Inspiring Youth Work

This work was created as part of the Mayor's Young Londoners Fund.

The powerful impact youth workers can have is shown through the eyes of the young people they support.

Young people directed a photo shoot capturing what they felt was most important about their youth workers and youth centre.

Here they share their stories and portraits.

www.london.gov.uk/young-londoners-fund
#younglondonersfund

Haringey Play.

The Winch.

Reaching Higher.

Sycamore Trust.

Bollo Brook Youth Centre.

Liyana. Natalia. Ruby. Harvey. Olivia. Adam. Latifa. Dhalia. Joy. Amir. Riley. Krystian. Nawaal.

Francesca. Sara. Matthew. Samah. Aliyah.

Nathan. Marvin. Neziah. Ashleigh. Eden. Kyanne.

Theo. Alfie. Harrison. Calum. Justin. Oscar. Sofia. Violet.

Ubar. Anas. Adna. Kashaan. Lawand.

City Hall, London

Inspiring Youth Work is a collaboration between the Greater London Authority, Eastside and Young Photographers London.

During October 2019 photography workshops took place at Bollo Brook Youth Centre, Haringey Play, Reaching Higher, Sycamore Trust and The Winch.

Young people were supported to develop the skills and access the equipment needed to take high quality photographs to a brief.

The photographs were taken by 10 to 21 year olds who participate in projects funded by the Mayors £45m Young Londoners Fund.

This fund helps young people to fulfil their potential by supporting community projects that provide exciting and engaging youth activities.

These will reach more than 100,000 young Londoners over the next three years.

Shack by Adna

Samah: I like how at The Winch there are so many opportunities, and I'm able to experience different things and meet new people.

The Winch makes me feel ... special.

Yasmin by Kashaan

Yasmin has helped me bring out my artistic side. Usually I wouldn't paint things, do mosaics, take pictures, have my face out there, that's not really me but Yasmin, I don't know, cos she's so sweet and she knows how to talk to people, she's just so sweet you just feel like you have to say yes cos she's so lovely.

Bollo Brook Youth Centre

Michelle by Nawal

I like the people, staff and the playground – especially the swing. It makes me feel happy! Michelle suppoerts me and helps me have fun.

Ben and Michelle by Nawal

Delia: We make popcorn and do talent shows and we get to do all different kinds of games.

Haringey Play makes me feel ...happy and exhausted!

Andre by Matthew

I like how everyone here is like a family and we all support each other. Andre has always shown me support through my highs and lows.

The Winch makes me feel ... at home.

Anna by Francesca

The staff really help actually. Just how warm and welcoming they are and how inclusive it is. There's new faces, old faces, and it's like a little reunion every now and then. Anna is the lead of the entrepreneur course and she has just honestly been amazing to be fair. A right mentor. She's supported me in creating CVs and applying for jobs. You can tell when someone genuinely cares and I think that's what it is.

The Winch makes me feel ... like I'm able to do anything.

Reaching Higher by Naziah and Ashley

Naziah: I like that Reaching Higher accepts you, they don't care what background you come from or what's happened to you, they'll take you on. Reaching Higher has made me feel confident, educated. I would say that it has made me feel loved as well.

Ashley: Reaching Higher makes me feel ... appreciated and definitely confident in terms of being able to open up to people.

Dami and Lawrence by Nathan

Kyanne: Lawrence is like a big brother figure, like he always says something that makes you laugh and I know he's always there to speak to if there's anything going on.

Reaching Higher makes me feel ... loved, cared for, protected. Just a part of something.

Reaching Higher

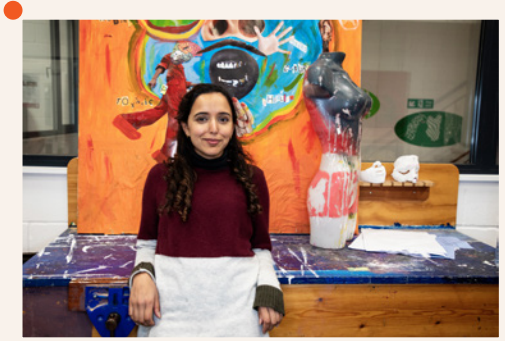
Ted, Sue and Kerry by Theo

Harrison: Sue's supported me. They help me with my problems that I got and some stress.

Sycamore Trust makes me feel ... better for going out.

