
Islington Council's Community Chest (ICCC) Annual Review, June 2025

Introduction

Islington Council's Community Chest provides grants of up to £5,000 to support small organisations that, with local knowledge and reach, make a huge difference to local residents. Funded groups are often reliant on local volunteers, people who are dedicated to improving their local communities and reach out to support people in need. Priority is given to organisations based in the borough that work with people who experience poverty and isolation. Islington Council's Community Chest actively seeks to fund projects that are inclusive regardless of age, culture, disabilities, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, race, religion or sexual orientation and many of the funded projects support people who cut across these protected characteristics.

In 2024/25, the number of application rounds were reduced from three to two and following a review of the programme undertaken in 2024, it has been agreed to make this a permanent change. Some of the potential impacts and implications of removing one application round over the year are discussed in the narrative below. Despite the reduction in the number of application rounds in 2024/25, the programme continues to support 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 were considered by a Panel made up of Islington Councillors, Cripplegate Foundation Governors and members of the Islington's Voluntary and Community Sector. Following the 2024 review mentioned above, it has been agreed to alter the composition of the Panel from 2025 to include an element of resident participation and decision making. Going forward, the Panel will be composed of two Islington Councillors, two Cripplegate Foundation Governors, two members of the Islington's Voluntary and Community Sector and two local residents recruited through Islington Giving's resident alumni programme.

Groups applied under the following six themes that together address local priorities and issues facing Islington residents:

- Advice and support
 - Educating and improving skills and employability
 - Improving community safety
 - Improving mental and physical health
 - Making Islington a more sustainable place to live
 - Reducing isolation and increasing involvement in the community
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Following the 2024 review it has been agreed to amend Islington Council's Community Chest priorities so that they more closely align with the Council's 2030 missions¹. From 2025, the new priorities will be:

- Community Wealth Building
- Empowering Lives
- Child Friendly Islington
- A Greener, Healthier Islington
- A Safe Place to Call Home

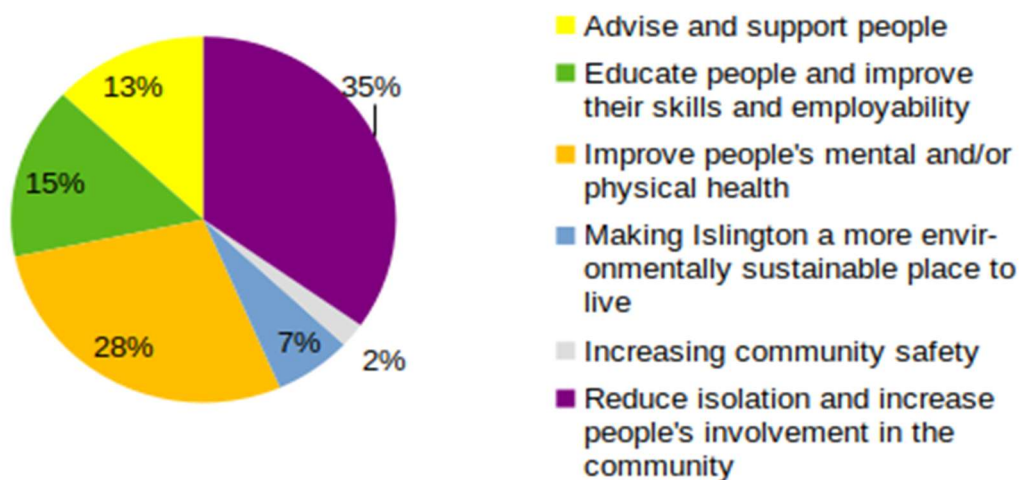
¹ [Islington Together 2030 summary | Islington Council](#)

2024/25 ICCC Applications – analysis and comparison to previous year

Who Islington Council's Community Chest reached in 2024/2025

- 78 community groups applied to Islington Council's Community Chest in 2024-25
- 46 community groups (59% of applicants) were awarded funding, totaling grants of £199,595
- 8 (17%) of the 46 funded groups received Islington Council's Community Chest funding for the first time
- 19 (41%) of the 46 funded groups have received 5 or more grants

