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# Islington Council's Community Chest (ICCC) Annual review, June 2023

## Introduction

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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's Voluntary and Community Sector.

Groups can apply under 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

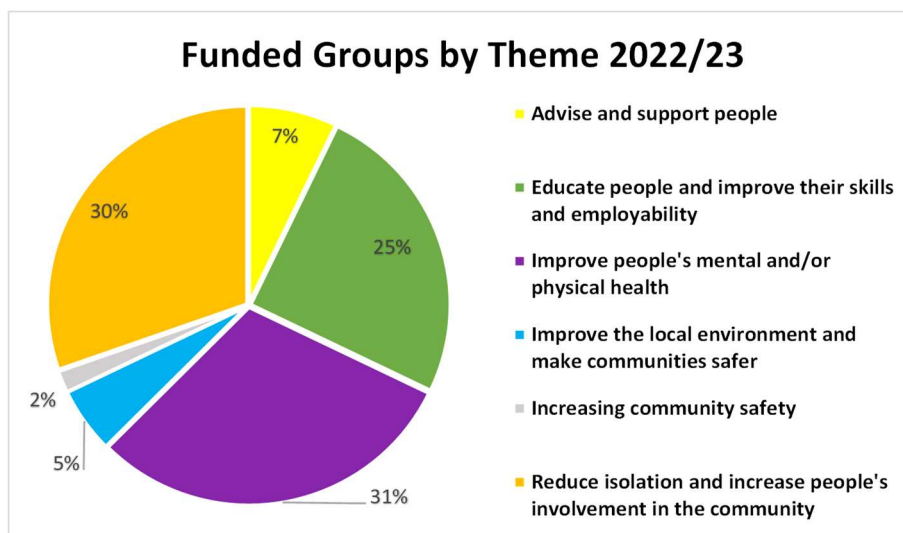
Islington Council's Community Chest actively seeks to fund projects that as a whole are inclusive of all people regardless of their age, culture, disabilities, ethnic origin, gender, nationality, race, religion or sexual orientation.

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.



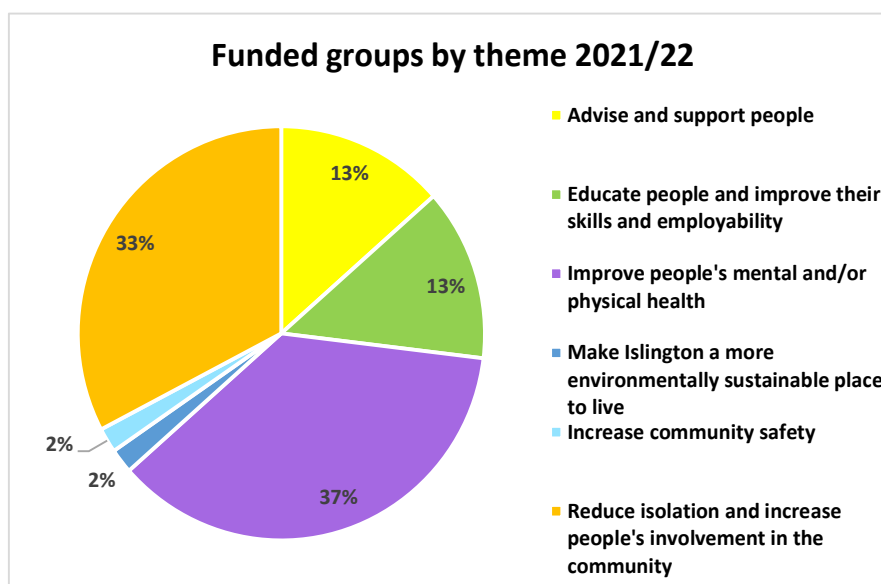
### Who Islington Council's Community Chest reached in 2022/2023

- 81 community groups applied to Islington Council's Community Chest in 2022-23
- 56 community groups (69% of applicants) were awarded funding, totalling grants of over £235,255
- 17 (30%) of the 56 funded groups received Islington Council's Community Chest funding for the first time
- 18 (32%) of the 56 funded groups have received 5 or more grants



### Who Islington Council's Community Chest reached in 2021/2022\*

- 70 community groups applied to Islington Council's Community Chest in 2021-22
- 52 community groups (74% of applicants) were awarded funding, totalling grants of over £234,140
- 12 (23%) of the 52 funded groups received Islington Council's Community Chest funding for the first time
- 16 (31%) of the 52 funded groups have received 5 or more grants



\*Tables for 2021/22 updated to show one group awarded funding but subsequently decided not to deliver the project and another that was deferred at the Panel meeting but subsequently funded (and funding was allocated from the 2021/22 budget)

