



Caxton Youth  
Organisation



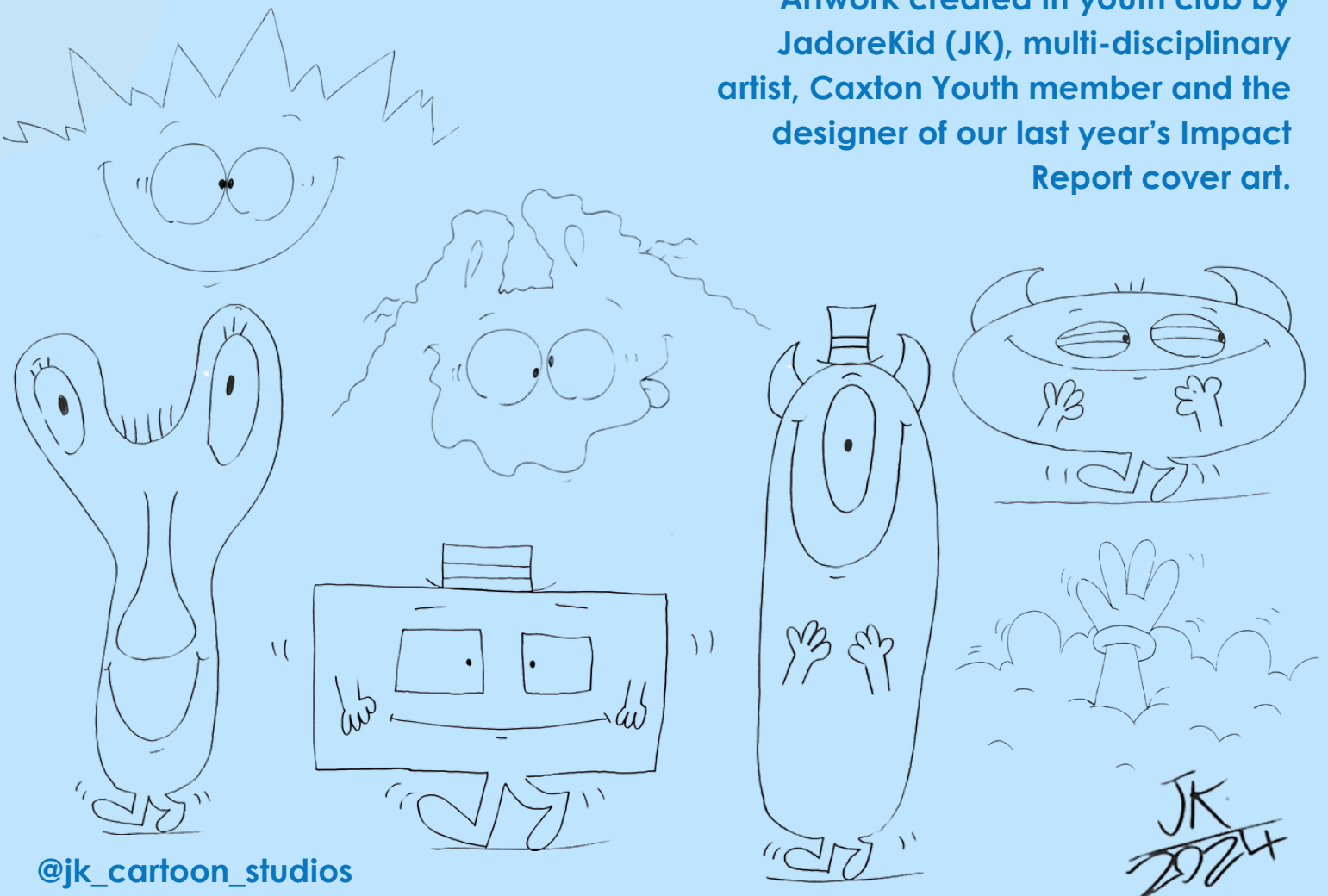
# IMPACT REPORT

July 2023 - June 2024



Caxton Youth members during a residential at Avon Tyrrell.

Artwork created in youth club by JadoreKid (JK), multi-disciplinary artist, Caxton Youth member and the designer of our last year's Impact Report cover art.



