

DEXTERS

ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND



2022

Impact Report



We are on a mission to
End Youth Violence





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Letter from our CEO

BIGKID continues to go from strength to strength. With COVID restrictions largely behind us, we were back to delivering full programmes, that in the last 12 months, engaged over 2,500 young people, more than ever before. An absolute highlight was receiving a visit in May from the future HM King Charles III. It was a huge honour for us to host such an event, where the King spent genuine time meeting and listening to what our young people had to say. He even tried his hand at American football!

Over the year we have truly cemented our presence at Dexters, at the heart of the Brixton community. Beyond our royal visit we hosted several community days, well attended by all ages. Our youth club is thriving, alongside local partnerships with organisations such as the Well Centre, who help us ensure our young people have access to focused mental health and well-being support. Thanks to multi-year grants from UK Youth and Global's Make Some Noise, we are also building our own capacity, knowledge and skills in this area. So important at a time when more and more young people are noticeably struggling, in part due to the lasting impacts of the pandemic, but also the rising cost of living, making it difficult for so many to get basic necessities.

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"I'm, as always, indebted to our amazing staff team who routinely go above and beyond, our passionate board of trustees, wonderful volunteers, ambassadors and committed and ever supportive, Patron. Not forgetting our incredible funders, donors, and partners. I am truly humbled by your generosity and belief in what we do. You are all a hugely important part of the BIGKID family, thank you."

Shaninga Marasha



A word from our Patron

Although it is a very long time ago, I can still recall many aspects of my time as a young adult.

I grew up in the Midlands in a district which would today be called 'deprived' but which we called 'home'. To use that old fashioned expression, we hardly had 'two pennies to rub together' but despite the challenges that brought, my life was a happy one.

One of the reasons for that was my membership of several organisations – a youth club, the Scouts and St John Ambulance Brigade. The dedicated staff at each invested their time and effort in activities and experiences designed to compensate for some of the things their 'customers' lacked and to build our knowledge and self-esteem.

It is those recollections which make me proud to be a Patron of BIGKID.

Proud because I am able to witness first-hand how the charity helps young people from across our capital to grow and fulfil their potential.

Last year, in my capacity as Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, I had the privilege of welcoming HRH The Prince of Wales (now King Charles III) to BIGKID's latest venture – Dexters in Brixton. During a very full visit He was able to meet staff, volunteers and, most importantly, many truly exceptional teenagers with whom He exchanged views on a wide range of topics ranging from the role of cadets to our responsibility to preserve the environment.

The impact on the youngsters was significant, but the coverage which the visit received meant that a far wider audience was able to celebrate London's youth and the work carried out by BIGKID.

"The many uncertainties of the last two years have compounded the normal pressures of moving from childhood to adulthood. This harsh fact amplifies the need for those of us for whom growing up is a distant memory to do what we can to ease their journey.

Please join me in supporting this wonderful charity. "

Sir Ken Olisa

Overview

What a year it has been at Dexters! Over 600 young people attended sessions delivered throughout the year, including youth club, holiday programmes, One O'clock club, Forest School, gardening and adventure play. We also hosted a number of community events with over 1000 people in total coming through our gates, we also hosted our first in-house Christmas party and of course, royalty!



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“I love coming to Dexters because everyone is really friendly and welcoming, I also love playing on the adventure playground with my friends.”

Redevelopment

Redevelopment of Dexters is underway! The first stage completed was resurfacing our basketball court, which has been hugely popular and adds a real pop of colour to the site. Beyond basketball, the court has also been used for a plethora of different activities, including strength and conditioning, badminton, and our brilliant roller-skating sessions in the summer.

We have great plans for developing the site further, ensuring Dexters is firmly established as a thriving, dynamic, inclusive safe space for both young people and the wider community. We are delighted with the progress made so far; we look forward to implementing more of our plans over the coming years.



Youth Club

One parent, whose child was referred to us from the Well Centre, said:
"Thank you for everything you do to help our children and keep them busy and happy, away from worries and isolation".

