

APRIL



Lockdown in full effect

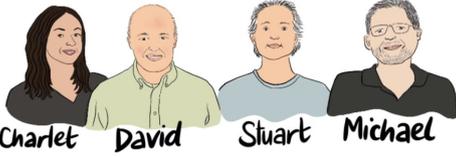
Moved services online

Hi!

You're on mute!



MAY



Senior management team sharing CEO responsibilities

JUNE

CRAFTIVISM AND CHAT ONLINE

LET'S STAY CONNECTED



& Packs sent out to members

JULY



Befriending calls to members who were isolated

AUGUST

LETTERS TO SUPERMARKETS:

Dear Supermarkets: PLEASE STAY ACCESSIBLE FOR DISABLED PEOPLE



SEPTEMBER



SPEAKING UP ABOUT ACCESS ISSUES + POLICY WORK



Impact Report 2020-2021

OCTOBER

M+E group Improving Services

Launch of:



NOVEMBER

AGM & My Voice Matters



DECEMBER



JANUARY

Office relocation to Vestry Hall



FEBRUARY



MARCH



Contents Page

Find out more about what is in our impact report this year...

About Merton CIL.....	3
Message from Vice Chair, Gina Vettese.....	4
Headlines.....	6
Promoting Independence and Inclusion.....	8
Case Study.....	9
Challenging Discrimination.....	10
Case Study.....	11
Achieving Change Locally.....	12
Case Study.....	15
My Voice Matters.....	16
Thank you.....	17
The year ahead.....	18
Getting Involved.....	19
Meet the Trustees.....	20
Illustrated Financial statement	22
Finance - Financial statement.....	24
Finance - Balance Sheet	25

Merton Centre for Independent Living

Vestry Hall, 336 London Road, Mitcham, CR4 3UD

WWW.mertoncil.org.uk

info@mertoncil.org.uk

0203 397 3119 - 0779 671 2502

@MertonCIL

About Merton CIL

Merton Centre for Independent Living (Merton CIL) is a user-led Deaf and Disabled people's organisation based in the London Borough of Merton.

We were set up in 2008 and we are incredibly proud of what we have achieved with Deaf and Disabled people over the past 13 years.

We support Deaf and Disabled individuals across the full spectrum of impairment including physical and sensory impairments, mental health, long term health conditions, learning difficulties and neurodiversity.

We are run and controlled by and for Deaf and Disabled people. We work hard to address the marginalisation of Disabled people and make a real difference in Merton and the wider community.



We want a society where Deaf and Disabled people can take control over their lives and achieve full participation

We work within the social model of disability and an independence charter, co-designed with Disabled people to ensure we can influence key issues affecting our lives in a variety of ways. We provide a holistic service, with all work feeding into our three aims:

1. To **promote the independence and inclusion** of Deaf and Disabled people;
2. To identify and **challenge discrimination** faced by Deaf and Disabled people;
3. To encourage Deaf and Disabled people and supporters to **achieving change locally.**

A message from our Vice Chair, Gina

Welcome to our 2020-21 Impact Report.

On behalf of the board, it is with great pleasure that we present to you our impact report for 2020-21 that highlights all that we have achieved over the past 12 months.

The pandemic presented a number of issues for our organisation but we did our best to ensure that we met the evolving needs of Deaf and Disabled people.

We continued our work supporting local Deaf and Disabled people to increase their independence and inclusion, challenge discrimination and work together to achieve change locally.

We also adapted our services and shifted our focus to issues that were currently affecting us.

Photo above: Picture of Vice Chair Gina Vettese



Our advice and advocacy service provided 618 sessions of in-depth support to 206 unique individuals. We also supported with information, signposting, guidance, and connection in a further 131 cases. Our work throughout the year contributed £411,896 to the local economy. 47% of service users saw increased resilience after using our services.

Craftivism & Chat shifted online during lockdown and we sent 21 packs of art supplies and creative prompts to Deaf and Disabled people so that they could get involved from home. We also created a closed Facebook group where members could connect and share what they create. We have 47 members and counting.

Merton CIL participated in a number of consultations, wrote extensive reports and developed campaigns speaking up with Deaf and Disabled people.

Our pan London disability hate crime work went well. We supported 2 DDPOs to develop disability hate crime services during the pandemic. They were allocated 336 hours of dedicated support. We also published and shared a disability hate crime toolkit.

