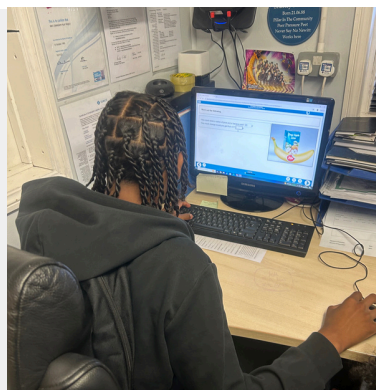


NW5 Project Annual Report 2024

The NW5 Project is a small, independent, community-run charity. We were established in 1973 following a campaign from residents concerned about a lack of facilities for young people on the Peckwater Estate, Islip Street, Kentish Town.



We aim to provide facilities and services for young people of all ages 0-25 and their families, in and around the Kentish Town area. We seek to foster community cohesion throughout our work, and the children who attend our services come from over twenty different nationalities and ethnic backgrounds

Chairs Introduction

As the Chair of the NW5 Project, I have been deeply involved with the organisation for over five years, serving on its board and working closely with the community to ensure its continued success. All my children have benefited from the services and provisions offered by the Project, such as educational support, youth activities, and community programmes. This first-hand experience has further fueled my dedication to ensuring that the Project remains a vital resource for local families. I have a genuine passion for making a difference, ensuring that the NW5 Project continues to serve as a cornerstone of support for both young people and their families in the community.

The NW5 Project is a vital community hub that goes beyond being just a place it is an active, living part of the community it serves. Focused on addressing a wide range of issues such as Play/ youth activities, housing, education, employment, community safety, and youth homelessness, the Project is a trusted resource for both parents and young people. It provides a welcoming space where individuals can seek advice, guidance, and support, day or night, throughout the week. Local council officers work with the Project, often turning to staff for assistance in tackling challenges within the community. Beyond offering support to individuals, the NW5 building serves as an essential resource for other local groups working with young people. It hosts various activities including youth guides, music rehearsals, tutoring, and extra schooling, as well as partnership workshops tackling important issues like racial and gender discrimination, community safety, and knife crime awareness. In this way, the Project stands as a central pillar of support, where collaboration with local organisations helps to address the broader needs of the community.

The entire board at the NW5 Project is incredibly proud of the significant work we have accomplished and are excited for the future, as we continue to build on our achievements and further our mission to support and uplift the community and thank all the staff, volunteers, families and organisations to make it possible. This report offers just a small insight into the immense amount of work the NW5 Project does on a daily basis, and we look forward to continuing our efforts and expanding the positive impact we have on the community in the years to come.



After School Drop in

We offer a free daily after-school programme for children and young people from the ages 6-14 years. Our programme provides enriching activities like cooking, arts, sports, games and more to local young people daily along with a healthy meal and fruit. Since our provisions has become free our numbers of young people attending has increased with reaching all sections of our community. We often engage with residents, families, young people on improving our services and following recent feedback we lowered the age range to include children as young as 6 to attend. With this we now only go up to 14 years for after school drop in but our other provisions meet the needs of our older youths daily to.. This change has been especially helpful for families, as they can now bring younger siblings too. Thanks to weekly donations from local food outlets such as Pret and Wenzels we've been able to offer free food to our community.



Youth Service

We now run youth sessions three nights a week, with sessions running onsite for young people aged 11 and up. These sessions include drop in sports/ football sessions, workshops, life skills training, open youth activities, and collaborative programmes with other youth groups. Funding from Camden Youth Services, provided by Camden Council, helps us deliver these generic youth sessions as well as dedicated women's-only sessions. Our older youths are offered a programme throughout the year including school holidays where we often have trips offsite, visits to local youth centres locally.



Playschemes

Our free holiday playschemes run throughout school holidays, catering to children and young people aged 6-13 years and offering full-day play opportunities through a mix of trips and onsite activities.

Participation has surged in the past couple years, often forcing us to use a waiting list. Over certain periods, such as Summer, Easter and Christmas we receive some funding support from the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF). We provide two nutritious meals for every young person attending—breakfast and lunch—but with an option for families to send their own lunches if preferred.

