



Community Space & Education

Registered charity No. 1164085

Annual Report & Audited Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2024

Independent Examiner: Nicola Deackes



Funded By



Community Space & Education

Ideas Hub Chelmsford
20 Roxwell Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 2PP



Ideas Hub's Main Project
The Art Place, Unit 6/7,
Meadows Shopping Centre,
High Street, Chelmsford. CM26FD
FB: TheArtPlaceChelmsford
Insta: artplacechelmsford



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www.ideashubchelmsford.org

FB: Ideas Hub Chelmsford
Instagram: artplacechelmsford

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 A safe and inclusive community space	 16,500 conversations to tackle loneliness	 20,000 hours of volunteering
 2,852 1:1 Support Interventions & 500 Asylum Seekers, refugees and migrants supported	 700 creative workshops & socials events delivered and 6 community exhibitions	 80,000 people have experienced The Art Place

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name: Ideas Hub Chelmsford

Charity Registration No: 1164085

Registered and Principal Office: 20 Roxwell Road
Chelmsford
Essex. CM1 2PP

Charity trustees

Mr M Noble
Dr P Probert
Ms K Fulcher
Mr K Miller

Chief Executive: Edith Miller

Independent Examiner: Nicola Deackes

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank
P.O. Box 250
Delf House
Southway
Skelmersdale. WN8 6WT

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, AND MANAGEMENT

The trustees have pleasure in presenting their report and the independently examined financial statements for the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Charity constitution

The Ideas Hub Chelmsford became a charitable Incorporated organisation (CIO) on the 23rd of October 2015. Ideas Hub Chelmsford is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission for England and Wales and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. Trustees are appointed by the Board of Trustees, in accordance with the Charity's governing document.

Organisational structure

Ideas Hub Chelmsford's Board of Trustees meets quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policies of the Charity. To facilitate effective operations the day-to-day management of the Charity is delegated to the Chief Executive, who reports to the Board of Trustees. No employee received remuneration of more than £60,000 during the year.

Related parties

None of our Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the Charity. In the current year there are no related party transactions to be reported.

Public Benefit Statement

The Trustees confirm that they have had due regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on Public Benefit. Ideas Hub Chelmsford's objects are clear in that they will promote any charitable purposes that are for the benefit of the community; its aims and activities detailed further on are in accordance with the regulations on public benefit.

Risk Management

Trustees regularly review the risks to which the Charity could be exposed, particularly those related to the operations and finances of the Charity. Trustees are satisfied that the Charity has taken all reasonable steps to minimise risk and has policies and procedures in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. Risk management processes are subject to periodic review – and priorities adjusted as new risks arise and others become less significant. The challenging funding climate continues to highlight the need to maintain a tight control on expenditure and to have plans in place to reduce expenditure should the need arise.

Objectives and Aims of the Charity

The objectives and aims of the charity are to further or benefit the residents of Chelmsford and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious, or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to:

- (a) advance education
- (b) provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreational and leisure time occupation
- (c) with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.

In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power to establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and to maintain or manage or co-operate with any statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the charity in furtherance of the above objects.

FOCUS, USPs, AND OUTPUTS

To achieve these aims Ideas Hub Chelmsford has structured its delivery as follows:

- **Our Focus: IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF CHELMSFORD RESIDENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF WELLBEING**
Our approach is solution-based and rests on 3 frameworks: the 'NHS 5 steps to wellbeing', the 'Human Givens' framework and the 'Positive Psychology' framework. Our delivery is focused on supporting residents to meet the following basic needs:
 - Physical Needs: food, housing, health (access to medical care/ routine/ exercise)
 - Financial Needs: employment (or help to return in employment) / benefits/ education
 - Emotional Needs: feeling safe, feeling of purpose, feeling of belonging
- **Our USPs:** Expertise in:
 - (1) Diversity & creativity
 - (2) Creating routine, purpose, & hope
 - (3) Building skills and confidence.
- **Our Outputs** (based on feedback, community demand, & use of existing services):
 - Signposting, Supporting, & Connecting as group or 1:1 interventions
 - Providing a safe & inclusive socio-cultural community space
 - Providing learning opportunities including classes, workshops and mentoring.