Merton CIL's board of trustees decided to move to an innovative co-management structure that saw the 4 members of the skilled senior management team share CEO responsibilities.

The pandemic has had a disproportionate affect upon Deaf and Disabled people and we felt as though it was the wrong time to begin recruiting for a Disabled candidate. This structure would also provide more routes into leadership for Deaf and Disabled people and people with lived experience. The structure remains under close and constant review.

In 2020-2021:

- We had a total income of £372,824
- We spent a total of £353,236
- We now have £103,364 in our unrestricted reserves.

We are very grateful for the continued support from our funders, you can find out more about them on page 17. We are also extremely thankful for all of the donations and emergency grants that we received throughout the year. The income helps to keep our important work going.

Our annual survey found that 97% of people think that we address the issues that are important to Deaf and Disabled people. Feedback like this confirms that people value our efforts and continue to support our direction.

Looking ahead, Merton CIL will continue to be led by the needs of local Deaf and Disabled people. Next year, we will work to refresh our strategic priorities and we are keen to hear from you, so please get involved.

I will finish by thanking staff and volunteers of Merton CIL, whose hard work and dedication to supporting local Deaf and Disabled People is the reason why Merton CIL goes from strength to strength. I would also like to thank my fellow trustees who have supported and guided us so expertly throughout the year.

Let's continue to fight for the rights of Deaf and Disabled People, in Merton and Beyond!



Gina Vettese
Vice Chair of Merton CIL

Headlines 2020-2021



618

Sessions of in-depth support delivered.

Advice & Advocacy support provided in

108 cases



100%



of attendees rated Craftivism & Chat good or great

MY VOICE MATTERS!



12

events and activities held including Craftivism & Chat, pop ups across Merton and My Voice Matters



£411,896



Contributed to the local economy through our work.²

97% of people



that took our annual survey agree that we address the issues that are important to Deaf and Disabled People³



Service users agree that **we are welcoming**⁴



662 hours

spent working on policy and strategy issues on behalf of local Deaf and Disabled People

402 members



This is a 11% increase since last year.¹

206

Unique individuals supported through our casework services



Information, signposting and guidance and connection provided in a further

131 cases

to people who Merton CIL could not support in depth¹



VOLUNTEERING



Volunteers and Trustees gave us

Over 129 hours



6

Consultation responses on behalf of our members



Service users feel that we are **compassionate**



"Merton CIL is a **important part of the local community, providing needed and specialised support that is hard to find.**"

"Merton CIL have done a great job throughout the pandemic - coming up with creative ways to continue doing what you do - brilliant!"



45%

of service users have improved well-being after using our services⁷

Nearly 40%



of service users feel safer after using our services

125

people engaged with Merton CIL in person through events activities outreach and another

2634

across our social media platforms



We're motivated and guided by our members

47%

of service users agree that we listen⁴

47%



of people have increased resilience after using Merton CIL⁶

3

Monitoring and Evaluation steering group meetings



Nearly 4 in 10

people have increased confidence after working with us⁵

WE CAN SUPPORT EACH OTHER TO MAKE THINGS BETTER

24,889

unique visitors to our website.



Footnotes:

1. Correct as of 08/10/2021
2. Amount obtained directly for Deaf and Disabled people, including social value and net salaries of local and local Disabled staff
3. Based on our 2020-21 annual survey
4. From in-depth feedback collected covering 2020-21
5. Based on the ladder outcomes 'I am confident talking to professionals', 'I can speak up for myself' and 'I am aware of my rights' for people whose case ended in 2020-21
6. Based on the ladder outcomes 'I can access the services I want and need', 'I feel listened to' 'My finances are secure and 'I feel safe'.
7. Based on the ladder outcomes 'I am satisfied with my life, 'I am optimistic about my life' and 'I am confident taking control in the future'

Promoting Independence & Inclusion

Our Advice and Advocacy Service



We provide an independent and free AQS accredited advice & advocacy service that supports on issues relating to benefits & low income and social care. (In 2021/22, we will support with housing, hate crime and health issues too). We are the only pan disability specialist service in the borough of Merton.

For a high percentage of our service users accessible face to face appointments and home visits are essential. However, the pandemic has shown us that digital appointments are more accessible for some Disabled people. Therefore, we are moving to a hybrid offering.

Service users will be able to access face to face appointments (home or office visits), digital appointments or a mixture of both.

