

## **Wembley Park Community Fund Recipient Biographies**

The Wembley Park Community Fund is a new fund led by Quintain in partnership with our contractors Wates, McLaren, John Sisk and Son, and McAleer and Rushe. The Fund aims to make a real difference to local residents in Wembley Park and the surrounding area by encouraging community engagement, participation and place-making through funding a variety of community-led activities.

The fund was advertised openly for applications from groups working in Brent. Applicants could apply for between £1,000 and £10,000 for both core and project costs. Thirty-nine applications were received totalling £334,747.82 of which thirty-eight were eligible for funding. The applications were shortlisted and each shortlisted application went through an assessment process including a telephone interview with an assessor. Due diligence was then carried out including a check of accounts, Charity Commission/Companies House records, and relevant policies and procedures including safeguarding. They were then further shortlisted down to thirteen applications which were taken to a board made up of representatives of all contributors. From these, seven were chosen based on the following criteria:

- Better Places – making Brent a great place to live, work and visit
- Better Lives – creating opportunities for and supporting education, employment and good health
- Better Locally – ensuring local networks and services work effectively, are accessible for all and directly engage with local communities to make a Better Brent

### **1. SAAFI - Somali Advice and Forum of Information - £8680**

Website: <https://e-voice.org.uk/saaficomunity-2/>

SAAFI was founded in 2010 by Rhoda Ibrahim and a small group of Somali-British mothers from refugee backgrounds after numerous mothers who could not speak English approached Rhoda at the school gates for advice and help with letters and forms. SAAFI's main aim is to raise the profile of the British-Somali community in Brent and help them to integrate into and engage with the wider Brent community, through workshops, training and cultural events.

**We are funding SAAFI to deliver English classes for 60 women to help them move into education, training and employment.**

### **2. Work Rights Centre (registered charity no. 1165419) - £10,000**

<http://www.workrightscentre.org/about-us>

Work Rights Centre is a Wembley-based charity that was founded in 2016. They work to combat in-work poverty by helping EU national to exit precarious work. There are thousands of London-based migrant workers who are trapped in a cycle of in-work deprivation and exploitation by their employers as they do not know their employment rights or even that they are entitled to a National Minimum Wage.

**We are funding their weekly Employment Rights Clinic which takes place every Saturday at Wembley Library and to enable it increase its hours and meet more people.**

### **3. Musicus CIC - £9560**

<http://www.musicusuk.com/>

Musicus was formed in 2012 by jazz guitarist, Tom Halpenny. Musicus provides music making and performance opportunities for people of all ages, specifically targeting those who would not ordinarily have opportunities to access music lessons and learn instruments.

**We are funding an intergenerational music programme at Wembley Park's Yellow Pavilion, targeting young people aged 7-18 years old, adults over 50 years old, and those who are unemployed. The 12-week course will culminate with a number of performances within the community.**

### **4. Sufra NW London (registered charity no. 1151911) - £8388**

<http://www.sufra-nwlondon.org.uk/>

Sufra NW London is a Brent-based Community Food Bank & Kitchen which supports local families who are facing food poverty. Established in 2013 it offers nutrition training, cooking classes and welfare surgeries for all ages in addition to food items for those using their services. The majority of visitors to the foodbank last year were long term unemployed and their Food Academy trains unemployed food bank visitors in catering and hospitality.

**We are funding the continuation of the Food Academy's "Oh Crepe project" which will train up students to work on the Oh Crepe food stand at Wembley Park, to gain experience and earn a living whilst looking for permanent work within the hospitality and catering industry.**

### **5. Youth Engagement Solutions (registered charity no. 1163850) - £10,000**

<https://yes-ltd.org.uk/>

Established in 2015, Youth Engagement Solutions aims to turn disadvantaged young people away from criminal activity, unemployment and social exclusion, whilst helping them to play an active role in their local area. They do this through sports, health and wellbeing workshops and academic support.

**We are funding their Raising Aspirations and Achievements programme which provide twice weekly football training sessions for 48 weeks of the year. This programme will enable participants to get fit, form positive friendships and to raise their aspirations.**

### **6. Sexual Health on Call (registered charity no. 5678751) - £9580**

<http://www.sexualhealthoncall.org/>

Established in 1999, Sexual Health on Call works to improve the wellbeing of young people in Brent and Harrow. SHOC provides holistic support to young people, which addresses sexual health, emotional wellbeing, prevention, intervention and education. They deliver workshops in schools and other community spaces and offer one-to-one clinics for young people who need intensive support.

**We are funding their #Self Love (Learning to Love Myself) project; training parents and guardians on how to support young people, and working with young people directly to improve their resilience, resourcefulness and emotional capabilities.**

**7. Ashford Place** (registered charity no. 1097475) - £9830  
<https://www.ashfordplace.org.uk/>

Since 1983, Ashford Place has been offering support and advice to vulnerable Brent residents who are experiencing homelessness, substance misuse, unemployment and poor mental health. Their street outreach team brings men and women off the streets and into their night shelter. They provide a weekly health surgery and substance abuse counselling, as well as support programmes for those that want to get back into work.

**We are funding their Independent Lifestyles project which offers housing and welfare advice and support, online and in person. This project will also train volunteers of local projects in how to give housing and welfare advice and support to their service users.**