

Islington Council's Community Chest (ICCC) Annual review, June 2018



As the Islington's Executive Member for Community Development, being chair of the Islington Council Community Chest is definitely one of the most enjoyable parts of my role. This year is a reflection of what a vibrant community sector we have in the borough. Over the past year (2017/18) we had a total of 81 applications with just under a quarter of those funded from first time applicants. It's clear that Islington's values of working together to make the borough a great place to live and work continues to thrive.

There has been much said this year in the press about the damaging consequences of social isolation. It is therefore very reassuring to see that the majority of applications to the Community Chest in recent years have been for the category of 'reducing isolation and increasing involvement in the community'.

Interestingly, recent research from The Foundation for Social Improvement 'How are small charities meeting the increased demand for their services' shows a real increase in demand. As of June 2013, the FSI Small Charity Index has tracked this trend and the current increase (at 28 February 2018) has shown a 134% increase in demand.

I am delighted that in the face of increasing financial pressure, our council has been able to continue to work in partnership with Cripplegate. We intend to continue to fund the Community Chest for the next three years. I look forward to seeing how Islington will, as ever, take the small investment we provide and create a huge amount of value to the borough, by giving time as volunteers, bringing communities together and improving the lives of local people.

Cllr Kaya Comer-Schwartz

Executive Member for Community Development

Introduction

Islington Council's Community Chest exists to support small organisations that, with local knowledge and reach, make a big difference to local residents. Islington Council's Community Chest provides small organisations with grants of up to £5,000. Priority is given to organisations that have an annual turnover of less than £50,000 and work with people who are experiencing poverty and isolation. There are three application rounds a year supporting a wide range of projects, reaching out to a diverse mix of Islington residents who typically do not access services or who have limited social networks.

Applications for Islington Council's Community Chest are considered by a panel made up of Islington Councillors, Cripplegate Foundation Governors and members of the Islington Community Network.

Groups can apply under five themes that together address local priorities and issues facing Islington residents:

- Advice and support
- Improving the local environment and making communities safer
- Reducing isolation and increasing involvement in the community
- Educating and improving skills and employability
- Improving mental and physical health

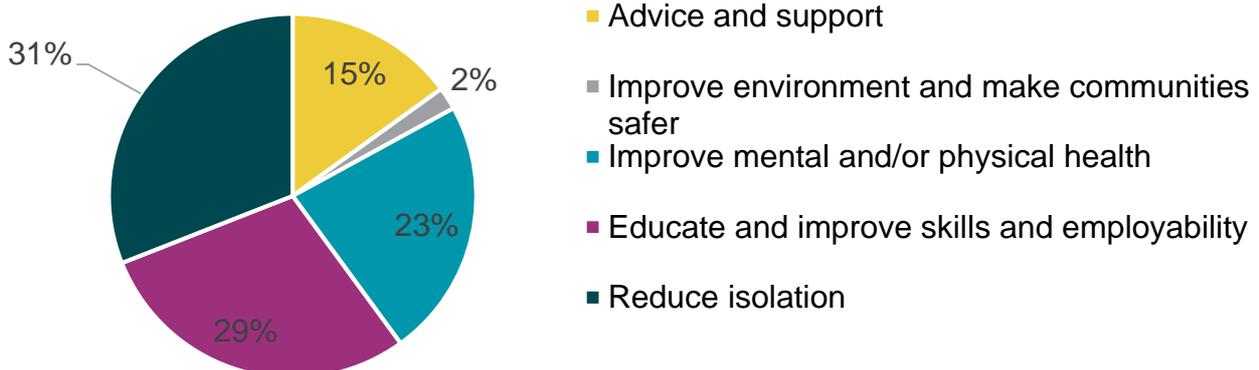
Islington Council's Community Chest actively seeks to fund projects that as a whole are inclusive of all people regardless of their age, culture, disabilities, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, race, religion or sexual orientation.

Funded groups are often reliant on local volunteers, people who are dedicated to improving their local communities and reaching out to support people in need.