This year alone over 80% of our registered users are young people entitled to free school meals during term time. It is only this provision of these free holiday playschemes, including two free meals each day, that enables many local young people from low income backgrounds to take part in play and youth activities.

To help provide this meal service, most of our staff have completed Food and Hygiene training, ensuring every child receives healthy and varied meals. Provision of meals during every holiday programme, and throughout the year, is all part of our commitment to family support.

Our playschemes include offsite trips to local destinations, thereby supporting nearby leisure businesses and charitable organisations, such as Talacre Sports Centre, Pirate Castle Highgate Woods and Archway Swimming Pool.

These programmes also play a vital role in providing opportunities for older young people involved with our Trainee Scheme. Trainees gain the chance to further their experience through full-day sessions (with double the amount of young people onsite compared to the numbers in after-school hours).



80%
of Young
people
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free school
meals.



In 2024

We've had 250 young people in total register with us, 45% being females.

Youth Employment

Throughout 2023/24, we successfully recruited and trained 10 local unemployed young people in Play and Youth Work skills. They each completed two years of paid work experience within our project, gaining hands-on experience across all our programs. Alongside their work, they attended in-house training sessions and completed online and face-to-face courses covering topics like Safeguarding, Food and Hygiene, Disability Awareness, and Prevent. Thanks to charitable trust funding support we were able to create a comprehensive training scheme that enabled all 10 participants to successfully obtain a Level 2 Playwork qualification.

The programme also fostered further employment opportunities within the sector: Nathan and Ruby gained employment as sports workers with local organisations, Jayden now works at another play centre, Harry and Nathan became exam invigilators at local secondary schools, Macy become NW5's Central Support Worker, and Kian has joined the NW5 core team. Since completing the programme, all participants now have moved on to employment or university studies. We're proud to have achieved our goal of equipping these young people with valuable experience and skills and formal qualifications.

Building on this success, we have secured additional funding from Camden Giving's Equality Fund to offer this programme to a new cohort. We have recently recruited seven young people who have already completed initial training in Safeguarding and Prevent, and intend to recruit three more.

As the programme progresses, we are learning how best to support these participants, (who are also managing studies at local colleges and sixth forms preparing to retake GCSEs in English and Maths) Currently all Trainees work directly onsite at NW5 once a week, with one also based at another local Camden play centre where he is gaining similar experience in a similar environment. The Project has also enrolled onto an online training platform where all trainees (along with other staff) have access to over 120 courses that support their role at NW5. A few have already completed Food and Hygiene level 2s. This online platform is easily accessed whenever they have some spare time, enabling them to pursue studies at their own pace.



16+ Football

We started out playing on the estate just one night a week, and over time, we've grown into a strong and competitive group, forming two football teams for young people aged 16-25. NW5 Project 16+ football started out on the estate as just a one night a week activity for young people just hanging around the estate but not prepared to take part in other youth work provision. Over time, it has grown into a strong and competitive group, now forming two football teams for young people aged 16-25. The teams play matches twice a week using facilities at Haverstock School. We are proud to have one of the youngest and most competitive teams in the league. Not only have we participated successfully in the Powerplay league, but we've also competed in local tournaments, offering our players invaluable experience in high-level competition.

The benefits of young people playing in a men's competitive league are numerous. They gain the opportunity to challenge themselves, improve their skills, and learn to compete in a more mature and demanding environment. This has led to several of our players moving on to play for semi-professional teams, while others have secured places in sports academies or are now playing for other local football organisations. Over recent years, our youth football programme has reached more than 50 young people who would not otherwise be involved in any youth work activity, with around 20 regularly attending weekly sessions and participating in local leagues. For many of them, this is an opportunity they would not have had without our team. These sessions are a vital way to engage and support young people, particularly those not involved with other youth work opportunities.