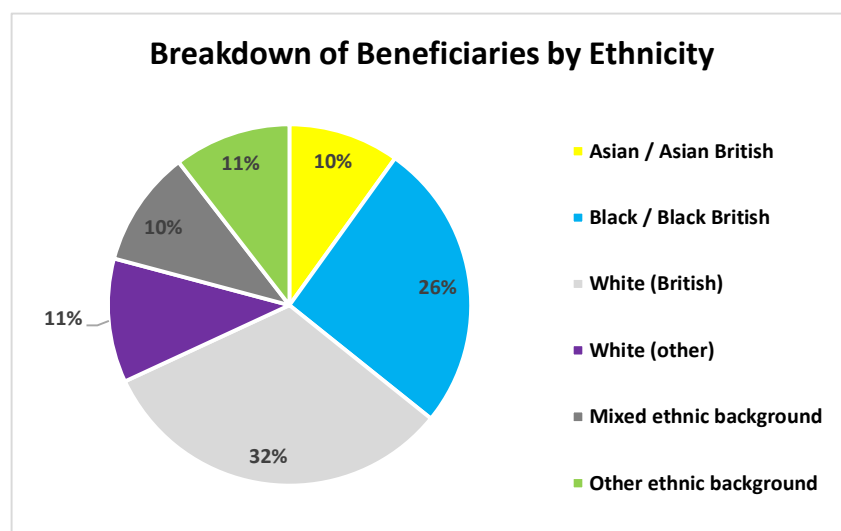
As the tables above show, the ICCC Programme has continued to bounce back from the understandable dip experienced across 2020/21 due to the Coronavirus pandemic and related lockdowns. Indeed, with 81 applications received in 2022/23 this is greater than the 80 received in the last pre-pandemic year of 2019/20 and a 59% increase on the 52 applications received in 2020/21 at the height of lockdowns. Also reassuring is the proportion of successful applicants that remain at comparable levels with previous years, with approximately three quarters of

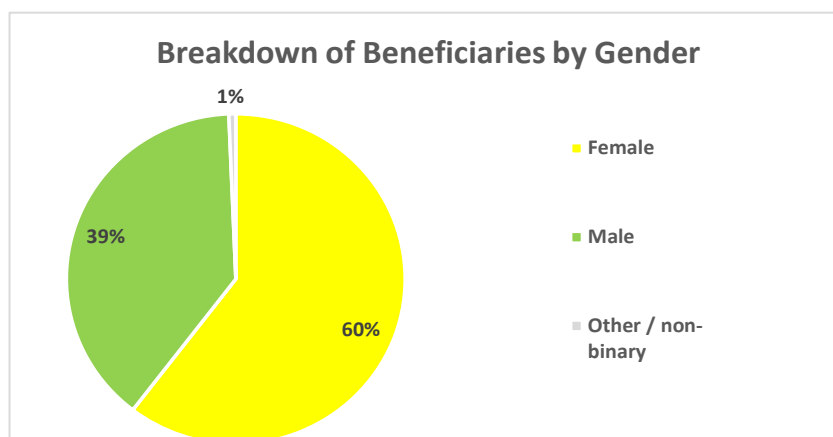
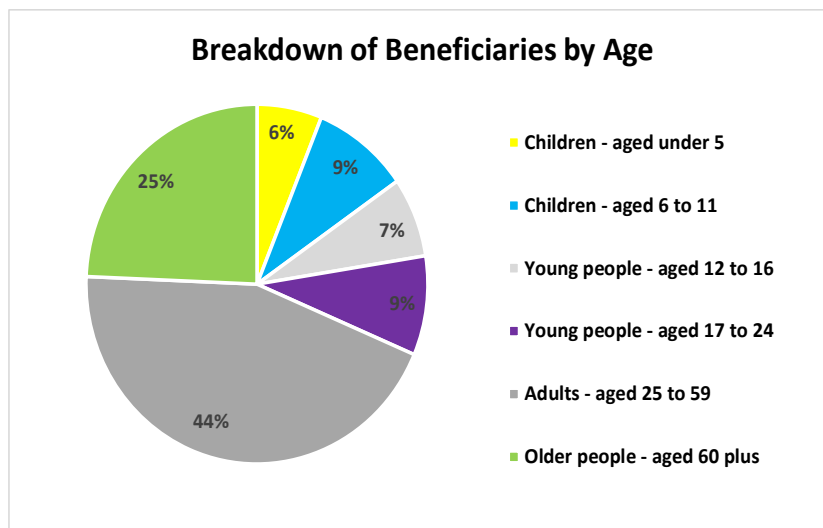
applications successfully receiving funding in the preceding three years; pre-pandemic, during the worst year of lockdowns, and as the country has returned to some level of normality. With a greater number of applications inevitably comes greater competition for funds and this is reflected in the slightly lower success rate in 2022/23 compared to last year. However, at 69% over two thirds of those applying were awarded funding. This is an indication of good quality applications coming through and demonstrates that projects that do apply have a good chance of receiving funds – something that is important for a grass roots funding programme like the Community Chest. The fact that both the numbers and proportion of first time applications and those that have received five or more grants have increased in 2022/23 compared to last year is another positive factor to note. This ensures that a good balance remains between funding new and emerging projects with providing longer term support. With five more applications (representing a 29% increase) compared to last year, it is particularly reassuring to see this significant increase in the number of first time applications.

