

Doorstep

"Opening doors for homeless families"



Annual Report 2023 and Accounts 2022

Director's Report

It has been a year of change, adjustment and planning for the future.

We completed the process of reviewing the five year strategic business plan we created in 2018 and together with our stakeholders we developed a new plan for 2023 to 2028.

The cost of living crisis has impacted the charity as well as the people we serve and fundraising has continued to be an extremely high priority, to both maintain existing services and support our future goals. While reviewing our previous plan we were gratified to have secured multi year funding over the last five years. However, with two sources of funding coming to an end in 2023 the need to find alternative funding became urgent.

A key member of staff, who worked across all ages of children and young people, as well as the lead worker for our youth project and another sessional youth worker all left to take up full time/better paid jobs. Their departure coupled with four years of funding for our work with children and young people coming to an end meant we couldn't offer job security to recruit replacement staff. This has been a challenge and while not yet succeeding in securing the long term funding for this area of work we did raise sufficient to maintain these services for approximately six months. Unfortunately, we had to pause our youth project due to the funding and staffing situation but we know how much it is needed and plan to re-establish the project once funding and recruitment permit. We continue to prioritise work with children and young people as our most urgent multi year fundraising goal.

Similarly, funding for the Parent Support Worker came to an end in March 2023. We have so far managed to maintain the post by raising sufficient funds to cover partial costs and using funds from our reserves.

We said goodbye to five outgoing members who had served on the board of trustees for between six and 23 years. We give sincere thanks for their support, expertise and dedication over the years. We welcomed three new members and are currently recruiting more members to improve diversity amongst the membership.

Our thanks also go to our patron Victoria Coren Mitchell, for her generosity and support despite spending much of the year pregnant. We congratulate her on the birth of her second daughter.

Last but not least I thank my colleagues for their hard work and their adaptability.

Doorstep is an organic organisation that has experienced many challenges and achieved many successes over more than forty years since its inception. We are excited to look forward to another year of delivering services that really do make a difference to some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

Vicky Fox

Our services

Our services have been developed over the years in direct response to the needs that families have expressed:

- ★ Opportunities for children and young people to play, learn and develop at our after school club, crèches, Youth Project and drop-ins.
- ★ Joint activities with the partner organisations.
- ★ Regular creative & educational activities for adults.
- ★ Information, support and guidance for parents.
- ★ A programme of special activities and outings during the summer and school holidays.
- ★ A weekly 'bazaar' giving access to free essential goods donated by the wider community.
- ★ Free daily access to laundry facilities.
- ★ Family food packages, healthy snacks and meals

225 people accessed Doorstep's services from January to December 2023. During this period 14 new families with 38 children registered with Doorstep and 10 families with 25 children moved away- all to private rented with the exception of 1 to Housing Association. We supported a total of 60 families, 75 adults and 130 children and young people. Additional needs among our children and young people include severe allergies, ADHD, severe allergies, Autism Spectrum, Verbal development delay, Mobility Development delay & Tourettes.

Highlights of the Year

January- March -We continued to provide a monthly store cupboard food parcel for every family, ran a digital literacy and maths course for parents to enable them to help their kids with homework and the youth project visited an exhibition at Camden Arts Centre. Our kids also made lanterns to welcome Amal, a 3.5 metre puppet depicting a Syrian refugee child revered around the world as a symbol of human rights who visited Camden.



April - June -During the Easter Holidays we visited parks and the library with the younger ones and the youth project had a tour of the creative hub at the roundhouse. At the beginning of May we celebrated Eid with a day-long party starting with our little ones in the morning, continuing in the afternoon at the after-school club and into the evening with the youth project. We enjoyed delicious food, henna art, games, presents and cakes galore! In June we ran a course on healthy eating on a low budget for parents and McClaren Group created a wildlife area in our gardens with bird feeders and bug hotels for the kids. Sadly, Kaamila Mohamed who had been leading our youth project left us to take up a full time post.