Who Islington Council's Community Chest reached in 2017/18

- 81 community groups applied to Islington Council's Community Chest in 2017-18
- 52 community groups (64% of applicants) were awarded funding, totaling grants of over £208,000
- 11 (21%) of the 52 funded groups were new to Islington Council's Community Chest
- 16 (31%) of the 52 funded groups have received 5 or more grants

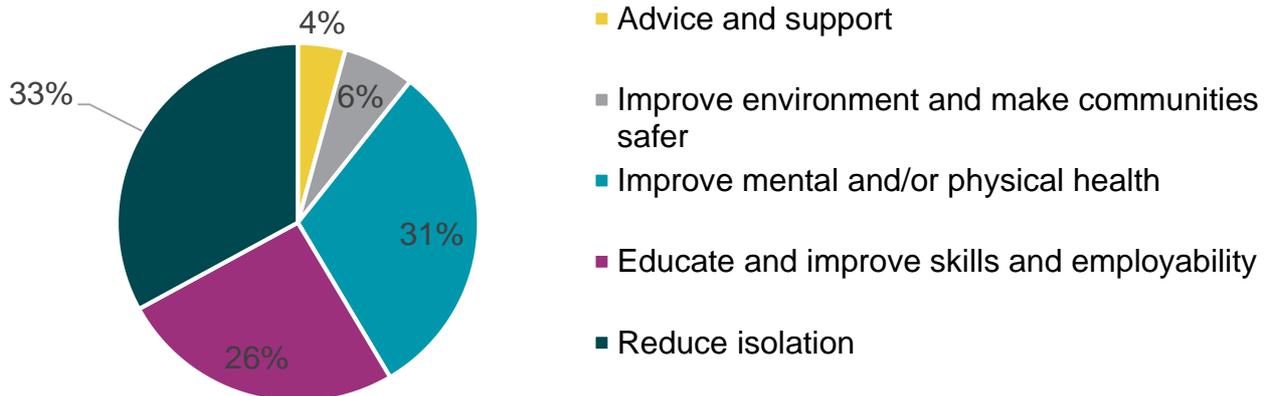
Funded groups by theme 2017/18



Who Islington Council's Community Chest reached in 2016/17

- 76 community groups applied to Islington Council's Community Chest in 2016-17
- 49 community groups (65% of applicants) were awarded funding, totalling grants of just over £213,000
- 12 (25%) of the 49 funded groups were new to Islington Council's Community Chest
- 16 (33%) of the 49 funded groups have received 5 or more grants
- Funded projects supported almost 25,000 Islington residents and enabled over 1,100 local people to volunteer

Funded groups by theme 2016/17



Success stories In the words of the people we've helped

Below, Islington residents describe the difference that our Community Chest funding has made to their lives.

Bags of Taste – Bags of Impact

Bags of Taste delivers courses on how to cook quick, easy, affordable and healthy meals for people on low incomes.

One local mum came to every session and by the end of the course her family had quadrupled the amount of vegetables they were eating and was saving at least £20 a week by cutting out takeaways. She reported... ***“my daughter liked one of the recipes so much, I had to go out and buy more courgettes to cook it again”***



BIRD – a local music mentoring project for vulnerable young people

“This place has given me a platform to express myself and come out of my shell. When you have somewhere to go and feel at home and feel welcome and actually do what you can do, it’s a very good feeling.”

Feedback from a BIRD client

Brilliance. Integrity. Relationship. Delight

Because the creative process has the power to expand the ways we think...
Inspiring, encouraging and empowering creative youth.

Registered Charity 1147054

Turkish Education Group’s Illiterate Women’s Project

“I am 62 and through the Women’s Illiterate Project I was able to learn literacy. I now feel free and independent and I no longer need my husband or my children to do my paperwork for me”

Anon



Music Box– uses music to develop interactive skills between parents/carers and children.

“We were able to observe father and daughter’s confidence increasing and felt that he had approached us rather than nursery staff as his daughter was so engaged with what we were doing at the nursery” Feedback from Music Box about a father with English as a second language who was concerned about his daughter’s timidity.

The difference Community Chest makes

In the words of the organisations supported

While some projects use ICCC funding as a launchpad for growth, others receive very little or no additional funding other than a small ICCC grant. Blackstock Triangle Gardeners has applied for a small grant over a number of years when they need some new equipment, seeds or bulbs.

Blackstock Triangle Gardeners (BTG)



Islington has the least amount of green space of any local authority in the country. Small community-based gardening projects like Blackstock Triangle Gardeners help people engage with nature on their doorstep – with all the social benefits that come with it.