Through football, they not only develop their athletic abilities but also learn important life skills, such as teamwork, conflict resolution, and managing challenges both on and off the pitch. Our staff also use this as a chance to build positive relationships with the players, creating a foundation for ongoing support and mentoring.

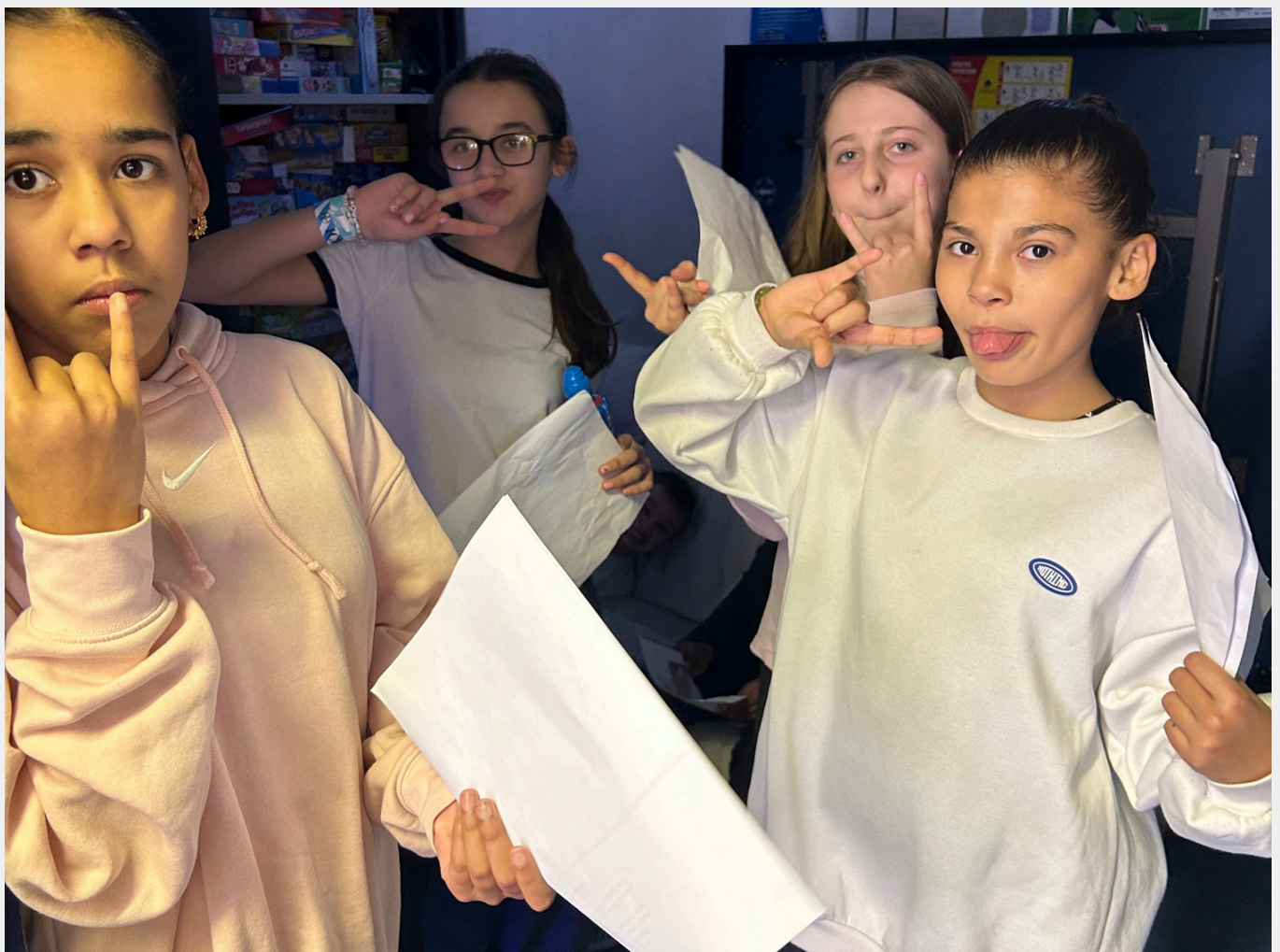
In fact, two of our players are now employed with the project, having attended training sessions and progressing to complete NVQs in sports or playwork. This programme has become a powerful pathway to personal growth, career development, and community engagement for many of the young people involved.



