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A call for project proposals by Islington Giving's Young Grant-Makers

Application Guidelines

We are a group of Young People who live in Islington who have come together this year to make decisions about how Islington Giving's funding for young people is spent.
We want to fund projects that:

- **Support young people aged 13-20* at key points of transition.**
- **Provide engaging educational opportunities to help young people find a path in life.**
- **Target young people who may face challenges accessing activities, education or work, for example because of issues around crime, language barriers, mental health, neurodiversity or disability.**

Projects can be open to everyone, but priority may be given to projects tailored to a particular group of young people at greater risk of exclusion, for example those facing homelessness, language barriers or disabled young people. If open to everyone, projects must specifically demonstrate how they are accessible for people who may otherwise be at risk of exclusion.

Background

There are so many issues facing us as young people – we've spoken about crime, including gang violence, drugs, alcohol and knife crime, and how damaging these are to families and young people. We discussed how, as a result, many young people don't feel safe in their own borough and live in fear, unsure of what the future holds. We spoke about the importance of preventing antisocial behaviour and encouraging productivity, as well as supporting mental health and wellbeing.

Transitional stages, such as moving from primary to secondary school and from secondary school to post-16 and post-18 life, are key points in life where guidance is often lacking and we feel it's important to prevent problems at a young age before they start or develop. We considered the importance of accessibility and inclusivity. We all agree that combatting exclusion and loneliness through social activities and creating stronger community connections for young people from different backgrounds is extremely important. To us, it's important to tackle issues directly rather than just raising awareness, and to ensure projects for young people are genuinely appealing, beneficial and impactful.

We recognise that Islington is diverse in its culture and interconnected with other boroughs, but it needs to provide a safe space for the young. We feel that it is imperative young people receive support and be provided opportunities that would enrich them, help them prosper and that would be beneficial towards their development.

What we want to fund:

We believe it is important that young people are given access to safe spaces within our borough and the proper services to guide them to a brighter future and unlock their full potential.

We recognise that there are many amazing opportunities and projects in Islington, but these may not be accessible to everyone who needs them. We would like more to be done to ensure young people are aware of the opportunities available to them, and that projects are inclusive.

Priorities

As a result of our discussions and consideration of research, we would like to invite applications from projects that:

- **Support young people aged 13-20* at key points of transition.**

It's easy for young people to get lost at transition points, for example moving between school or college, leaving education, entering work, living independently, transitioning into adulthood, navigating physical or mental changes.
**age can be up to 25 for neurodiverse young people*.

- **Provide engaging educational opportunities to help young people find a path in life through developing knowledge and/or practical skills.**

At points of transition, it can be hard to make decisions or to know what options are available. We want to fund things that help young people learn something new or develop skills to manage transitions and find their path in life. At the same time, we want to fund activities that young people are excited about and look forward to attending.

- **Proactively reach young people who may otherwise be excluded from services, for example because of issues around crime, mental health, neurodiversity, language barriers or disability.**

We understand that there are young people for whom activities may not be accessible. Therefore, we want to support projects that target young people affected by issues which may prevent them accessing support. We want all young people to have access to opportunities and spaces in which they feel safe.

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The deadline for applications is Monday 8th December at 11am

Criteria

What we are looking for projects that (essential criteria):

- Support young people aged 13-20 (up to 25 for neurodiverse young people)
- Are delivered in Islington with the majority of beneficiaries Islington residents
- Provide safe spaces for young people
- Are free or very low cost
- Are inclusive and accessible to young people regardless of background, ethnicity, neurodiversity, disability, level of English, etc.
- Are delivered in a location which is easy to reach and is accessible
- Have a proactive approach to safeguarding, and safeguarding policies and procedures in place
- Are well publicised

What we would like to fund projects that (desired criteria):

- Provide food to participants attending sessions
- Increase access including by covering expenses such as care/travel costs for people who would not otherwise be able to attend and offer outreach (you are encouraged to include costs for this in your budget)
- Are from organisations already operating in Islington that can offer longer-term sustained benefits beyond the funded project
- Projects that have a legacy, as such we are likely to prioritise projects requesting multi-year funding, and with a plan for how they will continue beyond the grant period
- Projects that boost practical skills for young people
- Projects that are engaging or informative

Guidance:

The total amount of funding we have available is £195,000. Our maximum grant is likely to be up to £20,000 for one year, or £35,000 for multi-year funding.

Please be aware that demand for funds is high, therefore we ask that you carefully consider whether your proposal strongly meets the criteria before applying. For example, in our last Young Grant Makers fund we had 34 applications and were able to fund 7. If you are unsure, please don't hesitate to contact our Programme Manager, Laura, for clarification at laura.guy@cripplegate.org.uk.

The answers on your application form will be assessed by young people aged 16-24. Please therefore avoid use of jargon and acronyms to make the language understandable to all.

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Who can apply?

Islington Giving prioritises support for organisations already based in Islington. If you are based out of the borough you will need to demonstrate excellent local knowledge and links. Proposals do not have to be for new or innovative projects. Equal consideration will be given to tried and tested activities or approaches but any request for funding should meet the priorities identified above and add value to existing services.

To be eligible to apply your organisation must:

- Be a constituted charity, Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Community Interest Company (CIC) or Social Enterprise/not for profit company limited by guarantee. Please note, if you are a CIC, read our new CIC guidance here before deciding whether to apply.
- Have a management committee/Board of Directors made up of a minimum of three people. All management committee members/Board of Directors must be unrelated.
- Have a bank account
- Have a set of signed accounts from the previous financial year (if your organisation has been in operation for a full 12 months).

Please note that the programme will NOT fund:

- Statutory services
- Politically affiliated campaigns
- Advancement of religion and religious groups, unless you are applying to specifically deliver non-religious activities, encompassing support to the wider community
- Commercial or for-profit activities or organisations – i.e. your organisation must reinvest 100% of surplus income into the organisation and it must not have a 'profit distribution' clause in its governing documents, which allows it to pay Executive Directors as shareholders.
- Work that has already taken place i.e. you can only apply for work to take place in the future – after funding has been awarded

How to apply

Complete the online application form. To access the form please click here. If you would like to submit your application in an alternative format or need assistance, please contact Laura Guy, Programme Manager on laura.guy@cripplegate.org.uk.

Your application will be read by young people from a range of backgrounds who may not be familiar with your group or service. Please avoid using jargon, acronyms or sector-specific language.

Timeline

- Application forms submitted by **8th December at 11am**
- Shortlisted applicants invited for an interview in **February 2026.**
- Applicants informed of grant decisions by **6th March 2026.**

If Your Application is Successful

The Community Panel members will make all the final decisions about which projects to fund. If your application is successful, you will be sent Islington Giving's Terms and Conditions, which you will be required to read and sign.

Funded organisations will be required to keep financial records of how the grant is spent and to provide annual feedback on progress and learning including a final report following the completion of the project. Successful organisations will also be asked to provide publicly accessible examples of their work (e.g. case studies, photographs, blog posts) and be willing to act as ambassadors and supporters of the *Islington Giving* campaign, with imaginative ideas for how this can be achieved.

About 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.

Please see the *Islington Giving* website www.islingtongiving.org.uk for further details of our work.

Please contact Laura Guy – laura.guy@cripplegate.org.uk –Tel: 020 7288 6948 if you have any specific questions.

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