



Community Space & Education

Registered charity No. 1164085

Annual Report & Audited Financial Statements

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st March 2025

Independent Examiner: Nicola Deackes



Funded By



Community Space & Education

Ideas Hub Chelmsford
20 Roxwell Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 2PP



An Ideas Hub Project
The Art Place, Unit 6/7,
Meadows Shopping Centre,
High Street, Chelmsford. CM26FD
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FB: Ideas Hub Chelmsford

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In the year to 31st March 2025

 A safe and inclusive Community Space	 16,850 conversations to tackle loneliness	 22,000 hours of volunteering
 21,000 hours of learning & 1,000 individual 1:1s, including 350 asylum seekers	 700 creative workshops & socials events delivered and 6 community exhibitions	 100,000 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 2025.

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 at least 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 Vision:**
 - To improve life for the residents of Chelmsford.
 - To create connections and community; and
 - To help people live well
- **Our mission:**
 - Bringing people together through a socio-cultural centre and activities in the City Centre
 - Supporting wellbeing so people can live well (including removing the stress/ barriers impeding wellbeing) by signposting to supporting services and/ or providing supporting projects where none exist for a specific need.
- **Our USPs:** Expertise in:
 - (1) Diversity & creativity
 - (2) Creating routine, purpose, & hope
 - (3) Building skills and confidence.
- **Our Outputs** (shaped based on feedback, community demand, & use of existing services):
 - Signposting, Supporting, & Connecting as group or 1:1 intervention
 - Providing a safe & inclusive socio-cultural community space
 - Providing learning opportunities including classes, workshops and mentoring.

OUTPUTS & ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES PER PROJECT

1. 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 offering a wide range of inclusive and creative workshops and socials, inclusive initiatives, run by the community to tackle issues identified as gaps by lived experience.
 - 6 community exhibitions based on social themes: women, immigration, dying etc

2. Chelmsford Integration Project

Delivered in partnership with 10 organisations including British Red Cross, Migrant Help, SVP, ARU, and schools.

- **Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG)**
- **Distribution of essential items**
- **ESOL classes**

OUTCOMES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Our approach is solution-based and rests on 3 frameworks:

1. the 'NHS 5 steps to wellbeing'
2. the 'Human Givens' framework and
3. the 'Positive Psychology' framework.

Our delivery is focused on supporting residents to meet the following basic needs:

1. Physical Needs: food, housing, health (access to medical care/ routine/ exercise)
2. Financial Needs: employment (or help to return in employment) / benefits/ education
3. Emotional Needs: feeling safe, feeling of purpose, feeling of belonging

Our Impact

The figures below are drawn from the final 2024–2025 Impact Assessment for each project.

They are in addition to 720 signposting interventions (excluding CIP) and 105 hours of free legal service.

1. Chelmsford Integration Project

Delivered in partnership with 10 organisations including British Red Cross, Migrant Helps, SVP, ARU and schools.

- **Volunteering:** A total of **8,383 volunteer hours** was delivered. Activities included:
 - 22.9%: Help to move on
 - 16.5%: accessing health services
 - 14%: employment support
 - 21%: housing support
 - 21%: digital support
 - 1.6%: domestic violence
 - 3%: hate crime support
- **Beneficiaries:** **314 individuals** supported, including **276 new asylum registrations** and **38 refugees** receiving ongoing support.
- **Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG): 350 sessions (3 hours each)** delivered, resulting in:
 - 27 cases of homelessness prevented
 - 98 children supported into school
 - 5 employment visa issues resolved
 - 2 concerns of radicalisation reported
 - 6 cases of exploitation reported
- **Essential items distributed:**
 - 656 SIM cards
 - 28 mobile phones
 - 10 computers
 - 20 kg of wool
 - 156 items of clothing
 - 200 bicycles
- **ESOL classes:**
 - 7,200 hours of learning
 - 450 classes
 - 36 students

"I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for the incredible support we have received from Ideas Hub since the day we arrived in the UK as asylum seekers. In those early, vulnerable months — when everything felt unfamiliar and uncertain — the warm, welcoming environment you fostered had a truly healing effect on me and my family" Asylum Seeker beneficiary.

