
Islington Council's Community Chest (ICCC) Annual review, June 2024

Introduction

Islington Council's Community Chest exists to support small organisations that, with local knowledge and reach, make a huge difference to local residents. Islington Council's Community Chest provides small organisations with grants of up to £5,000. Priority is given to organisations working with people who are experiencing poverty and isolation. There were three application rounds in 2023/24 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.

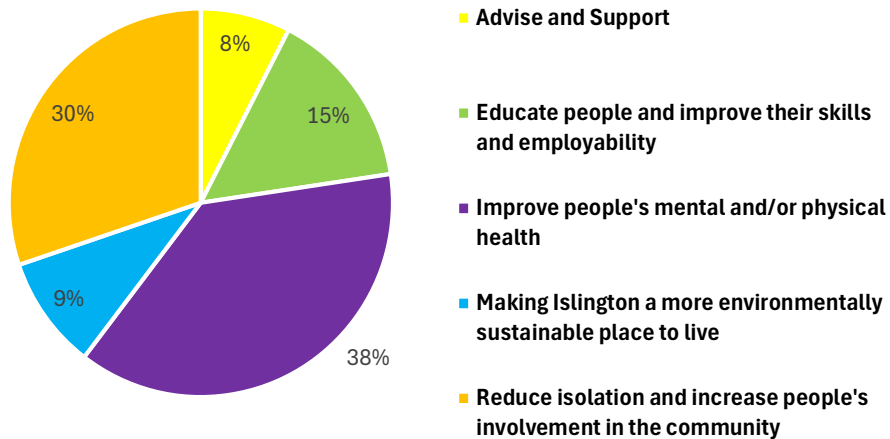
Funded groups are often reliant on local volunteers, people who are dedicated to improving their local communities and reaching out to support people in need.



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

- 89 community groups applied to Islington Council's Community Chest in 2023-24
- 53 community groups (60% of applicants) were awarded funding, totalling grants of £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

