each anchor institution supports the transfer of any of its unspent levy funds to local small and medium sized enterprises, thereby increasing the number of apprenticeships opportunities within the borough. In the last financial year, Lewisham Deal partners reported over £481,000 in apprenticeship levy transfers.



Lewisham's Mayor Damien Egan meets with apprentices online during National Apprenticeship Week 2021

Procurement

The annual 'Meet the Buyer' event did not take place in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions, however plans for this year are well underway. The event is due to be hosted at Goldsmith's in November 2021, offering businesses the opportunity to bid for Lewisham Deal partners' contracts and other local construction development contracts. It also provides them with direct access to practical support, advice and development.

Lewisham Deal partners are working together on ways to consolidate local purchasing and use procurement spending to drive down local emissions whilst helping to fuel the borough's economic recovery from the impact of the pandemic.

Lewisham Council's most recent gross revenue expenditure budget was just over £1.2bn, with around £320m of this being spent on contracts for works, services and supplies. This spend on externally procured services includes both contracted and commissioned services.

The Council spent over £100m in the borough in 2020/21 with those levels expected to continue.

While Lewisham Homes currently has 10 contracts with local suppliers totalling more than £4.7m. Future



Goldsmiths, University of London

contracts will have a greater focus on working with sustainable businesses.

Goldsmiths, University of London, has been used as a case study in a report on how universities can contribute to London's economic revival.

£39m of Goldsmiths' £41m goods and services spend in 2018/19 went to UK-based businesses, which is estimated to have supported over 400 UK jobs. Of these, 64 jobs (16%) are with employers based in the borough of Lewisham and 191 (47%) are with employers based in London.

Procurement

Phoenix Community Housing – local spend

Phoenix currently has four main contracts with local suppliers, with a combined spend of over £7 million, including its subsidiary Phoenix Repairs Service.

Social Value in Council Procurement

The council now requires tendering companies to commit to delivering social value from all contracts that exceed £50k in value. In line with our corporate objectives, there are four key themes:

- Employment, Skills and the Economy
- Greener Lewisham
- Healthier Lewisham
- Training Lewisham's future

This jointly shared set of commitments will improve opportunities for residents and support inclusive local economic growth. They include:

- A coordinated approach to apprenticeships and to the use of the Apprenticeship Levy
- A shared commitment to promoting the London Living Wage, flexible working and opportunities for job progression
- A common approach to procurement and social value



- A shared strategic approach to the skills and local economic development agenda, including training, employment opportunities and business engagement
- A commitment to understand local spend and investigate local economy's capacity to provide goods and services to anchor institutions, keeping more money in the borough
- A coordinated approach to volunteering, linking staff and service users with local volunteering opportunities, and a joint commitment to supporting the community and voluntary sector
- A commitment to engage with local schools and FE colleges to raise aspirations and provide information and advice about apprenticeships and further/higher education opportunities

London Living Wage (LLW)

London Living Wage (LLW)

The LLW of £10.85 per hour is calculated by the Living Wage Foundation based on the cost of living. One in four employees in Lewisham is paid below that rate. The Lewisham Deal anchor institutions continue to drive the promotion of the LLW to tackle in-work poverty.

Lewisham Council became the first accredited Living Wage council in the country in 2012. Since then we have championed the living wage, encouraging more organisations in the borough to become accredited, through incentives such as discounted business rates. We have set a corporate target to double the number of LLW employers in Lewisham to 94 by 2022 and continue to progress towards achieving this.

Many of the other anchor institutions are also now living wage employers, including Lewisham Homes, Phoenix Community Housing and Goldsmiths, University of London. Lewisham College pay all security staff the London Living Wage, their catering staff the Real Living Wage and cleaning staff the National Minimum Wage, although this is due to be reviewed.

Living Wage Foundation–LLW event

Tri-borough partners Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark



Living Wage Foundation–LLW event

co-hosted an online London Living Wage event last November when Councillors, colleagues and business representatives from all boroughs came together to promote and celebrate the London Living Wage.

Highlights included Southwark-based catering company 'Local Greens' winning this year's 'Community Champions' award, for services to their community during the pandemic.

Local Greens was the idea of two eco-conscious Herne Hill mums, Jean & Therese, who wanted to provide their neighbourhood with organic or biodynamic seasonal veg grown as near as possible to their South East London homes to ensure maximum freshness and minimum food miles.



