

Walton Charity

Five-year plan
2022–2027



waltoncharity
Building a thriving Elmbridge community



Welcome

Walton Charity is a local charitable foundation that understands the needs of those living in Elmbridge. We use our assets (people, land, property and funds) to tackle issues of poverty, health, loneliness, housing and educational attainment in our local area.



Poverty



Health



Loneliness



Housing



Education

About Walton Charity

Our Vision

An Elmbridge community where everyone has the opportunity and support to live a rewarding life, free from poverty and inequality.

Our Mission

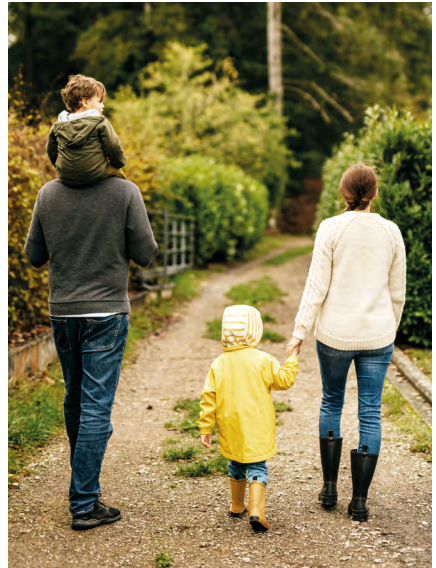
We understand and raise awareness of the impacts of poverty and inequality. Working together with our partners and the community, we initiate and facilitate programmes that deliver tangible and lasting improvements to the quality of life of those living in our borough.

Our Values

- Forward thinking**
- Bold**
- Influential**
- Independent**
- Open minded**



Walton Charity was there to support our family when we needed it. They were friendly and I didn't feel at all judged. Everyone should know they are there to help."



We are one of the oldest charities in the country, with over 800 years' experience of meeting the evolving needs of our community. Our role is to facilitate and enable high-impact initiatives by providing our partner organisations with grants, facilities and resources. We are a permanently endowed charitable trust, which guarantees we can continue our work for the foreseeable future.

Our five-year plan

From 2022-2027, these five strategic priorities will drive our work:

- 1** Engaging our community in the big issues facing local people
- 2** Tackling child poverty in Elmbridge
- 3** Providing affordable homes
- 4** Making our charity's assets work hard for our community
- 5** Being a responsible member of the Elmbridge community

Elmbridge in 2021

2020 was a year like no other, and the impact will be felt for many years. While the COVID-19 pandemic has affected all our lives, the impact has fallen unevenly and unequally across society. Those already struggling have been hit hardest and for many people living in our borough, life post-pandemic is full of uncertainty.

We are in the same storm, but not the same boat

Even before the pandemic, Elmbridge was a borough of extreme inequality. While some people living in the area are very well off, many are struggling. In fact, Elmbridge is the ninth most financially unequal borough in England (out of 326 boroughs). The pandemic has exacerbated these inequalities and we are seeing increasing numbers of families living in poverty.

Elmbridge has some of the highest costs of living in the country, with average rents and house prices double that of the national average.

But poverty is not just about a lack of money. Children living in low-income homes are more likely to have poor physical health, experience poor mental health, underachieve at school and, as adults, have low paid and insecure jobs.

Using our wealth of experience and working with our network of partners, we commit to playing our role in helping Elmbridge recover from the effects of the pandemic and use this as an opportunity to create more systemic change to make Elmbridge a place where everyone can thrive.

Those already struggling have been hit hardest and for many people living in our borough, life post-pandemic is full of uncertainty.





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Engaging our community in the big issues facing local people

Raise awareness of, and engage our community in, the local issues of inequality and poverty

The issue

For many, Elmbridge is a wonderful place to live, with good connections for jobs, excellent schools, and beautiful places to visit. However, it is also one of the most unequal areas of the country.

Alongside areas of considerable wealth are hidden pockets of severe deprivation in each of the towns in Elmbridge – Walton, Hersham, Cobham, Esher, Molesey and Weybridge. These areas have high levels of child poverty, residents suffer with poor mental health, and many are on low or insecure pay. There are stark differences in outcomes in health, life-expectancy and education for those living in areas of deprivation versus their more affluent neighbours.

Our role

As an independent funder, we want to draw attention to the issues that exacerbate inequalities, specifically health, housing and income, and influence change at a local level.

Our aim is to give greater voice to local people. That means listening, learning and acting.

We must listen to our community and their lived experiences. We must learn what help is needed for local people through continuous assessment of our work and through market research in the community. We must act on our learning, focusing on programmes and initiatives which have the greatest impact on local lives. →

Our aim is to give greater voice to local people. That means listening, learning and acting.



Our commitments

Walton Charity seeks to understand and raise awareness of local inequalities in areas such as health, housing and income.

To do this, we will ensure we

- hear from those with lived experience of poverty on the impact of these inequalities.
- conduct research to collate comprehensive and up-to-date data on inequalities in the borough.
- share our research with our partners so we can all act on the learning and ensure we deliver the greatest impact on lives in our community.

**Walton Charity
seeks to understand
and raise awareness
of local inequalities.**







Tackling child poverty in Elmbridge

Working with our partners to reduce the causes and symptoms of child poverty in Elmbridge

The issue

In 2021, almost 4,000 children in the borough live in poverty. That equates to 1 in 8 children, and rates are on the increase. Over a quarter of pupils in Elmbridge schools are eligible for pupil premium funding, and in just one of our local food banks almost 2,200 children required emergency food parcels – double the number from the previous year.

