Building the World's First Restorative Justice Postcode

3-year Impact Report

January 2023 - December 2025

RJ4ALL BUILDING THE WORLD'S FIRST
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE POSTCODE

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Each arm is independently scrutinised by external expert boards.

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AT RJ4ALL, WE VIEW AND DEAL WITH HARM IN A HOLISTIC MANNER AND THROUGH POSITIVE, USER-LED METHODS.

Our projects and campaign work are drawn from the belief that the most persistent driver of inequality is power abuse and that the bio-power that exists to prevent and control it is found in restorative justice communities.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- POWER ABUSE & HUMAN RIGHTS
- PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF VIOLENT RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM
- RJINEAR RESILIENCE MODEL / POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY AND CRIMINOLOGY
- GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
- HATE-RELATED HARMS
- CHILD (SEXUAL) ABUSE AND INSTITUTIONAL ABUSES
- SPORTS & HEALTH INEQUALITIES
- COMMUNITY COHESION & EMPOWERMENT

RJ4ALL INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
30 PLOUGH WAY LONDON SE16 2LJ
+44(0)7708758600

WWW.RJ4ALL.ORG

RJ4ALL @RJ4ALL @RJ4ALL RJ4ALL NTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE RESTORATIVE JUSTICE FOR ALLINTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE

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Executive Summary

At RJ4All, we believe that power abuse is the biggest silent driver of inequalities, human rights violations and community tensions. That is why our mission (and strapline) is to address power abuse using the values and practices of restorative justice. We have evidence to believe that restorative justice can act as the bio-power that can challenge the root causes that lead to community divisions, suffering and harm at the inter-personal, inter-community and inter-state levels (Gavrielides, 2028). We want to root out greed and disseminate power in a more equal way, while empowering communities to speak up. We believe that we can do this starting locally from our own neighbourhood and this report presents the impact that we have had through our long-term, flagship programme of building the world's first restorative justice postcode in SE16 London in Southwark.

This is the 3-year impact report on our vision. It coincides with our 5-year Centre anniversary since opening the Centre as well as the launch of our national project Restorative justice - the evidence:
A pilot for the youth justice system of England & Wales. This aims to build a scientific evidence base for restorative justice through case work and randomised controlled trials. RJ4All will work directly with several youth justice services teams one of which is the Southwark one.

This report draws on both qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods. These analyses are structured around RJ4All's eight project outcomes, ensuring all findings are directly linked to them.

The quantitative picture

- √ RJ4All reached a total of 9,970 individuals who accessed services at our community centre (3,758 users in 2023, 3,718 in 2024, and 2,494 in 2025).
- √ There is a clear majority of female users. Of the 7,685 individuals who provided gender data, 5,060 identified as women (65%), while 2,532 (approximately 32%) identified as men and 93 (around 1.2%) identified as non-binary.
- √ The largest proportion of users falls within the 40–55 age group, with 1,605 individuals over the three-year period (22% of total users). This is followed by those aged 20–29 (1,307 users, 18%) and 30–39 (1,176 users, 16%), indicating strong engagement among adults aged 20–39.
- √ Individuals identifying as Black/African/Caribbean consistently represent the largest group, increasing from 509 users in 2023 to a peak of 968 in 2024.

The SE16 reality

Community cohesion is progressing, but there are real and live threads that can put this at risk. A vicious circle has been formed: distrust leads to disengagement, which in turn deepens disempowerment. This project has brought together community members and included a direct dialogue with local Councillors, the MP and the local power, demonstrating what becomes possible when institutional presence meets community-led space.

There is considerable stigmatisation of mental health, insufficient signposting, and a lack of culturally appropriate support. Wellbeing circle sessions offered a more personal dimension, revealing the emotional weight carried by many residents, particularly those facing financial hardship, isolation, or language barriers, and the extent to which a safe, welcoming space can itself be a form of intervention

Safety and youth engagement have been central concerns across all nine quarterly reports, evolving significantly over the three-year period. The Speak up circles highlighted the damaging role of media narratives in shaping negative perceptions of young people, compounded by structural inequalities. Participants consistently called for more dedicated spaces and activities for young people aged 12–18, and stronger collaboration between local service providers.

Awareness of restorative justice remains low even between local youth and criminal justice organisations. Harmed and harming parties lack the knowledge and yet between 2024 and 2025, case referrals increased significantly (currently we have live 20 cases). At the same time, the number of Circles grew steadily. Participation in these circles increased from 33 individuals in 2023 to 43 in 2024, before slightly decreasing to 37 in 2025. Both practices are closely linked to Project Outcomes 3, “reduction of anti-social behaviour and recorded crime,” as they provide community-based alternatives to formal justice processes.

Poverty in SE16 is rather prominent. Usage of our food services rose significantly (1,296 individuals in 2023, rising significantly to 3,482 in 2024). Similarly, free sport classes and gym access remained consistently high. A total of 772 individuals participated in 2023, increasing to 894 in 2024 and remaining stable at 891 in 2025. Digital inclusion activities have also expanded over time, with participation increasing from 226 users in 2023 to 438 in 2024 and 448 in 2025 . Finally, participation in RJ4All’s wellbeing services has increased significantly over the three-year period. In 2023, 221 individuals accessed these services, rising to 709 in 2024 and reaching 1,087 in 2025

Reporting against our outcomes

Project outcome 1 — Equal Distribution of Local Power: The programme is on track with its intentions. Through the Speak Up! Community Circles, community events and workshops, RJ4All has created a sustained space for residents to engage with local MPs, councillors, employers and decision-makers. Over 2023–2025, these forums have consistently amplified community voices on issues of governance, transparency, and accountability, contributing to a more participatory relationship between SE16 residents and public institutions. The Speak up circles have proved to be a safe and successful method for distributing local power and engaging communities leading to cohesion. However, funding for this service has not stopped, and thus future sessions are put at risk.

Image 1. RJ4All presented the Speak Up! Restorative Justice Community Circle

Project outcome 2 — Reduction of Poverty and Disadvantaged Access to Goods, Services and Opportunities: RJ4All's food bank, community fridge, charity shop, digital hub, and employability workshops have collectively reached thousands of residents facing financial hardship. The statements from the service users as well as the mere increase of the services demand show that the programme is punching way above its weight, and that there is a clear local need for them. The flip side of this reality is that it creates reasons for conflict, harm and anxiety, and thus more needs to be done to reduce this effect.

Image 2. A community member in SE16 collecting food from the RJ4All Food Bank, part of RJ4All's food security service

Project outcome 3 — Reduction of Anti-Social Behaviour and Recorded Crime: Restorative justice case referrals increased tenfold between 2024 and 2025 indicating growing trust in community-based alternatives to formal justice processes. Alongside circles and conferences, these practices are building relationships between community members and institutional representatives, addressing the root causes of conflict rather than its symptoms. Awareness of

local criminal and youth justice services remain low, and our referral partners are yet rather limited. Demand for our referrals remains high and to a great extend unfunded. City Bridge Foundation covers only 10 cases per year.