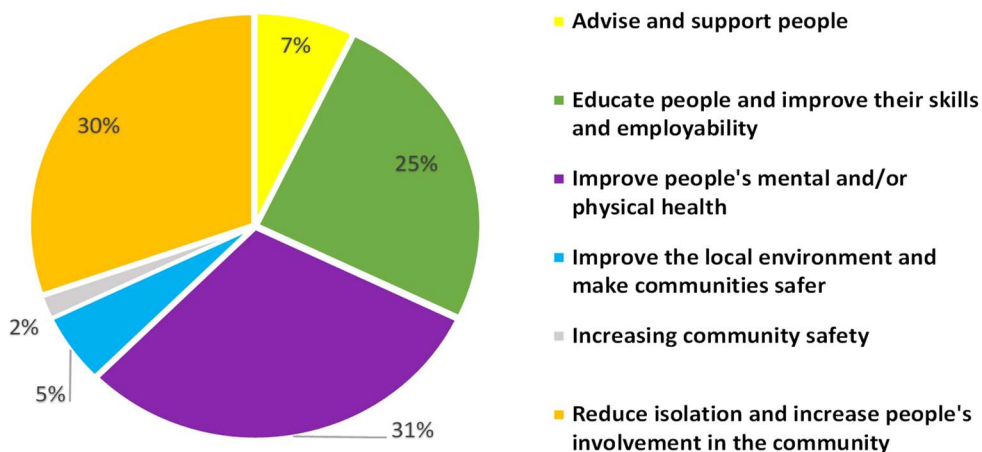
Funded groups by theme 2023/24



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

Funded Groups by Theme 2022/23

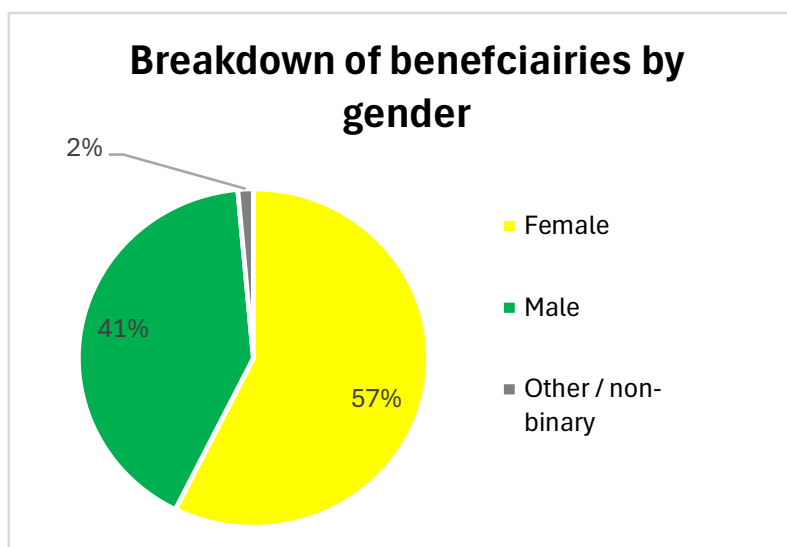
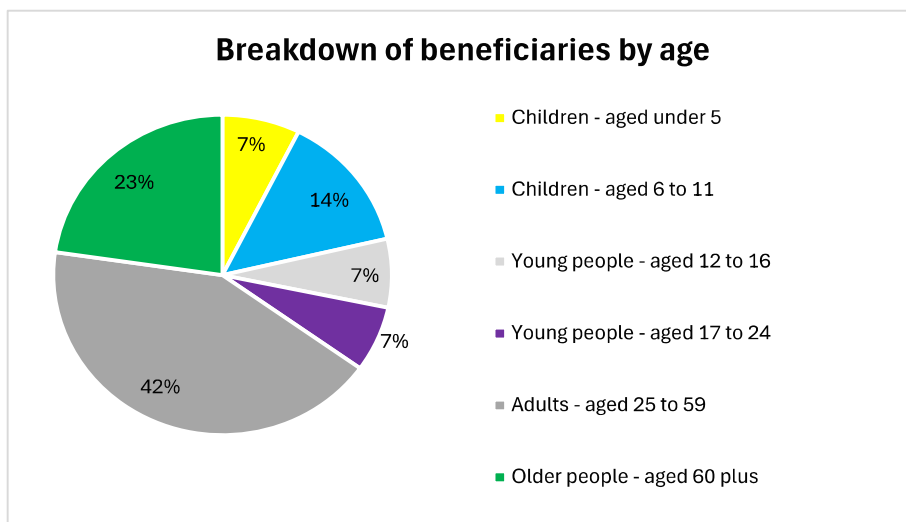
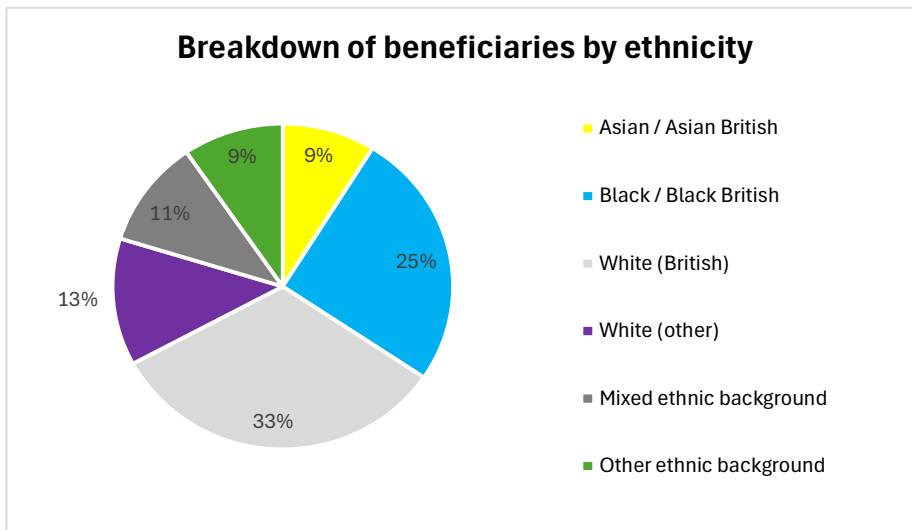


