



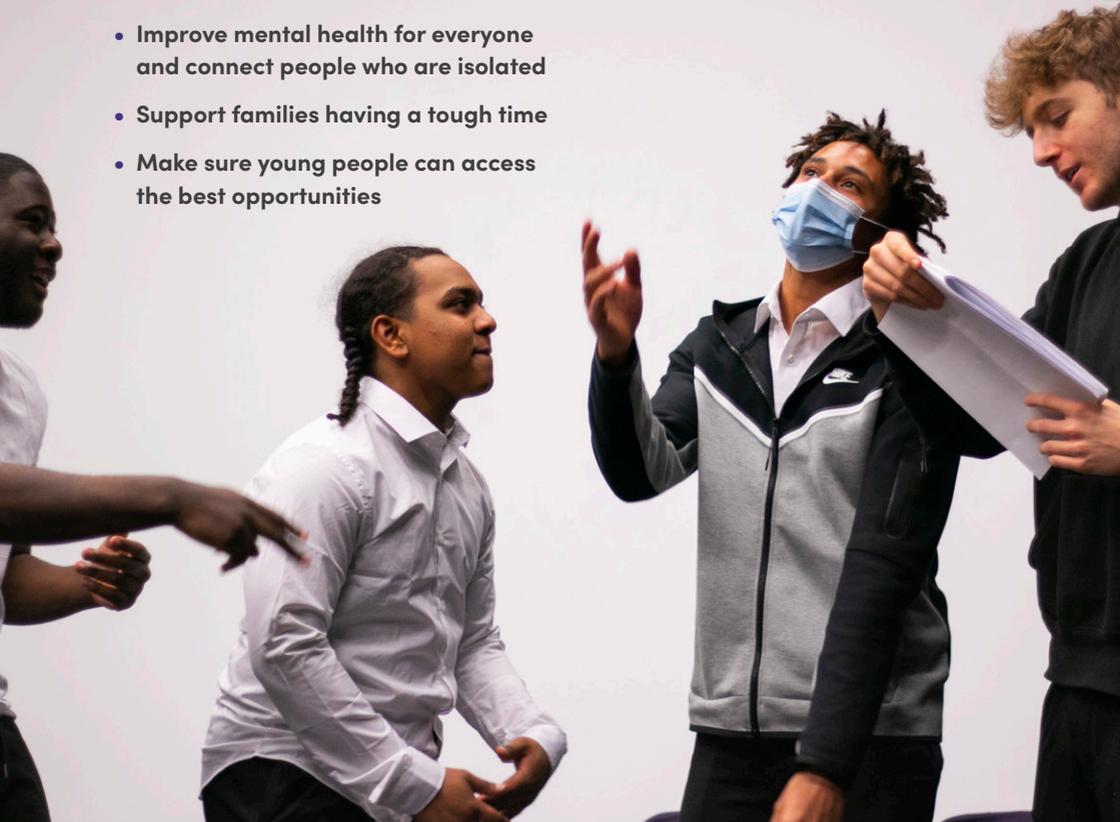
At its best, Islington is a vibrant borough with lots to offer residents, but it remains one of the most unequal places to live in the UK.

Islington Giving is a network of coalition partners, individuals and businesses committed to addressing poverty and inequality and making Islington a better borough to live in for everyone. We support local projects by raising funds, giving grants and sharing local knowledge and expertise. We collaborate with local residents in our grant-making through our residents' panels, ensuring 100% of funds raised are spent on projects that have the greatest impact for local people.

As the first Giving Scheme in London, we inspired the London's Giving movement, now active in over 20 boroughs within the M25.

Our main aims are to:

- **Improve mental health for everyone and connect people who are isolated**
- **Support families having a tough time**
- **Make sure young people can access the best opportunities**



FROM THE CHAIR:
SARAH LEE
CHAIR OF ISLINGTON GIVING

2021 was incredibly tough and full of uncertainty for many Islington residents but we saw some glimmers of hope and positive developments in Islington Giving, and the many local groups and committed individuals we are privileged to work with.

I have lived and worked in Islington since the early 1990s and care deeply about our borough. I want to make sure its many opportunities, activities and support are open and accessible to all residents. This is why I joined the Islington Giving Board in October 2020 and am also a member of the Diversity Equity & Inclusion sub-committee of Cripplegate Foundation. I believe Islington Giving, with our local knowledge, engaged residents, passionate supporters and strong connections, is well placed to have a positive, tangible impact in the borough.

