

## Case Study

### *High vis grantmaking and volunteering*

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Photography: Marta Cortada

Islington Giving's grants are highly visible and aim to attract attention.

From the start our programmes have been built on the capacity of strong organisations which are flexible and prepared to work differently. We ask organisations to work collaboratively. We invest in organisations that actively use volunteers to deliver their programmes, thus allowing residents to 'give time' to Islington.

We invest in three themes:

- Opportunities for young people – Islington Giving works to provide opportunities around events such as Friday Night Out as well as creating pathways for the future through the mentoring Islington Giving has made available.
- Support for families – Islington Giving provides places for families to go to socialise and

engage but also provides dedicated support, for example through peer mentoring programmes.

- Reaching out to isolated people – Islington Giving proactively reaches out to and connects isolated people to other residents, to social activities and to support services.

Some significant successes include:

- A Supporting Families Programme, ranging from opening a Children's Centre on Saturday mornings for vulnerable families to holiday activities for children under five
- A mental health challenge fund launched in 2016 invests in organisations working with young people. Islington has the highest levels of depression in London
- Saturday Socials for older people, which brings together four organisations to run

activities at the weekends and a social prescribing project reaching the most isolated older residents.

- Making the Most of Free Time Young People's Programme launched in 2016 after interviews with over 340 young people in parks, at bus stops and on local estates. Activities at times and places that young people want and a new young grant makers programme will be launched in 2017.
- Establishing Businesses for Islington Giving to provide new, tailored ways for businesses to get involved in the borough ranging from support for voluntary organisations to investing in young people through the BIG mentoring scheme
- Help On Your Doorstep Good Neighbour Schemes, originally set up on one estate to encourage local residents to volunteer. Over 400 residents are now good neighbours, running stay and play, pensioners' groups, a football team, gardening together and helping individual residents. There are now four Good Neighbour schemes.

Since 2010 Islington Giving has invested £3.9m in over 60 organisations. We work with organisations we fund to shape our programmes and develop our learning. We use our programmes to shine a light on the issues we address, raise the profile of Islington Giving and the organisations we support and to attract funding.

► [www.islingtongiving.org.uk](http://www.islingtongiving.org.uk)