



Sutton
Salvation Army
Church and Community Centre

7 February 2024

To whom it may concern,

We want to write about the impact of Sutton Community Dance on the community and particularly on those we know who have accessed the facility and various services that SCD provide.

We are aware of children accessing various dance options that have grown in confidence, ability and social skills as they have learned not only to dance but integrate with one another. We know of adults who have been able to access various exercise options who speak about the impact on them, not only physically but also in terms of their mental health. In addition we have been aware of their support in working with vulnerable people who through accessing the SCD programme have been brought into community. We ourselves have benefited from the outward focus of SCD as they have supported us in a variety of ways, not least in our annual Christmas Toy Appeal which is run to support local authority social services.

The community aspect of SCD is one of their central values. This is not only evidenced in their continual outreach and desire of partnership, but also was seen in their commitment shown to building and maintaining community throughout the pandemic.

So with sadness we have been made aware of the imminent future of SCD as they seem to be being priced out of the premises in the St Nicolas Centre. The key word in SCD is community and it seems a great pity for this to be lost from the heart of Sutton. We believe that SCD should be encouraged in their endeavour to continue to put people first and believe to have such an ethos at the centre of council strategy for Sutton makes a statement that Sutton should be proud of.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon and Kate Cotterill
Majors