

Berkeley Foundation partners with Lewisham charity BelEve

The Berkeley Foundation, the grant-making foundation set up by housebuilder the Berkeley Group, has partnered with local charity BelEve. The Berkeley Foundation has given BelEve a grant of £30,000 over two years, which will help the charity build a five year strategy, implement their new fundraising strategy and refine their impact evaluation work.

The Resilience Fund was launched in October 2021, and provides support for local and grassroots charities to build their resilience for the future. It will invest £900,000 over three years, supporting up to 30 organisations. Wherever possible, the grants will be complemented by volunteer support from Berkeley Group staff.

BelEve is one of ten organisations supported in the fund's first year, which targeted charities working to help young people overcome barriers to work and kick-start their careers. A female-led charity working in Lewisham, BelEve empowers girls and young women to become the next generation of leaders. In 2020/21 they reached over 1,000 beneficiaries, a 28% increase on the previous year.



Marsha Powell, Director at BelEVE comments:

"We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Berkeley Foundation at this stage in BelEve's journey. We value partners who support us in continuing to provide new experiences and opportunities for girls and young women to improve their life chances and career prospects. The fund will contribute to BelEve becoming a sustainable charity delivering greater impact and transformation in girls and young women's lives".

Sally Dickinson, Head of the Berkeley Foundation says:

"The Foundation's vision is for young people and their communities to have the tools and resources they need to thrive be a force for change in the world. We believe that to achieve this, we need a resilient voluntary sector that's effective, inclusive and well resourced.

"Through the Resilience Fund, we hope to give partner organisations the space, time and funding to build their resilience, so that they will be around to support young people and their communities for many years to come."

Notes to Editor:

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Image Credit

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About the Berkeley Foundation

- Berkeley Foundation is the independent grant-making charity set up by Berkeley Group in 2011. The Foundation focuses its work on helping young people in London, Birmingham and the South of England overcome barriers, improve their lives and build a better society.
- Since the Foundation was established, it has committed over £26 million to its local communities through grants, staff fundraising and payroll giving, and its programmes and partnerships have reached more than 45,000 people.
- Berkeley Group staff have raised more than £7.5 million.
- For more information on the Resilience Fund see: <https://www.berkeleyfoundation.org.uk/news-and-events/our-commitment-to-a-resilient-voluntary-sector>
- This work has been recognised through a number of awards, including the 2020 Third Sector Business Charity Award for 'Business of the Year'.