

# Equalities Impact Assessment: Full Assessment

Before completing this form you should have completed an Equalities Screening Tool and had sign off from your Head of Service and the Fairness and Equality Team.

This Equality Impact Assessment should be completed where the Screening Tool identifies a potentially negative impact on one or more specific groups but it can also be used to highlight positive impacts.

## Summary of proposal

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Name of proposal                 | Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Grants Programme 2024-2028 |
| Reference number (if applicable) | N/A   |
| Service Area                     | Community Wellbeing & Engagement                                      |
| Date assessment completed        | 20.11.23  |

Before completing the EQIA please read the guidance and FAQs. For further help and advice please contact [equalities@islington.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@islington.gov.uk).

# 1. Please provide a summary of the proposal.

Please provide:

- Context on how the service currently operates (if relevant) and the scope of suggested changes
- The intended beneficiaries and outcomes of the proposal
- Reference to any savings or income generation

The council's four-year VCS Partnership Grants programme is due to end on 31st March 2024. The current grant budget totals £2,690,000 per annum. Since the launch of the council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-24, the council has developed a new Corporate Plan, agreed a series of Corporate Objectives and Corporate Values, and has undertaken significant work to enable us to become the best council at early intervention and prevention in the country.

The council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme is a key component of the council's efforts to support the development of resilient communities.

Our recently published Islington Together 2030 plan sets out a bold vision for working together with our communities to create a more equal future for our borough by 2030 and the [five key missions we have set ourselves](#) to achieve this.

In summary, we want Islington to be a place where people know their children will get the absolute best start in life, where people can access help and support when they need it and where wealth is created and enjoyed locally. A place where people can live sustainable, happy and healthy lives.

The council's corporate plan provides the over-arching framework for our work and the partnerships that the council forms with the voluntary and community sector, through our Fairer Together objectives.

The council has set out ambitions to adopt an early intervention and prevention approach to improve community resilience. Through this work a 'prevention' pyramid was established, segmenting services into four levels; 'specialist', 'targeted', 'universal' and 'place-shaping'. Achieving our aspiration of being the best council in the country at delivering preventative work will require a reorientation towards community resilience and a rebalance of our current spend towards early intervention and prevention work at 'universal' and 'place shaping levels'. This means investing through grant funding and commissioning in universal services, to prevent residents in Islington reaching crisis point. Islington's VCS are key partners in delivering an interconnected system of preventative services in community settings across the borough.

Please provide:

- Context on how the service currently operates (if relevant) and the scope of suggested changes
- The intended beneficiaries and outcomes of the proposal
- Reference to any savings or income generation

The Islington Compact is a written agreement outlining a shared commitment to working together effectively to meet the changing needs of Islington's communities. The Compact which is currently being redeveloped and will come into effective in 2024 is the framework in which the Council and the VCS sector form alliances to enhance the relationship and equity in which we work. This provides a tool where the VCS are seen as partners in delivering our ambitions of a 'fairer Islington'.

### **VCS PARTNERSHIPS GRANT FUNDING 2021–24**

£2.7 million of the council's current annual £44 million spend with the borough's VCS is allocated through the council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-24, a programme that provides core funding to our strategic VCS partners. Islington's VCS Partnership Grants Programme serves as an enabler, ensuring that the borough has a strong, independent VCS that is able to respond to the needs of our local communities and to attract resource into the borough. The council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme is a key component of the council's efforts to support the development of resilient communities and the council has committed to protect levels of council grant-giving to the local voluntary and community sector in the Labour Manifesto.

The table below details of the various strands and the indicative levels of funding which were made available up to a total fund of £2,690,000:

| <b>2024-2028 Strand</b>           | <b>Indicative Total Funding</b> | <b>Indicative Funding Awards</b> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Independent Advice and Navigation | Up to £1.45 million             | Up to £500K                      |
| Community Hubs                    | Up to £600K                     | Up to £60K                       |
| VCS Capacity Building             | Up to £80K                      | Up to £60K                       |
| Volunteering                      | Up to £35K                      | Up to £35K                       |
| Delivery Partners                 | Up to £400K                     | Up to £25K                       |
| Equalities and Cohesion Networks  | Up to £150K                     | Up to £30K                       |

This paper sets out details of the programme and recommendations for the organisations which have been selected for awards under the 2024-28 programme.

