

East End
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

**CORONAVIRUS
EMERGENCY FUND**

COMMUNITY,
COLLABORATION
& CONNECTION



WELCOME



Tracey Walsh
Chief Executive

Over the past year I have been saddened to see the impact Covid has had on residents in the East End, but also hugely inspired by the incredible support shown by our business community, local charitable organisations and volunteers in helping people when they need it most. I'm also really proud of my team at EECF who have worked tirelessly to get vital emergency fund grants out to the frontline projects that are doing so much to support the East End community.

Although we're not through the pandemic, and the effects of Covid will be felt long into the future, we have some fantastic local charities delivery amazing work to support our residents on our collective journey of recovery.

Place and community have never been so important to us all and only by focusing our efforts and resources will we be able to effectively invest in the East End. EECF will continue to be a broad ranging grant maker alleviating poverty in the East End but we will concentrate our funding on activities that:

Reduce Isolation – Making sure vulnerable residents have access to vital services that will increase strong mental health, safety and wellbeing

Increase Life Chances – Making sure the people of the East End learn new skills, access employment, develop careers and create better futures for them, their family's and their community

Increase Digital Inclusion – Making sure East End residents are not left behind in an increasingly digital world. Ensuring they have the skills, access and equipment to be thriving digital citizens

INTRODUCTION

March 2020 marked the start of the most challenging global crisis that we've experienced in modern times.

We were all too aware that the pandemic would hit our communities hard. With so many of our residents already experiencing hardship, disproportionately affected by poverty levels even before Coronavirus, we knew that getting additional financial support for our community services was critical.

The East End Emergency Fund launched in March 2020 with the primary aim of supporting the work of local charitable organisations delivering frontline services for the elderly and most vulnerable. The Emergency Fund prioritised getting financial support for food delivery, telephone befriending and wellbeing services. Due to our knowledge of the East End and our expertise with grant-making, we were the chosen partner to distribute funding from the national appeal led by the National Emergencies Trust. With the swift support of our local business community, we were able to award even more grants. Canary Wharf Group were the first partner to come forward with a generous donation of £50,000 and since then many more have followed suit, helping us to strengthen our support for those who need it most.

We are incredibly grateful for the level of support we've received and have been inspired by the charities and community projects who sprang into action to do what was needed. By the end of February 2021, we've been able to award £1,798,064 through 262 grants with over 90,000 East End residents being directly helped.

We've always been inspired by our community, and throughout this year, we've seen yet again that Eastenders are truly amazing with businesses stepping forward and armies of residents supporting each other through one of the most difficult years they have ever experienced.

ABOUT US

Working across Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Newham and the City of London, EECF has been dedicated to increasing opportunities for people living in London's East End for 30 years.

Through our own income and by managing charitable donations on behalf of others, EECF delivers grant-making programmes covering the broad range of acute social needs experienced by people living in the East End.

EECF is very much the hub of the East End, the 'go-to' organisation for those seeking to invest effectively in the community. As a grant maker in our own right, we have an excellent and in-depth knowledge of the charitable sector across East London and we are uniquely connected to its people and challenges.

This connection enables us to bring communities together who might not otherwise meet, to learn more about the East End and the high levels of social need that exist here.



TIMELINE OF EVENTS



“ I was so truly amazed, so kind, supportive and helped us a lot. Thank you to EECF, this grant really helped us and hundreds of people. We would really like to continue our partnership. Our service outcomes have increased by 67% due to EECF. Thank you. **Coffee Afrik CIC** ”