Project outcome 4 — Reduction of Hate Attitudes and Incidents: Qualitative findings across all three years highlight the role of RJ4All's community spaces in bringing together residents from diverse ethnic, cultural, and generational backgrounds. By fostering dialogue, mutual understanding, and shared decision-making, the project is contributing to a reduction in the attitudes that underpin hate and exclusion. This outcome will continue to be assessed over the long term.

Project outcome 5 — Diversion of Police and Criminal Justice Caseload to Community-Based Approaches: The growth of RJ4All's restorative justice referral system and the sustained delivery of circles and conferences demonstrate a gradual but meaningful shift towards community-based resolution of conflict. Qualitative data consistently shows community appetite for alternatives to punitive responses, and RJ4All is building the infrastructure to meet that demand. For example, since starting the project RJ4All has co-designed its RJ4All Restorative Justice Practice Framework and launched the International Fellowship of Restorative Justice Practitioners (IFRJP). By quarterly reviewing new RJ practitioners' application for our IFRJP moving from 13 practitioners by the end of 2024 to 30 in March 2026.

Project outcome 6 — Reduction of Conflicts and Bullying in Educational Settings: The RJ4All Youth Clubs+ and our RJiNEAR resilience model have engaged young people across SE16 in restorative practices and skills development. Qualitative findings reflect improved communication skills and increased confidence among young participants, laying the foundation for more restorative relationships in educational settings. The impact of the Youth Clubs+ and the RJiNEAR model have been captured in a peer reviewed publication showing clear positive signs for both formal and informal educational settings (Gavrielides, 2025a, 2025b). Youth social action through volunteering at the community centre has increased providing safe spaces. Between 2023 and 2025, the number of volunteers and interns increased significantly from 149 to 246, while total volunteer hours rose from 2,747 to 7,368.

Image 3. Young people experiencing restorative justice art

Project outcome 7 — Reduction of violence, Gender-Based Violence and Youth Crime: Community data consistently identifies safety and youth engagement as central concerns for SE16 residents. RJ4All's empowerment-focused approach, prioritising opportunity and dialogue over punishment, has created meaningful touchpoints for young people at risk. The project's long-term contribution to this outcome will be assessed as services continue to scale.

Project outcome 8 — Improvement of Community Wellbeing, Voice and Confidence: This criterion runs through every service RJ4All delivers. Wellbeing circles have grown from 68 participants in 2023 to 280 in 2025, and one-to-one support has remained consistently in demand. Qualitative testimonials across all three years describe the Community Centre as a place of safety, belonging, and genuine empowerment. The evidence suggests that, for many residents, RJ4All is not just a service provider; it is a cornerstone of community life.

Image 4. RJ4All honoured as a Recognised Project by the London Dangoor Awards

Challenges ahead

- √ The programme remains unfunded; the Speak Up circles, previously funded by Consolidated Charities with a small grant of £5,000 was discontinued.
- √ There is an increase in the service demands.
- √ RJ4All does not have a long-term lease for the Centre – it operates under a license agreement with its landlord, Clarion.
- √ Staff resourcing including a dedicated Project Officer to support the programme are not in place.
- √ Evaluation challenges include accessing the right data while continuing to deliver the services, maintaining confidentiality and being aligned with research ethics.
- √ Awareness of the programme remains low.
- √ The Steering Group has taken some pro-active steps, but some members have stepped down or remain inactive.

Background to the programme

Our vision: from the local to the global

At RJ4All, we believe that power abuse is the biggest silent driver of inequalities, human rights violations and community tensions (Dorling, 2011). We also have evidence to believe that public trust in public services is declining and that a new social contract between communities and governments is needed (Costa, 2025; Gavrielides, 2010). We want to root out greed and disseminate power in a more equal way. We believe we can do this starting locally from our own neighbourhood in Southeast London.

In January 2023, the Restorative Justice for All International Institute (RJ4All) started a 10-year journey to build the world's first restorative justice postcode[1] in SE16. This long-term vision, hereafter referred to as the "Postcode Project", is linked with our global effort to boost restorative justice as a world social justice movement. It is an evidence-based programme founded upon the restorative justice value of power-sharing and delivered through a series of direct services from the RJ4All Community Centre. In line with our founding restorative justice principles of power-sharing, equality, dignity, respect, and participatory decision-making, these community-based, free services aim to address the root causes of harm, including inequality, power imbalance, and social fragmentation. We believe that these are the key drivers of anti-social behaviour and tension at both interpersonal and intercommunity levels (Dorling, 2011; Gavrielides, 2021). These holistic services include food services, wellbeing services, community gym, volunteering, mending workshops, charity shops and a digital hub.

A restorative justice postcode sees key voluntary, community, private and public services being delivered through the restorative justice values of power-sharing, equality, dignity, respect and involvement in decision making. On paper, this means that key stakeholders have signed up to a Restorative Justice Postcode Memorandum of Understanding and ensure that their day-to-day practices are guided by it. In practice, this means that community members get to experience a more equal distribution of local power, while they start feeling that their voice is heard and included in decision making processes that impact on them. Moreover, in a restorative justice postcode, community tensions and harm are not managed through adversarial routes. They are the focus of a restorative justice dialogue that gives power to all parties involved to have say, and collectively discuss solutions

[1] In the UK, local areas are divided into postcodes. In other countries, an equivalent term is "neighbourhood". The letters signify the location of the neighbourhood e.g. SE = South East London. For the purposes of this programme it is important to understand that it is a local, neighbourhood focused pilot with ambition to create a paradigm for other to use world wide. A short video explains the RJ4All global vision https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qaowQtPmz2Q

Collaborative approach: The Steering Group

By default, restorative justice is a collaborative process and thus we have created a Steering Group to guide this programme. Its primary function is to offer strategic support, guidance, scrutiny and strategic leadership. Current external members include:

N	Name	Organisation	Expertise
1	Cllr Stephanie Cryan	Southwark Council	Southwark Councillor
	Office on the web Frame ugh	Millwall Community Trust	Employment and Education Manager; sports; youth conflict
3	Matthew Allgood	Rotherhithe Consolidated Charities	Funding; local stakeholders
4	Richard Page-Jones	Albion Primary School	Education; communication; governance
5	Chris Straker	Hull Centre for Restorative Justice	Restorative justice; schools; peer mediation; youth conflict
6	Simon Roderick Chambers	Indepedent Consultant - Youth	Youth; education; policy
7	Dr. Margaret Josephine Greenfields	Anglia Ruskin University	Equalities; migration; gender; youth; education; universities
8	Keir Wilson	Street Games	criminal justice; youth justice; sports; policy making; stakeholders
9	Vimal Pandya	Rotherhithe Community Kitchen	Local food insecurity; poverty
10	Dr Howard Williamson	University of South Wales, RJ4All Honourary Vice President	European Youth Policy; Youth work; Ethics
11	Dr. Charlotte Fernandes	Executive Headteacher, RJ4All NED	Specialist education; mental health; psychology; youth

