

2022



Lewisham Irish
Community Centre

Annual Report

ABOUT US

Established in 1992, Lewisham Irish Community Centre is an organisation with an enduring passion for transforming the lives of the people it works with. Primarily we have been focused on the needs of Irish, Irish descent and people from the Irish Traveller community. LICC enables people to build resilience, retain independent and fulfilled lives and access the right kind of support when required.

Vision

A confident empowered Irish community

Mission

An engaged Community Centre enriching lives by providing accessible services and facilities to the local community

Stratgey

We will achieve our Vision by focusing on four key areas of delivery and growth

1. Welfare of The Irish Community
2. Keeping our Community Connected
3. Collaboration
4. Rebuilding and Sustainability Post-COVID



2020

CEO

It's been a very challenging year for the Sector, Lewisham Irish Community Centre lost two-thirds of its potential unrestricted income however we are emerging a stronger more focused organisation in terms of the services we offer and the clients we reach. Throughout the Pandemic LICC has remained a vital hub in Lewisham supporting local organisations to deliver much needed essential services while setting up our own initiatives including a community meal on wheels project (Bia) delivering free weekly meals to those who were shielding, living alone, elderly and isolated. With the support of Lewisham Local we developed partnerships with Catford Fridge, The Good Hope Café and Wheels for Wellbeing to deliver a rapid and effective response to those in need. To date thanks to a dedicated team of weekly volunteers we have delivered 2216 community meals and 1001 food hampers, gift bags and parcels. Bia recently received a Lewisham's Mayor award for its valuable contribution in response to COVID.

This past year has given us an opportunity to reflect on our priorities and make a commitment to the future sustainability of our organisation as our services will be more crucial than ever in the months and years ahead. We have developed a four-year strategic plan focusing and building on our success to date, the welfare of the Irish community, keeping our local community connected, building on our collaborative work with local and Irish organisation to meet need and putting measures in place to ensure long term sustainability of our organisation. One of the many positives in this challenging year was the offers of help and support we received from volunteers, the dedication of our staff team and board of trustees. We hope to build on these new connections in the months and years ahead.

Finally, I would like to thank our funders for their support and flexibility this past year and for affording us the capacity to react in a way we can be proud of particularly to those most in need.

Kathleen Sheridan - CEO



CHAIR

There is no getting away from the fact that the last year has been the most challenging in our history. The pandemic had a huge impact on all of our lives, businesses and charities have been hit hard, and the Lewisham Irish Community Centre was no exception.

When we were forced to close the Centre in March we were faced with two choices; we could either close, or we could adapt and play our part in supporting our community through these most challenging of times. I am pleased to say we chose the latter. Almost overnight, services moved online and over the phone, funding was repurposed, an army of volunteers helped us get food and shopping to members of our community who were unable to leave the house. It was a remarkable response in such a short period of time.

I would like to thank all of those who enabled us to achieve what we did last year. The management committee, our volunteers, our funders and partners, the Irish Embassy and Irish Government, Lewisham Council, and everyone who supported our COVID-19 appeal. Without you, none of what we have achieved in the last year would have been possible.

I would also like to pay a special tribute to Kathleen Sheridan and her team. It is largely down to Kathleen that we were able to adapt so quickly and play such an important role over the last year.

As we reflect on the past year, I would like to pay tribute and extend my condolences to the members of our community who have lost loved ones and to those who are sadly no longer with us.

The past year has reaffirmed the important role the Lewisham Irish Community Centre plays in our community. Whatever challenges we face over the next twelve months, we will be with you every step of the way.

James Farrell - Chair



SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

We adapted our advice and advocacy services to run remotely this year and uptake was high. 284 individuals accessed our Irish and Gypsy Roma Traveller services, 138 clients accessed advice and advocacy across housing, welfare and disability and a further 146 vulnerable or isolated individuals were offered regular welfare calls and access to essential food /meals. To date, LICC's team of three advisers have made 4420 welfare calls. While providing a frontline response, we retained the AQS award in general advice and welfare casework.

Immigrant Counselling & Psychotherapy Service continued to provide telephone and online counselling service to Lewisham Clients throughout this pandemic.

We set up a digital access project supporting older adults with online access. We deliver a weekly program of activities in partnership with the Diamond club, Training4life, Purple Palm and local volunteers to an average of 25 older adults weekly. To date, we have delivered 50 hours of online activities attended by 45 individuals.

