



**Resources Department  
Town Hall, Upper Street, London, N1 2UD**

---

## **AGENDA FOR THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR COMMITTEE**

---

Members of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee are summoned to a meeting which will be held remotely via Zoom on **8 September 2020 at 6:30pm.**

Enquiries to : Jonathan Moore  
Tel : (020) 7527 3308  
E-mail : [democracy@islington.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@islington.gov.uk)

**Link to the meeting:** <https://weareislington.zoom.us/j/92034560867>

### Membership

Councillor Richard Watts (Chair)  
Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz  
Councillor Una O'Halloran  
Councillor Diarmaid Ward

### Substitute Members

Councillor Janet Burgess MBE  
Councillor Satnam Gill OBE  
Councillor Asima Shaikh  
Councillor Rowena Champion

### Observers

Councillor Mouna Hamitouche MBE  
Councillor Anjna Khurana  
Councillor Michelline Safi Ngongo

**Quorum: is 2 Councillors**



## A. Formal matters

1. Apologies for absence
2. Declaration of substitute members
3. Declarations of interest

If you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest\* in an item of business:

- if it is not yet on the council's register, you must declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent;
- you may choose to declare a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest that is already in the register in the interests of openness and transparency.

In both the above cases, you must leave the room without participating in discussion of the item.

If you have a personal interest in an item of business and you intend to speak or vote on the item you must declare both the existence and details of it at the start of the meeting or when it becomes apparent but you may participate in the discussion and vote on the item.

- \*(a) Employment, etc - Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- (b) Sponsorship - Any payment or other financial benefit in respect of your expenses in carrying out duties as a member, or of your election; including from a trade union.
- (c) Contracts - Any current contract for goods, services or works, between you or your partner (or a body in which one of you has a beneficial interest) and the council.
- (d) Land - Any beneficial interest in land which is within the council's area.
- (e) Licences- Any licence to occupy land in the council's area for a month or longer.
- (f) Corporate tenancies - Any tenancy between the council and a body in which you or your partner have a beneficial interest.
- (g) Securities - Any beneficial interest in securities of a body which has a place of business or land in the council's area, if the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body or of any one class of its issued share capital.

This applies to **all** members present at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting 1 - 10

## B. Matters for decision

1. Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Grants programme 2021 - 2024 11 - 38

**C. Urgent non-exempt matters**

Any non-exempt items which the Chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reasons for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes.

**D. Exclusion of press and public**

To consider whether, in view of the nature of the remaining items on the agenda, any of them are likely to involve the disclosure of exempt or confidential information within the terms of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and, if so, whether to exclude the press and public during discussion thereof.

**E. Confidential/exempt items for information (if any)**

**F. Urgent Exempt Matters**

Any exempt items which the Chair agrees should be considered urgently by reason of special circumstances. The reasons for urgency will be agreed by the Chair and recorded in the minutes

The next meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee is scheduled for  
3 November 2020

This page is intentionally left blank

London Borough of Islington

## **Voluntary and Community Sector Committee - 7 July 2020**

Minutes of the meeting of the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee held remotely via Zoom on 7 July 2020 at 6.30 pm.

**Present:** Councillors: Una O'Halloran, Diarmaid Ward and Richard Watts

### **Councillor Richard Watts in the Chair**

70 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Item A1)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kaya Comer-Schwartz.

71 **DECLARATION OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS (Item A2)**

None.

72 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item A3)**

None.

73 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Item A4)**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2020 be confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

74 **LOCAL INITIATIVES FUND AWARDS (Item B1)**

Councillor O'Halloran amended the report on submission as follows:

Addendum to the declarations of interest at paragraph 3.12 of the report:

"Cllr Marian Spall is the vice chair of Elthorne Pride which has changed the use of a £500 grant awarded in February 2020 to the creation of a community quilt (a virtual Elthorne Pride Quilt of Hope)  
and

Cllr Satnam Gill and Cllr Tricia Clarke are trustees of Hildrop Area Community Association which has changed the use of a £750 grant awarded in February 2020 to the provision of parcels of food, essential items, information and arts and craft resources for local residents."

**RESOLVED:**

That, subject to the above addendum,

(a) The new proposals and changes to previous proposals submitted by Ward councillors, as set out in Appendix A to the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, which had been agreed by the Executive Member for Community Development under delegated authority, be noted.

- (b) The postponements of previously funded projects, detailed in Appendix B of the report, be noted.
- (c) The declarations of interest made by councillors, detailed in paragraph 3.12 of the report and the addendum, be noted.
- (d) The amendments to Ward budgets resulting from funding being returned and detailed in paragraph 3.13 and the final page of Appendix A of the report be noted.
- (e) The temporary revised measures for new and previously funded projects, detailed in the report to the Executive on 30 April 2020, be continued due to social distancing measures still being in place.
- (f) Officers be thanked for their work in the production of the report.

Reasons for decision

To assist in developing and sustaining a healthy voluntary and community sector in Islington.

Other options considered

None

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

**75**

**NEW DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF (DRR) AWARDS (Item B2)**

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) That discretionary rate relief be awarded to the 12 organisations (17 hereditaments) listed in Appendix 2 of the report of the Executive Member for Community Development, for three years, from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2023, who have met the criteria set out in the DRR policy (Appendix 1 to the report).
- (b) That discretionary rate relief be awarded to 22 organisations (22 hereditaments) listed at appendix 3 of the report, from 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2023, who have met the criteria set out in the DRR policy (Appendix 1), noting that these organisations were eligible for other reliefs in this financial year 2020/21.
- (c) That discretionary rate relief be awarded to 3 organisations (3 hereditaments) which required inspections to establish business rates values (Appendix 4), subject to the values falling below the thresholds set out in the DRR policy (Appendix 1).
- (d) That no payment of discretionary rate relief be made to 2 organisations (4 hereditaments) detailed in Appendix 5 of the report, which were not eligible for DRR, as they did not meet the criteria set out in the DRR policy (Appendix 1).
- (e) That officers be thanked for their work on processing the applications.

Reasons for decision

Awarding discretionary rate relief to not-for-profit organisations or other bodies providing a community or social benefit was a cost-effective way of supporting local organisations delivering the commitments set out in the Council's corporate plan.