July-September- In July The young people attending our Youth Project created a video, as part of their social action campaign, concerning the lack of WiFi in their temporary accommodation. The video was shared with the Director of housing and the leader of the council. They were impressed by it and shared it with other councillors. Our young people were invited to make a deputation to a Cabinet Council meeting where they had 3 minutes to make their case. The leader of the council informed them - "We've found the funding through our families fund to install free wi-fi in our three family hostels and will try to do that as quickly as possible. As a result of your campaign you have really made a difference. Thank you for pushing us." The story appeared in BBC local news reports. It is an amazing achievement for our young people who have not only succeeded to improve things for themselves and their families, but also for all the other families and those who will come behind.



Camden pupils in hostels successfully ask council for wifi

Youngsters living in hostels ask their coun...
www.bbc.com

Sadly, Sarah Lough left us mid July to take up another post. Sarah had been with us for fifteen years and both she and Kaamila Mohamed are missed. The loss of a staff member just before the Summer Programme was due to start meant we had to adapt the plans we had made at extremely short notice. We managed to deliver as much of the originally planned programme as possible in the circumstances.

The programme ran for 5 weeks from July 24th until August 25th. We ran different sessions for different ages with a range of age appropriate activities and one themed activity in Science, cooking, art and crafts, sports and games each day.

As well as the themed activities, children enjoyed singing, dancing, story time, dressing up, construction games, sand and water trays, role play, team games, loom band creations, musical instruments and cared for the plants they are growing in the garden. At every session children and young people were provided with fruit and a variety of healthy snacks as well as being able to eat or take home what they made in cooking sessions.

Due to staffing levels we were not able to deliver some of the planned outings as there was insufficient staffing to ensure safety. However, once per week we provided a coach for a day trip to the coast for whole families. We visited Clacton on Sea, Southend on Sea, Broadstairs, Eastbourne and Portsmouth. We had picnics on the beach, the children dug in the sand, found sea creatures, swam and paddled in the sea. At Clacton and Southend we provided entrance to the pier funfairs.



In September we resumed our term timetable.

October - December - In October the four year funding we had received for our work with children and young people came to an end. Fortunately, we were able to raise sufficient funds to continue this area of work for approximately, a further six months while we seek longer term funding. Sessional playworker Zinedine Belabbas left to take up a full time job and Iryna Hulam took his place.

At Christmas we held our usual three parties for the different age groups. One for parents and under fives with a hot meal cooked in house and games for the children. Another for the kids

aged 5-11 years with face painting, games, snacks, pizza and treats. The youth group chose chicken and chips as their guilty pleasure meal with snacks and treats. Thanks to the generosity of various schools, businesses, a local church and kind individuals every child and young person received two gifts. Every family received a supermarket gift voucher.

We provided every child and young person with a birthday gift and thanks to volunteer bakers at Free Cakes for Kids Camden they all received a beautiful customised cake.



Doorstep Parent Support and Advocacy Service

The project has been successful in supporting 58 families. Parents have received support with concerns including eviction notices, support to understand housing law and requests to access information. Other support services, such as the Camden Early Help team, can alert us to such cases directly as we have developed a partnership with other organisations to help signpost families and adults to appropriate support services.

Upon investigating the circumstances when an eviction notice has been served, we found that, in some cases the order was wrongly issued. In one example an English speaking family member, who was the council contact in a Bengali speaking family, had not responded to the council in a timely manner. Unbeknown to the council, this was due to his wife having birth complications and being in the ICU with their child for an extended period. We supported the family sharing the evidence of their circumstances with council staff and the eviction notice was revoked.

We have been able to highlight where systems can fail those who are vulnerable and not always able to advocate for themselves due to literacy, lack of understanding systems, language barriers, mental health, and trauma. We have been developing ways to support the work of the council while supporting our service users to have a good experience of the housing system in a difficult time in their lives.

Our partnership with Working Men's College led to the provision and successful uptake of classes including literacy and numeracy through budget management and cooking classes with maths. We also had a class called Maths for Parents: to help parents support children with school maths in Key Stages 1,2 and 3.

There has been an increase in the numbers of refugees mainly because either home office schemes which paid towards their housing ended or the sponsor scheme they came to the UK on has ended and alternative housing has not been found. As a result we have seen an increase in service users with language barriers which can complicate engaging them when they arrive.

Families can be empowered when they have information and knowledge and when adopting self-advocacy techniques we have supported them to develop.

