



Liverpool Six Community Association

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L6centre



L6 Community Centre

Gerard Woodhouse

Chief Executive

Liverpool Six Community Association was established in 2005 to support to needs of all local residents in the most disadvantaged parts of Liverpool. As a vital local community hub, we offer an open door to our community, providing a wide range of different services, activities and support in an area of high need.

Over the years, these have evolved as local needs have emerged and our success in supporting local people is in large part to their own involvement in what we do. In this way, we help thousands of local people who are vulnerable and often living in poverty or situations of deprivation. A core part of our work is in tackling the root causes of poverty and we achieve this through an extensive donations service to residents from across the area who are most in need. This includes a number of different donation services, these being: a foodbank, clothing and basic items, new school uniforms, a recently developed 'Baby Bank' specifically for new mums to access cots, prams and baby clothes for free as well as free meals for children in poverty as part of youth club sessions run throughout the week. Services are provided by community workers and volunteers who combine practical support with vital financial/money management strategies, signposting and advocacy to partner organisations and vocational/employment advice and training. All of which breaks the cycle of poverty experienced by local families in desperate need of help. We also provide a wide range of recreational and social activities that engage and involve local people, helping to build stronger communities and reduce isolation. These run from both our centre in Everton and in partnership with other VCS organisations around the city and include lunch clubs, afternoon teas, cabaret nights and garden parties. We also engage local people in activities that promote active healthier lifestyles recognising that in areas of high deprivation the impact upon health and wellbeing can be substantial.

We are based in Everton, which is identified as the fourth most disadvantaged ward in the country as per the indices of Multiple Deprivation but provide support across the region to families and individuals in need.

What has made the L6 Community Association so successful in meeting need is the joined up approach to tackling local issues. We recognise that by working in partnership and by involving service users in what we do, we can increase the impact we have upon individuals and families in need. Last year, there were 89, 743 instances of donations made to over 5,000 local people through our food bank, new clothes, Christmas toy appeal, hampers, and school uniforms providing a vital sense of community and hope for local people in one of the most disadvantaged areas in the country. Our unique approach and impact has been recognised by many national awarding bodies, most recently by the 2019 National Diversity Awards who award L6 the best Community Organisation Award under its multi-strand category, and locally by the Liverpool Echo at the 2019 Echo awards where we won the Best Community Group award. We were also runner up for the 2nd year running in the Groundworks Awards.



26 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

When planning the 26 days of Christmas project we knew that our support was needed even more so than 2018 and we were at crisis point. This was apparent through the numbers accessing our food, uniform and baby banks and we began planning in March 2018. 1000's of letters were written to organisations across Merseyside asking for help, we began to raise funds through bucket collections, raffles and bingo's and held meetings with our quite extensive network of partnerships to ensure funding was in place for our busiest time of the year. Christmas is a Magical time and we were determined to ensure that we would tackle poverty and deprivation head on to give children memories to last a lifetime.

LIGHT SWITCH ON

Our Christmas Light switch on began our project and 400+ attended and met Father Christmas and his Elves and to our amazement it actually snowed!!! It was a fabulous party atmosphere and proceedings were opened by Dan Carden M.P and the children from Whitefield School sang some beautiful songs to get the party started and Roger Phillips from Radio Merseyside was amazed when we gave him a sneak preview of Santa's Workshop.



EVENTS FOR OLDER PEOPLE TO REDUCE LONELINESS AND ISOLATION

We held **35** events across Liverpool for our Older People. These events ranged from Afternoon Tea Parties, Cabarets with Live Entertainment, day trips to Bury Market and Christmas Bingo's. We also supported the Older Peoples Christmas Parties in conjunction with Ward Councillor's from North and South Liverpool. These were held at The Florrie and Kensington Fields. Massive Thank-You to all involved with these events especially all Councillors who sponsored the events , Anne London, Mark Harrison and the staff and children at Whitefield School who sang at these events.

2325 were reached through the above events and they were a roaring success. Many outcomes were achieved and **67** new residents are now signed up to attend the L6 Centre Lunch Clubs, I.T Classes, Cabarets, Day trips, weekend Holidays and Afternoon tea events at sheltered schemes .