As the tables above show, the ICCC Programme continues to experience high and increasing demand as the number of applications to the programme increase. With 89 received in 2023/24 the Programme is seeing higher numbers of applications than prior to the 2020 lockdowns. Although the proportion of successful applicants has dipped slightly compared to 2022/23 (60 compared to 69%), this is partly due to the higher number of applications received overall. Indeed, the actual *number* of successful applications is only slightly lower – 53 compared to 56. Overall grant spend is also slightly lower as any underspend due to lower numbers of applications received during the pandemic years of 2020-22 were fully distributed in the preceding 2022/23 year. With greater numbers of applications inevitably comes greater competition for funds and this is reflected in the lower success rate in 2023/24 compared to the previous year. However, at 60% - just under 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 has remained fairly consistent with 2022/23 is another positive factor to note. This ensures that a good balance remains between funding new and emerging projects with providing longer term support.

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 2023/24, as they did in 2022/23 following a dip in the previous year. While the proportion of applicants applying under the reducing isolation theme have remained the same, improving mental and physical health represents the priority area that has seen the largest increase compared to the previous year. In contrast, the biggest reduction in applications appears to be under the improving education and skills priority. Interestingly, education and skills experienced the highest increase in the previous year compared to the preceding 2021/22 year so this dip may be inferred as returning to a more expected level. Taking into account the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, while still low in terms of number/proportion of overall applications, it is reassuring that the proportion of applications under the advice and support priority area has increased slightly.

A decision was taken 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. This was an attempt to encourage more applications under each and it is reassuring to see that the proportion of applications under the making Islington a more sustainable place to live priority have almost doubled in the last year, albeit from a low starting base. Unfortunately however, only one application was received under the increasing community safety priority in 2023/24 (which was not awarded funding).

Facts and figures – who we reached in 2022/23



The charts above provide a breakdown of the ethnicity, age, and gender of all people that have benefited from the support provided as a result of Islington Council’s Community Chest funding over the 2022/23 period. The data is derived from returned monitoring reports so provides an accurate reflection of the work actually undertaken.

Although slightly lower compared to 2021/22, the breakdowns demonstrate that the ICCC programme continues to provide good reach for BAMER communities, representing 54% (57% in 2021/22) of all beneficiaries compared to 32% overall Islington population (not including Irish/White Other).

In terms of age groups, the highest overall proportion of beneficiaries from funded projects in 2022/23 were adults aged between 25-59. While this is understandable given that it is also the widest age category, at 42%, this is slightly lower compared to 2021/22 (44%). Just under a quarter (23%) of overall beneficiaries are older people (60+) which has remained fairly consistent with 2021/22. The proportion of beneficiaries under the age of 5 (7%) has increased slightly compared to 2021/22 (6%), while the proportion of beneficiaries aged 6-11 has reduced from 9 to 6%. The proportion of beneficiaries for the 12-16 age group have remained the same (7%) while for 17-24s this has reduced from 9 to 7% (and represents a further decline from 12% in 2020/21). While these figures might appear low when taken individually, taken together they demonstrate that 27% of 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 in 2022/23 (from 39 to 41%).

List of grants

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" shortfilm project	£5,000
Round 2 Nov 2023	Rafiki Wema	Ampfying 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

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
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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

To find out more or get in touch:

Website: [Islington Council's Community Chest - Cripplegate Foundation](#)

Contact: grants@cripplegate.org.uk

Call: 020 7288 6940