Other options considered

None

Conflicts of interest/Any dispensations granted

None

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm

**CHAIR**

This page is intentionally left blank

**NEW PROPOSALS APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Budget Proposal Amount (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Mildmay	Jenny Kay	Mer-IT	Buying and refurbishing second hand desktops and laptops which will be distributed to local schoolchildren most in need to aid online learning. They will work with two schools in the area to identify those most in need. Newington Green Action Group will provide dongles and also distribute to further Mildmay families. Funding to contribute towards the purchase of equipment (45 computers and 50 hard drives) and the salaries of two people for 7 days.	Mildmay Community Centre (refurbishment of computers)	7 May to 29 June 2020 (5 to 7 working days to complete work)	Mainly children attending Newington Green and St Jude's and St Paul's Primary Schools	70 families in Mildmay ward	3,000	3,214	£214 Mer-IT	

**GRANT USE CHANGES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Amount for grant use change (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Barnsbury	Jilani Chowdhury / Rowena Champion	North London Prabhati Sangha (NLPS)	Since late February 2020, 6-9 music and dance classes via video link have been delivered. They will try to run some on site classes in Sept/Oct if social distancing restrictions are lifted. In the meantime they will continue to hold virtual classes, on average fortnightly, about 7 classes between April and August and then 4 classes on site in Sept/Oct ideally.	Hugh Cubitt Community Centre	Project now to finish by November 2020	Open to all	380 at NY celebration, 60 at music and dance classes	400	3,374	£1,734 NLPS members	£2,000 grant originally awarded in November 2019 for a Bengali New Year celebration and music and dance classes. Bengali New Year celebration took place on 17 June 2019. £1,600 of the original grant has been spent and 14 music and dance classes on site were delivered as proposed before the lockdown. Project change agreed for £400 of the overall grant.

**GRANT USE CHANGES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Amount for grant use change (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Barnsbury	Rowena Champion / Jilani Chowdhury / Mouna Hamitouche	Turkish and Kurdish Children's Group	Funding to pay for learning equipment/ resources (i.e. KS1, KS2, KS3 & KS4 workbooks, two whiteboards, notebooks and a printer) as well as volunteer expenses for when the homework club and Maths and English classes return to normal after the lockdown.	Hugh Cubitt Community Centre	Resources to be bought in June and used in September 2020 when classes are back to normal	Young people from Barnsbury ward	20	1,000	1,000	Not applicable	£1,000 grant originally awarded in July 2019 for monthly outings to Sobell Leisure Centre for leisure activities for 20 young people. Project change agreed for the whole grant.
Page 6 Barnsbury / Caledonian / Clerkenwell / Tollington	All councillors of Caledonian, Clerkenwell and Tollington wards / Jilani Chowdhury / Rowena Champion	Islington Bangladesh Association	Maintaining contact with the health and well-being project users via phone and video calls and providing advice on maintaining health while indoors and benefits, housing matters, etc. Staff and volunteers are also helping the most vulnerable project users with shopping and collecting medicines as well as providing food boxes due to the suspension of the lunch club. Funding to pay for participant food boxes for 46 participants for May and June 2020 and the cost of a project outreach worker.	71 Caledonian Road	1 April to 30 June 2020	Older and vulnerable residents, mainly from Caledonian, Barnsbury, Tollington and Clerkenwell wards	46 to 50 regular participants	3,250	3,504	£254 Isl Bangladesh Assoc	£6,500 originally awarded in November 2019 for a Community Health and Well Being Project. Half of this grant (£3,250) has been spent on this original project. Project change agreed for £3,250 of the overall grant.
Canonbury	John Woolf / Nick Wayne (latest 3 awards)	Utturn UK CIC	The Street Associations initiative in Islington, Phase 2 - some activities and events have been cancelled but demand for engagement with communities has increased due to social distancing. The remaining funding of £2,357 will pay for on Outreach worker (who will signpost people to street associations, We Are Islington, Canonbury Mutual Aid Group and HOYD), printing of leaflets, a small amount for emergencies, management and office costs and a Street Association Reunion after lockdown measures are lifted.	Elmore Street, Elizabeth Avenue and Yeate Street	April to Sept 2020	Mainly residents of the three streets	200 residents (400 event attendees and 200 households)	2,357	2,357	Not applicable	£7,057 split over 4 separate awards between Nov 2017 and Mar 2020. £4,700 spent so far mainly as proposed with more spent on the outreach worker and less spent on events. Project change agreed for £2,357 of the overall grant.

## GRANT USE CHANGES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Amount for grant use change (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Finsbury Park / Tollington	Gary Heather / Asima Shaikh / Michael O'Sullivan / Anjna Khurana / Richard Watts / Flora Williamson	The Islington Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot Women's Welfare Group	Funding for the weekly Over 50s lunch club which consists of volunteers preparing traditional healthy meals. Funding to contribute towards 40 weeks of venue hire and ingredients.  They started the sessions in Sept 2019 and stopped on 19 March 2020 due to Covid-19 (the classes were due to run until June 2020) so they asked to use the grant remainder of £261 on rent.	Durham Road Community Rooms (under 32 to 43 Bolton Walk), Durham Road	Sept 2019 to June 2020	Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot women aged 50+	55 from Islington	260.80	1,500	Not applicable	£1,500 originally awarded in March and July 2019 for weekly Over 50s lunch club. £1,239 of this grant has been spent on this original project.  Project change agreed for £261 of the overall grant.
Page 7 Highbury West	Roulin Khondoker / Andy Hull	The Garden Classroom	Funding towards the salary of the bee education project manager who will deliver a programme of schools' bee education sessions at Gillespie Park in the Autumn term (September 2020 onwards). If the social distancing measures are still in place by then further delivery can be carried out in Spring 2021.	Gillespie Park	September 2020 to April 2021	15 Islington school classes (420 children), 500 attendees per community event	1,000 (600 Islington residents)	2,000	13,176	£2,250 Gunners, £5,250 private donation, £3,750 schools	£2,000 originally awarded in November 2019 for bee education sessions for schools near Gillespie Park between January and October 2020.  Project change agreed for the whole grant.
Hillrise	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall	Elthorne Pride (on behalf of Elthorne Circle of Friends)	Co-ordination of the delivery of a Covid-19 themed intergeneration activity; the creation of a community quilt (a virtual Elthorne Pride Quilt of Hope), that will also involve estate residents. Residents will be given a craft kit and be supported in creating a quilt square (which will either be collected or photographed) and curated as a virtual quilt. Funding to pay for crafting materials, online/phone support and postcards (which will have a picture of the virtual quilt and be locally distributed).	Hillrise ward / Elthorne Estate catchment area	May to July 2020	Intergenerational project - older people, especially male residents, as well as their younger neighbours	25 to 50, including those publishing and distributing 'The Hope Quilt' postcards	500	900	£400 Elthorne Pride (marketing/distribution, project management / IT support and volunteer reimbursement)	£500 originally awarded in February 2020 to three inter-generational pop up befriending events.  Project change agreed for the whole grant.