We know Islington residents are the experts when it comes to needs in the borough, and we're committed to continue to build on our residents' panels.

Our exciting new funds (like our microgrants fund, Make It Happen, developed in partnership with a number of housing associations, and Going Greener Fund), our continuing partnership with Islington Council and our work with businesses through BIG Alliance, are just some of the ways we've contributed to a more inclusive and mentally and physically healthy borough in 2021.

But there is much more still to do and as the new Chair of Islington Giving Board I am excited to continue this work during 2022.

Work Skills Visit for Samuel Rhodes students at National Youth Theatre, photo by Amelia Oakley.

FROM 2021 GRANTEE NATIONAL YOUTH THEATRE

At the National Youth Theatre we work for a culture that is inclusive, creative and collaborative.

Inclusive Practice is essential to our work, and we want to make sure that our opportunities are welcoming and accessible for disabled and neurodiverse young people. As part of this commitment we run a programme of targeted work around the UK in partnership with schools, including the non-mainstream schools Samuel Rhodes and Richard Cloudesley in our home borough of Islington. This project received a grant through Islington Giving's 2021 Young Grant Makers programme.

Our partnerships involve in-school workshops, after-school clubs and work-placements in our building, which has recently been redeveloped to become fully accessible. It has also been a pleasure to welcome school trips to relaxed performances at our brand new, fully-accessible Workshop Theatre.

We run regular training for our staff and associate artists in collaboration with Inclusive Practice experts such as Touretteshero, who we collaborated

with during the pandemic to run Digital Heroes of the Imagination in Samuel Rhodes, among others. Many schools couldn't accept visitors during the height of the pandemic, so we delivered the workshops virtually. Each student participant was delivered a superhero pack, and joined a video call with a NYT buddy who they worked with to design and bring to life their very own superhero. At a time when theatres were closed and group activities were few, the project brought a collective sense of creativity, community and joy.

Chelsea Taylor-Day, Head of KS3 and Creative Arts at Samuel Rhodes School said:

"The difference National Youth Theatre activity has made to the children is immeasurable. The workshops are so inspiring to our young people as they explore many different themes linked to life skills and personal, social development."



FROM A COALITION PARTNER STEPHEN BURNS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / CARE AND COMMUNITIES, PEABODY

Peabody owns over 5,750 homes in Islington, and our partnership with Islington Giving has supported our aim to support people living in those homes to have healthier, wealthier, and happier lives.

As well as sharing similar values, we share an approach of local people having the opportunity to lead and drive forward the ideas they have for their communities, with support from us as required.

The last year and a half has been tough. The cost of living is rising and we know that our communities feel the strain. Young people have had a particularly difficult time both in education and the job market, so support to develop skills and access opportunities is a key priority. We also know that the pandemic has not been good for people's mental wellbeing. In the coming year there will be a need for greater social connection, people getting together with their neighbours and taking an active role locally.

The Make It Happen Fund, launched towards the end of 2021, is a new collaboration between Islington Giving, housing associations and voluntary sector organisations. It offers small grants for Islington individuals and groups to bring a community project to life. The idea was inspired by a number of things; Peabody has a Community Leaders grant available to Peabody

residents to spend on activities that matter to them, and other housing associations told us they had similar funds in the past. By working together with Islington Giving, we knew we could make funds go further while also reducing restrictions by landlords, which would make it easier for people to apply. We were inspired by the way Islington Council's 'We Are Cally' fund linked residents into extra support through local voluntary sector charities and wanted to replicate this on a wider scale.

Working with Islington Giving has made a real difference in what we've been able to achieve through the Make It Happen Fund. Their professional approach, deep-rooted local knowledge and connections with residents and trusted name has increased the number of people we can reach and added value to the fund. Islington Giving's commitment to ensuring people living in Islington have a real voice aligns with Peabody's values and is clear in everything they do. It has been a pleasure to partner with them and we look forward to continuing this relationship.

Why Islington

Islington is one of the most unequal places in the country:



43% of children live in low-income households (compared to London average of 37%)



Only 13% of the Islington's land is green space, the second lowest proportion of any local authority in the country.



19% of pupils in Islington have special educational needs



14% of Islington adult residents live with disability.



Islington has some of the highest levels of mental ill health in the UK, and the highest levels of depression in London.