Local Greens

London Living Wage (LLW)

“The Living Wage represents respect and appreciation. Without the people around me contributing to my business, I have no business. I want to show my respect and appreciation for the contribution they bring to our survival and growth.”

Amanda Miles; owner – My Aerial Home

My Aerial Home is based in Bell Green, Lower Sydenham and has recently become a LLW employer. The school of aerial dance and circus started in a local school hall 12 years ago, with three borrowed trapezes and since then has grown an international reputation for an outstanding venue for training, aerial circus rehearsals and filming and for contemporary circus productions and events.

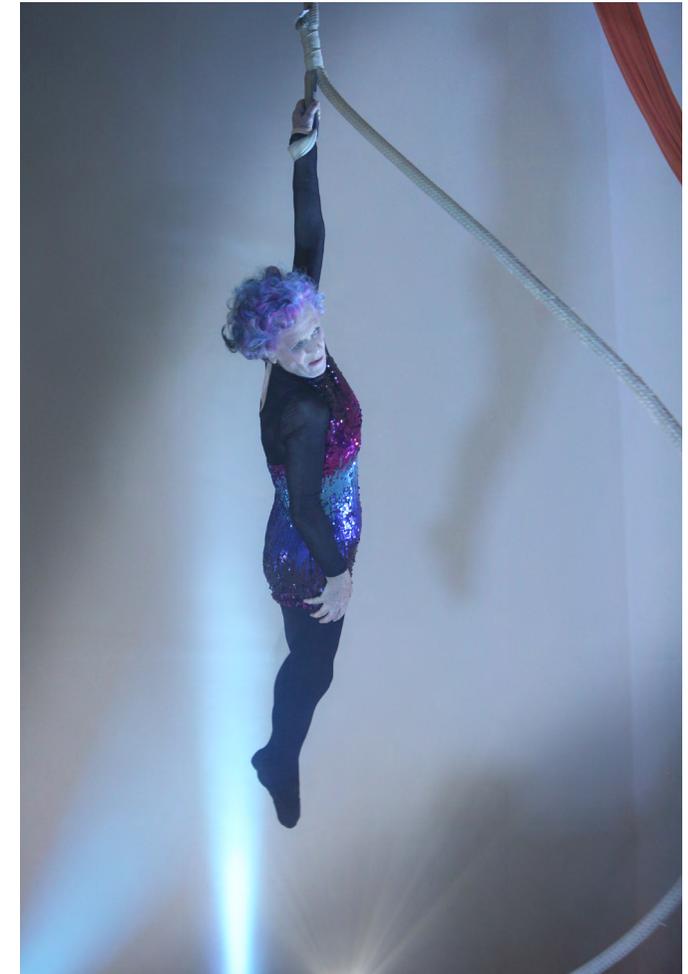
The school trains anyone and everyone who wants to learn an aerial circus skill, from 2-year-olds in their ‘Munchkins’ parent and toddler group up to ‘Octo-plusses’ – Joan (pictured) who is over 80 will be starting the professional 3-month intensive course in September!

The class programme caters for ordinary people looking for a fun alternative to the gym and these classes run alongside professional development courses for dancers, actors and other artists who need aerial skills for professional use.



You can learn flying trapeze, silks, rope, hoop, silk sling and static trapeze. There is also a thriving after school club with over 140 young people learning aerial a week.

My Aerial Home employ over 16 specialist freelance trainers a week and 5 support staff all paid at or above the London Living Wage.



Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

'Skillbot AI'

Skillbot is a partnership project between the Better Placed partnership of Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark and London South Bank University (LSBU) and a key commitment of the Lewisham Deal. It is a 'proof of concept' pilot project that uses Artificial Intelligence to help residents navigate the employment, skills and careers advice (IAG) landscape. If the pilot is successful, the next phase will be developing the 'knowledge' that the 'chatbot' will use to advise residents, ensuring they can easily navigate to the best sources of information. Building the knowledge base is a significant activity, and the partnership are currently identifying the best approach.

Lewisham Deal Web Pages – Centralised News Feed

In the past year, the council has included a Lewisham Deal area to the 'Employment support and careers advice' pages to its website.

These new pages host links to each of the Lewisham Deal partners websites, making it easier to navigate the business opportunities, jobs, training, work experience and support that the partnership has to offer.