In 2020-21 we;

Delivered 618 sessions of support

£411,896 contributed to the local economy

206 unique service users

Our advice and advocacy service provided 618 sessions of support to 206 unique individuals during the pandemic. Our work contributed £411,896 to the local economy. We also supported with information, signposting, guidance, and connection in a further 131 cases. 47% of service users saw increased resilience after using our services.

Our trainee caseworker programme that aims to build advice skills and confidence around employment in Deaf and Disabled people also continues. We currently have 3 trainee caseworkers and the programme is funded until 2024.



To book an appointment or find out more about our Advice and Advocacy service please contact us on 0203 397 3119 or info@mertoncil.org.uk

Helen's Story: Promoting Independence Through Benefits Support

Helen had received DLA (Disability Living Allowance) for many years, but welfare reforms meant that they were forced to apply for PIP (Personal Independence Payment) and, as a result, they found themselves without support. Merton Centre for Independent Living helped them to write a letter of Mandatory Reconsideration and then take their claim to a first-tier tribunal.

To prepare for the tribunal, the caseworker visited Helen in their home and helped them in three main ways. Firstly, the caseworker established with Helen the key health conditions that should be acknowledged at the hearing and why. Secondly, following the caseworker's attendance at a Tribunal User Group meeting, where the option of emailing medical evidence was highlighted as an effective method of ensuring that the panel had what it needs in good time, the caseworker helped Helen to identify and send essential documents. Thirdly, the caseworker talked with Helen about their multiple concerns about the hearing process: anxiety, not understanding what is being said, irrelevant questions being fired at them, not being acknowledged by the panel (at her ESA tribunal hearing, they was referred to as 'she'), not submitting enough medical evidence, others deciding their fate, and not being given a decision straightaway.



Because of the public health emergency, the hearing was conducted via a telephone conference call. The caseworker agreed to arrive at Helen's home prior to the hearing, and to remain for the duration to provide the necessary support. The panel asked many questions of Helen to help them to assess her situation. Helen was told that the panel would make its decision in a few days' time.

Outcome: The tribunal was successful, with Helen going from 0 points to 12 points for the daily living component and 0 points to 14 points for the mobility component - which is, crucially, the enhanced rate for both components - and receiving just over £7,000 in back payments. She was enormously relieved and delighted that her award will last for at least 10 years.

*Helen is not their real name and posed by a model.

Challenging Discrimination

Pan London Disability Hate Crime Project



We continued to work with Inclusion London and Stay Safe East on the pan London disability hate crime project. The project aims to increase support for Deaf and Disabled people in London around disability hate crime and raise awareness.

We identify relevant Deaf and Disabled Peoples Organisations (DDPOs) across London and work with them to build and develop their hate crime projects. We do this by providing a seconded hate crime advocate and developing their recording, evaluation and monitoring approaches. We hope that this will provide them with strong evidence to secure funding to keep their hate crime services going. This project has been very positive and we have learned a lot.

During the pandemic, this project continued. We supported 2 London based DDPOs to build their disability hate crime projects by allocating them 336 hours of dedicated support to help them develop their service.

**2 DDPO's
involved in
the project**

**18 organisations
accessed the disability
hate crime toolkit**

**336 hours of
hate crime
support**

Disability Hate Crime Toolkit

We produced and published a disability hate crime toolkit which has been shared with 18 organisations.

The purpose of this evaluation handbook is to support Deaf and Disabled Organisations (DDPOs) to evaluate and measure the impact of their work with specific focus on Disability Hate Crime. Hate Crime is on the increase so it is important that DDPOs have a framework in order to effectively evaluate outcomes. You can read the toolkit here - <https://bit.ly/3DxWDb3>

Raising Awareness of Disability Hate Crime

We attended a number of Safer Merton events throughout hate crime awareness week. We also delivered a hate crime support session at Craftivism and Chat. This was a space for Deaf and Disabled people to come together get more information about hate crime and speak about their experiences. We also published a review of disability hate crime in Merton. You can read more on page 12.

Jacob's Story: Supported to challenge a decision

Jacob approached Merton CIL for support when he reached state pension age and to his surprise his housing benefit was suspended.

He had been previously in receipt of ESA, due to his long-term disability, however once he received his state pension this replaced his previous ESA award. The fact that he was no longer in receipt of ESA triggered an automatic cancellation of his housing benefit causing him to accrue rent arrears.

