



The Springfield Project

# Impact Report



**2018-19**

# Introduction

SARAH ROBBINS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**2018-19 was a year of change and development for The Springfield Project, with new working relationships, new services and new ward boundaries. Amidst all of the changes some things stay the same and we continue to work closely with the local community to ensure that the voices of local residents are central to our work. We retain our strong relationship with St Christopher's Church who support us to achieve our mission to serve the community and to help local people live their lives to the full. To help us stay true to this mission all of our services and activities are part of a pathway which aims to 'empower, enable or enrich' those we serve. Sometimes we have to make difficult decisions about starting new activities, stopping existing activities or changing the way we do things. This pathway approach helps us to measure our services and make these decisions.**

We are extremely grateful to our funders who have supported our work over the last year. During the year Trustees have made strategic use of the Project's reserves and assets to develop new work, including the pilot of a Summer Holiday Playscheme for children aged 5 - 11. We continue to develop our Adult-focused community services and this year we have had the opportunity to share some of our learning around social prescribing and asset-based community development work with other voluntary sector organisations in the district.



We couldn't do what we do without our wonderful team of dedicated staff and volunteers. We have approximately 60 staff and 80 active volunteers at any one time. It is they that do the real work of engaging with children and adults to provide support, education, activity and social connection and we are very grateful for all that they do.

As we look forward to the future we always remember our roots in the Church and in the local community. We must adapt and change as the environment around us changes, but we stay true to our roots and to our mission and it remains a privilege to serve this community.

2 *empower enable enrich*

# Who We Are

## OUR HISTORY, MISSION & VALUES

**Born out of the local parish church, we seek to live out the example of Jesus, who welcomed everyone, listened, and served others and wanted us all to grow to experience life in all its fullness. He says, in the Bible, “I have come in order that you might have life, and have it to the full” John 10:10. “I tell you the truth, anything you did for even the least of my people here, you also did for me” Matthew 25:40. “For I came to serve not to be served...” Mark 10:45. In Acts 6, Jesus’ early followers made it a priority to organise care for others. This continues to be our mandate.**

As an expression of the church’s mission, all aspects of our activities reflect the love, compassion and forgiveness, which Christians believe are most perfectly displayed through Jesus Christ.

As a result, we have the vision to share God’s love in the community, that every child, adult and family in our community will have the opportunity to a life in all its fullness. Our mission fulfils this as we set out to meet people at their point of need and work with them to identify a pathway that will empower, enable and enrich their lives.

Based on the integrity of the Christian faith, our values define how we deliver our services.

**Welcoming and inclusive:** We seek to provide a safe space for our community where all are welcome. We embrace diversity, celebrating the way in which people of different faiths or no faith can work together to bring about positive change in the

lives of individuals and the community. We treat all who come to the Project with respect and warmth and recognise each person as an individual.

**Listening:** We recognise and value the unique insights and experiences of members of our community. We seek to ensure that the views of all those who have an interest in the Project inform the continuous development of our services.

**Serving:** We seek to contribute to the transformation of the lives of individuals, families and the wider community. We show compassion in our work, and strive to meet people at their point of need. We seek to get alongside people to share their stories, and offer support.

**Professional:** Our community deserves the best we can give them; therefore we recruit professionally qualified staff on the basis of their skills, knowledge and experience. We welcome and value the contribution of our trained volunteers who greatly enhance our services. We have policies and procedures in place to help us achieve our aims and objectives.

**Growing:** We look for the best in people and seek to empower them to use their strengths to take charge of their own lives and to support others. We are all on a journey of life-long learning. We learn through our daily life and work, as well as through discussion, reflection, practice and education. We accept mistakes and apologies, and encourage others by showing change and growth in ourselves.