# Table of Contents

- 04 — Introduction from Youth Ministers
- 05 — Message from our CEO and Chair
- 06 — About Us
- 09 — Our Core Programmes
- 11 — By the Numbers
- 12 — Sarjil's Story
- 13 — Trips and Residentials
- 14 — Photo Gallery
- 16 — Greener Futures Project
- 17 — Youth Government
- 18 — Anastacia's Story
- 19 — Building the Caxton Community
- 21 — Next Steps

# Introduction from our Youth Government

“We are the Youth Ministers, our roles are in music, media and sports. We were elected in to the roles by other young people. Within the Caxton Youth Government we give speeches, talk about subjects and have Trustees visit. We are listened to by our youth workers, CEO and Trustees. **In other settings we don't get listened to and we think it's important to be heard and speak up.** We like to listen to other young people and help them.”

“Our highlight this year was going to the theatre to see ***For Black Boys Who Have Considered Suicide When the Hue Gets Too Heavy***. We liked seeing a show which talks about mental health and shared experience.

Another highlight was going on a residential, for some of our young people it was their first ever residential with Caxton Youth Organisation. It feels good to get outside of London where it is peaceful and quiet. It's also fun getting muddy.

Our last highlight was attending lots of trips, it gives us things to do so we are not bored over the summer. Visiting the Fire Station in Chelsea was a really fun youth session.”

- Youth Government Ministers

“ I value helping people and seeing things through. I feel proud when I'm able to take part in sports sessions I asked about. ”

- Jordan, Minister for Sport

# Message from our CEO and Chair

**Last year, we talked about living in a time of change; this year has been celebrating and building resilience.**

This year we had to relocate our youth club to the Thamesbank Centre, due to major rewiring and upgrades needed at our Pimlico clubrooms. The young people adapted well to our new temporary home. Despite the challenges, we were still able to provide our services and deliver positive changes for our young people - including supporting them to increase their independence, reduce their social isolation and strengthen their voice.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to our young people, staff, trustees, volunteers, and funding partners for their patience and understanding during this period, which was essential to securing our long-term sustainability. We are also deeply grateful to Jane Buttigieg and ETAT for supporting us with the relocation.

In February, our Charity Partners, Landsec Aspire, helped with a full repaint and makeover of the youth club. In April we were excited to host

our first-ever Supporters Event, where we showcased the newly refurbished space. A special thanks to Annalisa, one of our Caxton parents, whose heartfelt speech left hardly a dry eye in the room.

We are thrilled to have our second cohort of Youth Government Ministers write the introduction to this year's impact report. We'd like to extend our gratitude to Jenna Goldstein, who stepped down this year, for her invaluable contributions as a Trustee.

Over the past year, one thing has become clear – Caxton is its people, not a building. Caxton is defined by the young people's perseverance, the dedication of our youth workers and the support of the community that surrounds us. We're incredibly grateful for everyone who makes Caxton what it is – a safe, welcoming place for young people to gain independence, try new things, and have fun.

- Kate Boddington, Chair and  
Esther Norman, Interim CEO

# Our Vision for Caxton Youth

For the past 75 years, we have opened our doors to tens of thousands of people. Our youth club has undergone significant changes over the years, but throughout that time we've remained guided by a strong set of values and a clear goal: to improve the lives of local young people.

## Our Vision

We are a specialist youth club creating community, breaking barriers, and empowering learning disabled and autistic young people.

## Our Mission

Our mission is to shape a more inclusive society, free from disabling barriers, where all young people are able to lead happy, healthy lives.

## Our Values

We have four core values that underpin everything that Caxton does:

- Connection
- Self-Expression
- Aspiration
- Community

“ The staff here are different to other places I have been.  
**They are real people.** ”

- Caxton Young Person

# Over the past year we've held:

112

youth club sessions - that's 280 hours!

42

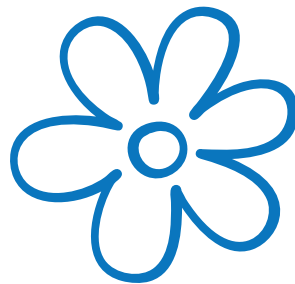
day trips into the community - the most we've EVER done

3

multi-day residential trips to outdoor activity centres



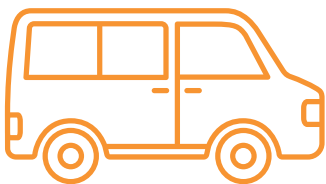
57+ learning disabled and autistic people were supported



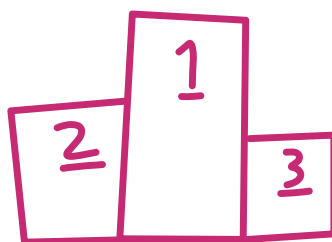
We started our Girls Group - a space dedicated to Caxton's young women



1 in 4 young people went on an overnight residential trip



Almost 70% of young people went on one or more community trips



3 Jack Petchey Achievement Award winners



We held 19 music production sessions, both at Caxton and at a music studio

# About our work this year

**Our highly tailored, strengths-based youth work offer enables young people to fulfil their potential.**

The holistic support we offer to families and the partnerships we make with other organisations ensure that learning disabled and autistic young people are supported to gain skills, confidence and grow their independence in every area of their lives: at home, in education or work, and with their friends in our youth club.