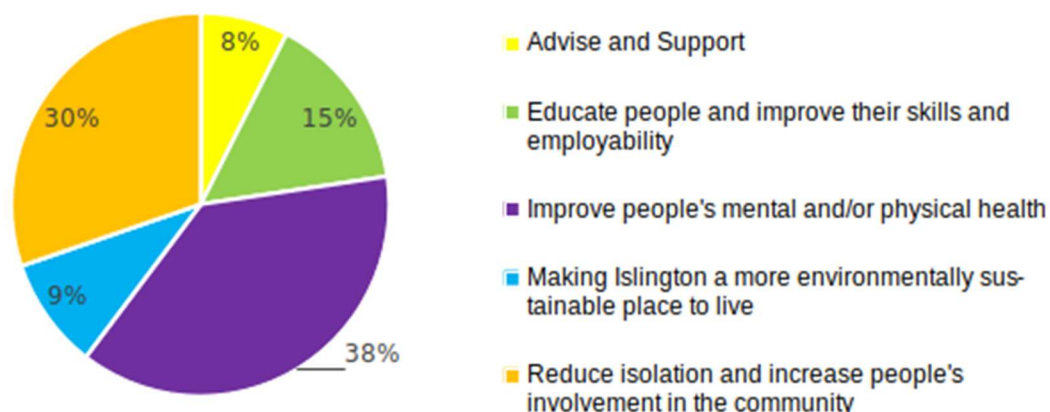
Funded Groups by Priority 2024/25



Who Islington Council's Community Chest reached in 2023/2024

- 89 community groups applied to Islington Council's Community Chest in 2023-24
- 53 community groups (61% of applicants) were awarded funding, totaling grants of over £215,580
- 15 (28%) of the 53 funded groups received Islington Council's Community Chest funding for the first time
- 18 (34%) of the 53 funded groups have received 5 or more grants

Funded Groups by Priority 2023/24



As the tables above illustrate, the number of applications to the ICCC Programme in 2024/25 has dropped compared to the previous year. This is likely to be due to the reduction in the number of application rounds in the year from three to two, demonstrating that limiting access by reducing the number of rounds impacts on the number of applications received. However, with 79 received in 2024/25 the Programme is still seeing higher numbers of applications when measured against the two comparable rounds in the preceding year where 59 applications were received. Although there has also been a corresponding drop in the number of successful applicants, with 46 in 2024/25 compared to 53 the previous year, the reduction as a proportion of successful applications – 59% compared to 61% in 2023/24 – remains relatively consistent. This indicates that despite a drop in the number of applications received overall, good quality applications are still coming through and demonstrates that projects that do apply still have a good chance of receiving funding – something that is important for a grass roots funding programme like the Community Chest. Alongside, the reduction in rounds, there was also a £10,000 reduction in the overall grants budget for 2024/25 and this also explains why less projects were agreed funded. Overall grant spend was lower, with a £15,985 reduction compared to 2023/24 and £9,504 was carried over into the 2025/26 ICCC budget allocation.

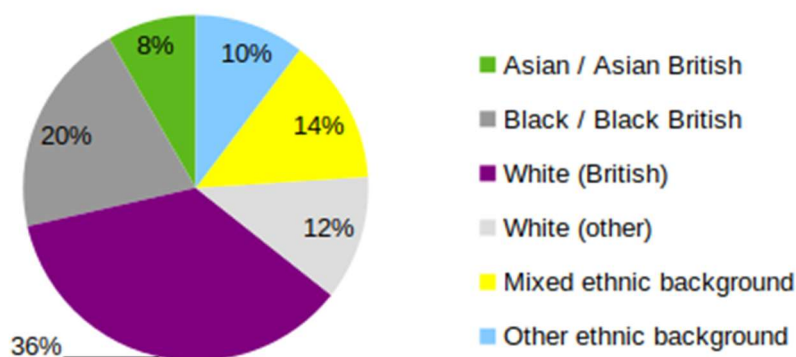
While the number of funded groups that have received five or more grants has remained consistent with the previous year the number of applications applying to the programme for the first time has reduced significantly (from 15 to eight). Again, one factor that may be contributing to this is having less opportunities to access the fund across the year. It is understandable that groups that have accessed funding previously will be more aware of the process for applying and are more likely to receive communications promoting the timing and frequency of funding rounds. Although the number of those receiving five or more grants has remained consistent with the previous year, as a proportion of successful applications, it is significantly higher (41% compared to 34% in 2023/24). This can be explained in part by less applications being made overall but also, with less funding in the pot, it is likely that long standing projects whose impact is understood and who rely on the programme for funding have been prioritised.

