

Statement: The Black Prince Trust

The Black Prince Trust is a not-for-profit charity responsible for running an important community asset in Lambeth. The Trust relies on rental income from its facilities, as well as fundraising, in order to support the provision of its sports-focused services to the local community, alongside our partners. We are a self-funding organisation with no statutory support. However, we are responsible for ensuring the continued running of the community hub and sports facilities, with the significant fixed-costs associated to this.

Over the past two and a half years' the Black Prince Trust has supported the Brixton People's Kitchen and have enjoyed a very positive relationship with the team. We have been very happy to work with the Brixton People's Kitchen team and have subsidised them through free rent for a prolonged period, and more recently reduced rent, as well as an investment in facilities to deliver their services. We are proud that we have supported Brixton People's Kitchen in this initiative.

The Black Prince Trust has been impacted by Covid-19 Pandemic in a very significant way. Throughout this challenging past year, we have managed to remain partially open in order to keep supporting the community. This included hosting the Lambeth Council food distribution hub closely with BPK, facilitating school bookings and maintaining community provision where allowed, including Under 18's provision, and mental health sessions for our many users.

However, during this time, we have lost rental income and tenants - we have lost between 50%-80% of our income and are currently running at a loss, and eating into our reserves. Despite this, we have continued to support the Brixton People's Kitchen through this time.

In order to continue to maintain the viability of our community hub and its operations into the future, it is with deep regret that we are no longer able to sustain our support of Brixton People's Kitchen in their current facility. Regrettably, Brixton People's Kitchen have decided that our proposals of suggested facilities at the Hub, as well as other local venues, did not work for them.

However, it is our responsibility to look to the future for the Black Prince Trust and preserve this important community asset.

In this context, we have had to ensure we enter partnerships in respect of the café premises at the Hub that fulfil our criteria to support the community, but also meet our obligation to ensure we obtain market rent for the facilities.

As well as offering the café services (for which the facility is designated) the new partner will offer:

- Free cooking lessons for children and families
- After school homework club with healthy eating options
- Subsidised healthy eating menu for all the community
- Food support for school holiday clubs
- Support of BPT community programmes such as PASIO, Changing Gears, walking groups, social isolation, and mental health programmes

The offer is in alignment with our social impact strands and we have conducted a fair and open process.

Our offer to support the Brixton People's Kitchen in this transition is still available and we want to work positively with them, as well as our proposal for assistance with alternative facilities.

The Trustees would like to thank Brixton Peoples Kitchen for all its excellent work at the BPT Hub and wish it the very best for the future.

Any questions please contact Kirk Harrison, CEO, Black Prince Trust (kirk@blackprincetrust.org.uk)