

ASTON-MANSFIELD  
CREATING STRONGER COMMUNITIES

# CREATING THE FUTURE

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[WWW.ASTON-MANSFIELD.ORG.UK](http://WWW.ASTON-MANSFIELD.ORG.UK)

## OUR VISION, MISSION AND FUTURE

### VISION

We want to see more children, young people and families in Newham and east London leading happy healthy lives, realising their potential and unlocking their ambition.

### MISSION

Using an integrated and community focused approach we will make long lasting change, offering opportunity, community and inspiration to children, families and young people in Newham and east London.

### WE WILL

- Offer a continuum of support, through both direct delivery and signposting, from cradle to career. We will nurture relationships, offer opportunity, community and inspiration throughout our provision.
- Build on our current children and youth programmes, collaborating with inspirational and successful individuals and organisations to offer the best opportunities and experiences.
- Continue to develop and seek out partnerships with the community, voluntary, public and business sectors to ensure that our work is relevant, complementary to other service provisions, sustainable and embedded in best practice.
- Give children, young people and families greater opportunities to thrive and flourish. We will share our expertise and methodologies with other organisations to help inform best practice in the sector.

## MAJOR CHANGES

- A move away from our focus on community buildings. Instead we will focus on people-oriented service provision and effective signposting.
- Shifting our voluntary sector capacity building work to focus on organisations working with children, young people and families and development of social enterprises.
- Growing our current children and families programme to include a wider age range and to be present in more geographical areas.
- Growing our youth programme. To cater to the wide and varied needs of young people in Newham and east London.
- Introducing a social enterprise aspect to our ecosystem to create more employment and training opportunities, particularly for young people, and to improve the financial sustainability of our work.

## WAYS OF WORKING

- Ecosystems: we work with the ecosystem of organisations effecting children, young people and families, and we create a strong organisational ecosystem.
- 'Giving something back': building opportunities for people who have benefitted from our work to become part of the next generation of Aston-Mansfield, for example as volunteers, staff, supporters and ambassadors.
- An integrated approach: understanding that we are one element of people's lives, and that by working with others within their networks we can improve our impact.
- Successful, ambitious and enterprising: continuing to learn, innovating, and staying relevant.
- Impact led: understanding and measuring the difference that we make and changing and adapting our work to improve our impact.

# OUR JOURNEY: CRADLE TO CAREER



## 5 - 11 YEAR OLDS

Children aged 5-11 can attend our breakfast club, after school club and holiday play scheme sessions where they participate in a wide range of fun and stimulating activities. At weekends, we also provide free play days in our open access playground (SupaPlay Saturdays). The activities are designed to facilitate social, physical and creative development through a range of play experiences. The children benefit from improved life-skills, confidence and self-awareness, whilst the programme offers parents affordable childcare allowing them to participate in work, study or training. Little Manor Play Project has achieved the highest Ofsted rating possible for the last 10 years. We work with approximately 200 primary school aged children every year and run our provision 50 weeks out of 52.

### OUR PROJECTS

- Little Manor After School Club
- Little Manor Breakfast Club
- Little Manor Holiday Playscheme
- SupaPlay Saturday

### THE TEAM

We pride ourselves on our energetic, creative and expert team of staff and volunteers. They are a key component of the project's success and its intention to cater to each child individually, understanding that this is the best way for children to develop and grow.

### OUR ACTIVITIES

We aim to enhance learning, broaden horizons and increase confidence; providing opportunities for social, physical, & emotional development and for improving health & well-being. We work with a range of local schools and across age-groups, so children get the opportunity to form peer networks beyond school. By giving children the space to play, as well as to grow practical skills, we ensure they leave the project equipped with knowledge and confidence to be successful young people, who will thrive.

### NETWORKS AND SIGNPOSTING

Our approach to children's work is holistic and community focused. We know that parents and guardians are a key part of any child's success and understand that being a working parent is tough, particularly if you're doing it alone. We ensure that our services are available to parents when they need it. Parents often need support too, and wherever possible, we help by signposting them to other services that can help.

