

Impact Report 2022/23



Cloudesley – introduction



Cloudesley is an independent charitable trust that makes grants to local people, organisations and churches in Islington. We aim to have a significant positive impact on people's lives.

Our health grants programme makes welfare and developmental grants to Islington residents who are struggling financially. We also fund local organisations and projects that address health inequalities.

Our church grants programme supports the Church of England churches in Islington. We make grants to help repair their buildings and maintain services.

The charity traces its roots in Islington back to 1517, when local resident Richard Cloudesley wrote his will.

This report covers the year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Faced by a cost of living crisis, with soaring energy and food costs, this was a particularly challenging period for the people, organisations and churches that Cloudesley supports.

Page 2 **Health and welfare grants for Islington residents**

Page 4 **Health grants for Islington organisations**

Page 7 **Grants for Islington churches**

Page 10 **Governance, management and finance**

Grants agreed in 2022/2023

Health grants for individuals

£179,000

Health grants for organisations

£933,000

Church grants

£871,000

Total grants agreed

£1,983,000

Health and welfare grants for Islington residents



Islington Mind

Cloudesley Partners scheme: crisis welfare grants

Our Cloudesley Partners scheme makes small welfare grants of up to £500 to local residents. The grants are for people with physical or mental health problems or who are disabled and have low or no income. Against a backdrop of sharply rising energy prices and the cost of living crisis, there was a significant increase in demand for these grants during the year.

In 2022/23, 20 local organisations administered these funds, assessing people's needs and distributing funding. During the year, **1,571 grants were agreed**, a significant increase on the 1,085 grants made in 2021/22. To help meet demand, in 2022/23 Cloudesley agreed additional funding of £38,000 for the partner organisations for passing on to Islington residents who were struggling financially.

The grants were used in many different ways. They helped local people buy white goods and furniture and covered emergency expenses, including for food and energy bills and the cost of travel to advice and medical appointments. The funding was also used towards Debt Relief Orders and interpreting costs.

The Catalyst Fund: developmental grants

The Catalyst Fund makes grants of up to £500 to help local residents meet personal goals and connect with opportunities. Run in partnership with Cripplegate Foundation, in 2022/23, Cloudesley continued funding eight local organisations so that they could distribute Catalyst grants.

Cloudesley-funded Catalyst organisations made **220 grants to local residents**, 54 grants more than the previous year. The grants were used creatively by the partners for a wide variety of purposes, such as training courses, driving lessons and art supplies, to help with business start-up, and to buy a bicycle and gym membership.

“The effect of the Cloudesley Partner funds is transformational for our clients and is a central tenet in moving on in their lives.”

Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants

“The Catalyst Fund opens up the world. It can be a switch from being down to feeling good.”

Age UK Islington

“Providing a Catalyst grant is one of the nicest things we can do. Tenants get stuck, without the fund, opportunities would not be open to them.”

Peter Bedford Housing Association

Grants for individuals

Agreed in 2022/23 for partner organisations to distribute

£179,000

Peter Bedford Housing Association

Following a period of homelessness and rough sleeping, a local resident was given support to buy furniture for his new property. After receiving a Cloudesley Partner grant, he told his support worker “I was delighted as I was able to purchase the necessary furniture I needed to feel comfortable at home”. Staff at the housing association have since reported how important the grants can be in helping people sustain their tenancies.

Cloudesley Partners during 2022/23

Organisation	Main activities/Health focus
Age UK Islington	Provide advice, guidance and support to adults of all ages
Centre 404	Provide support to people with learning disabilities and their families
Citizens Advice Islington	Provide free, confidential and independent advice on a wide range of issues
Community Language Support Service	Assist refugees from East Africa to access mainstream services
Disability Action in Islington	Provide a range of free welfare support including benefits advice and help with form-filling
Help on Your Doorstep	Work with Islington residents to improve lives, enhance wellbeing and strengthen communities
Islington BAMER Advice Alliance	A coalition of non-profit organisations that offer advice services to Black and minority ethnic and refugee communities living in Islington
Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants	Support for asylum seekers, particularly those who don't yet speak English
Islington Law Centre	Specialist advice and other legal services
Islington Mind	Services to local residents seeking mental health advice and support
Islington People's Rights	Independent specialist welfare benefits and debt advice service to Islington residents
The Manna	Practical support, advice and care for homeless people, those at risk of becoming homeless or those affected by addictions
Manor Gardens Welfare Trust	Deliver a range of health, wellbeing and therapeutic services
The Margins Project	Support for people facing homelessness, in crisis or isolated
Octopus Community Network	A network of Islington's largest multi-purpose community centres
Peter Bedford Housing Association	Support for excluded people to help them move on to greater independence
Resident Support Scheme London Borough of Islington	Support for Islington residents facing severe financial hardship and in need of one-off or temporary help with urgent living costs
Solace Women's Aid	Provide refuge and support for women and families affected by domestic violence
St Luke's Community Centre	Provide a range of activities and services in EC1
St Mungo's	Help people recover from the issues that create homelessness

Health grants for Islington organisations



St Luke's Helping Hands project

Cloudesley's Health Grants Programme 2019-24 aims to reduce health inequalities by improving the health outcomes of people living in poverty and experiencing multiple disadvantages, including homelessness, substance misuse, mental illness, domestic violence and abuse.

