



**E**ARNEY'S  
**COMMUNITY**  
**Impact 20**  
**Report 24**

# ABOUT US

Carney's Community exists to support all young people, but primary focus is to support those who face poverty, are in the care system, impacted by gun and knife crime, families misusing substances, domestic abuse and many who have been excluded from school or involved in the criminal justice system. Carney's works differently than others by providing long term consistent unconditional support. We provide a safe space and engage young people in positive activities including boxing, skills workshops, social activities, employment support, mentoring and one to one intensive key work.

Carney's Community was started in 2011, combining the expertise of youth worker George Turner with boxing coach Mark Reigate, to help young, disadvantaged people to turn their lives around. Inspired by boxing legend Mick Carney, this charity offers a unique approach to mentoring that empowers young people with everything they need to be the best they can be.

For our young people we strive for equality and aim to:

- Improve Physical and Mental Health
- Improve Education, Skills and Employability
- Improve Community Engagement
- Reduce Offending and Reoffending



# From *the Chair*



Throughout 2024, under the inspired leadership of George Turner, Carney's has continued to transform the lives of young people from disadvantaged backgrounds in desperate need of support and guidance. Our work is perhaps more important now than it has ever been. This report highlights what we do and gives some insight into the crucial and much needed service we successfully provide.

It is incredibly rewarding to see how our participants, some of whom have become staff members, continue to thrive and grow in confidence in the supportive family environment created for them at Carney's. Everyone visiting our premises is always impressed by what a hive of activity it is, a place full of exemplary role models and positivity.

And this year, in addition to the ongoing mentoring and key work support, we have also been focussing on helping our participants find training, educational and employment opportunities. We are looking forward to a big year for Carney's in 2025.

May I thank all our staff for their tireless commitment and all those organisations and individuals who have so generously provided the financial support we need to carry on this vital work.

Charles Gibson.

# From *the CEO*



2024 has been a year of growth for Carney's, in both quantity and quality. Our staff team, most of whom are ex-participants, have excelled in supporting our target group. We have engaged more participants than ever before (with the majority deemed to have had unfair opportunities in life) and we have been able to commit a lot more time to those that are most in need (and often excluded in other areas of society). This, combined with the huge strengths and talents our target group possess, has helped us to achieve targets, such as reducing the rates of offending and anti-social behaviour, whilst increasing equality, opportunities and health and fitness levels within our community.

We have been able to develop and grow our sessions (almost doubling our key work hours and now providing free boxing sessions 6 days a week). We have helped numerous participants and staff to access new employment opportunities, whilst also providing mental health support through counselling, clinical

supervision, training and generic youth work and sports activities. Not to mention the huge individual achievements some participants have made, some good examples seen below and in the case study section, but also those who have recovered from trauma and gone onto re-engage with education and/or employment opportunities.

Finally, we pride ourselves on being a needs led community, so this year we wanted to respond to the increase in offending by females in the local borough, in doing so we have key worked more females than ever, run numerous girls groups and female only boxing sessions which has, in turn, helped create more female leaders and role models within Carney's.

George Turner.

