

Annual

Impact Report

2022-23



Community Action Sutton



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Introduction

It's been a busy but exciting year for us here at Community Action Sutton. We've continued to work with our key partners and stakeholders, and ensured we listened to and represented the voice of our members and the wider voluntary sector in Sutton both at local and national levels.

Throughout 2022/2023 we've continued to support our members to ensure they can deliver their services and support the communities they work with.

Through new funding opportunities and projects like the Health Inequalities work we have been able to work closely with residents and in some cases help them set up community groups and charities. It's great to see communities come together to help support each other. As a result of this work our membership has increased by 8%. We continue to support our existing members and as with previous years fundraising and governance remains to be the top of the list in terms of areas of support needed.

We're really pleased to have been able to support so many local organisations with different funding opportunities this past year including the Sutton Community Fund Microgrants programme, which was specifically designed to support residents with the cost of living crisis. We also launched the Innovation Fund where groups were asked to submit a video application. I really enjoyed seeing this new creative way for groups to apply for funding.

We continued champion equality and diversity in Sutton and I am really pleased with the partnership work carried out around the Fairness Commission. We held a really successful event at the beginning of 2023 which saw different generations coming together to discuss race equalities in Sutton.

I am delighted with the progress that has been made at Hill House and we continue to work in partnership to deliver some great projects and events.

Speaking of working in partnership one of the biggest successes from this past year has to have been launching the Together for Sutton service. It has been a pleasure to see all our hard work come to fruition. I am particularly pleased with the success of the Information Network Events, these events have brought together colleagues from across the sectors and provide a valuable source of information sharing opportunities.

Finally, I want to thank my amazing and talented staff team who are so committed to our work!

Simon Breeze
Chief Executive Officer



The Staff Team

Simon Breeze - Chief Executive Officer

Jackie Parr - Executive Support Manager

Sara Thomas - Marketing & Events Officer

Lorraine Davies - Team Administrator

Razia Sattar - Head of Partnerships, Impact and Equality

Jubee Mathews – Community Development Officer

Alex Towers - Community Development Officer

Kate Lawman - Together for Sutton, Contract Manager

Daniel Ayeni - St Helier Community Development Lead

(until April 2022)

Karen Leung - Hill House Community Centre Manager

Michael Frean - St Helier Transformation Project Manager

(until Dec 2022)

Helena Yaourtoglou - Project Assistant, Hill House

(until June 2023)

Richard Stone - Hill House Community Garden Lead

Dunstanette Kuti - Head of Finance

James Poon - Community Accountancy Officer

CPS Payroll

Karen Adorjan - Payroll Officer

Tina Green - Payroll Assistant

Jona Kastrati - Payroll Assistant (until March 2023)

Healthwatch Sutton

Pete Flavell - Chief Executive Officer

Gemma Abraham - Communications, Engagement & Projects Officer (until May 2022)

Colin Wilson - Communications, Engagement & Projects Officer

Andrew McDonald - Health Engagement & Projects Officer

Alyssa Chase-Vilchez - SWL Healthwatch Executive Officer

Our Trustees

Jenny Sims – Chair

Nick Walsh - Vice Chair

Amie Stace – Treasurer

Vanessa McCain

Dave Hobday

Bob Harrison

Laurence Imrie

Polly Persechino

Louise Kelly

Our year in numbers

293
Members



Supported 152
Charities, voluntary organisations and small groups



Represented the voluntary and community sector across
20 partnership boards and meetings

Held **66**
Meetings, Networks and Forums



Held **8**
Funding Workshops



With **28** Participants

16 Training sessions

59 Participants



Supported 29
organisations with fundraising including funding advice and submitting applications

21 Successful applications



£181.5K Supported groups to access funding

Sent out **208** E-bulletins



43%
Open Rate
(Average)



4%
Click Rate
(Average)

9 Funding specific E-bulletins

Shared information via social media

X
735
Posts

f
734
Posts

Hosted and/or supported activities at **Hill House**



39 Active Me
exercise sessions



51 Food shop
open days



22
Volunteers



16 Men in Shed's
85 Participants



30 participants attended
a self defence session

Supporting Groups

Supporting voluntary and community groups is at the heart of what we do, and during the past year we continued to support our members and newly established groups with a range of topics. We found that the past year, as with many previous years, the greatest demand for support and advice was around funding and governance. We also delivered one to one advice sessions on topics including; setting up a group, writing a constitution, looking at governance structures, work with trustees boards, partnership working, managing risk and fundraising and funding searches.