This new set-up is shortly to be complimented by an embedded 'News feed' which will host centralised information from the partners' websites into one

place. This service is anticipated to be in place by the end of the year.

Residents Digital Skills Support Service

Led by Lewisham Homes, the Residents Digital Skills Support Service is a partnership wide project to offer a single point of contact to signpost any Lewisham residents to digital support. A campaign to promote the service is now underway.

Phoenix Community Housing

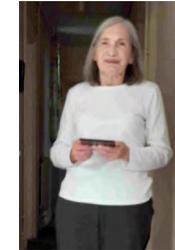
The team at Phoenix had to adapt the way they shared information, advice and guidance through the pandemic and are pleased to have been able to offer a range of options from socially distanced visits and WhatsApp, Teams and telephone calls.

Residents who have received digital devices



Hubert Alexander, 80, has been a Phoenix resident for 13 years. Hubert was already confident in watching TV and clips online but felt he could improve his knowledge of using the internet. Hubert has received a device and been connecting with his Digital Champion, John, through Whatsapp.

He's excited to use his device to keep in touch with his family and relatives in Canada. He says: "I'm extremely grateful. It will take me time to get used to it but I am confident I can learn how to use it".



Lily Buckley, 81, is one of Phoenix Bellingham residents who has recently received a free device. Lily had felt isolated and like she wasn't part of the community. She says, "Getting a device 'is a new lease of life for me. Gradually I'm learning to video call my family and

friends in Ireland". Along with the device Lily was paired up with Digital Champion, and fellow resident, Nanssi Philippe, to help her get set up and offer her digital support. Lily adds, "I've no confidence in using technology, having someone help me is fantastic."

Phoenix resident **Emily Barcoe** (below) receives her free digital device.



Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

Phoenix activities during the year:

- Job Club continued during the pandemic and eight people have been supported into work
- 493 training places provided, benefitting 80 Phoenix residents
- Supported 152 external training places through use of its buildings and other resources- benefitting 54 Phoenix residents and other 14 non-Phoenix residents living in the Phoenix area
- Financial inclusion team supported residents to gain grants and benefits totalling over £438K
- The Energy Advice Café has supported 146 residents to save energy, cash savings totalled over £16.5k
- £47k worth of Paypoint emergency fuel fund vouchers accessed and distributed to residents with pre-payment meters in danger of self-discounting though lack of funds
- Developed and launched a new well-being support service for residents so they can access support out of hours and in a crisis
- Held 17 children and young people consultations and 29 events/workshops for young people.

Lewisham Homes

At the beginning of this year Lewisham Homes launched a survey (Reset, Reskill and Rebuild) to identify resident priorities for 2021. Actions arising from the survey include:

- Providing a child-minding course delivered by Lewisham College, to enable residents to become fully qualified childminders and overcome the barrier of costly childcare
- The delivery of a three year creative coding project in partnership with the Albany to support young people to find employment in coding
- The provision of 30 free data Hubbub phones to older residents without digital access for 12 months
- Offering a 10 week small business support course, with access to seed funding and networking and mentoring opportunities

Further steps Lewisham Homes is taking to support residents:

- Lewisham Homes supports three community stores in the borough which enable residents to access low cost food alongside volunteering opportunities and training



Evelyn Gardens

Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)

- We deliver a range of environmental improvement projects. The most recent has been the Evelyn community garden which has seen 40 residents volunteering to build plant beds and improve the landscape
- The Lewisham Homes Academy offers regular training to residents, the sessions are currently online but will move to be in person, they currently include level 2 certificates in Business Start-Up, Event Planning, Data Protection and Adult Social Care
- Since March 2020 Lewisham Homes has been working very closely with Catbytes – a Lewisham-based community interest company. They take donated tech and devices from Lewisham residents, wipe them, fix them and loan them to families without financial means to buy their own, or who don't have enough devices at home to work through lockdown. We successfully bid for funding to support Catbytes which led to a paid post, and more resource for Catbytes to deliver further training



Catbytes worker



**Catbytes
Digital
Community**

Business support

The business supporting 'Dek Growth Programme' which delivered workshops, one to one mentoring and consultancy for growing businesses came to an end in December 2020

In response to COVID-19, we adjusted the programme to help participating businesses develop resilience in the face of the economic downturn. In total 375 businesses participated in the programme, with 204 completing 12 or more hours of support. 25 new jobs were created, and 73 businesses were supported to create new products and services.

