



# Impact

## REPORT 2025 - 2026



Hackney\_quest



HackneyQ



Hackney-quest

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# A year IN REVIEW

Throughout 2025 and into 2026, Hackney Quest has provided safe, trusted, relationship-based support to young people, families, and the wider community. Against a backdrop of rising living costs, pressure on education, and stretched mental health services, our focus remains on early intervention, prevention, long-term relationships and positive outcomes.

## Highlights April 2025-2026

- Achieved the London Youth Gold Quality Mark, recognising excellence in youth work practice, safeguarding, and leadership
- Supported 276 young people aged 8-25+ through youth programmes, school transition support, residentials, employment, counselling and leadership opportunities
- Older young people shaped their communities through youth voice projects, including the Red Path, Homerton for Homerton, and MUGA improvements
- Delivered over 500 free counselling sessions in 6 locations through the expanded Talking Quest service
- Over 40 runners took part in the Hackney Half Marathon and 5K, raising funds and visibility
- Successful fundraising including CIBC Miracle Day and the Yellow Ball Foundation Bullseye fundraiser
- Youth volunteering trip to Jamaica in Jan '26 and £5000 raised to donate to Hurricane Melissa response
- Completed our first full year as a 'Cadent Centre for Warmth' supporting the community with energy advice, income maximisation and benefit help



## Youth Engagement, Transitions and Leadership

Youth programmes remained central to our work, engaging 158 young people through term-time evening sessions, holiday provision, trips, and residentials. These spaces offered stability, creativity, and connection, supporting confidence, resilience, and belonging.

Summer provision was a key strength, with transition programmes supporting young people moving to secondary school, and residential experiences encouraging independence, teamwork, and positive risk-taking. Creative activities, sports, performances, and youth-led projects supported wellbeing and strong peer relationships.

Youth leadership continued to grow, with 25 trained youth leaders supporting delivery across programmes, holiday activities, mentoring, and community events. Their involvement strengthened services while building confidence, skills, and responsibility.

## Employability, Wellbeing and Counselling

Over 120 young people received employability and wellbeing support through mentoring, one-to-one casework, and world-of-work experiences, helping them build confidence and access pathways into employment, training, and further education.

Our Talking Quest counselling service expanded, delivering over 600 1:1 counselling sessions. A team of 14 qualified and trainee therapists delivered free weekly counselling

across 6 youth settings, ensuring accessible, representative mental health support for young people helping them build confidence and be ready for employment.

## Youth Voice, Place and Community Change

Through Wick Youth Voice, young people played an active role in shaping their neighbourhood. Through the Red Path project, local young people have redesigned a walking and cycling pathway in Hackney Wick, and we are now working with the council to have the works delivered.

Through Homerton for Homerton, we have reconnected Homerton College, Cambridge with its 'hometown' of Hackney, and brought their students together with local young people.

Through our work improving MUGAs throughout Hackney, we have responded to the voices of young people about how important these spaces are for them.

## Family, Community and Hardship Support

Each week, we have up to 110 people accessing our community lunch, foodbank, coffee morning and warm space. Through our partnership with Cadent, we have increased our number of 1:1 appointments offering benefit checking, income maximisation and budgeting advice. We have also expanded our service to include energy saving advice, carbon monoxide awareness and priority service registrations for vulnerable clients. We ran our second Warmth and Wellbeing event in December, welcoming 144 people through our doors.

## Looking Ahead to 2026/27

Volunteers remain essential, with almost 100 volunteers contributing over 2,000 hours across youth provision, mentoring, and community support.

Over the next year, we will continue to develop our youth leadership opportunities and continue to expand our counselling provision, strengthen transition support, and develop partnerships across all programmes.

With young people, and our community at the centre of everything we do, Hackney Quest continues with confidence, momentum, and ambition.