Some examples of the impact of our work with children and young people

Creche- 0-4 years

Case Study 1

Zak had no space to move at home, living in crowded accommodation with his siblings. He needed encouragement and more opportunities to start standing and then encouragement cruising, holding onto furniture and toys to move around the setting. He followed older peers, watching and copying them, choosing toys to play alongside them. With the extra space to play that Doorstep offers indoors and outside Isa now runs by himself, and tries to join-in chasing games with older peers in the group. Consistent with his predicted milestones for his age-range he grabs toys from peers to inspect and use himself and 'helps' adults collecting toys from the floor when asked by name. Being from a bi-lingual family has meant his communication skills are advanced for his age and he already understands names and positional language of toys, smiling and looking when staff ask him to get a ball from under the table.

Case Study 2

When Hafi started using creche she was non-verbal, she and her family had a low understanding of English but she also had difficulty understanding her home language, instead she just smiled or shook her head to communicate. Within 3 months of attending the setting she started picking -up objects that she wanted to use or pointed to resources to express herself. Using suggested activities from the Speech and Language partners at the creche sessions meant that after six months she was using single words of English and mime, when she didn't know the word. She also tried to use some single words of her home language, but quickly realised the staff didn't understand her and used gestures instead to express herself. Now Hafi is a busy member of the creche cohort, joining her peers in games and making suggestions for songs at singing time. At tidy-up time she will help staff tidy up the room, collecting toys asked for by name, and talking about her home and family 'I'm making dis for Mumma' With Doorstep's support she is now meeting all of the expected milestones, on track for her age compared with the EYFS, for language and physical development.

After -School Club-4-11 years

Case Study 3

Ama started using the creche at Doorstep, until she found a space in Nursery class she was non-verbal, and Mum was chasing an Autism diagnosis, to enable her daughter to get extra support she needed. When she became 4 she was able to use the After-School Club after Nursery had finished. She found the transition difficult and became unsettled, clinging to her older sister who had to stay with her every session. Working with teen volunteers and staff at Doorstep, Ama was supported to play alongside her peers and share resources. After 9 months of after-school club Ama is now enjoying chasing games with teen volunteers and chatting with adults about school and what she's playing. Her speech isn't always clear but she uses long sentences of 6-7 words. Unfortunately her peers still find it difficult to understand what she's saying, making imaginative play difficult so she still needs adult support from staff to enable successful interactions, the whole cohort encourages her to play with them in active games.

Case Study 4

Ella found it hard to mix with the peer group at After-School Club when she first started attending. She was used to interacting with her older siblings at home and found it difficult to just play with peers. Instead she wanted to help the adults and chat with staff. Doorstep asked one of the teen volunteers to support her to interact with her peers. After-School Club introduced more small group activities for her to complete with children she knew from her time using the creche service. Ella flourished in the more supportive atmosphere and smaller groups, she started to invite her peers to play hide and seek together, chatting with them about what she'd been learning at school, and what resources they should get out to play with. Now she rushes to get to the After-School Club, to meet her friendship group, join-in art activities and play in the garden. Her new-found confidence also means she is able to make suggestions and give feedback as part of the group, to influence future activities

Youth Project-12-18 years

Case Study 5

Mani started using the Youth Project late in 2022, arriving into a tight-knit group, finding it difficult to bond with the older people who were attending at the time. Acting combatively, defensive when anyone asked him questions. Play workers encouraged him to chat with peers, although he constantly pretended to be older to try and impress them. Engaging him in cooking activities, with emphasis on everyone's diverse heritage helped him to open-up and talk with adults and older members of the cohort about his homelife. After 6 months he finally admitted to peers his real age, talking about his school, because they'd already accepted him, no-one made a fuss which surprised him. Since revealing his age he's more able to act his age and relax at the setting, becoming more welcoming to new people and interacting with everyone, helping to perpetuate the welcoming, non-judgmental atmosphere that benefited him.

Case Study 6

At the start of the year Taf needed constant reminders about her behaviour and to use appropriate language, she struggled with literacy which reduced her self-confidence, she preferred to create a diversionary scene than risk people laughing that she couldn't read or write. Doorstep campaigned for school to get her a 1-to-1 worker, and supported her with accommodations to help with literacy in the setting as well as getting her a laptop to help. Now, Taf is confident to use her maths skills while cooking, helping peers with cooking skills, she still avoids writing and reading by negotiating to make artwork for posters. Her new self-confidence in her abilities means she's able to join banter with peers without becoming aggressive from frustration because she can express herself better. She does still need reminding about appropriate language (playground speak vs speaking with adults) but this has become less as time passes .