Our activities are designed to be accessible and inclusive to all young people; we have supported 57+ young people and their families in the past year. Our qualified youth workers have all received specialist training to support learning disabled and autistic young people, and we use

more visual forms of communication, including Makaton and Widgit symbols, to ensure that young people with different communication needs are able to access and enjoy all of our activities. For young people across Westminster who are not yet able to travel independently, we provide community transport in our wheelchair-accessible minibus to our youth club sessions.

With young people benefiting from independent time away from their home, our support has an integral role to play in promoting positive and resilient support networks around each young person. Our support also provides much-needed respite to parents and carers with long-lasting benefits to the wellbeing of the whole family.



# Our 2023/24 Core Programmes

## Independence Programme



This year's focus was addressing everyday challenges and **celebrating small steps**. The programme offered workshops on supported living, team-building trips, and chances to build skills like cleaning, cooking, and money management. We also covered topics such as internet safety, stress management, and the dangers of drugs, all designed to help equip young people with practical knowledge for their future and support their paths towards increased independence.

Through numerous trips and workshops, the programme allowed young people to explore various career opportunities, talk about their aims and aspirations, and find out ways to achieve them. To address the individual interests of our young people, many workshops emphasized creative careers like DJing, photography, design and upholstery, and also engineering and public transportation. The programme **helped young people secure paid and volunteer positions** at Happy Lizzie and Petit Miracles.

## Employment Support Programme



## Social and Emotional Wellbeing Programme



This year we have focused on **targeted, proactive intervention** on the issues and challenges our young people are facing. We have found success in connecting with specialist external partners to reduce negative social and emotional outcomes; organisations that provide skilled support that are the experts in their field. This includes running workshops with SASH around healthy intimate relationships and consent, and regular visits from an IGXU professional to mentor young people at risk of being exploited by gangs.

# Our 2023/24 Core Programmes

The programme was dedicated to ensuring our young people had **access to new and enriching experiences** with the support of community partners and organisations. We had Go Live Theatre lead twelve drama workshops and help us organise unforgettable theatre trips. Through our monthly trips to Prospex and regular visits from DJ Dymond, we offered young people the opportunity to practice music production. The programme also launched our first-ever Girls' Group, creating a supportive space for Caxton's young women.

## Creating Communities and Opportunities Programme



## Health and Getting Active Programme



Through the programme, we were able to offer **sports activities at every youth club session**. Our members enjoyed some of their favourite sports like football, basketball and tennis at our local court, and when weather didn't allow us to go outside, we practiced indoor physical activities like table tennis, air hockey, playing pool and Wii Sports games. Over the year we held several multi-sports sessions with Disability Sports Coach and played football with a Chelsea Football Club coach.

“ I don't know what some young people would do for socialisation without Caxton. It's such a brilliant organisation, I'm sure you've heard lots of parents say that. ”

- Caxton Parent

# By the Numbers

We use a youth-led evaluation tool, Outcomes Star, to measure each young person's progress across a number of areas. These outcome areas are: accommodation; work and learning; people and support; health; how you feel; choices and behaviour; money and rent; and practical life skills. We also use the Warwick Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale, as well as accessible surveys through the year.

**94%**

of young people report making progress in at least one outcome area

**72%**

of young people report making progress in at least two outcome areas

**84%**

of young people report feeling good about themselves often or always

**30%** of young people were aged 18 or under

**32%** of young people identified as female

We drove our minibus over 5700 miles to take young people to and from activities

# Sarjil's Story

This year, Sarjil has taken on two volunteer roles at Caxton. He was elected by his peers as our Youth Government Minister for Digital Media and began volunteering during our Friday sessions for under 18s, supporting the youth workers.