Islington is the most densely populated local authority area in England and Wales, with 16,321 people/km² which is three times the London average.



34% of over 60-year-olds live in income-deprived households compared to a London average of 22%.

Sources: Trust for London Poverty Profile 2020 and State of Equalities in Islington Annual Report 2021



“Life changing, life saving to be honest - I don't just see a future for myself now, I'm excited for that future.”

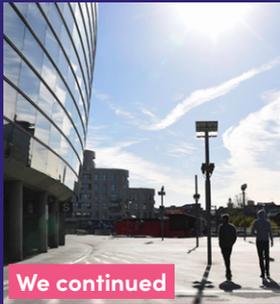
(Young person engaging with Body & Soul)

FORAGE

Highlights of 2021

We have raised £969,383 and given out a total of £649,800 in 2021 to 45 community groups in Islington, with £319,583 committed to projects in 2022.

Our residents' panels, Young Grant Makers and Family Panel, worked together to make funding decisions of over £198,000, funding 17 projects for young people and families, and engaging 18 local residents in decision-making.



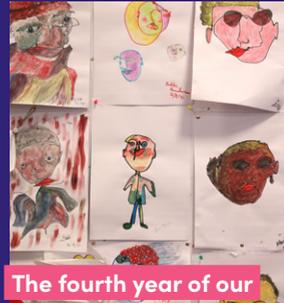
We continued addressing some of the growing mental health needs

of young people in Islington through groups such as Body & Soul, and our partnership with The Arsenal Foundation and Brandon Centre.



Our newest coalition partner Peabody

share their local housing expertise in supporting people to have healthier, wealthier, and happier lives.



The fourth year of our Supporting Families programme

continued funding activities and support for disadvantaged families through Parent House, Kinship, Islington MIND and Home Start Islington & Camden.



Supported by Macquarie, we launched a Young Jobs programme,

working with organisations to offer local work experience for young people.



Our Covid Crisis Fund,

launched in March 2020, raised over £409K, and in 2021 we witnessed the impact through groups we funded. We published a report to demonstrate the ongoing impact of the activities and support these groups have offered during the past two years.



Continuing our funding of Help on Your Doorstep's Good Neighbours Schemes,

reaching out to isolated resident across Islington. The scheme offers regular face-to-face and group activities and personal support by phone and online to over 1,500 local residents.

We launched two new funds:

Make it Happen fund, in partnership with housing associations Peabody Community Foundation, Hyde Housing, Newlon Housing Trust and Southern Housing Group, offering small grants for community projects.

Going Greener Fund – grants for community organisations to consider their impact on the environment. Successful applicants to both funds will be announced in 2022.



Our first Children and Young People's Appeal,

launched in March in partnership with London Borough of Islington, raised over £50,000 towards activities such as bike maintenance sessions, performance training and mentoring.



Over 800 volunteers from Islington businesses engaged with BIG Alliance,

giving more than 5,000 hours of their time in support of Islington community projects, from consultancy and capacity-building and mentoring to physical labour in green spaces and playgrounds.



We supported ten organisations through our new disability fund,

helping them to become more inclusive so people living with disabilities can access a range of arts, culture, sport and other local opportunities. We look forward to running this fund again in 2022.



We shared the impact of our Residents' Panels with supporters and local residents at our Local Voices event

at the National Youth Theatre, and published an impact report to highlight our experiences with resident-led work.



**COMMUNITY
IS
STRENGTH.**

BE STRONG. LET'S LOOK OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER.

BUILDHOLLYWOOD

“I, like many, of my generation have been very well cared for during this last year. We owe a big debt to too many neglected young people”

(Donor to the Young People’s Appeal)

Family and Young Catalyst – small grants, big impact

Our Catalyst Programmes for families and young people award up to £500 to people on low incomes to pay for opportunities that make a difference to their daily lives.

Individuals can access these grants through a number of community organisations. The grants have been used to purchase a laptop to help with studies, music lessons, vocational courses, school uniforms or other clothing, or to fund a day trip out of the city.

Islington Giving gives annual grants to a small number of trusted delivery partners who make awards to residents using their services.

Catalyst programme is unique in terms of what it can fund, but also the speed with which awards can be made, and ‘seizing the moment’ where appropriate.

“We really appreciate the flexibility of Islington Giving to allow us to use the funds from the Family Catalyst Fund on emergency grants during this difficult time.”

