



Annual Report

2023/2024





Children and families

Our clubs and playschemes for disabled children and siblings, and drop-in sessions for all families in the community, offer an amazing range of inclusive play activities at our centre and playground.

81 children & young people have attended our **term-time after-school clubs and holiday playschemes**, which are funded by the Tottenham Grammar School Foundation, the Mayor's Fund, the Holiday Activities and Food Programme and local authority short breaks personal budgets. Markfield's garden and Adventure Playground enables children to enjoy outdoor play which is essential to the healthy physical, social and emotional development of all children, and to have a connection with nature which enhances wellbeing. Children, especially those with complex needs, benefit from exploring sights, smells, textures and sounds in natural environments. Play brings the world to life for children - allowing exploration of their abilities - and develops their awareness which helps prepare them for their future lives. This year we have been able to develop an area of the playground as a sensory garden with the support from **Groundwork**.

We also received food donations from The **Felix Project**, which have widened the range of quality meals we have offered children and young people attending after school clubs and playschemes. It has also given children the opportunity to do cooking activities during sessions. We received funding from the **Mayor of London's Kitchen Social project**, which has helped alleviate the growing issue of food insecurity and social isolation during school holidays.

Our monthly **Saturday Family Club** is part of the SENDIASS service. The session offers families with children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) the opportunity to meet and socialise together, and for parents an opportunity to access advice, information and support in a friendly and inclusive play environment, with indoor and outdoor activities organised for children as well as a hot lunch. We welcomed a total of 166 children with their parents over the year.

Children and families

Our **adventure playground drop-in sessions**, funded by **BBC Children in Need**, support children to develop their physical, social and emotional skills. The sessions have had a loyal core of users and have also drawn in new people that pass by in the park, enabling more families to connect with Markfield's support services. This year 318 children have attended our drop-in play sessions.

"I specially like the mud pit!"



Under-fives stay and play: Our weekly drop-in session for children under five and their parents and carers, funded by **Comic Relief**, enables families to access a range of inclusive play activities and connect with others in the community.

"It's easy to make connections with other families. It feels like a safe place."- parent

Autism Support: This year we continued a project funded by the **Integrated Care Board** to support children and families that have been recently diagnosed with autism or are on the waiting list. The project includes advice sessions, parents' groups (online and in person) training, family days and a monthly group for young people. 213 people have benefitted from this project so far.

Parents and carers

We provide a range of family support services, both online and face-to-face. The following services have benefitted a total of 1239 families over the year, and have been funded by Comic Relief, Henry Smith, the Charity of Sir Richard Whittington, and Haringey Council.

We have run the **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice & Support Service (SENDIASS)** commissioned by Haringey Council. This service offers Independent Advice and Support for parents/carers of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) as well as advice and support to children and young people about their rights under the SEND legislation. Our SENDIASS workers offer advice surgeries, outreach, individual casework support, a telephone helpline, training workshops for parents and a drop-in session, and monthly surgeries with Haringey Council SEND Team managers. We continue to offer consultations via telephone and Zoom when requested. Over the year 802 parents and young people accessed SENDIASS.

Advice surgeries: We have provided advice surgeries to help families with Disability Living Allowance (DLA) and Personal Independence Payment (PIP) claims and appeals, funded by the Henry Smith Charity. Over the year 99 families have used this service.

“Stepping stones” - parents for play and talk is a 8 week specialist language and sensory play programme for children under 5 who have additional needs in language, communication and social skills. This course equips parents/carers with knowledge and skills to interact confidently with their children through play and music. We have delivered 6 courses at Markfield and in children centres. 47 families have benefitted this year.



Parent/carers support groups: We have been funded by **Henry Smith** to run a group for parents/carers each week in term time. The groups aim to support families to build support networks and share skills and experiences, improve access to information, services and resources, alongside opportunities for fun and relaxation. We have reached 123 parents through our parents support groups this year.

Training workshops: We offer training workshops online and in person at Markfield. Topics include: ‘Positive behaviour management’, ‘Communication and developmental play’, ‘Understanding autism’, ‘Communication and visual aids’, in addition to the SENDIASS topics. The training support parents and carers to understand their rights and to feel more confident in working positively and productively with health, education and social care professionals.



Parents and carers

Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities (SFSC): During this year we have run four SFSC courses. SFSC is a structured 13-week parenting programme, which helps parents with children aged up to 18 years to think about how their actions and experiences may influence their parenting style. The programme is accredited by the **Race Equalities Foundation** and has a strong evidence base built over several decades for being particularly effective in reaching and benefitting parents from marginalised communities, including black and minority ethnic parents, and those facing extra parenting challenges. Markfield delivers the course with additional content tailored to the needs of parents of disabled children. This year 47 families participated in the programme.