Women's only Sessions

In addition to our mixed football sessions, we also run women's-only sessions, which are a crucial part of our youth work. These sessions provide a safe, supportive space for young women to engage in sports, build confidence, and develop important life skills in an environment where they can thrive without any barriers. It's essential to offer these opportunities, as they encourage self-expression, promote physical activity, and help combat social pressures that can discourage young women from participating in sports.

To further celebrate and support women's empowerment, we attended a Women's Only celebration for International Women's Day at Somers Town. This event brought together multiple local groups to participate in activities, share experiences, and enjoy a communal meal. It was an inspiring opportunity to build solidarity and highlight the importance of supporting women and girls in our community. It also reinforced the idea that by creating inclusive spaces, we can foster stronger connections and offer young people especially young women new avenues for growth and empowerment.



Residentials

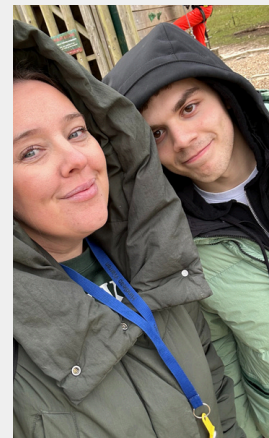
We've been fortunate in the past to offer numerous residentials and trips, which have had a profound impact on the young people we work with. These trips provide a much-needed break from the pressures of inner-city life and offer a unique opportunity for personal growth and reflection.

This past year, due to funding limitations, we were only able to offer one trip to Hindleap Warren, with generous support from London Youth, who funded the young people's places. Despite the limited number of trips, the benefits are clear: getting away from the city allows young people to experience nature, build resilience, and develop life skills in a new environment. It offers them a chance to reset, bond with peers outside of their usual surroundings, and gain confidence in unfamiliar settings. These experiences help broaden their horizons, foster independence, and often create lasting memories that inspire positive change.

Looking ahead, we are committed to securing further funding to offer more residentials to the different age groups we currently work with. By expanding these opportunities, we aim to support even more young people in developing key skills, gaining new perspectives, and creating experiences that can have a lasting, positive impact on their lives.

“ I enjoy going on residentials with NW5 because I enjoy doing fun team activities with my friends. I like being away from home and not having to share a room with my brother, I like learning different life skills like having to make my own bed and tidy up after myself. I also just think it’s really fun and I hope we go on another one soon and its nearly been a year since the last one “

- Young person, 17 years



Stop and Search Programme

We partnered with Somers Town Youth Centre to deliver a Stop and Search programme aimed at educating local young people about their rights and empowering them to advocate for themselves. Over the course of a 12-week programme, the young people dedicated their time to attending weekly sessions where they not only learned about their legal rights but also developed their own presentation. This presentation was then taken to other local youth organisations, where they shared what they had learnt and raised awareness on important issues.

Throughout the programme, participants also engaged in workshops with a range of partners, including local police, Khady's Dream, and Knife Crime Awareness, to deepen their understanding of the challenges they face and the support available to them. This collaboration gave young people valuable insight into their rights and responsibilities, while providing them with the confidence and skills to take action in their own communities. The programme not only empowered them with knowledge but also created a platform for them to be voices of change and influence within their wider networks.



Bloomsbury Football

Our partnership with Bloomsbury has been running for over 18 months, during which they've been delivering weekly football sessions on the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). These sessions are aimed at the transition age group of 10-15 year-olds and take place every week from 4-6pm.



SEND Drop in sessions

There was a need in Camden for an independent and unbiased space where SEND parents can get together as a community. NW5 Project was approached for help and we now work with an independent local SEND advocate to be able to support this.