## GRANT USE CHANGES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Amount for grant use change (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Page 8 Hillrise / Mildmay / St Peters	Michelline Ngongo / David Poyser / Marian Spall / Santiago Bell-Bradford / Joe Caluori / Alice Clarke-Perry / Vivien Cutler / Martin Klute	KMEWO (Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation)	Delivery of the rest of the 10 week ICT Beginners and ESOL courses at Caxton House. 4 weeks of each course have been delivered and there are 6 weeks remaining. The new delivery will be online or e-learning. The remaining £1,462 to pay for tutors for 6 weeks (ESOL and ICT).	Remote learning at KMEWO premises, Caxton House	Details to follow	Aimed at Kurdish and Middle Eastern women who are going through or have experienced domestic violence	12 registered for ICT Beginners course (6 attending), 18 registered for ESOL course (12 attending)	1,462	1,462	Not applicable	£4,642.50 originally awarded in July 2019 for ESOL and ICT classes and workshops on domestic abuse and FGM.  £3,181 of grant spent on the following: ICT Beginners course and Domestic Violence workshops at Newington Green School and Caxton House, International Women's Day at Caxton House. Unable to secure location for courses in St Peter's ward despite doing 1 month of outreach. Women from St Peter's ward come to Caxton House.  Project change agreed for £1,462 of the overall grant.
			The project aim remains to reestablish the bee hives but they cannot run face to face sessions for bee keeping so they intend to run remote sessions for people to gain initial knowledge and training whilst they establish the bees on the farm. They would like to allocate some funds to beekeeper training to support this remote delivery including additional costs such as staff time for creating online resources and equipment (purchase of recording/ it technology and a laptop / tablet suitable for using around the farm).	Freightliners Farm	May / June to October 2020	Across Islington but particularly St Mary's, Holloway, Caledonian and Highbury East	20 through online sessions, 1,000 through website and remotely, up to 40,000 when farm is fully open	2,975	4,725	Details to follow	£2,975 originally awarded in November 2018 to a beekeeping project between January and December 2019 - delivery of bee care and the provision of a monthly beekeeping group.  Project change agreed for the whole grant.

**GRANT USE CHANGES APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Ward	Councillor	Organisation	Project Summary	Location	Timescale	Areas / Residents to Benefit	Number of Residents to Benefit	Amount for grant use change (£)	Project Total (£)	Match Funding Details	Housing Comments
Mildmay	Santiago Bell-Bradford / Joe Caluori / Jenny Kay	Healthy Generations on behalf of Mildmay Extra Care Units (Notting Hill Genesis)	50 weekly Music and Movement Classes for older people at 2 Mildmay Extra Care Units. 35 have taken place and the remaining 15 sessions will be held virtually from 13 May onwards. The cost per session is unchanged but some of the cost may be used to purchase the necessary equipment and data bundles in order to deliver virtually.	73 Mildmay Street and 20-26 Mildmay Park	Sessions stopped 20 March. 15 of the 50 sessions to take place from 13 May to 31 Aug 2020 via Zoom	Residents at Mildmay Extra Care, a lot of whom are disabled	100	600	600	Not applicable	£2,000 originally awarded in July 2019 to pay a musician to lead 50 weekly Music and Movement Classes for older people at 2 Mildmay Extra Care Units over 6 months. £1,400 spent on original project. Project change agreed for £600 of the overall grant.
St Georges	Satnam Gill / Tricia Clarke / Gulcin Ozdemir	Hilldrop Area Community Association	Provision of parcels of food, essential items, information and arts and craft resources. The aim is to make 60 parcels over 24 sessions (twice a week for 12 weeks) for those in financial need and who may be isolated or in need of additional support. Funding to pay for essential sanitary items / toiletries, food, long life dairy products, reusable containers, reusable bags and food labelling.	Hilldrop Community Centre	20 April to 31 July 2020	Local households and families on local estates	60 local households over 12 weeks	750	10,000	£10,000 London Community Response Fund, £2,000 tbc Gunners Fund - covid response	£750 originally awarded in February 2020 to run a 6 week course for local families where they will learn about healthy diets, cooking on a budget and preparing a meal. Project change agreed for the whole grant.

**Total LIF funding requested and balance remaining**

<b>Total Local Initiatives Fund budget allocation 2020-21:</b>	<b>£225,000</b>
Total allocations made from previous LIF budgets:	£7,794
Balance remaining:	£232,794
<b>Proposals agreed under delegated approval as of 25 June 2020:</b>	<b>£3,000</b>
<b>Total amount remaining to allocate in 2020-21:</b>	<b>£229,794</b>

<b>2020-21 Balance remaining by ward:</b>	
<b>Ward</b>	<b>Balance:</b>
Barnsbury	£14,081
Bunhill	£14,500
Caledonian	£14,000
Canonbury	£14,067
Clerkenwell	£15,106
Finsbury Park	£14,592
Highbury East	£15,192
Highbury West	£15,013
Hillrise	£14,633
Holloway	£14,333
Junction	£15,416
Mildmay	£11,258
St George's	£14,417
St Mary's	£14,870
St Peter's	£14,318
Tollington	£14,000

**£229,794****Notes:**

Includes £81 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £67 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £606 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £592 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £1,192 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £1,013 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £633 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £333 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £1,416 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £258 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £417 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £870 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

Includes £318 from previous LIF allocations / budgets

**Report of:** Executive Member for Community Development

Meeting of:	Date	Agenda item	Wards
Voluntary and Community Sector Committee	8 September 2020		All

## **SUBJECT: Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Grants Programme 2021-2024**

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1. The Council's current VCS Partnership Grants programme is due to end on 31 December 2020.
- 1.2. This programme provides core grant funding to voluntary and community sector organisations in Islington, with an overall fund of £2,696,000 per annum.
- 1.3. Since the launch of the Council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2016-2020, 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.
- 1.4. The Council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme is a key component of the Council's efforts to support the development of resilient communities and a strong, independent voluntary and community sector.
- 1.5. This report provides an overview of the VCS Grants Programme 2021-2024 outlining the programme structure, the application and assessment processes, and makes recommendations on the allocation of grant funding across the six strands of the VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-2024.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. To approve the recommendations for funding to 48 organisations for the VCS Partnership Grants Programme across the 6 strands of the programme as detailed in appendix 1.
- 2.2. To agree the proposal to provide funding of £30,000 per annum, totalling £97,500 over the programme period, to support the development of a disability focussed network as detailed in section 4.17 of this report.
- 2.3. To agree the proposal to provide funding of £30,000 per annum, totalling £97,500 over the programme period, in order to support the development of a Black and Minority Ethnic equalities and cohesion network as detailed in section 4.17 of this report.