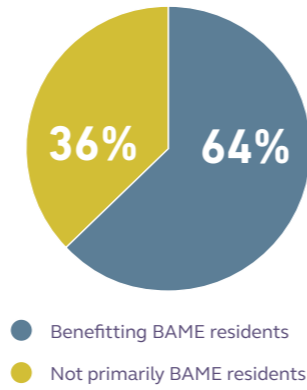
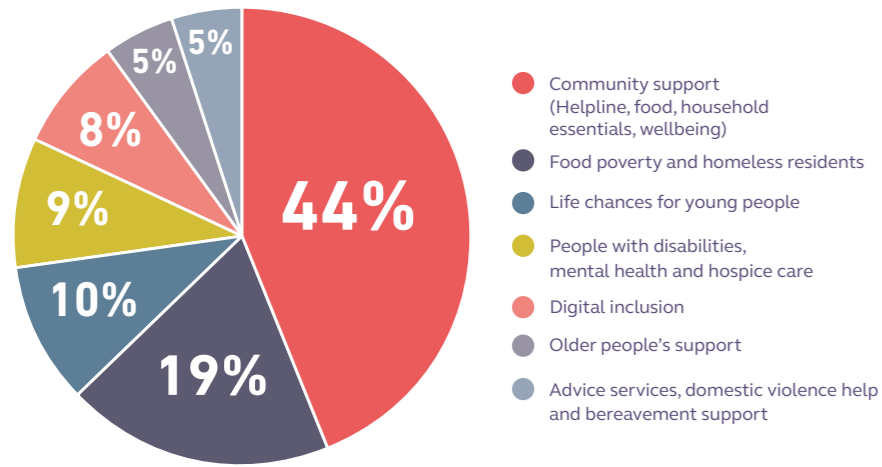
“ This grant has meant that we could go above and beyond what we wanted to do. We couldn't have offered anywhere near this level of support without your help. **Stratford Salvation Army** ”

“ EECF are great funders. They take the time to understand the organisations they work with and are always available to speak to us, for advice and support. Thanks! **Tower Hamlets Friends & Neighbours** ”

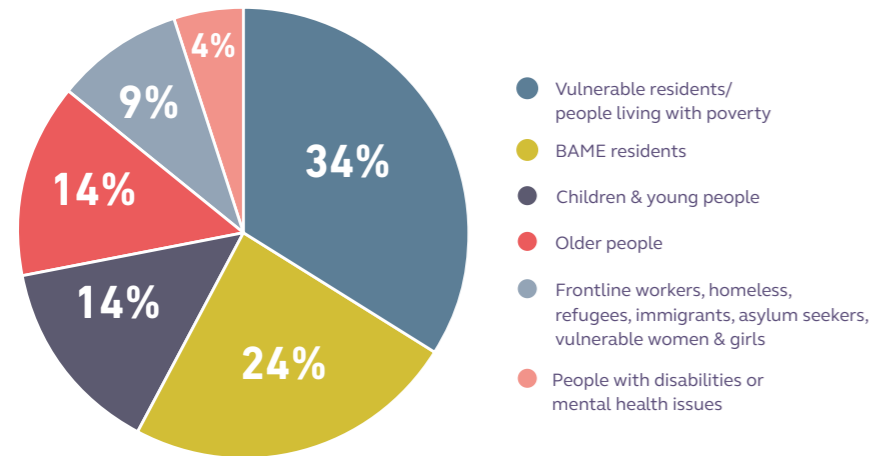
“ Without your funds we would not have been able to achieve so much over the last 2 months. Your commitment to local organisations is so valuable and your approach to giving so unique. As a grantee we feel empowered to do our work, know you are supporting us. **Well Grounded CIC** ”

EMERGENCY FUND OVERVIEW

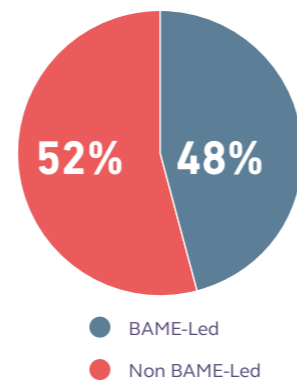
Emergency fund grants by theme



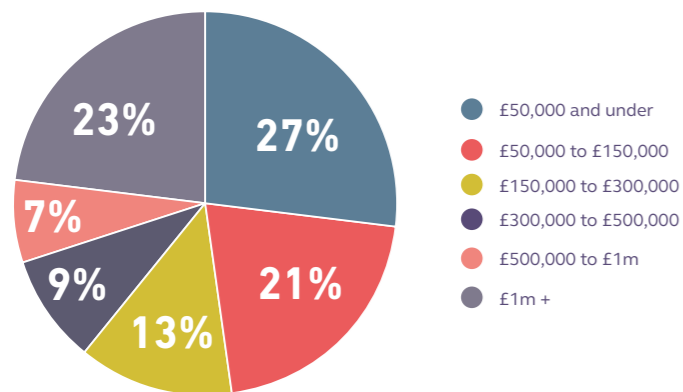
Emergency fund grants by main beneficiary