(School Home Support – one of the organisations providing Catalyst grants to residents)

The groups with a catalyst grant budget to give out in 2021 were: School Home Support, Islington Family Intensive Team (LBI team), The Maya Centre, Islington Bangladesh Association, No Recourse for Public Funds (NRPF), City and Islington College, Creative Opportunities, Body & Soul, MEWSO, St Mary’s Youth Club and Centre 404.

B lives with her six-year-old daughter in a refuge following recent domestic abuse. Her daughter is traumatised by the separation and has become very hyperactive and restless. However, due to lockdown her mother was scared to take her out. As summer approached, she felt it important to find a way they could connect with each other and build confidence together. B remembered her own childhood and love of cycling and was delighted to find out that she could buy a bicycle for herself and her daughter to go out on local trips together. She decided to buy an adult bike with a trailer bike and reported they were both over the moon with this choice. The funding represented a new start for this family as they seek a ‘new normal’ together.



LOCAL IMPACT



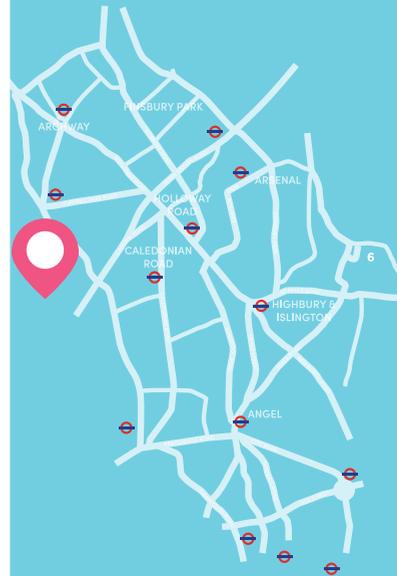
Brandon Centre offers a comfortable and welcoming setting for young people to access sexual and mental health services.

Over the past six years, Islington Giving and the Arsenal Foundation have worked together to provide funding to a number of projects amounting to £600,000 in total.

Recognising the need for long-term mental health support for vulnerable young people, the **Brandon Connect** project has over the past three years expanded from offering intensive, tailored outreach to housebound young people to providing support to young people who access activities at the Arsenal Hub.

Since 2020, the Brandon Centre has been funded to deliver **Arsenal Girls Wellbeing Project**; group sessions for girls, helping them to explore and discuss issues relevant to them in a safe setting. Topics have covered challenges associated with family life, relationships, body image, anxiety and depression, women's health and wellbeing. Over 200 girls have participated in these sessions.

Islington Giving and Arsenal Foundation continue to combine their resources of knowledge, experience and funding for the benefit of Islington young people.



LOCAL IMPACT



Connecting people with animals and environment at the heart of Islington since the 1970s, **Freightliners City Farm** is a small community farm with 2.5 acres of green space.

A diverse group of people take part in farming and gardening and people can visit for free and spend time in a countryside type environment in the city. Freightliners Farm welcomes over 40,000 visitors each year. Providing free daily entry to the general public, the Farm is funded by donations, grants and income from farm services. The farm team aim to provide opportunities for those most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community and there is a particular focus on working with people with learning disabilities, people with mental health needs, older people and children and young people.

Freightliners Farm were awarded a grant by Islington Giving Family Panel in 2021 for much needed support to provide local families access to the farm throughout an extremely difficult year. Farm staff were able to maintain the farm as a space for the local community and reach local families at home through daily live learning sessions, provision of activity packs and farm-themed learning resources. Despite a number of lockdown restrictions, the farm hosted around 9,000 individual visits from 2,000 different families between April and October 2021.

LOCAL IMPACT

Help on Your Doorstep (HoYD) aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people in Islington, especially those who are vulnerable and isolated. Working with residents they seek to find solutions to the issues which make life difficult, strengthen communities to do more for themselves and enable people to improve their life chances.

HoYD's Good Neighbours Schemes, funded by Islington Giving, offers residents in three different areas of Islington opportunities to attend activities and events, such as exercise, coffee mornings or creative workshops. Committed staff and volunteers encourage and support the most isolated residents to feel connected and socialise in ways that they feel comfortable with. Residents themselves are invited to lead and develop activities, learn and teach others if they would like to get involved.