- 2.4. To agree the proposal to provide funding of £75,000 per annum, totalling £243,750 over the programme period to deliver against the recommendations of a review of capacity-building and volunteering support as detailed in section 4.17 of this report.
- 2.5. To agree to fund the commitment of 2.1 to 2.4 to the required £2.776m per full financial year and over the full 3.25 years of the programme to £9.022m.

### 3. Background

- 3.1. The Council, across all departments currently spends £44 million spend with the borough's VCS partners. £2,696,000 of the Council's £44 million spend is allocated through the Council's VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2016-2020, a programme that provides core funding to strategic VCS partners. This programme was designed around the Council's Corporate Plan 2014-2018 and The Council's Voluntary and Community Sector 2016-2020. The funding provides the foundation for a strong, vibrant, and independent VCS in the borough.
- 3.2. In the current programme (VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2016-2020) funded organisations receive grants in the following strands:
  - Advice Strategic Partners Programme
  - Neighbourhoods Strategic Partners Programme
  - Borough-wide Strategic Partners Programme
  - Volunteering Strategic Partners Programme
  - Delivery Partners Programme
- 3.3. On 30 April 2020, in response to the outbreak of Covid 19, Islington's Executive Committee decided to extend the current programme for a further 3 months to 31 December 2020.
- 3.4. Extension of the current programme has enabled funded organisations to continue to deliver vital services in the community and adapt to uncertainty in the context of the Covid-19 crisis.
- 3.5. This means that the new VCS Partnership Grants Programme will begin on the 1 January 2021 and will now run for three years and three months until 31 March 2024.
- 3.6. In November 2019 the Voluntary and Community Sector Committee agreed recommendations to provide funding to organisations across 6 strands, detailed below are the strands and the indicative levels of funding which were made available up to a total fund of £2,696,000:

<b>2021-2024 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

### 3.7. Application and Assessment Process

The VCS Partnership Grants Programme was launched for applications on 6 January 2020. Information about the programme was published widely through Council and voluntary sector

communication channels. Six information sessions were held throughout February 2020. The application process was closed on Sunday 15 March 2020.

A total of 91 applications were received with a total funding request of £4,121,931 from organisations working across the borough and these were assessed according to the eligibility criteria outlined below:

### **Stage 1**

Applications were assessed to ensure that organisations met the minimum eligibility criteria outlined in each prospectus:

- Grounds for mandatory exclusion
- Minimum Criteria
- Suitability Criteria in three areas:
  - The organisation's financial viability and their track record of securing income
  - What the organisation will use the core grant for and the difference it will make to the organisation
  - The organisation's objectives / articles of association and how these relate to the Council's Corporate Priorities

### **Stage 2**

Each application for 5 of the strands were then assessed based on the following award criteria with weighting:

- 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%

The Advice and Navigation strand was assessed based on the following award criteria with weighting:

- Needs, Issues and Beneficiaries – 10%
- Outcomes, Services, Activities and Risks – 20%
- The Difference We Want You to Make – 30%
- Your Ability to Deliver an Integrated Advice Model for Islington – 20%
- Organisational Development – 10%
- Evaluating and Communicating Impact – 10%

- 3.8. All applications were assessed by a minimum of two individual council officers, in line with the established criteria and all scores were aggregated to identify an overall total score for each application.
- 3.9. Panel meetings were held with assessors to address divergence in scoring, to undertake an additional qualitative assessment of each application, and to agree a final shortlist for each strand.

3.10. At each stage of the process, officers assessed recommendations in line with the aspiration to establish a balanced and diverse portfolio working with different sections of the community with protected characteristics and across the borough. This assessment included consideration of:

- Equalities and protected characteristics
- Geographical spread across the borough
- Thematic spread

### 3.11. Applications Summary

The applications received break down into the following areas:

<b>Strand</b>	<b>Total received</b>	<b>Not Recommended for Funding</b>	<b>Recommended for Funding</b>
<b>Capacity Building</b>	3	2	1
<b>Community Hubs</b>	17	4	13
<b>Delivery</b>	54	31	23
<b>Equalities and Cohesion Networks</b>	9	4	5
<b>Independent Advice &amp; Navigation</b>	6	0	6
<b>Volunteering</b>	2	2	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>48</b>

3.12. Of the 48 applications being recommended for funding, 40 are currently funded organisations and 8 will be newly funded. There are 43 organisations which are not being recommended for funding. This is due to organisations not meeting the requirements for the grants programme or because there was insufficient funding available in the strand being applied to.

3.13. Details of those organisations that are being recommended for grant funding through the VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-2024 in each of the six strands can be found at appendix 1.

3.14. Once the recommendations have been formally agreed, all organisations will be notified in writing to confirm the decision and the level of funding agreed (where applicable). Organisations will then be required to develop an annual delivery plan before a grant agreement is issued.

3.15. There will be a support package made available to organisations not being recommended for funding which will include:

- Detailed feedback about applications, available upon request
- Access to training opportunities/sessions – Including writing funding applications
- Details of alternative funding available

### 3.16. Monitoring Arrangements

To ensure that the commitments made within any established grant agreements and applications are developed and actioned, regular monitoring and partnership meetings will be held throughout the duration of the grant programme.

### 3.17. Funding retained from the VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-2024

Through the Resident Impact Assessment (see appendix 3), two gaps in provision have been identified. In order to mitigate these and ensure that the VCS Partnership portfolio is fully able to support the Council's equality and community cohesion ambitions, the following measures are being proposed:

- Disability Representation - It is recommended that £30K per annum, totalling £97,500 over the programme period, from the Equalities and Cohesion Networks stand is ring fenced to support the development of a borough-wide pan-disability focussed equalities and cohesion network that can assist the Council in delivering its ambitions for a fairer Islington.
- BAME Representation - It is recommended that £30K per annum, totalling £97,500 over the programme period, from the Equalities and Cohesion Networks stand is ring fenced to support the development of a borough-wide Black and Minority Ethnic equalities and cohesion network that can assist the Council in delivering its ambitions for a fairer Islington.
- In addition, it is also recommended that a strategic review of volunteering and the current and future capacity building support needs of the voluntary sector be undertaken. This recommendation is in light of the Fairer Together programme, and the impacts and changes brought about by Covid-19. It is proposed that £75,000 per annum, totalling £243,750 over the programme period, is ring-fenced, with future allocations being made in line with the recommendations of this review (see appendix 2 for details).