Naturally, Jacob was very concerned about this and had a lot of anxiety about not being able to pay his rent. When Merton CIL began supporting him to re-apply for housing benefit it became clear that his award had been stopped by an automated process on a computer system rather than a change in his eligibility.

Jacob's caseworker supported him to reapply for his housing benefit. This is an Incident that should never have happened in the first place, but without support from Merton Centre for independent living Jacob would not have been able to navigate this daunting process alone.

Jacob has expressed his sincere thanks to the staff at for their support not only with his housing benefit but also in negotiating with the rent collections team within his housing association who had been contacting him about his arrears.



Outcome: Jacob's housing benefit was reinstated shortly after the application was submitted. Jacob's allocated caseworker maintained contact with him until this decision was confirmed. Jacob was also supported to negotiate with the rent collections team within his housing association, who had been contacting him about his arrears.

*Jacob is not their real name and posed by a model.

Achieving Change Locally

Social Policy Work



Our Policy and Strategy work enables Deaf and Disabled people to speak up and make change happen on a local and national level.

We support Deaf and Disabled people to be aware of their rights and have the confidence to be involved in decision making by sharing their expertise and lived experiences. We also ensure that the priorities of local Deaf and Disabled people are represented in groups, forums and consultations.

You can read about some of our policy work from 2020-21 below:

**662 hours
spent on policy
work**

**97% agree we speak
about issues important
to Disabled people**

**6
consultation
responses**

Disability hate crime

In October 2021, we published 'Starting to Stop It' a report that reviews the recommendations and what has been done in the borough over the past 4 years since we published the report Making It Stop – Tackling Hate Crime Against Disabled People in Merton in 2016. It was a call to action for us and for our partners in maintaining and improving the safety and wellbeing of Deaf and Disabled people in the borough.

Push for more accessible housing

We spoke up about the local authorities consultation about the delivery of new housing in the borough as part of the development of the local plan for the next 10 years. We have significant concerns about housing for Disabled people in the borough that are not easily addressed through this consultation.

Consultation responses

We responded to 6 consultations on behalf of Deaf and Disabled people. These included speaking up about Merton's local plan and housing delivery consultations and more.



Photo above: Painting created for Craftivism & Chat project in response to Black Lives Matter movement.

Speaking up during the pandemic

We supported a group of Disabled people to speak up about the mandatory wearing of face coverings and PPE. We wrote an open letter to stores in Merton about how they can remain accessible and inclusive for Deaf and Disabled people whilst enforcing mandatory face coverings. Our Vice Chair Gina also met with a supermarket manager to discuss these issues.

LETTERS TO SUPERMARKETS



#makemertonaccessible

We worked with local Deaf and Disabled people and supporters to develop a small group of access champions as accessibility issue around the borough had been exaggerated for many Deaf and Disabled people during the pandemic. We met with a local organisation to feed into the planning for their community hub. We also shared thoughts on a new development plan in the borough.

Volunteering

Merton CIL provides volunteer opportunities for Deaf & Disabled people and supporters. During the pandemic, volunteer support reduced for a number of reasons. However, we worked towards increasing digital skills and providing equipment to those that were still keen to get involved.

**129 hours
donated by
volunteers**

**7 volunteers
supporting Merton
CIL's work**



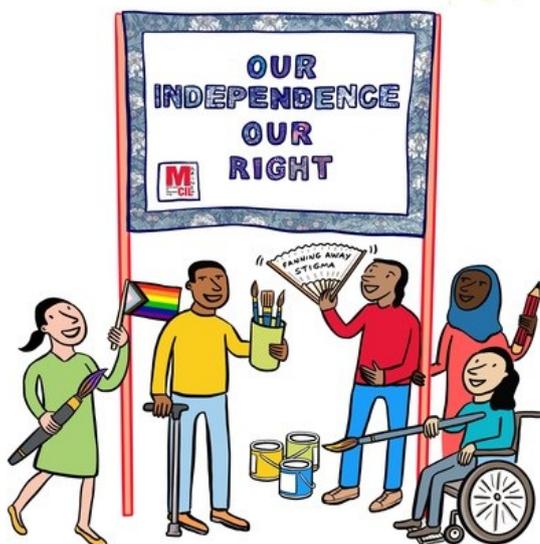
Our User Led Monitoring and Evaluation Steering Group

We would like to thank the 7 Merton CIL members who volunteer to develop and contribute to the monitoring and evaluation steering group. This group aims to help improve Merton CIL both internally and externally. The M&E group has been responsible for the development of Craftivism and Chat, staff surveys, and much more. If you would like to join the group, you can find out more here - <https://bit.ly/3o1ZBPZ>

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who donate time and expertise to support our work. Your contribution to the organisation is invaluable.