The Steering Group was set up to:

Hypothesis and outcomes

Our tested hypothesis is:

"The delivery of local services by RJ4All and other local stakeholders through restorative justice values (power-sharing, equality, dignity, respect, and involvement in decision-making) leads to improved community cohesion, reduction of poverty and other root causes that lead to harm, and a more equal distribution of local power"

By the end of the 10-year pilot period, we would have achieved the following outcomes:

1. **A more equal distribution of local power**: Community cohesion is improved through a more equal distribution of local power and the implementation of restorative justice values.
2. **Reduction in poverty and disadvantaged access to goods/services and opportunities**: Poverty and disadvantage leading to community tensions and violence are reduced through a holistic local offer (e.g., foodbank, physical and mental health services, education, and volunteering).
3. **Reduction of anti-social behaviour and recorded crime**: Recorded crime and anti-social behaviour are reduced through relationship building between local government, the community sector, housing providers, schools, and criminal justice agencies.
4. **Reduction in hate attitudes and incidents**: Hate attitudes are reduced through community-based approaches.
5. **Diversion of police and youth and criminal justice caseload to community-based approaches:** Police and criminal justice caseloads are increasingly diverted to community-based approaches such as restorative justice.
6. **Reduction of conflicts and bullying in (formal and informal) educational settings**: School conflicts and bullying are reduced through increased awareness of restorative justice and peer mediation.
7. **Reduction of violence, including gender-based violence and youth crime:** Residents' conflicts, gender-based violence, and youth crime are reduced, particularly in the estates surrounding our centre.
8. **Improvement in individuals' wellbeing**: The community's wellbeing is improved.

The null hypothesis posits that the delivery of services through restorative justice values by key local stakeholders has no impact on power distribution and community cohesion, and thus, does not significantly validate the contribution of a restorative justice postcode to reducing local harm and its root causes.

To achieve these outcomes and test our hypothesis, we identified various needs based on the extant literature and crafted services to address these needs. The impact of meeting these

needs through RJ4All services was assessed for its significance in contributing to the postcode project's outcomes and testing the central hypothesis.

Below is the RJ4All matrix showing the needs, their estimated impact factor against the intended programme outcomes, the RJ4All services and their target groups, as well as a final column with the level of provision at the moment. For the impact, we use a scale between 0-5 (*5 being the most impactful to the outcome), while the level of provision column is categorised into no provision, low, medium, and high.

NEED – ISSUE	IMPACT FACTOR	RELATED OUTCOMES	TARGET GROUP	IN PERSON SERVICES FROM SE16	LEVEL OF PROVISION
Conflict (interpersonal) – criminalised	5	3,4,5,7	All	E.g. RJ mediation, circles, conferences	No service provision yet
Conflict (interpersonal) – not criminalised	4	3, 4, 5, 7	All	RJ mediation	**Medium –** RJ4All RJ Framework
Conflict (inter-community) – not criminalised	4	1, 3, 4, 7	All	RJ circles, Speak Up event	**Medium** - Quarterly Speak Ups, one victim's circle
Youth resilience & self-esteem/ image	4	4, 6, 7, 8	Youth	Youth Clubs+, RJiNEAR workshops, weekly after school activities, sport group classes	**High** - 6 youth clubs per year, weekly activities; Southwark Youth Justice Services team through YEF programme
Mental health	4	1, 2, 8	All	Wellbeing circles, mending workshops, Warm Hub, Gardening, relaxation room, sports classes for	**High** - Weekly circles, daily interactions with trained staff in mental health and 1 to 1s, strong referral pathway

				individuals with mental health issues.	
Socio-economic disadvantage	4	1, 2	All	Grant referrals, debt and other advice, charity shop	**Low** – disjointed provision with short term impact.
Safety	4	7	All/ GBV	E.g. safe house, third party referrals	**Low**
Food insecurity	3	1, 2, 8	All	Food bank, community fridge, cooking classes, gardening	**High** – Daily provision with highest level of uptake amongst services.
Employment, education and training	3	1, 2, 8	All	Employment drop-ins and training workshops, skills development workshops (e.g. mending), volunteering, internships	**Medium** – Strong provision of internship, lower provision of employment opportunities & training; internships; volunteering; FRED campaign
Digital exclusion	3	1, 2, 8	All	Digital drop-ins, digital workshops & training, data donation, devices donation scheme, optic fibre set up	**High** – Strong provision and critical efforts for structural change.
Isolation and loneliness	3	1, 8	All	Gardening, mending, Thursday	**High** – Strong frequency of provision

				Lates, cooking events & other community events	
Homelessness & housing	3	2, 7, 8	All	E.g. Boarding House, referrals, advice	No service provision - **outreach to potential partners**
Cultural awareness, tolerance & community belonging	3	1, 4	All	Community events, Speak up, wellbeing circles,	**High** – Good provision of spaces for community belonging, provision of activities for cultural exchange.
Health inequality	2	2, 8	All	Community gym, fitness and dietary classes, cycling & walking, disability accessible classes, community fridge	**Medium** – Strong provisions, RJ4All Sports

Evaluation methodology

Our evaluation approach

At RJ4All, we are not just passionate about what we do but also how we do it and measure it. That is why from the 1st of January 2023 and once all our holistic services were set up at our RJ4All Rotherhithe Community Centre, we started a parallel research project that aims to support our restorative justice postcode vision. We also agreed a Research Experimentation Protocol that acts as the framework within which the scientific research is carried out. The aims of the protocol are:

- ✓ Clarify and solidify our central research hypothesis and intended outcomes
- ✓ Set the research strategy, tools, sampling methodology and type of data analysis
- ✓ Ensure consistency in the carrying out of the fieldwork
- ✓ Ensure that comparative learnings are generated while ensuring that the views and evidence from stakeholders (e.g. project Steering Group) are consolidated
- ✓ Ensure that data are collected, stored and processed as per national and international legislation, best practice and guidance
- ✓ Ensure that research ethics are maintained and the research products are proofed and viable.
- ✓ Connect the research with its audiences and the separate project dissemination strategy.

Mixed-methods approach

The Protocol presents a mixed-method of original research in the form of:

1. secondary research (desk research) creating a baseline
2. primary research (fieldwork)
3. triangulation methodologies for data validation.

