

Information Sheet

The project

Our project will bring together refugees and migrants with local resident volunteers to create and develop three new community-owned gardens in Kingston, Richmond and Merton. Cultivate London will lead a schedule of gardening activities, which will be designed for LEAH and MHTS participants. Participants will be encouraged to use their spaces to socialise, meet new people from all backgrounds and cultures, and enjoy an improved urban environment.

Between and after garden sessions, local clusters of participants will come together for social activities and events related to the project. These activities will range from visits to other sites such as Cultivate London's Salopian Gardens in Isleworth, Kew Gardens or to cook and share garden produce.

Project participants

The participants will be supported by local resident volunteers who have been recruited and trained by the three project partners.

Our project will mainly support ethnic minority adults with the following characteristics:

- Unable to access to community classes because of their low English language levels, caring responsibilities or ill health.
- Highly socially isolated with no extended family network in this country and a very limited network of friends.
- 90% are likely to be women, 70% married and 60% likely to have a lease one child under 4.
- Complex personal and domestic circumstances including being current or former refugees, the victims of domestic abuse or having been trafficked into this country.
- Facing additional deprivation factors such as debt and ill health.

The partners

Learn English at Home (LEAH) and Merton Home Tutoring Service (MHTS) have strong referral relationships with front-line service providers, including health visitors, midwives, family support workers, interpreting services and school staff, enabling us to access the vulnerable and hardest to reach ethnic minority adults. Our trained and experienced volunteers will be able to support individual clients to engage in and practically access the project (for example, helping participants to learn the bus route to the garden sites and to understand the relevant language associated with gardening).

Cultivate London has been delivering successful community-based projects in Hounslow, Ealing and Wandsworth since 2011 and manages 15 community gardens across these areas. These community gardens are based in low-income highly multicultural neighbourhoods which mirrors (and crosses over) those neighbourhoods in which LEAH and MHTS also work.