**Supporting Families – Developing Confidence and Skills**

**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 parents/carers of children under 18** (or under 30 if you are a parent/carer of a child with a disability) to come together **to make decisions about how £115,000** of Islington Giving’s grants budget **will support local groups to provide more opportunities for parents** to develop confidence and skills to help fulfil their potential and ambitions. This could include practical support and help to step into work or volunteering.

**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 three of the four action areas (Building Social Networks, The Family Catalyst fund and Providing Activities) have been acted upon.

We are looking for a Panel of 8 local parents/carers to progress the fourth action area, developing confidence and skills 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.

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 parents/carers 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 parents/carers 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
* are parents/carers of children under 18 (or under 30 if you are a parent/carer of a child with a disability)
* 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.
* 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 24th 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 2021 and January 2022, interviewing shortlisted 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 | Week of 11th October 2021 |
| 2nd Panel meeting | 3 hours | Training – how to assess applications against criteria / reading accounts / budgets | Week of 8th November 2021 |
| Read applications  | Depends on number of applicants | Panel members will have 21 days to read submitted applications | 19th Nov – 10th Dec 2021 |
| 3rd Panel meeting  | 3 hours | Shortlist applicants to interview / decide on interview questions | Week of 13th December 2021 |
| Interview shortlisted applicants | Depends on number of applicants  | Probably no more than 9 shortlisted groups | By 21st January 2022 |
| 4th Panel meeting | 3 hours | Decision making | Week of 24th January 2022 |

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 and shortlisting interviews.

You will also receive payment at the London Living Wage (£10.85 an hour) for:

* attending 4 three-hour Panel meetings
* 6 hours for reading and reviewing applications
* 6 hours for interviewing shortlisted applicants.

Amounting to a total of 24 hours @ £10.85 an hour - £260.40 for your involvement.

We understand that reading and reviewing applications will take different people differing lengths of time. Due to budgetary reasons, we will be unable to go above the six-hour allocation. We will however offer support where needed and reduce the amount of reading / find alternative ways for people to engage with the content where reading might be difficult or time consuming.

Independent professional benefits advice will be offered to anyone concerned about the impact of payment on their benefits as will the option to receive payment in a different way, if an hourly wage proves problematic.

If you know anyone who might be interested, you or they can contact me, Nikki Wimborne, on nikki.wimborne@cripplegate.org.uk or 0207 288 6940 to find out more.