Dek Case Study – PRMS

Clayton M Coke is a lifelong Lewisham resident and the founder and managing director of PRMS Limited. He shares his journey through the Dek Business Growth Programme.

What made you sign up to the programme?

"I initially found out about the DeK programme via an article in the Lewisham Life magazine. I knew Lewisham didn't have as many initiatives for SME businesses and so I needed to check this out. It helped with making great connections, which are the mainstay of any business. Dek provided me with outside input to aide me in achieving my business goals. When growing a business, you have to be committed, have an open mind and a willingness to take advice. The more you put in the more you will get back."



Clayton M Coke, PRMS – Founder

Business support

Dek Case Study – Griot Communications

Griot Communications was born out of a passion for story and its power to inspire, engage and transform. They help purpose-driven businesses who want to be intentional about their business stories; work with businesses to create connections and build relationships, converting audiences into loyal customers through story-based, values-driven content writing and strategies.

What did you hope to achieve with Dek Business Growth Programme?

I had zero business experience when I started Griot Communications and felt completely at sea. I wanted to learn and get support to develop the skills and the confidence I needed to run a business and market to my audiences. I was hoping the business advisors available at the beginning would give me the much-needed guidance on the areas I struggled with, like financial management and business planning.

What part of the programme did you enjoy the most?

Dek had a broad range of courses that were practical and designed to help you get going straight away. I got started with those and it was great to meet others in the same boat, or who were further along. I also went to some inspiring networking events with some

of the trainers on the programme. But what I really valued most was the one-to-one mentoring sessions that I received. It helped me to be accountable and someone with expertise who would give me clarity on what I needed to focus on in my business. This kind of support is invaluable when you're just starting out.

Starting and running a business can be a lonely journey and having free opportunities to network and gain clarity and new skills and the potential to access funds was truly a gift.

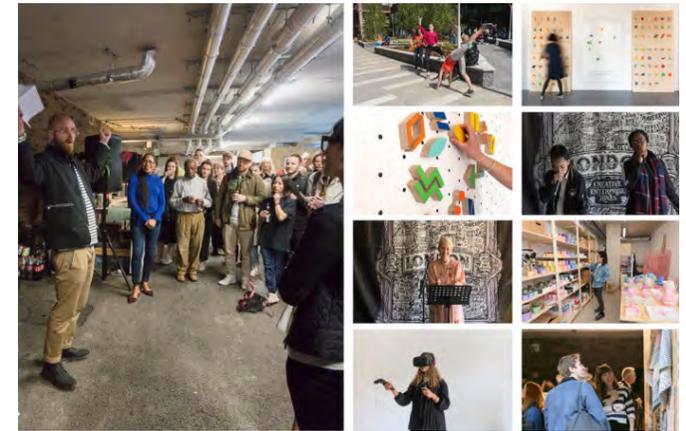
Find out more at: griotcomms.co.uk



CEZ (Creative Enterprise Zone)

Lewisham was chosen as one of the capitals' first-ever CEZs by the Mayor of London as part of a ground-breaking initiative to support artists and creative businesses.

Before the pandemic, the creative sector provided one in six jobs in London. The CEZ initiative aims to drive recovery by continuing to provide investment and



CEZ (Creative Enterprise Zone)

support for creative businesses in the capital, ensuring that London remains one of the most entrepreneurial and innovative business centres in the world.

The initiative will continue to work to support and protect the creative sector across the capital; increase affordable spaces for artists and entrepreneurs, and boost job and training opportunities for local people; opening up the expertise and facilities of our educational and cultural institutions toward much more purposeful creative knowledge exchange; testing new types of collaborative practice to ignite the innovation potential of the creative industries.

Volunteering

“Lewisham Local harnesses the strengths of the voluntary sector for the benefit of Lewisham residents”

During 2020/21 Lewisham Local was a key partner in the COVID-19 Response Hub as a single point of access for those who needed support. This resulted in:

- 9,354 adults and children being supported
- 11,187 food parcels delivered
- 1,391 isolated people supported through befriending
- 493 people supported with practical assistance, supported by 712 volunteers with 2,470 registering to volunteer

Despite the uncertainty and the issues local businesses faced due to the pandemic, many were still keen to play their part in the COVID-19 response and recovery, giving and sharing what they could to meet community needs. This has resulted in £23,730 of in-kind goods and services donated, and the emergence of a Collaborative Partnerships Network where 22 businesses and 28 community groups pitched their offers and requests to support each other.