Secondary research

Method	Research Tool	Lead	Sample size	Regularity	Result
Quantitative	Police reports on number of ASB and recorded crime	HoI	Records within SE16	Yearly	Yearly reports
Quantitative	Reports on number of recorded police and criminal justice cases	HoI	Records within SE16	Yearly	Yearly reports
Quantitative	Number of reported school incidents (bullying and conflicts)	HoI	Schools within SE16 postcode	Yearly	Yearly reports
Quantitative	Number of reported conflict and violence cases to landlord's estates	HoI	Clarion's estate in SE16	Yearly	Yearly reports
Quantitative	Reports on hate attitudes and incidents	HoI	Records within SE16	Yearly	Yearly reports
Quantitative/ Qualitative	Reports on poverty-related issues and disadvantaged access to services/inequality	HoI	Records within SE16	Yearly	Yearly reports

Primary research

Method	Research Tool	Lead	Sample size	Regularity	Result
Quantitative	Centre signing in electronic forms	HoUK	100% of centre users	Daily	Monthly reports
Quantitative	Surveys	HoI	80% of service users Control Group	Pre and biannual post-usage of centre services	Biannual reports
Qualitative	In-depth pre-intervention interviews	HoI	10% of centre users	Once (pre intervention)	Biannual reports
Qualitative	In-depth follow up & post intervention interviews	HoI	10% of centre users	Biannual (post intervention)	Biannual reports
Qualitative	Focus groups	HoI & HoUK	10-20 centre users	Quarterly	Quarterly reports
Qualitative	Interviews with key stakeholders from volunteer, public and private sector	HoI & HoUK	10-20 external contact	Annually	Annual reports

Qualitative	Individual evaluation forms of ad hoc services (e.g. youth clubs)	HoI & HoUK	100% of the ad hoc users	Ad hoc	Ad hoc reports
Qualitative	Case studies	HoI & HoUK	10	Annually	Annual reports

Triangulation

It is important that our data is triangulated for validation purposes. Therefore, we will use the following triangulation methods:

Research Method	Research Tool	Lead	Sample size	Regularity	Result
Qualitative	Focus group discussions with the SG	HoI	100% of SG	Quarterly	Quarterly reports

The findings of this report

This is the 3-year impact report on our vision. It coincides with our 5-year Centre anniversary. This report draws on both qualitative and quantitative methods. Restorative justice - the evidence:
A pilot for the youth justice system of England & Wales. This aims to build a scientific evidence base for restorative justice through case work and randomised controlled trials. RJ4All will work directly with several youth justice services teams one of which is the Southwark one.

Both qualitative and quantitative analyses are structured around RJ4All's eight project outcomes, ensuring all findings are directly linked to them.

Qualitative data was analysed thematically across nine quarterly impact reports produced based on Speak Up! Circles, as well as wellbeing sessions, and observational insights, identifying three recurring themes: power and democratic engagement; mental health and wellbeing; and safety and community resilience. Quantitative data was analysed descriptively and comparatively, tracking participation figures, demographic breakdowns, and changes in service uptake across the 4-year period. Together, these approaches capture both the scale and the human reality of RJ4All's impact across SE16.

Qualitative findings: Highlights

The thematic analysis of the findings drawn from our qualitative tools (RJ4All's Speak Up! Circles, wellbeing sessions, testimonials, and observational insights) identified three recurring themes, each directly linked to one or more of the project's eight project outcomes.

Power abuse, Governance, and Institutional Trust

A persistent finding is the deep erosion of trust between SE16 residents and public institutions. As early as the second Speak Up! Circle in October 2023, community members highlighted power abuse by elected officials, the deliberate silencing of community voices, and a systemic lack of accountability (particularly from police officers, who participants felt remained unaffected by their own wrongdoings). The sixth circle, held in February 2025 and focused specifically on democratic engagement, provided the starkest illustration of how deeply years of poor political decisions and ineffective communication have eroded residents' confidence that their voices lead to action. As the report noted, a vicious circle has formed: distrust leads to disengagement, which in turn deepens disempowerment. By contrast, the eighth circle in September 2025 offered a more hopeful counterpoint, held during the Mayor's Community Weekend, it brought together community members and included a direct dialogue with local MP on police resources and community safety, demonstrating what becomes possible when institutional presence meets community-led space. These findings speak directly to **Project Outcomes 1** (equal distribution of local power), **Project Outcomes 3** (reduction of anti-social behaviour and recorded crime), **Project Outcomes 4** (reduction in hate attitudes and incidents) and **Project Outcomes 5** (diversion of criminal justice caseload to community-based approaches).

Image 5. Speak Up! Community Consultation

Mental Health, Wellbeing, and Access to Services

Across testimonials, wellbeing circle sessions, and multiple Speak Up! Circles, a consistent picture emerges of significant unmet need within SE16. The urgency of this theme sharpened in early 2024, when the third circle was convened in direct response to a shooting in Bywater Place in January, a tragedy that crystallised how gaps in mental health provision, community support, and public agency accountability compound to create conditions in which violence can occur. Participants across all three data sources described widespread stigmatisation of mental health, insufficient signposting, and a lack of culturally appropriate support. Wellbeing circle sessions offered a more personal dimension, revealing the emotional weight carried by many residents, particularly those facing financial hardship, isolation, or language barriers, and the extent to which a safe, welcoming space can itself be a form of intervention. Observational insights further reinforced this, showing how informal interactions at the Community Centre often surface needs that formal services fail to reach. This theme connects directly to **Project Outcomes 1** (equal distribution of local power), **Project Outcomes 2** (reduction in poverty and disadvantaged access to services) and **Project Outcomes 8** (improvement of community wellbeing and confidence).

Image 6. Restorative justice wellbeing circle

Safety, Youth engagement, and Community Resilience

Safety and youth engagement have been central concerns across all nine quarterly reports, evolving significantly over the three-year period. The third circle (February 2024), convened in the immediate aftermath of the Bywater Place shooting, captured a community in acute need of healing, calling not just for better policing but for community spaces, unity, and long-term investment in prevention. By 2025, the eighth circle returned to community safety from a different vantage point, identifying the interrelation of isolation and insecurity as a core dynamic, finding that when residents lack visibility of local resources and embedded community relationships, feelings of unsafety become self-reinforcing. On youth specifically, the fifth (November 2024) and seventh (July 2025) circles highlighted the damaging role of media narratives in shaping negative perceptions of young people, compounded by structural inequalities. Participants consistently called for more dedicated spaces and activities for young people aged 12–18, and stronger collaboration between local service providers. Yet by 2025, a more hopeful picture is also emerging as young participants themselves described the Speak Up! Circles as spaces where they felt genuinely heard for the first time: "It felt good to be listened to. Sometimes young people have ideas, but no one asks us. Today, we were part of something real." These findings relate to **Project Outcomes 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8**, covering the reduction of anti-social behaviour, hate attitudes, school-based conflict, youth crime, and the improvement of one's wellbeing.