During 2022/23, Cloudesley agreed:

- Further multi-year Strategic Grants for Help on your Doorstep, Islington Law Centre and Islington Giving
- Renewal funding for Holloway Neighbourhood Group, Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants, St Luke's Community Centre, Stuart Low Trust and The Margins
- Uplifts in grants for all organisations receiving multi-year funding to help them with rising costs, including for Centre 404, Disability Action in Islington, Islington Mind, The Manna, Manor Gardens, The Maya Centre and Solace Women's Aid

We also continued funding for Healthwatch Islington's Digital Champions Initiative to support digitally excluded Islington residents from minoritised communities.

A full list of our health and welfare grants is available at www.cloudesley.org.uk

Health grants for organisations

Agreed in 2022/23 for
36 organisations

£933,000



Artbox London

Multi-year grants for organisations agreed in 2022/23

Principal Grants Fund

Organisation and Grant purpose	Amount agreed
Holloway Neighbourhood Group Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing	£75,000
Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants Support Service	£75,000
St Luke's Community Centre St Luke's Helping Hands	£75,000
Stuart Low Trust Arts, Nature and Wellbeing Programme	£75,000
The Margins Margins Plus	£75,000

Strategic Grants

Organisation and Grant purpose	Amount agreed
Help on Your Doorstep Connect Service	£83,000
Islington Giving For projects in line with Cloudesley's Health Object	£110,000
Islington Law Centre Three Advice Project including form-filling clinic	£130,000

Health Grants – other support

During the year, the majority of the charity's Health Grants for Organisations budget was allocated as multi-year funding, but we also provided other support.

Small Grants Fund

In early 2023, £150,000 of funding was agreed for 19 Islington-based organisations through the charity's Small Grants Fund. This provided grants of up to £10,000 for projects:

- Working with young people
- Both led by and for marginalised communities
- For people with learning disabilities or neurodiversity

Funded projects included:

- Artbox London – towards a Special Educational Needs and Mindfulness Practitioner role
- Families in Harmony – to pilot a specialist African Caribbean Therapeutic Parenting Programme for kinship carers
- Islington Somali Community – funding for its social care project to ensure isolated and disabled Somali older people can be actively involved in community life
- MahaDevi Yoga Centre – for wellbeing activities for children and young people with disabilities and special needs
- Scarabeus Aerial Theatre – towards a circus and aerial theatre project for young people with mental health problems.

To find out more about the Small Grants Fund and the organisations supported in the year, see [our website](#).



Scarabeus Aerial Theatre

Photo: Henri T

Islington Community Contact

The charity was delighted to receive funding of £68,600 in 2022/23 from the dormant charity Islington Community Contact. All the funding was passed on during the year to projects which supported older and disabled Islington residents, including through grants to:

- Age UK Islington
- South Islington Stroke Club
- St Luke’s Community Centre

The balance of the funding was allocated to projects supported through our Small Grants Fund for work with older and/or disabled people.

Access bursaries

Cloudesley is committed to valuing diversity, promoting equity and equal access, and ensuring inclusion in all it does.

We try to ensure that our application processes are as accessible as possible, but we know that some people will still experience barriers to applying for funding. To address this, during the year, we set up a new Access Bursary for disabled people. We can now offer up to £500 to assist with additional access costs, such as engaging a support worker to complete our application form. To find out more, see our [website](#).

Islington Giving

Islington Giving is a coalition of local organisations and residents, working together to raise funds, to support communities and projects, and to connect people in Islington. Since 2010, it has raised over £10m for Islington projects.

Cloudesley is one of Islington Giving’s founding partners. During 2022/23, we agreed a further two years of funding to support its work with local residents who have health needs or disabilities and who are living in poverty.

For information about Islington Giving, including its participatory grant-making panels for young and older people, see www.islingtongiving.org.uk

Health grants programme

Total agreed¹

£1,112,000

Individual grant schemes

£179,000

For organisations

£933,000

¹ Grant funding of £33,000 was written back to the Health Grants programme during the year and became available for recommitment through the programme.

Grants for Islington churches



St Andrew's Whitehall Park: Energy efficient lighting funded by Cloudesley

Cloudesley's main Church Grants Programme for 2020-25 prioritises applications which address the upkeep and repair of the church buildings in the Islington Deanery. All Church of England churches in the Islington Deanery are eligible to apply for support.

In 2022/23, Cloudesley funding of £871,000 was agreed for Islington churches¹. This included:

- 24 grants made through the main grants programme for projects such as energy efficient lighting, stoneworks, new flooring, investigations and surveys, fundraising support and organ repairs
- Six urgent repair grants including for roof works, electrical and heating repairs and to address health and safety issues
- Four top-up grants to meet rapidly rising material and labour costs to enable projects to go ahead
- Funding for access audits in 12 churches.