Sycamore Trust

01-SycamoreTrust-001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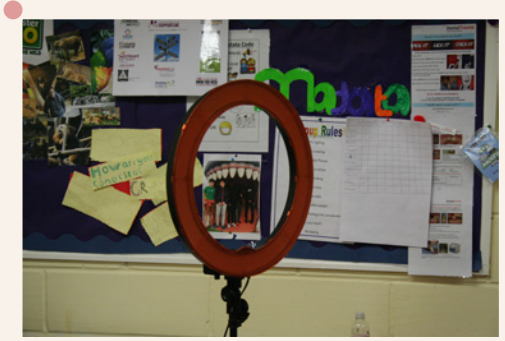
03-SycamoreTrust-002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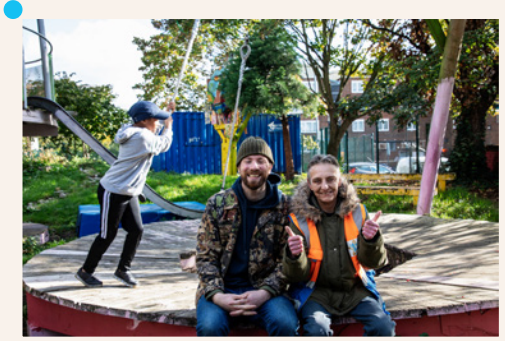
05-TheWinch-001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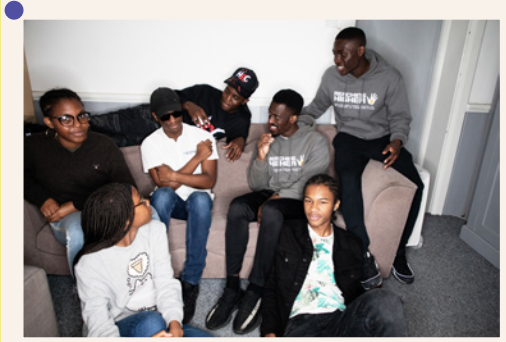
07-HaringeyPlay-002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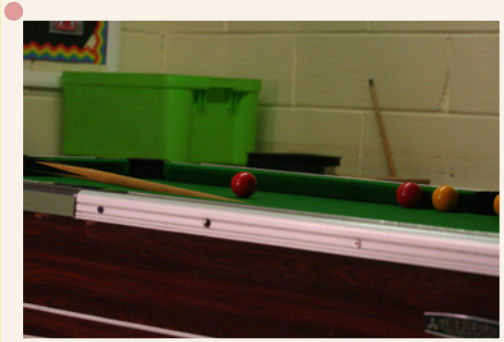
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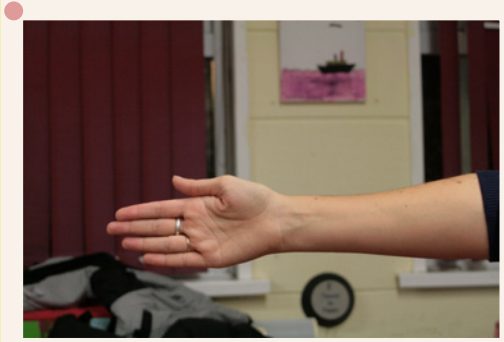
10-HaringeyPlay-003

17-SycamoreTrust-006

18-BolloBrook-003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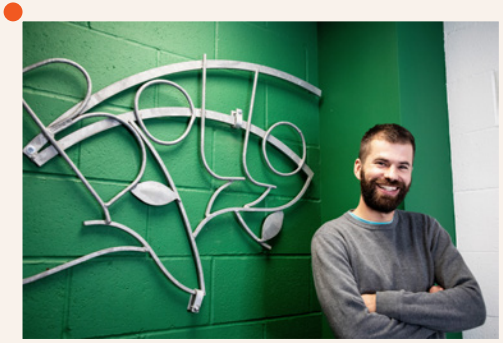