Volunteers befrienders: Thanks to funding from **Henry Smith Charity**, we have been able to continue running our befriender scheme, and 28 families have been matched with a volunteer over the year. Befriender volunteers receive a five-day training and meet families two hours each week over a period of 6 months, supporting families in a personalized way.

Educational Psychologists: Markfield continues to facilitate appointments with **Haringey Council** educational psychologists at Markfield and via telephone conference each month. Parents who are worried about their child's development, learning, emotional well-being or behaviour are offered a free 40-minute one-to-one appointment to discuss their concerns and receive support and advice.



School Home Support: We have continued our partnership with the charity **School Home Support**. During our Parent Support Group at Markfield, a family support worker provides advice on housing and other issues that may hinder children from attending or succeeding in school.



*We ♥ our
Volunteers*

Our Volunteers

Volunteers make a huge contribution to the work of our charity, both working behind the scenes on administration tasks and the maintenance of our building and playground, as well as helping to deliver our frontline services: children's after-school clubs and playschemes, adult social clubs, family drop-ins, carers groups, and advice and information services. During the year to the end of March 2024 over 1,450 hours of time were given by volunteers to support the work of Markfield.

Young people and adults

Our daytime and evening social clubs for young people and adults with learning disabilities or autism are highly popular and successful, with emphasis on service users participating in running the sessions.

Markfield@Nite is a weekly Friday evening social session run by an elected committee of club members. Over the year 31 members have attended this club. Music and dancing are the main activities during the session. The DJ section is always popular. The session also provides a quieter art group as well as regular cooking activities. Members pay for the club sessions using their Local Authority social care personal budgets. We use two buses to bring service users to this session.

Cosmos Club is our Tuesday daytime club. The focus for this group is to access activities and facilities in the community as well as participating in art, gardening, well-being and relaxation sessions. The group supports 9 members to explore their interests and develop social skills in a relaxed and individual way. Places are funded using Local Authority social care personal budgets. Members enjoy regular walking trips to local parks, city farms and shopping centres as well as art and craft, cooking and games.

All for One Club is a Monday evening club for young adults, with places funded by The Bloomfield Trust. The club is for young adults with autism who do not meet the eligibility criteria for Local Authority social care funding. Many members of this group require support around their mental health. Over the year, 16 young people have attended sessions which enable them to build social skills and participate in arts activities.

Art Engine is a daytime session which gives adults with learning disabilities and/or autism the opportunity to work on their creative interests. This session is funded by members using their Local Authority social care personal budgets. Over the year, we have worked with 14 service users. The groups have worked with a range of art media, with several workshops delivered by local artist **Alison Lam** and the longstanding relationship with **Park Studios**. Service users have focused on their own specific interests such as cushion making, stencil work, drama and music.

The Independent Young Advisors (IYA) is our youth participation group consisting of 12 service users, a mix of young people with disabilities and their siblings, who meet monthly and for trips out. The IYA group design their own projects, including fundraising for Markfield, creating and delivering training for other young people, staff and volunteers, and holding regular consultation sessions with our service users. This project is funded by the local authority through **SENDIASS** and **St James's Place Foundation**.

Transition to Adulthood: in January we started a programme funded by city bridge aimed at supporting young people with additional needs to successfully transition to adulthood. The project offers advice on a range of topics directed by the young people, as well as matching them with volunteer mentors and providing socializing opportunities. We already have 10 mentors trained, and 4 young people have started the programme.

“

“Coming to Markfield is like being with family.”



The **Jack Petchey awards** scheme has enabled us to recognise outstanding contributions to Markfield by young people and has enabled award winners to choose how to spend the award money for the benefit of all young people who come to Markfield, and to celebrate the contributions and progress of the young people we work with.

Who we are and what we do

Markfield is an inclusive community hub where people can play, socialise and get information & support. We provide a range of services for disabled children, young people, adults and their families.

Our purpose is:

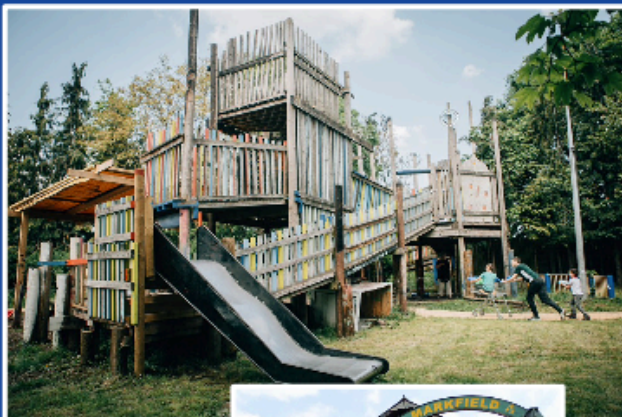
- To enable disabled people to be themselves, take risks and live life to the full
- To focus on the needs of the whole family and break down isolation
- To promote respect of disabled people and support their full participation in society

The core values that underpin our work are:

- 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

This report shows the highlights of our work during the year April 2023 to March 2024.