To assist with the mitigation of the above gaps in provision and to support the Council's ambitions for the role of the voluntary and community sector in Islington's Fairer Together programme a one-off fixed amount of £80K per annum, totalling £260,000 over the programme period, has been allocated from the remaining underspend from previous grant rounds.

## 4. Implications

### 4.1. Financial Implications

The Council seeks to provide funding to VCS organisations to a total of £2,696,000 per year over the financial years: 2020/21, 2021/22, 2020/23, and 2023/24. The reduction in the length of the 2020-2024 VCS grants programme does not have an impact on the amount of money paid out in any one of the financial years as the 2016-2020 programme will extend to cover the shortfall for the same amount. Of the £2,696,000 funding per year available for VCS organisations to bid for as part of the 2021-2024 VCS grants programme, the report recommends £2,641,000 per annum (pro rata FY20/21) be awarded.

Maintaining the Council's existing financial commitment of £2,696,000 per annum to the VCS Partnership Grants Programme requires continued funding of £119,000 from the CCG. An agreement has been reached between the Council and the CCG to commit to this funding arrangement for the duration of the 2021-2024 programme.

£135,000 per FY is proposed for equalities and cohesion, capacity building, and volunteer support activities. The cost of this will partly be met from not committing the full £2,696,000,

with £55,000 per year earmarked for these activities. The remaining £80,000 per year required will be found from retained underspends from the FY2016-20 programme. There is sufficient retained underspend to cover this commitment.

The report's recommendations to fund £2,641,000 per annum for VCS organisations through the 2021-2024 VCS grants programme and an additional £135,000 per annum for equalities, cohesion, capacity, and volunteer activities will result in a total financial commitment of £2,776,000 per annum.

It is intended that grant commitments will be protected for a 3.25 year period although the awards will be issued with a mid-programme review as per the last grants programme. The Council's MTFP currently incorporates a continuation of the scheme as proposed. This is subject to ongoing Council wide savings discussions.

The table below displays the additional money requested in the recommendations, where the funding is coming from, remaining funding, and the number of allocations in the FY21-24 period. Please note that the proposed allocations range in funding size from £10,000 to £450,000.

	Financial Year				
Programmes:	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24	Total:
<b>2021-24 Grants Programme recommended grant awards</b>	£ 660,250	£2,641,000	£2,641,000	£2,641,000	£ 8,583,250
<b>Equalities, Cohesion, Capacity, and Volunteer Programme</b>	£ 33,750	£ 135,000	£ 135,000	£ 135,000	£ 438,750
<b>Total Cost</b>	£ 694,000	£2,776,000	£2,776,000	£2,776,000	£ 9,022,000
<b>Funding sources:</b>					
<b>Core Funding</b>	-£ 644,250	-£2,577,000	-£2,577,000	-£2,577,000	-£ 8,375,250
<b>CCG Funding</b>	-£ 29,750	-£ 119,000	-£ 119,000	-£ 119,000	-£ 386,750
<b>Retained Underspends/ Earmarked Reserves</b>	-£ 20,000	-£ 80,000	-£ 80,000	-£ 80,000	-£ 260,000
<b>Total Funding:</b>	-£ 694,000	-£2,776,000	-£2,776,000	-£2,776,000	-£ 9,022,000
<b>Total Difference:</b>	-	-	-	-	-
<b>No of Allocations:</b>	48	48	48	48	48

## 4.2. Legal Implications

The Council has power to provide grants to voluntary and community sector organisations under the general power of competence set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

The Voluntary and Community Sector Committee is a sub-committee of the Executive and has delegated authority, in Part 5 of the Council's Constitution to 'oversee the Council's engagement with the Islington community and voluntary sector and to ensure value for money and fairness in the allocation of Council resources to the sector' and to 'be responsible for the allocation of the Islington Community Fund including allocating the VCS Partnership Grants Programme.'

The four elements of state aid are that the assistance must:

- a) be granted by the state or through state resources;
- b) give an advantage to one or more undertakings over others;
- c) distort or have the potential to distort competition;
- d) affect trade between member states.

The provision of these grants may be associated with state aid. Even if there is state aid, there are potential exemptions. The Council can provide state aid in relation to 'services of general economic interest' (SGEI) as detailed in Article 106(2) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union and Schedule 3 paragraph 4 of the Competition Act 1998.

Aid of up to €500,000 (approximately £438,000) may be provided to an organisation for SGEI so long as that organisation has not received de minimis aid from any other source in the last three fiscal years which would result in the total de minimis aid to that organisation exceeding the €500,000 (Commission Regulation No 360/2012, the "de minimis Regulation").

In the event that an organization has received other de minimis aid that takes it over the threshold of £438,000, there is an alternative regime for SGEI exemption for high value compensation that may be used. This was established by Commission Decision (2012/12/EU, the "Decision") that came into force on 31 January 2012. Should this be necessary the detailed rules on calculation of cost and record keeping and reporting set out in the Decision will need to be complied with.

## 4.3 Environmental Implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Islington by 2030

The grant programme in itself has minimal environmental impacts, being limited to those associated with the office use of the staff involved. However, the grants will be used to fund activities that are likely to have a range of environmental impacts, most of which will have resulting carbon emissions. These include energy and water use in buildings, the purchase of goods with supply chain impacts and the generation of waste.

## 4.4 Resident Impact Assessment

A resident impact assessment has been completed (appendix 3) to understand the impact of the grants programme on residents in the borough, particularly those with protected characteristics. The new grants programme aims to support the overarching Council priorities of

addressing inequality, promoting community cohesion and supporting the most vulnerable residents.

