



Press Release

DANIEL'S DEN

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National Lottery backs project to continue and expand the number of parent and toddler groups in north London.

Daniel's Den, a charity based in Wembley, is pleased to announce that it has been awarded further funding by the National Lottery Community Fund towards maintaining its current dozen Daniel's Dens and increasing the provision by opening 6 more groups. The funding is over three years and supports the project to reach a target of 18 parent and toddler groups in north London.



This funding follows a previous Reaching Communities award back in 2020. Three years of Reaching Communities has enabled us to develop our infrastructure and grow our number of weekly sessions from 6 to 12. We have been able to employ a full time Operations Manager and more admin staff as well as adopt new finance and database systems. Through the pandemic we developed and continue to deliver a hybrid offer as well as offering outdoor activities too. More information can be found on our new website which is a 'go to place' for news, activities and so much more. Reaching Communities has truly helped us reach more families and this new round of funding will help us do even more.

Daniel's Den runs parent and toddler groups that provide an unconditional welcome to all. These deliberately take place within walking distance of potential participants, as our research has shown that people will generally only come to a group if it is within walking distance of their home.

Daniel's Den's main goal is to reduce social isolation; recognising that looking after a child at home can be a very lonely activity. This is particularly true if they are new to the area, or their first language is not English. The charity runs 12 Daniel's Den groups, and the aim is to open a further six over the next three years. The new groups will be targeted in areas of greatest need. Daniel's Den provides the opportunity to enable people to know, and be known, in their local community as well as to build relationships which matter within and beyond their cultural and ethnic group.

The charity currently has 30+ volunteers who volunteer in all aspects of the charity and this is planned to grow. They are trained using the charity's Vital Volunteers Programme. Using the skills learnt volunteering, some progress into study or employment.



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The beneficiaries of the Daniel's Dens are: the parents and carers; the children; and the volunteers. It is hoped that over 1500 adults and children per year will be reached once the eighteen Daniel's Dens are in place.

Daniel's Den's Chief Executive, Joanna Gordon, said: "We have benefitted in so many ways as a recipient of the Reaching Communities funding, especially during the challenges faced during the pandemic. We were able to pivot our services and take on new staff which enabled us grow our outputs and impact. This new round of funding will help us consolidate the progress we have made and open a further 6 groups. This will have a major impact on tackling social isolation in our communities and we are delighted we're going to be able to reach more families."



Notes to Editor

1. Our current groups are:- The Lewinson Centre, Willesden ; Lindsay Park Baptist Church, Kenton; St Patricks Church, Neasden; St Cuthberts, North Wembley; St Andrews, Sudbury; Chalkhill Community Centre, Chalkhill; The Church of the Ascension, Wembley; Latymer Community Church, Ladbroke Grove; The Yellow, Wembley Park (two groups); John Keble Primary School, Harlesden as well as online and monthly sessions across the borough.

2. www.danielsden.org.uk

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