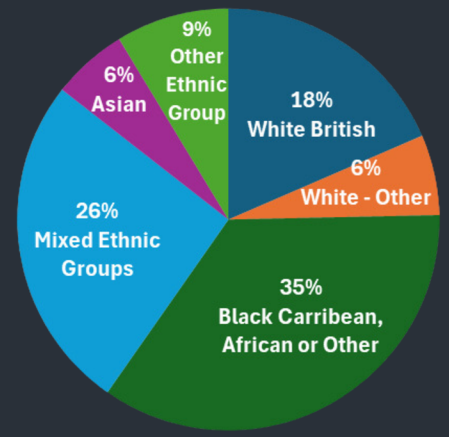
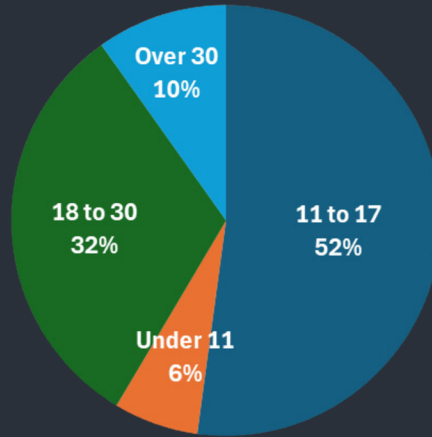
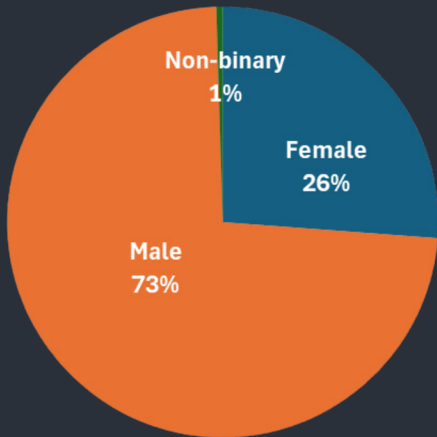
# The year in numbers

**866**

People supported

**16%** were neurodiverse and/or had a disability. **59%** lived in the 40% most deprived areas in the country, according to IMD.

**47%** were considered high risk. This could be because of a school exclusion, a criminal record, care experienced or other factors.



**1,105**

Hours of group sessions delivered, made up of:

**475**

Youth Boxing

**298**

Adult Boxing

**161**

Youth Club

**150**

Bike Workshop

**21**

Extra Sessions

We also provided one to one support:

**2,787**

Hours of Key Work

**2,953**

Hours in-session mentoring

**100**

Hours employment support

The percentage of people who reported they'd improved in areas of their lives as a result of our work are:

**82%**

Physical Health

**67%**

Mental Health

**65%**

Behaviour

**84%**

Education

**62%**

Employment

**83%**

Involvement in Positive Activities

**74%**

Community Involvement

**87%**

Peer Relationships

**63%**

Family Relationships

# What happened in 2024?

In the summer of 2024, we celebrated with Marcus Perrineau-Daley as he won silver at his debut Paralympics. In 2014 he was in a motorcycle accident, severing his spinal cord. A friend of his, participant of Carney's and wheelchair user, Aaron, invited Marcus to the boxing sessions at Carney's. He trained alongside participants without disabilities and quickly excelled. He passed his gym instructor qualification and joined the team at Carney's as a coach for a while. After trying out different wheelchair-based sports, he entered the Paralympics in 2024 and came second, just after the world record holder. Marcus came back to visit our youth session and our young people's highlight was Marcus letting them try on his medal! We had a second brilliant sporting moment this year when Carney's was spotlighted at the Wimbledon Men's Tennis Final and one of our participants, Cyprian, was chosen to perform the coin toss to decide the first serve.

We have done a lot of work around challenging exploitation and modern slavery, including obtaining two conclusive grounds decisions from the Single Competent Authority, resulting in charges being dropped. This is a life changing result for these two people.

We remember with sadness the lives lost this year, Damaris McLaren, one of our participants who was stabbed and killed in an incident that saw another participant stabbed in the heart, but miraculously survive. And Angie, one of our past participants and colleagues. Angie was one of the founding members of Carney's and would always volunteer where she could, until she sadly lost her battle with cancer in September.

In 2024 we have taken time to re-evaluate our work and make sure we are investing our time and resources in the work that has the most impact, whilst always focussing on those who are the hardest to reach. At the start of the year staff, trustees and participants took part in a "vision day" and created new strategic aims for the year. These are:

1. Maintain our activities that are having the best impact and ensure their continued sustainability.
2. Create more capacity to support staff and participants in their goals towards employability.
3. Prioritise the mental health and wellbeing of the staff and volunteer team.
4. Increase our engagement with young women and girls, identifying how best to support them.

