

# Peckham Vision and the Peckham Experiment



Children settling in at the Peckham Experiment 1943. Please see overleaf for full image credits.



The Peckham Experiment 80 years on: a living inspiration. Discussion at The Nines, Peckham 2015.

Underlying the work of Peckham Vision is the understanding that the strength of a community lies in the connections between people who live, work or run businesses in the same neighbourhood.

Peckham Vision is dedicated to exploring and nurturing those connections, and creating ways to link into their energy and enthusiasm on behalf of our neighbourhood. We have developed an information and communication system to keep people informed of local developments, and how they can decide for themselves to take action where needed.

Our approach links with the pioneering Peckham Experiment's understanding of the relationship between individuals in community.

A key feature of the Peckham Experiment's approach was that enabling freedom for self determination cultivated health. Dr Scott Williamson one of the founders of the Peckham Experiment said of its success: *"it's not what Peckham did for people, but what in that setting they did for themselves ..."* [1]

Dr Joel Elkes, Professor of Psychiatry said in the Introduction to the 1985 edition of 'The Peckham Experiment': *"the family is a live zone for the interchange of social nutrients"*.

The idea of social nutrients is an integral part of the Peckham Experiment's understanding of society as a living system. Information is a life giving social nutrient in the human community. At a Peckham Experiment symposium [2] in 2009 Eileen Conn, Peckham Vision's founder and co-ordinator, called Peckham Vision's community information system *"a live zone for the interchange of social nutrients"*.

The legacy of the Peckham Experiment is kept alive by the UK charity Pioneer Health Foundation (PHF). Eileen Conn is an Associate of PHF, and is the PHF local contact in the Peckham area.

Image credits:

*Left:* Children settling in at the Peckham Experiment. Social Health Association. March 16 1943.

Source: <http://www.sochealth.co.uk/national-health-service/public-health-and-wellbeing/peckham-experiment/peckham-experiment-7-new-member-families/>

*Right:* The Peckham Experiment 80 years on: a living inspiration. 2015

Source: [The Peckham Experiment 80 years on: a living inspiration - People ...pphw.alliance-scotland.org.uk](http://www.pphw.alliance-scotland.org.uk)

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Pioneer Health Foundation:

<http://thephf.org>

Facebook: Friends of Peckham Experiment

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[1] Quoted in Barbara Griggs' Introduction to the 1985 edition of The Peckham Experiment

[2] The Peckham Experiment Symposium, Camberwell College of Arts, 24th October 2009