Achieve Change Locally, Continued

Craftivism & Chat



Craftivism and Chat is a project that aims to build confidence and connection within local Deaf and Disabled people to encourage speaking up and sharing of lived experiences to ensure that Deaf and Disabled voices are heard in decisions and conversations that affect our lives.

Our group meets monthly and we hope that it reduces isolation and loneliness. The agenda is informed by the evolving needs of Deaf and Disabled people.

During the pandemic and lockdown, we noticed that a number of our members were experiencing a decline in their mental health and due to shielding becoming lonely. We offered extra groups and created craftivism & chat packs that provided art supplies and prompts for people to get involved from home.

15 online sessions delivered

21 Craftivism & Chat Packs sent during lockdowns

5 sessions hosted by Disabled People

Getting involved with Craftivism and Chat - If you are a Disabled artist (do not have to be Merton based), a non Disabled artist based in Merton, creative and have a skill/hobby you would like to share with people, please get in touch! We can organise for you to run a paid supported session. We are also keen for Deaf and Disabled People to come together, socialise and share experiences. If there is a topic that you wish to speak about at the group, please also get in touch.

Craftivism & Chat pushed me to speak up about issues that were affecting me in ways that I was comfortable with whilst at home.



Tayo's Story: Increasing confidence speaking up with craftivism



Tayo has been coming along to Craftivism & Chat since it started in 2018. The sessions were face to face and she really enjoyed them. Tayo was worried about the sessions stopping when the pandemic started. She was happy to find out that craftivism & chat would still take place online and that she could still speak with other Disabled people.

Throughout the pandemic, Craftivism & Chat helped her to develop a routine and gave her a little bit of stability. Tayo received craftivism & chat pack to get involved from home. The online sessions often helped to distract from her from other issues and worries.

Tayo struggled with digital and had a hard time with the shift to appointments and consultations being online. She created a large canvas painting to highlight her frustrations when she wasn't able to engage because of her anxiety.

Tayo had not used Zoom before and found it hard to participate in sessions due to anxieties around being on camera and speaking online. Being comfortable with those attending enabled her to gradually work her way on to zoom using the chat function, then mic and then video. The staff at Merton CIL and other service users helped Tayo to feel as though she was not alone. Tayo enjoyed sharing thoughts, views and experiences with other Disabled people. She stated that she 'left each meeting with a different perspective on things. The group gave us a chance to get our voices heard for example with the CCG around health care and services'.

Outcome: Tayo now has increased confidence around attending online sessions. She is keen to get involved with the development of Craftivism & Chat. She also regularly uses Craftivism to speak up about issues affecting her life.

My Voice Matters 2020

On October 28th 2020, Merton CIL held its annual consultation event 'My Voice Matters'. Due to lockdown restrictions, we combined this even with our annual general meeting and delivered it online.

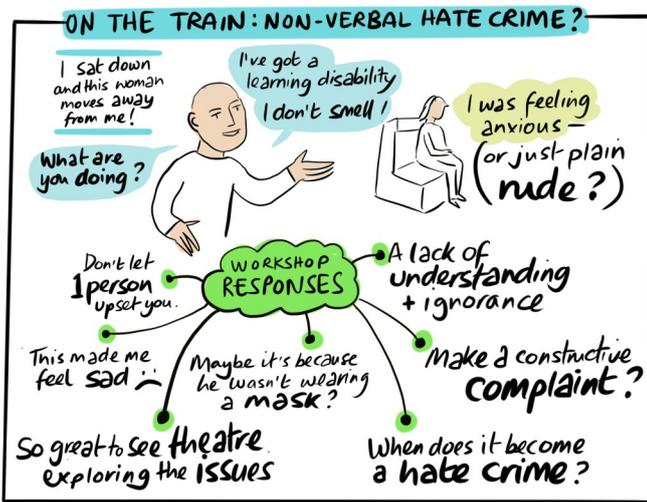


We began the event with a performance from Ignite Me Theatre Group. A group of Disabled people gave a dramatic performance of some of their pandemic experiences. This was then followed by a discussion about how the pandemic had affected our members and how we could work together to ensure relevant support was in place over the next few