We have also supported him to make a budget for himself, and February 2024 was the first month he had built savings. He was extremely proud of himself, and he feels he is now in control of his impulsivity. Sarjil is now sharing these tools with other members who face similar challenges. His experience has helped him build the self-confidence to see himself as a role model. For the first time, he feels confident and ready to pursue employment. ***“Since I have been coming to Caxton, it’s actually been really helping me a lot and change myself around and learning a lot of new stuff, including my anger management.”***

Our youth worker, Paul, who runs the Employment Support Programme, recently shared: ***“Sarjil’s confidence has shot up over the year. Before, he would be reserved about trying out new things, ready to give up once he came across difficulties and complications. Today, Sarjil is much more resilient, actively engaging with employment opportunities and regularly checking in with staff when he feels he needs further advice or support rather than just quitting.”*** Sarjil himself expressed, ***“I’m very proud of myself as well, I know you [Eliane, youth worker] said I’m doing everything very well this year... I think I have improved, and my parents think so too.”***



# Trips and Residentials

Over the past year, our young people went on three residential trips to outdoor activity centres, Kingswood and Hindleap Warren. They had the chance to try ziplining, conquer high and low ropes courses, test their aim in archery, and learn about wild plants and animals during educational trails. They finished off their adventure-filled days with cosy chats by a campfire, always accompanied by toasted marshmallows.

The residential trips gave our young people the opportunity to step out of their comfort zones and try things they had never done before. Whether it was confronting a lifelong fear of heights or spending a night away from home for the first time, the experiences were made far less intimidating by doing them

alongside Caxton's familiar faces. *"I was nervous but J, my best friend, did it with me and made me feel brave"* - young person about their first time ziplining.

Community trips, as always, added some unforgettable highlights to our year. While horse riding in Dulwich, many of our young people challenged their fears and experienced the excitement of riding a horse for the very first time. One young person shared, *"I liked connecting with the horse. It felt like finding a new friend."* During our theatre trips to see *The Wizard of Oz* and *Matilda*, our young people got to see beloved stories performed live on stage. Some even thought the plays were *"better than the movie."*

From bowling, rock climbing, and kayaking to visiting the Design Museum, Battersea Zoo, and Chelsea Fire Station, the past year brought a variety of special experiences we can now look back on with a smile.

“Trips make me excited and happy and give me enjoyment, and that I can go out everywhere just like my sister and be independent like her.”  
- Caxton Young Person

# Our Year in Action







## Greener Futures

At the heart of Greener Futures this year was our **exhibition at Pimlico Library**. The exhibition displayed artwork made entirely by Caxton's young people. Its aim was to raise awareness of critical environmental issues, particularly plastic pollution in our oceans. While preparing for the exhibition, our young people engaged with the topics of re-purposing and upcycling. They used waste materials like plastic wrappers, fruit nets, and vegetable scraps to create protest banners, textile art, and prints. It proved to be a powerful introduction to a topic that some young people didn't feel very connected to or represented by before.

Throughout the year, we visited places like Vauxhall City Farm, London Bushcraft, Kew Gardens, and The Green Park. During trips, our young people got the chance to connect with nature and learn about plants, animals, and the importance of recycling. We also organised a **beach clean in Brighton**, actively contributing to reducing plastic waste along the coastline.

These themes were reinforced back at Caxton where we used recycling bins as a practical reminder to dispose of waste responsibly. During sessions, our young people made seed bombs and potted wildflowers to take home and nurture. Over spring and summer, we continued tending to our garden and we even used homegrown herbs in our cooking sessions!

“ Kew Gardens was my favourite activity because I like to be outside and be around nature. ”  
- Caxton Young Person



# Youth Government

## **The Caxton Youth Government (CYG) was established to amplify young people's voices.**

It ensures our services are directly influenced by their ideas and feedback and youth-led. Our four elected Youth Ministers share their insights during monthly meetings with the CEO and a dedicated youth worker. Our current representatives include the Minister for Music, the Minister for Digital Media, the Minister for Sport, and the Minister for Communications.

This past year, we emphasised involving young people in shaping Caxton from within, and expanding their influence on the decisions made by our Leadership Team and Board of Trustees. One of our Trustees, Tim, who works at Google came to a CYG meeting and talked to the young people about communications and their interest in digital skills – in podcasting, music production and graphic design. A central focus

in these conversations has been the young people's desire to build a music studio in an underused back office at Caxton, and their enthusiasm has gotten our corporate partners and local supporters to help make this happen.

We also supported the CYG's involvement in external decision-making. We ensured our young people had a say in shaping their local community by working with Young Westminster Foundation, Fitzrovia Youth in Action, Pimlico Project 2024, and The Community Hubs. As a result, our Ministers actively influenced the creation of Westminster City Council's new Mini-Hub. To spread awareness about the **power young people can have** over their community, we also held a voter registration workshop with The Political Project. The initiative resulted in eight more of our 18 and over young people registering to vote in the July general election.

