

Live Unlimited Strategy

2022 – 2025



Live Unlimited's

VISION

is that all care experienced children and young people are able to achieve their potential and lead happy, fulfilled lives.

Our
AIM

for Live Unlimited is that we are there on the journey with care experienced children and young people in Barnet, helping them gain life skills, building relationships and networks, reducing isolation and providing them with the best opportunities possible.

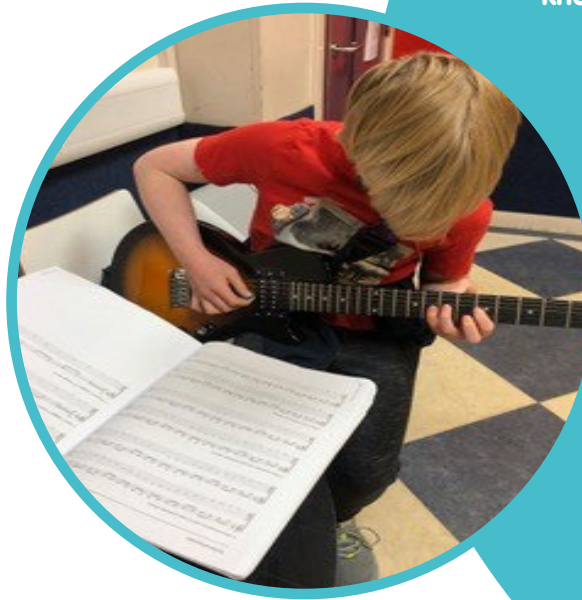
What we do and what we've achieved

We are a growing charity, helping Barnet's looked after children and care leavers to thrive. We can reach out quickly to these young people through their social workers, adapting our activities in response to their needs, and providing support above and beyond that provided by statutory authorities.

Since our launch in February 2018 we have:

Supported **181** young people to improve health and wellbeing via our **Imagination Trust scheme**, buying items of equipment, membership fees, and providing access to new experiences.

Engaged with **68** young people through our **Aspire Higher** careers networking scheme, with **38** young people attending networking events and workshops with industry experts. We also supported two young people into paid work placements, one person onto a training scheme and two people onto vocational training courses.



We are forever grateful..for enabling our young person to develop his love of music and playing the guitar.. [it] has helped him hugely with his confidence and resilience.



It is perfect I have landed this training scheme. It will look great on my CV and employers will think I'm seriously qualified in multiple fields ... who knows where it might lead.



What we do and what we've achieved ...

Delivered **206** hours of forest-school themed activities to 10-17 year old looked after children through our **Outdoor Club scheme**, with carers reporting a 100% improvement in the young people's wellbeing, happiness and confidence levels, as well as a 100% reduction in social isolation, with new friendships formed;



They both think it's fantastic. It's given them so much more than learning new things. They both have poor friendship groups and this has helped with their friendships... P has slept in his tent in the garden every Saturday since he started going!



It's the highlight of his week. He is autistic and doesn't join in things and this is the first thing he has loved doing in a group. He even did a fist-bump talking about it. I've had him two years and he's never done that about anything. It's just what he needed.



What we do and what we've achieved ...

Provided more than **600** hours of driving lessons through our **Driving Ahead scheme**, with over **20** young people learning to drive, **15** taking their driving tests, and **10** passing;



Thank you so much for helping me. I trained to be a plumber at college and one day I want to be self-employed, which I can achieve now I can drive. I've got a job as an apprentice and I've bought a small car, which I use to get to jobs that are all over London.



I couldn't have done this without you. You were the first people I called when I passed my test. I'm studying to be an electrician and now I can work as a delivery driver to earn money... This has made me very happy.



What we do and what we've achieved ...

Provided an emergency Covid response;

Covid Lockdown saw digital exclusion identified as a national issue with people unable to access education or connect with the outside world. Many Barnet care leavers were in accommodation without broadband and with limited access to data.

Within weeks we launched our Give A Dongle campaign with the goal of buying dongles with preloaded mobile data. We had dozens of requests for dongles, sim cards, media tablets and laptops.

By the time the government announced help for disadvantaged children, including care leavers, in the summer of 2020, Live Unlimited had already distributed **64 dongles and sims, 32 media tablets, 4 laptops, 3 smart phones and 2 printers** amongst those most in need.

For more information on the schemes we are currently running, see www.liveunlimited.org.uk




Bought **600 Christmas gift vouchers** for care leavers and young people living in semi-independent accommodation as part of our **Christmas appeal**.



I'm a care leaver in my second year of uni. The laptop has supported me to complete my second year of study due to the current coronavirus restrictions limiting my access to the university facilities ... I've already been using it to submit my assignments and complete my timed online exams.



Photo by Karolina Grabowska

Why we do it

At the time of writing, there were 325 Children in Care, and 332 Care Leavers in the borough of Barnet. *(These figures changes as young people move in and out of care.)*

Looked after children can have poorer life chances and outcomes than their peers. Research* shows that care leavers often report low well-being and feeling lonely, with children in care much more likely than their peers to have a mental health difficulty.

They are more likely to live on their own when they leave care, and may not have family looking out for

them nor a wide circle of friends, due to low self-esteem and lack of confidence growing up. They can leave care financially vulnerable and at risk of increased levels of anxiety and isolation.

Care leavers at university may also feel particularly isolated if they have to stay in student accommodation while others go home. The percentage of care leavers not in education, employment or training (NEET) is more than that of the general population too, and they can be over-represented in homeless figures and in the criminal justice system too.