The pie charts above also demonstrate 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 number of applications in 2022/23, as they did in 2021/22 following a dip in 2020/21. However, they are both slightly lower this year with applications made under the education and skills priority increasing significantly compared to last year, which again is a positive indicator of the sector responding to need following the pandemic, as well as a more diverse complement of projects awarded funding. Taking into account the ongoing fall-out from the pandemic which is now compounded with a devastating cost-of-living crisis, it is of some concern that there appears to have been a dip in funded projects that provide advice and support to local residents.

Following the decision two years ago to split the Improving the Environment and Increasing Community Safety theme into two separate themes focusing each on environment and community safety as a means to try and encourage more applications under each, there has been a slight increase in funded projects seeking to improve the environment although projects funded to increase community safety have remained lower (with only one project funded under this priority area in 2022/23).

## Facts and figures – who we reached in 2021/22





The charts above provide a breakdown of the age, ethnicity, and gender of all people that have benefited from the support provided as a result of Islington Council's Community Chest funding over the 2021/22 period. The data is derived from returned monitoring reports so provides an accurate reflection of the work actually undertaken. Although slightly lower compared to last year, the breakdowns demonstrate that the ICCC programme continues to provide good reach into BAMER communities, representing 57% (65% in 2020/21) of all beneficiaries compared to 32% overall Islington population (not including Irish/White Other). In terms of age groups, at 44% of residents benefiting from funded projects in 2021/22 adults (aged 25-59) continue to be the highest proportion of beneficiaries overall and is slightly higher compared to 2020/21 (42%). This can be explained in part because it is also the widest age specific reporting category. A quarter of overall beneficiaries are older people (60+) which has remained fairly consistent with last year. While the proportion of beneficiaries under the age of 5 (9%) has increased compared to a low level in 2020/21 (3%), beneficiaries aged 6-11 have remained the same at 9% while the proportion of beneficiaries for both the 12-16 age group (7% compared to 12% in 2020/21) and 17-24s (9% compared to 12% in 2020/21) have both declined.

# List of grants

## List of grants awarded April 2022–March 2023

Advice and Support			
Round 1 July 2022	Community Language Support Services	Help: to improve lives and integration of vulnerable refugee	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2022	Bridging the Gap Mentoring	Helping people through difficult times	£4,775
Round 2 Nov 2022	STEPPING STONE4 (SS4)	Hope and Back to Community Project	£4,900
Round 2 Nov 2022	Community Tool Bank Islington	Priory Green Estate Tool Bank	£5,000
Round 3 March 2023	Hive Food Bank	The Hive Food Bank	£5,000

Educate and improve skills and employability			
Round 1 July 2022	Somali Education Centre	Face to Face Supplementary school project	£5,000
Round 1 July 2022	Eat Club	Cooking in Islington with Eat Club	£5,000
Round 1 July 2022	Head Held High	"The Best You" 6- week motivational course.	£4,090
Round 1 July 2022	The Wipers Foundation	The Venturous Minds	£5,000
Round 1 July 2022	The Turkish and Kurdish Children's Group	Bright Future	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2022	Minority Matters	Positive Alternative	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2022	Speak Street	Learning English through Employability	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2022	Eritrean Youth Club [EYC]	Accredited Game design Course	£4,320
Round 2 Nov 2022	Healthy Minds, Healthy Bods	Ajani Health Courses	£2,400
Round 2 Nov 2022	Kurdish Association for New Generations/Abroad	Kobani Supplementary School	£4,990
Round 2 Nov 2022	Hashtag Unapologetic	More to Me	£5,000
Round 3 March 2023	St Peter's Children and Young People's Activities Group	St Peter's Children and Young People's Activities Project	£2,500
Round 3 March 2023	Arco - Music for All	Music for All	£3,900
Round 3 March 2023	Islington Peoples Theatre CIC	Small Acts of Everyday Resistance	£5,000