The impact of being without a secure, stable home can be deep and far reaching through childhood and into adulthood. We shouldn't underestimate the damaging effects of living in temporary accommodation on children and young people. Having no space to play or to do homework, no privacy, lost friendships, lost support networks, not feeling good enough or like they belong and uncertainty about the future. Doorstep's work with children and young people aims to provide recreational and educational opportunities, to create an area of consistency and normality during a very difficult time in their lives, for them to feel part of a community and very importantly to let them know we care and they are valued.

BBC Children in Need gave the following response to our report on the fourth and final year of funding-

"You clearly continue to achieve brilliant outcomes with your children and young people. Congratulations on the successful delivery of this grant - and we wish you all the best going forward."

The Bigger Picture

Half of teachers in England work with homeless children

Shelter -Posted 22 Dec 2023

Shelter warns housing emergency is inflicting untold damage on children's education as teachers report missed school days, hunger and exhaustion

Alarming new research from Shelter exposes the devastating impact of homelessness on school age children. Half of teachers at state schools in England (49%) work at a school with children who are homeless or who have become homeless in the last year.

With a dire shortage of social homes, and sky-high private rents forcing more families into homelessness, there are now nearly 140,000 children living in temporary accommodation in England. This means 1 in 84 children are homeless in England today.

Shelter's survey of more than 1,000 teachers - carried out by YouGov for the charity's urgent appeal - paints an appalling portrait of a failing housing system that is inflicting untold damage on children's education.

Polly Neate, Chief Executive of Shelter, said: "With 1 in 84 children homeless in England right now, the immense damage being inflicted on their education is a national scandal. An alarming number of teachers are bearing witness to the horrors of homelessness and bad housing that families tell our services about every day. Appalling stories of children

falling asleep in class because they don't have their own bed, and parents filled with worry because they can't even cook a hot meal in their grim hostel without a kitchen."

Shelter's research dives even deeper into the heart-breaking effects of the housing emergency on children, as witnessed by teachers who've worked with children experiencing homelessness in the last year:

Shelter's research resonates with Chiara, a teacher from East London. She said: "Many of the young people I teach are being put at a huge disadvantage by homelessness and bad housing. I have students who have been moved miles out of their area. They get up at 5am just to make it into school. They're hungry and tired. We do everything we can for them, but they end up falling behind.

"Some have been placed in temporary accommodation where they don't even have locks on their doors. They hear alarms going off all night and people coming in and out. They don't feel safe at all. It's a vicious cycle because without a secure home, their education suffers."

Polly Neate continued: "How do we expect children to concentrate in class and succeed without a safe place to call home? To end the nightmare of child homelessness the government must make renting more affordable and build decent social homes. Until then, we need the public's support more than ever so that we can keep fighting for the families on the frontline of the housing emergency."

Ethan, 17, lives with his mum in Hackney, London. When Ethan was 11, his family received a S21 no fault eviction notice, which plunged them into homelessness. They were housed in temporary accommodation for the next six years where they dealt with appalling conditions including mould, disrepair, and pest problems. This had a huge impact on Ethan's health, education, and wellbeing throughout his time at school.

Ethan said: "We spent just over a year in the hostel when we were first evicted. The place was infested with cockroaches and there wasn't any drinking water - we didn't even have a kitchen. If you wanted to do dishes, you had to use a bucket in the shower and cooking anything was impossible, so I often went to school hungry.

"I was always so exhausted because I had to wake up so early to get to school. I got home at 5.30pm every day because I had to stay late to do my homework. There just wasn't any space to concentrate at home – the place was so small that mum was constantly injuring herself, and we were always bumping into each other. It was a nightmare.

"We were moved to different temporary accommodation after the first year. The

building wasn't looked after properly, and my room became covered in mould. Half of my things were destroyed because it was so damp, and I had to sleep on the couch or share a bedroom with my mum – which was hard. In the end, the damp became so bad that the floor in the living room rose by nearly a foot."