Volunteers and Local restaurant business 'Cummin Up' lend a hand with deliveries of local meals



Lewisham College Teacher wins the Mayor of London's Volunteering Award



Maths teacher, Divanio Crooks received the Mayor of London's Volunteering Award on International Volunteer Day 2020 for his work with Southside Young Leaders Academy (SYLA) supporting communities during the lockdown.

The award recognises the invaluable contribution that volunteers make to creating safer, stronger and more resilient communities.

Lewisham College staff member Divanio volunteers at the academy to help support young boys from Black and Minority Ethnic backgrounds to break down the barriers to education and help reduce the risk of social exclusion through personal development, teamwork and skills training.

Commenting on receiving the award, he said: “I am deeply touched to be recognised amongst the hundreds of volunteers and NHS workers that serve and support the public during the pandemic. I had become a volunteer to learn and gain experience for my career development, but I aim to make a difference in the community and inspire young people to achieve their goals.”

Volunteering

Voluntary Services Lewisham (VSL) – Befriending

Since March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, VSL has expanded its befriending services.



These now include an ambitious telephone befriending project involving 420 volunteers and over 1,000 service users who include older residents, those with physical or mental health issues and others who are lonely and isolated. One year into the project, as of April 2021, the project supported more than 600 active befriending relationships and continues to take new referrals and recruit volunteers.

Quote from service user

“I wanted to call you to thank you and say that the befriender you matched me up with has made a huge difference to me. We have built an excellent relationship and have had some calls via skype which has brought a whole new dimension to the calls and I am so grateful to your service and your wonderful volunteer. I can’t thank you enough.”

Supporting Our Communities

Lewisham’s Mayoresses

Lewisham’s Mayoresses Dawn Atkinson, Natasha Ricketts and Christina Norman run the Evelyn



Carol



Stewart

community store, which has supported hundreds of families on low incomes to purchase food at a low cost throughout the pandemic. The number of residents using the store has more than trebled since the start of the pandemic and now has around 500 members on average. The store also provided over 7,000 packed lunches for local school children over lockdown and distributed around 1,500 Christmas hampers to Lewisham schools.

In 2021 the Mayoresses trained to become COVID-19 ‘Vaccinators’ and now spend many of their Saturday’s inoculating residents at some of the borough’s many vaccine sites.

Mayoress Christina said “The community needs to start to get back to normal and we see that by vaccinating residents, we’re doing our bit towards this.”



Resident Mr Chowdhury receives his jab from Mayoress Natasha



Mayoress Christina with newly vaccinated resident Vanessa Dicka

Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Progression

The focus of this pillar of the Lewisham Deal is to ensure we are meeting our commitment towards the shared vision of fair, open, and inclusive organisations. This new group originated at the Lewisham Deal leaders meeting of 2020. At the inaugural session of this group, partners compared their existing policies and approaches to tackling inequality and increasing BAME representation. Over time, the group will collaborate to:

- Share best practices and address the challenges of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic representation and progression in the workplace within the scope of the Lewisham Deal partnership
- Apply the use of an established framework to provide a greater understanding of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic gender/pay-gap analysis
- Look at how to encourage Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic participation in wider professions