The “Real Camden Parent Carer Forum” has been established. This is a community of SEND parents who feel their voices are not being heard. This forum is a space where parents/carers can share their experiences and gain support and advice from other SEND parents - a way to support each other.

At the moment meetings are taking place once a week.

“Without NW5 providing access to SEN advocate, I may not have gotten an agreement for an EHCP from the local authority. I was signposted by NW5 to the SEN Advocate, who has been helping me with every stage of my child’s SEN process. She has helped me engage with school, other professionals, local authority and attended meetings etc.

This SEN advocate is very experienced and has provided legal knowledge which is important for SEN parents to be aware of. Both NW5 and SEN Advocate have made an enormous change to our families life. We are moving in the right direction with getting support for my child thanks to NW5 and the SEN Advocate. Please do get in touch with them if you require SEN advice. I am a parent of another SEN child who many years ago had an EHCP, even with my knowledge and past experience I have gained so much from the SEN advocate. Thanks to NW5 and SEN advocate we were able to access this service for FREE without any fees involved. I know if I was to get this service privately, I may not have been able to afford it, especially with the cost of living crisis right now.”

- Parent

Peckwater Multi-Use Sports Pitch

The NW5 Project is still supporting and working with Camden Council to manage the large sports pitch on the Peckwater Estate. Since the Project took on the task of opening and closing the pitch every day throughout the year there has been a massive increase in the amount of community use. This NW5 Project work and support is not funded by Camden Council, but we have a local volunteer (A resident on the estate) who is currently undertaking this work.



Fundraising

Fundraising is a vital and all year round part of the work of NW5 Project. We are a charity and it cost around £200,000 per year to sustain all our services and facilities. The Peckwater Neighbourhood is a disadvantaged community with many needs and it is essential we are able to continue to offer programmes and opportunities for local young people (and their families). Our fundraising has to take many forms, ranging from submitting long and detailed grant applications to the local authority, charitable trusts and firms, to organising community events.

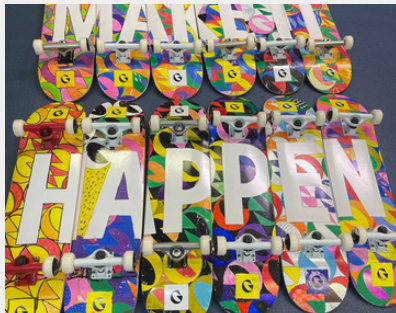
One of our most successful fundraising initiatives this year was a lemonade stall at Camden Market, where we raised over £1,500 over the course of three days. The stall was completely led by a large group of young volunteers, with minimal adult intervention, giving them the chance to take full ownership of the project.

Through this experience, the young people developed a wide range of skills. They honed their leadership abilities, working together to organise and manage the stall. They gained practical experience in sales, learning how to engage with customers, handle money, and market their product. In addition, they strengthened their teamwork and communication skills, working effectively together to problem-solve and ensure the stall ran smoothly. They also developed entrepreneurial skills, from managing inventory to making decisions about pricing and strategy. Overall, this fundraising initiative not only helped raise vital funds for the project but also provided valuable real-world experience that will serve these young people well in the future.

In addition to larger fundraising initiatives, we've also held smaller events like bake sales and clothes sales onsite at NW5, engaging with the local community to raise funds for the project. These events have been a great way to bring people together and create a sense of community involvement, while also supporting our fundraising efforts.

Lastly, Harry and Kian both have also been actively involved in fundraising efforts to support the continuation of our 16+ football team. Through their efforts, they have raised £2,000 so far, which will go towards ensuring that the team can continue to participate in leagues, providing more opportunities for young people to engage in the sport.

This fundraising initiative highlights not only their commitment to raising funds to maintain the team in the league but also, as staff, a commitment to sustaining programmes that create real opportunities for the development of young people. It also underscores the importance of collective effort—whether through community, volunteers, or staff—to ensure the sustainability and growth of the opportunities we offer. The success of this fundraising effort not only helps maintain the football team but also strengthens the sense of ownership and investment in the football project from all involved.



