

LIVING with EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

It is worth just pausing to note that this report, and the Accounts which accompany it, cover the first full year of operations for the charity as 'Living With Equal Opportunities'.

Whilst our emphasis remains firmly on the young people and families we support, there has also been a focus on preparing our charity for the future. Our partners such as LBHF, have encouraged us to adapt our service to include more work on life skills and capacity building, and that change has begun this year.

With the ever-increasing demands of complying with the ever-changing Employment Law, HR, and Health & Safety legislation in mind, the decision to outsource some of these functions to an external contractor was made. That decision has created capacity within our SLT to focus on structural changes within the organisation and training.

In consultation with partners, each young person has been allocated a Key-Worker, whose role is to help produce reports focused on their charge, as well as update their plans, details and profile. A Service Manager role is being developed too.

Colleagues now have access to online training modules, provided by our external contractor, and Team Teach training was successfully delivered during the year. Our search for a new premises, better suited to the needs of our young people, continues.

As we move into another year, it only remains for me to thank everyone connected to Living With Equal Opportunities for their hard work and their commitment to our young people.

Gary Sweetman Chair of Trustees



CEO'S MESSAGE

It's been a busy year for Living with Equal Opportunities (LEO). More young people turned 18 years old during the year and some have transitioned from social care to Northwest London NHS. We signed up with an HR company which has helped us to simplify tasks such as payroll, updating staff information and appraisals. The company ensures the charity is compliant and they inform and support us when there are changes to legislation; Melanie and I have attended many seminars they have hosted to better equip employers to implement these changes. We have been able to offer staff several e-learning courses via the platform, as well as an 'Employee Assistance Programme' which all staff can access.

We represent the charity and our services users on a few local authority groups, including the 'Independent Living Forum', 'Autism Partnership Board' 'Cost-Of-Living Alliance'. We were asked by Adult Social Care to complete a 'Toolkit' spreadsheet for commissioners, which would help them set a benchmark for all day care opportunities and short break providers. We found the document helpful in ensuring the service and charity were operating to a high standard. The document covered all aspects of operation such as premises, safeguarding, training, storage of records and health and safety. We appreciate the opportunity to help shape social for the better and anticipate their comments.

We introduced a key-worker system this year and continue to support the service user's families, as this year has been particularly trying for some. We have attended school/colleges reviews, transition meetings, supported families with housing issues, written letters on their behalf, and offered support with completing forms and paperwork. My work mobile is always on if families need to talk, whatever the time. Next year is already shaping up to be a busy one and we look forward to new and exciting opportunities.

Lesley Schwartz CEO



ABOUT US

WHO WE ARE

Living with Equal Opportunities is a voluntary organisation that provides opportunities and experiences for children and young people with complex needs, in and around West London boroughs.

We provide specialist play schemes on weekends and school holidays, as well as after school club and daytime support for those no longer in full-time education.

We currently work with families residing in Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington and Chelsea, Ealing and Westminster.

We are a charity, as well as a company limited by guarantee.



ABOUT US

OUR MISSION

We at LEO believe that every young person has the right to express themselves freely, in an inclusive and nonjudgemental setting, and that life skills and independence is an essential part of the welfare and development of young people, particularly during their journey into adulthood. We work to promote, support, improve and deliver provisions that offer a range of experiences and opportunities in Hammersmith & Fulham and surrounding boroughs, in response to local need. We do this in a range of ways, including:

- delivering specialist provision for children and young people with additional and complex needs
 - delivering activities and experiences that enhance independence and development of life skills
 - delivering individualised, bespoke services and mentoring services for young people
 - providing support for families and promoting good models of working practice
 - representing the voluntary sector on various partnerships and networks

We are usually allocated and work with young people with very complex needs, and support those that are unable to access or have been excluded from other provisions. For some families we are their last resort.

We endeavour to work alongside young people, their families and other professionals to extend opportunities for all children and young people with additional and complex needs.