OUTPUTS & ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES PER PROJECT

Main Project: The Art Place

- ***The Art Place Shop & Gallery (also acting as a fundraiser)***
 - Signposting, supporting & connecting:
 1. *with a focus on giving a sense of purpose* (including via selling arts & crafts)
 2. *with a focus on giving a sense of belonging:* by initiating conversations with passing visitors/ footfall to the Art Place (tackling loneliness & identifying where further support is needed, and supporting, connecting, &/or signposting accordingly).
 - Return to work by providing 'Supported Volunteering' to build/ rebuild skills, experience, &/or confidence
 - Learning by providing a structured course in customer service, work experience (NEET, Schools, Colleges), and Duke of Edinburgh work experience
- ***The Art Place Socio-cultural Community Space:***
 - Safe, welcoming, & inclusive socio-cultural space in the city centre area with high passing footfall
 - Signposting, supporting & connecting:
 1. *With a focus on integration, inclusion & diversity*, including HM Government Visa related digital assistance, befriending, various 1:1 support, signposting to other service providers.
 2. *With a focus on wellbeing, belonging, purpose & tackling loneliness*, including creative workshops, befriending, various 1:1 support, neurodivergence & LGBTQ socials & support, intergenerational workshops, legal service, signposting, & connecting.
 - Return to work: career & education advice & support, Arts Award qualification, Legal service to help with contacts, signposting & connecting.
 - Learning: by providing creative workshops, an Arts Award programme, ESOL and IT classes, Art & STEAM classes (for all ages)

Other Notable Projects (Note: not an exhaustive list):

1. Supporting the asylum seekers, refugees and migrants' communities of Chelmsford
2. Lobbying for and promoting the development of arts and culture across the City

3. Community & school STEAM project(s)



ANNUAL REPORT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OUTCOMES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The aim is for service users - regardless of age, status, sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions – to have:

- enough to eat
- a roof over their head
- access to adequate medical care and will be helped into better physical & mental health care
- the minimum living standard through employment and/ or benefit and/ or will be supported into employment and/ or education
- a sense of being safe
- a sense of purpose
- a sense of belonging

The full achievements of Tax year 2023 -2024 are celebrated in the brochure attached. Here is a synopsis.

OUR ROLE.

THE ART PLACE'S CONTRIBUTION TO CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL'S STRATEGY

COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:
Our Chelmsford, Our Plan

"Bringing people together and working in partnership to encourage healthy, active lives, building stronger, more resilient communities so that people feel proud to live, work and study in the area."

HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS IN 12 MONTHS

The following are examples of what has been achieved between April 23 and March 24 in this safe and inclusive space:

- 20,000 hours of volunteering
- 16,500 annual conversations to reduce social isolation
- 2,852 1:1 interventions of one hour or more
- 700 annual workshops and socials supporting 2980 participants
- £143,000 of income for local artists
- 500 asylum seekers and refugees supported including 150 bikes restored and delivered & 114 children helped in school
- 30% of volunteers helped to return to work
- Regular feedback on local needs, including the collection of 600 individually written comments
- 6 community exhibitions tackling difficult subjects (to educate and engage residents) on subjects such as racism; ageing, dying and caring; cancer, addiction, the environment, and losing one's home.

Plus other interesting facts:

- 83,000 footfall (up 45% on the previous year)
- 125 nationalities visited the space
- Of the 2,852 interventions — 56% non Caucasian, 63% about loneliness, 22% seeking information, 10% career advice, 5% crisis
- 90% of the volunteers are neurodivergent
- 80% are between 20 & 27 years old.

Ideas Hub Chelmsford connects with and contributes to many other local groups and organisations. For example, it is a board member of Integrated Neighbourhood, as part of the NHS mid and south Integrated Care System (Public Health Act 2022) and a member of Culture Chelmsford.

THE ROLE OF THE ART PLACE:
THE ART PLACE is a successful community initiative opened in the Meadows Shopping Centre in 2020 and is the main project of the Ideas Hub Chelmsford charity.

“ My doc said that I haven't looked that good for a long time. I explained that's because I started to volunteer at The Art Place

Dear Edith, Thank you so much for sharing your last impact report. It was inspiring, and especially moving to read the testimonials and comments - they clearly illustrate the vital role of this Community Space in nourishing wellbeing and mental health, something that's often difficult to measure and hugely underestimated. With thanks for all you do. Cllr Rose Moore

FINAL OVERVIEW AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Within the next tax year, the Ideas Hub Chelmsford will focus on its charitable work delivered at The Art Place, particularly:

- Grow its work on inclusion. This will include a focus on Integration by providing a structured and reliable support service to support asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Chelmsford. The objective is to develop this work in a self-contained project with its own website, budget and team.
- Maintain its delivery of befriending, signposting and support sessions and creative activities/workshops to support residents' wellbeing.
- Make advancement of education a core focus including provide more consistent training and development across the organisation including for service users and develop courses to deliver training for improving access to education such as access to apprenticeships, for residents with other languages.
- Finally, in view of overheads costs increasing and competition for grants increasing, Ideas Hub Chelmsford will focus on its strategy to develop its long term sustainability, including:
 - Developing its communication strategy
 - Increase fundraising income.
 - Look into further fundraising options.