Live Unlimited wants to help meet the needs of children in care and care leavers in Barnet so that they are less isolated, more confident and able to access opportunities more easily.

*.E.g. NSPCC statistics briefing: Looked after children <https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/media/1622/statistics-briefing-looked-after-children.pdf> ; Achieving emotional wellbeing for looked after children: a whole system approach | NSPCC Learning; Mapping young Londoners care experienced data from Mapping Young London report; Coram Voice: Bright Spots snapshot: <https://coramvoice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/OLOC-Snapshot-online-2018.pdf> Coram Voice: Your life beyond care, Dr Sarah Meakings 2021 <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s68765/CES%20November%202021%20Appendix%204.pdf>

For Barnet care leavers, access to employment, training and education worsened over the pandemic, also increasing isolation. 2020/21 saw a 100% increase in the number of beneficiaries of Live Unlimited schemes and campaigns from the previous year (partly due to our Give A Dingle campaign).



Our Values

Throughout all of our work we operate with the values of:

COLLABORATION – We listen carefully to one another, and to looked after children and care leavers, working collaboratively to ensure their voices are represented in everything we do

INCLUSION – We embrace diversity, recognising every individual as their own unique person with different hopes and dreams

ENCOURAGEMENT – We encourage one another and looked after children and care leavers to embrace and enjoy new opportunities, providing support along the way

INSPIRATION – We aim to spark enthusiasm in Barnet’s looked after children and care leavers and each other, developing schemes that are a spring board on to new endeavours

PARTNERSHIP – we are stronger and can do more when we work together with others

Over the next 3 years, we want to focus on expanding our operations and becoming more sustainable, so that we are meeting as many of the needs of Barnet’s care leavers and children in care as we can, gaining a reputation for being useful and delivering real outcomes and tangible benefits for these young people.



COLLABORATION
INCLUSION
ENCOURAGEMENT
INSPIRATION
PARTNERSHIP



We have three strategic priorities over the next 3 years

- For care experienced young people in Barnet to experience a significant positive impact from the outcome-focussed schemes and activities we offer.
- To be a sustainable organisation, able to deliver what we need to meet our aim for care experienced young people in Barnet now and in the future.
- For Live Unlimited to be known and valued for what we do in Barnet by clients, support workers, advocates and sponsors.



To achieve these we will:

- **Offer schemes and activities tailored to client needs**, identifying specific outcomes and any targets for each, aiming for at least 5 opportunities to be available to clients each year
- **Improve our measurement and evaluation** methods and responsiveness to learning
- **Implement our fundraising, marketing and comms strategy** to:
 - increase our funding base and fundraising support
 - market Live Unlimited’s schemes, activities, achievements and purposes, maximising awareness, participation, usefulness and support
 - improve our communications and online engagement, aiming to be known to all those going into or leaving care in Barnet
- Improve and **practice wide engagement** with support workers, businesses and organisations, funders and supporters, building our networks, knowledge, and our ability to provide opportunities for clients, deliver coordinated services and information, and increase funding and support
- **Set up a ‘Live Unlimited ambassadors’ scheme**, to represent the charity and amplify client voices.



And we will work in the following way:

- **Directing, managing and, as needed, changing objectives, schemes, activities, resources and targets, using:**
 - our 3 year strategy, annual business plan and regular risk management;
 - forecasted and actual yearly and activity-specific finance reports;
 - regular assessments of resources to identify potential or actual gaps in business need;
 - regular reviews of the services we offer and any changes in the needs of clients, ensuring we can and do flex our schemes and activities in response; and
 - financial tools and fundraising to meet the projected costs for each next year.
- **Targeting recruitment to support business need; and managing, supporting, training and developing Live Unlimited Trustees, staff, secondees and volunteers**
- **Ensuring we have the right structures, systems, policies, procedures and practices to meet legal and administrative needs and demonstrate good practice**
- **Ensuring governance is effective, timely and responsive to business need**
- **Using programme and project management tools, and exercising due diligence and risk management to set up and run schemes, in order to keep clients safe and offer best value**
- **Ensuring equality and diversity and safeguarding are key to how we do things**
- **Handling our public dealings (enquiries, meetings etc) efficiently, courteously and safely**



By the end of year 3 we will expect to see:

- **At least 5 opportunities being made available for clients to participate in each year**
- **An increase in positive feedback from clients and support workers on the impact and value of Live Unlimited and our schemes and activities strategic planning, resource and risk management intrinsic to the way we do things**
- **People we've helped and those that support them helping us:**
 - develop our objectives and actions
 - make decisions about schemes and activities
 - as ambassadors, mentors, trustees, and advocates for LU
- **An increase in regular supporters and fundraisers**
- **An increase in engagement with our website, social media, schemes and activities**
- **An increase in positive media, originating from both LU and other organisations/ press**
- **An increase in client and support worker awareness of LU**





Live Unlimited is a charity registered in England and Wales, registered charity number: 1176418.

Live Unlimited was set up by staff from the London Borough of Barnet local authority and we continue to work closely with and receive in-kind support from Barnet Council.

We are an independent organisation, accountable to our Board of Trustees, and our work is very much reliant on funding from donors and fundraisers, and support from volunteers, and **we would like to offer them all our profound thanks for their help.**

If you would like to know more about Live Unlimited, or about supporting or volunteering for us, please: visit our website at **www.liveunlimited.org.uk**

Or contact us at:

Email: **hello@liveunlimited.org.uk**

Phone: **020 8359 2325**

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