SANTAS GROTTTO

Father Christmas, Mother Christmas and the Elves had a really busy December taking Santa's Grotto across the City. The grotto made **22** visits to the children of Liverpool and **4300** children met Santa and his Elves and all received a present to ensure a memorable visit.



CHILDRENS TRIPS/PARTIES/PANTOMIMES.

The children who attend L6 Centre had an absolutely amazing December. They attended 6 Pantomimes, a party provided by Steve Morgan Foundation at Carden Hall, a party at the L6 Centre, the Grateful Grotto, they also visited Croxteth Gems to interact with the children from their Community, a Winter-Wonderland and trips to the Yellow Submarine a Premier League Football Match were they met Speedo Mick!! and also Gulliver's World. **2300** children took part in these events and made memories to last a lifetime. Natasha Jonas also visited the L6 centre and inspired our children, she was a breath of fresh air and she is coming back to put on some exercise classes for them in Late Spring. Huge thanks to Steve Morgan foundation and The Variety Club for supporting us with some of the events provided.





We pride ourselves on the fact that whilst we are supporting the poorest parts of Liverpool, we are recruiting and delivering our services by staff who themselves have suffered from particular hardships which have included: individuals who were former addicts, ex-offenders, victims of domestic violence, victims of Loan-sharks, formerly reliant upon benefits or other forms of exclusion. The majority of people who are involved therefore in what we do are people who recognise and understand the issues that others within our community and so are better placed at recognising issues and resolving them. For example, we know that while 60-70% of people who make contact with our organisation are on Universal Credit, many of these enquiries that we receive are from local people who are suffering as a result of tax breaks, in work poverty or are victims of domestic violence.

By involving local people we continue to review and assess our provisions to ensure that they are meeting local priorities. Increasingly, we are finding that what we once focussed upon by way of community engagement including activities such as day trips is increasingly being replaced by more pressing local needs, particularly those that address poverty directly which is now at the core of our work. For example our Baby-Bank donation service came about because we were being told of the tales of hardship that local mothers to be were facing as a result of the roll out of Universal Credit. There are many cases that we encounter of families being forced to leave their new born child in hospital until Social Workers or the NHS could find them basic provisions, which can take a substantial amount of time. We take what we learn through consultations with local residents and combine that with our own knowledge and expertise to develop practical solutions. We involve service users and our own local staff through planning and focus group sessions which on average involves 30 people to shape ideas in to fully formed services and continue this process throughout delivery tracking outcomes and any changes necessary to ensure a high quality delivery. We held consultation meetings for several weeks within October to ensure the best possible implementation plan to deliver our Christmas Referral scheme was in place, a separate e-mail was used and only Shirley had access to it to ensure confidentiality. A new referral form was composed which included Clothes, Toys, Pyjamas, Luxury Hampers, Christmas Day meals and even Christmas Trees and Decorations, we tried to think of everything needed to ensure a magical Christmas for all.

Staff & Volunteers worked tirelessly on the process of changing the main hall into Santa's workshop within a few days late November and we were ready to improve people's lives.

Referrals began to arrive from 30th November and the reasons families needed our support shocked and we were absolutely appalled with stories of deprivation, hardship and poverty. It became apparent that the situation was sinister and very hard to comprehend, it was frightening and even worse than we had forecast. We had fundraised all year and spent £83,600.00 on goods for our project, to ensure we had capacity to meet demand. From the referrals received within the 1st few days we knew we needed more. We appealed to the public for support through social media, radio and newspapers. The response from the general public was overwhelming and Community Spirit shone brightly giving hope to a dire situation. Celebrities also came on board and I would like to give heartfelt thanks to Gemma Collins and Abbey Clancy for their magnificent generosity, we will never forget your support. Debbie and all at Mode Training and the lady with so many amazing hampers deserve a special mention as they went above and beyond to support us. **THANK-YOU ALL SO MUCH** without you we could not achieve the numbers supported and we are extremely grateful.





OPENING OF SANTAS WORKSHOP

Ian Byrne M.P and Jill Wright Head-teacher from Whitefield School opened Santa's Workshop at the beginning of December for the distribution of Toys, Clothes, P.J's, Gift Sets, Christmas Trees and Decorations, Food and Luxury Hampers to begin. The children of Whitefield school joined us to sing Christmas Carols and there was a mix of excitement and nervousness that our vision would deliver. Mayor Anderson also visited on the day of opening to see first-hand what a Community can pull together to improve the lives of many.