# Anastacia's Story

Anastacia has been coming to Caxton since 2019. She recently transitioned from our Friday group to our Wednesday group after turning 18. While the change wasn't easy, it was made more comfortable by moving alongside her best friend. It's connections like this that Anastacia loves most about Caxton. She shares, ***“My favourite thing about coming to Caxton is meeting new people and seeing my friends. I've been coming here a long time and met a lot of people.”***

Anastacia has been attending our monthly Girls' Group since its launch in January 2024. She enjoys the group's relaxed atmosphere: ***“I like Girls' Group. It's fun and calming, and I like cooking. It's more quiet without the boys.”*** During Girls' Group, Anastacia loves being able to play board games with the other girls: ***“[When I come to Girls' Group] my favourite thing to do is playing board games.”*** Some of her favourite games include Snakes and Ladders, Jenga and card games.

This year, Anastacia also completed a series of furniture restoration workshops at Petit Miracles, arranged through our Employment Support Programme. Beyond the hands-on skills she gained, she values the travel training that came with attending the workshops: ***“Travel training with Paul went well. I feel more confident now. I don't really go on public transport alone yet, but we're still working on it.”*** The experience has been a great step towards Anastacia's growing independence.





## Building the Caxton Community

**The support we provide to the young people of Westminster wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our community!** This past year, compassionate individuals, organisations, trusts, and foundations have enabled our youth to explore their passions, secure meaningful opportunities, form lasting friendships, and find a true sense of belonging.

Our charity partnership with Aspire Landsec continued for its third year, and they went above and beyond. They allowed us to hot-desk at their offices for seven months while the renovation and refurbishment work at Pimlico was taking place, and then had all hands on deck for two intensive DIY days to get us back into our clubrooms. Thank you to everyone who has taken part in fundraising activities, volunteering opportunities, and kept our youth club running this past year.

We are beyond grateful to you all!

# Building the Caxton Community

An inexhaustive list of the wonderful donors, activity partners, and supporters who have helped young people to live happier, healthier, more independent lives over the past year:

Aspire Landsec and Partners  
Baily Thomas  
Baringa  
Bidvest Noonan  
Bywaters  
Capita Plc  
Chapman Charitable Trust  
City Bridge Trust  
ConnectFutures  
D2E  
Disability Sports Coach  
ETAT  
Fitzrovia Youth in Action  
Garfield Weston Foundation  
Go Live Theatre  
Google  
Grosvenor  
IGXU  
Jack Petchey Foundation  
Jaguar Building Services  
John Lyon's Charity  
Kusuma Trust  
Let Me Know  
Lightbulb Trust  
London Community Foundation  
London Sport  
Mahoro Charitable Trust  
Masonic Charitable Foundation  
NG Bailey

NJC (Not Just Cleaning)  
One Westminster  
Principle Cleaning  
Propsex Youth Club  
Queen Anne's Gate Residents Association  
Rapport Guest Services  
Royal Albert Hall  
SASH  
Shake Shack  
St Giles & St George  
St Peter's Eaton Square  
The Austin and Hope Pilkington Trust  
The Big Give  
The Childwick Trust  
The Edward Harvist Trust  
The Julia and Hans Rausing Trust  
The Mrs Smith and Mount Trust  
The Nancy Kenyon Charitable Trust  
The National Lottery Community Fund  
The Natural History Museum  
Vauxhall City Farm  
Westminster Almshouses Foundation  
Westminster Amalgamated Charity  
Westminster City Council Healthy Communities Fund  
Westminster City Council VCS Funding  
Westminster Foundation  
Young Westminster Foundation

# Next Steps

In a world that's changing faster than ever, the future can feel uncertain - but one thing will always stay the same: **our commitment to making sure every learning disabled and autistic young person in our community has a safe space to grow, connect, and belong.**

With our youth club fully refurbished and fit for purpose, we are ready to open our doors even wider and welcome more young people than ever before. Over the next year, we're planning to bring more trips and activities than ever, with each experience shaped entirely by the unique interests and needs of our young people.



Every step of the way, we'll stay dedicated to **building community, breaking barriers, and creating an inclusive borough where young people can thrive.**

## How you can help

If you'd like to support the young people at Caxton Youth, go to [caxtonyouth.org/how-to-support-us/](https://caxtonyouth.org/how-to-support-us/) to find out more or donate directly.

Thank you for all  
your support over  
the past year.

### Contact

Basement Clubrooms  
Tintern House  
Abbots Manor Estate  
London, SW1V 4JF

[www.caxtonyouth.org](https://www.caxtonyouth.org)  
[admin@caxtonyouth.org](mailto:admin@caxtonyouth.org)  
020 7834 1883