Children living in poverty are more likely to underachieve at school, have poor physical and mental health, have a low sense of wellbeing, face stigma, exclusion and bullying at school, and feel unsafe in their community.

Our role

It is unacceptable that, in a community where there is so much wealth, there should be any child living in poverty. We will continue to prioritise tackling both the causes and symptoms of child poverty in Elmbridge by working with our partner charities and organisations.

To tackle child poverty, we must take a whole-family approach, breaking the cycle of generational poverty. Our resources will be used to alleviate the symptoms of poverty in the short-term and to invest in tackling the underlying causes of poverty, supporting families in their journey out of poverty. →



4,000
Almost 4,000 children in the borough live in poverty.

Our commitments

Prioritising funding to tackle the causes and symptoms of child poverty, particularly in relation to housing, finance and education, is one of our key aims.

To achieve this, we will

- continue to refine and improve our effectiveness in working with partners and stakeholders, seeking opportunities to engage the community in our grantmaking decisions.
- proactively seek the most effective partners to deliver projects that have the greatest impact in the community and deliver against our key priority areas, making our investment work as hard as possible.
- engage the local community, including local business and corporates, to expand our funding pipeline and allow more opportunities to work together to improve the lives of children and young people in our community.



2,200

The number of children receiving emergency food parcels at one of our local food banks.





Providing affordable homes

Enabling more local people to live in decent homes they can afford

The issue

House prices in Elmbridge are among the highest in the country, meaning that a decent home is all but unaffordable to people on low or unstable incomes.

The mean cost of buying a home in Elmbridge is over £750,000, almost 20 times the average resident's salary. Similarly, rental costs are exceptionally high: a two-bedroom flat in Elmbridge costs around £1,200 per month – almost double the average for England. Putting this in perspective, the income (before tax), of someone working 150 hours a month on the minimum wage (over 25 rate), is around £1,231 per month.

While this presents a huge challenge to local people in lower paid or unstable work, it is also a challenge for many key workers (teachers, nurses, care staff), and young professionals who might be considering taking up jobs in Elmbridge.

Our role

Walton Charity has a long history of providing affordable homes to local people both through the provision of almshouses and through working with partner housing support providers. We will allocate a proportion of our financial resource to help alleviate the housing crisis in Elmbridge and will continue to provide affordable housing solutions that meet the needs of local people.



£750,000

The mean cost of buying a home in Elmbridge is £750,000, 20 times the average resident's salary.

Our commitments

- Walton Charity will look to acquire additional properties in the borough to allow more local residents to live in decent, affordable homes.
- We will seek out and establish housing partnerships that will enable Walton Charity land to be used to create additional accommodation which meets the needs of local people.
- We will continue to identify specialist housing partners to develop housing that meets the current needs of the community.



£1,200

A two-bedroom flat in Elmbridge costs around £1,200 per month – almost double the average for England.







Making our charity's assets work hard for our community

Using the charity's property, land and estates to create greater social value for local people and communities

The issue

Land and property is expensive in Elmbridge. For social and charitable organisations, the cost of renting or owning property can be a challenge. Smaller community organisations can find themselves simply unable to afford the high commercial costs or manage the obligations of leasing premises.

Our role

Walton Charity seeks to maximize the social value from both our land and property portfolio. By providing affordable buildings and space for local community and charitable organisations, we enable them to operate in the community in the long term and achieve their maximum impact in the borough.

We are always looking for new opportunities to make our charity land work harder for our community.

Our commitments

- We will seek to understand the local need for community buildings and work with our partners to develop practical solutions to these needs.
- We want more people in our community to gain value from our extensive land portfolio. By working with local partners, we will continue to find ways to increase the social value of our woodland and green spaces.
- Improving the management of our allotments will expand their reach and impact in the community. We aim to use our allotments to enhance the quality of life for people living in the borough, giving people access to affordable food, physical activity, and positive community connections.

Being a responsible member of the Elmbridge community

As an employer and a charity, we will act with integrity at all times. We will be honest partners and responsible stewards of the charity assets.

As a responsible member of the community, we must hold ourselves to the highest possible standards in all that we do. We are known for our high principles and ethical working practices, and must continually evolve to ensure our principles are always fit for purpose.

As part of our ethical working practices, we have a responsibility to consider the environmental, social and governance impacts of our operations, grant funding, partner relationships and investments.

Our commitments

Walton Charity strives to be an outstanding employer and seeks to constantly improve what we do and how we do it.

Our board of trustees have a diverse range of skills, backgrounds and experience, and work collaboratively to further the aims of the charity.

By delivering on our diversity, equality and inclusion plan, we are able to demonstrate our commitment to treating everyone with respect and proactively challenging and tackling inequality, injustice and discrimination in all its forms.

Walton Charity is a living wage employer and funder and we support our contractors, suppliers and partners in becoming living wage employers.

We will take steps to reduce our carbon footprint, especially to support our agenda to address inequalities. Our longer-term aim is to become carbon neutral, noting the external dependencies in achieving this aim.




charities house

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How can we help?

At Walton Charity our doors are always open. We would love to hear how we can help improve the lives of people in Elmbridge. Got an idea? Come and tell us. Need help? Let us know what we can do.

Only by listening to our community can we evolve, grow and continue to meet the needs of the people we serve – people like you.

Pick up the phone
or send us an email

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admin@waltoncharity.org.uk

We're waiting to hear from you

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