SUPPORT TEAM

SENIOR SUPPORT TEAM

Katie O'Brien, Aaron Evans, Kerry Clifford, Marcus Begg, Chloe Kelly, Amina Adan, Suad Ibrahim, Mohamed Ali, Daniça Sode, Jacklyn Haynes, Georgina Adjei, Shilan Ahmed, Tia Best-Copeland, Manal Ali, Mya Onwugbonu, Nasra Ali

SUPPORT WORKERS

Faduma Sheikhey, Yannick Bernard, Mirella Wysocka, Luul Sabriye, Rochelle Sewell, Daniel Ekundayo, Sahra Sheikhey, Donna Doosaah, Aisha Ali, Mohamed Sheikhey, Asha Mohamed, John Ozokolie, Lian Tingling, Rana Bader, Kardo Umar, Sihaam Yusuf, Nathalee Blair, Kojo Agyemang, Ozcan Yilmaz, Rutvi Patel, Hayedeh Naderi, Emmanuel Ramapuram, Nadiya Ettoubi, Fitzroy Athill, Hafsa Adaed, Nordia Thaxter, Joyce Cobbina, Bouchra Thummannah, Katarzyna Dragun, Malik Onwugbonu, Emmanuel Anyabuine, Florence Villenave, Yusuf Haji, Abdul-Karim 'AK' El-Frougui, Evan Irish

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

CHAIR & TREASURER Gary Sweetman

TRUSTEE & PARENT REP

Dawn Rawlins

TRUSTEE Jessica Quinn **TRUSTEE** Jade Rawlins **TRUSTEE** Kerry Clifford

SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Lesley Schwartz **OPERATIONS MANAGER & COMPANY SECRETARY** Melanie Schwartz

OFFICE SUPPORT TEAM

ADMINISTRATOR (UNTIL MAR 2024) Daniça Sode **WEBSITE MANAGER & IT TECHNICIAN**

Steven Schwartz

ADMINISTRATOR (FROM JAN 2024) Chloe Kelly

PROJECT REPORTS

- ANTHONY LILLIS PROJECT: WEEKENDS & SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
- AFTER SCHOOL CLUB
- DAYTIME SUPPORT TERMTIME







ANTHONY LILLIS PROJECT

Saturdays have been going very well this year. We have added more structure to the day by introducing main activities in the morning and afternoon. These activities encourage independence, as well as the acquisition of new skills and undertaking of new experiences, which in turn equip our young people to reach their goals. These activities also serve to focus our young people and provide fun and entertainment for them. For example, in March, they made pizzas in the morning and Mother's Day cards in the afternoon, with other activities available in between. The young people are encouraged by support staff to take part as many activities as possible, and staff will provide an alternative if it's something the young person they are working with does not wish to take part in.

The staff have undergone a lot of training through the BrightSafe e-training programme to fill in any gaps in their skills. Staff have been allocated as key workers for each young person. Staff have been allocated their young people based on their current relationship with them and have worked a lot with them, so are in a good position to note any changes to their needs and preferences and add any new skills or behaviour to their play profiles.

The programme of activities is adapted every term in order to provide variety of experiences and to keep their time with us interesting and exciting. We have had new staff and young people join us this year, which has helped to enrich the atmosphere at LEO. Now that the old structures have been removed, we hope to do more outside activities and trips out into the local area and across London.

Aaron Evans Senior Worker



ANTHONY LILLIS PROJECT

Holidays have been a blast this year.; it's been great that the bubbles started to mix and that the young people we only see in the holidays are growing and progressing well. We have had a range of activities, such as cooking, baking, sports and art to name a few.

The team have been working on encouraging the young people to be independent and develop skill for life, for example they have been heating up their own lunches, making their own snacks in the morning, and doing their own shopping for cooking and baking activities. We have been working on travel training with the young people too, taking them out locally, or getting on a bus or train to go somewhere further afield. We joined The Big Splash at Jack Tizard School during the summer, who hosted a range of activities and experiences, as well as allowing us access to their hydropool.

Thank you to team, as we wouldn't be able to do it without you guys.