Our work on these aims includes:

1. Developing and investing in the staff team to improve the quality of service we are providing to our participants, increase our staff retention and create more consistency for our participants. We have prioritised our long term focus by seeking multi-year funding and developing an income generation strategy that improves our sustainability and diversity of income sources.
2. With three years of secured funding we have been able to create a new employment support project with full time role, directly addressing our employment targets.
3. We have started introducing clinical supervision for our staff team, understanding the impact on staff of supporting young people facing very challenging circumstances. We asked our staff for anonymous feedback on how best we can support them and are working towards meeting requests.
4. We ran a workshop with participants and staff on how we could increase our female engagement. From this we applied and were successful in securing funding to run female only boxing sessions in the holidays, with two weeks of sessions having taken place so far which have been very successful. We spoke to our female participants about activities they would like to see and have run a photography and body image workshop, with more activities planned for next year. We also created a video focussing on females at Carney's and encouraging others to come. This can be seen on our YouTube channel.

This year we have had such incredible financial support from a whole range of individuals, companies and trusts, those who have seen the importance of our work with young people. This has enabled us to develop our strategy and develop the building to create an environment more suitable for our young people. We have replaced one of the roofs, installed a bike shelter, upgraded the kitchen and refurbished our meeting space. Towards the end of the year we secured funding for more works to the centre due to take place in early 2025.

# Boxing

In 2024 our Head Coach Giz Chu was awarded coach of the year by Wandsworth Council and the Get Active Network. This is an incredible achievement and truly demonstrates both the impact and quality of his work. Giz also set up his own CIC, called Boxer's Toolkit, teaching transferrable life skills through boxing. We've partnered with Boxer's Toolkit on a couple of projects this year and are excited to see what the future holds for the project next year.



We employed another participant this year as a boxing coach, Timothy, adding to our team, and many of our young people volunteered with us at boxing events throughout the year including those put on by Battersea Summer Scheme, Doddington and Rollo Community Association, Enable, George Shearing, Open Doors Community Centre, South Thames College and many more. Our regular sessions have continued 6 days a week and are busier than ever, our record this year was 53 participants at a youth boxing session. We also ran several activities during the school holidays including "Week of the Warrior" where young people tried out a range of different sports and we ran two week long boxing programmes for female participants only, both of which were well attended and had a significant impact. We've also been running regular and one off sessions for students of pupil referral units, as well as teaching life skills in an engaging way and these sessions have encouraged students to attend Carney's outside of school hours supporting their development both in and out of school.



# Youth Club

This year our lead youth worker, Lizzie, left Carney's and we wish her all the best in her future. We brought in a new lead youth worker, Michael, who brings a wealth of experience in youth work and trauma informed practices. As with the boxing, we have employed another one of our participants as a youth worker, Malachi, and provided opportunities for young people to volunteer at activities throughout the year. We ran a programme of activities in the school holidays, partly in partnership with Wandsworth HAF, this included trips to Lift 109 at Battersea Power Station and Cooking Workshops at Florence Dock. At our youth club sessions, we have continued to offer free hot meals, mentoring and a range of games, in addition we've introduced more workshops which have included cooking, life skills, photography and body image.

We took part in the Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme again this year, with 6 young people winning the award and choosing how £300 was to be spent at Carney's: Ronnie, Justin, Shem, Te'velle, Judith and Ioannis, well done to all!



# Bike Workshop

This year six amazing young people completed the bike mechanic course and received a free bike for their hard work. Another 88 young people came to the bike workshop over the year, to improve their cycling, receive support with repairs and learn how to maintain their bikes. In the autumn we paused the social enterprise part of the bike workshop whilst we re-evaluated how best to do this and we're very excited for our plans for next year. In Spring 2025 we plan to open "Carney's Cycles" to the public every Saturday for repairs and bike sales which will provide young people who've completed the bike mechanic course with employment opportunities. Our young people have been involved in the design and planning, with an enterprise workshop running in early 2025 using Carney's Cycles to teach young people entrepreneurship skills.