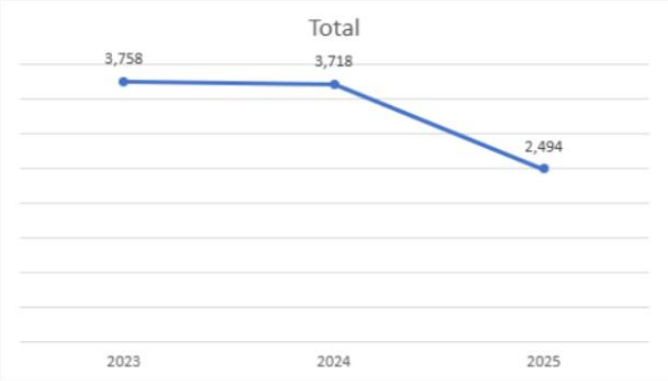
Image 7. Building Youth Resilience program grounded in RJiNEAR model

Quantitative findings: Highlights

This section provides a quantitative assessment of the populations reached by RJ4All's services, alongside an analysis of service delivery trends and levels of provision. It evaluates our impact, in other words, the extent to which these outputs align with and contribute to the eight predefined impact criteria of the Restorative Justice Postcode Project.

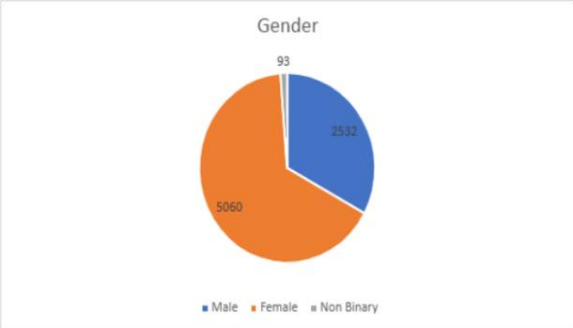
Demographics

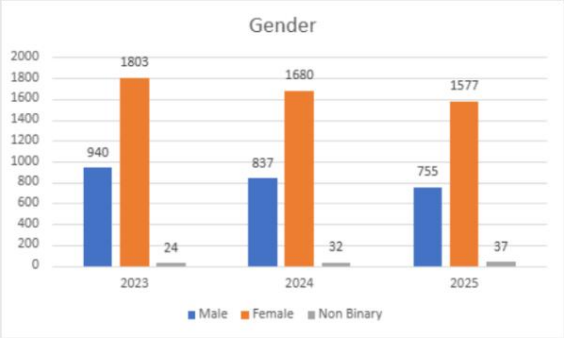
Between 2023 and 2025, RJ4All reached a total of 9,970 individuals who accessed services at our community centre. Annual figures show sustained engagement over time, with 3,758 users in 2023, 3,718 in 2024, and 2,494 in 2025. While participation remained relatively stable between 2023 and 2024, it decreased in 2025, which may reflect changes in service provision, evolving user needs, or external factors (see Annex 3 - Figure 1).



Gender

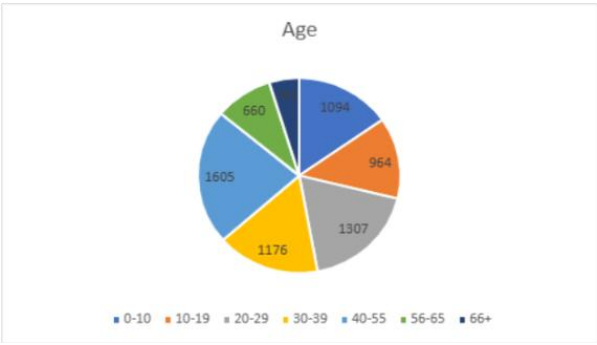
In terms of gender distribution, there is a clear majority of female users. Of the 7,685 individuals who provided gender data, 5,060 identified as women (65%), while 2,532 (approximately 32%) identified as men and 93 (around 1.2%) identified as non-binary. This higher proportion of female users may suggest that the community centre provides a safe and supportive environment that encourages women's participation.





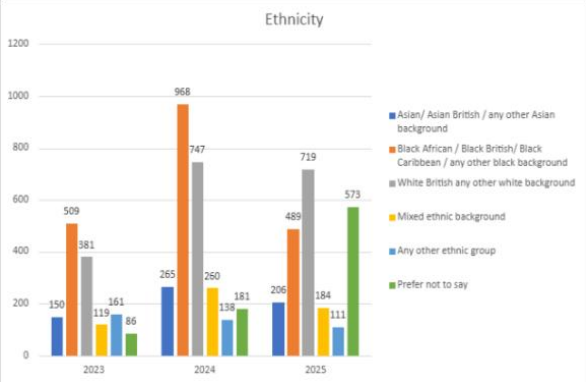
Age

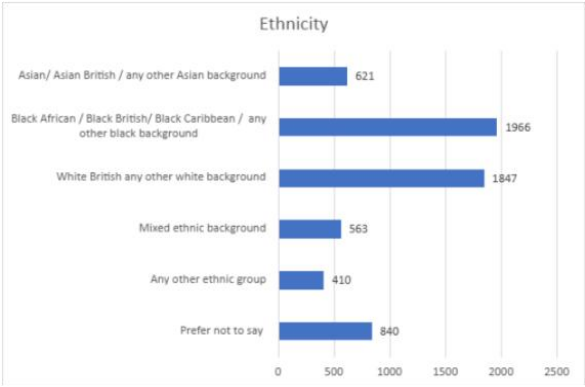
Regarding age distribution, the largest proportion of users falls within the 40–55 age group, with 1,605 individuals over the three-year period (22% of total users). This is followed by those aged 20–29 (1,307 users, 18%) and 30–39 (1,176 users, 16%), indicating strong engagement among adults aged 20–39. The 56–65 age group also represents a consistently significant proportion of users across all three years, with 589 individuals in 2023, 495 in 2024, and 521 in 2025. This stability suggests sustained engagement among older adults, highlighting the centre's continued relevance for this demographic.



Ethnicity

In terms of ethnicity, individuals identifying as Black/African/Caribbean consistently represent the largest group, increasing from 509 users in 2023 to a peak of 968 in 2024, before declining to 489 in 2025. White users form the second largest group, rising from 381 in 2023 to 747 in 2024, and then slightly decreasing to 719 in 2025. Asian users show a steady increase over time, growing from 150 in 2023 to 265 in 2024 and reaching 206 in 2025.