2. 'Supported Volunteering' Project (18–25 NEET) and 'Work Experience' Project (14–18 years old)

These programmes delivered substantial learning and employment outcomes:

- **Supported Volunteering (18–25, NEET):**
 - **36 beneficiaries** completed **5,400 hours** of structured learning.
 - Participants were referred by local partners including **DWP & EPUT**.
 - The programme resulted in **18 employments**.
- **Work Experience (14–18 years old):**
 - **67 beneficiaries** completed **8,550 hours** of learning and work experience.
 - This project led to **16 employments**.
- **Audience profile:**
 - **97% of all beneficiaries identify as neurodiverse.**

3. Socio-Cultural Centre and Activities (including Chelmsford LGBTQIA+)

Delivered in partnership with **150 organisations**, including Farleigh Hospice, Chelmsford CVS, Meadows, and The Outhouse Colchester.

- **Befriending support:** 16,858 conversations
- **Workshops:** 474 sessions and 2,754 participants
- **Community exhibitions:** 6 community exhibitions attracting 103,948 visitors

The above has been delivered through the dedication of **188 volunteers over 22,347 hours of volunteering hours** (CIP: 8,383; CEO: 3,640; Shop: 8,712, w/shops: 1,400 and legal service: 212) and provided 21,100 hours of learning.

FINAL OVERVIEW AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

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

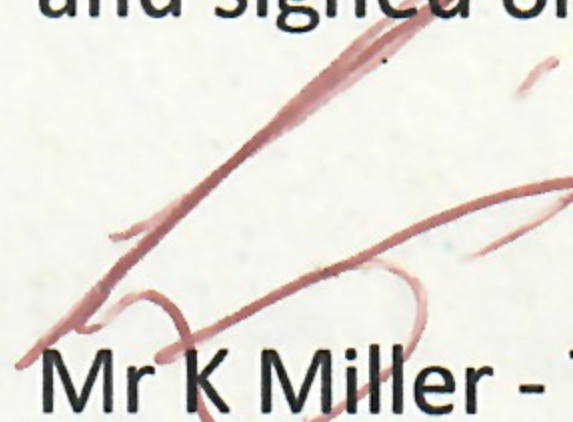
- **Consolidate its work on inclusion.** This year has focussed on providing a structured and reliable integration support service to support asylum seekers, refugees and migrants in Chelmsford by a dedicated team and creating a specific website: www.chelmsfordintegration.org. Next steps are to consolidate this work and
 - Create a 'Guest Housing Project';
 - Set up an Advisory Integration Committee; and
 - Formalise this work in a self-contained project with its own budget and plans for its own premises.
- **Maintain its delivery of befriending, signposting and creative activities/ workshops** to support residents' wellbeing and community cohesion.
- **Pursue advancement of education** as a core focus by building a dedicated social action Youth Group with a leadership programme, a tailored ESOL programme, and investigate how to better support refugees into work.

Finally, Ideas Hub Chelmsford will focus on its long-term strategy to develop its long-term sustainability, including plans to own its own premises to reduce the associated strategic risks and operational costs.

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 2025

		Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes				
Incoming from:					
Donations and grants	3	20,210	20,000	40,210	25,165
Charitable Activities	2	103,892	-	103,892	96,881
Investments	4	880		880	
Total income		124,982	20,000	144,982	122,046
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	32,509	-	32,509	37,981
Cost of raising funds	5	70,860	-	70,860	66,703
Total Expenditure		103,369	-	103,369	104,684
Net income/(expenditure)		21,613	20,000	41,613	17,362
Net movement in funds		21,613	20,000	41,613	17,362
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward at 1 st April 2024		118,626	0	118,626	101,264
Total funds carried forward at 31 st March 2025		140,239	20,000	160,239	118,626