# Chair of Trustees

DR SIMON SLATER

**The Springfield Project is an award winning registered Christian charity and company limited by guarantee. We were set up by St Christopher's Church in 2010 with the vision to help show God's love in our community and our mission to do this through practical service and action.**

Our core area of benefit stretches beyond the church parish into the Sparkhill, Moseley and Hall Green areas of Birmingham. Our symbol of a tree – shows that if you get the roots right, you will get a tree that provides fruit and shelter to benefit everyone. For years we have faithfully tended the roots and provided reports to funders and stakeholders on finance and different projects.

Now we want to demonstrate what the collective fruit of this diverse activity is on our vision and community. This report is our first attempt to help us tell our story in a different way to a wider audience, thank our supporters, and inform our decisions on how to continuously improve our impact. Do let us know what you think by emailing [sue.round@springfield.org.uk](mailto:sue.round@springfield.org.uk)



# Roots

## A POEM OF CELEBRATION FOR THE 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE SPRINGFIELD PROJECT

This place has its roots.  
Deep firm in the ground  
Sprung up from a seed  
That spread all around.  
It's finger like branches  
Set off at a pace.  
Searching and finding  
A need and a space.  
For many to come  
For many to reach  
For many to learn  
From what it can teach.

It spreads out its leaves.  
Forms a sanctuary place.  
For young and for old  
A smile and a face.  
All souls and all peoples  
Whatever the need  
It scatters its goodness  
For many to feed.

Seedlings and carers  
Find places to play.  
Springers move forward  
Enjoying each day  
Groups in abundance  
Start grow and flourish.  
A centre of care  
Able to nourish.

Baby bump Mothers  
Start out anew.  
Questions and answers.  
Helping them through.  
Turning and changing.  
Reaching to all  
A warm open canopy  
Welcoming all.

Ten years deeply rooted.  
A nurturing tree.  
Prayers hands and voices.  
In unity.

**Julie Afridi Martin July 2018 -  
a member of the staff team**



# The Year at a Glance

55

staff

&

100

volunteers

supported



over

5,000

individuals (2,000 families)

with a range of support services and activities.

over

10,000

attendances took place



16

languages spoken

# What's New?

**This year was a year of change for the Springfield Project as well as for the wider community.**

In the Summer of 2018 we joined together with St Pauls Community Development Trust to share the delivery of Children's Centre services in the Hall Green District. Some staff now work across the whole district and across both organisations. Alison Moore was appointed as the District Children's Centre Manager for Hall Green. The changes to achieve the Birmingham Forwards Steps model of delivery for Early Years are still in progress, including closer integration with our colleagues in health visiting.

In the Summer holidays we ran a pilot playscheme for children aged 5 - 11. This was a great success and the scheme was full every day.

In May 2018 the ward boundaries for Birmingham changed. The Springfield Centre now sits in Sparkhill ward and we welcomed new councillors to the area. We took this opportunity to reach out to local schools and agencies in the ward to refresh our connections and identify new opportunities for working together through the Sparkhill Ward Children and Families Network. We are particularly pleased to have strengthened our working relationship with Moseley School.

## DATA FROM THE 2011 CENSUS:

**10%**

One of the 10% most deprived wards in the UK.



Long term health difficulties are higher than the UK average.

**33%**

of residents are under 18 making Sparkhill one of the youngest wards in the country.

**42%**

of the adult population economically inactive.

**50%**

of those in employment are in low skilled work and the average income is 2/3 that of the UK average.

**92%**

of Sparkhill residents are from an ethnic minority, with **77%** of the population having South Asian heritage.

# Birmingham Forward Steps

**The Springfield Project is one of the strategic partners for Birmingham Forward Steps, the Early Years Health and Wellbeing service for Birmingham. We work closely with our partners at Birmingham Community HealthCare NHS Foundation Trust, St Paul's Community Development Trust, Barnardos and Spurgeons to help shape Early Years services across the city.**

As part of our strategic role within Birmingham Forward Steps, The Springfield Project supports a number of city-wide partners who enhance and support the core offer. It has been a pleasure to support the work of Home-Start, KIDS, Early Years Alliance and Thrive Together Birmingham as part of our wider work.