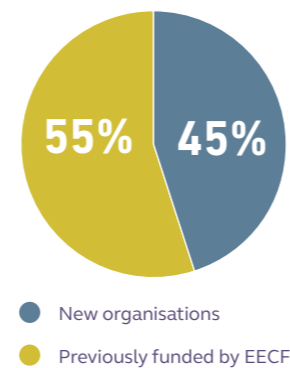
Emergency fund BAME-led organisations



Funded organisation annual income



Previously funded organisations



SUPPORTING OUR EAST END RESIDENTS

From March 2020-February 2021

£1,798,064
awarded

262
grants awarded

48%
of grants awarded to BAME-led organisations

70 organisations have reported back on their community impact so far

90,000
expected number of people benefiting

3,300
volunteers were involved in the delivery of support

£4,150
has been provided in in-kind support by Valero in the form of fuel vouchers to support the delivery of food and essentials

22,050
of these residents had not previously accessed support from the funded organisations

63%
of funds were spent on food, toiletries and household essentials

8%
was spent on IT and connectivity so services could be delivered remotely

29%
was spent on mental health, bereavement, advice and domestic violence support services

STORIES FROM THE FRONTLINE

STEPPING UP TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL SUPPLIES



Manorfield Primary School in Tower Hamlets used a grant from the emergency fund to provide food and toiletries for families in need. Each week, the school provided between 500 and 850 food bags to members of their community and to other Tower Hamlets schools who identified families who needed this support.

In each food bag, the school included key proteins, fresh fruit, breads and toiletries. The bags were predominantly for children who were eligible for free school meals, but the school also provided bags to other families who were in need of support.

In the early part of the first lockdown there were real problems with the roll out of free school meal vouchers, so during this period the food bags became a real life saver for many parents. Families have seen their circumstances change suddenly during the pandemic, and the school has been able to support parents whilst they are trying to access welfare benefits.

One person the scheme helped was a mum who was having great difficulty getting her 5-year-old boy to eat well. He enjoyed the food provided in the bag so much that the mother is now choosing these items in her weekly shopping, so that her son can form healthy eating habits. Another recipient of support from Manorfield was a family whose mother works with Covid-19 patients in the NHS and had to self-isolate away from her family. The Dad was worried about going to the supermarket, so the school were able to provide enough food for the family to get through the week.



Today, two people brought food for us from your school. I was so overwhelmed; I couldn't say much to them. We are so grateful and will remember them in our prayers.



STORIES FROM THE FRONTLINE

SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS



Body and Soul Charity uses a comprehensive, community-based and trauma informed approach to address the life-threatening effects of childhood adversity in people of all ages.

With a grant from our Emergency Fund, Body and Soul Charity was able to continue practically supporting vulnerable adults through support with food and household essentials as well as mobile data to help them stay in touch.

Juliet's Story

Juliet is in her 40s, she is Black African and a mother of 3. She is HIV+ and was shielding due to health complications beyond her HIV diagnosis. Hilary, who has been supporting Juliet, tells her story:

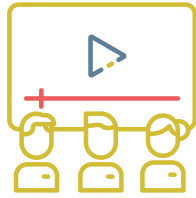
"In early May I called Juliet to check in with her, expecting to have a chat about how the children were doing at home. But when Juliet picked up the phone, I could immediately tell that she wasn't well. Her breathing was laboured. She assured me she was OK, that she'd seen her GP. We agreed I would call her later and when she still didn't sound well, I encouraged her to call 111 to talk through her symptoms. Juliet was reluctant: "I don't want to go to hospital.", "I'm frightened". She started to cry. I comforted her and we agreed that I would call again the next day or two. Juliet's GP had advised her to call 111 but she hadn't. I asked her gently if she would like me to. She said yes."

"An ambulance took Juliet to The Royal London Hospital where they confirmed Juliet had Covid-19. I then couldn't contact Juliet for 10 days while she was in hospital. On the day Juliet came out of hospital she called to say thank you for saving her life. She had been told that if she hadn't gone into hospital she would have died. She said she had called her family back home in Africa to say goodbye. She didn't feel she would see her young sons again. "You kept calling me, you never gave up on, I would have died if you hadn't called that ambulance that day. You saved my life".



STORIES FROM THE FRONTLINE

KEEPING CREATIVITY FLOWING



Bubble Club in Tower Hamlets provides the opportunity for a group of people with learning disabilities to learn new skills and come together for social and leisure activities including holding their very popular club nights.