Key highlights from the resident impact assessment are detailed below:

- 27 of the 48 organisations recommended for funding are classified as having a 'targetted' approach and 21 with a 'universal' approach. In comparison to core grant-funding awards in 2016-2020, there has been a 13% increase in the level of funding going to organisations with a 'targetted' approach to working with residents with protected characteristics.
- The VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-2024 recommendations for funding include, 16 organisations which specifically work with BAME communities (including 1 consortium of 6 BAME-led organisations) totalling £609,000 of funding per annum, with a further £30,000 per annum ring-fenced for BAME focussed equalities support through a borough-wide equality and cohesion network. In comparison to 2016-2020, there has therefore been a 19% increase in the amount of funding going to BAME-led/focussed organisations compared to the current Partnership Grants programme 2016-2020.
- The Equality and Cohesion Networks strand is a new strand which will bring 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. Five organisations, working with a focus on ethnicity, age (older people), faith, sexual orientation and gender reassignment are recommended for funding through this strand, totalling £120,000 with a further £60,000 being ring-fenced pending a review of the offer for residents with disabilities and BAME representation in the borough. These recommendations would see an increase of 20% in the funding provided for borough-wide equalities work in comparison to 2016-2020.
- In addition to the positive impacts associated with providing grant funding to independent advice partners, the Council established a strand of funding for organisations working with residents with protected characteristics that face additional challenges in accessing independent legal advice. Two applications are being recommended in the community advice strand for a funding total of £110,000 per annum, this includes funding for a consortium of 6 organisations working with the BAME community and funding for an organisation working specifically with women in the borough.
- The RIA has resulted in the identification of two gaps in provision which are detailed in the assessment along with proposed mitigation for residents with disabilities and BAME communities, which aims to ensure that residents with protected characteristics are represented throughout the funding programme.
- In considering the Resident Impact Assessment, due regard should be had to the Council's obligations under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010:
  - (1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
    - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
    - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
    - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
  - (2) A person who is not a public authority but who exercises public functions must, in the exercise of those functions, have due regard to the matters mentioned in subsection (1).

- (3) Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to—
  - (a) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
  - (b) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
  - (c) encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
- (4) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.
- (5) Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to—
  - (a) tackle prejudice, and
  - (b) promote understanding.
- (6) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others; but that is not to be taken as permitting conduct that would otherwise be prohibited by or under this Act.
- (7) The relevant protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

## 5. Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

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 2021-2024 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.

## Appendices

Appendix 1: Organisations recommended for funding through the VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-2024

Appendix 2: Funding retained and ring-fenced – VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-2024

Appendix 3: Resident Impact Assessment

**Background papers:** none

**Final report clearance:**

*Una mattina*

**Signed by:** Executive Member for Community Development

**Date:**

Report Author: Shabana Aslam  
Tel: 0207 527 3848  
Email: [Shabana.Aslam@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Shabana.Aslam@islington.gov.uk)

Financial Implications Author: Thomas Cooksey  
Tel: 020 7527 1867  
Email: [Thomas.Cooksey@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Thomas.Cooksey@islington.gov.uk)

Legal Implications Author: Sonal Mistry  
Tel: 020 7527 3833  
Email: [Sonal.Mistry@islington.gov.uk](mailto:Sonal.Mistry@islington.gov.uk)

Environmental Implications Author: James Wilson  
Tel: 020 7527 2349  
Email: [James.Wilson@islington.gov.uk](mailto:James.Wilson@islington.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1

### Organisations Recommended for Funding through VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-2024:

<b>Independent Advice and Navigation Strand</b>		
<b>Strand</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding per annum</b>
Strand 1 - Navigation	Help on Your Doorstep	£180,000
Strand 2 – Community Advice	Islington BAMER Advice Alliance	£95,000
Strand 2 – Community Advice Strand 3 – Generalist Advice	Arachne Greek Cypriot Women’s Group	£31,000
Strand 3 – Generalist Advice	RCJ Advice and Citizens Advice Islington	£450,000
Strand 4 – Specialist Advice	Islington Law Centre	£450,000
Strand 5 – Targeted Specialist Advice	Islington People’s Rights	£230,000
		<b>Total: £1,436,000.00</b>

<b>Community Hubs Strand</b>	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding per annum</b>
Caxton House Community Centre	£45,000
Hanley Crouch Community Association	£60,000
Highbury Roundhouse	£45,000
Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust	£50,000
Hilldrop Area Community Association	£50,000
Holloway Neighbourhood Group	£45,000
Hornsey Lane Community Association	£50,000
Mildmay Community Partnership	£50,000

Muslim Welfare House	£40,000
St Luke's Parochial Trust	£60,000
The ARC Centre	£30,000
The Peel	£50,000
Whittington Park Community Association	£60,000
<b>Total: £635,000.00</b>	

<b>Capacity Building Strand</b>	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding per annum</b>
Octopus Community Network	£40,000
Funds ring-fenced pending a review of offer for the sector (see appendix 2)	
<b>Total: £40,000.00</b>	

<b>Volunteering Strand</b>	
<b>Organisations</b>	<b>Funding per annum</b>
No organisations recommended for funding (see appendix 2)	
<b>Total: £0</b>	

<b>Delivery Strand</b>	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding per annum</b>
ALAG on behalf of the Autism Hub Islington	£17,500
All Change	£20,000
Community Language Support Services	£24,000
Company Three	£15,000
Culpeper Community Gardens	£9,500

Eritrean Community in UK	£22,000
Finsbury Park Mosque	£15,000
Global Generation	£15,000
Healthy Generations	£15,000
Holloway Neighbourhood Group	£20,000
IMECE Women's Centre	£22,000
Islington Bangladesh Association	£22,000
Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants	£20,000
Islington Somali Community	£22,000
Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women Organisation	£20,000
Light Project Pro International	£24,000
Little Angel Theatre	£15,000
Maa Shanti	£15,000
One True Voice	£10,000
St Mark's Church	£15,000
Stuart Low Trust	£20,000
The Margins Project	£14,500
The Parent House	£17,500
<b>Total: £410,000.00</b>	

<b>Equalities and Cohesion Networks Strand</b>	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Funding per annum</b>
Forum +	£30,000
Islington Faith Forum	£30,000
Islington Pensioners Forum	£10,000
Islington Refugee and Migrant Forum	£30,000

London Irish Centre	£20,000
Funds ring-fenced pending a review of offer for BAME residents. (see appendix 2)	
Funds ring-fenced pending a review of offer for residents with disabilities. (see appendix 2)	
<b>Total: £120,000.00</b>	

### Recommended Total Funding Allocations identified by Strand

Strand	Total Amount Requested	Total Amount Recommended
<b>Capacity Building</b>	£115,000	£40,000
<b>Community Hubs</b>	£965,696	£635,000
<b>Delivery</b>	£1,241,558	£410,000
<b>Equalities and Cohesion Networks</b>	£210,000	£120,000
<b>Independent Advice &amp; Navigation - Strand 1 - Navigation</b>	£200,000	£180,000
<b>Independent Advice &amp; Navigation - Strand 2 - Community Advice</b>	£116,262	£110,000
<b>Independent Advice &amp; Navigation - Strand 3 – Generalist Advice</b>	£518,415	£466,000
<b>Independent Advice &amp; Navigation - Strand 4 – Specialist Advice</b>	£460,000	£450,000
<b>Independent Advice &amp; Navigation Strand 5 - Targeted Specialist Advice</b>	£250,000	£230,000
<b>Volunteering</b>	£45,000	£0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,121,931</b>	<b>£2,641,000</b>

