



Lambeth e-Learning Foundation

The Lambeth e-Learning Foundation [LeLF]

FIVE-YEAR REVIEW 2002 - 2007

March 2007



Background

The **Lambeth e-Learning Foundation [LeLF]** was set up in 2002 (*as an independent Charity*) to enable adults, parents and children to have greater access to computers and ICT than is currently available to them. **LeLF** develops technology-based projects aimed at supporting disadvantaged children and adults of any age throughout Lambeth. Through this **LeLF** helps to build peoples' educational and vocational skills, confidence and quality of life, by tailoring projects to individuals' needs - ensuring the people that use **LeLF's** services are involved in the planning and implementation of each project.

LeLF's mission is to

- ✓ tackle disadvantage by advancing education through increasing access to technology
- ✓ overcome the damaging effects of the **digital divide**
- ✓ create a level playing field regardless of social and economic disadvantage
- ✓ support projects that foster a collective commitment to lifelong learning, and
- ✓ strengthen relationships across the community!

How is LeLF funded?

LeLF fundraises from companies and Trusts and also receives financial support for some of its work from the National e-Learning Foundation. **LeLF** was initially supported by sponsorship from a number of corporations.

LeLF works with local organisations and local & national government to deliver its projects. What makes **LeLF** different is its Borough-wide remit and its being the most advanced of all local e-Learning Foundations. **LeLF** has gone beyond work with schools to work also with the wider community.

LeLF's Remit

- ✓ Helping to fund PCs/laptops for home-use
- ✓ After-school Computer Camps
- ✓ Computer & internet training for adults of all ages
- ✓ Computer & internet training for people with disabilities
- ✓ Community website developments to help people access services online particularly in relation to hidden crimes such as domestic violence
- ✓ Community-based ICT suites
- ✓ Community-available information on training and ICT centres.

LeLF's Trustees & Advisors

Chris Davies	Trustee / Chair & founder Member - London Borough of Lambeth
Malcolm Forbes	Trustee / Founder Member - Brixton Online Ltd
Wit Gryko	Trustee / Founder Member - Corford International LLP
Samantha Paxton	Trustee / King's College London
Luan Thompson	Trustee / LWT
David Clarke	Trustee / Stockwell Community Resource Centre
Graeme Brown	Trustee / Independent
Jeff Rodwell	Advisor / ReedSmith
Penny Cole	Chief Executive



Overview



2002-2006 have been years of significant project activity for **LeLF**.

LeLF is working with **eight** schools [*6 primary & 2 secondary*] to provide computers for home use and has worked in partnership with Lambeth Council to roll-out the Lambeth **Link-Up** (ODPM) Project and developed a **Computercamp** model with partners to enable young people to access computer courses in the summer holidays, weekends and after school.

As **LeLF's** projects expanded the awareness of **LeLF** has grown. Project managing Lambeth **Link-Up** has been particularly beneficial in raising **LeLF's** profile with other key voluntary organisations and Lambeth service providers. **LeLF** makes strong links with other organisations in Lambeth and its projects

are invariably partnership-based. This makes best use of scarce resources and enables **LeLF** to fulfil its aims and objects far more effectively.

The benefits of developing a generation who will be computer literate are far-reaching and will have a fundamental impact on employment and skills, economic markets, and all aspects of communication.

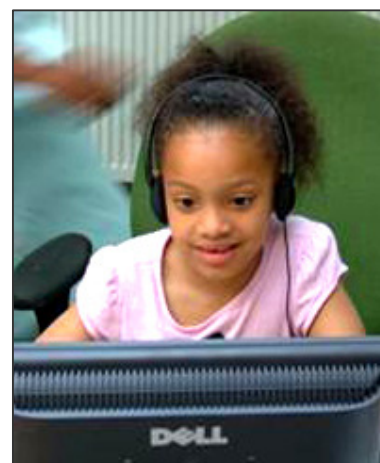
LeLF projects will deliver knowledge-workers with usable ICT (*Information & Communication Technology*) skills and a well-developed approach to independent self-managed learning, making the most of what technology has to offer, now and in the future!

LeLF is also engaged in delivering a range of practical ICT and lifelong learning projects that provide tangible benefits to primary school pupils and adult learners in Lambeth – one of the most populous but deprived London boroughs.