As a result of this community gardening project, residents have come together to, as one member put it: “create an exciting new social cohesion, resulting in growth of a friendly and open society...people who never spoke to their neighbours are now in relationships with them, turning streets from dull places where everyone was anonymous to a close knit, open and friendly neighbourhood...we are proud of our achievements in both our gardens and our neighbourhood relationships. Support from the Community Chest has allowed us to continue this process.”

Following the Finsbury Park terror attack in July 2017, members of the Blackstock Triangle Gardeners went together to the local Mosque to offer their support and sympathy and to show concern for developing social relations in the local area. The work of Blackstock Triangle Gardeners has brought people together from across the whole community to achieve shared goals and the character of the neighbourhood has changed for the better. People know who their neighbours are, people talk to each other and have renewed concern for each other. The project may not have started off with social and cultural inclusion in mind but this is clearly what has been achieved.

The case studies below, both of whom received their first major grant through Islington Council's Community Chest in 2016, demonstrates how ICCC funding can help organisations go from strength to strength by acting as a sign of faith to other funders, providing a catalyst to enable them to grow and prosper.

Creative Opportunities CIC



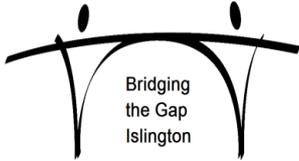
Creative Opportunities helps engage young Londoners in social action projects. They secured ICCC funding in October 2016 to support students from City and Islington College on a 'City Leaders' development programme. The young people learnt budgeting, pitching, leadership and project management skills. The team decided to focus on designing a community project to tackle homelessness, as it was an issue they felt was becoming increasingly visible. The project gave practical support to people living on the streets including providing rucksacks packed with essential goods and sleeping bags.



Creative Opportunities' City Leaders in action

A further ICCC grant awarded in 2017 enabled Creative Opportunities to attract funding from other sources that together helped them to move into their first own office premises at the Mildmay Community Centre. As a result, they have consolidated and expanded the services they offer, including securing additional funding to replicate the City Leaders project across Islington and Hackney. They have also launched a dedicated mentoring project to pilot the potential for connecting young people with professionals from across different professions including politics, fashion, graphic design, film making and law. The success of Creative Opportunities to date shows how even small levels of funding can make a big difference to young people across Islington.

Bridging the Gap Islington



Bridging the Gap Islington helps broker mentoring relationships for vulnerable people at risk of homelessness and reoffending. With the assistance provided through ICCG, Bridging the Gap Islington has been able to access other funding to expand the number of mentoring relationships they offer.

Sara's* story

Sara is in her 20s and has struggled with addictions. The mentoring relationship brokered through Bridging the Gap provided her with a regular space for reflection.

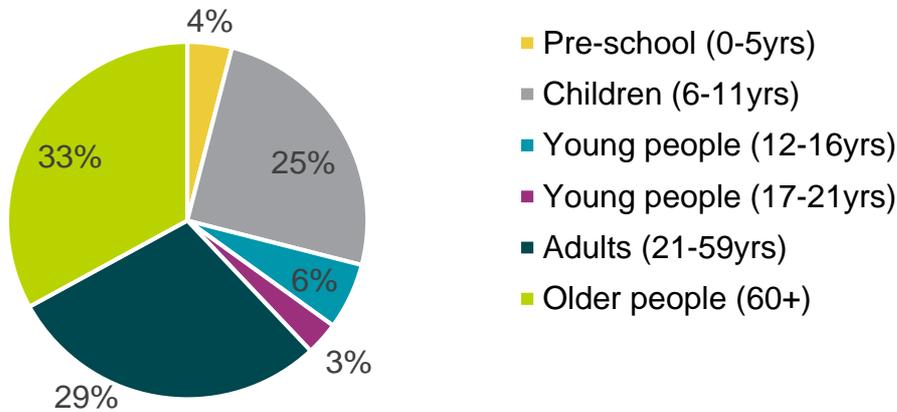
Sara said that the mentoring partnership helped her at times when she had been particularly low. It gave her a sense of responsibility as she felt that it was important to let people know that she was ok. The focus on goals was particularly helpful, especially through the encouragement her mentor offered when assisting Sara to enrol on a college hairdressing course.