Creative Payroll Solutions (CPS) continues to provide a complete payroll service, and over the past year our friendly, helpful and experienced team have supported over 160 organisations, businesses and individuals employing a Personal Assistant. Each payroll is unique with employee numbers ranging from just a single employee to organisations with over 80 employees. The team submitted pension contributions on behalf of over 60 clients to a range of pension providers.



Supporting over 160 organisation, businesses and individuals



Payroll Value 24.2M

“ Such a reassuring and excellent value for money service that we get from Creative.

“ We are very pleased with the service you provide and it has really helped us with the management of our accounts

Raising awareness of small charities during Small Charity Week

In 2022 the theme for Small Charity Week was 'Connecting Small Charities'. To help small charities in Sutton connect with the local community and each other we organised a local Charity Fair. Charities and small groups came together to promote their services and give out information to members of the public and network with other local charities. We also held a small groups forum which gave organisations the opportunity to connect and network.



Supporting Groups

Sutton Innovation Fund

In 2022 we launched the Sutton Innovation Fund (with money from the Sutton CCG NHS Charitable Fund). This grants programme gave smaller organisations the opportunity to apply for a grant for new and innovative projects and ideas that would benefit their local communities. The aim was to give an opportunity to pilot new work which would then become viable longer term. We asked for applications to be submitted via a short video clip instead of the standard application form process, both the panel and groups found this to be a positive change as it gave the opportunity for groups to explain their ideas in a creative way. During 2022 there were 2 rounds of the innovation fund and we awarded 5 grants to local organisations totalling £99,508.

Funding from the Sutton Innovation Fund enabled a local group to start working in partnership to help support an additional 23 people through bereavement. The funding also supported a local social enterprise to relaunch a shop where many of the products are produced by adults with learning disabilities or Autism. Another local group used the grant to help support 10 families through a Positive Family Support Programme with a local organisation that provides 12 months of support including a whole range of activities, mentoring and counselling sessions plus social events and trips.

“ **The Positive Families Programme has allowed me to learn new skills with my son. We now share a passion for outdoor activities, arts and crafts.** ”



Ethan & Thomas

Sutton Community Fund Microgrants

Following a low number of applications to the Sutton Community Fund in October 2022, where only two grants were awarded, totalling £19,400, the panel agreed to change the criteria to help address the cost of living crisis. In January 2023 the Sutton Community Fund Microgrant Programme was launched, offering smaller grants of up to £1,000 to support organisations and small groups to deliver local initiatives to help people and communities with the cost of living crisis over the winter months. During this time 18 grants were awarded to local organisations totalling £17,000.



Community Washing Machine & Tumble Dryer



Support for vulnerable members of the community



Community Food Cupboard, including prepared meals



Support and activities for older people



Supporting Community events and activities



Support and activities for children and young people

Representing the Sector

Listening to the sector

A key area of our work is to listen to and represent the voice of the voluntary and community sector in Sutton. We do this in many ways, one of which is to facilitate, develop and support the voice of the sector through a range of forums, partnerships and networks. These platforms play an important role in gathering and sharing information, as well as giving the sector an opportunity to comment on and influence local strategies and policies. We also attend regular meetings and partnership boards to share and feedback the sector's voice.



Voluntary Sector Forum

One of the key forums we facilitate is the Voluntary Sector Forum, during 2022/2023 we held 3 meetings. The key topics included Council accommodation for the voluntary and community sector, the newly established South West London Integrated Care System, the Learning Disability Strategy and Learning Disability Conference, discussions around representation on various Boards. We also discussed work to build a South West London Voluntary and Community Sector Alliance. We also use these forums to give updates on the work we are carrying out and gain a better understanding of how we can continue to support the voluntary and community sector in Sutton.

Keeping Women Safe Network

During 2022/2023 we held 4 Keeping Women Safe Network meetings. This network is made up of voluntary and community sector organisations and external stakeholders such as the Police, Safer Sutton Partnership and Sutton Council.

The main focus of this network during the past year has been working with the police to build better relationships, working with partners on the White Ribbon Campaign and addressing issues on how women are kept safe in Sutton.

Representing the Sector

We also provide representation on a range of boards, committees and partnerships both locally and nationally. There are over 20 different boards, committees and networks that staff attend and represent the voluntary and community sector throughout the year.

During 2022/2023 the themes and focus of the boards, committees and networks we attended covered;

- Advocating to the public sector for better funding and fairer contracting processes for the Voluntary and Community Sector
- Children, Young People & Families
- Community Safety
- Equalities and Diversity
- Domestic Abuse
- Anti -Poverty
- Health and Social Care Integration
- The Sutton Plan and local partnership working
- Children's and Adults Safeguarding
- Health Inequalities



Promoting Equality and Diversity

Race Equality Conference

During the past year we have been instrumental in bringing people together to talk about race equality in Sutton.