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

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	8	4,463	2,529
Current account balance		84,564	126,487
Saving account balance		80,010	0
Cash on hand		1,508	735
		<u>170,545</u>	<u>129,751</u>
Creditors: amount falling due within one year	7	10,306	11,125
Net current Assets		<u>160,239</u>	<u>118,626</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>160,239</u>	<u>118,626</u>
Funds of the charity	12		
Restricted funds		20,000	-
Unrestricted funds		140,239	118,626
Total Funds		<u>160,239</u>	<u>118,626</u>

These financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on January 2026 and were signed on their behalf by:

Kevin Miller

Trustee

Date: 19/1/26

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. 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 of the cost of fixed assets over their expected useful lives.

- 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.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. Charitable Activities

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Sponsorships	0	0
Fundraising sales (commissions on sales)	51,491	50,799
Events/ projects	2,355	7,516
Space hire	25,176	25,642
Other Fundraising	24,870	12,924
Total	103,892	96,881

3. Grants and Donations

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Donations	6,450	7,565
Grants	33,760	17,600
Total	40,210	25,165

4. Investments

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Interests from savings	880	0
Total	880	0

5. Cost of raising Funds

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Staff costs (see Note 12)	60,040	55,130
Other Operational costs	10,820	11,573
Total	70,860	66,703

6. Charitable activities

	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Advertising	1,118	503
Post & Stationary	406	1,710
Utilities	6,910	9,831
Insurance	1,366	1,113
IT costs	1,493	963
Rent	4,364	5,066
Sundries	266	547
Assets	-	-
Maintenance	3,373	904
Projects	7,422	10,716
Volunteer training	339	1,043
Volunteer expenses	1,196	1,589
Workshop expenses	3,989	3,996
Professional fees (See Note 12)	267	-
Depreciation	-	-
Total	32,509	37,981

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7. Creditors

Accruals:

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

£10,306 at 31st March 25 suspense expense from artists and crafters March sales.

8. Debtors

£2,529 at 31st March 2024

£4,463 at 31st March 25 made of utility costs, Paypal suspense payments for March sales, and We Are Digital payments for Digital assistance services

9. Tangible fixed Assets (Fixtures and Fittings)

Nil at 31st March 24

Nil at 31st March 25

10. Going Concern

The charity is operating on a going concern basis

11. Related Parties

There were no related parties during the year

12. Restricted Funds

Nil at 31st March 24

£20,000 at 31st March 25

13. 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 2025 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,
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (Under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of the Independent Examiner's Statement

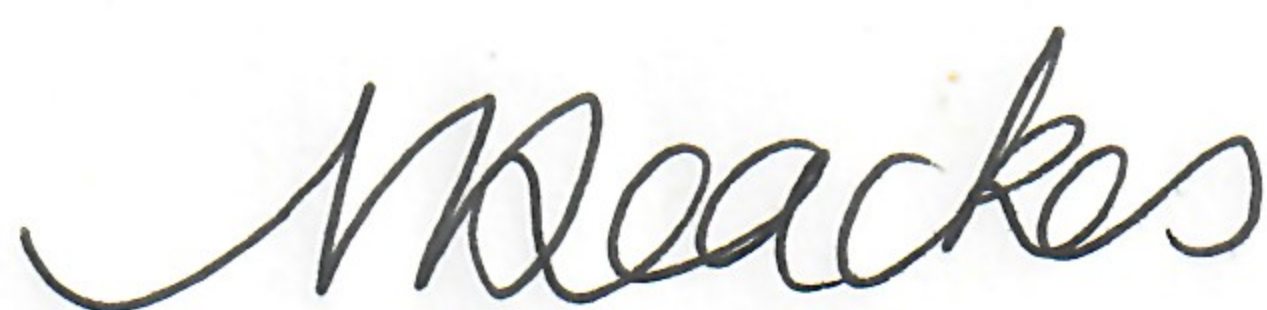
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Direction given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and a comparison of the account presented with those records. It also includes considerations of any unusual items 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.