## 11 – 13 YEAR OLDS

We know that making transitions throughout life can be hard work; one important transition is the move between primary and secondary school. We want to bridge that gap at this crucial time in a young person's development by supporting young people outside of school.

Our projects in this phase are shaped around young people creating friends and peers from a range of ages and developing networks in their new schools. Activities and projects are designed to move away from play and into a more youth-led approach. Fun is still a key element of this provision, but it is teamed with learning life skills, decision making and the promotion of independent thought. Residential trips with time away from the family help to reinforce these new-found skills. As young people grow up, our provision and its response to their needs grows with them.

### **OUR PROJECTS**

- Transitional youth group and residentials

### **THE TEAM**

Our highly qualified children's team and youth workers come together to provide the necessary tools to enable children to successfully complete the transition from primary to secondary school.

### **OUR ACTIVITIES**

We have started piloting a regular holiday programme. The transitional youth programme is a natural progression from Little Manor's Holiday Playscheme, taking place 2 days/week of every school holiday. This is a youth-led programme where participants are active in planning the activities delivered. The programme is a mix of fun activities and trips like paint-balling or going to cinema with more targeted activities aimed at developing resilience and covering topics such as citizenship, online safety and money management. The intention across activities is to prepare young people for the next stage in their life and ensure they are supported to be confident successful young people.

## 13 – 19-YEAR OLDS

We celebrate the diversity, energy and uniqueness of young people and we also understand the struggle faced by many young people, and the pressures that they experience. We aim to support young people to tackle challenges and make positive choices and to help them discover and realise their full potential. We are here to offer opportunity, understanding and inspiration, providing community, networks, activities and training.

### OUR PROJECTS

- Youth4youth – youth leadership programme
- Head Start – Creative practice to improve mental health
- PARIS – LGBTQ+ youth group
- YAG – Social club and independent living activities for young people with special needs and disabilities
- Detached – Street based youth sessions: focusing on both highly vulnerable and hard to reach young people

### THE TEAM

Our youth team includes experienced youth work managers; qualified youth work practitioners, expert practitioners with skills in specific areas and volunteers.

### OUR ACTIVITIES

We have a range of activities and projects for 13 -19-year olds, catering to many needs and interests that arise currently in their lives. The key thread that runs throughout our activities are:

- Putting young people at the centre of what we do
- Listening and understanding
- Improving life opportunities
- Creating networks
- Inspiring and motivating
- Giving young people various safe platforms to voice their opinions

### OUR NETWORKS AND SIGNPOSTING

Our approach to our work with 13 – 19-year olds is community and network focused. We help young people to access networks and different sources of support, using our links with educational institutes, community/voluntary organisations, businesses and more; these are all part of our programmes and help us to create greater impact.

## **ASTON- MANSFIELD COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT UNIT**

### **SUPPORTING ORGANISATIONS WORKING WITH CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES**

To ensure our work with children, young people and families is holistic we will develop a system of partnerships and an ecosystem, making sure that we can connect people to the support they need. Developing these links will give us the latest knowledge and working relationships with other like-minded organisations that can provide quality services to our clients. We aim for these relationships to be reciprocal; that they refer into our services and we are also able to refer out to them where services users need specific or specialised support. The Community Involvement Unit will find and maintain these links so that our operational staff have the knowledge at their fingertips. The Unit will provide organisational development support to our in-house services, partner organisations and any other organisation working in the field that would like to learn from our cradle to career model. We will do this by using the units existing skill set to produce resources, training support, and research and evaluation skills, for those working with Children Young People and Families in East London.

### **CONTACTS, NETWORKS AND SIGNPOSTING**

We already produce many directories of organisations who provide services for Children, Young People and Families. We will work to keep these updated, and relevant: making them digital and accessible so staff and partner organisations can benefit from this knowledge. We will continue to look for gaps in knowledge and provision to ensure these remain useful and relevant. The Community Involvement Unit is skilled at building and facilitating networks that bring together a wide range of organisations working around an issue. For example, Newham ESOL Exchange: a network of organisations that work to make delivery of ESOL services more joined up and accessible for people learning English in Newham. In this way, there is the growth of shared practice, the development of new ways of working around rising issues, the opportunities for partnership working, and growth of the network members.