Of the teachers who have worked with children experiencing homelessness in the last year, Shelter research found that:

91% say children are coming to school tired as a result of their housing situation, as sharing beds and being stuck in overcrowded accommodation mean it is difficult to sleep

83% say children have not been able to complete their homework because of a lack of space in their accommodation

87% say that children have come to school hungry. Temporary accommodation such as B&Bs and hostels often have only basic or no kitchen facilities at all

91% say that children's living situation has negatively affected the mental health of children at their school.

81% reported it having a negative impact on physical health.

78% reported friendship breakdowns among children struggling with homelessness and bad housing.



Moving, Always Moving The normalisation of housing insecurity among children in low income households in England

Always Moving – the latest publication from The Children’s Society’s study Understanding Childhoods: Growing up in hard times. It is testament to the value of listening to children and placing their voices at the heart of social research. (The following is an extract from the report)

One of the most striking aspects of gathering the data used for this report was not only what our transient participants told us – of how they had got used to living with various aspects of housing insecurity, had come to expect the worst, how it was just life really, or no big deal (until it was over, when they acknowledged that actually it had been) – but the way in which they often recounted their experiences of it.

With a few exceptions, young people’s accounts of ‘moving, always moving’, getting housed permanently in places they didn’t want to be, or living in limbo somewhere in between, were told quite matter-of factly, almost impartially at times, with little in the way of animation, which may have indicated a sense of injustice or indignation about their circumstances. No drama, no sense that things might be different. Their narratives of their housing histories seemed to trip off the tongue as if they were stories of games in the playground, leaving researchers wondering, at first, whether they really were hearing things right, and if they were, whether these were indeed stories of significance that spoke to a chronic denial of human needs satisfaction.

This is important, because it reinforces the way that housing insecurity can become normalised for those experiencing it, albeit still stigmatised and felt negatively. It shows how transient young people can get so used to moving, always moving, and through this can become so accustomed to circumstances that compromise the satisfaction of their human needs that it all just becomes a routine, accepted part of their lives.

From the data described in this report, we can identify three key – interrelated – senses in which this normalisation operates. First, housing insecurity becomes normal for a young person when it has been a fact of life for them growing up, or in recent times. It becomes normal in the sense that it becomes a familiar experience, known through personal and household circumstances. Things that might at first – or from the outside – seem shocking or out-of-the-ordinary, become normal for those who experience them enough.

For those whose poverty-driven, involuntary house moves are spread out over a number of years, moving itself may theoretically be less likely to feel normal, but even in the absence of actual house moves, other factors comprising housing insecurity are often still present and persistent – unelected fixity, the parental struggle (and inability) to pay rent, the threat of eviction, living with short term tenancies. When these things have characterised young peoples' experiences of growing up, it is simply what life is like.

Second, housing insecurity can become normal for transient young people in the sense that it is felt to be expected, given who they (feel they) are. When young people grow up acutely aware that their family is in receipt of benefits or earning low wages, when they know they rely on Government assistance to pay rent, when they know that they and their families are considered undesirable tenants, when they live in areas they know are deprived and abhorred, when they understand that they might get evicted and become homeless and have to live in a teeny tiny box or be put out on the street with all their belongings, they also come to understand that this positions them in certain, undesirable ways. They can feel judged by others, looked down on, ignored, somewhere between low and middle in the social hierarchy – not 'normal' compared to a broader set of people whose parents command more money, can more easily afford to pay for housing, do not rely on Government help and do not have to entertain the thought of becoming homeless. There is a sense in which housing insecurity can become normal for those who already feel as though they themselves are not.

Third, housing insecurity can become normalised in the sense that young people themselves can try to normalise it in a bid to stave off the stigma attached to it, or to its constituent elements. As transient young people grow older, perhaps becoming exposed to a wider set of experiences against which to compare their own, they can feel the full force of the stigma that housing insecurity (or aspects of it) carries. But by emphasising its commonality – as Tiffany did with hostel living in her final interview – they can try to make themselves feel, or seem, less aberrant. There is normality in numbers.