Katie O'Brien Senior Worker

The year has been one of transition in many respects with a variety of our service users maturing in character and personality, in conjunction with a few new faces. This has resulted in a greater focus on activities which enable the young people to be more proactive in the process or processes undertaken when seeking support. This may be observed when tracking the progress of an individual that has been with us for some time, or more recently measures taken to help one of our new members achieve attainable goals to assist him in receiving rewards such as engaging in a favoured activity or a treat.

In summary the Sunday provision is trying to assist with the transitional challenges facing many of the young people, carefully helping to expand the experience offered by the service.

Marcus Beeg Senior Worker



After school club has had great year. The young people are really enjoying their time here and seem happy. Some arrive from school via taxi and some via minibus, and each has their own routine, schedule and tasks. Schedules are devised with the young people's need and preferences at the heart, and where possible, the young people have an input into compiling their own schedule and programme of activities. We try to encourage the young people to do something new and write it into their schedule so they can prepare for it.

The group as a whole is small in number; however, we have noticed improvements in the young people's communication with staff regarding their wants and needs, and we attribute this to the very relaxed environment.

We have continued to promote the encouragement of independence and develop skills for life with the young people. As a result, they have been making their own cups of tea and snacks. The after-school club is service-user led and it's up to the young people what they choose to do, as its their down time after being at school or college all day. We encourage participation in activities, but we don't put too much pressure on the young people if they choose to do something different or if they just want to relax after a busy day.

We have seen some changes to the regular team due to some staff's university timetables rotating, however, the YP have coped well with the changes and has allowed to opportunity for them to get to know new faces and develop new relationships. Thanks to the staff for all their hard work and contribution into making the after-school club run smoothly.

Katie O'Brien Senior Worker



The After School Club runs from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM, Monday to Friday during term time, providing young people with a much-needed opportunity to relax and unwind after the school day before heading home. The club offers a variety of activities, such as arts and crafts to encourage creativity, or an opportunity to relax and watch something they find particularly soothing - TFL train or bus videos is a favourite!

Additionally, some young people have snacks during this time, helping them to refuel after the school day. This routine helps the young people to de-stress and transition from the school environment to a more relaxed, comfortable setting, which in turn helps them settle at home for the night ahead.

Yusuf Haji Support Worker

Z has had an interesting year at after school club, engaging in a variety of activities that have kept him entertained and active. He enjoys playing with his favourite toys, listening to music, and dancing, which allows him to express himself creatively. Watching TV shows and playing outside on the bike and swings have also been highlights of his time here, providing him with relaxation, fun and physical exercise.

While escorting him in a taxi, Z keeps his seatbelt on, and we take the opportunity to talk about how his school day was and what he plans to do when he gets home, fostering his communication skills and preparing him for the transition between each setting.

Overall, Z's year has been filled with growth and enjoyment, and we look forward to supporting him further in developing his communication skills and having fun at the after-school club.

Chloe Kelly Support Worker



When J arrives at after-school club, he makes sure he claims his favourite spot. He will sometimes venture into the garden; however these two areas are where he feels most comfortable, and being in these spaces helps J to regulate his anxiety. He doesn't like people in his personal space however is becoming more tolerant of others being around him and is becoming less anxious in their presence.

On arrival he initiates and assists in personal care tasks, following guidance and instructions well. Although we try to engage J in activities, his anxiety prevents him from trying new things and most of the time he prefers his own space. He responds well to familiar faces and slowly warming to new people. He's started to take part in tidying up tasks when requested, however there are still times when he doesn't want to and will pretend that he can't hear us. He has settled well, is building confidence and we hope to encourage and engage J in activities in the coming year.

Kardo Umar Support Worker

D has thoroughly relished his time at after school club this year. He seamlessly integrated with new staff he doesn't really work with displaying remarkable adaptability. He particularly enjoyed engaging in various activities such choosing his favourite pictures, card-making, laminating, movie selection, cooking, dancing, yoga, and fostering positive relationships with his peers. His participation and enthusiasm were evident as he embraced new experiences and activities, consistently demonstrating strong collaboration with his peers.