Please provide:

- Context on how the service currently operates (if relevant) and the scope of suggested changes
- The intended beneficiaries and outcomes of the proposal
- Reference to any savings or income generation

The Council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme is a corporate undertaking, requiring collaboration across the organisation to ensure that the programme responds to corporate priorities and the aims and objectives of different departments.

The exact structure of the council's VCS Grants Programme was co-designed and co-delivered, with involvement of a range of Executive Members, directorates, and external partners. The programme is structured around the following strands:

- Independent Advice and Navigation
- Community Hubs
- VCS Capacity Building
- Delivery Partners
- Equalities and Cohesion Networks
- Volunteering

In July 2023, the VCS Committee approved the recommendations for the launch of the VCS Partnerships Grants programme 2024-28 to take place in August 2023 and agreed the various recommended implications which included the application process which was previously just at one stage, be moved to a two stage process to ensure the eligibility of applicants and make the process more streamlined and efficient. This process was more equitable for smaller grassroots organisations applying, where if they did not meet the minimum and eligibility criteria, they did not have to fill out a long application form, which can be resource intense.

On 29 August 2023, the VCS Partnerships Grant programme 2024-28 was launched with nine 'Meet the Funder' events taking place during the months of June – September 2023. The success of the events was illustrated with 94 applications being received in Stage 1 Expression of Interest Stage, which resulted with 81 organisations being selected for the Stage 2 Full Application stage. A total of 88 applications were received by 80 organisations at Stage 2 and officers then assessed the applications and selected the awards based on the following scoring and weighting criteria, as detailed in the application forms:

- Needs, Issues and Beneficiaries - 20%
- Outcomes, Services, Activities and Risks - 20%
- The Difference We Want You to Make - 30%
- Organisational Development - 20%
- Evaluating and Communicating Impact - 10%

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Once the applications were scored the Leadership Team then applied the following factors to ensure a systematic approach was implemented to the recommended groups:

- Geographical spread across the borough
- Thematic spread
- Equalities and protected characteristics
- The benefit and impact of core funding to organisations

The Council has a strong partnership with the voluntary, community and not-for-profit sector and values highly the role that local independent organisations play in meeting the needs of some of Islington's most disadvantaged communities.

The VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-24 builds on the overarching aim of the Council's work with the VCS to support the Council priority of making Islington a fairer place and the ambitions we have for our community through the Fairer Together programme.

Please provide:

- Context on how the service currently operates (if relevant) and the scope of suggested changes
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- Reference to any savings or income generation

## 2. What impact will this change have on different groups of people?

Please consider:

- Whether the impact will predominantly be external or internal, or both?
- Who will be impacted – residents, service users, local communities, staff, or others?
- Broadly what will the impact be – reduced access to facilities or disruptions to journeys for example?

The VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2024-28 will provide grant funding for 53 applications for 51 organisations amounting to £2,711,500. This will be supplemented from the current grant programme 2021-24 underspend. Organisations recommended for funding present a fair spread across the borough and are targeted in reaching equalities groups in Islington. There is a diverse range of delivery models and areas of focus, including organisations which work across the protected characteristics.

Examination of the profile of beneficiaries that applicants have identified in their respective submissions indicate that the organisations being recommended for funding will represent the diverse communities in Islington, particularly focussing on those that are disadvantaged

as a result of their ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation and religion/belief. Borough profile from the 2021 census.