# Key Work

We have seen a tremendous increase in the key work project, both in people supported and hours of provision. We have provided nearly double the number of key work hours than the previous year and supported 96 people through the project, compared to 34 in 2023. Of these, 72 met with a key worker at least 10 times in the year. To support the increase in demand we brought in a new full time key worker, Mark, who started in February. The increase has been a combination of referrals through the Turnaround Project (a Ministry of Justice project, targeting those young people who have been given a community resolution or first time youth caution) and participants who need additional support due to their home situation, offending behaviour or other factors. Due to the success of the project the contract for Turnaround referrals was extended and we are encouraged by the difference it is making to these young people.

Some of the successes of the Key Work project include supporting 22 people to get or maintain paid employment and 57 to get into or maintain education or accredited training. For many, staying in education or work is as much a challenge as getting into it, so for those this is an incredible achievement.



Cyprian at the Wimbledon Men's Finals Photo: AELTC

# Employment Support

We have always been committed to helping disadvantaged and hard-to-reach individuals bridge the gap between potential and opportunity. The majority of our staff team are former participants who we have taken on to give their first work opportunity. Whether they are entering employment for the first time, have a criminal record, or are managing the complexities of neurodiversity, we have been here to support them, but we knew this area of work needed more investment and capacity.

In August we introduced a new role of Employment Support Lead to help address the challenges that many of our participants face in securing employment, primarily due having a criminal record or Special Educational Needs. One of our main goals for 2025 is to advocate for improved access to employment opportunities for individuals in these groups.

We have taken a person-centred approach to meet each person's individual needs and profile, knowing that there can be many barriers to gaining employment. Participants, including those currently employed by us, have so far been supported with cooking classes, job searching, CV's, one to one key work for personal issues, benefit and housing support and more. We now run a bi-weekly Employment Support group, inviting external speakers and using this as an opportunity to engage participants and provide one to one support when needed.

# Jerry's Story

Jerry is 16, has struggled growing up in a home seeing domestic violence and feeling like he didn't fit in. He rebelled, went missing, lived on the streets for prolonged periods and was arrested for robbery. He is easily influenced, which makes him vulnerable to being criminal exploited and was coerced into selling drugs. Due to an altercation at home he was moved to sheltered accommodation and his parents attended safeguarding classes. He was suspected of having ASD/ADHD in primary school, but it was dismissed as bad behaviour, however now this is being re-evaluated.

Jerry was referred to our Key Work programme at the start of this year and started attending the small boxing sessions, but still went missing frequently. Initially he was shy, but soon became comfortable and engaged well with staff and other participants. He opened up about why he'd been going missing and we were able to help put in place a plan to support him.

Jerry started coming to Carney's every day, training in both the youth and adult sessions, giving him some space and freedom to express himself without fearing for his safety. He developed a love for boxing, forged new friendships with people who admired his dedication to the sport and the polite and respectful way he conducted himself. Carney's became his home away from home and our staff built good relationships with his family.

Carney's has played a fundamental role in Jerry's behaviour, as well as his mental and physical health. Not only does he attend sessions daily, he now volunteers for Carney's, representing us at events. He has started studying business at college, wanting to be an entrepreneur and set up his own business when he finishes studying. When asked how Carney's has impacted his life, he said that he's learnt to learn from his mistakes and, "*Carney's has taught me that to be wise you must be foolish*".

*Name changed for anonymity.*

# Fiona's Story

In 2023 at 15 year's old Fiona was referred to Carney's for support as a victim of child sexual exploitation. She lived with extended family following conflict with her immediate family and had few male role models in her life. She struggled with her identity and feelings of belonging. She has ADHD, but no additional support in school for this. Fiona was anxious in large groups, uncomfortable with the opposite sex and appears older than she is, often attracting unwanted attention. At this time her school attendance remained at 16% and sometimes she even struggled to leave the house.

Fiona attended a boxing session at Carney's which she didn't enjoy due to the overwhelming number of participants. Instead, our key worker made the effort to involve her in other activities and get to know her better, to build her confidence. We kept "goody bags" from sessions and dropped them into her at home to make her feel included. Fiona started meeting with her key worker at different coffee shops to encourage her to leave the house and build confidence in visiting new locations. After much encouragement she joined a Carney's trip with a friend.

