



Our plan for 2017 to 2021

Markfield

We are an inclusive community hub where people can play, socialise and get information and support.

Our vision

A world where disabled, Deaf and autistic people are treated as equals, have a voice and can live the life they want.

Our purpose

- To enable disabled, Deaf and autistic people to be themselves, take risks and live life to the full
- To focus on the needs of the whole family and break down isolation
- To promote respect of disabled, Deaf and autistic people and support their full participation in society

Our values

Inclusive

We are for disabled and non-disabled people

Innovative

We explore new ideas

Empowering

We enable participation

Connected

We are part of our community

At Markfield we respect that people choose different ways of describing themselves and many people think that being Deaf or autistic is not a disability. We work both with people who have a diagnosed disability, and those without a diagnosis – to recognise hidden needs and include people labelled as ‘challenging.’



“ Markfield is my favourite place I like seeing all my friends here ”

Markfield was set up in 1979 by parents of disabled children, whose initial vision was to create an inclusive place for disabled and non-disabled children to play. A Victorian pump house in Tottenham was refurbished by the charity to create a unique community centre that opened in 1986. Over a thousand people each year benefit from the various activities at the centre and outreach in the wider community.

Our work includes:

- Inclusive after school clubs and holiday playschemes for disabled and non-disabled children and young people, which support them to develop and build positive relationships through play, and to develop independence, self esteem and active citizenship.
- A range of family support services including advice, advocacy and information, parent/carer training and befriending. Mutual support is encouraged through drop in groups, such as our parent groups, under 5s stay and play, information hub drop in and family club, which support families to build relationships and find shared solutions to disadvantage.
- Leisure services and travel training for adults with learning disabilities, giving access to ordinary and fulfilling activities that are self-chosen and support community participation.
- Community access to our building and adventure playground through community group hall hire and Saturday 'Open Access' adventure playground drop in sessions.

In 2011 we set out to:

- Sustain and grow our core services
- Provide an inclusion information hub
- Build community unity
- Develop dreams included

In the last five years we have been successful in lots of ways.

Sustain and grow our core services

- The numbers of people attending our clubs for adults with learning disabilities has grown, as has the overall numbers benefitting from our range of family support services and drop-ins. However, our children and young people's services at Markfield have diminished due to the pressure on 'short breaks' funding.
- We have extended our training programme and other family support services

- The Family Befriending scheme has been established
- Our community outreach has increased
- We have improved accessibility to our services through further investment in transport, translation and interpreting

Provide an inclusion information hub

- We have further developed as an information hub through our extended offer of training, advocacy and advice
- Our volunteer training has achieved accreditation from Open College Network
- A new drop in for parents/carers has been set up as a place to get help to access information
- Markfield's website and marketing publicity was re-developed

Build community unity

- Saturday adventure playground sessions have been established and sustained for local children and families
- Volunteer opportunities have increased and we have more volunteers supporting services
- Travel training has been provided to adults and young people
- We have increased the use of the building through community hall hire
- Our partnerships with other organisations in the voluntary sector and local authority have strengthened

Develop dreams included

- An employment project for young people was delivered
- The youth participation group MPower has met to plan and lead projects
- We have supported work experience placements and employment opportunities for young people and adults with Learning Disabilities
- A Markfield music festival took place
- Steering groups play a key role in service development and review

Why Markfield is needed

The number of disabled children and adults is growing, due to improvements in medical science leading to survival of more severely disabled babies, as well as earlier, more robust assessment and diagnosis.



Autism diagnosis is increasing – and affects more than **1 in 100** – some 700,000 people nationally.

There are

1.4 million

people with a learning disability living in the UK, and around a third of people with a learning disability are also autistic.



Many people with learning disabilities struggle to have a good social life – the opportunities are fewer,

and far too many people become isolated and feel trapped at home.

The work done by unpaid family carers nationally saves the state

£132 billion

a year.

Nationally

29%

 of disabled children live in poverty.

Haringey

is one of the most deprived boroughs in the country.

In Haringey

speech, language and communication

difficulties

 among children are almost double the rates of England.

8 in 10 carers

have felt lonely or isolated due to their caring role.



Two-thirds

of parent carers found it stressful to find services and products that meet their child's needs.

What makes Markfield special

Our users tell us that Markfield offers support and services they are unable to find elsewhere. Markfield has been described by carers as a 'life line' and many families have told us they don't know what they would do without Markfield. The ethos of Markfield as inclusive and a place that encourages choice, independence and empowerment are universally valued by those that attend Markfield, participate in running services and work here. Many children, young people, adults and carers reference the attitude and expertise of staff and volunteers as central to what makes Markfield welcoming, helpful and fun.