People with learning disabilities are at an increased risk of isolation and often feel that services are inaccessible to them in the community. When Covid restrictions meant that their physical club nights had to stop, the Bubble Club team used their grant from the emergency fund to run a programme of creative workshops, delivered remotely via Zoom. These workshops have provided much needed opportunities for participants to chat and connect with each other. For many members, they became a social lifeline providing supported social activity and a meaningful contribution in their community. During their workshops, participants made artwork in solidarity with the disabled residents of London and produced a podcast series entitled, The Awesome Spectacular.

The funding they received helped them with their mission to support the social and emotional wellbeing of their members. One of Bubble Club's members, Rufaro, has a real passion for being a show host. A real character, he's charismatic and has developed excellent stage presence. Bubble Club mentors have been coaching him to refine his skills, and they've reported that he is making fantastic progress and is excited about hosting an event in the future.



Bub Hub Zoom was really useful during lockdown to say the least. It helped everyone in the team get to know each other more and stay connected. It helped keep spirits up and keep Bubble Club Alive.

Rufaro



STORIES FROM THE FRONTLINE

TACKLING ELDER'S ISOLATION



Shoreditch Trust is a registered charity that works with local residents in Hackney to help to improve their health, wellbeing, social networks and opportunities.

With their grant from the emergency fund, they were able to develop 'We Connect': a remote befriending programme for those isolated by Covid-19 lockdown. They increased their volunteer numbers with local residents stepping forward to provide immediate, practical volunteer support for their neighbours. Befriending training was created and delivered to volunteers and drop-in sessions implemented so that they were supported throughout.

Participants on We Connect are often isolated and digitally excluded, seeking social connection. The befriending service focuses on the benefits of connection and so volunteer befrienders have been calling their befriendees weekly for a chat and check-in. These small, friendly interactions have been of great value to everyone's health and wellbeing at a difficult time.

Stan's story

Both Stan and his wife were stroke survivors and Stan had for many years been the primary carer for his wife. Stan had long attended the Stroke Survivors self-help group, delivered by the Shoreditch Trust, in which he and other attendees socialised, practiced activities for their wellbeing and socialised with others. When, Stan's wife unexpectedly passed away at Christmas 2019, and his adult children living further afield, he found it very difficult to manage being on his own. Lockdown made that even more challenging. Shoreditch Trust staff identified that despite Stan not wishing to talk about it, he was struggling with isolation and loneliness during lockdown on top of the bereavement. They referred him to We Connect. He was matched with one of their volunteers Lorraine. The two initially discussed the weather and the news and eventually Stan opened up to L about how hard he was finding the loss of his wife and how he cried nearly every day. Lorraine raised this with Shoreditch Trust staff, who were able to arrange for him to access bereavement counselling. However, beyond that one intervention, Stan has said how he values having someone to chat with, that he can talk to her in a way that he can't with his children and that it has been very valuable when he has been unable to leave his home.



STORIES FROM THE FRONTLINE

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



Newham Community Renewal Programme (NCRP) support some of the most disadvantaged young people in Newham. By providing them with the necessary tools and the right support, young people are empowered to address the challenges they face so that they can grow to be positive and active members of their community.

With their grant from the emergency fund, the team at NCRP were able to purchase hardware and software to enable staff and volunteers to continue their vital work. This new equipment meant they were able to effectively navigate through the challenges of remote working and service delivery during the height of the pandemic.

As well as providing laptops and mobile phones for staff and volunteers, 12 laptops were also issued to service users via the laptop library. This helped to alleviate digital exclusion, enabling people to communicate with their loved ones and to access a wider range of services that are only available online.

Alia's story

Alia is a carer looking after her son who suffers from a mental illness. Before the pandemic she was a regular attendee at NCRP's Carers Health & Empowerment programme and had registered to be trained to deliver workshops to other carers. When Covid-19 forced the programme to move online, Alia initially thought she wouldn't be able to continue because she didn't have access to a laptop. But, with the laptops purchased through the emergency fund grant, Alia was able to get online. Alia was so grateful to have access to the programme again and has also been able to use the equipment to communicate with her family and friends. This means that Alia is able to go on and complete the carers empowerment programme and support other carers in the community.