Make Islington a more environmentally sustainable place to live			
Round 1 July 2022	Blackstock Triangle Gardeners	Blackstock Triangle Gardeners	£2,310
Round 2 Nov 2022	Islington Clean Air Parents	Air Pollution COP	£5,000
Round 3 March 2023	EcoCounts	Climate Engagement Workshops	£3,400

Increasing community safety			
Round 1 March 2023	Survivors Can Shine C.I.C.	I Shine, Speak Out - Ambassadors for Change	£4,000

Improve mental and physical health			
Round 1 July 2022	Sunnyside Community Gardens	Cook and Grow	£5,000
Round 1 July 2022	City of London FC	City of London FC 2022/2023 Season	£5,000
Round 1 July 2022	SLOW - Surviving the Loss of Your World	SLOW - Islington Bereavement Support Groups	£5,000
Round 1 July 2022	WeSwim CIC	WeSwim Old Street	£5,000
Round 1 July 2022	Galbur Foundation	Dad in Action Project	£3,200
Round 2 Nov 2022	The Finsbury Estate Tenants and Residents Association	Yoga and meditation classes	£2,000
Round 2 Nov 2022	Wu Shi Taiji Quan & Qi Gong Association	Sit, Stand, Walk, Talk - Tai Chi for Wellbeing (SSWT)	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2022	White Conduit Projects	Strolling with Artist	£1,500
Round 2 Nov 2022	SHE CAN EMPOWER	SHE CAN EMPOWER	£2,400
Round 2 Nov 2022	SUNDAY CLUB	Sunday Club	£5,000
Round 3 March 2023	Islington Panthers Basketball Club	Islington Panthers Training sessions	£5,000
Round 3 March 2023	Sports And Life Skills CIC	project islington 2023	£5,000
Round 3 March 2023	Sarah Agnes Foundation	SAF Support	£5,000
Round 3 March 2023	FromRehabToLifeFoundation	Counselling and therapy	£3,500

Round 3 March 2023	New Art Studio	NAS - therapeutic art service for refugees & asylum seekers	£5,000
Round 3 March 2023	Metrobox London	Feed Metrobox Kids	£5,000

### Reduce isolation and increase community involvement

Round 1 July 2022	St Luke's Community History Group	St Luke's Community History Group - core activities	£3,000
Round 1 July 2022	The TOY Project	Community Partnerships through LEGO	£5,000
Round 1 July 2022	True You Today CIC	Workshops for Survivors	£4,900
Round 1 July 2022	MamaSuze	Islington Women's Group	£4,500
Round 1 July 2022	Islington Street Associations	Launch of a Bentham Court Street Association	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2022	Connaught Opera	GLAMOROUS NIGHTS	£2,500
Round 2 Nov 2022	Olden Community Garden	Olden Community Garden core activities	£1500
Round 2 Nov 2022	South Islington Stroke Club	Stroke Club lunch and activities for stroke survivors and carers	£3,000
Round 2 Nov 2022	Life Chances	Tackling Poverty and Social Isolation for Ethiopian Refugees	£3,500
Round 2 Nov 2022	Friends of Copenhagen	Provision of Stay & Play session for local community.	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2022	St Mary's Church Hornsey Rise	Make Do Play	£2,500
Round 2 Nov 2022	Everybody's Music Jam	Our Drumbeat	£3,000
Round 3 March 2023	Eritrean Community in the UK (ECUK)	Refugee Lunch and Outreach	£5,000
Round 3 March 2023	Culpeper Community Garden Association	Roots and Boots	£4,900
Round 3 March 2023	Finsbury and Clerkenwell Volunteers	Befriending and other services for the elderly	£2,500
Round 3 March 2023	Montem PTA (formerly Friends of Montem School)	Montem Community Cafe	£2,085
Round 3 March 2023	AiRing CIC	Packington Open	£4,775

### List of grants awarded April 2021–March 2022

#### Advice and Support

Round 1 June 2021	Community Language Support Services	Assist to improve the lives of vulnerable refugees	£5,000
Round 1 June 2021	One True Voice	Emotional Health Network	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2021	Bridging the Gap Mentoring	Helping people to rebuild lives after Covid	£4,900
Round 2 Nov 2021	Stepping Stone4 (SS4)	Hope and back to community involvement	£2,500
Round 3 March 2022	Islington Turkish, Kurdish and Cypriot Women's Welfare Group	Advice Connect Service for BAME women	£5,000
Round 3 March 2022	MerryGoRound	MerryGoRound	£3,865
Round 3 March 2022	The Hive Food Bank	The Hive Food Bank	£5,000