12-BolloBrook-002

19-SycamoreTrust-007

20-HaringeyPlay-005

13-TheWinch-002

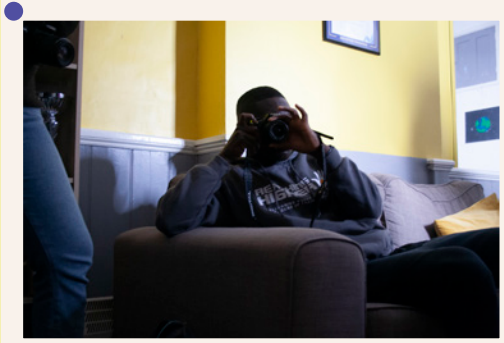
14-ReachingHigher-002

21-TheWinch-004

22-TheWinch-005

15-TheWinch-003

16-HaringeyPlay-004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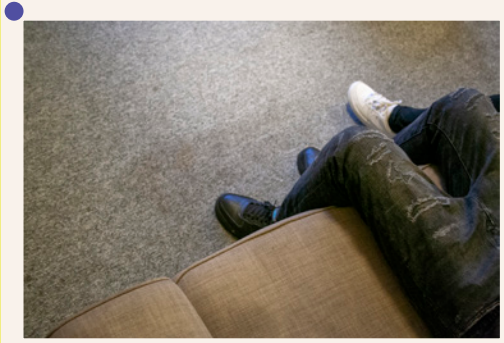
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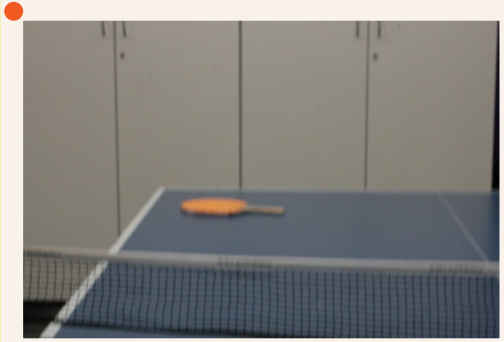

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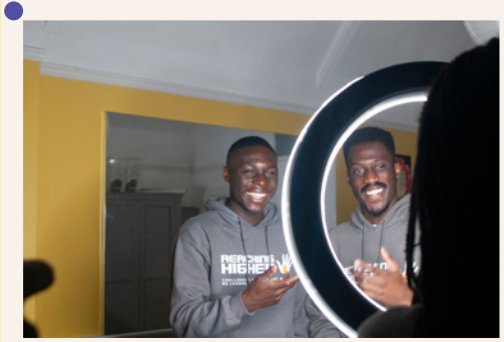
26-HaringeyPlay-006



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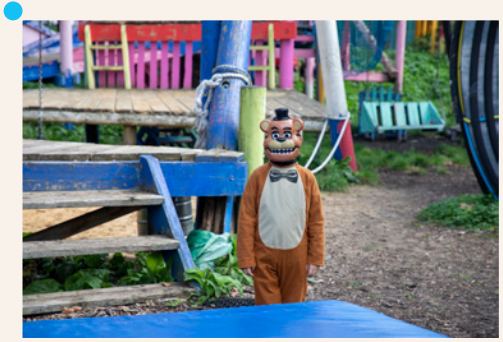

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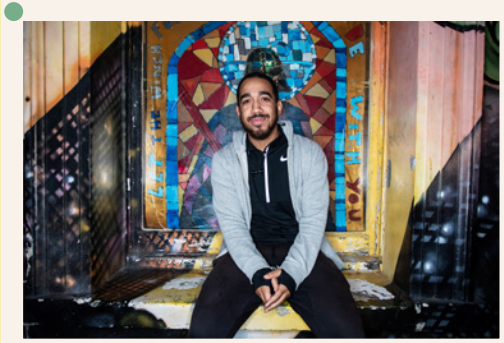


29-TheWinch-006

30-HaringeyPlay-008

31-SycamoreTrust-008

32-ReachingHigher-006

Ted by Theo

Sophia: They speak to me about what could help because they understand autistic people. You start to build bonds with each other and that's what really helps.

Sycamore Trust makes me feel ... welcomed.

Sycamore Trust

Serena by Ruby

I like that it's not like normal parks and Tam's here. He's always here helping people out and we always do different things like making fires, and survival things. Most of the stuff here is homemade but I feel safe on it.

Haringey Play makes me feel ... happy and safe and I have a lot of fun here.

Tam by Natalia

Tam has helped me with home life, making friends and stuff and getting support at school.

Haringey Play makes me feel ... united, good, part of a community.

Pat by Lawand

Every time I go in I see the same faces around and it's nice. It's a break from reality. There's quite a homley sense to Bollo. There's always something happening, something to get involved with, someone to talk to.

Bollo Brook Youth Centre

Colin by Lawand

Colin really cares about the work he's doing in Bollo. He always wants to make a difference from one young being to another. He could be having a socio-economic discussion with me one second and the other second talking about street life. The work he does is unbelievably underrated and is not appreciated enough. He's the glue of the community in a sense. He builds a sense of family within Bollo.

Bollo Brook Youth Centre

Lawrence by Marvin and Kyanne

Kyanne: I think the fact that it's just like a big family. Like once you get involved everyone becomes your brothers and sisters.

Dami by Eden

Marvin: I'd say it's a good community that brings everyone together and during your summer holidays gives you a lot to do. It's something affordable and you can do it with a bunch of different people your age. It brings you together. Everyone that I know now is from Reaching Higher.

Lita and Francesca by Sara

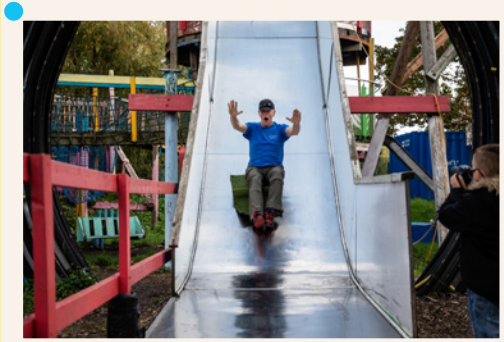
I think The Winch provides a safe space to be creative. They really support your vision. They help you pursue your dreams and they provide you with the skills you need and they hook you up with the right people. Lita has helped me come out of my comfort zone. I'm usually quite shy and reserved but she helped me join different groups, really come out of my shell.