Ethnicity
1200
1000
800
600
400
200
0
150
509
381
119
161
86
265
968
747
260
138
181
206
489
719
184
111
573
2023
2024
2025
Asian/ Asian British / any other Asian background
Black African / Black British/ Black Caribbean / any other black background
White British any other white background
Mixed ethnic background
Any other ethnic group
Prefer not to say

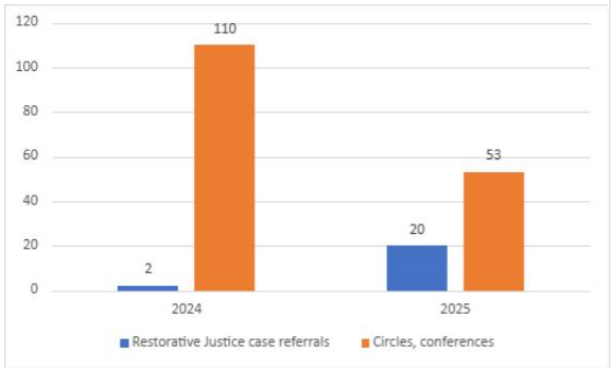

Ethnicity
Asian/ Asian British / any other Asian background
621
Black African / Black British/ Black Caribbean / any other black background
1966
White British any other white background
1847
Mixed ethnic background
563
Any other ethnic group
410
Prefer not to say
840
0
500
1000
1500
2000
2500

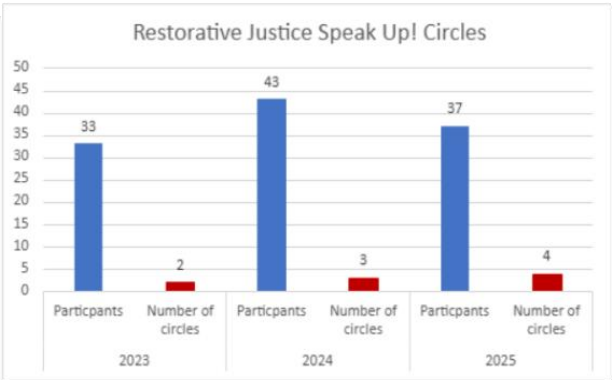
Highlights from the RJ4All Community Services

Restorative Justice: Direct and indirect

Two of the core areas of work of our restorative justice practice are: case referrals and Speak Up! Circles. Between 2024 and 2025, case referrals increased significantly (currently we have live 20 cases). At the same time, the number of Speak Up! Circles grew steadily.

Participation in these circles increased from 33 individuals in 2023 to 43 in 2024, before slightly decreasing to 37 in 2025. Both practices are closely linked to **Project Outcomes 3**, "reduction of anti-social behaviour and recorded crime," as they provide community-based alternatives to formal justice processes. Despite this increase, our funding for the Circles was not approved by our long-term local funder. Funding for the case work continues (City Bridge Foundation).



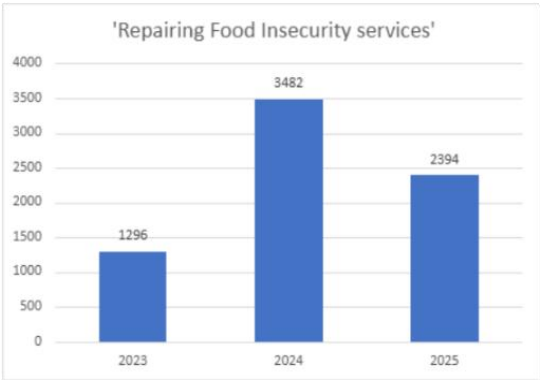


Social action: Volunteering

One key area of impact is volunteering at the community centre, where RJ4All provides opportunities for community members to volunteer or undertake internships. Between 2023 and 2025, the number of volunteers and interns increased significantly from 149 to 246, while total volunteer hours rose from 2,747 to 7,368. Many volunteers are actively involved in restorative justice practices, including supporting and, in some cases, facilitating restorative circles. This contributes to **Project Outcome 1**, "a more equal distribution of local power,", by enhancing community participation and involvement in restorative practices, **Project Outcome 2** and **Project Outcome 8** by providing opportunities for personal development and improve volunteer's wellbeing.

Food insecurity: Food Bank and Community Fridge

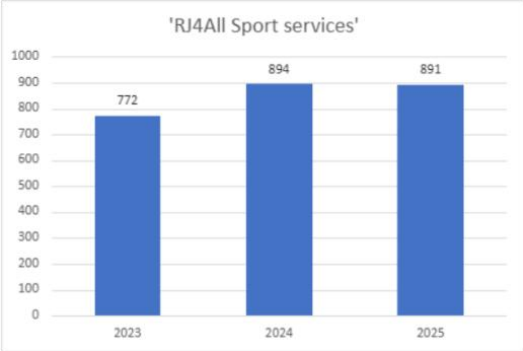
RJ4All has also implemented a range of food support services to reduce and alleviate food insecurity in the community, including the Food Bank and Community Fridge. Usage of these services has varied over time, with 1,296 individuals accessing food-related support in 2023, rising significantly to 3,482 in 2024, and then decreasing to 2,394 in 2025. These fluctuations suggest changing levels of demand, while overall engagement remains high, underlining the continued importance of food support within RJ4All's service provision. This work contributes directly to **Project Outcome 2**, "reduction in poverty and disadvantaged access to goods, services, and opportunities," by supporting individuals in meeting their basic needs.



Health inequalities: RJ4All Sports

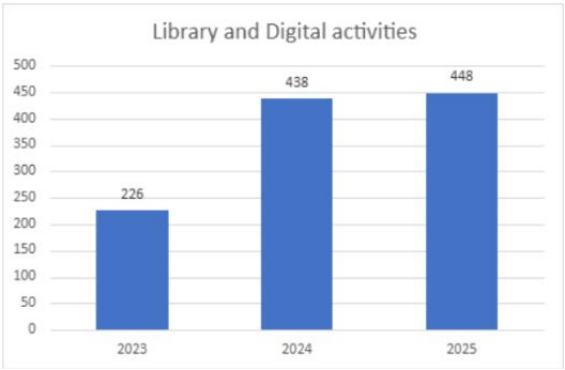
Participation in RJ4All's sports activities has remained consistently high. The organisation offers a range of programmes, including boxing, cricket, tennis, football, basketball, and access to a community gym. A total of 772 individuals participated in 2023, increasing to 894 in 2024 and remaining stable at 891 in 2025. These activities contribute to Impact Criterion 8, "improvement in individuals' wellbeing," by promoting physical health, reducing stress, and fostering social

connection. RJ4All has also prioritised disability and accessibility services, including accessible sports sessions for people with disabilities. Participation remained stable between 2023 and 2024, with 126 and 127 users respectively, before declining to 74 users in 2025 (see Annex 3 - Figure 12). These services contribute to **Project Outcome 1**, "a more equal distribution of local power," by enabling individuals with disabilities to participate more fully in community life and access decision-making spaces. They also contribute to **Project Outcome 2**, "reduction in poverty and disadvantaged access to goods, services, and opportunities," by reducing structural barriers and promoting equitable access to services and resources.