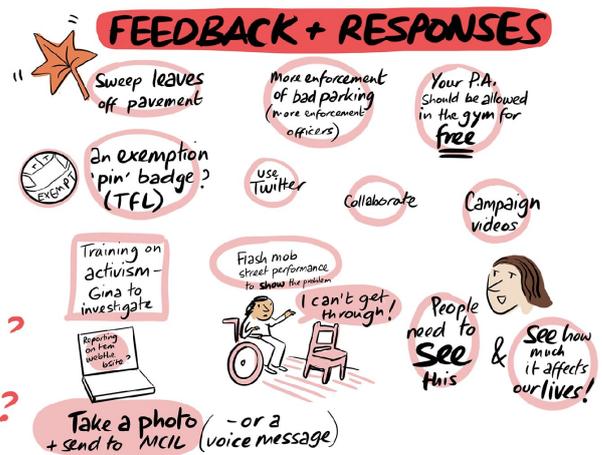
months. Some of the points raised related to staying connected and digital skills but largely related to accessibility.

This feedback helped to steer our policy and strategy work and led to further development of our access champions group.

Picture to the left: illustration of discussion around a Disabled experience on train during pandemic.



Picture below: illustrated minutes of the discussion around accessibility



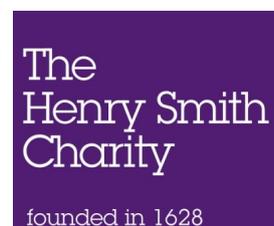
If you were unable to make it along to My Voice Matters in 2021, you can compete our annual survey hear to share your thoughts on our work and service - <https://bit.ly/3DdC8k4>

Thank You to our Funders & Supporters

We would not be able to provide our services without the support from funders, supporters, the local community and volunteers. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us financially in 2020-21. Your money helps us continue to support local Deaf and Disabled people and keep our important work going.



Thank you to the following organisations:



MOPAC

The London Community Foundation



Wimbledon District Nurses and Midwifery Benevolent Society
The London Community Response Fund

A special thank you to Tom Killick and our anonymous donors. As well as everyone who made generous donations online via the Aviva Community Fund, give as you live, wonderful and more. Also, to the individuals who donated craft supplies to Craftivism & Chat.

Also a big thank you to; Our hard-working staff, all our enthusiastic volunteers who have supported us at events, consultations and on the front line. Our committed trustees who have steered the organisation. Our service users, members, supporters and partners. We appreciate you all! We are achieving our aims due to your continued support.



The Year Ahead

Over the next year we plan to develop our new strategy. The pandemic has changed a lot for local Deaf and Disabled people, and we will work to ensure that our work and services meet their current and their evolving needs.

Our work around independence and inclusion will broaden to provide advice around hate crime, health and housing. We found that of a high percentage of our disability hate crime cases were interlinked with housing issues. Over the next year we will work to increase our capacity around housing as there is a high probability there may be a hate crime element to these cases.

We will work to better connect craftivism & chat and strategic and policy work. We believe if our craftivism becomes more strategic, we could get the attention needed to make change happen. The project will also work towards addressing the digital divide.

Over the next year we also aim to focus on reviewing our digital strategies and engagement with members and supporters. We are keen to increase engagement with Deaf and Disabled people in Merton to inform our work and the wider community with our content online.

We will work towards increasing our capacity around volunteering, so that we can support Deaf and Disabled people to build their confidence and get more involved with Merton CIL's work.

Merton CIL's board of trustees decided to move to an innovative co-management structure that saw the 4 members of the skilled senior management team share CEO responsibilities. The structure was under close and constant review and in November 2021, the board decided to move to a streamlined Joint-CEO structure to stabilise management of the organisation. This structure arrangement will be formalised by the end of March 2022.

We will also see our Chair Roy Benjamin, stand down and become a trustee. Our vice chair and secretary will share the chair position, mirroring the structure within the front line team and feeding into our plans to open up more routes into leadership for Disabled people and people with lived experience of the issues faced by our service users.

Our work to sustain our core services will continue. We are using our relationships with funders to explore how we build upon some of the work and services we are already funded to provide based on the new needs of Deaf and Disabled people.