Fiona saw her 16th birthday as a fresh start and a step towards independence. With a passion for hair and beauty she saw the importance of achieving her core GCSEs and attending school. Her attendance grew to 34%. Sadly, she then lost the only male role in her life, leading to a relapse in her attendance. But she was able to communicate her feelings around the tragedy openly and maturely and school were very understanding. In time she was able to go back to school.

Fiona then received proper support at school for her ADHD, while her confidence and ability to learn increased dramatically. She was adamant that she wanted to go to college and reached out to her key worker for support to apply, attend open evenings and interviews. They visited several colleges and an interview together, giving Fiona the confidence to attend another interview alone.

In May Fiona's school attendance was up to 52%. She revised hard for her exams, but unfortunately was not offered a place at her chosen college. Instead, she applied and was offered an apprenticeship helping her achieve her goal of becoming a qualified beautician.

*Name changed for anonymity.*



# Bob's Story

*Name changed for anonymity.*

*In his own words:*

I first went to Carney's in 2016, but didn't get really involved until 2022. As a kid I was often neglected, with not much support from other family or the community. I was excluded from school, in and out of care, and had people taking advantage of me. A social services referral said this was exploitation and I was the victim of child slavery. To deal with past trauma I relied on substances, which made me very emotional, upset and angry.

I got involved with Carney's because I was arrested for some serious offences and needed some extra help, so I was given a key worker. Carney's worked with me in the community and helped me see how I was being exploited, came up with a safety plan and I was able to completely shut the exploiters out of my life.

I'd see or speak to my Key worker every day and started going to the boxing at Carney's and volunteered at fit and fed. Over time I got more involved and started to feel part of a community. And I wanted to improve my own life, to be the best I could be. So Carney's supported me to get a job at Feel Good Bakery. It wasn't easy at first, but when I needed help I now knew where to go, Carney's was there to help me. At the end of my one year contract with them they asked me to deliver a customer services course to the other employees. In January my key worker introduced me to a media company and helped me apply for a job with them. I was offered a full time job as a Business Executive, which is going really well.

Now I'm able to help others. I've been working with Wandsworth Children Living in Care Council, interviewing candidates for council jobs. I've volunteered at lots of Carney's Fundraising events and at their main sessions, representing the charity and putting my networking skills to good use.

# Ethan's Story

We first met Ethan when he was 14 yrs old. He would come to the boxing sessions with his brother and occasionally stay for the youth club and free hot meal. But both Ethan and his brother stopped attending after they finished school and we had no contact with them as their phone numbers had changed.

Eight years later, in 2022, Ethan came back. As with others, he knew that once you're part of Carney's you're always a part and if you need to come back for help you can. He had gained a lot of weight and wanted to get back into training. At his first session back he was behaving erratically, having a psychotic episode which we later found out was induced by a spiked vape. The team resolved the situation, supporting him to get mental health treatment. He remained in hospital for 28 days and our staff kept in touch and visited regularly. Ethan and our staff team felt the boxing sessions would be beneficial to his mental health, so we created a support plan with him. As soon as he was discharged he started attending the boxing sessions.

Over several months we developed a better relationship with him and he started opening up about his mental health and personal issues. He gradually started coming to the sessions more frequently up to 6 times a week.

Due to Ethan's hard work, with the support of the coaches and regular free sessions, Ethan has now lost over 35kg. But the change goes further than that. We supported him with challenges at university, finding housing, applying for jobs and helped his family to get support from statutory services. Ethan even took part in a documentary advising health professionals on how best to communicate with young people who have extra needs.