**name changed for confidentiality.*

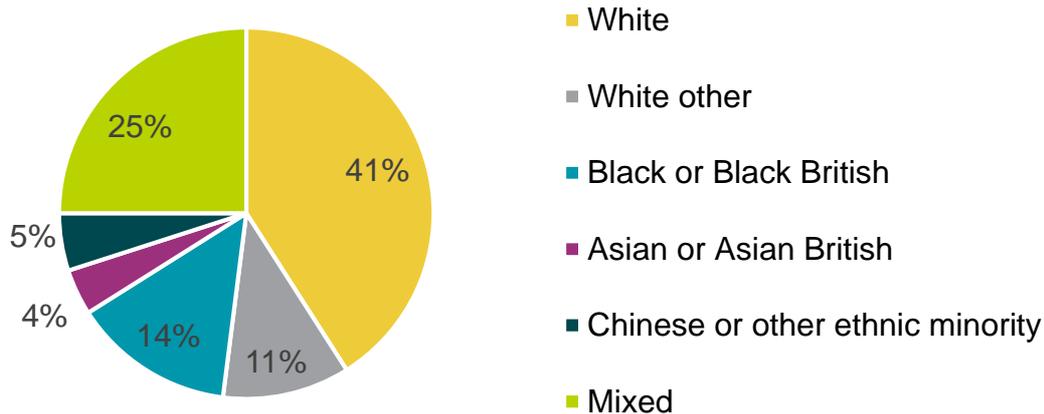
Facts and figures – who we reached in 2016/17

The charts below provides a more in-depth breakdown of the age, ethnicity, and gender of all the people who have benefited from the support provided as a result of Islington Council's Community Chest funding over the period 2016/17.

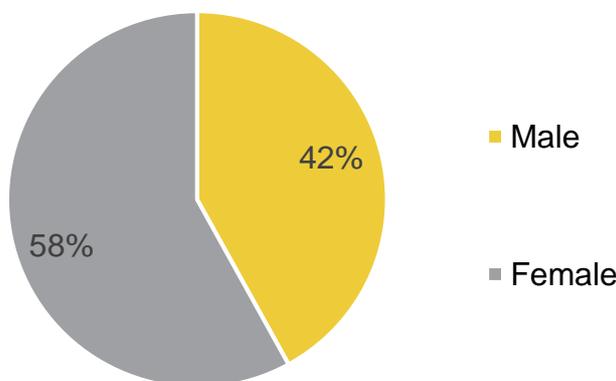
Breakdown of beneficiaries by age



Breakdown of beneficiaries by ethnicity



Breakdown of beneficiaries by gender



A review of the geography of support shows that 65 per cent of projects funded in 2016/17 benefited residents from across the whole borough with 6 per cent focused specifically on Finsbury Park, 4 per cent on Holloway and 3 per cent on Caledonian, St Georges and Bunhill wards respectively. All other projects benefited residents fairly equally across the remaining Islington wards.

List of grants

List of grants awarded April 2017 – March 2018

Advice and Support			
Round 1 June 2017	Community Language Support Services	To improve the lives of vulnerable refugees	£5,000
Round 1 June 2017	MEWSO	Break the Silence Over Domestic Violence!	£5,000
Round 2 November 2017	Eritrean Community in the UK (ECUK)	Towards a mental health awareness and support project	£5,000
Round 2 November 2017	Islington Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot Women's Welfare Group	Towards debt and depression workshops and counselling support	£5,000
Round 2 November 2017	Sarah Agnes Foundation	Towards an advice and information project	£5,000
Round 2 November 2017	YES Outdoors	Towards an adventure based mentoring scheme	£5,000
Round 3 March 2018	Bridging the Gap	Mentoring ex-offenders	£5,000
Round 3 March 2018	Asperger London Area Group (ALAG)	Towards costs for an Islington autism hub	£5,000

Improve the local environment and make communities safer			
Round 2 November 2017	Wipers Youth CIC	Towards a community reparation project	£2,110

Improve mental and physical health			
Round 1 June 2017	EAGLE Recovery Project	Addiction recovery self-help group	£5,000
Round 1 June 2017	Spitz Charitable Trust	Music for Wellbeing - Going Deeper	£4,000
Round 1 June 2017	Times Amateur Boxing Club	TIMES ABC improvement programme	£1,750
Round 1 June 2017	Asmara Football Club	Running costs (pitch hire)	£5,000
Round 2 November 2017	Stepping Stone4 (SS4)	Towards a healthy lifestyle project	£2,000
Round 2 November 2017	Maison Verte-UK	Towards recruitment, training and support for nursery volunteers	£2,175
Round 3 March 2018	Healthy Minds, Healthy Bods	Towards holistic lifestyle, fitness and motivational courses	£3,850
Round 3 March 2018	Bags of Taste	Towards dietary behaviour change courses	£4,952
Round 3 March 2018	BIRD	Towards rent for studio space	£5,000
Round 3 March 2018	Aflah	Towards workshops and activities promoting women's health and education	£3,500
Round 3 March 2018	South Islington Stroke Club	Towards lunch and activity sessions for stroke survivors and their carers	£4,000
Round 3 March 2018	The Hive Food Bank	Towards non-perishable food supplies	£4,800