STORIES FROM THE FRONTLINE

PROVIDING SUPPORT AND RESPITE



The grant to **Richard House Children's Hospice** in Newham enabled the charity to remain open at a time when many other community services had to close their doors to vulnerable children and their families. The children they look after are critically vulnerable to this virus, and yet continue to need round-the-clock palliative care. With lockdown seriously impacting the support that life-limited children and their carers can access, the hospice has been a safe and familiar place where children's wellbeing and quality of life comes first.

Lisa and Aziz's story

Lisa's son Aziz was two when he was diagnosed with Pompe Disease. At the time, surviving past the age of two was unheard of. Lisa was referred to Richard House for palliative care and to learn how to care for Aziz, as he required tube feeding and a ventilator to help him breathe.

Aziz is now 15 and the family rely on Richard House for respite and support. Lisa has two other children; the lockdown has affected her family: "Aziz is in the high-risk category and we had to self-isolate for 12 weeks. He uses a ventilator to help him breathe every single day anyway, so contracting Covid-19 would have been catastrophic".

"There is even more strain on me to keep Aziz and his siblings occupied. It's times like these in which limited access to the internet becomes even more of an issue, especially with children."

"I can't leave the house to go shopping and risk contracting coronavirus and passing it on to my son. Coronavirus has taken its toll on us emotionally. The loneliness I feel due to self-isolation is even more heightened. It is very important Richard House exists, because if it's not there, it would be a real disaster. We wouldn't be able to survive."



LOOKING AHEAD

Before the impact of Covid-19, many of the people that benefitted from our emergency appeal were already experiencing financial hardship and struggling to make ends meet. The pandemic has heightened their need for support and many of life's essentials that we might take for granted such as food, internet access, education and companionship through community were not, and are still not available to them.

While hardship and a lack of opportunity is significantly affecting many residents in the East End of London, it is young people and elders who are most in need of support. These two groups of people were already defined as experiencing the highest levels of poverty in the UK pre 2020. At the beginning of 2021 we find that not only have their situations deteriorated even further but the number of people both young and old who are in need of support has increased.

As we move forward EECF will be prioritising funding to projects and services that support young people and elders to ensure their life chances are significantly improved. To create real and lasting change will require a co-ordinated multi-year approach with support directed at the right interventions, delivered by organisations and funded by donors that are committed to the same outcomes and share the same values as us, many of these we are already working with.

Being able to improve the life chances of both groups will be a challenge as the causes and effects of poverty are many and varied but at EECF our ambition and our focus has never been greater. We are as passionate today as we were 30 years ago about making a difference to lives of those living in the East End.

We hope you will work with us as we move forward on this road to a new future.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

So many people, companies and charities have worked with us and every one has played a key role in the Fund's success. Our sincere thanks to you all, but particular thanks go to.

- Kate Giblin
- Martin Karren
- Alice Rivers
- National Emergencies Trust
- UKCF
- London Funders
- Wakefield and Tetley Trust
- Tower Hill Trust

Thank you to all our donors and partners. Your support of our Emergency Fund has been vital.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

Thank you to the amazing community and voluntary organisations who have been delivering essential services to those people who need it most.

