

# IMPACT REPORT

Lark Hill Parent Forum

2016-2017



The purpose of Lark Hill Parent Forum is to support the community, break down barriers and respect all cultures and backgrounds.

The group impacts on wellbeing with the community garden Grow and Eat project. Children and families learn to grow produce and make wholesome soups for the family to enjoy.



**1.** The volunteers deliver 9 programmes of work supporting children and families. 45 children attend Garden Club during school lunch times and early afternoons. Whilst adults attend Garden Club each morning. We teach ESOL to 15 adults from our Arabic community. This programme of work is run by a volunteer and an English Tutor. 20 volunteers have engaged in the programme of learning for our Garden Club and Arts & Crafts for families.

**2.** 60 children from year 6 became Environmental Rangers. They took a piece of overgrown land and turned it in to a wildlife area. The children and the community now enjoy the area and respect it. The children became better citizens and racial barriers were broken down in the local area.

**“The school plays a pivotal part in the community and this new funding will help us introduce children to creating healthy meals from nutritious ingredients.”**

**3.** For the **Grow and Eat** project children and families learnt to grow produce and make wholesome soups for the family to enjoy. This project supports SEN children, children with speech and language difficulties and lone parents. The volunteers have a sensory room

and the community garden has sensory items. Parents have reported they feel less isolated and their wellbeing has improved.

**4.** Our aims include to continue to grow family programme of work via volunteers, continue to maximise family wellbeing and improve family life by helping to reducing poverty.

**5.** Our gaps include funding for volunteers to become paid sessional workers.

**“Now I have a real purpose and I’ve got big plans. And the kids are really excited as well. They’re signing up to a gardening club and getting involved with other projects in the gardens.”**

**6.** A number of our families are the most vulnerable. Some don’t access universal services. They suffer with low self-esteem and are unwilling to talk to other people in the community. The project grows self-esteem allowing the adult to try new things and in some cases become work ready and engage in upskilling. The parent forum are able to signpost and support them through training and celebrate the outcomes of achievement.

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