## Appendix 2

### Funding Retained and Ring Fenced for VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-2024

<b>Strand</b>	<b>Grant Total (per annum)</b>
<b>Equalities and Cohesion Networks</b>	£30,000 Disabilities offer £30,000 BAME offer
<b>Capacity Building</b>	£40,000
<b>Volunteering</b>	£35,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£135,000</b>

This page is intentionally left blank

## Resident Impact Assessment

### Title of policy, procedure, function, service activity or financial decision: **Voluntary and Community Sector Partnership Grants Programme 2021-2024**

#### 1. What are the intended outcomes of this policy, function etc.?

In 2018 the Council launched its 2018-2022 Corporate Plan 'Building a Fairer Islington'. This corporate plan detailed seven clear objectives related to:

- Homes
- Jobs and Money
- Safety
- Children and Young People
- Place and Environment
- Health and Independence
- Well Run Council

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.

#### **Fairer Together**

Islington Council is seeking to establish a new systems approach that sees statutory services and the voluntary and community sector collaborating to improve the lives of local people.

We are working across Islington to establish a programme, called Fairer Together that aims to respond to a changing era of public policy, recognising the importance of partnership and collaboration across sectors and across organisational boundaries.

This approach will seek to further develop the way in which Islington as a whole community, responds to the challenges facing local people. It will require us all to unlock the skills, capacities and capabilities of local people and local communities.

Partnerships and collaboration with Islington's VCS are central to this aspiration. The Fairer Together approach will have early intervention and prevention at its heart and we want the borough's voluntary sector to be empowered to support us to drive this ambition forward in order to enable local people to thrive and enjoy a good quality of life.

Islington's VCS are key partners in delivering an interconnected system of preventative services in community settings across the borough.

### **VCS Grants Programme 2021 - 2024**

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 programme is structured around the following strands:

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

On 6 January 2020 the programme was launched with prospectuses created detailing the specific objectives for each of the strands of the grants programme. The deadline for applications was 15 March 2020 with a total of 91 applications received requesting a total of £4.1 million in funding.

At each stage in the process, officers assessed recommendations in line with the need to establish a balanced and diverse portfolio working with different sections of the community and across the borough's wards.

After consideration, the recommendations have been decided based on the following factors:

- 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 2021-2024 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.

## 2. Resident Profile

Who is going to be impacted by this change i.e. residents/service users/tenants? Please complete data for your service users. If your data does not fit into the categories in this table, please copy and paste your own table in the space below. Please refer to **section 3.3** of the guidance for more information.

The VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-24 will provide grant funding for 48 organisations working with residents across the borough. Of these, 40 organisations currently receive funding. These organisations deliver an extensive range of services and activities for Islington residents at key geographical locations and 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.

		<b>Borough profile</b>
		<b>Total: 206,285</b>
<b>Gender</b>	<b>Female</b>	<b>51%</b>
	<b>Male</b>	<b>49%</b>
<b>Age</b>	<b>Under 16</b>	<b>32,825</b>
	<b>16-24</b>	<b>29,418</b>
	<b>25-44</b>	<b>87,177</b>
	<b>45-64</b>	<b>38,669</b>
	<b>65+</b>	<b>18,036</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>52%</b>
	<b>White</b>	<b>48%</b>
<b>Religion or belief</b>	<b>Christian</b>	<b>40%</b>
	<b>Muslim</b>	<b>10%</b>
	<b>Other</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
	<b>No religion</b>	<b>30%</b>
	<b>Religion not stated</b>	<b>17%</b>



### 3. Equality impacts

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?

#### Overview

A key aim of the VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-2024 is to provide core funding to voluntary and community sector organisations working across Islington's diverse communities in order 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 inequalities within the borough, in particular where there are voluntary and community organisations that are well-placed to reach communities at risk of exclusion.

In order 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

A total of 91 applications, requesting £4.1 million in funding per annum were received across all six strands of the programme. A total of 48 applications are recommended for funding, meaning that the average success rate across all strands was 54%.

As part of the assessment process and ongoing equalities assessments, all applications received were categorised as being either 'universal' (i.e. open access for the whole community, with protected characteristics covered through their Equal Opportunities policy), or as being 'targeted' in that they work specifically with sections of the community with protected characteristics.

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

27 of the 48 organisations recommended for funding are classified as having a 'targeted' approach and 21 with a 'universal' approach. In comparison to core grant-funding awards in 2016-2020 there has been a 13% increase in the level of funding going to organisations with a 'targeted' approach to working with residents with protected characteristics.

---

Of the 48 that are recommended for funding:

- 18 organisations provide open access 'universal' services such as legal advice agencies (3) and multi-use community hubs (13), or run services for people who are street homeless (1), capacity building support for community hubs (1) or an open access community garden (1).
- Three organisations provide a 'universal' service, but work specifically to engage young people (2), or people from BAME backgrounds (1).
- 17 organisations have a targeted approach to working with ethnic minority communities, of which 15 of these work with BAME communities.
- Six organisations have a targeted approach to working with young people and three organisations with older people.
- Five organisations have a targeted approach to working with people with disabilities
- Five organisations have a targeted approach to working in areas of religion/belief
- Seven organisations have a targeted approach to working in areas of sex/gender - specifically with women.
- One organisation has a targeted approach to working in the area of gender reassignment and sexual orientation.
- One organisation has a targeted approach to working in the area of marriage and civil partnership, and one within the area of pregnancy and maternity.

In line with the aspirations of the VCS Partnership Grants Programme, funding is being recommended to organisations working across all protected characteristics.

The analysis identifies organisations working with residents with protected characteristics in the areas of race (17 organisations, 15 BAME focussed organisations), religion or belief (5 organisations) and sex (7 organisations) as being proportionately well served in terms of both the number of organisations receiving funding and their relative success in applying – all applications in these areas had a success rate equal to or higher than the average success rate of 54%.

Only one application was received in which the organisation targeted work with people with protected characteristics in the area of sexual orientation and gender reassignment, this application was successful. Two applications were received from organisations working in a targeted way with people with protected characteristics in the areas of pregnancy and maternity. One of these has been recommended for funding.

Nine organisations recommended for funding work in a targeted way with young people or older people, out of a total of 19 applications in this area. This is reflective of the focus that Islington's VCS Grants Programme takes on working with community-based approaches and the Council's commissioning commitments in the areas of children, young people and adult social services.