Educate and improve skills and employability			
Round 1 June 2017	Kurdish Children & Youth Centre	Towards costs of a supplementary school	£5,000
Round 1 June 2017	Minority Matters	Towards costs of a supplementary school	£5,000
Round 1 June 2017	Sports And Life Skills CIC	Towards sports and educational activities	£5,000
Round 2 November 2017	Creative Opportunities C.I.C.	Towards costs for a mentoring pilot	£4,800
Round 2 November 2017	House of AMAU	Towards three prose and poetry workshops	£700
Round 2 November 2017	Performing Production CIC	Towards a film making course	£3,120
Round 2 November 2017	F.L.A.M.E Young Theatre Players	Towards running costs for dance and drama	£5,000
Round 2 November 2017	Hyde Village Community & Social Association	Towards costs of a children's drama club	£5,000
Round 2 November 2017	Friends of Gillespie PTA	Towards a summer science fair	£400
Round 2 November 2017	Jannaty Women's Social Society	Towards a women's sewing project	£5,000
Round 3 March 2018	Urban MBA	Towards a business education programme	£4,000
Round 3 March 2018	Spear Islington Trust	Towards a youth employment programme	£5,000
Round 3 March 2018	Turkish & Kurdish Children's Group	Towards costs of a supplementary school	£5,000
Round 3 March 2018	STORE Schools & Projects C.I.C.	Scholarships for an architecture summer school	£2,000
Round 3 March 2018	Islington Panthers Basketball Club	Towards coaching costs	£5,000

Reduce isolation and increase community involvement			
Round 1 June 2017	The Culture Collective	FEAST - Finsbury Park Festival of the Environment Arts and Sustainable Technology	£2,000
Round 1 June 2017	Angel Shed	Towards an inclusive children's theatre	£4,935
Round 1 June 2017	Healthy Generations	Reducing Isolation - Increasing Health Project	£5,000
Round 1 June 2017	Packington Line Dancing	Tutor and hall hire	£2,400
Round 1 June 2017	Federation of Iraqi Refugees	Support and integration for Islington's Iraqi and Kurdish residents	£4,800
Round 1 June 2017	Amberleigh	Performing arts project	£5,000
Round 1 June 2017	Angel Canal Festival	Towards cost for annual festival	£4,000
Round 1 June 2017	Eritrean Youth Club	Towards football team costs	£2,500
Round 2 November 2017	Life Chances	Towards tackling isolation amongst older Ethiopians	£1,902
Round 2 November 2017	St John's Way Patient Participation Group	Towards activities aimed at improving physical, mental health and social wellbeing	£5,000
Round 2 November 2017	Friends of Pooles Park	Towards a community gardening project	£3,903
Round 2 November 2017	St Luke's Community History Group	Towards the costs of the St Luke's Community History Group	£2,500
Round 2 November 2017	Olden Garden Community Project	Towards costs of sessional gardeners	£5,000
Round 3 March 2018	The Sunday Club	Lunch and social club for homeless people	£5,000
Round 3 March 2018	Sunnyside Community Gardens	Under 5s drop in outdoor play sessions	£2,800
Round 3 March 2018	The Bomb Factory Art Foundation	Towards artist workshops with The Bridge School	£3,520

List of grants awarded April 2016 – March 2017

Advice and Support			
Round 1 June 2016	Bridging the Gap	Mentoring ex-offenders	£3,654
Round 1 June 2016	Community Language Support Services	Advise and support for BAMER residents	£5,000

Improve the local environment and make communities safer			
Round 1 June 2016	Friends of Pooles Park	Towards a community garden project	£3,362
Round 2 October 2016	The Garden Classroom	Nature based education project	£5,000
Round 3 March 2017	Crayford Road Gardeners	Street based gardening project	£3,500