The pie charts above also evidence how the programme has generally returned to a more predictable pattern in terms of the proportion of applications received under each priority. The two priority areas that traditionally receive the highest proportion of applications overall (Reducing Isolation and Improving Mental/Physical Health) have once again received the highest proportion of applications in 2024/25 as they did in 2023/24 (following a dip in the previous year). Although the proportion for both is slightly lower compared to 2023/24 this should be seen as a positive sign, with the number of successful applications now more evenly spread across the priority areas. This is represented most clearly by the increase in the proportion of projects funded under the Advice and Support priority (13% compared to 8% in 2023/24). Considering the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, it is reassuring that the proportion of

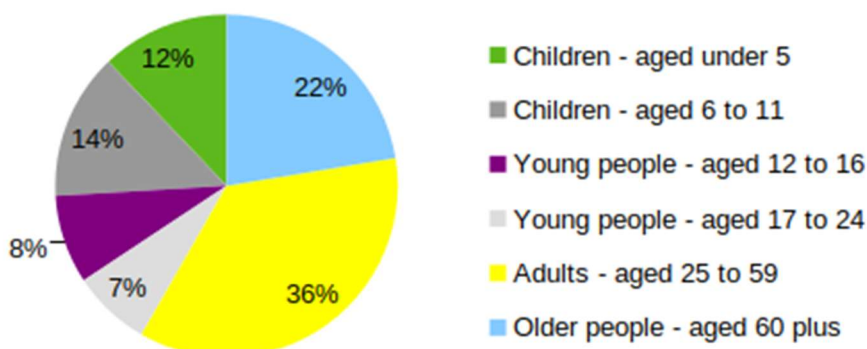
applications funded under this priority area continues to increase. Projects funded under the Education and Skills priority have remained consistent with the previous year at 15%. A decision was taken three years ago to split the Improving the Environment and Increasing Community Safety theme into two separate themes focusing each on environment and community safety. This was an attempt to encourage more applications under each of these priority areas. While there has been a slight drop in the proportion applying under the Making Islington a More Environmentally Sustainable Place to Live priority compared to the previous year, this is somewhat offset by the increase in projects funded under the Increasing Community Safety priority area.

Facts and figures – who we reached in 2023/24

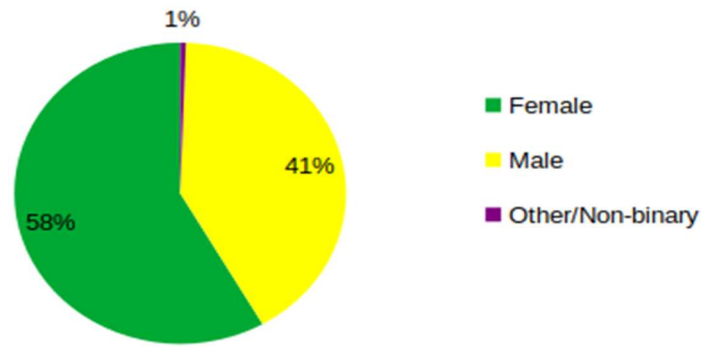
Breakdown of beneficiaries by ethnicity



Breakdown of beneficiaries by age



Breakdown of beneficiaries by gender



The charts above provide a breakdown of the ethnicity, age, and gender of all the people that have benefited from projects that have been funded through Islington Council's Community Chest over the 2023/24 period. The data is derived from returned monitoring reports so provides an accurate reflection of the work undertaken.