The Winch makes me feel ... I think safe. Safe and it allows me to be creative. I've always been creative but sometimes life gets in the way. It's really nice that I'm actually born again and can revisit my old creative side.

Reece by Aliyah

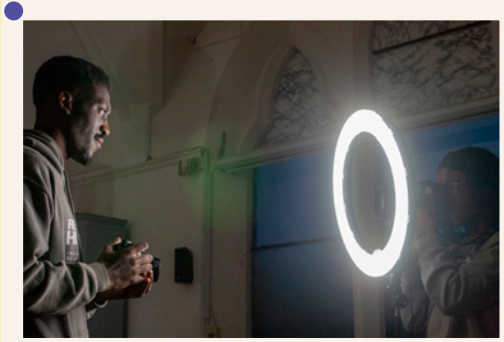
I've been coming since I was seven and I'm now fifteen, so eight years. It's just a great environment to grow up in, feeling like you're part of a community and great youth workers that are very easy to talk to and very understanding. I've been to a residential trip with Reece. He used to be on the pitch with us whenever we played football together. When I see him he's just a very positive vibe, he's always smiling, always happy.

The Winch makes me feel ... secure, happy and welcomed.

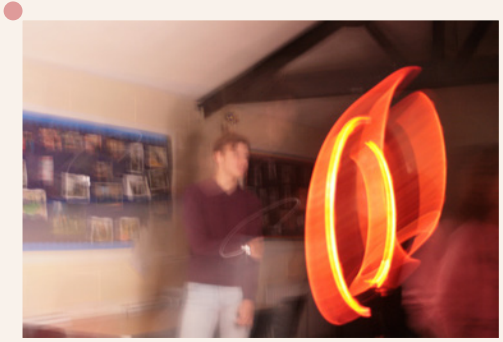


33-HaringeyPlay-009

34-ReachingHigher-007



35-ReachingHigher-008



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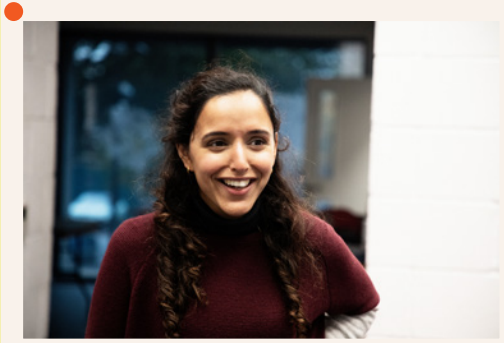

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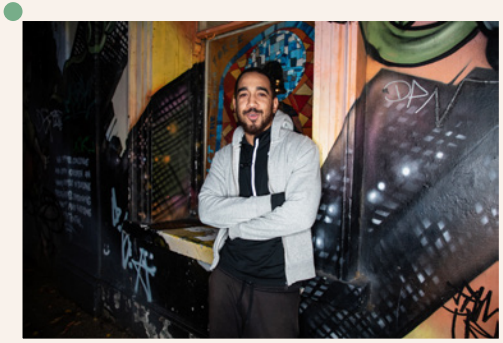
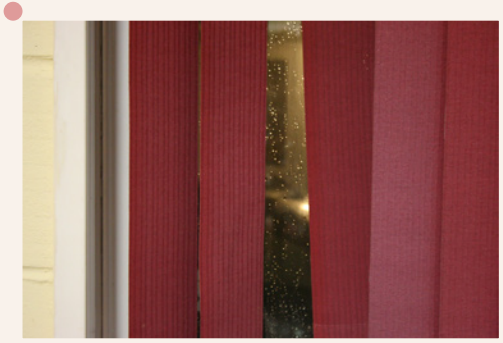


38-TheWinch-007

39-HaringeyPlay-010



40-SycamoreTrust-010

Big thanks to everyone who took part in the workshops from Grace and Niaz. You made this.

Young Photographers London run photography workshops across the capital for children between the ages of 8 and 18.

They are committed to developing creative minds through the lens of the camera.

They believe that by teaching photography the young people will also gain skills for life.

Eastside enables young people to develop their creative thinking, so that they are able to become the problem-solvers of tomorrow.

They engage children and young people through direct participation in the arts, enabling them to work with professional artists and creative practitioners.

YPL

EAST SIDE

SUPPORTED BY

MAYOR OF LONDON