The Springfield Project works in partnership with St Paul's Community Development Trust to deliver Birmingham Forward Steps Children's Centre services for the Hall Green District. This has been a year of significant change for the Children's Centre including the establishment of the district-wide Children's Centre management team who coordinate services across the district. Hall Green district contains some of the most disadvantaged wards in the UK and the work of the Children's Centre is targeted at the most vulnerable children. Springfield Children's Centre is responsible for an area with approximately 5000 children under 5.

[www.bhamforwardsteps.co.uk](http://www.bhamforwardsteps.co.uk)



The best start for our children

8 empower enable enrich



# Springfield Children's Centre

**Our Children's Centre services offer a wide range of support for families with children under 5. This includes parenting programmes and health courses, employment and training support, debt and housing advice, pre-birth classes, breastfeeding support, parental emotional wellbeing support, targeted stay and play groups, language through play groups, domestic violence support, and targeted family support work supporting 1229 individuals across the year who attended 2218 times.**

## **Focus on Language Through Play Activities:**

There were 321 attendances at one of our Language Through Play groups which includes Musical Babies, Toddler Talk and our Early Years Music Group. 86% of children tracked through our Toddler Talk programme showed progress in Communication & Language Development at the end of the programme.



**"Toddler talk is a very helpful program in which parents can spend time with their child. I have learnt a lot and noticed a lot of changes in my daughter's development. She enjoys at home recalling all the activities we do here."**

**"Family and friends noticed the change in my son's speech."**

**"(I have learnt) the 5 tips on how to play with them. Using toys in story time. How helpful it is to make animal noises with them. Letting them do what interests them."**

46



parents took part in our Incredible Years Parenting Programme. This programme has a significant and positive impact on children and families.

100%



of parents who took part reported that they had increased confidence in understanding child social, emotional and academic needs from attending this programme.

Close to

100%



of parents reported that they had increased attachment with their child on completing the programme.

Over the duration of the programme close to

100%

of parents reported that they have seen an improvement in their child's behaviour, they are using the strategies and techniques learnt through the programme to reduce challenging behaviour.

# Mini Springers

**Mini-Springers Nursery is an Ofsted registered nursery provision which offers sessional places for children in receipt of the Early Education Entitlement grants. This includes all 3 and 4 year olds and eligible two year olds. All children attend for 15 hours per week, either in the morning or the afternoon.**

This year 95 children attended Mini-Springers Nursery. All of the children in our nursery have English as an Additional Language, and our children have 14 different home languages. This reflects the wonderful diversity of the Springfield community.

80% of the children live in the 20% most deprived wards in the UK. 7% of children live in the top 10% of deprivation.

Many children attending Mini-Springers start nursery significantly behind in the learning and development. By following an Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum tailored to the needs of the individual children in the group the nursery staff support children to make progress and the majority of children who attend the setting are able to make accelerated progress from their individual starting points.

Mini-Springers children love to be outdoors and there is free-flow between the indoor and outdoor spaces. This year the children have enjoyed a new 'Mud Kitchen' area in the nursery garden. They have also enjoyed regular trips to our Forest School site at Knowle Road allotments.

We use Tapestry, an online learning journal, to track children's progress. This year all parents have accessed Tapestry from home and added to their child's learning journal. This has really strengthened the communication and understanding between home and nursery.



## WHAT THE NURSERY DOES BEST (PARENT QUOTES)



**"Happy nursery and made my child independent"**

**"Tailor to the children's needs and interests"**

**"Making the children feel safe and comfortable"**

**"Friendly and supportive"**

KEY DATA:

At the start of the 2018-19 academic year, Children attending Mini Springers were on average

12 months behind

their expected developmental age across all areas of learning



By the end of the year children were, on average,

8 months behind

their expected age.



2018-19 Academic Year

Whilst we are concerned that children are still behind where we would like them to be, this shows that children have made progress to such an extent to have ‘caught up’ by an average of an additional 4 months over this 10 month period.