Mohamed Ali Support Worker



After School Club is a relaxed environment where the young people choose their own activities, with the intention of helping them unwind and relax before going home. All young people have 1:1 support worker who meets their personal needs. Activities include outdoor play, time in the sensory room and arts & crafts. This year, E has participated in a variety of activities. His time has been both productive and encouraging, as he has shown significant growth in several key areas, particularly in communication and his interest in new activities. E regularly engages in creative tasks such as painting and cutting, which allows him to express himself and develop his fine motor skills. His enthusiasm for these tasks remains high, and he often takes pride in the work he produces.

One of the most significant areas of progress this year has been E's communication. He has shown improvement in voicing his concerns and expressing himself more clearly. This development has had a positive impact on his interactions with staff and peers, enabling him to better share his thoughts and feelings.

In addition to his usual creative tasks, E has begun exploring more structured activities, particularly puzzles. This represents a new area of interest for him, and we are pleased to see his curiosity and problem-solving skills grow as he takes on these challenges.

We are optimistic about the year to come for E. His progress in communication and his expanding interest in new activities show great promise. We hope he continues to explore new challenges and enjoy a fulfilling and productive time at after school club.. E has made significant strides over the past year, and we are incredibly proud of his achievements. We look forward to supporting his continued growth and development in the coming year and wish him a wonderful year ahead.

Manal Ali Support Worker



E has had a wonderful year, engaging in a variety of activities that have significantly contributed to an improvement in life skills and has boosted his confidence. Throughout the year, he has enjoyed word searches and puzzles which has enhanced his vocabulary and problem-solving skills. E has enjoyed physical activities such as going out for walks, swimming, and trampolining, which have improved his overall fitness and coordination. His involvement in cooking has not only taught him essential culinary skills, but also fostered independence as he chooses what to make and learns to shop for his ingredients. Bowling has provided him with a fun way to develop social skills and teamwork. We are excited for the year ahead and look forward to seeing him continue to thrive and enjoy all the activities that we have to offer.

Chloe Kelly Support Worker

A has had a highly positive and engaging year, thoroughly enjoying the activities available to him and interacting with his peers. He has consistently participated in swimming and bowling, showing notable improvements in both. His bowling skills have progressed to the point where he has won several games, and he has managed to outscore some staff. A has developed strong communication skills, frequently engaging with staff and expressing enthusiasm when meeting those he is familiar with. He also enjoys his regular visits to Westfield, where he explores different stores. Additionally, he has taken part in several cooking sessions, contributing actively to the activity. A has adapted well to changes in staffing throughout the year and has formed positive relationships with new team members. Overall, he has had an excellent year at LEO, and we look forward to seeing him continue to thrive in the year ahead.

Mohamed Ali Support Worker



This year, C has continued to attend on Mondays during. C enjoys his own space and prefers to entertain himself, typically spending time using his iPad and playing with his ropes, which provide him with comfort. These activities allow him to engage comfortably in his environment, and he seems content in his independent play. Over the past year, we've seen notable improvement in C's communication. He has become more confident in expressing himself and is now able to voice his concerns when needed. This has been a positive development, allowing for smoother interactions with staff and giving him more autonomy in communicating his needs. He can be persuaded to take part in activities, which is a big difference from previous years. C is independent in managing personal care tasks; however, he still needs prompting when it's time for lunch and to wash hands. With reassurance and gentle reminders, he responds well to requests.

As we look forward to the year ahead, we are hopeful for continued progress for C. His growing confidence in communication is encouraging, and we aim to support his ongoing development while respecting his need for personal space and independence. We are proud of C's progress this year and look forward to what the coming year holds for him. We wish him a wonderful year ahead!

Manal Ali Support Worker

B has had a fairly consistent year since receiving upgrades to his wheelchair. Physio sessions display improvements with regards to strength in both legs which can be observed in his ability to push himself up onto his feet whilst being supported by staff member (helping to stabilize as he pushes up with legs). B really enjoys his sessions with us as his mother points out the marked difference in behaviours and mood when he is unable to attend.