Munye League with Camden United

This year, our football team had the opportunity to take part in the Munye League, a weekly Sunday league organised and managed by Camden United. It was a fantastic experience that brought young people from across the borough together to compete in a fun and inclusive environment. Our team performed exceptionally well, finishing first in the group stages without losing a game. Although we ultimately finished 3rd overall, the young people involved gained so much from the experience, both in terms of their football skills and their sense of community.

The league is named in remembrance of Abdulaziz Munye, the late co-founder of Camden United, and it holds great significance in honouring his legacy. Each week, around 60 young people from diverse backgrounds come together to play, showing the power of sport in uniting people. Our young players fed back that this was the best league they've ever played in, and they are hopeful that we can take part again in the future. The league not only provided a competitive outlet but also fostered a strong sense of community, where young people could bond, support each other, and grow as athletes and individuals. It truly highlighted how sport can bring people together and create lasting connections.

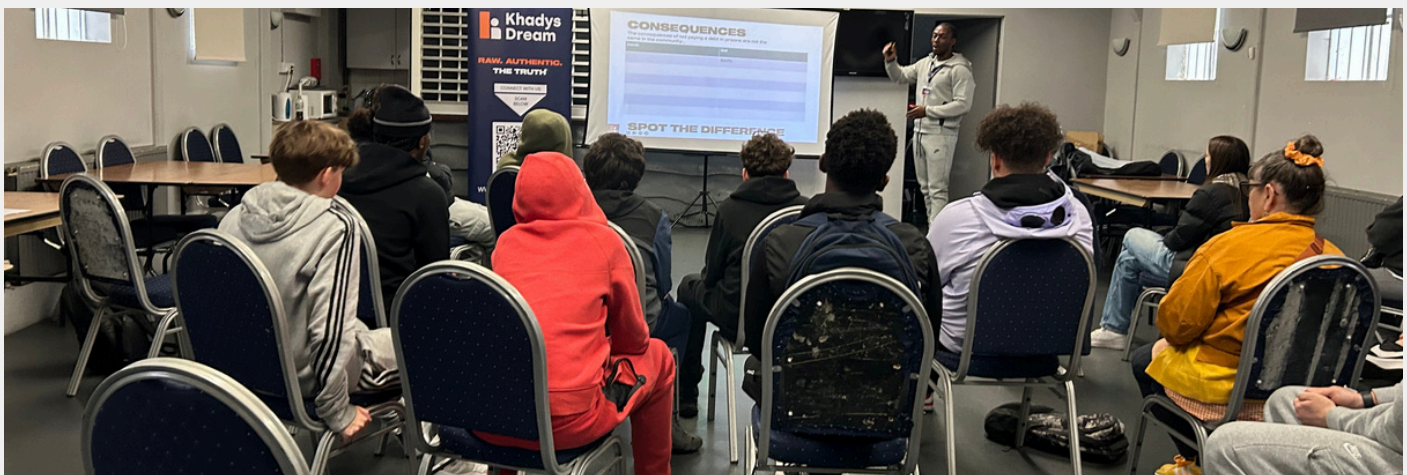


Peckwater TRA Partnership

For the past eight months, we've been working in partnership with the local Tenants and Residents Association on Peckwater Estate, alongside Community Champions and Camden Council. Together, we've provided weekly sessions for residents and the wider community, offering meals, advice, support, activities, workshops, and more.

The TRA hall was underused, so in the early stages of this partnership, residents were involved in deciding what they wanted to see happen on the Peckwater Estate and at the TRA hall.

Together we've built a positive relationships while addressing local needs. We continue to collaborate, supporting each other and planning ahead with ongoing initiatives, including tutoring sessions for young people re-sitting their GCSEs in English and Maths, a women's only exercise program, and community meals. We're always looking for ways to improve provision and to involve more people, and with the consistent efforts we're putting in, we hope to achieve even greater impact over time.



Here are the young people during Tutoring session who're resitting their GCSE's

Somers Town Youth Centre Partnership



We continue to work with STYC in partnership supporting young people. We have worked with STYC now for many years and often do joint trips together throughout the school holidays and residentials as well as projects based programmes.

