



Black Prince Trust – Community Update – COVID - 19 Response, June 2020

First of all, we wanted to wish all friends and families of BPT all the best and hope that you and your families are staying safe and well in these uncertain times. Hopefully there is now some light at the end of the tunnel, but it remains a difficult time for us all and coming out of lockdown will no doubt present additional challenges.

As you will all be aware The Regal and Jordan Basketball Courts here at BPT have since early April been used to support the Lambeth Council direct response to Covid-19 via hosting the food distribution effort to support vulnerable residents during lockdown. Over the past 12 weeks, in partnership with c.35 organisations Lambeth Council has delivered over 100 tons of food to c.15,000 homes.

Key to this has been the use of the BPT Hub and the sterling efforts of the Covid-19 response team at Lambeth Council, BPT site partner Brixton People's Kitchen (BPK) and the many volunteers that have contributed their time and effort.

BPT would like to join Lambeth Council in thanking all of those involved and we wouldn't all have been able to assist as many people as we all have without a real team effort. The combined effort to support the local community is an example of the strength we have when we work together and one of the small silver linings during the very difficult time.





Going forward Lambeth Council has decided to focus the food distribution efforts from the Brixton Rec from July and as such the BPT Hub will sadly say goodbye to all our friends at Lambeth and the many excellent volunteers we have met. However, BPK will continue to support the vulnerable in North Lambeth with ongoing food packages throughout the summer, for as long as resources permit.

As for the BPT Hub itself, in line with update Government guidelines, we cannot yet re-open the Sports Hall and it will remain closed for July with an anticipation to partially re-open in August. However, the Administration building at the Hub is fully re-opening to tenants and partners from 6th July and we hope to provide some outdoor community delivery on the Trim Trail and other outdoor facilities in July wherever possible. Please keep an eye on our website, social media and emails for updates. BPT has maintained a staff presence throughout lockdown and is here to assist you where we can.

BPT would like to say a HUGE thank you to the funders and partners that have supported us during the CV19 crisis - these include Sport England, City Bridge Trust, the GLA, Nike, the London Community Response Fund etc – as well as some amazing individual donations. We have been overwhelmed by the support of our friends in these difficult times.

Also, we are delighted to announce that in July we will be upgrading parts of the Sports Hall (changing room improvements, new basketball reception etc) thanks to our friends at the London Marathon Charitable Trust who provided us with a £20k grant earlier this year. We will also be fine tuning the new Regal Court courtesy of Nike so as and when community activity returns to the Hub, we will be in a great place.

BPT has remained active throughout lockdown and below is a summary of what we have been doing:

BPT Feature in London Sport inspirational video

London Sport has showcased their partners flexibility and adaptiveness in relation to Covid-19 and the lockdown.

BPT's transformation of its basketball facilities The Regal and Jordan courts from London's premier community basketball facility to a food distribution hub supporting 2000 vulnerable individuals and families and offering remote physical activity.

For more information and to view the **#wearenotspectators** video please visit use the link provided <https://londonsport.org/covid-19/wearenotspectators/>

BPT Remote Activity

During the lockdown BPT has been working alongside our partners to keep our community active and address such important issues such as social isolation, mental health and physical activity. Moving its historically "Free to User" community timetable was a task that BPT saw as essential to continuing to support our community during these challenging and unprecedented times.

Using social media and an existing partnership network of close to 400 partners BPT, and working closely with our friends at London Sport, we have produced a "**Remote Activity Directory (RAD)**" and an interactive community timetable. The RAD has supported and communicated a wide range of activity from partners such as Watmos Community Homes, Fulham FC Community Trust and The Princes Trust to offer the whole community ways of staying active both in body and mind.

The remote "**Community Timetable**" offers a range of community physical activity and wellbeing sessions which include activities such as yoga, boxing, family football, Get Active Older Community sessions and supportive small group sessions for Lambeth's young people.

The Hub will continue to monitor Government guidelines in relation to physical activity and the leisure industry and will when safe move relevant sessions to "face to face" socially distanced activity.

Please visit www.theblackprincetrust.org.uk for a full listing of the remote community timetable and an up to date copy of the RAD. For any direct questions or to promote your organisations activity please email Jason@blackprincetrust.org.uk

Hi Jean – Offering Personal Hygiene Products

In partnership with a range of organisations such as Brixton Peoples Kitchen and Street Soccer London, BPT took responsibility for providing young women from Lambeth with free sanitary products during lockdown.

With local schools closed during lockdown, which in normal times would support their students by providing sanitary products, BPT agreed that everyone should be able to manage their menstruation safely, hygienically, in privacy and with dignity.

To support this BPT offered sanitary packages that could be picked up in person from the BPK café on site by asking for “Jean” directly. Funding for the project came directly from BPT and our community football partner Street Soccer London (SSL) and BPK was also a great distribution partner. BPT also called for support from the local community via donations so thank you to all of you who supported this initiative.

During the schools closer and lockdown, the “Hi Jean” project supplied sanitary towels and tampons to over 200 individuals to aid in support members of the Lambeth community with a dignified service.

The “Hi Jean” project will continue to offer its support to the community until the service is reintroduced within the historical setting within schools.



Nappies and Baby Products

Another area that BPT identified as being a core service during lockdown was the provision of nappies and other essential baby products to vulnerable families in North Lambeth. As such BPT and SSL agreed to extend the funding of Hi Jean to include nappies and baby products.

We would also like to say a special thank you to local businesses and community supporters who have made an amazing amount of product and financial donations to help make this initiative such a success.



The demand was strong, and our team of volunteers have done a fantastic job of delivering the following products to many families in need:

- 81 drops and counting...
- 54 houses, 6 hostels for young mums and 1 neighbourhood centre
- 113 babies with 3 sets of twins and one set of triplets
- Over 200 packs of wipes, 23 packs of nappy sacks, 20 tubs of formula and 41 bottles of baby powder

As with the Hi Jean Initiative we intend to maintain this service for July and hopefully into August (funding permitting) so if you would like to register for these products please contact Craig@streetsoccerlondon.org or Lou@blackprincetrust.org.uk.

For more information on these important initiatives or to make a donation please visit:

<https://blackprincetrust.charitycheckout.co.uk/cf/hi-jean>

To keep up to date on all things BPT please visit www.theblackprincetrust.org.uk and search Black Prince Trust across all social media platforms. Otherwise we will keep you updated in the coming weeks and importantly as and when the Hub plans to reopen to the community.

For any direct communication please email our Business and Site Manager Lou de Waal at lou@blackprincetrust.org.uk; Basketball lead Jason Henley jason@blackprincetrust.org.uk or CEO Kirk Harrison kirk@blackprincetrust.org.uk