About Havering Changing

Havering Changing is a community-led cultural programme working in areas of Havering where people have had the least opportunity to take part in the arts. Over the past five years, we've supported local residents (our Change Makers) to shape and lead hundreds of creative projects from festivals and performances to community gardens and new youth arts clubs. More than 60,000 people have taken part so far, building pride, skills, and stronger local networks.

Our current business plan (2025–26) focuses on priorities like:

- **Supporting community decision-making** – further training and growing our Change Maker groups so that local people continue to lead inspiring cultural programming.
- **Reaching underserved neighbourhoods** – through "On Your Doorstep" cultural projects and new Creativity Hubs in places like Rainham, Orchard Village and Harold Hill.
- **Engaging young people (14+)** – establishing Young Change Makers and youth-led music and arts programmes.
- **Building partnerships** – working with schools, housing associations, grassroots groups and borough-wide networks (Havering London, FUSE & Creative Health Havering) to extend our reach.

Looking ahead, our 2026–29 programme will expand this work. We plan to:

- Deepen delivery in priority On Your Doorstep areas while extending to new neighbourhoods through a Whole Place partnership model.
- Launch Storytelling Co-operatives, putting residents in charge of how the project communicates and shares its impact.
- Create an Experimental Creative Exchange, connecting Havering communities with leading national and international artists.
- Grow our network of Creativity Hubs and commissions, ensuring regular, high-quality cultural activity rooted in local places.

Havering Changing

Havering Changing is a consortium of eight organisations, led by Queen's Theatre Hornchurch, working with Clarion Futures (the charitable foundation of Clarion Housing Group), New City College, Havering Asian Social & Welfare Association (HASWA), Havering Volunteer Centre, London Borough of Havering Youth Services and MyPlace, Kaleidoscope, and The Mercury Shopping Centre.

We support local people in Collier Row Harold Hill, Orchard Village, Rainham and Rush Green to choose, create and take part in their own programme of arts and culture.

In each place, groups of Change Makers have taken ownership of the creative and cultural offer available on their doorstep and how that offer is tailored to local needs and identity. This way of programming new and different creative activities is designed to make a real difference to the community and to individuals' lives.

Since November 2019, local people have come together to create and celebrate on their doorsteps, at bustling markets, in our beautiful green spaces, in busy high streets, and much loved community, youth and faith spaces.

By our community coming together we have made all this happen, and in doing so, have staged over 500 free events and activities, opened 4 creativity hubs, engaged more than 60,000 people in hyper local arts and culture, and invested over £1.8 million into the local creative economy

Find out more about Havering Changing

Creative People and Places

Havering Changing is part of the Creative People and Places programme, supported using public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

Thanks to National Lottery players, Creative People and Places is about more people taking the lead in choosing, creating and taking part in creative and cultural experiences in the places where they live.

Since 2012, there have been over 15 million engagements with the CPP programme and 90% of people who participate in CPP weren't previously engaging regularly with creativity and culture.

Between 2026 - 2029 ACE are investing £43 million from the National Lottery in 46 Creative People and Places Programmes across England, covering 64 local authority areas. Creative People and Places focuses on parts of the country where involvement in creativity and culture is significantly below the national average.

It funds partners in local areas to empower residents to decide what kind of creative activity they want to experience on their doorstep. And it's all made possible thanks to National Lottery players, who raise £30 million for Good Causes each week.

Find out more about Creative People and Places