## Thank You to our funders & partners

Andaz, BACP, Barrow Cadbury, BBC Children in Need, Beauty Banks, Build Up, Cadent, Canada Life, Charles S French CT, CIBC, City & Guilds, Coop, Daniel Friendman, ELFT/ICB, Fanmakers CT, Felix Project Garfield Weston, Good Things Foundation, Hackney Giving, HCVS, Headley Trust, Henry Smith, Homerton College Cambridge, HPC, Innholders CT, Jack Petchey Foundation, Lifestyle-Motivates, London Borough of Hackney, London Councils, London Youth, Pemberton Barnes, Places for People, Polen Capital, Rijac Properties, SCF, Screw Fix, Sedulo, SHPC, Sir James Roll CT, SITC, Space Black, State of Play, The National Lottery, The Wickers, Trusthouse, Wick Award, Woodroffe Benton Foundation, Yellow Ball Foundation and others.  
**AND the amazing individuals that raised money for Hackney Quest.**

# Our PROGRAMMES

*\*Results from our 2025 survey of young people, parents/carers, volunteers and community members. 135 responded. Questions were answered on a scale of 1 (not at all) -5 (a lot). Percentages below represent those that answered 4 or 5.*

Programmes	Focus	Highlights and Impact April 2025-26
All Youth Programmes	Positive youth engagement and support for young people aged 8-25+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 276 young people aged 8-25+ attended across all youth projects</li> <li>• We recorded aggregate attendance of 3,453 resulting in 8,746 hours of engagement</li> <li>• 115 young people received mentoring from staff, volunteers and our corporate partners</li> <li>• 94% of young people feel safe and supported at HQ*</li> <li>• 87% of young people think we help them make positive choices*</li> </ul>
Youth Work	Positive youth engagement for young people aged 8-19 via a range of term-time & holiday activities, workshops, residentials & accreditations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 158 young people attended holiday and evening sessions</li> <li>• A total aggregate attendance of 2,081 and 6972 delivery hours</li> <li>• We delivered 214 total evening youth sessions and 58 holiday activities/trips</li> <li>• 9 young people won Jack Petchey awards</li> <li>• 93% of young people think we help them grow in confidence*</li> <li>• 100% of parents/carers consider HQ a safe and supported environment for their child*</li> </ul>
Employability and Wellbeing	Supporting young people age 16-25+ to gain skills & opportunities with employability, counselling/wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 135 young people aged 16-25+ engaged in this programme</li> <li>• We had an aggregate attendance of 1,192 resulting in 1,368 hours of engagement</li> <li>• 1:1 counselling provided 605 sessions for 60 young people</li> <li>• 87% say HQ improves their mental health and wellbeing*</li> <li>• 94% of young people feel listened to at HQ*</li> </ul>
Volunteering	Giving opportunities to local people to support young people, families & vulnerable clients in the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 97 volunteers supported youth and community activities</li> <li>• 2,021 volunteer hours given</li> <li>• 18 new volunteers inducted</li> <li>• 35 youth volunteers gave 1518 hours supporting 171 sessions</li> <li>• 92% say we recognise &amp; celebrate their involvement, and listen to them*</li> <li>• 100% of volunteers say we help young people &amp; community to feel safe &amp; supported*</li> </ul>
Community & Hardship Support	Food support, benefit checking, income maximisation, budgeting, referrals and reducing social isolation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2,163 food bags distributed via our foodbank</li> <li>• 89 community lunches and coffee mornings for an aggregate of 2,166 people</li> <li>• 575 1:1 appointments offering income maximisation, benefit checking, budgeting, signposting &amp; referrals, energy advice</li> <li>• 90% of community members say we help them understand and improve friendships/relationships with others*</li> <li>• 92% of community value us for improved mental health and wellbeing*</li> <li>• 94% consider HQ to be a safe and supported environment*</li> </ul>
Family and Education Support	Helping young people, parents & families improve outlooks through mentoring, and support to navigate the education system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 29 young people and their families received family and education support</li> <li>• 78% of parents say we've improved their child's confidence, 91% say we've given new opportunities, and improved friendships and relationships</li> <li>• 100% of parents say we provide a safe and supportive environment, and celebrate achievements</li> </ul>

