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# Cripplegate Foundation

## Strategy

Objectives and Priorities

2022 - 2024

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*Cripplegate Foundation*

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# Who we are

## VISION

Our vision for Islington is of an equal borough where everyone can enjoy a life free from poverty and access the many opportunities on offer in their local area.

## MISSION

Cripplegate Foundation (and its restricted fund, Islington Giving) is an independent local charity in Islington which aims to address inequality in Islington and Cripplegate Ward. We want to improve access to opportunities for everyone and to make lasting change. We do this by:

- listening to, and learning from, local people and communities,
- raising funds and making grants, and
- working in partnership with local people and organisations.

## VALUES AND HOW WE WORK

**Respectful:** We work with people in a way that ensures everyone knows they are valued and that their views have been listened to and acted upon – something we call ‘How, not What’.

**Collaborative:** We collaborate and work in partnership with local charities, the Council, local businesses, funders, and others.

**Challenging:** We challenge and change our ways of working to ensure local people and communities are at the centre of everything we do.

**Participatory:** We rely on the participation of local people, sharing decision making and power. We encourage the organisations we support to do the same.

**Balanced:** We bring about change by blending existing good work with finding new ways to tackle difficult problems and we take a long-term view of the challenges people face.

**Evidence-led:** We decide what we do based on current evidence and learning about poverty and inequality in Islington and Cripplegate Ward from the organisations we fund.

**Effective:** We analyse our impact as well as the impact of the organisations we fund to ensure we are effective and making a difference locally.

**Trusted:** We develop close, trusting relationships with local organisations, and in many instances, we provide long-term core grants and multi-year funding.

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# Our priorities and actions

## Listen, Learn and Act

To better understand the needs of local residents and adapt our grant making we will:

- Expand the ways people from all backgrounds can get involved in our work, including developing our residents-led grant making panels.
- Engage with our key partners and stakeholders and develop a strategic approach with people and organisations who can help us to achieve our goals.
- Review each programme we fund and our overall impact, communicating and using this information to better inform our work.
- Reach out to new local organisations to develop new grant programmes in response to local need.
- Conduct a new research project into the impact of the pandemic on the most disadvantaged residents in the borough and adapt our work as a result.

## Money in, Money out

To maximise the money and resources available to support residents and communities we will:

- Make grants to local organisations and projects.
- Engage more supporters with Islington Giving's vision to increase our voluntary income from individual donors, Trusts and Foundations and businesses.
- Invest our endowment responsibly and strike a balance between maximising income for our local work with at least one social impact investment.

## Amplifying local voices

To promote and encourage greater equity and access to opportunities across Islington, we will:

- Use our independence and local networks to increase and amplify the experiences and ideas of our partners, local organisations, residents and supporters.
- Produce and implement a plan for raising awareness of local issues that contribute to poverty in Islington.
- Bring together organisations, partners and others for discussion, learning, collaboration, advocacy and sharing good practice.

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## Organisational excellence

To achieve this strategy and our longer-term impact we will:

- Produce and implement an action plan to push forward on diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) ambitions in all that we do.
- Identify specific ways we will work to improve the environmental sustainability of our work.
- Ensure the Foundation's operational structure and governance arrangements have the right skills, systems and processes in place.
- Embed long term financial planning to deploy our resources in the most effective manner.



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# The context in Islington

Islington is a proudly diverse Borough where people from all faiths, nationalities and backgrounds have made their homes. Cripplegate Foundation sees the Borough's diversity as our strength, a view shared by people who live here. Over 90% of residents think Islington is a place where people from different backgrounds get along well together. As a result, people like their community - 91% of residents say they enjoy living in the Borough. But Islington is also a borough of contrasts. It is a place with a huge gap between the 'haves' and 'have nots', where many are coping with multiple issues and where too many children are growing up in poverty. Income inequality for people living in Islington is high: we have some of the wealthiest people in London living here, but also some of the poorest. Over a decade of welfare reform compounded by the unequal impact of Covid-19 has made life even more challenging for some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

## Demographics

- The population of Islington is 242,827 (2020). This is an increase of approximately 18% (36,000 people) since 2011. It is estimated the population will grow by a further 3% (7,000) by 2030.
- 35% of Islington residents were born outside of the UK compared to 14% nationally.
- Less than half (44%) of Islington residents are estimated to be "White British" in 2021, compared to 38% in Greater London.

## Poverty

- Islington is the most deprived borough in London for income deprivation affecting children, and fourth highest for income deprivation affecting older people.
- 27.5% of the Islington residents are facing income deprivation, compared with 21.3% in London.
- 43% of children in the Borough live in poverty, the highest child poverty level in London. Children growing up in Black, Asian and other Ethnic Groups households in Islington are more likely to be living in poverty in comparison to white children.
- The Borough ranks fourth highest in London for older people living in poverty. Older people make up a significant proportion of Islington's social housing households and they have a considerably lower income than the rest of the borough.



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## Geography, housing density and green spaces

- Islington is the most densely populated local authority area in England and Wales, with 16,097 people per square km. This is almost triple the London average and more than 37 times the national average.
- Islington is the third smallest borough in London covering 15 km squared. Only 13% of the Borough's land is green space, the second lowest proportion of any local authority in the country.
- The cost of housing in the Borough has a big impact on poverty levels. As a percentage of average income, rents in Islington are the third highest in the Capital.
- The pandemic has increased the financial pressures on many already struggling households. Across London, the Trussell Trust saw an increase of 128% in the use of its foodbanks in 2020 (compared to 56% outside London). Figures in Islington increased significantly in this period.

## Particular challenges

- Even before the pandemic, Islington ranked the 5th highest in London for loneliness and 1 in 6 adults were living with a diagnosed mental health condition.
- At present, there is no official estimate of the trans population, either locally or nationally. Young LGBT people are more likely to attempt suicide and to self-harm than the rest of the population. Half (52%) of LGBT people reported experiencing depression in the last year.
- 19% of Islington school pupils have some form of Special Educational Needs. This compares to 15% across London and England.
- Nationally, across all ages, the prevalence of disability is higher among those living in the most deprived areas of the country compared to the least deprived areas. The estimated number of Islington residents with a disability in 2021 is 36,656 or 15% of the population.
- There has been a long and sustained increase in domestic violence in Islington. There is an over representation of victims from Black Asian and other Ethnic Groups.
- The higher your income, the more likely you are to have access online. Only 51% of households earning between £6,000-£10,000 had home internet access while the figure for households with an income over £40,001 is 99% (ONS, 2019).

## Sources:

- [State of Equalities in Islington Annual Report 2021](#)
- [Islington Together, Strategic Plan 2021](#)
- [Trust for London's poverty and inequality indicators](#)
- [Digital Access for all | London City Hall](#)



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207499

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