

# Mind the Gap Fund

## Application guidelines

**Funding projects that provide mental health support for people facing homelessness in Islington**

*At Islington Giving, one of our three main aims is to ‘**Improve Mental Health for everyone and connect people who are isolated**’. Through our consultation with local voluntary and statutory groups and people we know that some local people who are at risk of homelessness and experiencing co-existing disadvantages could benefit from mental health support but find there are a lack of services that are accessible to them. We have called this fund **Mind the Gap**, referring to the gap between support systems that people facing multiple challenges often find themselves in, adversely impacting their potential for recovery.*

*We know that there are many amazing opportunities and projects in Islington, but some are not accessible to this group, many of whom require organisations to take an assertive approach to engagement and to have a comprehensive understanding of multiple disadvantage. As a result, we are providing funding for Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations who have experience of working effectively with this group.*

### Summary

We have a total of £150,000 to fund projects in Islington. The maximum grant is likely to be £30,000 (more can be requested by two or more groups working in collaboration). This can include multi-year funding.

We are looking for projects working with adults who are homeless/at risk of homelessness and:

- Experiencing mental ill-health and/or
- At risk of exploitation or abuse and/or
- In contact with the Criminal Justice System and/or
- Using substances

We would like to invite applications from projects that provide one or more of the following:

- Psychological / mental health interventions, to include 1 to 1 support.
- Advocacy, advice or support for beneficiaries to navigate and access the mental health services they need.
- Coproduction opportunities advocating for wider system-change to improve mental health support for people who experience homelessness in Islington.

We will consider proposals for new/pilot projects, or those which continue or add to a project that is already established.

**Deadline for applications is Midnight on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023**

### **Further details:**

#### **What we are looking for – Project Criteria:**

- Projects that are free.
- Projects providing mental health interventions or advocacy (see above).
- Projects based in Islington, working with people who have a connection to Islington.
- Projects that are inclusive and proactively seek to include individuals who may have experienced exclusion elsewhere.
- Projects that promote themselves effectively or work within established services for individuals who are homeless such as hostels or day centres.
- Projects that ensure that beneficiaries have a voice in service delivery.
- Flexibility in delivery and a trauma-informed approach, to support engagement.

#### **Who we are looking for – Provider Criteria:**

- Voluntary & Community Sector Groups (VCS)
- Groups who have experience of working inclusively with people who experience multiple disadvantage.
- Groups who have experience of working in Islington and have existing connections with Islington systems and services.
- A willingness to gather data to understand the need for and impact of services for people who are homeless in Islington.

#### **Note for Applications:**

*Multiple groups applying in collaboration can request more than £30,000 if this would create a more useful intervention for individuals, and the system more widely.*

*This is not a large fund. Please read the criteria and think carefully about whether to apply. You can always have a chat to us first: [laura.guy@cripplegate.org.uk](mailto:laura.guy@cripplegate.org.uk)*

*If you are requesting project funding over multiple years, please consider including an inflationary uplift in your budget/proposal.*

*Final grant decisions will be made in mid-June 2023.*

*This fund has been made possible by a donation to Islington Giving from Google.*