Climate Emergency

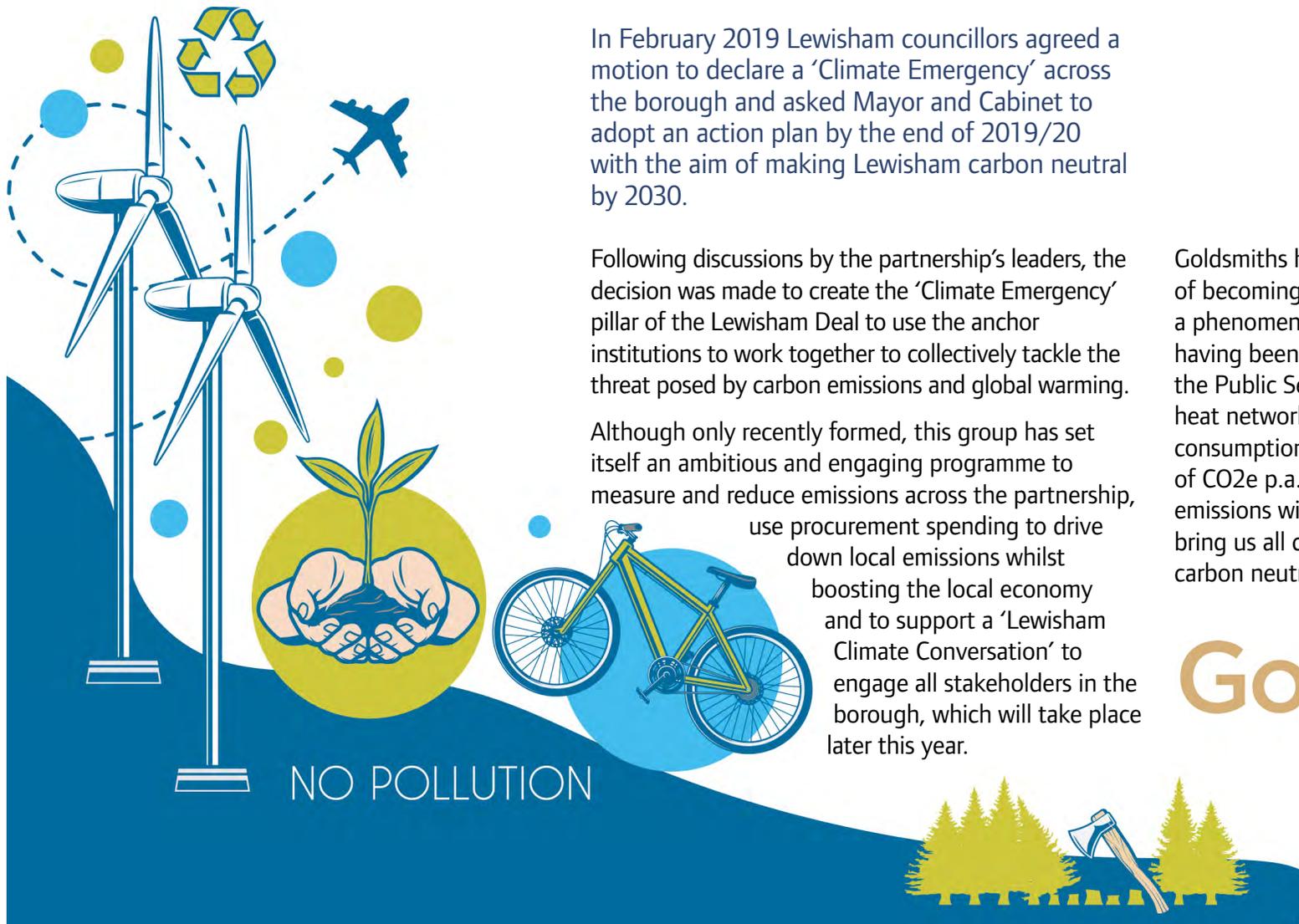
In February 2019 Lewisham councillors agreed a motion to declare a 'Climate Emergency' across the borough and asked Mayor and Cabinet to adopt an action plan by the end of 2019/20 with the aim of making Lewisham carbon neutral by 2030.

Following discussions by the partnership's leaders, the decision was made to create the 'Climate Emergency' pillar of the Lewisham Deal to use the anchor institutions to work together to collectively tackle the threat posed by carbon emissions and global warming.

Although only recently formed, this group has set itself an ambitious and engaging programme to measure and reduce emissions across the partnership, use procurement spending to drive down local emissions whilst boosting the local economy and to support a 'Lewisham Climate Conversation' to engage all stakeholders in the borough, which will take place later this year.

Goldsmiths have also developed an ambitious goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2025 and have made a phenomenal step towards achieving this goal, having been successful in securing a £5m grant from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. The new heat network will allow Goldsmiths to reduce gas consumption by over 75%, saving over 1,100 tonnes of CO₂e p.a. This significant cut to the colleges' emissions will contribute to improved air quality and bring us all closer to achieving our shared target of carbon neutrality by 2030.

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON





Lewisham