|                           |                              | <b>Borough profile</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
|                           |                              | <b>Total: 216,589</b>  |
| <b>Gender</b>             | <b>Female</b>                | <b>113,304</b>         |
|                           | <b>Male</b>                  | <b>103,288</b>         |
| <b>Age</b>                | <b>Under 16</b>              | <b>14%</b>             |
|                           | <b>16-24</b>                 | <b>14%</b>             |
|                           | <b>25-44</b>                 | <b>41%</b>             |
|                           | <b>45-64</b>                 | <b>22%</b>             |
|                           | <b>65+</b>                   | <b>9%</b>              |
| <b>Disability</b>         | <b>Disabled</b>              | <b>16%</b>             |
|                           | <b>Non-disabled</b>          | <b>84%</b>             |
| <b>Sexual orientation</b> | <b>LGBT</b>                  | <b>No data</b>         |
|                           | <b>Heterosexual/straight</b> | <b>No data</b>         |
| <b>Race</b>               | <b>BME</b>                   | <b>41%</b>             |
|                           | <b>White</b>                 | <b>59%</b>             |
| <b>Religion or belief</b> | <b>Christian</b>             | <b>35%</b>             |
|                           | <b>Muslim</b>                | <b>12%</b>             |
|                           | <b>Other</b>                 | <b>4%</b>              |
|                           | <b>No religion</b>           | <b>51%</b>             |

### 3. What impact will this change have on people with protected characteristics and/or from disadvantaged groups?

This section of the assessment looks in detail at the likely impacts of the proposed changes on different sections of our diverse community.

#### 3A. What data have you used to assess impacts?

Please provide:

- Details of the evidence used to assess impacts on people with protected characteristics and from disadvantaged groups (see guidance for help)
- A breakdown of service user demographics where possible
- Brief interpretation of findings

#### Overview

A key aim of the VCS Partnership Grants Programme is to provide core funding to voluntary and community sector organisations working across Islington’s diverse communities to improve outcomes for residents and communities with protected characteristics.

The fund seeks, not only to pay due regard to the aims of the Equality Act 2010, but to actively support a portfolio of organisations that can pro-actively address structural



Please provide:

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inequalities within the borough, where there are voluntary and community organisations that are well-placed to reach communities at risk of exclusion.

To be eligible for funding, all organisations are required to have an Equal Opportunities Policy and adhere to the Equality Act 2010.

Through the application process all organisations were required to detail how they would challenge inequality, promote community cohesion, and empower residents and communities to be resilient and feel a sense of belonging in the borough.

### **Application Summary and Equalities Assessment**

In line with the aspirations of the VCS Partnership Grants Programme, funding is being recommended to organisations working across all protected characteristics, but which may have a specific focus on a particular group.

Every application was assessed against the nine protected characteristics and was classified as either:

- **Targeted:** Either working specifically with sections of the community with protected characteristics in a targeted way as part of their core organisational purpose or working pro-actively with sections of the community with protected characteristics
- **Universal:** Being open access, universal services that ensure access through their approach to equal opportunities

In 2024-28 VCS Partnership Grants Programme, 31 out of 53 organisations recommended for funding are classified as having a 'targeted' approach and 22 with a 'universal' approach. This is 61% recommended funding going to 'targeted' organisations, and there has been a 5% increase from 2021-24 in the level of funding going to organisations with a 'targeted' approach to working with residents with protected characteristics. This means that 81% of delivery organisations are offering targeted services to residents with one or more protected characteristic.

Of the 53 that are recommended for funding, 22 organisations provide unrestricted access 'universal' services such as legal advice agencies (3) and multi-use community hubs (11), capacity building organisations (3) and delivery (5)

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The breakdown below is the equalities data across recommended funded organisations for protected characteristics, this is in line with the aspirations of the VCS Partnership Grants Programme, funding is being recommended to organisations working across all protected characteristics.

| All organisations              | Total |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Age - Children and YP          | 28    |
| Age - Over 55                  | 30    |
| Disability                     | 23    |
| Gender Reassignment            | 9     |
| Marriage and Civil Partnership | 7     |
| Pregnancy and Maternity        | 12    |
| Ethnicity                      | 34    |
| Religion or Belief             | 19    |
| Sex                            | 16    |
| Sexual Orientation             | 18    |

Consideration has been given to organisations currently funded who are not being recommended for funding, because other applications working with residents with protected characteristics better demonstrated their ability to meet the assessment criteria. In appraising the impacts of these recommendations, officers have considered organisations' financial viability, the overall equalities profile of the recommendations and the allocation of wider Council funding through commissioned services. Islington council will continue to work with these organisations to support their ongoing development and viability.