We are very grateful to all our funders who make this work possible – see back page for details of our funders.



Our centre – a Grade II listed former Victorian pump house – is within the award winning Markfield Park. Walking access is either through the park or via Markfield Road, or along the River Lea towpath. If driving approach via Markfield Road. Parking is available next to the centre.

You can hire Markfield's amazing building and playground for your party or event. We have a huge double height hall, a large split level soft play room, outdoor adventure playground, kitchen facilities, and much more.

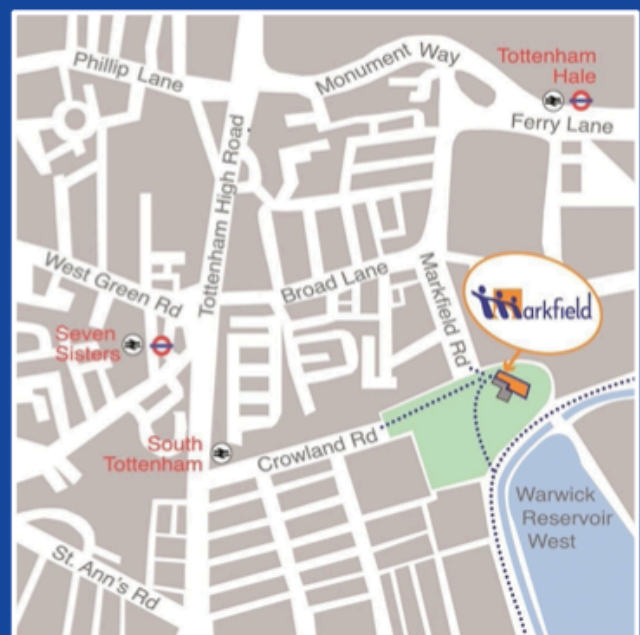


Photo above by Magpie Eye Photography

Contact details

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Statement of financial activities (summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ending 31st March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Income					
Grants, donations and legacies	19,485	-	12,500	31,985	28,442
Income from charitable activities	296,919	-	197,760	494,679	584,641
Income from other trading activities	23,238	-	-	23,238	22,570
Investment income	6,924	-	-	6,924	2,090
Total Income	346,566	-	210,260	556,826	637,743
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds	16,294	-	-	16,294	11,831
Expenditure on charitable activities	439,927	-	206,929	646,856	603,495
Total Expenditure	456,221	-	206,929	663,150	615,326
Net income and net movement in funds for the year	(109,655)	-	3,331	(106,324)	22,417
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds, brought forward	259,174	12,000	58,669	329,843	307,426
Total funds, carried forward	149,519	12,000	62,000	223,519	329,843

Members of the Executive Committee

Markfield is governed by an Executive Committee which is made up of volunteers, service users, parents and carers, who are elected by members at the Annual General Meeting. The following people served as members of the Executive Committee during the year 2023- 24: Claire Bendall, Melian Mansfield (co-chairs), Clare Croft-White, Warren Hoskins (Treasurer), Michelle Simmons- Safo, Natalie Sutherland, Philip Naylor, Malgoratza Dymerska.

Haringey Council representatives without voting rights: Councillor Sean O'Donovan, Councillor Barbara Blake.

Company Secretary: Keith Fair.

Our funders during 2023-24 were:

Haringey Council, BBC Children In Need, Bloomfield Trust, Comic Relief, Henry Smith Charity, Jack Petchey Foundation, The Mayor's Fund for London, the Charity of Sir Richard Whittington, St James's Place Foundation, Tottenham Grammar School Foundation,

Home Cooked, London Community Foundation, Groundwork, Bridge Renewal Trust, City Bridge, and other individual donors.

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statement is consistent with the full financial statements and the Executive Committee's Annual Report of the Markfield Project for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Ramon Lee and Partners, September 2024



Charity number: 289904

Company Number: 1693876

Auditors

Ramon Lee and Partners,
93 Tabernacle Street,
LONDON EC2A 4BA

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank
PO Box 250, Delf House
Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

CCLA Management Ltd
80 Cheapside London
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