



Introduction

This report covers Cloudesley's activities in the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Cloudesley is an independent grant-making charity that supports local people, organisations and churches in Islington. We trace our roots back over 500 years to the will that local resident Richard Cloudesley wrote in 1517. Today, 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 working to address health inequalities.

Our church grants programme supports Islington's Church of England churches through grants to help repair their buildings and maintain services.



Grants agreed in 2023/2024

£278,000

Health grants for individuals

£764,000

Health grants for organisations

£1,264,000

Church grants & audits

£2,306,000

Total grants agreed

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Health and welfare grants for Islington residents

Cloudesley Partners scheme: crisis welfare grants

Our Cloudesley Partners scheme makes small welfare grants of up to £500 to local residents. Grants are made to people with physical and/or mental health problems or who are disabled and have low or no income.

In 2023/24, we initially agreed £146,000 for local Cloudesley Partner organisations to distribute to people needing financial support. With the cost of living crisis continuing, demand for these grants was high and the charity later agreed an extra £62,500 of funding. The funds were administered by 20 local organisations, which worked with people to assess the financial and other support they needed.

During the year, 1,473 separate grants were agreed for a wide range of purposes. The grants helped local people with emergency expenses (including food and energy costs), and interpreting fees, and were used towards the cost of furniture and furnishings, and for specialist disability equipment.

The Catalyst Fund: developmental grants

The Catalyst Fund makes grants of up to £500 to help local residents meet personal goals and connect to opportunities. Run in partnership with Cripplegate Foundation, in 2023/24, Cloudesley continued funding for seven local organisations so that they could distribute Catalyst grants.

Cloudesley-funded Catalyst organisations made 133 grants to local residents. The grants were used creatively by the partners for a wide variety of purposes, including towards training courses; gym membership and gym wear to help with weight management and anxiety; a mobile phone and headphones to address isolation, minimise distracting audio-hallucinations and improve wellbeing; and for laptops to enable social interaction and improve employment opportunities.



Islington Law Centre

“This support has made a meaningful difference [to our client’s] quality of life, contributing to her overall stability and well-being.”

Manor Gardens Welfare Trust

“The Catalyst Fund ‘shifts a conversation from hopelessness to ‘things can change’. It shifts head space and advisors can use it to focus on positives.’

Help on Your Doorstep

“Without Catalyst, it would impact on our ability to move people forward.”

St Mungo’s

Cloudesley Partners during 2023/24

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.

London Borough of Islington – Resident Support Scheme & No Resource to Public Funds teams

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.

Grants for individuals

£278,000

Agreed in 2023/24 for partner organisations to distribute

Community Language Support Services (CLSS)

An Islington resident with depression, anxiety and other health issues was finding it difficult to cover their household expenses as well as the cost of their children's needs. They were struggling to pay their utility bills, adding more stress to the family.

CLSS made a Cloudesley Partner grant of £200 to help towards some of their bills as well as offering ongoing support.

The resident said 'We are grateful to have this support, it will ease some of our financial burdens'.

Health grants for organisations

Our 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 the year, Cloudesley:

- Agreed eight new multi-year grants for up to three years totalling £446,250 (see page 5)
- Extended its funding for a further three years for The Maya Centre for counselling and workshops for Black women and for The Manna's day centre for homeless and marginalised people
- Continued its multi-year funding for Centre 404, Disability Action in Islington, Help on Your Doorstep, Holloway Neighbourhood Group, Islington Centre for Refugees and Migrants, Islington Mind, Manor Gardens Welfare Trust, The Margins, Solace Women's Aid, St Luke's Parochial Trust and Stuart Low Trust
- Agreed Small Grants of up to £10,000 for 11 local organisations (see page 6)



Stuart Low Trust at the Estorick Collection

Health grants programme

£1,042,000

Total agreed¹

£278,000

Individual grant schemes

£764,000

For 21 organisations

¹ Grant funding of £44,000 was written back to the Health Grants programme during the year and became available for recommitment through the programme.



Islington Bangladesh Association Community Health Project

Multi-year grants agreed in 2023/24

New funding

Citizens Advice Islington **£52,500**
Outreach advice worker

Community Language Support Services **£52,500**
Helping hand to improve lives

The Elfrida Society **£105,000**
Healthcare advice and resilience project for people with learning disabilities and/or learning difficulties

Islington BAMER Advice Alliance **£26,250**
IBAA Co-ordinator

Islington Bangladesh Association **£52,500**
Community health project

Islington People's Rights **£52,500**
Kids Support project

Maha Devi Yoga Centre **£52,500**
Therapeutic yoga for children and young people with additional or complex needs

Prospex **£52,500**
One to one support for young people

Renewed funding

The Manna **£105,000**
Tackling health inequalities among marginalised people

The Maya Centre **£105,000**
Counselling and workshops for Black women

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

Health Grants – other support

Cloudesley allocates most of its Health Grants for Organisations budget as multi-year funding, but we also provide other types of support.

Small Grants Fund

In Spring 2024, over £100,000 of funding was agreed for 11 Islington-based organisations through the charity's Small Grants Fund. This provided grants of up to £10,000 for projects which were:

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

Funded projects included:

Angel Shed Theatre

1:1 support for performance arts activities with young people with disabilities

Jannaty Women's Social Society

Habibi Hub, a safe and supportive space for women with health issues

Memory Gardens

Hand and Sky Project, 1:1 sessions for children with autism and profound and multiple learning difficulties

One True Voice

Project for mothers from racialised communities raising children with autism

Urban Forest Tribe

SEND Nature Connection Home Education Programme

To find out more about the Small Grants Fund and the full list of organisations supported in the year, 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 and worked with over 130 local organisations.