Five organisations working in the area of disability have been recommended for funding. The success rate for applications working with people with disabilities was lower than the average 54% success rate and proposals to mitigate this are identified below.

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**

### **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.

In the 2016-2020 VCS Partnership Grants Programme, funding totalling £535,000 per annum was awarded to organisations working with the BAME community. The VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-2024 recommendations for funding include 16 organisations which specifically work with BAME communities (including 1 consortium of 6 BAME-led organisations) totalling £609,000 of funding per annum, with a further £30,000 per annum ring-fenced for BAME focussed equalities support through a borough-wide equality and cohesion network. In comparison to 2016-2020, there has therefore been a 19% increase in the amount of funding going to BAME-led/focussed organisations.

### **Equality and Cohesion Networks**

The Equality and Cohesion Networks strand is a new strand which will bring 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 will be collaboration and partnership between organisations who work with specific protected characteristics, to reflect the reality that many residents would identify as having more than one protected characteristic.

This particular strand set the following objectives for organisations to:

- Act as a strategic leader in the area of equalities and community cohesion
- Deliver, co-produce or provide sign-posting 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

Five organisations are recommended for funding through this strand, totalling £120,000 with a further £60,000 being ring-fenced pending a review of the offer for residents with disabilities and BAME representation in the borough (further details can be found below under – Negative Impacts and proposed mitigation). These recommendations would see an increase of 20% in the funding provided for borough-wide equalities work in comparison to 2016-2020. This increase in funding is reflective of the Council’s commitments and aspirational work with community partners to tackle structural inequality in the borough. These partners will be integral to the Council’s Challenging Inequalities Programme.

Across the protected characteristics, organisations in this strand have been funded for their targeted work in the following areas:

- **Religion/Belief:** One organisation is being recommended with a 20 per cent increase in funding through the new 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.
- **Sexual Orientation and Gender Reassignment:** One organisation, which is currently funded, is being recommended with a 20 per cent increase in funding through the new programme. This organisation works with Islington residents who face inequality and prejudice due to sexual orientation or gender reassignment and an increase in funding would enable the organisation to develop their work in the borough.
- **Ethnicity:** Two organisations are being funded in this strand for their targeted work in this area:
  - One organisation working in the area of ethnicity is being recommended with a 20 per cent increase in funding 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.
  - One organisation is being recommended for funding to work with Islington’s Irish community, recognising that this is one of the largest ethnic groups in the borough. This new addition will ensure that there is now 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.
- **Older People:** One organisation which is currently funded works specifically with older residents in the borough and is being recommended for funding at the same level to ensure that this population group is represented in this strand.

## 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

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.

The three main advice partners; Citizens Advice Islington, Islington People's Rights and Islington Law Centre offer universal services that still address inequalities. Their combined work with residents includes: 42% of clients from BAME communities; 57% of clients are women; and 52 % of clients have a disability.

**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 2021-2024 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.

Two applications are being recommended for a funding total of £110,000 per annum, this includes funding for a consortium of 6 organisations working with the BAME community and funding for an organisation working specifically with women in the borough. These recommendations represents a 46% 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 and a three-fold increase in the level of funding going to community organisations supporting women 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 BAME backgrounds. This funding is at the same level as through the 2016-2020 grants programme.

## **Negative Impacts and Proposed Mitigation**

Through the Resident Impact Assessment, two gaps in provision have been identified. In order to mitigate these and ensure that the VCS Partnership portfolio is fully able to support

the Council's equality and community cohesion ambitions, the following measures are being proposed:

### **Equality and Cohesion Networks**

- **Disability Network:** No organisation is recommended for funding to lead pan-disability work on equality and cohesion at a borough-wide level. Failing to fund work in this area could have a negative impact on Islington's disabled community and on community relations. It has therefore been recommended that £30,000 is ring-fenced to support the development of a borough-wide pan-disability focussed equalities and cohesion network.
- **BAME Network:** No organisation is recommended for funding to lead BAME work on equality and cohesion at a borough-wide level. In particular, across the programme it has been identified that there is a lack of funding to Black Caribbean focussed community organisations. Failing to fund work in this area could have a negative impact on community relations. Through its challenging inequalities work, Islington has established a race equality forum. It is recommended that £30,000 funding is retained to support the development of a BAME equality and cohesion network with a particular focus on Islington's Black Caribbean community.

---

## **4. Safeguarding and Human Rights impacts**

### **a) Safeguarding risks and Human Rights breaches**

Please describe any safeguarding risks for children or vulnerable adults AND any potential human rights breaches that may occur as a result of the proposal? Please refer to **section 4.8** of the [guidance](#) for more information.

As part of the application and assessment process of the VCS Partnership Grants Programme 2021-2024 organisations were required to confirm they have key safeguarding documents including up to date Safeguarding and Equalities policies. Organisations were also assessed in the application on how they would ensure they maintain the highest level of commitment to the safeguarding of children, adults, employees and volunteers.

Successful organisations will need to provide up to date Safeguarding and Equality policies for their organisation and demonstrate that they participate in Safeguarding Training. They will also need to submit details of safeguarding alerts and other serious incidents within their service to the Council and other relevant bodies.

If potential safeguarding and human rights risks are identified then **please contact [equalities@islington.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@islington.gov.uk) to discuss further:**

## 5. Action

How will you respond to the impacts that you have identified in sections 3 and 4, or address any gaps in data or information?

For more information on identifying actions that will limit the negative impact of the policy for protected groups see the [guidance](#).

Action	Responsible person or team	Deadline
The development of a borough-wide pan-disability focussed equalities and cohesion network that can assist the Council in delivering its ambitions for a fairer Islington.	VCS Team	Ongoing 2021-2024 (grant programme duration)
To support the development of a BAME equality and cohesion network with a particular focus on Islington's Black Caribbean community.	VCS Team	Ongoing 2021-2024 (grant programme duration)
Engage equality and cohesion networks and key VCS organisations in Islington's Challenging Inequalities Programme.	VCS Team	Ongoing 2021 - 2024 (grant programme duration)

Please send the completed RIA to [equalities@islington.gov.uk](mailto:equalities@islington.gov.uk) and also make it publicly available online along with the relevant policy or service change.

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

**Staff member completing this form:**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

**Head of Service or higher:**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: [Click here to enter a date.](#)

**Staff member completing this form:**

Shabana Aslam

VCS Funding and Commissioning Partnerships Manager

Date: 21 August 2020