

## Resident Impact Assessment

### London Community Response Fund – Wave 4 Grants

#### Service Area: Voluntary and Community Sector Development Team, Home and Communities

#### Introduction

In November 2020 the Government announced the second national lockdown in order to stop the spread of Covid 19 across the country. This had a major impact on voluntary and community sector organisations in Islington working to support residents during the pandemic. Many were forced to close or continue with the crisis response across the borough while adapting to losses of income, reductions in staff and overall changes to how services could be delivered in the community.

The London Community Response Fund launched Wave 4 'Navigating Crisis' grants on the 12 November 2020 offering grants of up to £10,000 to support civil society through the second national lockdown. This wave closed for applications on the 3 December 2020, with many organisations in Islington applying for support through the fund in order to continue to support those most in need during the lockdown.

The council has been able to support key voluntary and community sector organisations during this lockdown providing £120,000 of funding during wave 4 through the London Community Response Fund. This enabled those organisations directly supporting residents in the borough to receive vital funding to continue their work.

Islington's Voluntary and Community Sector has played a critical role in Islington's Covid-19 response, in particular, through supporting the borough's food response, ensuring residents could get access to information and maintaining services that enabled residents to maintain social connections.

In November 2020, Islington's GOLD Group agreed to the allocation of £120,000 to support the voluntary sector's work, particularly around the borough's food and community communications work. This funding was sourced from the national Test and Trace (£70,000) funding and the Covid Winter Grant Scheme (£50,000) administered by the Department for Work and Pensions.

#### London Community Response Fund

London Funders established the London Community Response Fund in the aftermath of the Covid 19 pandemic to provide an accessible portal for London's civil society to seek funding

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during this unprecedented time. This enabled funders and investors to align funding opportunities to the London Community Response Fund and meant organisations had the opportunity to be funded from a range of funders for activities responding to the crisis.

Funding was made available in rounds throughout 2020 and into 2021 with due diligence checks being completed by a team of funders. This meant that the Council could quickly search the website and find organisations in Islington who met the criteria and minimum standards.

To support the capital's communities through the winter, over £4m in crisis funding is being distributed over the coming weeks to groups across the city. In total the London Community Response has given £46m to projects in every London borough.

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## **2. Resident Profile**

The allocation of grant funding to 13 voluntary sector organisations will enable these organisations to continue to provide vital, crisis-related services to Islington residents most affected by the economic and health impacts of Covid.

The organisations work across the borough and the funding will enable this vital work to continue. This will have positive impacts for those Islington residents most impacted by the pandemic and who may not have access to food, essentials and information to stay safe.

These organisations deliver an extensive range of services and activities for Islington residents at key geographical locations and across the protected characteristics.

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## **3. Equality impacts**

Eleven of the 13 funded organisations provide vital food support to vulnerable residents, including those on low incomes and those defined as clinically extremely vulnerable due to underlying clinical risks, including those related to disabilities and age.

One of the organisations funded, specifically provides services to Islington's African-Caribbean community, another to people of North African heritage. Two projects focus their work on sections of Islington's street homeless population and one will provide communication and key information to Islington's faith communities, with another providing key information to BAME and disabled residents. All organisations funded have equal opportunities policies.

The allocation of funding will enable these critical services to respond through the current lockdown, making a positive contribution to equality outcomes in the borough. The provision of this funding will make a positive contribution to Islington's equality objectives.

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## 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.

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

No safeguarding risks for children or vulnerable adults and any potential human rights breaches have been identified that may occur as a result of this proposal. All funded organisations have safeguarding policies in place as a minimum standard and checks formed part of the assessment process by London Funders.

Each organisation will be monitored by the VCS Development team during the grant period.

## 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	Lead	Date
Monitoring of all funded organisations to ensure contractual requirements are being met.	VCS Development team	Ongoing from January – June 2021

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.

**Staff member completing this form:**



Shabana Aslam:

**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: John Muir

Date: 02/02/2021