Marcus Begg Senior Worker

The service provides a safe and supportive space for young people with special educational needs, and B has shown significant improvements in several areas, particularly in physical mobility, speech, and communication. These gains are a testament to the collaborative efforts of staff, regular physic sessions, and the structured environment provided.

A key area of progress for B has been improvements in hand mobility, particularly when eating. B has shown better control when gripping utensils, and while still needing assistance, there is a marked improvement in his ability to eat more independently. These improvements have been encouraged through small-scale physio exercises as part of his daily routines. Although there is still work to be done, the steady progress is a positive indicator of the potential for further development in his fine motor skills.

Another area of growth for B has been in speech and communication. Throughout the year, B has become more vocal, especially when requesting specific items like toys or drinks. For example, B now regularly uses simple words such as "toy" and "juice" to communicate his wants and needs. These improvements have been supported through dedicated communication exercises and the consistency of a structured routine. The increased verbal engagement has also been observed in interactions with peers, promoting a more inclusive social experience within the club.

B has also made strides in physical mobility, particularly in ankle and hip mobility. Regular physic sessions integrated into his programme of activities have contributed to these improvements. For instance, B has shown increased comfort and flexibility during leg extension exercises. With consistent practice, B has become more receptive to guided movement, showing a willingness to participate in physic activities after personal care tasks. This progress has helped enhance overall mobility and confidence in moving around the space.

This work with B has led to noticeable progress in several key developmental areas; hand mobility, communication, and physical movement have all shown improvement, benefiting both B's independence and interaction with his environment. While there is still a long way to go, the strides made this year offer a strong foundation for continued growth and development in the coming months. We will continue to support B with tailored activities and routines to build on the progress seen thus far.

Yusuf Haji Support Worker



The Daytime provision supports and provides opportunities for young adults to gain important and necessary skills that help them prepare for adulthood. Most attendees are no longer in full time education and are encouraged to take part in different kinds of engaging and educational activities to maintain their learning. This often involves activities to help them adjust to life outside their school and/or home environment.

E is a very active member of the daytime service, who has a great programme of activities in place for the three days he attends. He is often involved in the planning and decision-making process regarding his programme of activities, and we often try to get him doing something new and out of his comfort zone, as this helps to boost his confidence and self-esteem. One of the most beneficial aspects of E's programme is going swimming every other week, which he particularly enjoys and has advanced his skills enormously. E also enjoys cooking every Friday, which acts as an opportunity to build on those essential life skills he has acquired. E is a very independent young man and enjoys selecting music to soundtrack his time with us – he is particularly fond of listening to Backstreet Boys while completing crosswords.

Nasra Ali Support Worker

L is always excited to see us and enjoys his time at the centre. He interacts with staff and his peers and is generally very easy going. He likes engaging with people and feeling included. He likes having a task to complete and he's quite active, rarely sitting down when he's here. He likes spending time outside and enjoys watching people and transport as they pass by. He listens well to instructions and has spent more time in the community this year, going for walks bus trips and shopping for activities. L enjoys being sociable and we look forward to expanding his social skills in the coming year.

Kardo Umar Support Worker

MESSAGES FROM OUR FAMILIES

My son has been using the service since January 2015. He was 14 years old. He had been to other services in the past, but they didn't seem to understand his disability. The staff team know that if he turns up in a mood, they will give him space and watch him from a short distance. They also know and understand, that his pictures help him calm down and less his anxiety. My son, even though in his 20's, has the mentally of a 5 or 6-year-old, and he is happy going to Living with Equal Opportunities - he can't wait to go!

Dawn

" Thank you and thank you to whoever else, we should thank for this. This support has really helped us."

Maire

"Thank you so much for your continued support – God bless you."

Charlotte

"Thank you for all your support, we really appreciate it."

Sabba

"Thank you so much, my gas and electricity top up is costing me £20 per day and this helps."

