

Monday 20 May 2019

Migrants will mix with their neighbours and improve their English in ground-breaking SW London project

LEAH has been awarded £120k in grant funding from the Integrated Communities Innovation Fund (ICIF) for community-based gardening projects.

Collaborating with Merton Home Tutoring and Cultivate London, this one-year project in South West London will tackle three key barriers to social integration:

- Meaningful opportunities to mix socially;
- Low level English skills; and
- The community-wide lack of understanding of different religious, cultural and personal values.

The project provides opportunities for 300 isolated migrants and refugees to mix socially with established English-speaking local residents through a structured programme that combines community gardening with language support.

“Transforming local space through cultivation is a shared and purposeful activity that transcends culture, religion and geography so is highly effective in building stronger local communities,” said LEAH Director Jenny Irish.

Participants will also be offered the opportunity to improve their English language and communication skills, enabling them to gain confidence and develop local support networks and make new friends.

“This funding is absolutely brilliant,” said Jenny. “We’re delighted to be given the opportunity to demonstrate how small local charities and social enterprises working together creatively can bring about positive change within communities.”

Media contact: LEAH Director Jenny Irish on 020 8255 6144 and director@leah.org.uk

The partners:

Cultivate London <https://cultivatelondon.org>

Learn English at Home www.leah.org.uk

Merton Home Tutoring Service <http://mhts.org.uk/>