At the Race Equality Conference at the beginning of 2023 over 40 colleagues from different sectors came together to share information and discuss the work that had been taking place around race equality in the Borough.

Beverley Dixon, a member of local group ACHA shared some of the poems she had written when attending the Sutton Creative Women's Writing Group which we had helped to set up in the previous year. The conference also provided an opportunity for young people to get a taste of the Young Peoples Creative Writing sessions, where young people got the chance to explore different topics that effect their daily lives and produce some writing in response to these topics.

Race Equality meetings

During 2022/2023 we held 53 Race Equality meetings, these meetings provide an opportunity for the Voluntary and Community organisations and stakeholders to come together to discuss issues around Race Equality in the Borough. Participants are able to share information, network and work collaboratively on key events happening locally such as White Ribbon Day and events and activities that take place throughout Black History Month.

International Women's Day

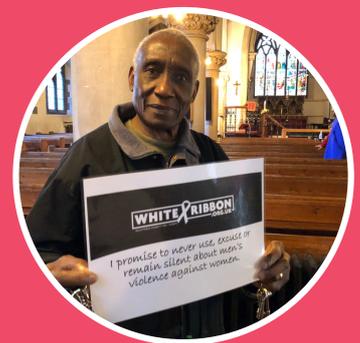
Each year we raise awareness and support the International Women's Day campaign. This year we shared information and brought together colleagues and residents to Embrace Equity.

It was great seeing so many generations coming together to talk about Race Equality



White Ribbon Day

Our CEO Simon took part and encouraged members of the community to take the White Ribbon Day pledge to promise to never use, excuse or remain silent about men's violence against women.



Supporting Communities



Sutton Men in Sheds

The Sutton Men in Sheds programme provides a community space for men to connect, engage in conversation, and pursue practical interests. The project prioritises engaging vulnerable men dealing with mental health issues and has developed a referral system to make relevant referrals once specific needs for further support are identified. During 2022/2023 we ran 16 sessions engaging with 85 men. Various activities were offered, including wellbeing workshops in collaboration with Sutton Uplift. These workshops aimed to equip men with skills to enhance resilience and overall wellbeing.

Community Garden

The Community Garden within the grounds of Hill House continues to flourish into an area of peace and serenity for all to enjoy. Sessions are held every Friday and cater to residents who are interested in gardening but lack their own garden space. In every session, there are 6-8 dedicated volunteers who generously contribute their time and expertise. During 2022/2023 the garden saw significant change with wooden planters installed in November 2022 and the greenhouse was completed in February 2023.



Passport to Employment

The Passport to Employment project was established in partnership with Sutton College, 10 residents completed the course. Residents developed a better understanding of the importance of adapting CVs, cover letters, and suitability statements.

“ I have enjoyed this course and I found the sections extremely useful and i am more confident at CV writing, cover letter writing and job applications too.

Volunteer Opportunities at Hill House

Working in collaboration with Sutton Housing Partnership we organised a community event in September 2022 for both residents and stakeholders to visit Hill House and explore the grounds. Working together 22 participants took part in litter picking, weed removal, tidying overgrown bushes and planting new turf. We are keen to showcase Hill House not only as a community centre but a vibrant hub where residents can actively contribute to the beauty of their shared spaces.



Supporting Communities

The St Helier Community Project played a key role in the successful development of new projects and increased engagement with local residents and the community around the St Helier area.

One of the successes included the St Helier Community Fund, this programme was open to organisations and individuals that could demonstrate how their idea or project would benefit residents living in the St Helier area. Funding was awarded to 3 groups totally £5600. The funding was spent on equipment to help to bring the community together and also towards supporting the popular St Helier Music Festival.

Another success from this project was a residents survey, where by 320 residents shared their views about the local area and were invited to attend an event which brought together key decision makers to begin creating a community plan for the area.

Throughout this project we worked closely with Sutton Housing Partnership and accompanied them on a walkabout around the area to meet residents and listen to their concerns. The insights and relationships from this work are being built upon and developed through the new Health Inequalities project (as one of the key areas is St Helier).



Supporting communities through Health and Well-being

Working in collaboration with Sutton Housing Partnership, 76 Active Me exercise sessions specifically designed for older adults with limited exercise experience were delivered. 39 sessions were held at Hill House, with 300 residents taking part.