## Positive Impacts

### Equality and Cohesion Networks Strand

The Equality and Cohesion Networks strand is a new strand created in the current 2021-2024 of the VCS Partnership Grants programme. This strand, has brought together strategic leaders working across a range of protected characteristics, ensuring that the voice and challenge of organisations who represent or work with residents with protected characteristics is elevated. Critical to this is the collaboration and partnership between

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organisations who work with specific protected characteristics, to reflect the reality that many residents would identify as having more than one protected characteristic. This strand is in place for this round of funding for 2024-28. The recommendations for funding within this strand are for 5 organisations (6 applied).

This particular strand set the following objectives for organisations to:

- Act as a strategic leader in equalities and community cohesion
- Deliver, co-produce or provide signposting to services that improve wellbeing and quality of life for people with protected characteristics
- Transform attitudes and behaviours towards people with protected characteristics.
- Work collaboratively across the wider equalities agenda to ensure residents facing multiple discrimination are recognised and supported.

This funding is reflective of the Council's commitments and aspirational work with community partners to tackle structural inequality in the borough. These partners have been and will continue to be integral to the Council's Challenging Inequalities Programme.

### **BAME Representation Across the Portfolio**

Applications received from organisations working across ethnicity, and particularly with the BAME community had a higher success rate than the overall average success rate.

All organisations recommended for funding across the new grants programme, work with BAME residents. For example, Community Hubs provide multi-use spaces and often host BAME groups and organisations. Advice services are open to all residents and close monitoring and focus is given to ensure outreach and engagement with BAME groups and organisations.

### **Advice and Navigation Strand**

This funding stream aims to establish a whole-community approach to advice which sees outreach and engagement to those most at risk of exclusion, targeted advice for some of our most vulnerable residents, and resilient community organisations able to provide early and responsive help to sections of the community

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A total of £1.4 million in funding is recommended to 6 organisations (including a consortium made up of 6 organisations) working to ensure that the offer in the borough is of a high quality and can provide independent advice and navigation to Islington residents.

**Community Advice:** Through ongoing work with community organisations, the Council recognised that residents with protected characteristics face additional challenges in accessing independent legal advice. In response to this, for the 2021-24 grants programme, the Council established a 'community advice' strand of the VCS grants programme. Organisations being recommended for funding in the Community Advice strand will be required to:

- Use data and intelligence to understand the advice needs of communities that have unmet advice needs or that face particular barriers to accessing advice services.
- Reach and engage residents that face barriers to accessing independent legal advice, particularly people with protected characteristics.

1 application is being recommended for a funding total of £100,000 per annum, this is funding for a consortium of 6 organisations working with the BAME community and funding for an organisation working specifically with women in the borough. This recommendation represents a 5% increase in the level of funding going to advice focussed organisations working with a targeted focus on supporting BAME communities to access independent legal advice.

**Targeted Specialist Advice:** Funding is recommended to one organisation in this strand that can offer specialist legal advice that is targeted towards residents; in particular those experiencing mental health difficulties, disabilities, ex-offenders, and those from BAMER backgrounds. This funding is at the same level as through the 2021-24 grants programme.

Under our Equalities and Cohesion Network strand, Delivery strand and Advice and Navigation strand we have allocated funds to organisations which directly support our ambition to meet our equalities priorities and we have covered all nine protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010

Please provide:

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- A breakdown of service user demographics where possible
- Brief interpretation of findings

3B: Assess the impacts on people with protected characteristics and from disadvantaged groups in the table below.

Please first select whether the potential impact is positive, neutral, or negative and then provide details of the impacts and any mitigations or positive actions you will put in place.

