**John Lewis Liverpool donates a fully fitted kitchen to Epsom Street Community Centre in Kirkdale.**

Nugent’s Epsom Street Community Centre in Kirkdale has been transformed, with a new kitchen, complete with appliances and cooking equipment through John Lewis’s Community Investment Fund, which staff at the Liverpool One branch applied to following a visit to the centre.

John Lewis Liverpool have not only provided the full kitchen complete with cookers, fridges, freezers, dish washer and washing machine but also sent in their fitted kitchens team to install it, transforming what was a store room, into a fabulous multi-purpose facility.

The brand new kitchen will provide an opportunity to share new skills and ensure all children receive a hot meal, which will in turn improve health and well-being within the community and combat issues such as poverty and ill health.

The store has also provided a study zone fitted out with computers for children to be able to do their homework or for adults who are looking for employment or to complete qualifications, this will double up as a place where support workers can hold private meetings and offer one-on-one support.

To encourage children to take part in play, John Lewis Liverpool are also providing a selection of books, games and apparatus; which in all, will completely transform how Epsom Street operates and will create numerous opportunities for its local community.

The young people and families that use Epsom Street have been amazed by the generosity and the transformation with one parent saying, “Some of the children have been saying we won’t be allowed in anymore because we never get nice things like this.”

Mandi Tambourini-Moore, Epsom Street’s Community Volunteer Manager said,

“We are all overwhelmed by the commitment and generosity from John Lewis, this really is going to make a difference to people’s lives, and gives a future for our centre and to Kirkdale residents.

Last summer we were able to provide over 3000 meals to our families and young people from one cooker, this new facility will mean we can help more families struggling to cope in the holidays.”

ENDS Editors notes follow.

**Editors notes:**

**Epsom Street Community and Volunteer Service**

Epsom Street Community and Volunteer Service based in Vauxhall, Liverpool, is situated within the heart of the community and works closely with local schools and community residents. The project was originally run by Liverpool City Council, and was transferred over to Nugent in 2015. Nugent employs two members of staff at the centre, and fund all of the running costs and fundraise to support any additional activities such as outings for the children or food.

Epsom Street is in the heart of Kirkdale, an area where over 50% of children live in poverty and 20% live ‘on the bread line, and the project works with families and children to offer free play sessions twice a week. During non-term time children can come along an enjoy a free breakfast and lunch which is prepared by the children with support from the volunteers. Adults can also make use of the centre for exercise classes, training and development opportunities.

Epsom Street’s doors are always open and they have in excess of over 71 children/young people in attendance most days, along with 45 adults who visit the project seeking specific advice/support. The centre offers a safe environment where adults can talk and work towards gaining qualifications.

**Nugent** offers a diverse range of support to adults and children in Merseyside through our schools, care homes, community and social work services and social enterprise. Working at the heart of some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, we strive to generate interest, awareness and an understanding of the issues they face. and the impact of this on our wider communities.

We support on average 6,000 people each year. We are a major employer in the area, employing 650 staff and supporting 350 volunteers and we advocate on issues of justice and fairness.

**We aim to:**

* Care, educate, protect and inspire those in need.
* Be an employer of choice.
* Be an advocate: A voice for the voiceless.

The origins of Nugent date back to the 1800’s and the pioneering work of Father James Nugent (1822-1905) in relation to child welfare, relief from poverty and social reform. His work continues through Nugent and we are the social welfare arm of the Catholic Archdiocese of Liverpool.