Challenges Ahead

LeLF has reached a crucial point in its development. In common with all small charities, it is confronted with the problem of core funding. At the same time, grant funding for ICT projects has become increasingly hard to achieve. At present **LeLF** has no paid staff, but a core of supportive consultants who have agreed to work on the development of a 3-year business plan. Penny Cole and Alan Wright continue to manage **LeLF** during this period.

Whilst **LeLF** is awaiting the outcome of its lottery application, which if successful will be the largest project the charity has delivered, it is time to consider how it can be made sustainable outside of project funding. That requires a definition of **LeLF's** core activity, quite apart from time-limited projects. This five-year anniversary offers an opportunity for reflection and planning.



► **To-date approximately 1,600 children [aged 6-16] & 650 adults have benefited from LeLF's services!**



What LeLF *needs* to do NEXT!

► **Identify core activities** – If LeLF is to achieve core funding, it will only be on the basis of providing a core service. That service could be to inform people in Lambeth of the availability of ICT access (an extension of the *Virtual Lambeth* initiative) to broker partnerships, and to ensure that key aspects of time-limited projects become sustainable by establishing community-led partnerships.

► **Website** – it is essential that an ICT charity have an effective web presence, and LeLF's website, whilst attractive to look at, lacks focus. It needs to be redesigned and revised to deliver information and support about **ICT in Lambeth**, rather than simply promoting LeLF. As part of this web strategy LeLF needs to develop an *on-line* and *real-world* marketing campaign.

► **Networking & Review** – To support an understanding of what our core work should be, LeLF needs to organise a series of meetings and discussions with existing and potential partners in order that we can be much clearer what it is they need and want from LeLF.

► **Develop Governance** – LeLF is fortunate in having a Board of Trustees who are both influential within the borough [and beyond] some of whom have strong links with the community. We have however failed to capitalise on this enough. A strategy is needed to support Trustees to become public champions of the charity and to develop their role.

► **Business Plan** – based on the outcomes of the above, LeLF needs to produce a 3-year business plan to form the basis for a fundraising campaign.

There is no doubt that there is an urgent need for LeLF's work in a borough with high levels of deprivation where many people are affected by the *digital divide*. The challenge is to develop a sustainable model for LeLF's work!