Deborah

"That's so kind of you. Thank you for the help with the energy bills. Really do appreciate it and it helps a lot."

Archna

The service is a place where my son can go regularly. He enjoys coming to the service, where he meets others and makes new friends.

Since using the service my son has gained confidence, learning to share, learning to wait, be patient and he is happy. This service wouldn't work without a staff team, that are professionally trained, encourage my son to take part in activities and help him learn life skills. I receive regular updates of his achievements.

Ana

We continue to provide one-off bespoke services for families in need, on school or college inset days and for those who have different term dates We continue to develop our service offer and programme of activities to enhance the learning and development of our young people

LEO's outreach and bespoke services aim to support young people, for whom play scheme is not appropriate, either at home or in their local community. Bespoke services include escorting the young person to and from home, support in the community, support for specific activities, organising appropriate trips, promoting independence and providing basic behavioural assistance where appropriate We spent this year networking with LBHF and their properties department, as we continue to seek a new venue so that we can expand our services

The White City Central development has been halted for the foreseeable due to a number of issues. We await further updates in the coming year however we continue to identify potential buildings for us to move into for the duration of the development should the plans resume This year we operated 167 sessions of playscheme on weekends and in school holidays. We also provided 8 days of bespoke service for our families who required additional support on days that playscheme weren't open, including bank holidays 188 sessions of daytime and after school support. These numbers remain a vast increase to our pre-pandemic allocation of 95 days of service per year.

Our staff continue to escort our clients that find transport difficult or have underlying health needs. Those eligible, continue to receive transport from LBHF post-pandemic

We launched our new website this year and continue to develop our social media presence

Our service continues to focus on clients that are over 18 or going through transition to Adult Services. We continue to work alongside Adult Services in all boroughs where our young people reside. Melanie & Danica hosted their first Team Teach course together, giving staff the skills they need to manage and de-escalate challenging behaviour effectively.

Melanie undertook her Team Teach Intermediate Tutor reaccreditation in September.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The effects of the pandemic still remain for many, and it has been a challenging year with increases to inflation and national insurance, as well as a cost-of-living crisis.

We continued to be successful in securing funding to support our families through these tough times. In particular we received a grant from H&F Giving, which allowed us to make a contribution to families' household bills and send home supermarket gift cards once a month for 6 months during the colder seasons.

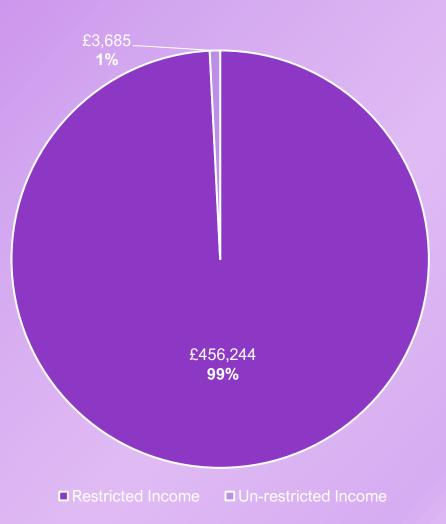
This year we saw a welcomed increase in income as we continue to expand our daytime and after school projects. We end another year in a very strong financial position, with 3 months reserves and a net profit of some £94K; a £15K increase on last year. The organisation is thriving and sustainable, and we are hopeful that our income will continue to grow.

We continue to pay off our Government Bounce Back Loan, which has given us the flexibility to adapt to necessary changes and invest in our team and organisation for the future.

Going into the year 2024/25, there is continuing uncertainty about the future regarding our use of the adventure playground site, however we continue our plight to find a permanent home for our services.

Gary Sweetman Treasurer

INCOME FOR 2023/24



PARTNERSHIPS

We continue to maintain our relationships with LBHF Disabled Children's Team and Preparation for Adulthood Team. As more of our young people are transitioning into adulthood, we continue to build relationships with and work alongside Adult Services in Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea, Ealing, Westminster. We continue to work with the NHS as many of our clients care packages have been transferred over to and funded by Health.