Cloudesley is one of Islington Giving's founding partners. In 2023/24, we continued to support its work through a grant for activities with local residents who have health needs or disabilities and who are living in poverty.

For information about Islington Giving, including how to get involved, see www.islingtongiving.org.uk.

Funders for Race Equality Alliance

Funders for Race Equality Alliance (FREA) is a group of funders working together to achieve race equality in the UK through philanthropy. We used FREA's audit tool to analyse our 2023/24 Health Grants funding. The results showed a positive increase in the amount of funding reaching Black and minoritised communities from nine grants totalling £58,200 in 2022/23 to 11 grants totalling £286,250 in 2023/24. This is largely due to organisations progressing from the Small Grants Fund to our multi-year funding streams, marking a longer term commitment to these organisations.

Wellbeing afternoon for voluntary sector staff

In March 2024, Cloudesley worked with Cripplegate Foundation to run a wellbeing afternoon. The event was arranged as a response to concerns about burnout amongst voluntary sector staff. 34 staff from a range of funded organisations joined the event for chair massages, meditation sessions, mindfulness activities and a buffet lunch.



Maha Devi Yoga Centre

Grants for Islington churches

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

In 2023/24, Cloudesley agreed funding of £1,264,000 for Islington churches¹:

- Under our main grants programme, 26 grants were agreed for 19 churches. These funded a variety of buildings projects, including roof repairs and stonework, the installation of LED lighting, kitchen and toilet refurbishment and repairs, a fire safety review and audio-visual equipment
- Seven urgent repair grants to address health and safety issues and prevent further deterioration of church buildings
- Access audits in eight churches and five Access Fund grants
- Sustainability project audits, technical support and related small and large grants through a new Sustainable Church Buildings Project (see page 8)

¹ Grant funding of £92,000 was written back to the Church Grants programme during the year and became available for recommitment through the programme.



St Silas

St Andrew Thornhill Square

St Andrew Thornhill Square is currently on the Heritage at Risk Register, and has significant stonework and subsidence issues. The church is working closely with the Diocese of London and buildings professionals to develop a major project of structural repairs. In the meantime, St Andrew's has received funding from Cloudesley to address immediate urgent buildings issues to make sure the building can be kept safe for its users. Cloudesley has also funded regular monitoring of cracks in the building so that the movement of the church is kept under review.



Sustainable Church Buildings Project

In July 2023, the charity began a new Sustainable Church Buildings Project in partnership with the Islington Deanery and the Diocese of London. The project builds on the successful project which Cloudesley ran in 2017/18 and aims to help each Islington church reduce its carbon footprint and improve sustainability.

The 18-month project includes:

- Expert advice and support. We commissioned Inspired Efficiency to provide bespoke advice and support to help churches take part in the project
- Small grants – each church can apply for a non-competitive grant of up to £10,000 towards sustainability and net zero measures. Five small grants were agreed in the year towards projects including solar panel installation and LED lighting
- Large grants – £215,000 was agreed in funding for three churches to take forward particularly impactful projects

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.

For information on our progress against each of these and our future plans for climate action, see [our website](#).



St Mary Islington

Installation of a temporary ramp at Inspire St James Clerkenwell

Inspire St James Clerkenwell is a Grade II listed church. There are longer term plans for a major project to open up access to all levels of the church building.

In the meantime, a Cloudesley Access Fund grant has enabled the church to add a temporary ramp from pavement level up to the church nave. This new step-free access has already improved the accessibility of the main church space. Shortly after it was added, Inspire St James told us that 'one congregation member returned to our services after several months of not coming because the ramp made it possible for him to navigate the steep incline to the church level'.



Church Grants – other support

Church Access Project

In 2023/24, Cloudesley continued its three-year Church Access Project, which 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. Following their audit, they receive 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

Islington Deanery Buildings Forum

During the year, we worked with the Islington Deanery to arrange three meetings of the Islington Deanery Buildings Forum. These meetings brought people together to share information and experiences about church buildings issues. Topics covered included accessibility, maintenance and fundraising for buildings projects.

Church grants programme 2023/24

£1,264,000
Agreed

46

Number of grants made for 22 Islington churches

53.5

Hours of consultancy support on sustainability issues

8

Church access audits

Finance, governance and management

Finance and endowment review

Grants awarded rose by 16% in 2023/24. 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.

Overall, funding of £2,306,000 was agreed during 2023/24. Health grants of £44,000 and church grants of £92,000 were written back to the charity and these write-backs are reflected in the table opposite. This results in a grants total of £2,170,000, being £1,819,000 for the health and main church grants programmes, £68,000 for Church Access Project audits and grants, and £283,000 for Sustainable Church Buildings Project consultancy and grants.

The full Trustee's Report and Accounts are available on [our website](#).

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 2023/24, two 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

Operations and Database Officer

Ross Holland

Finance Manager

Financial summary 2023/24

	Year ended 30/06/24 £	Year ended 30/06/23 £
Total income	1,747,000	1,785,000
Staff costs, governance costs and overheads	393,000	361,000
Main grants programmes	1,819,000	1,913,000
Church Access Project audits and grants	68,000	32,000
Sustainable Church Buildings Project audits and grants	283,000	–
Endowment funds at year end	58,038,000	57,863,000



Images (clockwise from left)

Front cover

- The Margins
- St James Clerkenwell
- St Augustine

Back cover

- St George's Tufnell Park
- The Margins
- St Jude and St Paul

Charity Commission number

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