Awards

In recent years NW5 Project has received several awards for its work including International Volunteering award, Youth Provision Award and Young Peoples Partnership award.

In addition, this year our manager, Sharley, has been recognised with several awards, celebrating not only her contributions here at NW5 but also her exceptional commitment to the wider community.

Growing up locally in Camden, Sharley pursued her education through nearby colleges and now specialises in Sports and Playwork. Her strong connections with, and commitment to, the community are evident to everyone who knows her.

The awards are the Camden Community Champion Award, Camden Faith Award, Arsenal No More Red Award, and the National London Dangoor Award.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who supports Sharley in her role and all the work she does.



1 to 1 Support

Our one-to-one support is a vital aspect of our commitment to the community, reaching individuals when they need it most. This support is essential because the challenges people face often arise unexpectedly—whether they relate to young people struggling with housing, school, or work, or families navigating financial and personal hardships. Our staff team has been there to help, guiding young people through complex issues like unstable living situations, challenges in education, and the pressures of resitting exams.

This work matters because it provides stability, guidance, and reassurance when people need it urgently and often without warning. We're not just a resource; we're a reliable source of support, offering an open-door policy so that no one has to face difficult times alone. By meeting individuals where they are—both figuratively and literally—we help foster resilience, self-sufficiency and a stronger, more connected community.



Camden Council Support

We're pleased to announce that we've secured ongoing support from Camden Council through the Strategic Partnership Fund. Camden are granting us £30,000 per year for seven towards our overall cost. In addition, we successfully obtained further grants from the Cost of Living Fund, the Resilience Fund, and the Youth Service, all of which enable us to continue and strengthen our work.

We'd also like to extend a special thanks to Josef Thomas who is a participation officer for London Borough of Camden for his invaluable support to Sharley over the past eight months. Josef has been instrumental in building positive relationships with NW5 and some other organisations, and his ongoing dedication has greatly helped raise wider awareness of the NW5 project and our mission.

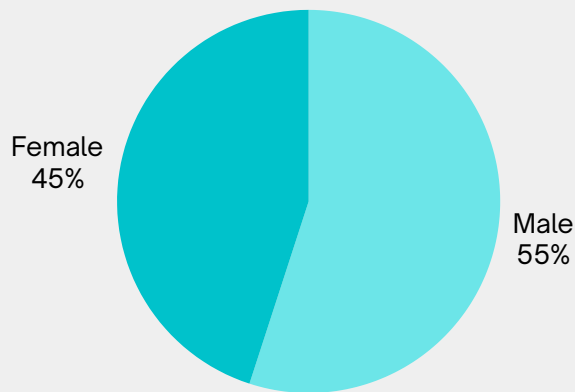
Special Thankyou's

Thank you to all local businesses and organisations who support us and work alongside us, we don't think we could name them all but thank you all.

- Camden Council
- Camden Youth Service
- Young Camden Foundation
- Camden Giving
- Kimberley Turner – Advocate and volunteer but also a constant friend to the Project.
- Million Hailamariam – Camden Youth Service Manager, supported largely on the international trip alongside further support for our project manager and staff.
- Joanne Peet – Senior Worker at Somers Town Youth Centre
- Georgia Gould – Ward Councillor
- Tara Curtis - Play Transitions Support Officer
- Maiden Lane Community Centre
- Abdul, Community Champions
- PACE
- Paula Peet - Volunteer
- Bloomsbury Academy
- Arsenal Football Club
- St Luke's Church
- Reward Van Hire
- Jack / Panik – Local Sponsor
- Powerplay Football League
- Laverton's Funeral Directors – Main sponsor for our community Festival since 2017
- Claire Callaghan - Peckwater TRA Social Secratry
- Josef Thomas and his team within Camden
- Leo - Volunteer Art specialist LVS Training

