



The birth of a music career

In 2019 Brit Trust funded a project at The Avenues to help our most committed young people to further their music skills and experience. They wrote and produced their own tracks, delivered radio shows and created DJ sets.

Josiah is 16, lives locally and had been attending The Avenues for two years. He has always had a passion for music and won a place on the course.

These are his own words. "I never knew what I wanted to do with my life but now I know what it takes to be a radio presenter and a sound engineer and a producer. I've started to further my education on these things and my knowledge has expanded. I want to pursue a career in music production and now I have the direction to do it.

"Avenues has helped me so much. The opportunities I've had here, I wouldn't have had anywhere else."

Our next generation of youth workers



10 young people have completed The Avenues 12-month youth worker training programme, graduating with ASDAN qualifications, so they can now work as Junior Support Workers.

This provides 16 – 18 year olds the opportunity to put something positive back into our community, earn some part-time income and have a superb start to their CV. The boost to self-esteem, and the impact on improving work ethic and motivation, cannot be underestimated.

To have completed the course (much via Zoom) during the very testing circumstances of lockdown are a credit to the students and to our outstanding course leader, Keighley.

The Avenues Level 1 Youth Work programme is funded by The Mayor of London.



The importance of youth work during lockdown

Although lockdown means we can't open for regular youth activities, a lot of work is going on behind closed doors and online. We continue to support the most vulnerable and highest need children and young people on a daily basis, both in 1-2-1 sessions at Avenues and by phone.

The government now recognises youth work as a key public service, and youth workers as key workers. We hope this long overdue recognition leads to a re-evaluation of how youth services are funded across the UK, after a decade of devastating cuts...

Tidings of comfort and joy...



Thanks to some extraordinary fundraising by our friends at The Cross store in Notting Hill, we were able to give 100 local children a small box of gifts just before Christmas. Some of the families hardest hit by the pandemic were also provided with items they urgently needed such as bedding and kitchen appliances. The generosity of those who got involved was hugely appreciated by the children and their families.

Special thanks go to Sam Robinson at The Cross, Sam Keswick and all those who donated and volunteered to wrap and distribute the gifts. Big thanks to Carol Archibald and her team for baking and decorating over 200 cupcakes for the kids!



Can you help us build a new training kitchen?

Our cooking sessions have always been popular, but with job prospects becoming increasingly concerning to our older members, we will be focusing on training kitchen skills to boost employment prospects. After 18 years of daily usage, our kitchen is showing its age, so in an extension of the ongoing refurbishment works we plan to give the kitchen a major overhaul to make it a modern, inspiring place to learn.

We still need further funds, so if you can help, please [DONATE HERE](#).

A special mention to Jan Woroniecki for raising thousands towards our kitchen refurb.

Our quest for the highest quality

- 2021 is the year that Avenues aims to achieve the Gold Quality Mark, London Youth's most prestigious accolade.

- In order to advance their CPD youth workers are being incentivised to do a Level 3 in Youth Work and Marcus, our Senior Youth Worker, is studying towards a Masters in Applied Anthropology and Youth Work at Goldsmiths.

- Thanks to the hundreds of you who donated to our 40th Anniversary capital fundraising campaign in 2019, we are midway through works to upgrade the building and its amenities. We look forward to the unveiling this spring.