"We might not be best friends with everyone but we look out for each other. If someone is not well we'll make sure to keep connected"



LOCAL IMPACT

Maa Shanti supports South Asian mothers who are fleeing domestic abuse by providing advocacy, emotional support, signposting and activities that reduce isolation and promote peer support.

The team supports women in some of the most challenging circumstances: they are dealing with a hostile immigration environment, lack of understanding from many agencies and the long-term impact that trauma has on families, especially children. Women are frightened and likely to stay hidden for fear of deportation or further abuse. Many women have experienced human trafficking and modern slavery; forced into hiding by multiple perpetrators due to honour-related physical and psychological violence.

During 2020/21 Maa Shanti team recorded 890 attendances at their activities compared to 620 the year before, which is an increase of 45%

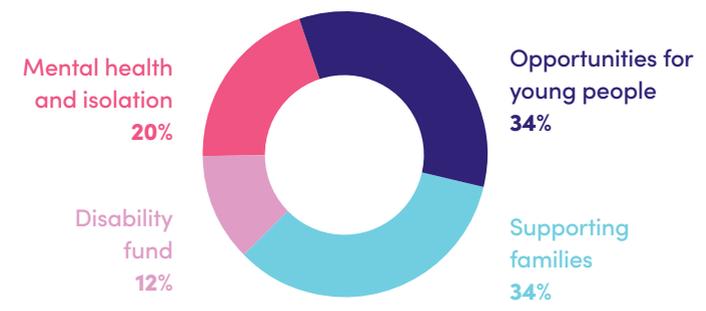
In 2021 they supported 75 women in Islington. Between just six months in April and September Maa Shanti provided 88 activities, with 16 different kinds of workshops and activities for women and their children, including an Easter and Eid Party arts and crafts sessions, coffee mornings, cooking clubs, Beauty Hacks workshops, mindfulness sessions, yoga sessions, support groups, and a trip to Hyde Park to visit the Diana Memorial Fountain. Maa Shanti's work has been funded through Islington Giving's Family Panel.

"You gave me a reason to get out of bed in the morning. It means so much to me."

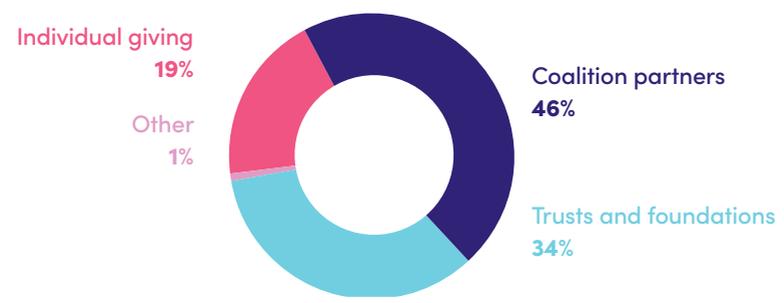
Islington Giving grantees 2021



A total of 45 projects funded:



Total funds raised in 2021 £969,383:

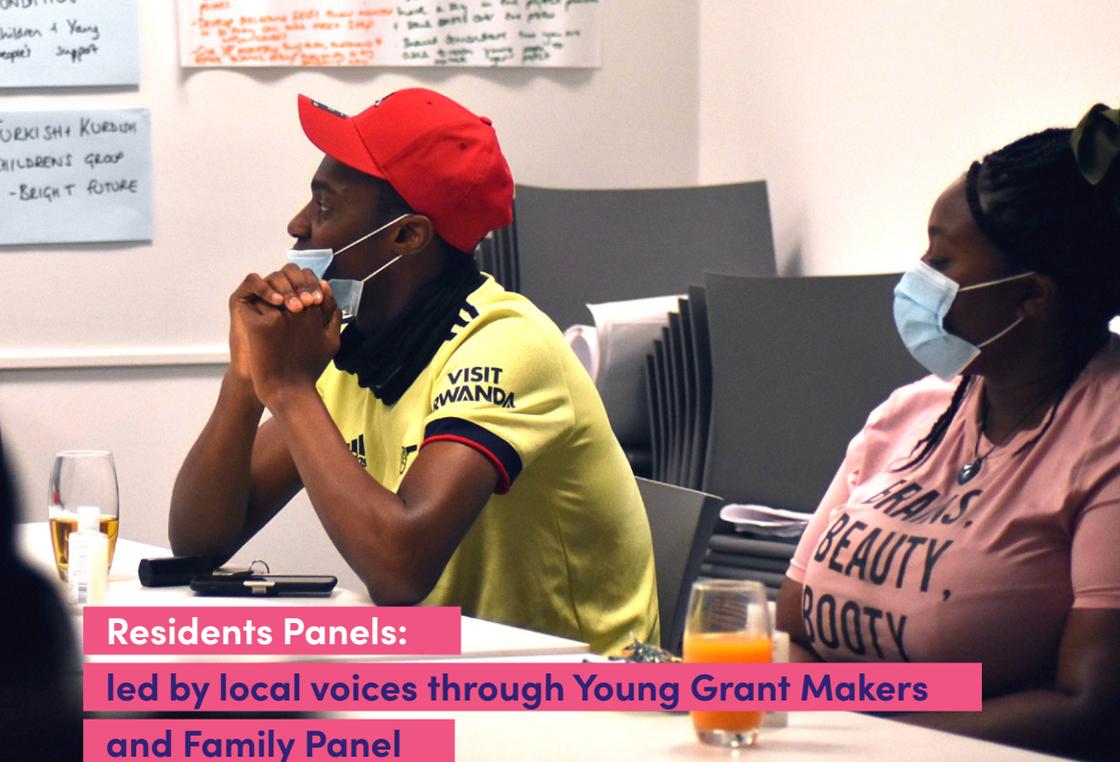


££££££££££
 Total funding given out in 2021
 £649,800

£££££
 Committed to projects in 2022:
 £319,583

400 families
 engaging with longer-term activities
 through our Supporting families grants
 every year

1,500 residents
 engaged by just one of our trusted
 grantees, Help on Your Doorstep



**Residents Panels:
led by local voices through Young Grant Makers
and Family Panel**

At Islington Giving, we have a long history of valuing local experiences and collaboration, listening to and learning from people who know the many sides of our borough. Islington Giving first piloted a residents panel, our Young Grant Makers programme, in 2018 and we have been building on this ever since.

To make Islington a more equal place to live, we believe that residents who take part in, and benefit from, the groups and projects we fund should also participate in the decision-making about how our grants are awarded.

We partner with people who live in Islington, have local knowledge, ideas and a deep understanding of their challenges and needs. We seek to recruit residents that reflect Islington's diverse community, and who have personal experience of the issues being addressed. We also seek to engage people who would not normally put themselves forward for one reason or another.

In 2021 we ran two residents' panels: Young Grant Makers and Family Panel, engaging 18 local residents in decision-making and giving out grants totalling £198,000 to 17 groups.

“One word to describe it... I had supercalifragilistic expialidocious... but I’m changing it to joy, because that’s what I get from being a young grant maker.”

What is a residents’ panel?

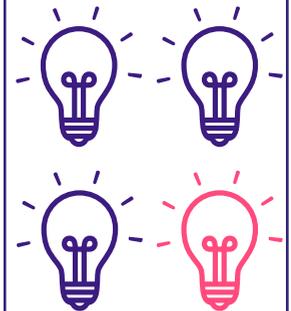
A residents’ panel is a group of local people who come together to make funding decisions for grants for community groups. They work with the Islington Giving Programme Team throughout the process of developing a funding call and reviewing applications. Through residents’ panels Islington Giving aims to:

- Diversify decision-making by learning from, and listening to, people who live in the borough.
- Challenge our own perceptions and ways of doing things.
- Share power and be more accountable and transparent to the local communities in which we work.
- Open a platform for local residents to create opportunities for themselves and for their borough.

In 2022 we are planning to pilot new residents’ panels, such as a panel for older residents, alongside our well-established programmes.

Our panels are funded by our generous individual and business donors, as well as BBC Children in Need (Young Grant Makers), and the National Lottery Community Fund (Family Panel and Young Grant Makers).

Through our two panels we were able to fund one in every four projects that applied for funding*



*a total of £810,000 applied for projects, £198,000 grant budget awarded

“It has fed me immensely. Feel expanded, better skilled. It’s ignited my desire to learn more. It’s been a privilege.”