RESERVE POLICY

The trustees agree that a minimum sum of £80,000 is retained to act as a reserve to ensure that the basic costs can be covered.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on
and signed on its behalf by:



Mr K Miller - Trustee

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
	Notes				
Incoming from:					
Donations and grants	3	25,165	-	25,165	87,376
Charitable Activities	2	96,881	-	96,881	93,603
Total income		122,046	-	122,046	180,979
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	5	37,981	-	37,981	137,529
Cost of raising funds	4	66,703	-	66,703	50,974
Total Expenditure		104,684	-	104,684	188,503
Net income/(expenditure)		17,362	-	17,362	(7,524)
Net movement in funds		17,362	-	17,362	(7,524)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward at 1 st April 2023		101,264	-	101,264	108,788
Total funds carried forward at 31 st March 2024		118,626	-	118,626	101,264

All the charitable company's activities derive from continuing operations during the above period.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	8	-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	7	2,529	4,242
Bank balance		126,487	110,735
Cash on hand		735	1,948
		<u>129,751</u>	<u>116,925</u>
Creditors: amount falling due within one year	6	11,125	15,661
Net current Assets		<u>118,626</u>	<u>101,264</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>118,626</u>	<u>101,264</u>
Funds of the charity	11		
Restricted funds		-	-
Unrestricted funds		118,626	101,264
Total Funds		<u>118,626</u>	<u>101,264</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 13th January 2024 and were signed on their behalf by:



Kevin Miller

Trustee

Date: 20th January 2025

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statements on Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006. Recommended Practice (SORP) issued in October 2000, revised 2005.

Incoming resources

Income from donations and grants, including capital grants, is included in incoming resources when these are receivable. When donors specify that donations and grants, including capital grants are for a restricted purpose, this income is included in incoming resources of restricted funds when receivable.

Resources expended and recognition of liabilities.

All expenditure is incurred on a receipts and payments basis.

Most of the costs are directly attributable to the specific Charitable activities.

Liabilities are recognised on the receipts and payments basis in accordance with the Charity Commission accounting principles for small charities.

Management and administration of the charity represent costs incurred in the management of the Charity's assets, organisational administration and compliance with Charitable and statutory requirements.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided to write off the cost of fixed assets over their expected useful

- All assets: 33% Straight Line

Trade debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and bank deposits.

Trade creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount.

Fund structure

Unrestricted general funds – these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees.

Designated funds – these are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. Charitable Activities	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Sponsorship	0	8,718
Fundraising sales (commissions on sales)	50,799	45,124
Events/ projects	7,516	17,943
Space hire	25,642	20,242
Other Fundraising	12,924	1,576
Total	96,881	93,603
3. Grants and Donations	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Donations	7,565	10,017
Grants	17,600	77,359
Total	25,165	87,376
4. Cost of raising Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Staff costs (see Note 12)	55,130	45,985
Other Operational costs	11,573	4,989
Total	66,703	50,974
5. Charitable activities	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£
Advertising	503	0
Post & Stationary	1,710	548
Utilities	9,831	5,514
Insurance	1,113	1,189
IT costs	963	1,192
Rent	5,066	8,368
Sundries	547	277
Assets	-	-
Maintenance	904	17,486
Projects	10,716	17,223
Volunteer training	1,043	517
Volunteer expenses	1,589	1,096
Workshop expenses	3,996	2,151
Professional fees (See Note 12)	-	81,968
Depreciation	-	-
Total	37,981	137,529

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6. Creditors

Accruals

£15,661 at 31st March 23 of which £12,332 of suspense expense from artists and crafters March sales

£11,125 at 31st March 24 suspense expense from artists and crafters March sales

7. Debtors

£2,529 at 31st March 24

8. Tangible fixed Assets (Fixtures and Fittings)

Nil at 31 March 23

Nil at 31 March 24

9. Going Concern

The charity is operating on a going concern basis

10. Related Parties

There were no related parties during the year

11. Restricted Funds

Nil at 31 March 23

Nil at 31 March 24

12. Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were: Wages and salaries, Social security costs, Pension costs, and Freelance costs. Payroll is provided by Community 360, an independent charity based in Colchester

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF IDEAS HUB CHELMSFORD

I report on the accounts of Ideas Hub Chelmsford for the year ended 31 March 2024 which are set out on pages 12 to 16.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The Charity's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The Charity's Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year (under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (The Act) but that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (Under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the independent examiner's Statement

