



EASTSIDE COMMUNITY TRUST

2026-2030

A PLACE OF
POSSIBILITY

EASTSIDE COMMUNITY TRUST
Easton and Lawrence Hill



This is community

Eastside provides people of all ages with places and ways to connect. We are passionate about our community and local people building a healthy and happy neighbourhood.

We believe that Easton and Lawrence Hill is a great place to live filled with creative, resilient and community-minded people. It is diverse and dynamic with many residents who care for one another and the neighbourhood.

As a place-based *Community Anchor Organisation* we work in partnership with all those who have a stake in our area of Bristol.

As we mark six years since our merger which led to the creation of *Eastside Community Trust*, this plan sets out our priorities and ambitions for the next chapter of our story. This plan is about Eastside, its people, its places and the positive impact we aim to have on the communities we are here to serve.

This plan has been shaped by the findings of our evaluation in 2024 with input from the staff and trustee board, partners and funders.



“I feel safe and get no hassle and no arguing between people... It’s a weight off your shoulders as you can’t spend all day wandering around...without this place I would have been really struggling and in a real mess.”

Local resident

 **connecting**
EASTSIDE





Mission and vision

Our mission is to ensure that in our neighbourhood:

- * Children have the freedom to play, be healthy and be part of the local community.
- * Communities are informed, empowered and connected.
- * We run inclusive, welcoming spaces and projects which improve people’s wellbeing.
- * Residents have access to a well-run, resilient community anchor organisation which is respected and trusted by the local community and partners.

Our vision is to create a place where communities thrive.



“Felix Road has actually changed my life because we live in a very small flat and don’t have a garden, and it’s our second home”. Local resident

“Eastside Community Trust offers a hub to the community, provides opportunities for local residents to connect, do new things and meets their needs. It provides breathing space, space to play, explore and reduce social isolation.” Partner





@greening
EASTSIDE



“Reading the local Up Our Street gives me such a sense of pride of the place we live and the people who live alongside us.”

Local resident

Eastside’s priorities 2026-2030

- * **Contributing to a happy childhood**
Reducing the impact of inequality caused by child poverty through the provision of quality play opportunities and a healthy food offer.
- * **Increasing social connection and reducing isolation**
Providing spaces and opportunities for residents to participate in a range of activities to make friends and be an active member of the community.
- * **Encouraging community cohesion and belonging**
Creating opportunities for shared experiences and increased cultural understanding through events and inclusive community spaces.
- * **Building social action and resilience**
Enabling local people to do things themselves in a way that is meaningful to them, through increased skills, confidence, networks and knowledge.
- * **Improving environmental sustainability**
Reducing the organisation’s impact on the environment while supporting residents to take positive action on climate and nature issues locally.
- * **Responding to the unknown...**
The world feels unpredictable and fast changing. We are a dynamic and flexible organisation and we will remain responsive to what our community needs over the coming years.

Enabling priorities

Strong and stable community assets

Continuing to invest in our physical spaces to ensure they are accessible, meeting local needs and enjoyable places to visit. Work with partners to ensure community spaces are included as part of the city’s long term strategy.

Activating community leadership

Using Eastside’s membership to increase resident-led social action in our work and on priorities important to the local community.

Demonstrating our impact

Improve our data collection and ability to measure impact and demonstrate success over the long term.

Provide fulfilling work opportunities and a well supported team

Ensure the long term wellbeing and job satisfaction of the Eastside staff and board as critical to our success.

Financial resilience

Develop new partnerships across all sectors to maximise sustainability. Diversify income whilst continuing to improve our trading income generation.



“It’s like a community living room where people come to relax.”

Local resident

Eastside values:

Positive

We believe you start with what is strong not what is wrong and build on the assets that each place and its people bring.

Collaborative

We are part of a diverse and rich neighbourhood and seek to work in partnership with other residents and local organisations to deliver our aims. We believe you achieve better solutions together.

Kind

Kindness and compassion are at the heart of how we work. We seek to treat everyone equally and with dignity and respect.

Honest

We do what we say we will do and are transparent in how we make decisions, sharing our policies and procedures openly. We have strong principles and carry out our work making the best ethical choice.

Inclusive

We believe in equity of opportunity and seek to ensure our spaces and projects are run with inclusion and equity in mind.

Playful

We want to have fun and bring joy into people’s lives so we aim to bring an element of play into what we do.



What do we do?

We run Easton Community Centre, a busy centre open to the public six days a week and available for private hire seven days a week. The centre hosts a programme of regular and ad-hoc community activities alongside our long term tenants. *Bristol City Council* own the centre but we have a lease to manage it until 2047.

We run Felix Road Adventure Playground six days a week for open access play and targeted sessions alongside private hire out of those opening hours. The playground has a community kitchen which serves homecooked meals and we have a *Raised in Bristol* nursery on site. *Bristol City Council* own the playground but we have a lease to manage it until 2049.

We deliver a wide ranging communications programme called Up Our Street to share information, inspire and celebrate our community. This includes an e-bulletin, website, social media, printed magazine and community notice boards.

We support community action through projects run by and with local people. These include family and wellbeing activities in our spaces, community climate action, nature and wildlife, food and cooking projects and an annual programme of community meetings and events. These programmes are called *Connecting Eastside*, *Greening Eastside*, *Thriving Eastside* and *Activating Eastside*.

We are landlord to four retail units in Barton Hill, all small businesses run by families and two nurseries (*Raised in Easton* and *Raised in Felix Road*).



Who are we?

Eastside has a staff team supported by our trustee board. The board also has three supporting sub-committees overseeing finance, risk, HR, performance and programmes.

A 2025 governance review highlighted strong overall governance, risk management and strategic oversight. Eastside also has a resident membership made up of local people who have input into the organisation's development at the AGM.

“Eastside Community Trust do what they say on the tin. The team are hugely dedicated and constantly seeking to refine their work which helps to ensure they stay relevant and responsive to communities’ needs and interests. They’re the best!” Partner



Eastside friends, funders and collaborators

Eastside Community Trust is part of a strong ecosystem working together to create a place where the communities of Easton and Lawrence Hill thrive.

We want to thank and recognise all those who are part of the Eastside story. We couldn't do it without you.

Join us
If you would like to get involved or support our work we'd love to hear from you.



“Eastside Community Trust is a fantastic anchor organisation. I often hold it up as an exemplar when talking to partners across Bristol” Partner



We're here:

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