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Nicola Deackes

Date:

19/1/25



“Thank you from the bottom of my heart for everything you do, and for the hope and stability you bring to so many lives.”

BENEFICIARY

THE ART PLACE: SOCIO-CULTURAL SPACE IN MEADOWS SHOPPING CENTRE

1 YEAR IN NUMBERS

Over 100,000 engagements with the Public

(Visitors, Attendees, & Supported) including over 132 nationalities

188 volunteers provided 22,000 hours of support

21,000 hours of learning delivered

16,850 conversations tackling loneliness

Over 1,000 individuals supported on a 1:1 basis

£290,000 of direct financial value created in Chelmsford

- £140,000 fundraised through donations and grants
- £150,000 raised for local artists

www.ideashubchelmsford.org



@artplacechelmsford



facebook.com/IdeasHubChelmsford

THE ART PLACE

The Art Place is where people from different cultures meet, create and belong. Through shared activities, workshops and exhibitions, strangers become friends and learning happens naturally.



In 2024-25, over 100,000 visits filled the space, nearly 2,800 people took part in 474 workshops and socials, while six community exhibitions sparked conversations including on immigration, women and dying.

For many, The Art Place was simply somewhere safe to talk — resulting in almost 17,000 conversations, 720 pieces of signposting and 105 hours of legal support.

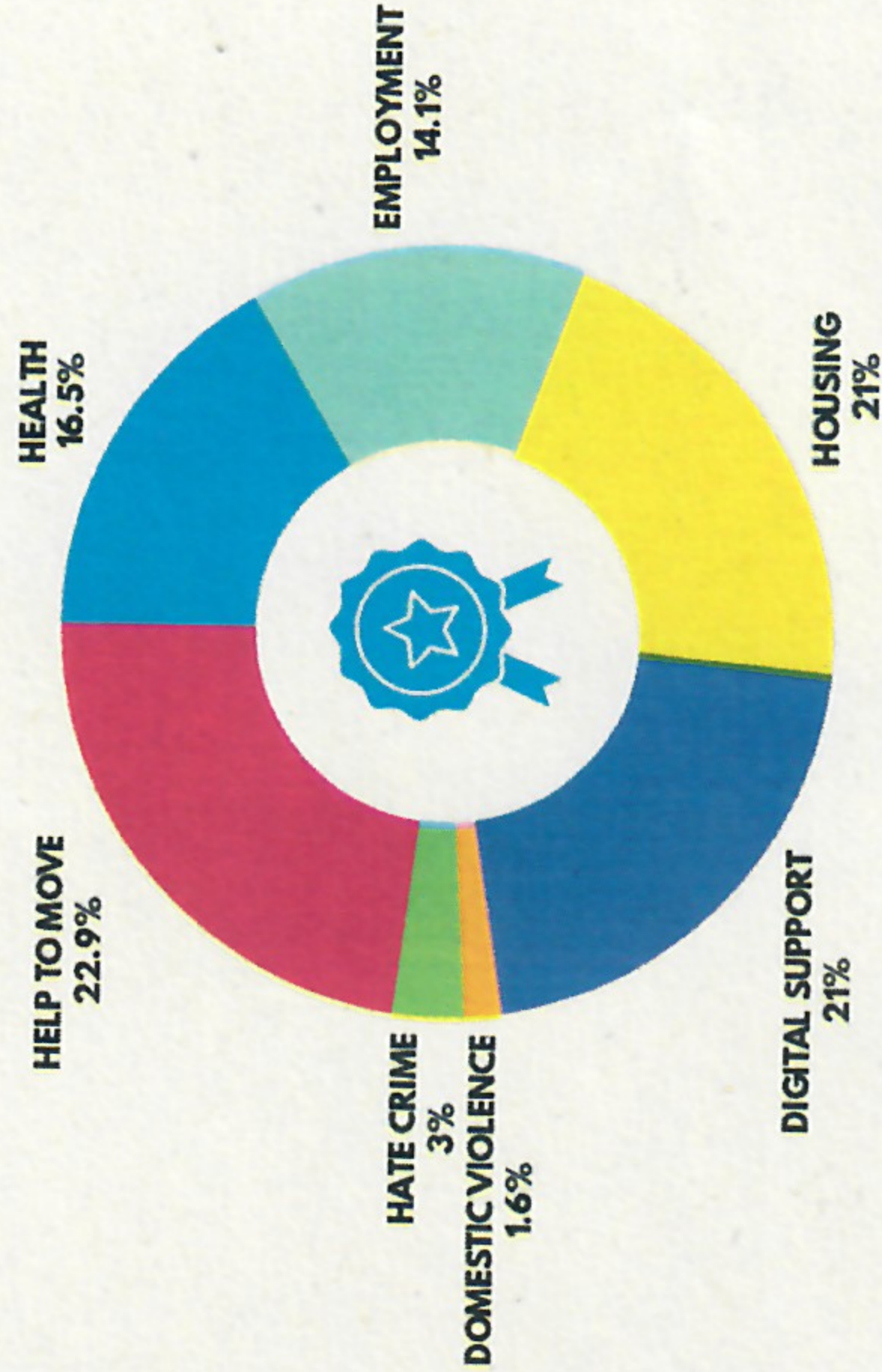
Behind the scenes, volunteering in the fundraising shop opened doors to the future for many of these volunteers. Young people not in education or work found purpose through supported volunteering, and teenagers gained real-world experience. 36 young adults completed 5,400 hours of volunteering, leading to 18 jobs. 67 students completed 8,550 hours of work experience, resulting in 16 jobs. Most beneficiaries identified as neurodivergent. Together their work also helped raise £150,000 for local artists.