In September 2018 only

3%



of children were at their age expected level of development.

We often hear from local schools that Mini-Springers children are very well prepared for school and that they can see the positive impact of having attended Mini-Springers.

In July 2019 this figure was

18%



This is a six-fold increase.

14



children (15%) had Special Educational Needs or Disabilities.

These children received additional support from our Special Education Needs Coordinator and some children received additional 1-1 support. Children with SEND made slightly higher progress than their peers over the course of the year.



“I would like to thank the SENCO for all her hard work and kindness in helping my son to become a more independent person. Her hard work has helped my son tremendously and he has changed into a more focused child who can do things on his own.”

PARENT’S QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS  
FEBRUARY 2019



47 parents responded to our questionnaire.

100%



felt that staff are welcoming and approachable.

100%



knew who their child’s key person was.

99%



felt included and supported in their child’s education.

100%



felt that the nursery environment offers good quality provision

99%



felt that issues concerning children’s behaviour in Nursery were dealt with appropriately.

100%



were satisfied with the quality of care their child received in Nursery.

# Community Services

**Community Services comprises a range of activities to meet the needs of vulnerable adults with the purpose of helping people stay active longer and away from the need to access older people's services or mental health charities. Loneliness and depression are quite prevalent amongst older people living alone and our week seeks to offer opportunity to combat this by accessing a range of social activities in a local and easily accessible venue.**

We offer three different English classes to help people make friends across cultural boundaries, to function outside of the home and to reduce isolation. Creative English is delivered by volunteers and involves role-play and dressing up and is a lot of fun.

Our flagship activity is Place of Welcome and this year we have delivered 51 sessions attended each week by an average of 41 people. Each week people have opportunity to play pool, board games, knitting circle, alongside chatting and making friends. The cooking group also provide a light lunch using food sourced locally or donated by Food Cycle. We have regular relaxation and meditation sessions as well as musical events. We have also benefitted from visiting speakers such as Health Exchange, Diabetes UK, the Fire Service who came to talk about fire safety in the home, and Age UK. Narthex Community Project also delivered regular weekly sessions on debt and housing advice, which was very popular.

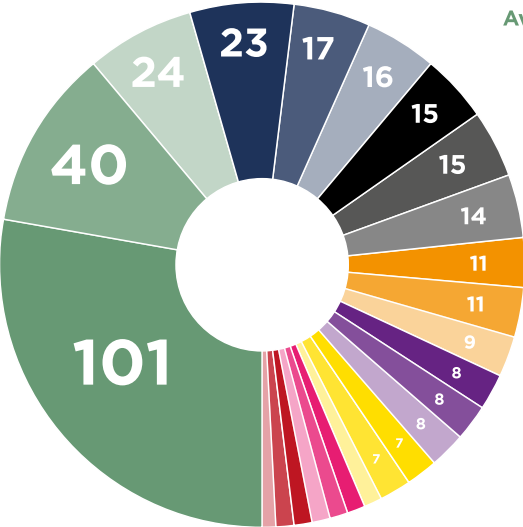
Creative English brings out hidden talents in local women who this year have made a number of blankets and hats for premature and stillborn babies. They have also experimented with clay and tried their hands at watercolour, acrylic painting and card making.

Bloomin' Health is a local fitness instructor who has supported our desire to improve the physical health of our community through a range of gentle exercise including chair aerobics and mindful movement.

Garden to Grow, another local company, oversaw the work of volunteers in our gardening project and ended the autumn season with an outdoor celebration and barbecue inviting all the allotment holders to come together.

There is a principle behind this work, which seeks to ensure that everyone is recognised for the skills and talents that each person brings. We work hard to come alongside people, get to know them and meet them at their point of need. We are able to tease out people's strengths and help them grow in confidence and self-esteem. Very soon participants move from watching to taking part in events and in many cases taking the lead. There are not a lot of problems in our society that cannot be helped with having more 'community'. We create spaces which enable people to connect with each other. We call these "bumping spaces." Many times we see real friendships form as people get to know their neighbours. We provide a space for the "magic" to happen.