We continue to support young people and their families in any way possible and remain an advocate for them on various boards, forums and networks, including at client-specific network meetings. We have maintained our relationship and communication with HATS Group and Westway Community Transport, as they transport our young people to and from the service.

We continue to work closely with Randolph Beresford Early Years Centre as they manage the White City Adventure Playground site and maintain good communication with regard to the building and maintenance. We continue to share the space with the Harrow Club, who provide services 3 evenings a week for the community's youth. The White City Central development still hasn't progressed any further and we are working closer than ever with LBHF to secure a new premises for our service, which will safeguard and sustain our services into the future.

We continue to use Bright HR, which has been an invaluable tool in helping us to simplify and better manage our HR and payroll processes, as well as our responsibility towards health and safety.

We strive to maintain our current relationships and partnerships with other providers and expand on these in the coming year.

Melanie Schwartz Operations Manager



FUNDRAISING & HIGHLIGHTS

Our first full year as LEO has been positive. This year we received a grant from H&F Giving for £12,573, which allowed us to support our families with the cost-of-living crisis, with a contribution towards both utility bills and food vouchers for 6 months in Autumn and Winter.

We also worked with the Big Splash Foundation, using the hydrotherapy pool at Jack Tizard School during the summer holidays, as well as attending various workshops that they hosted.

Blueprint Partners, a local business, supported us at Christmas for a second year, holding their 'Secret Santa' and using the money to donate gifts for our young people. They sent us the money to buy the gifts, and we delivered them to their office so that their team could wrap them during their Christmas celebrations.

Lesley was invited by the LBHF Civic Honours committee to judge this year's Lifetime Achievement Award. We attended the ceremony as guests, and we bumped into the leader of the council. After reminding him of our continuing plight to find a new premises, he helped to circulate this information around the council, and we are now working closer than ever with LBHF to help secure a permanent home for LEO.

In January, Kerry and I signed ourselves up to do a skydive, something we've both always wanted to do. We decided to use it as an opportunity to raise some money for the charity, and we will both be jumping 13000 feet out of a plane in May 2024.

We look forward to the year ahead and the potential of a new premises.

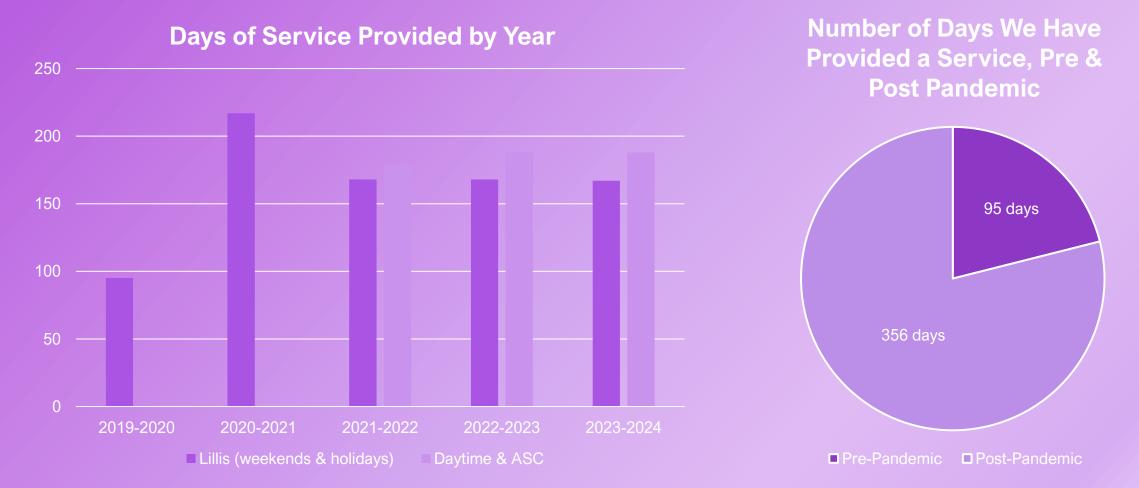
Melanie Schwartz Operations Manager



INCREASE IN PROVISION

The table below reflects the total number of days that we have provided a service each year for the past 5 years.