13 Rivers Trust	Caramel Rock	Fight for Peace International
Academy Achievers	Cardboard Citizens	First Love Foundation
Account3	Carers Centre Tower Hamlets	Food for All
Acheinu Cancer Support	Caritas Anchor House	Frampton Park Baptist Church
Afghanistan and Central Asian Association	Carpenters and Dockland Centre (Dockland Settlements)	Friends of Woodberry Down
African Arts and Advice Centre	Children Ahead Ltd	Gascoyne & Morningside Youth Clubs Ltd
African Community School	Children with Voices	Good Shepherd Voluntary Organisation Ltd.
African Health Policy Network	Citizen Development Community Centre	Hackney & East London United Synagogue
Age UK East London	City and East London Bereavement Service	Hackney Chinese Community Services Association
Aishah Help	Clapton Common Boys Club (CCBC)	Hackney Congolese Women Support Group
Akwaaba	Clapton Park United Reformed Church	Hackney Marsh Partnership
Ambition, Aspire, Achieve	Claudia Jones Organisation	Hackney Migrant Centre
Ananda Marga Universal Relief Team (AMURT) UK	Coffee Afrik CIC	Hackney People First
Ascension Community Trust	Community Links	Half Moon Young People's Theatre
Aston-Mansfield	Community of Refugees from Vietnam - East London	Halkevi
BADU Community CIC	Crohn's and Colitis Relief	Headway East London
Bags of Taste	Darul Ummah Centre (Dawatul Islam UK & Eire)	Highway Vineyard Church
Barts Charity	Day-Mer Turkish & Kurdish Community Centre	Hot Line Meals Service (London)
Beckton Skills Centre	Deafroots	ICSS
Beersheba Living Well	Destiny Community Services	Inspire Women Men and Children
Beyond the Streets	Docklands Outreach	Inspired Futures
Bikeworks CIC	East End Citizens Advice Bureaux	Island Advice Centre
Body & Soul Charity	East End Community Foundation	Isle of Dogs Bangladeshi Association & Cultural Centre
Bonny Downs Community Association	Digital Inclusion Project	It's Your Life
BowHaven	East London Mosque	Kahaila
Boxes of Basics	Eastside Centre Ltd	Kanlungan Filipino Consortium
Bromley by Bow Community Centre	Ekota Care Trust Limited	Leaders in Community
Bromley By Bow Community Organisation	ELT Baptist Church	Lighthouse - Supporting Women Through Stormy Times
Bubble Club CIC	Express Tuition Ltd	Lincoln Area Regeneration Group
Burdett Estate Covid-19 Strategy Team	Ezra Umarpeh Ltd	London Young Stars Elite
Burdett FC	Faith Regen Foundation	Lwo Cultural Group
Cambridge Heath Salvation Army		

GRANT RECIPIENTS

Made In Hackney	Shoreditch Tab Centre (Tabernacle Baptist Church)	The Rooted Forum
Manor House Development Trust	Shoreditch Trust	The Royal Docks Learning & Activity Centre
Manorfield Primary School	Skills Enterprise	The Royal Foundation of St Katharine's
Mind in the City Hackney and Waltham Forest	Skillspool Training CIC	The Sapphire Foundation
Mind in Tower Hamlets & Newham	Skyway Charity	The Shadwell Community Project
Misgav	Social Organisation for Unity & Leisure	Tower Hamlets Education Business Partnership
Mishon	SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets	Tower Hamlets Friends & Neighbours
Mouth That Roars	Somali Senior Citizens Club	Tower Hamlets Parents Centre
Mudchute Association	Spot Project	Toyhouse Libraries
Mulberry School Trust	St Hilda's East Community Centre	Toynbee Hall
Neighbours in Poplar	St John's (Isle of Dogs) Community Association	TransformUK
Newark Youth London	St Peters Community Wellbeing Projects	Treasures Foundation
Newham Community Renewal Programme	St. Paul's Church Stratford	UKIM Masjid Ibrahim Plaistow
Newham Muslim Forum CIC	Step by Step	Up 'N Away
Newham Welfare Trust	Stratford Salvation Army	Vallance Community Sports Association
NEWway Project	Supporting Humanity Ltd	Veterans Aid
North London Muslim Community Centre	Teen Action	Wadajir Somali Community Centre
Olive Tree Education (OTE)	Teviot Action Group	Wapping Bangladesh Association
Our Community Cares Solution	Thames Bengali Association	Waterloo Community Counselling
Peabody Sundial Centre Day	The Arc Church	Weavers Adventure Playground
Poplar & Lansbury Mutual Aid Group	The Bangladesh Youth Movement (BYM)	Weavers Community Forum
Poplar HARCA	The Bow Foodbank	Well Grounded CIC
Positive East	The Chicken Soup Shelter	Wilton Estate Tenants and Residents Association
Powerhouse for Women	The Community Hub	Wipers Youth CIC
Providence Row	The Dockland Settlements	Wise Youth Trust
Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest	The Drop In Bereavement Centre	Woman's Trust
Quwwat-UL-Islam Society	The Ensign Youth Club	Women's Inclusive Team
Refugee Support Network	The Friends of Tower Hamlets Cemetery Park	Woodgrange Baptist Church
Rejuvenate UK 2016 CIC	The Huddleston Centre	Year Here
Richard House Children's Hospice	The Independent Newham Users Forum	Young and Inspired
Salaam Peace	The Letta Trust	Z.S.V. Trust
School-Home Support	The Parish of the Isle of Dogs	
Setpoint London East		
Shahjalal Centre		
Shapla Primary School		

East End

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