Community Services Saw



Average number of people coming in the year

CASE STUDY

Mrs K has been part of the neighbourhood Scheme for about nine months. She has noticed the positive impact the scheme has had on her and says:

**“My first impression of the crafting group was that it was safe and welcoming - a nice place to be. People were friendly and I was no longer alone - I had somebody to talk to. Little things make a big difference.**

**When I first came, I was feeling very low. I felt very isolated and had no-where else to go. Now I have better days as well as low ones. I feel more optimistic and I have hope. Coming here helps me take my mind off things and stop ruminating on my past. I feel less stressed; it helps me relax. I like it because I now have people I can talk to.”**



# Summer Holiday Playscheme 2018

**9 x 3**  
hour sessions



**24 children**  
per session

**40 children**  
attended



**16 children**  
attended  
**3 times** or more

The Springfield Project ran a holiday Playscheme for 5 – 11 years which proved very successful and paved the way for future playschemes.

“

“Play scheme helped me tremendously, it can be expensive during the six weeks and the children get bored so quickly.”

“I am surprised by how confident my child is. At school he is so shy and quiet but at play scheme he is so different. Even his sisters have noticed it.”

“My child came home happy every day, she has a sibling who is disabled which means my child has no one to play with, so normally she would have spent all day watching cartoons on the TV.”



# Volunteering

**Volunteering is very important to the Springfield Project and during the year we have benefited from the generosity of over 100 volunteers across the whole of our service provision. 109 people gave 4,148 hours. Using the rate suggested by Volunteering England this gave an added value of £57,656.**

The gift, skills and local knowledge of our volunteers far exceeds monetary value. Our volunteers say they appreciate the opportunities to gain new skills and to add the experience to their CV which helps with finding work. Other volunteers report an increase their well-being, self-esteem and self-confidence and enjoy making a difference in their community.



*Santa came to visit Springfield with the help of a volunteer elf to look after him and provide the mince pies and carrot for Rudolph!*

## CASE STUDY

What was your initial reason for wanting to volunteer?

**“Meeting new people, especially who live in my community.”**

How is volunteering at The Springfield Project fulfilling this objective?

**“I have met new people through Creative Wednesday, Place of Welcome and Seedlings; this has helped me develop strong relationships with people in my community.”**

What makes you want to carry on volunteering at The Springfield Project?

**“The good friends I have made; the positive atmosphere and excellent organisation; the smooth running here.”**

How do you think The Springfield Project differs from other organisations, especially regarding the involvement of volunteers?

**“Volunteers are able to take initiative and are valued; i.e. with training.”**

How has volunteering at The Springfield Project changed your outlook for the future?

**“I have more faith in humanity, a happier outlook and a desire to use the arts therapeutically in other settings.”**

*Feedback from volunteer consultation in Children's Centre Services.*

# Creative Families

**163 people attended our Creative Families Festival in October and took part in a range of arts activities including: dance, drama, painting, pottery, light shows, storytelling, music, poetry, model making, pyrography, printing, sewing, den making. This year's festival was called 'Be Curious'.**

Our annual family arts festival aims to provide local families with opportunities to experience the arts both as participants and as audience members. There are many benefits to engaging with the arts including self-expression, self-confidence, uncovering talents and skills, relaxation and wellbeing. Engaging with arts activities helps children's all-round development and taking part in activities as a family can help parents and children enjoy time together, discover activities that they can continue at home and improve family relationships.

“

“Was great fun. Lots of activities to keep busy with.”

“Bhangra was the best and the Element Dancing.”

“I loved painting and printing. I will enjoy coming again.”

“I loved to draw, paint and be creative. It was very nice.”

“Dancing with sea and sky was my favourite thing.”

“It was fun to try new things as a family so we can learn together.”