All funded groups (2021)

● London Village Network	● Memory Café
● Fully Focused	● Eat Club
● Brandon Centre	● Breakin Convention
● Body & Soul	● Global Generation
● Eritrean Youth Club	● Iseldon Arts CIC
● Jannaty	● Mary's Youth Club
● Fully Focussed	● National Youth Theatre
● Creative opportunities	● YES Outdoors
● MahaDevi	● Camden Islington Home Start
● Single Homeless Project	● Kinship Families
● Help on Your Doorstep	● Islington MIND
● All Change	● Chance UK
● North London Cares	● SEN Family Saturdays
● Cubitt Centre	● Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation (MEWSO)
● Freightliners Farm	● No Recourse to Public Funds
● Bags of Taste	● Islington & City College
● Arc Community Space	● Centre 404
● Parent House	● The Maya Centre
● Hornsey Lane Estate Community Association	● Islington Bangladesh Association
● The Elfrida Society	● School-Home Support
● Maa Shanti	● LBI's Families First Team
● Minority Matters	● Claremont
● Memory Gardens	

● Young people ● Disability ● Mental health & Isolation ● Families

"I was so lonely for many years, staying at home alone every evening. Being encouraged to take part in Good Neighbours Scheme local groups has literally been a lifeline – I'm a different person now and have so many good friends."

(A resident engaging in Help On Your Doorstep's Good Neighbours Scheme activities)



COVID CRISIS AND RECOVERY

“(The support)...came at the start of the financial year, when other sources of funds had not come through and were in doubt...being able to continue to work with people has definitely and literally saved lives.”

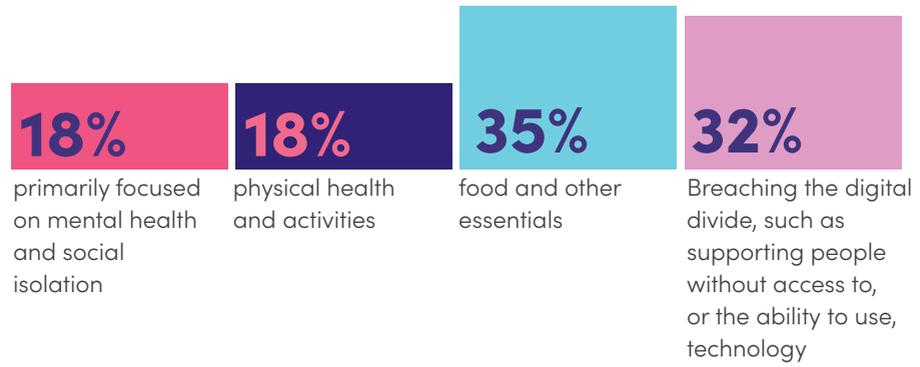
As Covid-19 began to spread at the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020 and the country was plunged into its first lockdown, it became apparent that as local funders, well integrated into the voluntary and community sector in Islington, Islington Giving needed to respond quickly to help groups adapt to meet the needs of the people they support. We launched our Crisis Fund on the 20th March 2020.

Thanks to the generosity of the people of Islington, local businesses and funders, **Islington Giving raised and released over £409,000 to 37 groups** in the first eight months of the pandemic to support people who endured particular hardship during the first lockdown.

The key areas of our crisis & recovery support broadly covered three areas: digital exclusion; befriending and combatting isolation; and food distribution.

Nearly two years on, thanks to our support during 2020/21 many community groups are still active, engaging and supporting residents in different ways and have been able to open up their activities and services to local people in 2021 as restrictions eased. Islington Giving continue to support groups who reach out to residents whose lives have been impacted by Covid-19.

The groups that received grants between April and September 2020 were extremely varied. In terms of specific services and support provision, many organisations provided for different needs, from befriending to practical support such as food or medication.



Breakin' Convention "Out the Box" group

We are grateful for our dedicated partners for their ongoing support and guidance:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Coalition partners: | Other key supporters: |
| Cripplegate Foundation (which covers all of Islington Giving's admin costs) | Argent |
| Cloudesley | The Arsenal Foundation |
| Peabody | BBC Children in Need |
| City Bridge Trust | Central District Alliance |
| Macquarie Bank Foundation | Clarion Housing Association |
| Paul Hamlyn Foundation | Euromonitor |
| Morris Charitable Trust (Business Design Centre) | Goldsmith's Charity |
| | Islington Council |
| | National Lottery Community Fund |

Thank you also to all our individual supporters in Islington and beyond. We couldn't do this without you.

“..your work facilitates the small day to day kindnesses and community building activities which rarely make national headlines but which give local people hope and human connection.”

(Islington Giving donor)

islington
giving

For further information please visit:
www.islingtongiving.org.uk

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