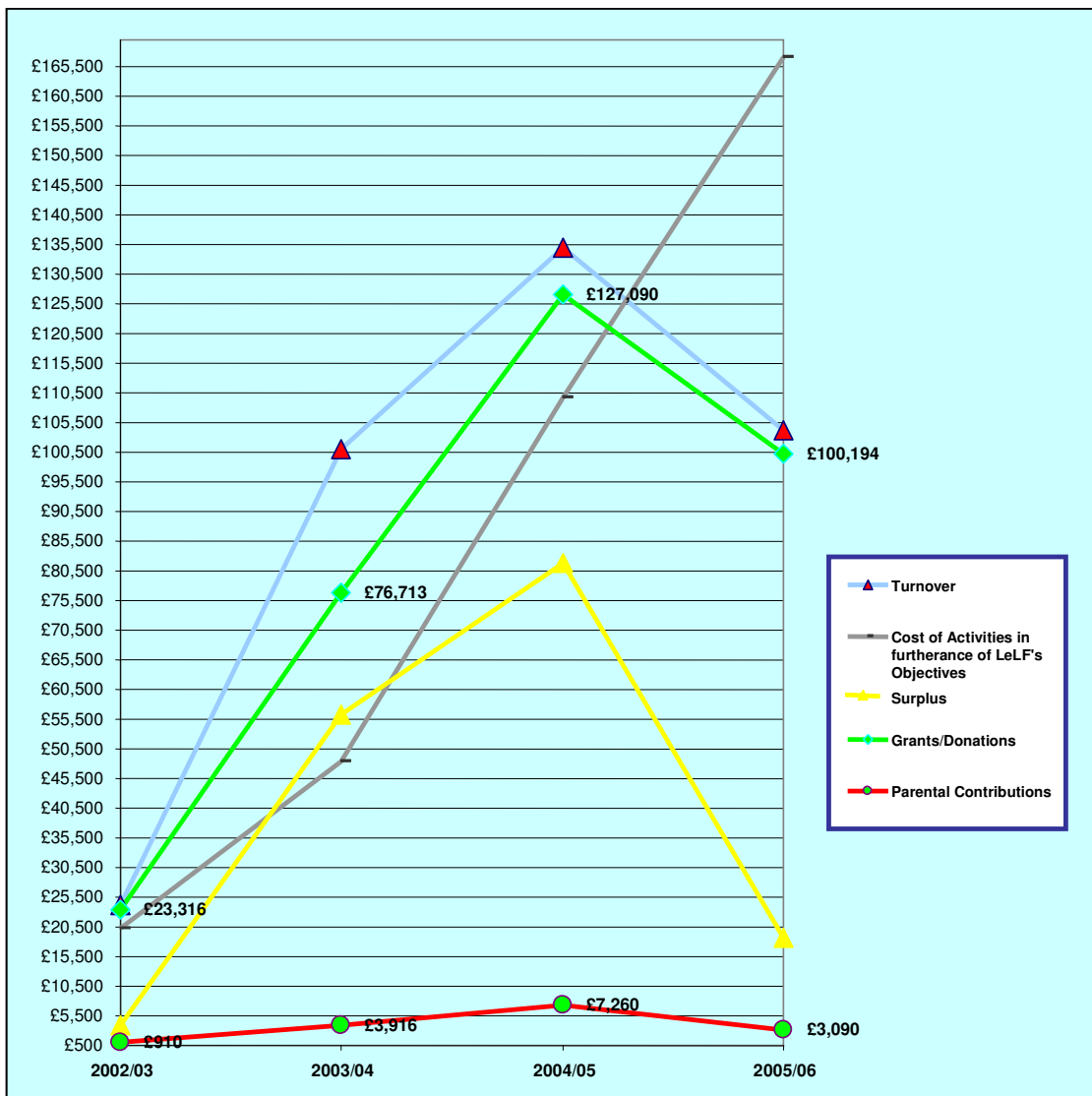




Financial Highlights

LeLF's financial statistics 2002 - 2006

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
▶ Turnover	£ 24,244	£101,054	£134,929	£104,312
▶ Cost of Activities in furtherance of LeLF's Objectives	£ 20,350	£ 48,529	£109,651	£167,221
▶ Surplus	£ 3,894	£ 56,419	£ 81,697	£ 18,788
▶ Grants/Donations	£ 23,316	£ 76,713	£127,090	£100,194
▶ Parental Contributions	£ 910	£ 3,916	£ 7,260	£ 3,090





Review of Projects 2005 – 2007

Highlights

► **Schools Project – Ongoing**

8 schools: Jessop Primary, Heathbrook Primary, Christchurch Primary, Stockwell Primary, Lilian Baylis Technology School, St Martin's Secondary, Loughborough & Kingswood Primary.

A total of **113 laptops** have been purchased which, deployed on a rota basis, have facilitated increased ICT access to an estimated **1,500** children. This scheme enables children who do not have computers at home to have access to a laptop for home use at least twice a month and in some cases once a week.

96 parents contributing
3 parents' groups contributing

► **Virtual Lambeth – Ongoing:** With a small grant from the Education Action Zone **LeLF** responded to a request from Lilian Baylis Secondary School for a paper-guide for parents listing where in the borough they can access a computer and the internet with their children. **LeLF** produced and promoted this guide and hopes to find future funding to further promote and update it.

► **UNI4U:** **LeLF** began a partnership with Uni4U located at King's College whereby **LeLF** helped them recruit people from Hemans Estate to do their accredited basic ICT training.

► **Community-led ICT:** **LeLF** has spoken with Renton Close TRA, Hemans TRA and Hainthorpe TRA about the possibility of offering them support. Renton Close is suffering from lack of marketing and funding to keep their computer centre open; Hemans is now only open when volunteers are available; Hainthorpe ICT centre is closed due to funding reductions facing the Estate Skills Partnership who formerly ran it.

► **Summer Arts Project:** **LeLF** undertook a young people's activity at the Hemans Estate in the form of an Arts Project, in conjunction with three local people, funded by the ERSF Charitable Trust and planned with Lambeth Council and the Metropolitan Police.

► **ECDL summer school at Kingswood School:** Kingswood Primary approached **LeLF** to ask if they could help with their efforts to become an ECDL testing centre. **LeLF** knew RM Plc had run ECDL summer course in South Yorkshire, and so brokered a meeting and an opportunity for staff and pupils to do modules from ECDL in three days in the summer at a very reduced cost. It was a great success!

► **Lambeth Link-Up**

- Two estates: **Hemans & Hainthorpe** [Stockwell & West Norwood]
- **Resident Champions**
- **Websites & hardware**
- **Excellent** links with local organisations
- **ICT Suite** for residents

Future plans to offer **wireless connectivity** to all residents on Hemans.