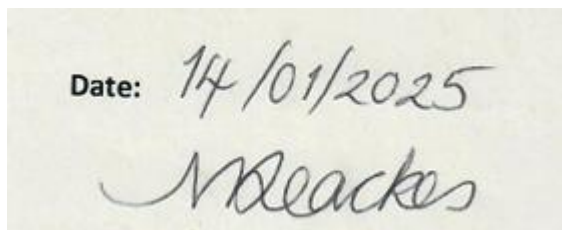
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the account presented with those records. It also includes considerations of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanation from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, nothing has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that:

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charity Act; or
- The accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- The accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content set out in the current Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations.

I have come across nothing during my examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts.



Date: 14/01/2025
N Deackes

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Nicola Deackes

THE ART PLACE IMPACT



07880990443



www.ideashubchelmsford.org



edithmillereideashubchelmsford.org

More than a shop,
A COMMUNITY



Community Space & Education

Registered charity 1164085

OUR PLACE.

More than a shop, A COMMUNITY

THE FUTURE OF THE ART PLACE is a wish to be included in the Future of the Meadows plans to help Dominus 'to craft a placemaking vision that addresses local priorities & delivers long-term social impacts'.

The Art Place is an Ideas Hub Chelmsford project, and a fully local initiative. Ideas Hub Chelmsford was born in 2012 out of a citizen-based experiment called Changing Chelmsford to overcome complacency about local community and culture, to demonstrate that 'place' is about belonging, and to support small-scale creativity and connect diverse people. The book (pictured on the left) provides further details. Ideas Hub Chelmsford became a registered charity in 2015.

The Art Place is based in the Meadows Shopping Centre, kindly hosted by Dominus Real Estate. It offers an art shop and gallery supporting 200 local artists and crafters and a smaller sister gallery 'down the corridor' run by some of the artists themselves.

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A PLATFORM FOR LOCAL ARTISTS

The ART PLACE IS A CHARITABLE ORGANISATION RUN BY VOLUNTEERS

“

I wanted to say thank you. I am beyond grateful for my time at The Art Place. I don't really want to talk about it but when I left uni, my mental health was at its worst and I was convinced that my life was over. Your belief in me and the fact that you saw so much worth and potential in me when I struggle to see it myself means more than I can put into words. The Art Place gave me a purpose and a reason to get out of bed even on my worst days and I am so thankful for that. I'm being honest when I say that you and The Art Place not only changed my life but helped to save it too.”



Alongside the shop, in the same unit, Ideas Hub provides a welcoming socio-cultural centre or community creative space where a programme of rich and varied activities and supports takes place, all based around supporting wellbeing.

IDEAS HUB CHELMSFORD'S OBJECTIVE: 'TO SUPPORT WELLBEING IN CHELMSFORD' IS DELIVERED THROUGH 3 CORE ACTIVITIES: 'THE PROVISION OF A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SPACE', 'SIGNPOSTING, SUPPORTING AND CONNECTING' AND 'RETURN TO WORK & LEARNING'.

The Art Place is a safe and inclusive space in Chelmsford, welcoming diverse and vulnerable communities including refugees and asylum seekers, vulnerable young adults, new residents, residents identifying as LGBTQ+, and provides a sense of belonging, routine, purpose and hope for many whilst building their skills and confidence.

Ideas hub Chelmsford works in collaboration with circa 200 organisations including local authorities. Its work directly responds to many of Chelmsford Council's priorities.



IDEAS HUB's delivery is aligned with core elements of Chelmsford City Council's strategic themes and goals as set out in 'Our Chelmsford, Our Plan' on CCC's website, and particularly with the theme "a more connected place", as presented below:

A more connected place

Priorities

- 1. Improve opportunities for adults and children to live well, reducing health inequalities and social isolation, so that they can enjoy healthy, safe and fulfilling life.
- 2. Help create a network of premises and community facilities providing opportunities and access for people of all backgrounds to engage in healthy, active and socially connected lifestyles.
- 3. Deliver on Chelmsford as a culturally ambitious place providing opportunities for people to engage creatively and productively within their communities.
- 4. Promoting physical and mental wellbeing and reducing social isolation.
- 5. Providing access to sport, leisure and recreational activities that encourage healthy, active lifestyles.
- 6. Supporting and enabling people's lives through creative and cultural activities and events.
- 7. Engaging with local communities and building strong relationships, knowing that more can be achieved by working together.



“

Dropped in with my elderly client- Essential services and local groups. Much needed store for the local community. WE WANT TO PREVENT loneliness with the elderly”



OUR ROLE.