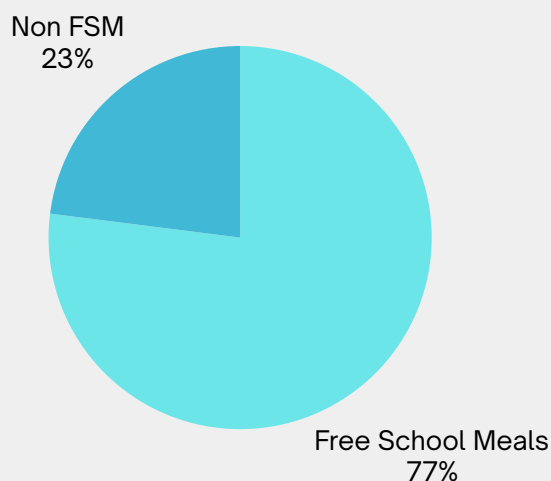
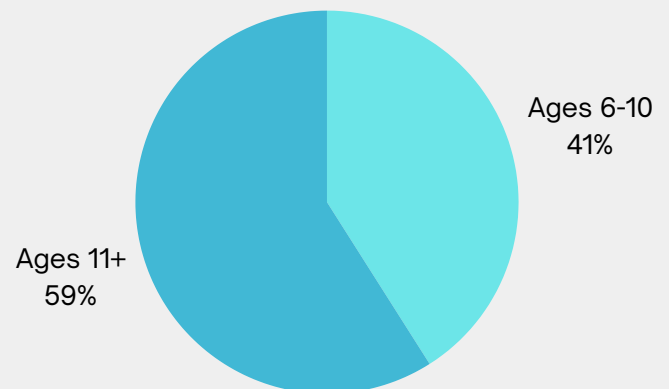


Registered User's Data



55% Male Users
45% Female Users

41% Ages 6-10
59% Ages 11+



77%
are entitled to Free
School Meals

Our Staff Team



Sharley



Harry



Kian



Macy



Vicky



Ruby



Damian



Rio

The Trainees

Our project wouldn't be able to manage without our volunteers on our board. We have really worked hard over the past year to establish a good working relationship together and continue to learn and grow from one another



Ellis



Lillie



Marc



Thomas



Emma



Angel



Nick

Board of Trustees

NW5 Project is both a registered charity and a charitable company. We are governed by an elected management Committee known as the Board of Trustees who are responsible for setting the overall policies and direction of the Project and employing all staff. All trustees are local people. Most actually live on the Peckwater Estate or have long standing have close connections to the area. Our charity would not be able to function without our volunteers on our board, We feel NW5 Project, and the Peckwater Neighbourhood, are very lucky to have them.

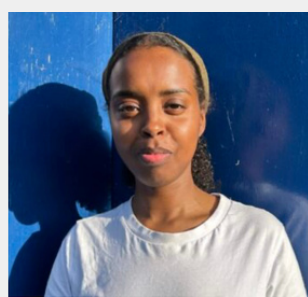
In the past year Board members have been very active and have also worked hard to establish a good working relationship as a board and with the staff team. Board members say they all continue to learn from one another and grow stronger as a team.



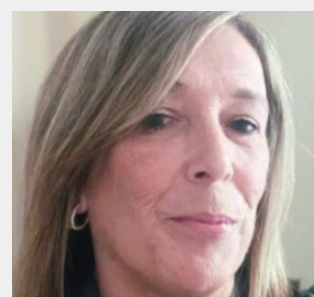
Linda - Chair



Emma - Treasurer



Maimosa



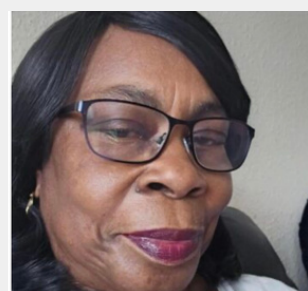
Karen



Akbar



Kate



Jenifer



Sarah - Finance Officer



Thank You!

For the continued support of the NW5 Project and to London Borough of Camden, John Lyons Charity, Camden Giving Trust, Young Camden Foundation and other charitable trusts who support the work we do through funding.



www.nw5project.com



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