Get Involved

All of our services are provided through funding which we have to raise. At a time where cuts are continuously made to services and Deaf and Disabled Peoples rights and entitlements are reduced, we rely upon the support of the community more than ever.



We can do this Together!

We are looking for new and innovative ways of doing things and we would love to work in partnership with local organisations who share our vision. We have some ideas for how this might work, and we know that you will have some great ideas too which we are keen to hear! Here are some of ours:

- We can host consultations and research with your Deaf and Disabled customers
- We can be your Charity of the Year
- You can refer Disabled staff or customers to our services like Advice & Advocacy
- You can be part of our circle of support offering advice around legal, HR, IT, etc
- You could sponsor a service or member of staff
- You could offer benefits and discounts to our members
- We can help evaluate the impact of your work, for example for community groups, and more.

Making a donation - Help us Raise £ to keep our important work going

Merton CIL relies upon the generosity of donors and we are extremely grateful for any support that we receive. You can make a donation online here - <https://bit.ly/2SVsOvE>

We understand that not everyone can afford to make a financial donation. We have developed a list of activities which you could carry out to raise funds on our behalf - <https://bit.ly/2TWH39p>

Sign up as a member of Merton CIL - It's Free

By being a member of Merton CIL you will support our work and values, receive our monthly update and quarterly newsletter, invitations to our events and much more. You can scan the QR code on the right to sign up as a member. Please spread the word and help us to grow our membership.



Meet our Trustees

Hello I'm Roy



I have been chair of Merton CIL since we were incorporated in 2011. I am blind and I live in Merton with my guide dog and wife.

I have a background in social care and I was a city councillor in Birmingham. I have always been an ardent campaigner for equality.

I enjoy being chair at Merton CIL because it gives me a buzz to see Disabled people getting a voice and making a difference.

Through my working life I have enjoyed challenging injustice and like to think that through my experience I have something to contribute to Merton CIL.

Roy Benjamin
Chair of Merton CIL

Hi I'm Gina



I am vice chair of Merton CIL and have been involved in the organisation since it was a steering group.

I have been disabled since I was 13 years old. I use a mobility scooter and I live in Merton. I am very passionate about speaking up about accessibility in Merton and on transport.

I am also a talented seamstress and I enjoy creating wedding dresses in my spare time.

I enjoy being vice chair at Merton CIL because it gives me a voice and I feel like I am being of service to Disabled people.

Gina Veltesse
Vice chair of Merton CIL

Hello, I am Amanda



Merton CIL has expanded quickly and now needs to sustain that growth and good reputation.

I am keen to use my experience of how organisations work gained from my time at SCIE and the Department of Health to give an independent view.

I enjoy being on the board of Merton CIL because I share the values of inclusion and equality

Amanda Edwards
Secretary of Merton CIL

Hello, my name is Raheema



I am a Disabled Merton resident. I joined Merton CIL to fight for the rights of Disabled people and help to make things better.

I worked as a Civil Servant for many years and was on the Disability Advisory Group in my department.

I am also a founding member of Merton CIL's monitoring and evaluation steering group, which improves our services.

I enjoy being on the board at Merton CIL because I want to help make things better for Disabled people.

Raheema Olajide
Trustee of Merton CIL

Hi, my name is Slim



I am a founding member of Merton CIL. I played a huge part in the organisation's development

I am disabled and I use an electric wheelchair. I have lived in Merton for over 60 years

I was a local councillor and served twice as Mayor of Merton. I have always been a very active resident of Merton.

I am passionate about ensuring that all disabled people can live independently.

I enjoy being on the board as I can help speak up for Disabled people. In the past able bodied people used to represent us. We needed a voice and now we have it. Merton CIL is our voice.

Slim Flegg MBE
Trustee of Merton CIL

Hi, I'm Claire



I am a visually impaired mum of two Disabled children. I have lived in Merton for over 15 years

I have worked passionately for the past 20 years in the public sector, promoting the involvement of Disabled people in decisions that affect their lives

I like being a trustee of Merton CIL because it gives me a sense of empowerment and achievement to work with other disabled people in order to promote equality and independence.

Claire Benjamin
Trustee of Merton CIL

Hi, I'm Sarah

I am Disabled living in Merton.



I try to bring my sense of fun and adventure to every board meeting.

I have been very involved with developing our Craftivism & Chat project as I love to paint and speak up about issues that affect Disabled people.