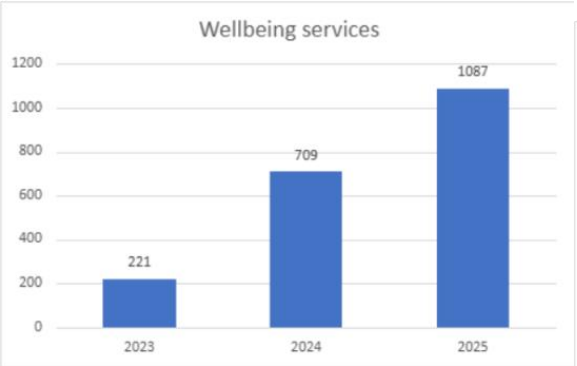
Community Library and digital inclusion

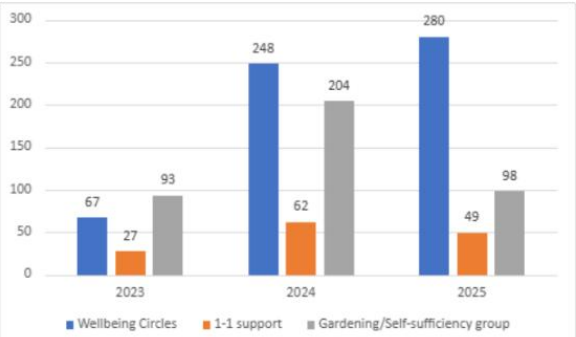
Our community-based library and e-library as well as digital inclusion activities have also expanded over time, with participation increasing from 226 users in 2023 to 438 in 2024 and 448 in 2025. These activities focus particularly on addressing digital exclusion, especially among older members of the community, and contribute to **Project Outcome 1, 2, and 8** by equipping individuals with the skills needed to access information, services, and opportunities that are increasingly delivered online.



Wellbeing services

Finally, participation in RJ4All's wellbeing services has increased significantly over the three-year period. In 2023, 221 individuals accessed these services, rising to 709 in 2024 and reaching 1,087 in 2025. RJ4All delivers a range of wellbeing-focused activities, including wellbeing circles, one-to-one support, access to a therapy room, and gardening. This area of provision contributes directly to **Project Outcome 8**, "improvement in individuals' wellbeing." Among these services, wellbeing circles have experienced the most significant growth, increasing from 68 participants in 2023 to 248 in 2024 and 280 in 2025. One-to-one support has remained relatively stable, with 27 participants in 2023, 62 in 2024, and 49 in 2025. The gardening and self-sufficiency group reached a notable peak in 2024 with 204 participants, compared to 93 in 2023 and 95 in 2025 (see Figure 15).





Reporting against our outcomes

The summery findings presented in this report demonstrate how RJ4All's services are contributing to each of the project's eight impact criteria. While some impacts are already measurable, others are longer-term ambitions that will be assessed as the project matures.

Project outcome 1 — Equal Distribution of Local Power: Through the Speak Up! Community Circles, RJ4All has created a sustained space for residents to engage with local MPs, councillors, and decision-makers. Over 2023–2025, these forums have consistently amplified community voices on issues of governance, transparency, and accountability, contributing to a more participatory relationship between SE16 residents and public institutions. Additionally, our weekly activities at the centre (mending and gardening workshops, wellbeing services, etc) with support of our volunteers provided our community with options for gathering and sharing in a safe place, with people from various backgrounds and interests.

"I feel much more confident and empowered since coming to the Community Centre every week for the digital drop-in, cooking and clothes mending activities. Everyone makes me feel good and happy and less lonely; it can be very lonely for me up in my flat by myself." September 2024 - Women 70-80s

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Project outcome 2 — Reduction of Poverty and Disadvantaged Access to Goods, Services and Opportunities: RJ4All's food bank, community fridge, charity shop, digital hub, and employability workshops have collectively reached thousands of residents facing financial hardship. The charity shop alone grew from 140 users in 2023 to 366 in 2025, reflecting increasing demand and the organisation's growing role as an accessible resource for those most in need.

"I come every week to use the fridge its very helpful. But I also use to go to the exercise classes, and I also come for other things like the community circles and the cooking classes. It's nice to talk to people and everybody is very kind and helps me when I need. I have a 7-year-old son he likes getting involved as well and we come to the events they host like the (Christmas) parties." January 2026 - Women 40s

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Project outcome 3 — Reduction of Anti-Social Behaviour and Recorded Crime: Restorative justice case referrals increased tenfold between 2024 and 2025, from 2 to 20, indicating growing trust in community-based alternatives to formal justice processes. Alongside circles and conferences, these practices are building relationships between community members and institutional representatives, addressing the root causes of conflict rather than its symptoms.

Project outcome 4 — Reduction of Hate Attitudes and Incidents: Qualitative findings across all three years highlight the role of RJ4All's community spaces in bringing together residents from diverse ethnic, cultural, and generational backgrounds. By fostering dialogue, mutual understanding, and shared decision-making, the project is contributing to a reduction in the attitudes that underpin hate and exclusion. This outcome will continue to be assessed over the long term.

"The community space at RJ4All and the services they give me provide me with safety. They also help me build my confidence and self-esteem. I also think they encourage communities to come together and bond over similarities, interests and passion instead of hating each other. They promote a sense of belonging and help reduce isolation. Service user (Gardening, Mending, Community Fridge, Speak Up and Charity Shop)

Project outcome 5 — Diversion of Police and Criminal Justice Caseload to Community-Based Approaches: The growth of RJ4All's restorative justice referral system and the sustained delivery of circles and conferences demonstrate a gradual but meaningful shift towards community-based resolution of conflict. Qualitative data consistently shows community appetite for alternatives to punitive responses, and RJ4All is building the infrastructure to meet that demand, for example by quarterly reviewing new RJ practitioners' application for our IFRJP moving from 13 practitioners by the end of 2024 to 30 in March 2026.

Project outcome 6 — Reduction of Conflicts and Bullying in Educational Settings: The Youth Project+ and RJiNEAR programme have engaged young people across SE16 in restorative practices and skills development. Qualitative findings reflect improved communication skills and increased confidence among young participants, laying the foundation for more restorative relationships in educational settings.

Project outcome 7 — Reduction of violence, Gender-Based Violence and Youth Crime: Community data consistently identifies safety and youth engagement as central

concerns for SE16 residents. RJ4All's empowerment-focused approach, prioritising opportunity and dialogue over punishment, has created meaningful touchpoints for young people at risk. The project's long-term contribution to this outcome will be assessed as services continue to scale.

Project outcome 8 — Improvement of Community Wellbeing, Voice and Confidence: This criterion runs through every service RJ4All delivers. Wellbeing circles have grown from 68 participants in 2023 to 280 in 2025, and one-to-one support has remained consistently in demand. Qualitative testimonials across all three years describe the Community Centre as a place of safety, belonging, and genuine empowerment. The evidence suggests that, for many residents, RJ4All is not just a service provider; it is a cornerstone of community life.