Although slightly lower compared to 2022/23, the breakdowns demonstrate that the ICCC programme continues to provide good reach for Black, Asian, minority ethnic or refugee communities, representing 52% (54% in 2022/23) of all beneficiaries (not including Irish/White Other). This compares favourably to the 32% non-white Islington population overall.

In terms of age groups, the highest overall proportion of beneficiaries in 2023/24 were adults aged between 25-59. While this is understandable given that it is also the widest age category, at 36%, this is lower compared to 2022/23 (42%). Just under a quarter (22%) of overall beneficiaries are older people (60+) which has remained fairly consistent with 2022/23. The proportion of beneficiaries under the age of 5 (12%) has increased compared to 2022/23 (7%), while the proportion of beneficiaries aged 6-11 has also increased from 6 to 14%. The proportion of beneficiaries for both the 12-16 age group and 17-24s have remained roughly the same as 2022/23. When looked at individually, the breakdowns of children and young people under the age of 24 may appear low. However, when taken together 39% of overall beneficiaries of the ICCC funded projects are children and young people. Finally, it is positive to see that there has seen a slight increase in the proportion of males benefiting from the funding programme compared to 2022/23 (from 39 to 41%).

Case-studies and examples of projects funded through the ICCC programme

[How Archway Upcycle Group is contributing to a more sustainable borough ~ Small Charity Week - Cripplegate Foundation](#)

[How Eritrean Youth Club empowers young people in Islington ~ Small Charity Week - Cripplegate Foundation](#)

[How Islington Council's Community Chest helps to celebrate inclusion with WeSwim - Cripplegate Foundation](#)

[She Can Empower: Pole dancing to boost strength, fitness and mental health - Cripplegate Foundation](#)

List of grants

List of grants awarded April 2024 - March 2025

Advice and Support			
Round 1 June 2024	Islington Turkish Kurdish Cypriot Women's Welfare Group	Advice Connect Service for BAME women	£5,000
Round 1 June 2024	Federation of Iraqi Refugees	Community building, support, integration Islington's Iraqi and Kurdish residents	£5,000
Round 1 June 2024	STEPPING STONE4 (SS4)	Stepping Stone4 Integration Project	£4,900
Round 2 Nov 2024	One True Voice	Mother'? Uplift Project	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2024	Intrasonus UK	FRAthletics	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2024	Love and Loss	Love and Loss	£3,500

Educate and improve skills and employability			
Round 1 June 2024	St Peter's Children and Young People's Activities Group	St Peter's Summer Enrichment Project	£5,000
Round 1 June 2024	Venus Blazing Music Trust	Venus Blazing Summer School	£2,990
Round 1 June 2024	We Jam Foundation	Islington Rocks!	£4,590
Round 2 Nov 2022	Head Held High	The Best You	£4,500
Round 2 Nov 2024	The Wipers Foundation	Rise and Reach	£3,800
Round 2 Nov 2024	Change, Act!	Playing the Lead Role!	£3,000
Round 2 Nov 2024	Read Easy Islington	First New Readers for Read Easy Islington 2024/25	£2,000

Make Islington a more environmentally sustainable place to live			
Round 1 June 2024	Blackstock Triangle Gardeners	Blackstock Triangle Gardeners	£2970
Round 1 June 2024	Islington Climate Centre	Core funding	£4970
Round 2 Nov 2024	Things in Common Limited	A Library of Things for Islington	£5,000

Increasing community safety			
Round 1 June 2024	Survivors Can Shine C.I.C.	I Shine, Speak Out - Ambassadors for Change	£5,000

Improve mental and physical health			
Round 1 June 2024	Amberliegh	Self Empowering Performing and Creative Arts for Young People	£5,000
Round 1 June 2024	Sports And Life Skills CIC	Islington 2024	£5,000
Round 1 June 2024	Sarah Agnes Foundation	SAF Support	£5,000
Round 1 June 2024	MamaSuze CIC	MamaSuze women's group	£4,950
Round 1 June 2024	SHE CAN EMPOWER	SHE CAN EMPOWER	£3,850
Round 1 June 2024	Bee connection	Refugee empowerment	£3,440
Round 1 June 2024	The Turkish and Kurdish Children's Group	Art to promote well-being and foster connections	£4,000
Round 2 Nov 2024	Fit Women Group	Women-Only Exercise Classes.	£5,000