Please use the following definitions as a guide:

Neutral – The proposal has no impact on people with the identified protected characteristics

Positive – The proposal has a beneficial and desirable impact on people with the identified protected characteristics

Negative – The proposal has a negative and undesirable impact on people with the identified protected characteristics

| Characteristic or group | Positive/Neutral/Negative | What are the positive and/or negative impacts?  | How will potential benefits be enhanced or negative impacts be eliminated or reduced?  |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| Age                     | Positive                  | <p>One organisation which is currently funded and recommended for funding, and one new organisation, so a total of 2 organisations working specifically with older residents in the borough to ensure that this population group is represented in this strand.</p> <p>A total of 31 organisations recommended for funding offer services for older people. This includes Community Centre Hubs who provide universal services in a geographical place, advice organisations who offer free independent legal advice and smaller organisations who offer direct delivery in areas such as The Arts.</p> | <p>Engage equality and cohesion networks and key VCS organisations through Islington's Challenging Inequalities Programme.</p> <p>Through our grant monitoring relationship with both VCS organisations working specifically with people of 55. We will build their capacity through partnerships and networks, and encourage them to collaborate to meet any emerging need of older residents in the borough.</p> |

|  |                 |  |  |
|--|-----------------|--|--|
| <p>Disability<br/>(include carers)</p> | <p>Positive</p> | <p>Within the Equality and Cohesion Networks strand, ring-fenced funding is being recommended to support a pan-disability organisation working across the borough to support residents with disabilities. The organisation's vision is to enable local disabled people to access services and entitlements and challenge exclusion and discrimination. The funding will support the organisation to deliver its vision.</p> <p>A total of 24 organisations recommended for funding offer services for people with disabilities. This mainly consists of Community Centre Hubs who provide universal services in a geographical place, who may also host services to organisations who are disability led, and advice organisations who offer free independent legal advice</p> | <p>Engage equality and cohesion networks and key VCS organisations through Islington's Challenging Inequalities Programme.</p> <p>Through our grant monitoring relationship with the pan-disability organisation, we will support them to continue to play the role of 'critical friend' holding statutory organisations to account, and advising how decisions and services can affect residents in the borough with disabilities. An example of this is the work on People Friendly Streets.</p> |
|--|-----------------|--|--|



| Characteristic or group | Positive/Neutral/Negative | What are the positive and/or negative impacts? | How will potential benefits be enhanced or negative impacts be eliminated or reduced? |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
|                         |                           |  |   |

|                   |          |   |   |
|-------------------|----------|---|---|
| Race or ethnicity | Positive | <p>One organisation working in the area of ethnicity is being recommended with no funding decrease in the new grants programme, recognising the organisation's role as a strategic leader in bringing together BAMER residents and organisations in the borough, with a particular focus on working with refugees and migrants.</p> <p>One organisation is being recommended who support refugees and migrants, through activities and advocacy, has had a recommended funding increase by 25%.</p> <p>One organisation is being recommended for funding to work with Islington's Irish community, recognising that this is one of the largest ethnic</p> | <p>Engage equality and cohesion networks and key VCS organisations through Islington's Challenging Inequalities Programme.</p> <p>Through the new City of Sanctuary work, we will align closely with the NRPF team and support VCS organisations, not only those funded through the grants programme, to actively take part in this important initiative.</p> |
|-------------------|----------|---|---|

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
|  |  | <p>groups in the borough, this will ensure that there is representation from this large resident group in the new programme, with a focus on further developing the work being undertaken to address inequality, and transform attitudes and behaviours towards people across the protected characteristics for this community group.</p> <p>One organisation is being recommended for funding to work with Islington's Jewish community with a focus on further developing the work being undertaken to address inequality, and transform attitudes and behaviours towards people across the protected characteristics for this community group.</p> <p>The recommendation is to fund 6 new organisations which are not</p> |  |
|--|--|--|--|

| Characteristic or group | Positive/Neutral/Negative | What are the positive and/or negative impacts?   | How will potential benefits be enhanced or negative impacts be eliminated or reduced? |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
|                         |                           | <p>currently funded under the 2021-24 programme, these fall into the Delivery strand. This includes groups that are supporting older people in Islington and groups that support marginalised communities.</p> |   |