Improve mental and physical health			
Round 1 June 2016	BIRD	Music mentoring for young people	£5,000
Round 1 June 2016	Eagle Recovery Project	Addiction recovery self-help group	£4,200
Round 2 October 2016	Big Up Films	Creative activities for care home residents	£4,950
Round 2 October 2016	Daylight Theatre Foundation	Theatre project for people with learning disabilities	£5,000
Round 2 October 2016	Islington South Community Counselling	Counselling support	£1,981
Round 3 March 2017	Ball Out 3x3 (Reach and Teach Foundation)	Summer basketball competition in Finsbury Park	£3,126
Round 3 March 2017	Fit Women Group	Women-only aerobics and pilates classes	£5,000
Round 3 March 2017	Girdlestone 3rd Age Surgery	3rd Age art group	£2,500
Round 3 March 2017	Highbury Walkers	Training fitness coaches and first aiders	£3,474
Round 3 March 2017	MoveMe Dance	Intergenerational community dance programme	£4,000
Round 3 March 2017	Rising Stars Support	Martial arts training and personal development coaching	£4,380
Round 3 March 2017	SLOW Bereaved Parents Support group	Towards costs of a support group for bereaved parents and their surviving children	£5,000
Round 3 March 2017	South Islington Stroke Club	Towards the costs of lunch club sessions	£4,039
Round 3 March 2017	The Dynamic Autism Group	Handmade papers and collage workshop	£5,000

Educate and improve skills and employability			
Round 1 June 2016	Maison Verte-UK	Towards recruitment, training and support for nursery volunteers	£2,720
Round 1 June 2016	Minority Matters	Towards costs of a supplementary school	£3,500
Round 1 June 2016	Skills Training Network	Towards ESOL classes	£5,000
Round 1 June 2016	STORE Schools and Projects CIC	Architecture summer school scholarships	£2,000
Round 2 October 2016	Back to Basics	Sewing and crafts project at Grafton School	£5,000
Round 2 October 2016	Diverse Digital	Coding for young people	£5,000
Round 2 October 2016	Music Box	Music and storytelling project for under 5s	£4,970
Round 2 October 2016	Wipers CIC	Towards a youth engagement and confidence building course	£4,940
Round 3 March 2017	3 Pillars Project C.I.C.	Prison rugby coaching and refereeing courses	£5,000
Round 3 March 2017	Bags of Taste	Affordable and healthy food cookery courses	£4,973
Round 3 March 2017	Copenhagen Youth Project - RealTalk	Youth engagement pop-up events	£4,500
Round 3 March 2017	Islington Panthers Basketball Club	Towards coaching costs	£5,000

Reduce isolation and increase community involvement			
Round 1 June 2016	Angel Canal Festival	Support festival costs	£5,000
Round 1 June 2016	Blackstock Triangle Gardeners	Community gardening project	£2,500
Round 1 June 2016	Eritrean Community in the UK	Activities for older Eritreans	£5,000
Round 1 June 2016	Healthy Generations	Music and dance sessions for older people	£5,000
Round 2 October 2016	Art Box London	Art for people with learning disabilities	£5,000
Round 2 October 2016	Creative Opportunities CIC	City Leaders Programme	£4,800
Round 2 October 2016	Hyde Village Community and Social Association	Children's drama club	£4,800
Round 2 October 2016	Islington Pensioners Forum	Pensioners partytime lunch and social	£4,500
Round 2 October 2016	Kevin Richards Foundation	Lunch and social club	£5,000
Round 2 October 2016	Olden Community Garden	Community garden project	£5,000
Round 2 October 2016	St Luke's Community History Group	Towards running costs	£3,295
Round 2 October 2016	Speak Street	English language cafe	£5,000
Round 2 October 2016	Sunday Club	Lunch and social club for homeless people	£5,000
Round 2 October 2016	Turkish Education Group	ESOL for illiterate women	£5,000
Round 3 March 2017	Deaf Parenting UK	Drop-in for deaf parents and their children	£4,995
Round 3 March 2017	Connaught Opera	Concerts for older people in care	£4,200
Round 3 March 2017	Talking News	Towards costs of producing Talking Newspaper	£4,000
Round 3 March 2017	The Wild Bunch Club	Towards the costs of the Wild Bunch Club for people with learning difficulties	£5,000

To find out more or get in touch:

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Contact: grants@cripplegate.org.uk

Call: 020 7288 6940