Ethan said, *"Carney's has helped me a lot and I don't know where I'll be without them. They help me with my mental health, by allowing me to let my frustrations out in training and letting me come in every day. They have helped me with personal stuff outside of Carney's. They have been there for me whenever I needed them, and I've lost over 35kg since training at carneys."*

*Name changed for anonymity.*

# Finance

## INCOME

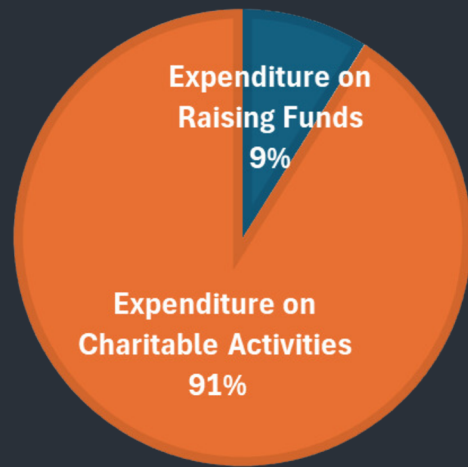
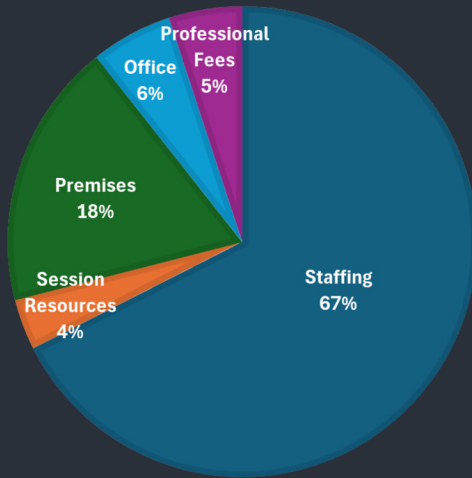
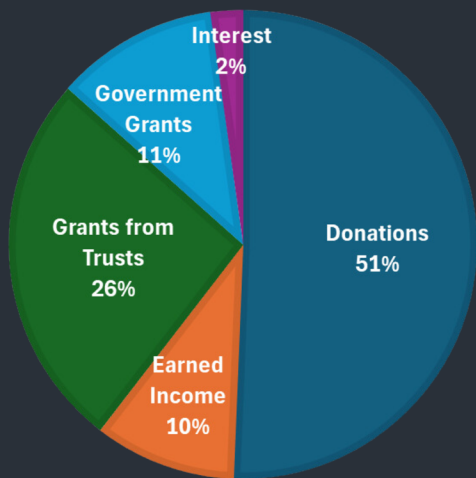
|                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Donations          | £312,494        |
| Earned Income      | £60,502         |
| Grants from Trusts | £161,286        |
| Government Grants  | £69,120         |
| Interest           | £13,628         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>£617,030</b> |

## EXPENDITURE

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Staffing          | £336,315        |
| Premises          | £91,135         |
| Office & IT       | £28,002         |
| Session Resources | £17,547         |
| Professional Fees | £25,119         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>£498,118</b> |

## FUNDS

|                  |                 |   |
|------------------|-----------------|---|
| Restricted Funds | £59,946         | <i>Restricted for use next financial year</i>     |
| Designated Funds | £111,600        | <i>For a specific purpose next financial year</i> |
| General Funds    | £362,982        | <i>(of which £58,581 is fixed assets)</i>         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>     | <b>£534,528</b> |   |



## A big thank you to all our partners, funders and donors in 2024



## Here's what some of our young people said this year...

*Carney's has given me a chance to showcase my talents. It has also given me a second chance in society where some people wouldn't. They helped me get employment, stay out of trouble and lots more.*

*[Carney's] impacted the way I carry myself and the way I feel about myself, I got plenty of job opportunities because of Carney's. They helped me throughout when I was arrested for a number of serious crimes.*

*[Carney's] gave me job opportunities, helped me with becoming a volunteer for the community it has also helped with changing my life around for the better and hopefully inspiring people to do the same.*

*Carney's Community has changed my life over the years I've been working with them and they have not stopped supporting me over the years regardless of where I've been they have always been there to help and guide me through the ongoing changes and challenges I face as my life moves forward because like a real family they are there for you unconditionally and long term. And coming to Carney's also made me realise just how many people don't have access to real support like this and how lucky I am to have access to such support because a lot of people who want or need the help don't have access to places like Carney's.*