284

people supported through our Irish and Gypsy Roma Traveller Services

138

clients accessed advice and advocacy across housing, welfare and disability

Advice Service Quality Mark

retained

4420

welfare calls made

146

vulnerable or isolated individuals were offered regular welfare calls and access to essential food /meals



SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

LICC youth club delivered 30 sessions over the past year onsite to 35 young people. Onsite sessions remained well attended and often oversubscribed during restricted periods. LICC is a recipient of a Burberry grant award this year which gives us an opportunity to expand and develop the service. We are due to launch a Food Poverty Project working with up to 30 local families in the coming months.

Irish language classes were relaunched online in the Autumn term with Anna Hartnett, running two classes weekly for beginners and intermediate levels. This is a much-valued part of our cultural program and a vital connection to our native language during this time of separation.

In partnership with Wheels of Wellbeing and Southwark Irish Pensioners Project we recruited 35 volunteers supporting our food delivery projects, online music project, Lewisham Irish Elders Project, and inhouse painting and decorating initiatives. In total, 1553 volunteer hours were delivered.

Counselling & Psychotherapy

offered to clients through
Immigrant Counselling &
Psychotherapy Service

25

older Irish a week reached
through the digital access
project

30

youth club sessions
delivered

1553

volunteer hours delivered

Irish Language

classes run weekly



Financial Statements - 2019/20

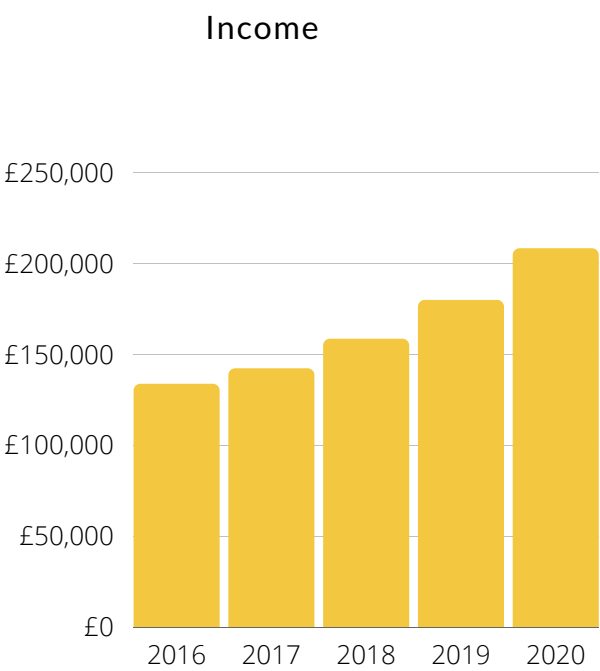
Income increased by 15.8% in the year to £208,246 (2019 £179,800) - chart below.

The Lewisham Irish Community Centre is primarily funded by two grants:

One grant is from Supporting People, London Borough of Lewisham, which contributes towards the Gypsy Roma Travellers Outreach service. The current contract has been extended to March 2021 and recommended until March 2022.

The other major grant is paid by the Irish Government (Department of Foreign Affairs Emigrant Support Programme), which pays for the delivery and management of the Irish advice and outreach services and the Irish Traveller element of the Gypsy Roma Traveller Outreach Service.

Expenditure increased by £10,966 6.05% £192,027 (2019, £181,061).



Financial Statements - 2019/20

Income and Endowments

	31.3.19	31.3.20
Donations and Legacies	109,108	129,890
Other activities & fundraising	70,670	78,324
Investment Income	22	32
Total income	179,800	208,246

Expenditure

	31.3.19	31.3.20
Other trading activities	1,482	5,624
Charitable activities	75,622	68,554
Support costs	101,857	115,749
Governance costs	2,100	2,100
Total Expenditure	181,061	192,027
Net income/(expenditure)	(1,261)	16,219

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Traveller Services

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welfare and disability

30

youth club sessions
delivered

Counselling & Psychotherapy

offered to clients through
Immigrant Counselling &
Psychotherapy Service

Advice Service Quality Mark

awarded

Our Funders



THE IRELAND FUNDS



Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme

See Website: www.government.ie for more information
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade



Lewisham



BBC
Children
in Need



COMMUNITY
FUND



The London
Community
Foundation

Our Quality Marks



advice
quality
standard



London
Youth
QUALITY MARK
BRONZE ACCREDITED
2017-20



We are a
Living
Wage
Employer

Adenmore Road



4420

welfare calls made

1553

volunteer hours delivered

146

vulnerable or isolated individuals were offered regular welfare calls and access to essential food / meals

£192,027

spent on delivering services for the local community

15.8%

increase in income last year

Irish Language

classes run weekly

1001

food hampers, gift bags + parcels delivered

2216

community meals delivered