70% feel less anxious/stressed

77% feel more empowered and that they have a voice

85% have made new friends

79% improved well-being



Youth Club has proven to be as popular as ever, core to what we do at BIGKID. Providing a welcoming safe space for our young people to come after school and in the holidays, our regular sessions run three times a week during term-time, five during the holidays. This year we have held a number of targeted programmes including 18+ Youth Club, homework club, employability sessions, engineering club and Good for Girls, which focused on mental health and well-being for girls aged 9-14. We have succeeded in more than doubling the number of participants this year, showing the much-needed support we are providing for young people in the Brixton area.

Our young people say the best thing about youth club is....

- *"We get the chance to do all kinds of activities, and we're all encouraged to try our best. We're all different but we get along."*
- *"The atmosphere and how everyone makes you feel welcome"*
- *"The bonds you create"*



“ The atmosphere here makes me want to come back and invite my friends ”



“ I love that I can try out different things with different people and make new friends ”



Engineering Club

This year we tried something completely new – Engineering Club! Responding to a number of young people showing a keen interest in STEM subjects, with some aiming to go to university to pursue a career in the field, the club provided a unique opportunity to improve knowledge, skills and experience. An added bonus is that our Programme Manager, Jonathan, has a degree in Aeronautical Technology! The programme has been funded by the Institute of Mechanical Engineers and Institution of Engineering & Technology's Engineering Education Grant Scheme, who were really impressed by the project and the level of inclusivity that we offer.

Each month, our young people were supplied with project boxes, each containing a different item to construct. With support from Jonathan, they worked out the intricacies to assemble the parts of the mechanism, before being able to take their completed projects home. While there were some initial frustrations, they used their patience and logic to build different objects, from a ukulele to an automatic soap dispenser, even a pinball machine.

For the young people aspiring to work in the field, the programme has been hugely beneficial, as it has demonstrated their interest and investment in their own career development. Meanwhile, it has exposed others to their unexplored potential in the discipline. The programme engaged 41 young people, 40% of which said they would now consider a career in engineering!



Christmas

Party



We ended the year with an amazing Christmas Party held at Dexters to celebrate the achievements of our young people throughout 2022. Over 60 people came together for an evening full of music, food, and games, including a tense round of musical chairs!

We even had a special guest appearance from musicians Amaria BB and Deno, who were kind enough to present our awards and chat to our young people.

Congratulations to all our award winners!

- Founders – Henos
- Lion – Shamari
- Phoenix – Moses
- Ace – Skyla
- Diamond – Aiko
- Community Champion – Ibrahim
- Spotlight – Charlie



Gardening

Gardening is becoming a firm favourite activity at Dexters, with regular sessions throughout the year for all ages. In October, a name was decided for the green space, with our young people voting for 'Apple Tree Garden', in honour of the apple tree kindly donated by HM King Charles III on his visit in May. We built 9 raised growing beds for community members to plant plenty of fruit and veg!

Together with our partners at Incredible Edible Lambeth and Lambeth Council, young people have learnt about the importance of sustainable gardening.

We also continued our partnership with Orchard Hill, a SEND college in Camberwell. An average of 15 students have been visiting the site weekly, helping to plant produce around the garden and cooking up some tasty treats in our kitchen.

We are excited to watch Dexters Apple Tree Garden flourish in 2023 and we would love to welcome any green-fingered volunteers to come on down!



Community Days



We have worked hard to build connections with local residents and help them benefit from the sessions we run on site at Dexters. As part of a project run in partnership with the Neighbourhood and Wellbeing Delivery Alliance and the Hills, Brook and Dale Primary Care Network, we ran three family fun days on site.

Jumpstart January

2022 started with a day full of activities, food, and community spirit to lift the mood at the beginning of the year. The day was a fantastic occasion, bringing lots of the community together, including many new faces. There were all kinds of activities, including singing, fitness, daffodil planting, as well as a number of stalls promoting local health and well-being providers such as Kooth, CarersHub and the Well Centre.

Summer Community Day

In July, we kickstarted the school holidays with our Summer Community Event. We welcomed over 100 people to Dexters for adventure play, free food, basketball and even a bouncy castle.