*Carney's is amazing, it's become my second home and the staff has become my second family. We need more funding for Carney's as it expands. The smile on my peers face when they know they're going to be fed and they know they have a safe place to stay while their parents work.*

*Coming to Carney's has provided me with numerous opportunities for professional development. I've been able to enhance my skills in boxing, which has boosted my confidence and competence in my role. The training programs and mentorship available at Carney's have been instrumental in my career progression.*

*[Because of Carney's] I've become a better person.*

## Here's what some of our supporters and partners said this year...

*Carney's play an important role in engaging young people in positive activities, which acts as an effective diversion from contextual issues they might be experiencing. The team are approachable and supportive, not only for the young people, but also families and professional networks. We highly value any interactions we have with Carney's, and our pupils speak so highly of George. They talk about the difference that attending the boxing sessions and youth club makes, and credit these activities with significant positive changes in their attitude towards the community, education & aspirations for the future.*

**Miss Nic Gibson, SENDCO and Designated Safeguarding Lead, Francis Barber Pupil Referral Unit**

*Carney's have shown effective leadership in driving forward the plans of Battersea Alliance to deliver our stakeholder and partnership engagement work which this year has helped support 24 community based organisations, produced our evidence based research and evaluation; delivered the Battersea Together Event and Battersea Summit where over 80 people representing the Council, Health Authority, Community Organisations and the Private Sector, worked together to support our Community Investment Strategy. Despite unprecedented challenges (funding, keeping volunteers, the cost-of-living crisis) Carney's has been a powerful advocate for the communities of Battersea and a steadfast champion for promoting the voice of young people!*

**David Stone, Big Local SW11**

*Each year, the Wimbledon Foundation has the privilege of nominating two charities for the coin toss ceremonies at the Singles Finals. For our 10-year anniversary in 2024 we wanted to nominate two local charities that we've supported over the last 10 years and Carney's Community came straight to mind for the inspiring work you do supporting young people in our local community of Wandsworth. We were thrilled to welcome Cyprian who's story exemplifies the work Carney's Community does in helping young people facing incredibly tough situations to overcome those challenges, to build up their self-esteem and develop their skills, and then enable them to give back by helping other young people.*

**Amanda Horton-Mastin  
Head of the Wimbledon Foundation**

*Carney's Community has been life changing for young people and adults who have presented at St George's Major Trauma Hospital and have been referred following a critical incident in Wandsworth. They have been deeply embedded in Wandsworth for many years and often have existing trusting relationships with clients and their families, making it a smooth transition for re-engagement during a crucial time of need. The team works with people who need crisis intervention and long-term, holistic, and trauma informed support. We value the exceptional work of Carneys and thank the team for all that they do!"*

**Sally Bartolo, Violence Reduction Lead  
St George's Hospital**

# Thank you!

We want to thank everyone who made this year at Carney's possible, every employee, volunteer, trustee, funder, partner organisation, donor and participant. Because of your involvement we've been able to support hundreds of young people and seen transformational change. Our ethos is to provide long term, consistent and unconditional support with empathy and you helped make that possible this year. Your continued support enables us to commit to our ethos and be the long term presence that our young people need.



## How can you get involved?

**Volunteer** your time. There are several opportunities to get involved as a volunteer, if you're interested, let us know.

**Employ** our participants. Could you or your work consider recruiting young adults we're supporting? For those who are neurodiverse or have criminal convictions it can be challenging to find work. We'll work with you to put the right steps in place to help make their employment work for both you and them.

**Fundraise** for us. Planning on running a marathon or love hosting events? Consider fundraising for Carney's to make a big impact of the lives of our young people. Get in touch or go to Just Giving, link below, to set up your fundraising page.

**Donate.** We wouldn't be here without the many people who have consistently supported Carney's over many years. Use the link below.

**Leave a Gift** in your will. Even a gift of 1% could be left in your will, so that those closest to you inherit 99%. If you would like to leave a gift to us in your will, all you need to do is provide our charity name, address number to your solicitor.

To donate scan the QR code or go to [www.justgiving.com/carneyscommunity](http://www.justgiving.com/carneyscommunity)

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