

# Making a difference in our community



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It's been another great year. After the success of last year, we wanted to provide further help and assistance in as many ways as possible, not just through financial support but other ways, too. It meant a lot to us that Mind in Croydon trusted us to directly engage with and support their service users.

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**Katrina Carney**  
PPF CSR lead

2019/20 was another successful year for our Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme. Following the success of the previous year, our employees chose to continue our charitable partnership with Mind in Croydon.

Mental wellbeing is something we take seriously at the PPF. Around one in four people will experience a mental health problem each year, and one in six experiences a common mental health problem, like anxiety or depression, in any given week. We wanted to use our charity partnership with Mind in Croydon to continue to help break the stigma surrounding mental health issues and raise vital funding to support their mental health services and the people who rely on them.

Year two of our partnership allowed us to build on the momentum of last year, and this time we were able to work directly with some of Mind in Croydon's service users to help make a positive difference to their lives.

We donated some IT equipment to Mind in Croydon's hub to help their service users get online and access social services. A team of our employees also undertook client telephone assessments to support the staff at the hub.

Volunteers spent time at Mind in Croydon's community allotment to help improve the space for their service users to enjoy and plant vegetables.

Our community projects were varied this year. We continued our lunchtime literacy scheme with the pupils at St Mary's High School, and donated another IT suite to a local primary school. We donated games to a homeless shelter, and undertook landscaping work for a primary school on the hottest day of the year.

In October we ran a free community event for World Mental Health Day which culminated in an evening of comedy entitled 'Mental Health is not a Joke', with guest performances from talented comedians and performers.

Christmas was a very special time for us, as our employees provided Mind in Croydon service users with much-needed food hampers, and donated gifts to the children and grandchildren of those service users.

We had our annual Christmas community day at Parchmore Community Centre where we hosted a Christmas event for the local elderly residents who might otherwise be spending the festive season alone. The crowds enjoyed delicious food, cheerful company, and a sing-along.

We also stepped up to aid a crisis this year with an Australia-themed bake sale to help raise funds for the Australian Red Cross and the World Wildlife Foundation to combat the effects of the devastating wildfires.

### Mental health at the PPF

We will partner with a new charity for 2020/21, but mental health will continue to be a focus for us. Managers at the PPF have undergone extensive training on mental health issues to understand the various problems people might face and how they might present in a working environment. We also have a team of trained mental health first aiders in the organisation whom employees can call upon.



### Did you know...

- ▶ We raised £2,000 and we gave 925 hours of volunteering for Mind in Croydon and other community projects.



This year's group of volunteers were very organised and hard-working, and went way beyond our expectations. They wrapped gifts, prepared food, decorated the hall, waited on tables, and cleaned up – they were amazing! Everyone was so pleasant and willing to help in any way possible.



### Jenny Harms

Parchmore Community Centre,  
Adult Services Manager



I've known people who have struggled with their mental health and I think it's great that there's far more discussion and awareness now than ever before, but there's still a way to go. Thankfully, there are a lot of terrific organisations out there doing incredible things to turn people's lives around.



### Barry Kenneth

Our Chief Investment Officer and executive sponsor of the PPF's mental health programme