Round 2 Nov 2024	Healthy Minds, Healthy Bods	HMHB Events	£3,900
Round 2 Nov 2024	Yogashare CIC	Flex and Strength Yoga	£4,865
Round 2 Nov 2024	Champions 4 Change Wellbeing C.I.C.	Physical Therapy for Diabetes using Boxcercise	£3,900
Round 2 Nov 2024	Sacred Heart Church Foodbank	Sacred Heart Foodbank	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2024	Proud Sports CIC	Islington Unity Sports Initiative	£4,000

Reduce isolation and increase community involvement

Round 1 June 2024	Angel Community Canal Boat Trust	Elderly and Isolated Canal Trip Project	£2,900
Round 1 June 2024	The Angel Canal Festival CIC	The Angel Canal Festival 2024	£5,000
Round 1 June 2024	SEN Family Saturdays	SEN Family Saturdays	£5,000
Round 1 June 2024	Islington Street Associations	Islington Street Associations	£4,870
Round 1 June 2024	St Luke's Community History group	St Luke's Community History Group - core activities	£3,000
Round 2 Nov 2024	Sunday Club	Sunday Club	£3,000
Round 2 Nov 2024	Culpeper Community Garden Association	Culpeper Young Gardeners	£4,500
Round 2 Nov 2024	Sunnyside Community Gardens	Tuesday Gardening with Extra Support	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2024	CONNAUGHT OPERA	WITH A SONG IN MY HEART	£2,800
Round 2 Nov 2024	Olden Community Garden	Olden Community Garden core activities	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2024	South Islington Stroke Club	Stroke Club lunch and activities for stroke survivors and carers	£8,000
Round 2 Nov 2024	WeSwim	Get Islington Swimming!	£3,500
Round 2 Nov 2024	Krome21 CIC	Extra Time	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2024	Allie's Art Club	Creative Hangouts	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2024	Hargrave Hall Community Association	Coffee & Company	£2,000
Round 2 Nov 2024	Blueprint Theatre and Film Company	Project Whale	£4,900

List of grants awarded April 2023 - March 2024

Advice and Support

Round 1 July 2023	Community Language Support Services	Help: to improve lives and integration of vulnerable refugee	£5,000
Round 1 July 2023	Islington Turkish Kurdish Cypriot Women's Welfare Group	Advice Connect Service for BAME women	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2023	Bridging the Gap	Mentors for people in difficulties	£4,950
Round 3 March 2024	Hive Food Bank	The Hive Food Bank	£5,000

Educate and improve skills and employability

Round 1 July 2023	F.L.A.M.E Young Theatre Players	Movement 'n' Culture 3	£2,500
Round 1 July 2023	Creative Opps CIO	Creative Industry Work Placements	£5,000
Round 1 July 2023	Change, Act!	Getting Our Message Across!	£5,000
Round 1 July 2023	Ambitious Academy Social Enterprise CIC	Ambitious Academy "From the streets to the set" short film project	£5,000

Round 2 Nov 2023	Rafiki Wema	Amplifying Community Voices through community media and journalism	£5,000
Round 3 March 2024	Eritrean Youth Club [EYC]	Extra-curricular activities	£3,500
Round 3 March 2024	Kurdish Association for New Generations Abroad (KANGA)	KANGA SUPPLEMENTARY SCHOOL	£4,000
Round 3 March 2024	Arco - Music for All	Arco	£3,300

Make Islington a more environmentally sustainable place to live			
Round 1 July 2023	The Friends of Graham Street Park (FROGS)	The Angel Canal Festival	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2023	Bridging the Green C.I.C.	Everleigh Garden, a community sanctuary.	£5,000
Round 3 March 2024	Culpeper Community Garden Association	Culpeper Young Gardeners Club	£4,950
Round 3 March 2024	Friends of Pooles Park	Naturehood for our Neighbourhood Community Project	£2,000
Round 3 March 2024	Friends of Wray Crescent	Wray Crescent Park Improvements	£2,150