An external consultant carrying out a consultation with families in 2014 stated 'The importance of Markfield to these families cannot be over stated, many of them talked about the ability to access a wide range of support and resources. They all referred to the staff as being very knowledgeable and approachable and in some instances the first person to take their concerns seriously. The sense of isolation prior to contact with Markfield was stated in several interviews. One parent said that she had been very depressed for almost a year prior to her contact with Markfield and within a short time she had gained so much support and knowledge she now had a positive view of the future.'



“ The staff make me laugh, we do lots of activities ”

Developing our strategic plan

Involving disabled people and their families in determining Markfield's future is fundamental. We are committed to ongoing user participation in planning and decision making here at Markfield and promote this in the wider community. In developing our strategic plan for 2017 - 2021 we have spent a year reviewing our services and gathering feedback from children, young people, adults, parents/carers, staff, volunteers, our Trustees, funders and strategic partners. Our consultations have included art activities, games, drama and music, we have held discussions, carried out interviews, circulated feedback forms and observed how people engage with our building and services.

Our strategic plan draws together the priorities identified from this year of review and consultation, learning from our experiences over the last five years and striving towards a world where disabled, Deaf and Autistic people are treated as equals, have a voice and can live the life they want.



Our goals for 2017 to 2021

Sustain and grow our services

Markfield's core services are all highly valued by disabled people and their families as well as the wider community. Family support, play, youth and adult services are all crucial in providing access to everyday and fulfilling life experiences. We have a dynamic approach to developing services; by working with our members to identify areas of need, we adapt, extend and review how services are planned and delivered. The services provided are often described by our members as essential and need to be protected.



We aim to

- Secure funding for Markfield's current core services and continue to extend services to meet local needs
- Improve co-ordination between Markfield and other services so people get a more joined-up approach to meet their needs
- Further improve the stability, training and development of Markfield's staff and volunteer team
- Have an uncompromising commitment to high quality services

“ My child is SO happy there. I wish I could turn back time and have gone to Markfield earlier ”

Ensure participation in decision making



Our members are the disabled people, siblings, friends, families and parents/carers that make up Markfield, they may attend regular clubs, drop into sessions at Markfield or access information and support. Members contribute to the vision, purpose and values that guide what we do and many are actively involved in planning and facilitating services. We will continue to strengthen the participation and involvement of our members in decision making at Markfield and promote this in the wider community.

We aim to

- Ensure MPower and other steering groups have a direct influence in decision making at Markfield and within the wider community
- Participate in campaigns for disabled people's rights and involvement in decision making
- Support our members to fully participate in society
- Maximise, volunteering, training and work for disabled people and their families within Markfield
- Ensure our values of empowerment and participation are embedded within all our services

Develop as a unique community hub

The Markfield building and site is widely celebrated as unique and special. We are positioned in a key community setting and our adventure playground is described as special, exciting, challenging and 'like an adventure'. We aim to develop and extend the use of our building to maximise this unique space, to link more with the local community and to generate income which we can use to maintain the building and extend services. There is a long history of successful inclusion at Markfield that supports people to build positive relationships and work together on finding mutual solutions to disadvantage. We will continue to bring local people and groups into Markfield to develop shared values and approaches to inclusion of disabled people.



We aim to

- Increase community use of Markfield's building, adventure playground, services and resources to improve links with local individuals and groups
- Continue to develop our outreach into the community and involve more groups of people in Markfield
- Extend the use of the building for services inline with our members' feedback
- Generate more income through training and hall hire

Improve information sharing

Information, resources and services are vital for disabled people and their families to achieve their rights, and to challenge discrimination and disadvantage. We will ensure that our services are well publicised and easily accessed by disabled people and their families. We will share a wide range of useful information and resources as well as develop proactive ways to share our expertise effectively in the wider community.



We aim to

- Redevelop Markfield's marketing strategy
- Further improve Markfield's information management systems
- Further develop Markfield as an information hub
- Improve information and resource sharing with our members, local organisations and partners

Contact Markfield

Address: Markfield, Markfield Park, Markfield Road, London, N15 4RB

Telephone: Telephone: 020 8800 4134 from 9.30am to 5pm

Email: enquiries@markfield.org.uk **Web:** www.markfield.org.uk

Twitter: [Twitter@MarkfieldProj](https://twitter.com/MarkfieldProj)



Our centre is in Markfield Park
Walking either via Markfield Road,
or Crowland Road through Markfield
Park, or along the River Lea towpath
Driving via Markfield Road.

Parking is available at the centre.

Tube: Seven Sisters, Tottenham Hale.

Bus: 41, 76, 123, 149, 243, 259, 279

Overground rail: South Tottenham,
Seven Sisters, Tottenham Hale.

You can hire Markfield's amazing
building and adventure playground
for your party or event!

Our building is within the award-
winning Markfield Park. We have a
huge double height hall, two floors of
softplay, extensive outdoor adventure
playground, a kitchen, garden and
much more!