| Characteristic or group               | Positive/Neutral/Negative | What are the positive and/or negative impacts?  | How will potential benefits be enhanced or negative impacts be eliminated or reduced?   |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| Religion or belief (include no faith) | Positive                  | One organisation is being recommended with no funding decrease in funding in the new grants programme. This organisation promotes positive inter-faith relations and works with key faith leaders and organisations to promote community cohesion and positive inter-faith relations. | Engage equality and cohesion networks and key VCS organisations through Islington's Challenging Inequalities Programme<br><br>Organisation is well linked into Hate Crime Forum and Community Safety work. Further capacity is provided to this organisation to support them with some direct delivery off community cohesion work. |

| Characteristic or group                                      | Positive/Neutral/Negative | What are the positive and/or negative impacts?   | How will potential benefits be enhanced or negative impacts be eliminated or reduced?  |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| Gender and gender reassignment (male, female, or non-binary) | Positive                  | One organisation being recommended with no funding decrease in funding in the new grants programme. This organisation works with Islington residents who face inequality and prejudice due to sexual orientation or gender reassignment. | Engage equality and cohesion networks and key VCS organisations through Islington's Challenging Inequalities Programme.<br><br>Targeted work with this VCS organisation and other VCS organisations to build the capacity of the them to meet the need of residents in our borough with this protected characteristic. |

| Characteristic or group | Positive/Neutral/Negative | What are the positive and/or negative impacts?  | How will potential benefits be enhanced or negative impacts be eliminated or reduced?   |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
| Maternity or pregnancy  | Positive and Negative     | <p>One organisation being recommended with a 12.5% decrease in funding in the new grants programme. This organisation works with Islington parents.</p> <p>Across the 53 recommended organisations for funding, a total of 12 offer universal services for this protected characteristic.</p> | <p>Engage equality and cohesion networks and key VCS organisations through Islington's Challenging Inequalities Programme.</p> <p>Work closely with Bright Start Team and VCS organisations that work with residents of all protected characteristics , to understand communities not engaging in services around maternity or pregnancy.</p> |

| Characteristic or group    | Positive/Neutral/Negative | What are the positive and/or negative impacts?   | How will potential benefits be enhanced or negative impacts be eliminated or reduced?   |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|
| Sex and sexual orientation | Positive                  | One organisation being recommended with no funding decrease in funding in the new grants programme. This organisation works with Islington residents who face inequality and prejudice due to sexual orientation or gender reassignment. | Engage equality and cohesion networks and key VCS organisations through Islington's Challenging Inequalities Programme<br><br>Targeted work with this VCS organisation and other VCS organisations to build the capacity of the them to meet the need of residents in our borough with this protected characteristic. |



| Characteristic or group       | Positive/Neutral/Negative | What are the positive and/or negative impacts?  | How will potential benefits be enhanced or negative impacts be eliminated or reduced?                                  |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| Marriage or civil partnership | Positive                  | 7 organisations being recommended offer services and activities for this protected characteristics within the advice and delivery strands | Engage equality and cohesion networks and key VCS organisations through Islington's Challenging Inequalities Programme |

## 4. How do you plan to mitigate negative impacts?

Please provide:

- An outline of actions and the expected outcomes
- Any governance and funding which will support these actions if relevant

With reference to the [guidance](#), please describe what are the equality and socio-economic impacts for residents and what are the opportunities to challenge prejudice or promote understanding?

### **Negative Impacts and Proposed Mitigation**

There are no gaps in provision that have been identified as every protected characteristic has an organisation(s) working with residents in this area. From the VCS organisations recommended for funding, there is no specific targeted organisation delivering services and activities around maternity and pregnancy. However, any lack of support for this group specifically is mitigated by the support provided by organisations that support families as a whole.