Above all, The Art Place is about feeling safe, finding purpose, and knowing you belong.

CHELMSFORD INTEGRATION PROJECT (CIP) ACHIEVEMENTS

Between April 2024 and March 2025, 314 individuals were supported, including 276 new asylum registrations and 38 refugees receiving ongoing support. This was provided through 8,383 volunteer hours.



This work includes: 27 cases of homelessness prevented, 98 children supported into school, 5 employment visa issues resolved, 2 concerns of radicalisation and 6 cases of exploitation reported.

Digital poverty, transport to school, and wellbeing are amongst the main issues CIP resolved, including by donating 656 SIM cards, 28 mobile phones, 10 computers, 20 kg of wool, 156 items of clothing and 200 bicycles.

Language skills are key to integration, and as soon as they have arrived, asylum seekers are offered ESOL classes: 36 students attended 450 classes and received 7,200 hours of learning.



“

I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for the incredible support we have received from Ideas Hub since the day we arrived in the UK as asylum seekers. In those early, vulnerable months — when everything felt unfamiliar and uncertain — the warm, welcoming environment you fostered had a truly healing effect on me and my family”

ASYLUM SEEKER BENEFICIARY

Thank you

WE COULDN'T HAVE ACHIEVED THIS WITHOUT THE SUPPORT OF OUR SPONSORS, DONORS, 150 PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS, AND OUR FUNDERS. A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO YOU ALL:

OUR SPONSORS



2020 - 2025



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2016 - 2025

OUR FUNDERS



AFFILIATIONS



EASY STEPS TO SUPPORT US

Tell friends, families and colleagues about The Art Place.

Buy your gifts, attend workshops, and book professional and family photos at The Art Place, in the Meadows Shopping Centre.

And if you'd like to volunteer with us to help us deliver our valuable work - please get in touch.



www.ideashubchelmsford.org

The Ideas Hub is the Charitable Incorporated Organisation - registered number 1164085