#### Educate and improve skills and employability

Round 1 June 2021	The Turkish and Kurdish Children's Group	English, Maths and Turkish Classes	£5,000
Round 1 June 2021	Somali Education Centre	Face to Face Supplementary School Project	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2021	Mer-IT digital	Work Experience for young people	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2021	Pop Up Poet	Powerful Pupils	£2,500
Round 2 Nov 2021	KANGA	KANGA Supplementary Schools	£4,960
Round 2 Nov 2021	First Step Action	People's empowerment	£4,970
Round 3 March 2022	The Reanella Trust	Resilience Recovery Relief Project	£3,700

#### Improve the local environment and make communities safer

Round 1 June 2021	Hashtag Unapologetic	More 2 Me	£5,000
Round 3 March 2022	Friends of Pooles Park	Naturehood for our Neighbourhood Community Project	£10,000



Improve mental and physical health			
Round 1 June 2021	FromRehabToLifeFoundation	Community Recovery	£5000
Round 1 June 2021	Sarah Agnes Foundation	SAF Covid Recovery Support	£4,150
Round 1 June 2021	Healthy Minds, Healthy Bods	Monthly Health Packs - plus weekly exercise sessions	£3,485
Round 1 June 2021	Amberliegh	Be The Best Version on You	£10,000
Round 1 June 2021	Friends of Copenhagen	Zumba and Pilates classes with Healthy-Eating/Well-being/Cooking workshops with creche facility.	£5,000
Round 1 June 2021	Jigsaw GC Community Interest Company	Get connected programme	£5,000
Round 1 June 2021	CARIS (Islington)	Adult and Children Bereavement Services	£5,000
Round 1 June 2021	ASMARA FOOTBALL CLUB	ASAMRA FOOTBALL CLUB	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2021	Memory Gardens	Hand and Sky Project	£4,950
Round 2 Nov 2021	Barrier Breakers Foundation	Soft Skills for Wellbeing at CANDI	£4,920
Round 2 Nov 2021	Memory Cafe at Christ Church Highbury	Seated exercises at the Memory Cafe	£3,750
Round 2 Nov 2021	Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust	Copenhagen Street Food Bank	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2021	Women's Oneness Wellbeing (WOW)	Emergency Self-Care	£2,170
Round 2 Nov 2021	Sports and Life Skills CIC	Islington rebuild	£5,000
Round 3 March 2022	Fit Women Group	Women-Only Pilates with Cooking sessions and Girls Zumba with Healthy-Eating	£5,000
Round 3 March 2022	Ball Out Community	Ball Out 3x3 Coaching	£1,700
Round 3 March 2022	CULPEPER COMMUNITY GARDEN	Digging and Walking for Health	£4,900
Round 3 March 2022	The Dynamic Autism Group	SUMMER CAMP	£5,000
Round 3 March 2022	Isledon Wolves Football Club	Kit contribution	£1,000
Round 3 March 2022	Islington Panthers Basketball	Covid return	£5,000

Reduce isolation and increase community involvement			
Round 1 June 2021	EWT Theatre for the Community CIC	Estimated Waiting Time	£1,050
Round 1 June 2021	Head Held High	High Society	£5,000
Round 1 June 2021	CONNAUGHT OPERA	CONNAUGHT ARE LIVE AGAIN!	£5,000
Round 1 June 2021	Aphasia ReConnect	Aphasia Reconnect Islington	£2,830
Round 2 Nov 2021	Jannaty Women's Social Society	Nurture in Nature Summer Programme	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2021	AiRing CIC	Reverberations	£2,600
Round 2 Nov 2021	South Islington Stroke Club	Stroke Club lunch and activities for stroke survivors and carers	£4,300
Round 2 Nov 2021	Islington People's Theatre CIC	Recoverist Theatre Project	£4,040
Round 2 Nov 2021	Olden Community Garden	Olden Community Garden core activities	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2021	SEN Family Saturdays	SEN Family Saturdays	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2021	Talking News Islington (TNI)	Talking News	£1,500
Round 3 March 2022	Go Africa Community Hub CIC	The Go Africa Community Hub	£4,475
Round 3 March 2022	Finsbury and Clerkenwell Volunteers	The ongoing delivery of our services	£5,000
Round 3 March 2022	Creative Opportunities CIC	Creative Opportunities Core Costs	£5,000
Round 3 March 2022	Cally Connects Us	Cally Stories.	£5,000
Round 3 March 2022	Chorley Community Church	Chorley Sports Club	£4,925

**To find out more or get in touch:**

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

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