Christ Church Highbury

Over the past five years, Christ Church Highbury has undertaken a major project to repair its weathered stonework and pinnacles, with support from six Cloudesley grants. In 2023, the charity agreed a final grant of £30,512 towards repairs to its Southwest pinnacle. Once finished, this will complete the pinnacle repairs project, addressing health and safety issues and preventing high level water ingress at this Grade II listed church.



Christ Church Highbury: Stonework repairs

¹ Grant funding of £5,000 was written back to the Church Grants programme during the year and became available for recommitment through the programme.



St Mark's Church, Clerkenwell: Ramp installed with funding from Cloudesley

Church Access Project

In July 2022, Cloudesley began a new three-year Church Access Project in partnership with the Islington Deanery and the Diocese of London. The project aims to improve the accessibility of Islington's church buildings.

The project includes:

- Access audits: Each eligible Islington church has been offered a Cloudesley-funded church access audit carried out by the Centre for Accessible Environments. Following their audit, each church receives a detailed report with recommendations for improvements
- Small grants: Once they have considered their audit report, each church can apply for non-competitive grant of up to £10,000 towards access works in its building
- Information and support on access issues: During the first year of the project, this has included information and links to resources via regular newsletters. Cloudesley also commissioned Inclusion London to run two disability equality training sessions for representatives from the Islington churches.



St Silas Church: Smart temperature control

Church Grants – other support

Islington Deanery Buildings Forum

During the year, Cloudesley continued to arrange meetings of the Islington Deanery Buildings Forum. Working with the Islington Deanery, we ran three meetings of the forum, bringing together church representatives to share information and experiences about church buildings projects.

The 2022/23 meetings included presentations, group discussions and a buildings tour. Topics included heating resilience planning, stonework projects, the faculty process and the launch of a new sustainability project.

Sustainable Church Buildings Project

At the June 2023 meeting of the Islington Church Buildings Forum, the charity launched a new Sustainable Church Buildings Project. This Cloudesley-led initiative is being run in partnership with the Islington Deanery and the Diocese of London from July 2023 to December 2024. The project builds on the successful Sustainable Church Buildings Project which we ran in our 500th anniversary year in 2017/18.

The new project includes:

- Expert advice and bespoke support for each eligible Islington church provided by Inspired Efficiency
- A non-competitive grant of £10,000 for each church towards sustainability and net zero carbon measures
- Large grants – at least £215,000 of funding for larger grants available on a competitive basis.

Funder Commitment on Climate Change

Along with over 100 other funders, Cloudesley is a signatory of the [Funder Commitment on Climate Change](#). This commits us to the following actions:

- Education and learning
- Committing resources
- Integrating climate into existing funding programmes, priorities and processes
- Stewarding our investments
- Decarbonising our operations.

You can read more about our progress against each of these areas [here](#), as well as our future plans for climate action.

Church grants programme 2022/23

Agreed

£871,000

34

Grants made for

21

Islington churches

Access audits funded in

12

churches

Governance, management and finance

Governance and management

Cloudesley is governed by a Charity Commission Scheme of July 1980, as amended.

Up to 15 Trustees are responsible for directing Cloudesley's activities and the stewardship of its assets. They are:

- Ex-officio Trustee – the Mayor of Islington
- Archdeacon's Trustee
- Four Deanery Synod Nominated Trustees
- Four London Borough of Islington Nominated Trustees
- Five Elected Trustees

During 2022/23, four co-opted members brought additional skills and experience to Cloudesley's committees.

Cloudesley's staff are responsible for the management and administration of the charity, and are:

- **Melanie Griffiths** Director
- **Catherine Sorrell** Grants Manager
- **Kevin Turner** Grants Manager
- **Jo Latham** Administrator
- **Ross Holland** Finance Manager

Statement of financial activities

	Year ended 30/06/23 £	Year ended 30/06/22 £
Total income	1,785,000	1,624,000
Staff costs, governance costs and overheads	361,000	316,000
Main grants programmes	1,913,000	1,540,000
Church access project audits and grants	32,000	–
Endowment funds at year end	57,863,000	57,054,000

Finance and endowment review

Grants awarded rose by 20% in 2022/23. This was in line with Cloudesley's multi-year strategy to increase grant giving, introduced in 2019.

Cloudesley's directly-owned properties continued to perform strongly, as did the charity's investment portfolio. Cloudesley seeks to use its endowment to maximise grants awarded to current beneficiaries while retaining appropriate funds to meet future needs.

In total, grants of £1,983,000 were agreed during 2022/23. Health grants of £33,000 and church grants of £5,000 were written back to the charity and these write-backs are reflected in the grants figures totalling £1,945,000 (see table) with £1,913,000 for the main grants programmes and £32,000 for the church access audits.

The full Trustee's Report and Accounts are available to review online at www.cloudesley.org.uk



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Images

Front cover (clockwise from left)

- The Margins
- St Luke's West Holloway
- Christ Church Highbury

Back cover (clockwise from top)

- St Thomas Finsbury Park
- Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants
- St Thomas Finsbury Park