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Islington Social Value



Mears Social Value Priorities



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Social Value Summary

Top Performing Social Advocates - YTD by volume of activities and 'in kind' value

Branch	Sum of Value	Activities
Manchester Working	£1,843,916.00	18
Coatbridge	£4,742,707.00	14
Islington	£1,725,734.00	11
Canterbury	£2,210,632.00	11
Brighton	£12,685,649.00	10
Leeds	£806,462.00	8

Branch	Activities	Sum of Value
Epping	1	£28,643,051.00
Brighton	11	£12,685,649.00
Coatbridge	14	£4,742,707.00
Cambridge	3	£3,243,234.00
Lambeth CHMG	7	£2,826,607.00
Canterbury	11	£2,210,632.00



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Apprentices

Mears currently has **three apprentices, with a further two employed** by one of our sub contractors, P B Walsh with encouragement and support from Mears. All live in Islington.

- Daisy Mullis is an Apprentice Administrator and is doing an NVQ2 in Business Administration.
- Bobby Stokes started with the branch as an Apprentice Resident Liaison Officer and successfully completed an NVQ2 in Customer Service. He is now a Site Supervisor with succession plan to become a Site Manager and is doing a Site Supervision in Construction Level 3 qualification to support his on-going transition.
- Elias Derege is an Apprentice Quantity Surveyor doing an HNC qualification.



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Support to Local Employment

Mears employs many people who live or have worked in Islington for many years. One member of staff was unemployed and spotted at a Work Club run by Islington Council, supported by Mears. He was mentored by our Projects Administrator, Islington resident Kelly Parker, who helped him create a C.V. and with internet job searching, online applications and interview techniques. A position became available at the branch during the programme for a Driver/Labourer. He was offered the position following a successful interview. When told the good news, he said he felt like he had won the lottery! He has gone from strength to strength and is now very much part of our successful presence in the Borough. Commenting on Mears support to the Work Clubs, an Islington Council officer said: “I just wanted to thank you.....for all the support you have given local Islington residents.....This would not have been possible if it was not the on-going support and enthusiasm you have shown.....I am really confident that with this momentum we will secure more jobs for local residents. A big thank you.”

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Support to Local Employment Needs

Mears was approached by Islington Council to provide an employment opportunity for a candidates with Learning Disabilities. The branch does a newsletter mail out to residents and it was agreed that support on this would be helpful to the Admin Team who dedicated around 6-8 hours on this each month. Around 10 candidates came to the branch with their Carers where General Manager Theo Petrou explained what the role would involve.

One resident now been working with the branch for around 2 years and has fitted in well to both the team and office environment . Colleagues have supported her both in and out of the branch with team members recently attending an art exhibition at the Fold Gallery in London where she was exhibiting a piece.

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Employability Skills

- Staff have worked in a number of Islington schools over last couple of years providing support on *CVs, interview & presentation skills and expectations of the working environment*. Recent events include:
 - * Apprentice Fair Highbury Fields School
2nd Dec
 - * Presenting Yourself Days:
 - 11th Dec – St Aloysius
 - 8th Jan – Elizabeth Garrett Anderson
 - * Employability Skills Tutorial Sessions at St Aloysius:
 - 20th Jan
 - 27th Jan
 - 3rd Feb
- Two Year 11 student from Highbury Fields School in Islington spent a week working with us both on site and in the office. One commented: "I've loved being at Mears, you are all a bunch of genuinely lovely people and its a shame it has ended so quickly."



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Networking Events

A series of mock interviews was carried out with a group of 30 unemployed Islington residents as part of Adult Learners week. Mears was one of ten employers who did speed interviews lasting five minutes with them. Employers had to confirm if they felt candidate was suitable for employment in their company at end of each interview. Mears was able to present various employment pathways and opportunities to a number of the candidates.

Following the success of the **Aspire Week** earlier this year, Mears has been asked to take part in a similar event on November 11th organised by The Islington Youth Employment Network (Islington Council and a number of partners from a broad youth network) which is seeking to create innovative pathways to support younger residents upon their journey into employment.

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Decorating Workshop

Mears has successfully run a monthly DIY Workshop for Islington residents. The training they receive enables them to carry out some simple DIY tasks to enhance & improve their homes.

"Dear Theo,

I just wanted to thank you, Billy and Richard for a really enjoyable and informative introduction to basic DIY and maintenance workshop session which was held yesterday evening. All the residents and I really enjoyed the session; it was informative, fun and very hands on and I think everyone got a lot out of it.

Please also thank Karen, Kisha and the other ladies for their welcome and refreshments. I think it was a flying start to the programme and I think all those who attended will be telling their neighbours all about it, so we should be able to continue running this programme into the next financial year. Thank you once again."

Regards

Resident Engagement Officer



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Refurbishment of Community Facility

Staff from Mears turned out in force to lend their support to a painting project at a local community hall. The Jean Stokes Community Centre, a big feature of local community life on the Bemertron Estate, received an internal face lift from the Islington branch working alongside staff from Islington Council who spent three days painting a computer room and the hallway. Mears Project Coordinator Alan Arthy led the teams to great success. Islington's Service Development Officer said: "The feedback that I've had from our staff that participated has been great.....they clearly had a positive experience. I think that's due in no small part to Alan's approach with staff in terms of providing a positive environment to work in, teaching new skills and providing encouragement for all of the participants. This coupled with positive feedback from the community centre management committee means that I think we can consider it a real success!"



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Young at Heart

Mears donated £500 and support from staff for Islington's Older Persons Day celebrations which formed part of the Young at Heart week. Members of the branch helped to host the event, meeting and greeting, sitting with, and providing refreshments for senior citizens attending. Entertainment was provided by the Pearly King of Finsbury .



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Award Evening at Robert Blair Primary School

Robert Blair Primary School holds a yearly ceremony to celebrate the success of its pupils in a variety of ways including attendance, improvers, excelling in particular subjects etc. Head of Business Support Sandra Butler, accompanied by CCO Bobby Stokes was invited to do opening ceremony speech and give out prizes to children. The Mayor of Islington had been guest speaker the previous year. The speech made reference to Growth Mindset targets the school had focused on that year as follows:

- We remember that intelligence is something that we can grow.
- We don't say, 'I can't do this', we say 'I can't do this yet'.
- We recognise that effort is more important than results.
- We learn new things as often as we can.
- We are not scared of mistakes or failure because we can learn from them.
- We take risks in order to improve our learning.



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