DISTRIBUTION OF TOYS/FOOD/CLOTHING/HAMPERS/CHRISTMAS MEALS

Collating of the items required through referral forms began and Staff and 400 volunteers worked throughout December. The workshop was refilled 14 times over the course of 3 weeks. Goods to the value of £240,000.00 were distributed including Play Stations, LOL houses, bikes, Annabelle Dolls, Perfumes and Aftershave for older children to name but a few. We would like to sincerely thank In Kind Direct as without goods supplied from their company we would not be able to purchase some of these goods as we could not afford to pay full price for these goods. Staff from Organisations, Social Services, Schools, Housing Associations, Local Shops, Local Councillors and even the Mayor himself delivered goods on our behalf to ensure all who needed supported were reached.



TOTAL SUPPORTED 2019

A total of **124,260** instances of Food, Clothes, Baby Goods, Toys, Luxury Hampers, Xmas Meals, Grottos, Bedding, Furniture, White Goods, Bus Fares, Uniforms, Day Trips, Holidays, Cabarets, Laundry Services, Afternoon Tea Events, Lunch Clubs and Weekend Breaks.

The Age Range of Residents supported are as follows:-

Over 18's	42526
16-18	9641
12-16	11947
8-11	15256
6-7	12560
4-5	9453
1-3	11824
0-1	11053
	Total = 124,260

The Constituencies involved in 2019 are:-

Walton

Wavertree

West Derby

Garston

Riverside

Outside of Liverpool

Schools supported included:-

Whitefield Gladys Street Arnot St Mary Florence Melly St Michaels The Beacon
St Frances De Sales Infants & Juniors Our Lady of Good Help Trinity School St Oswalds
St Clare's Alsop North Liverpool Academy St Swithin's Croxteth C.P. New Park
St Matthews Roscoe Our Lady Immaculate All Saints Sacred Heart St Silas
Fazakerley Primary St Margaret's St Cecelia's Holy Name Pinehurst Banks Road Primary
Ranworth Primary Monksdown St Teresa's Our Lady & St Philomenas Leamington
Ellergreen Nursery Wellesbourne Millstead Matthew Arnold

2500.... 3 course Christmas Meals were delivered to residents living in the following wards:-

Everton	598
County	462
Anfield	194
Wavertree	174
Fazakerley	152
Riverside	139
Croxteth	102
Kensington	84
Picton	79
Clubmoor	73
Garston	73
Norris Green	68
Kirkdale	62
Old Swan	46
West Derby	40
Central	32
Knowsley	32
Warbreck	24
Sefton	26
NFA	40

I would like to express my Heartfelt Thanks & Gratitude to All staff at the Liverpool Six Centre without whom none of the above would be possible. I would also like to thank our Trustees, all volunteers and also of course the general public for your time, support and donations you have all been remarkable and show true Community Spirit at a time when the future seems dismal and to all who donated to our Just Giving and Go Fund Me pages on social media and made bank transfers too numerous to mention.

I would like to pay Special Thanks to some individuals and organisations as their generosity was overwhelming, To Mayor Joe Anderson and local councillors who provide funding to ensure the needs of their constituents are met I Thank You All, Proven Family Trust ,Cash 4 Kids, Deidre Haidar and Family, Unite the Union (various branches), Unison (various branches), and GMB (various branches) also S10 supplies, Park Hampers, North Liverpool Academy, Brabner's, Jaguar Land Rover, Asda Breck Road North Liverpool Academy and Charles Hubbard. We also have very close relationships with Housing Associations who we work closely with throughout the year to ensure their residents are supported, Torus, Plus Dane, Cobalt, Riverside, Onward, Regenda & HMS for supplying us with a team who did an amazing job under extreme pressure. The numbers supported in 2019 would not have been reached without your support and belief in L6 Centre and I am extremely proud to work with you all.

Wishing all associated with the Liverpool Six Community Association Health, Love, Happiness and Prosperity in 2020. You are all amazing and words cannot express what your generosity, loyalty and faith mean to me.



