**Supporting Families – Providing Activities**

**Information pack**

**Summary**

Islington Givingis committed to supporting families as part of its work to tackle poverty and inequality in Islington.

Islington Giving is looking for 8 local residents to come together to make decisions about how £115,000 of Islington Giving’s grants budget will support local groups to provide activities for Islington families (with a particular focus on activities targeted at, or inclusive of, people living with disabilities).

**Islington Giving**

Islington is a borough of stark contrasts – a place where great wealth sits alongside hidden poverty. Islington Giving was set up in 2010 to address these issues and create opportunities for people in Islington. It is a partnership that brings together residents, businesses, community organisations and funders to make a real difference in the Borough.

Islington Giving currently supports over 40 local projects across 3 core themes:

* Investing in Young People
* Supporting Families
* Reaching Isolated People.

All our work aims to open up opportunities for people to enjoy life and socialise, to build skills and possibilities and to make connections with each other and services.

**Supporting Families**

After consulting with local families and those that work with them, Islington Giving launched our supporting families strategy – ‘[A life not a service’](https://issuu.com/islingtongiving/docs/7434_supporting_islington_families_) – in July 2017.

Since its launch two of the four action areas (Building Social Networks and The Family Catalyst fund) have been acted upon.

We are looking for a Panel of 8 local residents to progress the third action area, providing activities for families, with a particular focus on ensuring people with disabilities benefit from what’s on offer locally.

The Panel will shape the programme and make decisions as to how the grants budget of £115,00 is spent.

**Why resident panels?**

Islington Giving is committed to understanding and responding to local issues in partnership with those that live and work in the borough.

Building on the success of Islington Giving’s [Young Grant Makers](https://islingtongiving.org.uk/news-events/drumming-sport-art-and-more-young-people-have-decided/) programme Islington Giving wants to involve more local residents in grant making to:

* make informed decisions
* learn and listen to local people
* challenge our own perceptions, ways of doing things and take more risks
* share power and build trust
* provide opportunities for local residents to make new connections both with each other and with local community organisations
* be transparent and accountable.

**Who can be involved?**

Islington Giving would like to recruit 8 Panel members to shape the programme and decide on how to best spend the £115,000.

No previous experience is necessary. We want to meet residents who have ideas about what is needed for families in their local community and who want to get involved.

**We are looking for people who:**

* are resident in Islington, reflecting the mission and objectives of Islington Giving
* have a desire / enthusiasm to effect change in their local community
* have some experience of the issues being addressed i.e. social or financial isolation, relationship conflict / domestic violence / disability or live with a family member who has a physical or learning disabilities and / or mental ill-health or are a parent/carer.
* can commit to participating in the whole programme
* are interested in how funding decisions are made and willing to engage in detailed discussions
* are willing to work as part of a team to share ideas and reach a common goal.

Panel members will be selected on the above criteria. Consideration will also be given to ensuring there are a range of people with different skills and experiences on the panel and to bringing voices to the Panel who are not usually heard.

**How do I put myself forward?**

If you are interested in being a Panel member:

1. **Complete the expression of interest form** **by 25th September 2020** and send or email it to Nikki Wimborne – 13 Elliott's Place, London N1 8HX - nikki.wimborne@cripplegate.org.uk. If completing the form would prove difficult please feel free to contact Nikki on 020 7288 6940 to discuss your interest.
2. The next step would be for us to have a phone conversation with you about your application – what it’s about, what’s involved, and answer any questions. It would also be useful to hear a little about you. This will give you and us the chance to see whether it is right for you.
3. If we have more applicants than our 8 places we will use the information gleaned from your form and phone conversation against the criteria outlined above to select the Panel. If there are more people than places, with your permission, we will keep your contact details for future Panels.

**What would I be committing to?**

Four meetings between October 2020 and January 2021, interviewing 2 or 3 applicants, some additional time to read material between meetings and to represent Islington Giving and be ambassadors for resident Panels.

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| **What?** | **Time commitment** | **Description** | **When** |
| 1st Panel Meeting | 3 hours | to shape the programme local groups will be applying to | By 9th October 2020 |
| 2nd Panel meeting | 3 hours | Training – how to assess applications against criteria / reading accounts / budgets | Week of 9th November 2020 |
| Read applications  | Depends on number of applicants | Panel members will have 10 days to read submitted applications | 23rd Nov – 4th Dec 2020 |
| 3rd Panel meeting  | 3 hours | Shortlist applicants to interview / decide on interview questions | Week of 7th December 2020 |
| Interview shortlisted applicants | Depends on number of applicants  | probably 2 – 3 interviews per Panel member | By 15th January 2021 |
| 4th Panel meeting | 3 hours | Decision making | Week of 18th Jan 2021 |

All Panel meetings will take place at Islington Giving’s office - 13 Elliott's Place, London N1 8HX. Breaks and refreshments will be provided. Interviews will be hosted by organisations applying for funds. If face to face meeting are not possible due to COVID-19 all meetings / interviews will be online.

Exact dates / times of meetings have not been set, so where possible, we can try to make Panel meetings fit around your other commitments or caring responsibilities.

**Will I be paid?**

You will be reimbursed for any money spent on enabling you to take part in the Panel, for example travel expenses, childcare costs while you attend Panel meetings.

On completion, you will also receive a Catalyst grant of up to £250 to pursue something for yourself for personal development or joy.