We are proud to support the St Helier Community Food Shop, run in collaboration with Sutton Housing Partnership the shop, based within Hill House is open every Thursday for local residents to purchase food for a small weekly fee. The primary goal for this venture was to address immediate food needs and enhance the overall well-being of residents and individuals in the St. Helier area.

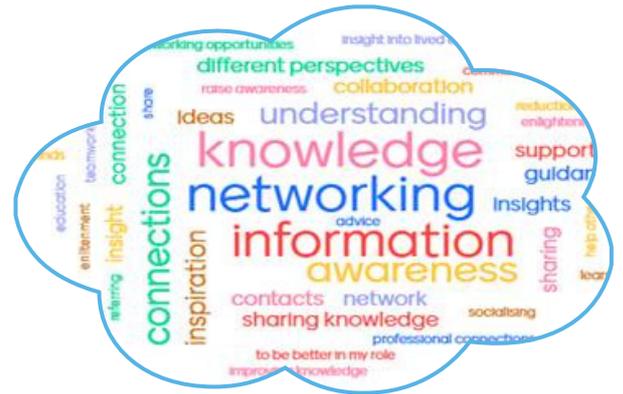


Self Defense class for Women

Over 30 women from diverse backgrounds and ages attended our 1st Self Defense class for Women. Participants left not only with new knowledge but also with heightened confidence and personal security.

“ Well done and thank you so much for putting on such an excellent women’s self-defense session. I loved that it was women’s only.

Working in Partnership



On July 1st 2022 the Together for Sutton (TfS) partnership was launched after a consortium of local charities, led by Community Action Sutton won Sutton Council's Making Informed Choices tender. The partners, Advocacy for All, Age UK Sutton, Citizens Advice Sutton, Healthwatch Sutton, Sutton Carers Centre, Volunteers Centre Sutton and ourselves as the key strategic lead all have a wealth of knowledge and expertise that enables the partnership to provide an independent, impartial, free and confidential information and advice service to support residents and professionals in Sutton.



The TfS partnership offers both residents and professionals a single point of contact to access information and advice, via the phone, online and in person.

Another big success of this partnership is the Information Network Events. During this past year there have been two events, with future events planned quarterly. These themed events are for professionals to come together to network, share information and gain knowledge about the vast range of services available in the Borough. Over 115 professionals attended the two events and the feedback continues to be extremely positive.



“ **Thanks for a great event yesterday... it was really helpful, there were a few services in the room I had heard of and not had the opportunity to speak with before so that was really nice.**

“ **Thanks for organising such a great event. Lots of positive comments from people during the day. Great opportunity for us to be able to raise awareness of sight loss and services that Sutton Vision can offer.**

Working in Partnership

National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2022

In the lead up to and during the National Hate Crime Awareness Week 2022 we worked with key partners in the Borough to help to raise awareness and support local engagement events including an Active Bystander training session. The engagement work was a huge success with many residents speaking to local organisations and police about Hate Crime in the community. Residents had a greater understanding of hate crime and hate incidents and felt confident in where to go to get help or support as well as what to do should they witness a hate crime.



Sutton Safer Neighbourhood Board and Ward Panel Chairs Network

We continue to chair the Sutton Safer Neighbourhood Board (SSNB). These Boards are set up by MOPAC (the Mayor of London's office for Policing) in every London borough are designed to look at local policing and crime priorities and monitor police performance and confidence. The Ward Panel Chairs meet two weeks in advance of the SSNB, these meetings give the opportunity for ward chairs to share good practice and raise issues in their local areas.

During 2022/2023 we have worked with the Police to present the Police Data/Performance Pack in a more accessible and user friendly way. We have also invited key speakers such as Sutton Women's Centre to talk about the White Ribbon Campaign and the work that was being done in the Borough. We are pleased that once again MOPAC funding has been brought into the Borough to support a range of projects in the community.

Anti-Poverty Forum

We continue to facilitate the Anti-Poverty Forum and we are pleased that during 2022/2023 attendance has grown and 6 meetings were held. The main topics discussed included trends from Sutton Community Works and Sutton Housing Partnership and feedback from Cost of Living Round Table Event. Updates on new initiatives, Thinking Works attended and spoke about Energy Efficiency, Government Grant Schemes, information about the Sutton Community Fund Microgrants Programme and support for mortgage interest and shortfalls between rents and local housing allowance.