Scholarship on the psychosocial and relational aspects of poverty has already begun to incorporate the notion of othering – the process by which the non-poor often view and treat the poor as different and inferior, denying them their humanity and subjectivity (Lister 2019). Our research points to a psychosocial process through which the poor, and in this case transient, can themselves approach their own predicaments, actively promoting these as normal (though knowing they are not), in an attempt to diminish the shame they feel. In the words of nurse, novelist and memoirist Christie Watson (2019): 'It is amazing, and sad, what can become normal.'

It is amazing, and it is sad that children can grow up in one of the richest countries in the world, in contemporary times, with a lack of security around something as fundamental as housing, and get used to it, become accustomed to it, incorporate it as part of their normality, at the same time as becoming aware that it is not 'normal' for the majority. What is perhaps even more amazing, and even more sad, is that this housing insecurity which seems to have become a normal part of growing up for some young people exists in a context where legislation exists to prohibit it.

All the while housing insecurity has been affecting our transient participants and other young people and their families in England – putting their well-being at risk and disrupting the satisfaction of their human needs – the right to secure housing has been enshrined in international legislation. Specifically, the United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which the UK has signed and ratified, and which has been in force since 1976, is a core treaty protecting the rights of children, as well as adults, to adequate housing. Article 11 of the treaty protects the right to housing as part of the right to an adequate standard of living, and it states that everyone has the right to 'adequate...housing, and to the continuous improvement of housing conditions' (CESCR). The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) has interpreted Article 11 of the ICESCR as extending beyond a basic right to shelter, to a right to 'live somewhere in security, peace and dignity', and has issued two General Comments setting out the meaning and scope of this.

It makes clear that the right to housing should not be interpreted in a restrictive or narrow sense, and it clarifies what comprises adequacy in relation to housing: housing that provides legal security of tenure; availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure; affordability; habitability; accessibility; location; and cultural adequacy. Unfortunately, although this international human rights legislation contains the means by which housing insecurity might be prevented, it is not directly enforceable in UK courts of law.

Housing insecurity impedes the satisfaction of fundamental human needs in young people, and goes against the right to secure housing that has been enshrined for them in international law. Whichever way one looks at it – from a rights perspective, or a needs perspective, or even from a perspective of well-being, education, health, behaviour, psychology, or sociality, housing insecurity takes its toll. It is amazing and it is sad, and so too is the way it has come to be shrugged off as 'just life, really', 'no big deal'

Financial Report

The financial statements for Doorstep (or 'the charity') cover the financial year ending 31 March 2023.

The fiscal year 2023 ended in a secure position, with the reserve carried forward being sufficient to support the running of the charity for a minimum of six months. The management committee and director recognise the need for, and remain committed to, pursuing multi-year funding both to minimise the risk of disruption to the charity's services, for example in the event of a downturn in one or more areas of external funding

Careful financial and operating records have been kept throughout the financial year ending on 31 March 2023. The accounts for the fiscal year ending 31 March 2023 have been examined by an independent accountancy firm. Detailed records of financial documents are available and may be requested from Doorstep Homeless Families Project, 13A Broadhurst Gardens, London NW6 3QX.

The Management Committee members are satisfied that Doorstep is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year in accordance with section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The Management Committee members acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- 1- Ensuring that the charity keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and
- 2- Preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of the charity as at the end of the financial year 2023 and of its profit or loss for the aforementioned financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

These financial statements were approved by the members of the committee on 31/08/2023 and were signed on their behalf by the chair, Ali Jabeen.

Ali Jabeen
Chair

DOORSTEP
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
(INCORPORATING THE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
<u>Income From</u>					
Donations and grants	3	135,288	67,440	202,728	155,548
Total Income		135,288	67,440	202,728	155,548
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Fundraising	4	4,810	-	4,810	4,730
Charitable activities	4	93,958	112,945	206,903	132,049
Total expenditure		98,768	112,945	211,713	136,779
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	5	36,520	(45,505)	(8,985)	18,769
Net movement in funds	9	36,520	(45,505)	(8,985)	22,097
Funds brought forward		105,554	48,505	154,059	135,290
Total funds carried forward		142,074	3,000	145,074	154,059

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

Chair's report

Doorstep: homeless families project, is an essential project in Camden. By providing connectivity to the relevant voluntary and statutory services in Camden for the vulnerable families living in temporary accommodation in one of the largest hostels in Camden.