I enjoy being on the board at Merton CIL because I can use my own lived experiences to help others and feel my learning impairment brings a unique perspective.

Sarah Henley
Trustee of Merton CIL

Hallo, I'm Estifanos



I joined the board at Merton CIL in 2017. I began volunteering and getting involved at Merton CIL in 2015. I am disabled and I live in Merton.

I have grown to represent Merton CIL at a number of community engagement meetings and forums. I am also a founding member of our monitoring and evaluation group which improved our services.

I am keen to contribute to Merton CIL's future direction. I like being able to contribute more to Merton CIL's work and feed into Merton CIL's strategic direction.

Estifanos Habtesellasie
Trustee of Merton CIL

Illustrated Financial Statement

HOW WE HAVE KEPT COUNT OF, SPENT A

The board of trustees presents the report and financial statement of Merton CIL at year end 31st March 2021



Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Merton CIL, and the surplus or deficit each year



We received money from:



MOPAC | MAYOR OF LONDON



WDMBS

Cost of Charitable Activities:

Independence & Inclusion £182,599

Challenging Discrimination £94,414

Achieving Change Locally £68,560

Total Cost of Charitable Activities £345,574

Total reserves:



This includes £103,364 unrestricted funds and £45,485 restricted funds

AND RAISED MONEY IN 2020-2021

Lesley Cornwell of Cornwell & Cornwell → independently examined our accounts for 2020-21



We brought forward



from the previous accounting period.

Final balances to carry forward on 31st March 2021: £149,349



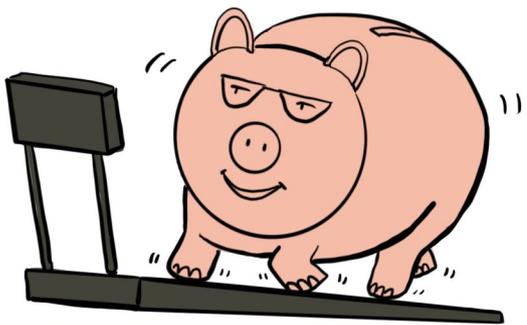
..and £109 in other income which is made up of things like contributions for consultation involvement and more

Total expenditure for 2020-2021 is:



Reserves help to cover future running costs in the event of lack of funding.

Merton CIL will hold unrestricted funds to meet at least 2 months running costs and aim towards holding 4 months by 2021-22



The board has set aside £23,600 to secure immediate business continuity

This will enable provision of services over the long term as well as a safety net

Finance

Statement of Financial Activities for year ended 31st March 2021 2a

	Note	Un-restricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Incoming Resources	2b				
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities	3a	31,533	332,646	364,179	357,624
Voluntary income	3b	8,536	-	8,536	6,171
Other Income	3c	109	-	109	347
Total Incoming Resources		40,178	332,646	372,824	364,142
Resources Expended	2c				
Charitable Activities	4d	24,668	320,906	345,574	342,117
Governance Costs	4l	-	7,662	7,662	6,788
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		24,668	328,568	353,236	348,905
Net Incoming / (Outgoing) Resources		15,510	4,078	19,588	15,237
Total Funds Brought Forward	3d	88,354	41,407	129,761	114,524
Total Funds Carried Forward	3e	103,864	45,485	149,349	129,761

There are no recognised gains and losses other than those in the statement of financial activities. Therefore no statement of total recognised gains and losses has been prepared. All the above amounts relate to continuing activities.

The notes on pages 16-19 of the financial statement form part of these accounts.

Finance

Balance Sheet at year ended 31st March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash at bank and in hand		206,529	147,466
Debtors and prepayments		8,350	50,081
		214,879	197,547
LIABILITIES:			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	4k	65,530	67,786
NET CURRENT ASSETS		149,349	129,761
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		149,349	129,761
RESERVES			
	5		
Unrestricted Funds		103,864	88,354
Restricted Funds		45,485	41,407
TOTAL RESERVES		149,349	129,761

For the year ending 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of Companies Act 2006. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006. The Directors' acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts. The financial statements were approved by the Board on 24th November 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

-----  ----- (Giovanna Vettese, Vice-Chair)

-----  ----- (Amanda Edwards, Secretary)



www.mertoncil.org.uk



0203 397 3319



@MertonCIL



info@mertoncil.org.uk

Registered charity number: 1152825

Registered company number: 7645926