Improve mental and physical health			
Round 1 July 2023	Eat Club	Food & Mood	£5,000
Round 1 July 2023	SEN Family Saturdays	SEN Family Saturdays	£5,000
Round 1 July 2023	Memory Cafe at Christ Church Highbury	Seated Exercises at the Memory Cafe	£2,500
Round 1 July 2023	Aflah	Women Health and Well Being	£2,500
Round 2 Nov 2023	Fit Women Group	Provision of Pilates and Zumba classes with crèche facility.	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2023	Living as Learning CIC	Your Yin Yoga	£2,000
Round 2 Nov 2023	Allie's Art Club	Creative Hangouts	£3,000
Round 2 Nov 2023	Healthy Minds, Healthy Bods	HMHB Courses	£4,500
Round 2 Nov 2023	Champions 4 Change Wellbeing C.I.C.	Boxing Fitness for Adults with Type 2 Diabetes	£3,830
Round 2 Nov 2023	Limitless Community Boxing Project CIC	Box-fit project	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2023	Young Elite Management	Young Elite Management	£2,400
Round 3 March 2024	Sarah Agnes Foundation	SAF Support	£5,000
Round 3 March 2024	Times Amateur Boxing Club	Times ABC 2024 Club Improvements	£3,500
Round 3 March 2024	ISLINGTON PANTHERS BASKETBALL CLUB	Islington Panthers Training sessions	£5,000
Round 3 March 2024	New Art Studio	New Art Studio therapeutic art service - Spring 2024 expansion	£4,000
Round 3 March 2024	Urban Forest Tribe CIC	SENday Family Sessions	£3,250
Round 3 March 2024	City of London FC	City of London FC	£4,000
Round 3 March 2024	WeSwim	WeSwim Old Street	£4,000
Round 3 March 2024	North East London Gospel Mission	Islington Sports Project	£3,600
Round 3 March 2024	Sacred Heart Church Foodbank	Provision of fresh and non-perishable food	£2,500

Reduce isolation and increase community involvement			
Round 1 July 2023	Go Africa Community Hub CIC	Empowering Africans in Islington	£5,000
Round 1 July 2023	The Turkish and Kurdish Children's Group	Parents Kurdish / English and Drama Session	£5,000
Round 1 July 2023	MamaSuze CIC	MamaSuze women's group	£5,000
Round 1 July 2023	St Jude and St Paul's PCC	Community Drop-in	£5,000
Round 1 July 2023	Krome21 CIC	North London United	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2023	Sunnyside Community Gardens	Tuesday Easy Going Gardening	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2023	Olden Community Garden	Olden Community Garden core activities	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2023	South Islington Stroke Club	Stroke Club lunch and activities for stroke survivors and carers	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2023	Make-Do Play CIC	Make-Do Play	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2023	Pakeman Primary School PTA	CreAte	£4,150
Round 2 Nov 2023	Hargrave Hall Community Association	Friday Social Club	£5,000
Round 3 March 2024	SUNDAY CLUB	SUNDAY CLUB	£3,000
Round 3 March 2024	Daylight Theatre Foundation	Musical performed by children and adults with learning disabilities.	£4,000
Round 3 March 2024	Islington Pensioners Forum	Be Happy Be Healthy Fun Activities	£3,000
Round 3 March 2024	Life Chances	Tackling Poverty and Social Isolation for Ethiopian Refugees in Islington	£5,000
Round 3 March 2024	Finsbury and Clerkenwell Volunteers (FCV Dorcas)	Befriending and other services for the elderly	£5,000

To find out more or get in touch:

Website: [Islington Council's Community Chest - Cripplegate Foundation](https://www.islingtoncouncil.org.uk/community-chest-cripplegate-foundation)

Contact: grants@cripplegate.org.uk

Call: 020 7288 6940