THE ROLE OF THE ART PLACE:
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“My doc said that I haven't looked that good for a long time. I explained that's because I started to volunteer at The Art Place

THE ART PLACE'S CONTRIBUTION TO CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL'S STRATEGY

COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:
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“Bringing people together and working in partnership to encourage healthy, active lives, building stronger, more resilient communities so that people feel proud to live, work and study in the area.”



HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS IN 12 MONTHS

The following are examples of what has been achieved between April 23 and March 24 in this safe and inclusive space:

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Plus other interesting facts:

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125 nationalities visited the space

Of the 2,852 interventions – 59% non Caucasian, 63% about loneliness, 22% seeking information, 10% career advice, 5% crisis

90% of the volunteers are neurodivergent
80% are between 20 & 27 years old.

Ideas Hub Chelmsford connects with and contributes to many other local groups and organisations. For example, it is a board member of Integrated Neighbourhood, as part of the NHS mid and south Integrated Care System (Public Health Act 2022) and a member of Culture Chelmsford.

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THE ART PLACE'S CONTRIBUTION TO CHELMSFORD CITY COUNCIL'S STRATEGY

COUNCIL OBJECTIVE:
Increased level of community involvement and volunteering where people feel better connected to their built and natural surroundings.

THE ROLE OF THE ART PLACE:
THE ART PLACE is supported by 100 volunteers who provide 20,000 hours of their time to help run the shop and provide support to residents who seek help.

The Art Place offers two types of volunteering: Purposeful Volunteering and Supported Volunteering.

Supported Volunteering is a programme unique to the Ideas Hub and supports 75% of the volunteers. It is designed to help local residents for whom return to work or socialising is a bridge too far. The volunteering is person-centred and focused on the optimum wellbeing of participants. Volunteers can be referred by external agencies such as DWP.

Purposeful Volunteering is the remaining 25%. For example, at the weekend, The Art Place is supported by young people between 14 and 18 years old who are keen to get work experience, 'want to help', or need to fulfil a Duke of Edinburgh requirement. All volunteers report benefitting from volunteering and many have made important lasting friends.



CASE STUDY

A 25-year-old with autism and high social anxieties visited The Art Place and finding that they felt safe in the socio-cultural space and with others who shared the same space, started to volunteer. Prior to The Art Place, they had thought that having a job would be impossible for them. A year on, this young person is now studying for a professional course, alongside volunteering that should lead to a career they are now able to pursue.

"I first heard of The Art Place when it was recommended to me by a friend who had a positive experience at a couple workshops there. Due to anxiety, in turn caused by autism, it has taken me longer than most in starting employment. While I was anxious beforehand, in a few weeks volunteering there, thanks to the fantastic support from the staff, the anxiety had near vanished. The Art Place's volunteer system has been very helpful to me, and others like me, in easing me into and getting me used to a typical work environment so that I am prepared for paid employment." Corin, 20s.



“My brother, Abhijit works at The Art Place as a volunteer. He is slightly autistic. His work at The Art Place is giving him happiness and teaching him new skills, and is helping him to learn and get confidence. This is a big thing for me.”

“Volunteering at the Art Place really helped my mental health and taught me how to interact with others. Through volunteering I met other volunteers who also like art and were dealing with mental health struggles. I felt less lonely and more motivated.” Lola, 17

"Volunteering at The Art Place has given me the opportunity to make connections in the community, enabling me to feel less isolated and allowing me to support other volunteers in developing their confidence and career paths. At The Art Place I feel part of a supportive network of empathetic people where I can be open about the things in life that I find difficult, access help, and support others where I'm able to." Ben

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THE ART PLACE: A SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SPACE WITH DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT ITS HEART.

OUR SUPPORT.

The Art Place has a strong focus on supporting integration and diverse communities, including:

1. Supporting refugees and asylum seekers (c.500 at a time) who can pop in 7 days a week with:
 - Translation of emails and paperwork
 - Signposting to other support and communities
 - Registering children to school and holiday clubs
 - Learning English
 - Making friends with Chelmsford residents
 - Career advice
 - Support with volunteering and wellbeing
2. Helping organisations and services, such as social prescribers, schools, hospitals, and police to reunite lonely individuals from ethnically diverse backgrounds with existing ethnic community groups.
3. "Supported Volunteering" for those who need to develop English skills, which in turn will enable them with their everyday life and securing work.
4. Using the shop to give a voice and empower crafters and artists from ethnically diverse heritages.



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OUR SPONSORS & GRANT FUNDERS.

Funded By



Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND



THANK YOU

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