The services we provide have expanded since the pandemic. As shown in the pie chart, for the past 3 years we have seen a 275% increase in the number of days we have provided a service, compared to pre-pandemic figures.



THANK YOU



We would like to thank our partners and funders, who make our work possible. They include:

We would also like to extend a warm thank you to all the people we have worked with over the last year, to help support our young people and the work we do. A special mention goes to the following:

- Our wonderful staff team and dedicated board of trustees
- All at Randolph Beresford Early Years Centre
- All at Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea, especially Paula Ellery, Children's and Adult Services
- All at London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, especially Becky Powell, Matt Simpson, Jo Baty, Shelly Mulligan, Travel Care, the Disabled Children's Team & Preparation for Adulthood Team
- All at London Borough of Ealing, especially Michael Bonello and the Ealing Service for Children with Additional Needs (ESCAN)
- All at City of Westminster, especially their Learning Disability Partnership
- NHS North-West London Continuing Care Team
- Anthony Heywood & Carolina Pina-Cuenca from the Big Splash
- Maria Wyatt, Stacy Nash & Katie Jones of GSI Accountants for their accounting and bookkeeping services
- HATS and Westway Community Transport for their transport services
- Parsons Green Sports & Social Club for hosting our registered office and postal address
- The Big Yellow Box Company for hosting our storage services
- Blueprint Partners for donating Christmas presents for our young people
- All at H&F Giving for the invaluable support they have provided for our families

We also want to thank all those companies and individuals who have supported us directly, or in kind, attended an event, donated or lent a helping hand.

THE COMING YEAR

Living with Equal Opportunities will continue to deliver our current projects and be proactive in researching other opportunities that may present themselves. We hope to provide more training and work opportunities for our staff and continue to develop the services we provide. We continue to work on our publicity, advertising, improving and updating our website and developing our social media presence. Our head office is still based at the Parsons Green Club; however, the senior management team continues to work, and projects continue to operate from White City Adventure Playground for the foreseeable future. The area of White City we are in is due to be redeveloped in the coming years and we will work alongside the council, architects and co-ordinators to ensure the future of our service.

Things are on track to getting back to normality, however our COVID policies and plans will remain in place in case of a spike in cases. We will continue to operate in bubbles and will continue to support our families as much as we can, expanding on our afterschool and daytime services for young adults. We hope to build on our relationship with Adult Services as more of our clients turn 18 years old and will continue to support our young people through transition.

We have added an additional layer of management to the team; Katie and Marcus will become 'Service Managers' as of April 2024. They will still operate the same as senior workers, however have additional responsibilities in running the service, which in turn will allow the office team to help expand the charity and focus on finding a new premises.

We have recently been contacted by LBHF Properties department with regard to securing a venue that is suitable for our services. We have sent our previous proposal to them and have invited them down to the site in the Easter holidays to see the service and young people, which we hope will give them a better idea of the type of venue we need and the client group we have.

We hope to hear back from LBHF Adult Services Commissioning regarding the outcome and feedback from the 'toolkit' document we completed earlier in the year and look forward to assisting them in shaping Adult Services in the borough for the better.



LIVING with EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Parsons Green Sports & Social Club 31 Broomhouse Lane London SW6 3DP

Tel: 020 7736 3699 Email: admin@livingwithequalopps.org.uk

www.livingwithequalopps.org.uk

Registered Charity Number: 1108948 Registered Company Limited by Guarantee: 5345096

Would you like to become a Trustee?

We are always on the lookout for new trustees.

Do you fit the following criteria:

Are you interested in the rights of children and young adults with special education needs?
Have you knowledge or experience of health and social care, of the voluntary sector or business world?
Are you willing to give up some free time to support our organisation?

If you are interested in becoming a Trustee for Living with Equal Opportunities, please contact us on:

> 020 7736 3699 or admin@livingwithequalopps.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you!