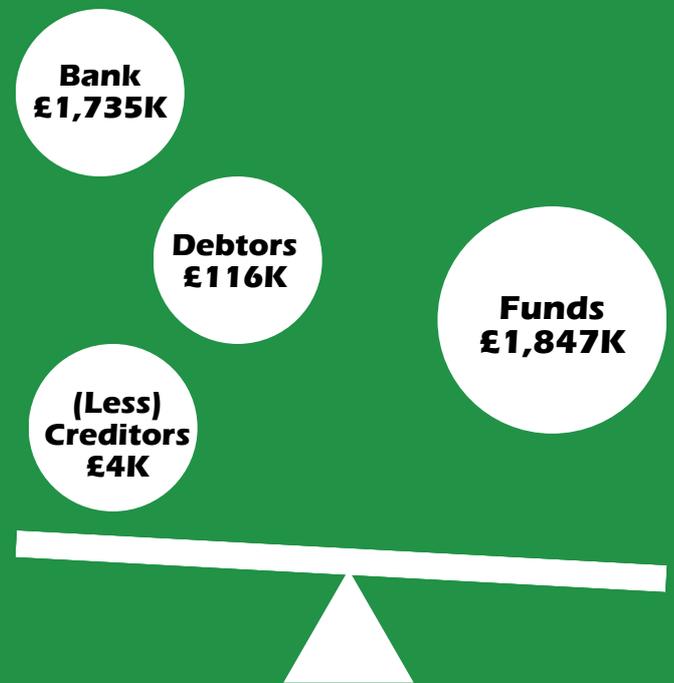
Following a letter from the Anti-Poverty Forum to public sector leaders, Sutton Council held 2 roundtable events with a range of partners. This led to the creation of 4 warm spaces and the funding of a Debt First Aider role to support those most affected by the cost of living.

Our Finances

Our Balance Sheet...

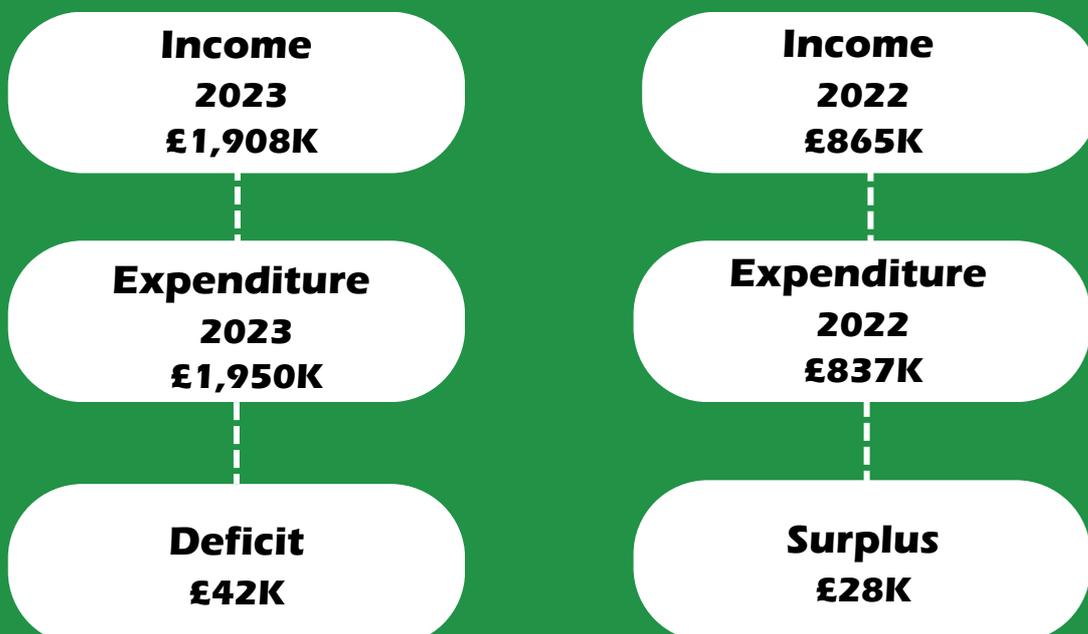
"A SNAPSHOT of our balances on 31/3/2023"

As at 31 March 2023, Community Action Sutton held £1,846,600 in unrestricted and restricted funds. £1,297,000 of which is the Sutton CCG Charitable Fund. An explanation of these funds is shown in a separate document, available upon request. The total value of unrestricted funds held by Community Action Sutton as at 31 March 2023 stands at £433,473. The total value of restricted funds held by Community Action Sutton stands at £1,413,127. These are funds overseen by Community Action Sutton relating to specific projects and are accounted for separately, as required by the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). A full schedule of the restricted funds controlled during the year is shown in the Financial Statements.



Our SOFA...

"A SUMMARY of our finances for the WHOLE year up to 31/3/2023"





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