Over the past year Doorstep and its excellent staff and enthusiastic director have worked hard to provide rest, escape and enjoyment for the children. As well as empowering Camden's secondary school pupils who live in the hostel. Who collectively asked the council for a Wi-Fi service in the hostel, which caught the attention of the BBC.

Doorstep has been prominent for 40 years and is able to develop in line with the needs of the user group. The current needs for children and young people are different from they were 40 years ago. Doorstep provides the means to develop the community the children and its young residents need for their economic development. The attention given to each generation during a time of austerity and ambiguity, which we hope will be short lived but often this is not the case.

The parent support and advocacy project has provided information and guidance, has opened the doors to the Camden Housing department, caught the attention of local Councillors and Camden's children's social services, to take notice of what is supposed to be temporary hostel accommodation. Making sure appropriate assessments take place for each individual family and their specific needs. Doorstep has been successful in raising awareness in how important it is to rehouse families in accommodation suitable for their needs, preventing further upheaval and insecurity. Doorstep will continue to support families to gain secure homes, via sign posting to the relevant services in Camden to achieve this aim.

Doorsteps continues to work for the children living in the hostels. Making sure the children enjoy term time activities and holiday programmes with the annual trips to the seaside, fun in its garden, greenery to escape into and explore and provided with the space and support to do their homework. Giving out food parcels to the families, providing essential clothing. The families have access to laundry facilities, information, and the opportunity to talk to each other. Reducing loneliness and alienation which is so important after the damage caused by covid and the increase in the cost of living.

I can proudly report that Doorstep had another successful year. A big thank you to the Director of Doorstep Vicky Fox and the Management Committee/board of trustees who are actively recruiting and diversifying the board. I would also like to thank them for all their counsel and support. Additionally, a big thank you to Doorstep's Patron, Victoria Coren Mitchel for all her support and generosity. Finally, thank you to all our supporters: individuals, trusts, charities, companies, and schools that help us in a plethora of ways, and that allows Doorstep to continue to positively impact homeless families year after year.

Ali.F.Jabeen

We give our most sincere and grateful thanks to the following organisations for their support of Doorstep and our families:

AKO Foundation
Barnett & Sylvia Shine Charitable
Foundation
BBC Children in Need
Benevity
Boston Consulting Group
Camden Council
Camden Giving
Cellnex
Crucible Foundation
Devonshire Hill School
Fitzdale Trust
Free Cakes for Kids Camden
Hampstead Wells & Campden Trust
Harkalm Group

John Lewis
London Community Foundation
McLaren Group
Properly Properties
Reel Fund
Sarum Hall School
South Hampstead Junior School
St Christina's School
St Mary's Church
StreetSmart
The American School in London
University College School
Voluntary Action Camden
Waitrose & Partners

Also, to the very many kind and generous individuals who donated money, food, toys, clothes, books, and their time.

The Management Committee

Alpona Banerji - Chair -Resigned 30/10/23

Phoebe Stamford-Moroz - Vice Chair-Resigned 30/10/23

Jo Cunningham - Secretary- Resigned 19/06/23

Alexa Brummer- Treasurer- Resigned 06/03/23

Sara Katchi-Resigned 23/01/23

Ali Jabeen- Chair -Appointed 06/03/23

Jess Reddell- Secretary-Appointed 06/03/23

Reena Malharkar-Treasurer-Appointed 30/10/23

Lesley Adams

Celia Carr

Tsedey Yilala

The Staff Team

Vicky Fox - Director

Ubah Egal - Parent Support/Advocate

Sarah Lough (resigned July 2023) & **Khadra Mohamed** - Children's Workers (part time)

Belkize Banjica - Housekeeping & sessional play support (part time)

Kaamila Mohamed- Youth Lead (part time)-resigned April 2023

Dilly Azam - Play Support (part time)

Zinedine Belabbas- Youth Project sessional

Iryna Hulam- Sessional play support

Volunteers

ASL teachers & Students

McLaren Team

Naz Malik

Patron

Victoria Coren-Mitchell

Not forgetting the hundreds of other individuals who took part in occasional projects- we give our sincere thanks to each and every one!

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