A project which involved working with residents on two Lambeth Council housing estates, the project organised free ICT training courses and developed community websites in conjunction with estate residents. A key part of the project was to train '*Resident Champions*' on each estate to update their own community website and to encourage residents to own the website by delivering content they want and need.

The project was supported by the ODPM and Lambeth Council. In July 2005 Lambeth Link-Up won an e-Innovations award from the ODPM.

The **websites** can be found at www.hemans.org.uk and www.hainthorpe.org.uk

- **Number of residents benefiting from increased access to ICT** 500
- **Total number of people in Lambeth benefiting from LeLF's services** 1,900



LeLF's Future Plans

General

The next twelve months [*and years beyond*] will again be busy for **LeLF**.

While the London Borough of Lambeth is home to many organisations, both public and voluntary sector, carrying out excellent work, ranging from computer training for the elderly to sports activities for young people, **LeLF** believes that through its work with communities in Lambeth it has identified a need for an organisation to help highlight what is out there and perhaps help co-ordinate some of the services available.

Often it is not that there are too few local services but that residents are **unaware** of their existence, or are **unable** to access them due to disability or to a belief that "*it's not for me*".

Yet again one of **LeLF's** major objectives in the coming years will be to devote resources to working with local residents, schools, statutory bodies and local organisations to ensure increased awareness not only of **LeLF's** work, but also of resources complementary to it.

Part of this may entail **LeLF** offering support and advice to organisations on how best to **engage** with vulnerable people who are unlikely themselves to be proactive in seeking assistance, while being often the very people who could most benefit from the many services available in Lambeth.

LeLF will continue its successful mix of **innovation** and **flexibility** in developing and delivering its services. Ensuring services are tailored to meet **people's needs**, and that the people the projects support are involved in their planning and implementation, will be at the centre of everything **LeLF** does.

► **As always LeLF will continue to focus its energy and attention on the hard to reach and disadvantaged in the community.**





Projects in-Development

LeLF has a number of other projects in the development phase to compliment its current work.

On one such project **LeLF** is through to the second stage of a Reaching Communities Lottery application for a project [**Lambeth Digital Bridge**] to be delivered jointly with Lambeth Estate Skills Partnership – an arms length business unit of Lambeth Council.

This is a project to open-up technology knowledge and skills to the most excluded people in Lambeth.

LeLF's Future - Key Goals

- **Expand and build on LeLF's connections** in the local community
- **Ensure** the success of Lambeth **Link-Up** is built upon to secure future funding for managing & developing similar projects
- **Raise sufficient funds** to develop **Virtual Lambeth**
- **Raise funds** to **expand** school/home-use computer scheme
- **Raise sufficient funds** for core funding
- **Develop/realise** the potential of **LeLF's Board of Trustees**
- **Review & develop LeLF's Business Plan & Funding Strategy**





LeLF's Supporters

LeLF is **proud** [and **thankful**] to be associated with the following organisations and individuals [*some of whom were initial, start-up, Sponsors & Trustees*] who have **supported LeLF** over the past five years. **LeLF** hopes that it can continue to count on their **generous support**...

- ITV
- London Borough of Lambeth
- ReedSmith
- DfES
- King's College London
- Stockwell Community Resource Centre
- Brixton Online Ltd
- Metropolitan Police (Lambeth)
- The Walcot Educational Foundation
- Sky Foundation
- The Worshipful Company of Grocers
- The Worshipful Company of Cutlers
- Marsh Christian Trust
- T. Clarke plc
- N M Rothschild & Sons Ltd
- The Richard Desmond Charitable Trust
- HRH The Prince of Wales Duke of Cornwall
- The Reuben Brothers Foundation
- The H & G De Freitas Charitable Trust
- Stephen Clarke 1965 Charitable Foundation
- Erach & Roshan Sadri Foundation

- Cooper Gay Charitable Trust
- RM Plc
- National e-Learning Foundation
- Madeline Mary Walker Foundation
- The Worshipful Company of Armourers & Brasiers
- ODPM
- IBM
- TransMedia Gateway Ltd
- Phyllis Dunipace
- My-Chan Tien
- Hana Odoh-Tadafe
- Debbie Walton
- The Mercers' Charitable Foundation
- Pearson Broadband
- Grant Thornton
- Volvo Information Technology GB Ltd
- Systems Capital plc
- BT Education



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