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# Community Events

**July saw the celebration of 30 years of Seedlings Stay and Play Group which was originally led by a member of the church as a volunteer. Caroline Minchin held this role for 25 years and left large shoes to fill. Chris and her team of volunteers do an excellent job.**

We also celebrated 10 years of having the lovely welcoming and warm Children's Centre building open. We celebrated with a combined Stay and Play activity and Place of Welcome running simultaneously. Sally Harper, a local artist, came a ran a workshop for us which was a lot of fun and lots of lovely community members came to join us.







# Acknowledgements & Key Partners

**We are incredibly grateful to the following for the generous support they gave us:**

Birmingham Community Health Care  
Birmingham City Council – Local Innovation Fund  
NHS Smartcare Federation  
Birmingham and Solihull CCG  
Ageing Better  
Yardley Great Trust  
Awards for All (Lottery)  
Morrison's Supermarket  
Eveson Trust  
Groundwork – Tesco Bags of Help  
Persimmon Charitable Trust  
Members of the congregation of St Christopher's Church  
Local community who attended our community events



As the mission partner for St Christopher's church, from whom the Project was born, we reach out to "Share God's Love in the Community" through active service and care. The church continues to support the Project through prayer and volunteer support, and a number of the congregation serve as trustees. The church offers their worship space for delivery of activities during the week.

*Thank you*



# Funders



This year The Springfield Project is grateful to The Connect Sparkbrook LAP and Ageing Better for their support of £10,500, which has enabled us to work with them capacity building smaller voluntary organisations across the area in their understanding of social prescribing.



Birmingham Smartcare Federation NHS have supported our Community Services work and the development of social prescribing by £13,961 which has enabled us to have a positive impact on the wellbeing of vulnerable adults in our community.



The Eveson Trust donated £2,000 to support Creative Wednesday which is an activity designed to engage with people who like to craft and be artistic.



The Springfield Project completed the first year of working with Birmingham Forward Steps to deliver a SureStart Children's Centre Service in the district of Hall Green in partnership with St Paul's Community Development Trust. The Springfield Project received £716,741 as commissioned funding.



Morrison's supermarket funded £4,400 towards general Community Services activities and Persimmon Homes supported the purchase of new toys and play equipment for Seedlings, our very popular Stay and Play Group.



Place of Welcome continues as our flagship Community Services Activity each week and received support from Yardley Great Trust of £4,500.

# Statement of Financial Activities

INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

	2019 FUNDS			2018 FUNDS
	£ Restricted Funds	£ Unrestricted Funds	£ Total Funds	£ Total Funds
<b>INCOMING FROM:</b>				
Donations and Legacies	767,854	226,405	994,259	1,118,221
Charitable Activities	-	111,211	111,211	60,335
Investments	-	134	134	109
Other Income	879	8,966	9,845	7,480
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>768,733</b>	<b>346,716</b>	<b>1,078,848</b>	<b>1,229,225</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>				
Charitable Activities	747,131	331,717	1,078,848	1,229,225
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE:</b>	<b>747,131</b>	<b>331,717</b>	<b>1,078,848</b>	<b>1,229,225</b>
<b>NET INCOME/ (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS &amp; LOSSES</b>	<b>21,602</b>	<b>14,999</b>	<b>36,601</b>	<b>(43,080)</b>
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	<b>21,602</b>	<b>14,999</b>	<b>36,601</b>	<b>(43,080)</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:</b>				
Total funds brought forward	47,705	461,700	509,405	552,485
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<b>69,307</b>	<b>476,699</b>	<b>546,006</b>	<b>509,405</b>

## Senior Staff

**Chief Executive Officer** Sarah Robbins  
**Assistant Chief Executive Officer** Sue Round

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## Board Members

**Chair** Simon Slater  
**Vice Chair** Tom Thomas

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Greg Moss  
Alison Roper-Hall  
Caroline Minchin  
Andreas Melchior  
Yvonne Gordon  
Sarah Smith (resigned June 2018)

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