To ensure that the VCS Partnership portfolio is fully able to support the Council's equality and community cohesion ambitions, meet existing and emerging need, the following measures are being proposed:

- Continuous conversations and proactive dialogue with VCS organisations who are experts in their field, attending existing networking meetings and facilitating meetings through Challenging Inequality programme, Community Conversations and The Community Partnership Board.
- Ongoing interaction, relational ways of working with grant funded VCS organisation and 6 monthly monitoring of business plans and thematic areas such as organisation development, services, and finances. Leading to reports to demonstrate impact and identify trends; state of the sector, to inform what capacity building support is needed

## 5. Please provide details of your consultation and/or engagement plans.

Please provide:

- Details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult or engage the whole community or specific groups affected by the proposal
- Who has been or will be consulted or engaged with
- Methods used or that will be used to engage or consult
- Key findings or feedback (if completed)

The exact structure of the council's VCS Grants Programme was co-designed and co-delivered, with involvement of a range of Executive Members, directorates, and external partners. When the 2021-24 VCS Partnership Grants Programme was launched on 29 August 2023, 9 meet the funder sessions were held. This allowed engagement with over 90 VCS organisations, which allowed explanation of the prospectus, the ask of each strand, and questions and answers on application process and content. A capacity Building offer was in place, and BIG Alliance hosted two training sessions to the sector to support with the application process and explore what partnership bids might look like.

The 2021-24 VCS Partnership Grants Programme provides funding to 50 VCS organisations, designed to meet our early intervention and prevention ambitions. All partners are subject to a rigorous assessment process and ongoing monitoring as 'strategic partners'. Organisations are continuously assessed, monitored and supported through a Funder+ model in terms of; service delivery and outcomes for residents, governance, organisational management, financial management, fundraising capacity, communications, safeguarding, and data protection.

The council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme is a key component of the council's efforts to support the development of resilient communities and the council has committed to protect levels of council grant-giving to the local voluntary and community sector in the Labour Manifesto.

Please provide:

- Details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult or engage the whole community or specific groups affected by the proposal
- Who has been or will be consulted or engaged with
- Methods used or that will be used to engage or consult
- Key findings or feedback (if completed)

The Islington Compact is a written agreement outlining a shared commitment to working together effectively to meet the changing needs of Islington's communities. The Compact which is currently being redeveloped and will come into effective in 2024 is the framework in which the Council and the VCS sector form alliances to enhance the relationship and equity in which we work. This provides a tool where the VCS are seen as partners in delivering our ambitions of a 'fairer Islington'. The Compact will engage the sector on thematic areas such as volunteering, funding and commissioning, premises, and capacity building, where statutory and voluntary sector will work in partnership for action-based solutions. The Compact will build the capacity and voice of smaller grassroots VCS organisations.

Please provide:

- Details of what steps you have taken or plan to take to consult or engage the whole community or specific groups affected by the proposal
- Who has been or will be consulted or engaged with
- Methods used or that will be used to engage or consult
- Key findings or feedback (if completed)

## 6. Once the proposal has been implemented, how will impacts be monitored and reviewed?

Please provide details in the table below.

| Action  | Responsible team or officer | Deadline                                     |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Engage equality and cohesion networks and key VCS organisations in Islington's Challenging Inequalities Programme | Community Partnership Team  | Ongoing 2024-2028 (grant programme duration) |
| 6 monthly monitoring and impact reporting of the VS Grants and the grants programme                               | Community Partnership Team  | Ongoing 2024-2028 (grant programme duration) |
|   |                             |  |

Please send the completed EQIA to [equalities@islington.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@islington.gov.uk) for quality checking by the Fairness and Equality Team. All Equality Impact Assessments

must be attached with any report to a decision-making board and should be made publicly available on request.

This Equality Impact Assessment has been completed in accordance with the guidance and using appropriate evidence.

| Member                            | Name             | Signed                  | Date     |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| Staff member completing this form | Pamela Aristokle | <i>Pamela Aristokle</i> | 21.11.23 |
| Fairness and Equality Team        | Hezi Yaacov-Hai  | <i>Hezi Yaacov-Hai</i>  | 28/11/23 |
| Director or Head of Service       | Billy Wells      | <i>Billy Wells</i>      | 29.11.23 |