



West London Action for Children

Our impact

At WLAC, we frequently check with our clients to see if they feel that as a result of our work, things have changed for them.

Here are some recent comments;

'Rather than feeling that I have had enough, I can now see a future'

'My mum doesn't shout at me so much any more'

'WLAC has helped me to let go of the past. To understand that it was not all my fault and that I am not a bad person. By coming here, I have changed my life. More than that, it has given life to my son'.

Thank you for your support.

Heather Boxer
Chief Executive

PS You can follow us on Twitter @WLACchildren and find us on Facebook at West London Action for Children.



Thank you to
Kareena, Nidhi, Winnie,
Jodie and Blerina
from the Alec Reed Academy

Thank you to these five hard working Alec Reed Academy pupils whose presentation to the Youth Philanthropy Initiative judges was described as 'outstanding' and won £3,000 for WLAC! Throughout the year, Year 9 students had researched charities in the local area and then competed with each other by giving presentations on their chosen charity to try to win the donation. A fantastic achievement and a very proud moment for WLAC.

Save the date!

Postcards
Anon at
CHRISTIE'S

27-30 September

Our annual sale of postcard-sized art has a new venue!

Christie's, South Ken
Private View: Sunday
28th Sept 12-3pm
Exhibition continues
29th and 30th Sept

Annual Quiz
St Paul's
Girls School

23 Oct 6.30-10pm

Please save the date for our annual quiz.

Tables of 8. Bring a picnic. Wine glasses will be provided! Advance bookings only.

West London
Action for Children
Annual Meeting

11 Nov 12.15-2.30pm

With Guest Speaker Professor Jane Barlow, specialist in Early Intervention.

At St Columba's Church, Pont Street, SW1X 0BD

Please email team@wlac.org.uk for more details on any of these events



Volunteer fundraising groups

Being part of a WLAC fundraising group is a great way to make a big difference. Our groups organise activities to raise both funds and the profile of our work locally. These events are a lovely way to involve friends and family, get to know neighbours, meet new people and have fun!

Brook Green

We are very lucky to have a long established and active fundraising group based in Brook Green. For a number of years WLAC was itself based in Brook Green. When a former Events Committee Chairmen retired, a nucleus of people from the Committee living in Brook Green decided to form WLAC's first fundraising group. The group has recently been sponsored by Bective Leslie Marsh and over the years has built up to running four very popular events each year; a Tennis Tournament, a Neighbourhood Nosh safari dinner event, a quiz and a Barn Dance. Together they have raised many thousands of pounds for WLAC and introduced us to many hundreds of people. We are tremendously grateful to them for their hard work, tireless enthusiasm and continuing support.



Ravenscourt Park

We are delighted to have a new fundraising group in Ravenscourt Park formed by parents from one of our local primary schools. So far they have organised a variety of events including a Jazz Night, a Secret Suppers event, a children's art and theatre workshop at Riverside Studios, pop-up Craft Nights at Kite Studios and produced our Hammersmith & Fulham Cook Book. The group has also provided us with our Marathon Co-ordinator, our newsletter editor and support to build relationships with local companies. We hope they go from strength to strength!



For information on upcoming events, please keep an eye on our website, join our Facebook page or follow us on twitter.

If you would like to organise a one-off event or set up a new fundraising group, please don't hesitate! You can start by contacting Gazala, our Fundraiser, on 020 7352 1155 for help and advice.





At WLAC we know that early intervention works

Perhaps the best definition of 'early intervention' is 'intervening as soon as possible to tackle problems that have already emerged for children and young people'. At WLAC, we practice early intervention, to work with children and families before a crisis point is reached.

Protective factors

So-called protective factors increase the chances of positive life outcomes, which in turn can boost resilience. High attainment, good social and emotional skills and positive parenting have been identified as three particularly important protective factors that can be mutually reinforcing.

Risk factors

Children's risk factors can be identified from early pregnancy and through childhood. They include living in poverty, growing up in a disadvantaged neighbourhood, experiencing problems in school, parental conflict, poor parenting, parental and/or child substance misuse, anti-social behaviour, domestic violence and low levels and poor quality of formal and informal support.

Whilst it is important to recognise that risk factors don't automatically translate into negative experiences, we find that risk factors tend to compound each other. The more risks to which a child is exposed, the more likely they are to suffer poor outcomes and struggle to reach their full potential.

Early intervention with very young children and their parents has great potential

Some problems emerge in children when they are very young, and the sooner they receive help, the less the damage to their development. Neuroscience is showing that poor early life experiences can impair the growth of very young children's brains. We believe that if a problem is identified early on in a child's life and effective help is given, this can have a positive 'multiplier effect' as the child grows up, so that the eventual benefit is disproportionately great compared either to the original problem that was spotted and successfully treated, or to the scale of the help given.

Early intervention does not just mean helping very young children

A 14 year old who begins to develop mental health problems has as much to gain from early intervention as a 2 year old who starts to display signs of communication difficulties. At WLAC, our professionals are trained to spot and respond to problems when they first appear, and that needs to happen with difficulties that emerge at any age.

Source: Early Intervention: Securing good outcomes for all children and young people Department for Children, Schools and Families

If you would like to know more about how our team of professionals works with children, young people and their families, you are warmly invited to attend one of our open mornings.

Our next open mornings are on Tuesday 23rd September or 18th November at 9.30am prompt.

Please email team@wlac.org.uk for more details.



Fundraising News

In the last few months, we are proud to have been supported by a number of new organisations as well as some tried and tested annual events. We are grateful to all our fundraisers for the energy and imagination they bring. If you are interested in fundraising for us, please get in touch.



Specsavers Hammersmith

A huge thank you to Specsavers Hammersmith who held an action packed charity fun day in June at their King Street store. Amid the fun and face painting, staff managed to collect over £450.

Royal Garden Hotel Kensington

We would also like to thank the Kensington & Chelsea Foundation recommending us as one of three charities to the Royal Garden Hotel www.royalgardenhotel.co.uk. We were delighted to receive a £5,000 donation from the Hotel and we hope to have the opportunity to work with them in the future.



Brook Green Events

Our loyal group of Brook Green supporters and sponsors Bective Leslie Marsh organised yet another successful Neighbourhood Nosh event raising over £5,500 and a fun family Tennis Tournament that contributed a further £600. Thank you to everyone who organised and took part.



'Bridge players are a generous bunch'

This is how The Spectator put it in its 22 February edition and we couldn't agree more! This year, Terry Hewett's event was held at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability and raised nearly £37,500. WLAC were extremely proud and grateful to be one of four charities supported, receiving £7,500.

Congratulations to our determined marathon runners....

Huge congratulations and thanks to our four runners who completed the London Marathon in April! A warm sunny day saw Jo Poole, Melanie Wood, Orlean Douglas and Henry James complete 26.2 miles with impressive times. They also did some great fundraising, and together raised over £7,200. 'I hope I can help at least one child' said Orlean who, in taking on and conquering this challenge, has embodied the positive change that WLAC supports in all its clients.



....and to our intrepid Nightriders

Congratulations to our team of nine Nightriders who each cycled 100km through the night around London and raised an impressive £2,400. We already have places for both events next year...please get in touch if you feel inspired or know someone you can persuade to take part for us!