'It has helped me become more independent as well as getting to know the community and become more involved in the community.' February 2026 - Woman 20s

"To be honest… It's perfect. We have a beautiful gym, we have a friendly face here, so it's perfect" November 2025 - Man 38

Annex I: Case studies

Brian: A local hero

Brian (pseudonym) is a 89-year-old Caucasian man who has lived in Southwark for his entire life, growing up in Elephant and Castle before moving to Rotherhithe a few years ago. He has been using RJ4All's Rotherhithe Community Centre since it opened in 2020 and has seen the evolution of our services along the way. Brian comes into the Centre three to four days a week, often multiple times in one day. He primarily uses our Community Fridge and comes for digital support. Since Brian is hard of hearing, the staff at the Centre will often help Brian with his phone or Wi-Fi issues outside of our designated digital drop hours in to ensure that he can access support without the noise of a busy Centre. The Centre has also able to provide Brian with a new smartphone as part of our digital inclusion project with the Good Things Foundation. This has given Brian access to an updated device, support from staff to teach him how to use his phone, and greater access to the internet. His new smartphone allows him to look up the bus times and peruse his favourite websites such as the "Southwark History" Facebook page.

Brian's wife faces health issues and is unable to leave their flat. He uses the food from the community fridge to help supplement the need for himself to do large and heavy grocery shops as well as to reduce costs. Additionally, Brian also collects food for his elderly next-door neighbours who are unable to leave their home.

Brian said: "The RJ4All Centre has been a brilliant and absolutely first-class resource. Nothing was here before. No support. No understanding". He really enjoys how the Centre is on the way out to the street from his flat, which allows him to drop by whenever he is coming or going. Furthermore, Brian especially appreciates how friendly and polite everyone is at the Centre, both staff and the community.

Braid said: "The Centre is a positive force in my life. It gives me direction, belonging and a place to go instead of just hanging around my flat". He stated that "when I get up and think it's a lousy day, then I think I'll pop round RJ4All," reflecting how much the presence of the Centre means for him in terms of friendly socialization as well as providing basic needs. Overall, Brian said his experience at the Centre has been "out of 10 points, 10."

**We are very sorry to report that "Brian" recently passed away. Our condolences to the family who continue to mean a lot to RJ4All and each one of its team members. Brian will be dearly missed. Rest in peace.*

Sandra: Where I found community

Sandra is a 67-year-old woman of Caribbean heritage who has lived her whole life in Southeast London, and is a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She is now a Southwark resident. RJ4All have come to know her face well since she first came to the Centre through our mending workshops. Sandra has a keen interest in learning new skills, having spent most of her life keeping busy doing very practical things such as being an interior decorator as well as a plumber. "Yes, that's why I came in, doing something I like to do, like sewing, and to recycle your clothes, they taught me new skills."

Once she was drawn to the Centre due to the workshops, she continued to engage with RJ4All, coming three to four times a week, utilising other free services, actualising new skills and areas of interest. "It keeps my brain active; while I am no longer alone", she said.

Moreover, Sandra also reported that she "finds community" at the Centre. She doesn't socialise much with her neighbours. As an older resident of SE16, she feels her community is sometimes too busy, fast-paced, as people are busy with their children, jobs etc. However, she has found a strong sense of community at the Centre. Regularly participating in our gardening, cook and connect workshops, and our community-wide celebrations has exposed her to new people from different backgrounds, including fellow service users, staff, and volunteers. Sandra notes how welcoming the people are in the Centre, pointing out the importance of a "friendly face" in building belonging and engagement at the Centre.

Annex II: Annual Impact Reports

A total of nine Impact Reports have been released so far:

1. Mlcek, C., Costa, C., & Gavrielides, T. (2023). Building the World's First Restorative Justice Postcode: First Quarterly Impact Report. https://rj4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/RJ-Postcode_Qualitative-Paper.pdf
2. Sideridou, S., Stevens-Stone, A., & Gavrielides, T. (2023). Building the World's First Restorative Justice Postcode: Understanding and addressing the reasons that lead to community tensions, poverty and disadvantage. https://rj4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/RJ-Postcode_2nd-Qualitative-Paper-final-version-2.pdf
3. Richards, A., Sideridou, S & Gavrieldes, T. (2024). Building the World's First Restorative Justice Postcode: Strengthening Safety: The Catalyst of Community Agencies and Organisations. https://rj4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/RJ-Postcode-3rd-Qualitative-Paper-FINAL-1.pdf
4. Kebede, K., Sideridou, S & Gavrielides, T. (2024). Building the World's First Restorative Justice Postcode: Dissecting Mental Health: A Steps Towards Acknowledging and Rebuilding Community Solidarity. https://rj4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/RJ-Postcode-4th-Qualitative-Paper-FINAL.pdf
5. Chaustier, E., Sideridou, S. & Gavrielides, T. (2024). Building the World's First Restorative Justice Postcode: Youth Social Perception: Youth Voice and Service collaboration for a better neighbourhood. https://rj4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/RJ4All-Fifth-Quarterly-Impact-Report.pdf
6. Chaustier, E., & Gavrielides, T. (2025). Building the World's First Restorative Justice Postcode: Sixth Quarterly Impact Report from December 2024 – February 2025. https://rj4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/6th-Quarterly-Impact-Report.pdf
7. Chaustier, E., E. Mert, A. & Gavrielides, T. (2025). Building the World's First Restorative Justice Postcode: Youth Led Restorative Justice Circle. https://rj4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/7th-Quarterly-Impact-Report-August-2025.pdf
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9. Mutti, A., Wijaya, M., Healy Karlsson, R., E. Mert, A., Gavrielides, T. (2025): Building the World's First Restorative Justice Postcode: Ninth Quarterly Impact Report from September 2025 – October 2025. https://rj4all.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Postcode_9th-Quarterly-Report_RJ4All-2.pdf

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Gavrielides, T. (2025a). Case study 6 - building youth resilience through sports, art and restorative justice: A multi-year, ongoing community-based pilot in the UK. In T. Gavrielides (Ed.), *Addressing Violent Radicalisation and Extremism: A restorative justice, psychosocial approach*. Springer.

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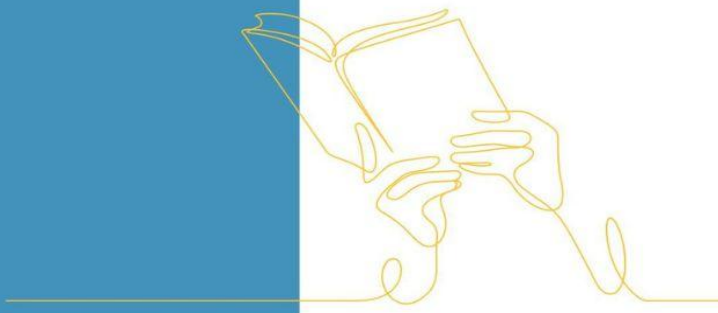

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