Light Up Dexters

In December, we brought the local community together for a day of festivities. We even had snow on the ground, which kept everyone in the festive spirit! Guests were able to enjoy our Christmas-themed event, headlined by the wonderful Brixton Chamber Orchestra. We had festive craft activities, sports, and if you look closely, you might spot a familiar face performing the role of Santa! He was very generous on the day by dishing out sweets to any young people who could make him laugh.



A Royal Visit



It's not every day that the future King visits Dexters! In May, we were honoured to welcome His Majesty King Charles III to Railton Road for an incredible morning with our young people, supporters, trustees and ambassadors.

HRH spent considerable time meeting with a forum of our young people, hearing from them about impacts of the pandemic, the challenges they face and the importance of the work BIGKID is doing. He shared some of his own personal experiences, reflecting on the importance of opportunities for young people to build confidence and self-esteem.

On a tour of our Dexters site, His Majesty took time to meet many supporters and Ambassadors, including Michel Roux Jr, who had helped participants from our Cook Off event prepare canapés, and tried first-hand some of the activities that we offer, from American Flag Football to Forest School and gardening. He also met a large group of young people from local schools where we run our Breaking Barriers programme.

We are so grateful to have the opportunity to showcase our work to His Majesty and for his ongoing support for our mission the end youth violence.

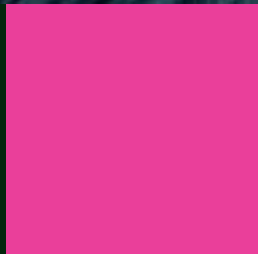




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It was so amazing to meet the future King, I can't wait to tell my mum

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Holiday Programme



During the Spring and Summer holidays, we were delighted to receive additional funding from Lambeth's Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) which helped ensure we had hot food on offer every day, and the chance to offer exciting trips and excursions including paddleboarding, Madame Tussauds, even white-water rafting!

There was plenty going on at Dexters in each of the school holidays, with activities this year including:

- Halloween party
- Water fights
- Baking
- Cooking
- Roller skating
- Karaoke



Hall for Hire

Hall for hire!

Do you want your kids to have the best birthday party ever?
Then hire Dexters Adventure Playground!

There's plenty of equipment available, including swinging from our monkey rings, climbing up our rope ladder, or shooting some hoops on our basketball court.

*Site hire includes access to kitchen, hall, and WC facilities.

If you would like to hire the site, please contact:

Unika@bigkidfoundation.org

07865274806



How to get involved

Volunteer

If you would like to volunteer with BIGKID, please get in touch at unika@bigkidfoundation.org

Donate

Any donation, big or small, has an impact on the lives of young people in London. To donate: Visit our website – www.bigkidfoundation.org Email – info@bigkidfoundation.org

Use Give As You Live to shop online at 100s of stores including Tesco, ASOS, and eBay and you will raise funds for us at no extra cost to you. Visit giveasyoulive.com/join/bigkid-foundation and start guilt-free shopping!

Fundraise

You can do anything to fundraise for BIGKID! Want an excuse to get your friends together? Why not host a quiz night? Want some motivation to get back in the gym? Why not run a 10k! Email us your ideas at info@bigkidfoundation.org

Leave a Legacy A gift in your will, however small, will allow us to continue our life changing work, and ensure you leave a legacy. If you are interested in donating a gift to us in your will, then please email info@bigkidfoundation.org

Corporate Partnerships

We are always looking to partner with like-minded corporates hoping to make a difference. Introduce us to your employer to arrange a volunteering day at one of our Hubs. You could also ask your employer to match any funds you raise for BIGKID or get involved in a give-as-you-earn scheme. For more information, email info@bigkidfoundation.org.



Thank you to all of our supporters, funders and partners

Broad Oak Trust
Bureau of Silly Ideas
Cawston Press
Charbonnel et Walker
Children in Need
Engineering Education
Grants Scheme
G-Tennis
Global's Make Some
Noise
Greater London
Authority
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Guys & St Thomas'
GVC Fund
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Jack Petchey
Foundation
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