

Committee:	Date:
The City Bridge Trust	4 th July 2013
Subject:	Public
Islington Giving – Evaluation	
Report of:	For Decision
Chief Grants Officer	
<u>Summary</u>	
<p>This paper reports on the success of Islington Giving, a unique collaboration of funders, businesses, volunteers and endorsed by the local council.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>That you instruct your officers to explore further the desirability of a feasibility study into replicating Islington Giving in partnership with Cripplegate Foundation.</p>	

Main Report

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 This report updates you on the progress and evaluation of the Islington Giving initiative and advises that you consider research into the feasibility of replicating the model in other London boroughs in partnership with Cripplegate Foundation.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In April 2011, you awarded a grant of £119,500 to Cripplegate Foundation, which leads on the Islington Giving initiative (treated as a restricted fund in its accounts); and is a coalition comprising 5 endowed foundations, local and national businesses and council for voluntary service. Its purpose is to bring in additional resources, both financial and in-kind (employee volunteers), to help redress the entrenched social problems and poverty which exist in many parts of the borough. Your officer, Sandra Davidson, sits on the Board of Islington Giving and City Bridge Trust is an active partner.
- 2.2 Islington Giving was, in part, a response to a research commissioned by the Cripplegate Foundation in 2008. The report, *"Invisible Islington: Living in Poverty in Inner London"*, told the story of a split community where richest and poorest residents exist side by side, but living entirely different lives. In Islington:

- Child poverty is at the second highest level in London (43% of children live in poverty);
- Men have the lowest life expectancy in London;
- Poverty amongst older people is ranked fourth for England; and
- Rates of depression and suicide are the highest in London.

3.0 OPM's Evaluation – 'Giving Together'

3.1 The Office for Public Management (OPM) has evaluated the first 30 months of the Islington Giving Campaign and the results are impressive. It has:

- raised an additional £1.8m of 'new' money;
- funded 30 community organisations with £1m for special initiatives and a further £700,000 planned in 2014 and 2015;
- established Islington's first employee volunteering scheme, including 600 volunteers;
- raised awareness of Islington issues and established Islington Giving as a trusted brand involving local people and giving to local causes.

Examples of Funding:

4.0 The Saturday Night Project

4.1 Islington Giving has launched the Saturday Night Project, in partnership with the Sobell Centre. Traditional youth clubs are usually held in the week, leaving a gap at the weekend at a time when young people need activities the most.

4.2 Over 400 young people aged 13-19 years can now enjoy inspirational activities such as traditional sports and more creative activities like zorbing, street-dance and an exercise-bike-powered smoothie blender! The Saturday night projects is attracting equal numbers fo young men and young women. Its is supported by the Metropolitan Police who note that there is a marked drop in crime when the project is operating.

5.0 The Good Neighbours Scheme

5.1 Based on the New River Green Estate, one of the poorest estates in Islington, this initiative encourages residents to volunteer and to organise one-off events to improve the quality of life on the estate. The premise is that it benefits both the individual volunteer as well as the wider community.

6.0 Sunday Philosophy Club

6.1 Activities for people with mental health problems do not usually operate at the weekend. As a response to this, the Sunday Philosophy Club provides recreational activities and a chance to socialise. This is a small

project but provides a local service to local people who are isolated and vulnerable.

7.0 Delivering the Model to Other Areas

- 7.1 The OPM's detailed evaluation has provided an evidence-base on how a collaboration of funders (local and regional), businesses, volunteers endorsed by the Council can come together to improve a local area. Whilst the leadership of Cripplegate Foundation has been critical in its success; City Bridge Trust's grant, amongst other things, has resulted in the recruitment of 150 volunteers. City Bridge Trust has brought its wider knowledge and City links to inform the development of Islington Giving. Most important is the blending of talents, perspectives and contacts of each of the partner agencies, resulting in greater collective voice and influence.
- 7.2 At a time when the economy is still in intensive care with a further round of public expenditure cuts imminent, together with changes in the benefits system, new models of delivering local philanthropy are vital. City Bridge Trust, as a large regional funder, does not normally fund small local groups except through partnership arrangements with a partner with excellent local knowledge. Islington Giving is a mechanism which can help us reach groups which fall below our radar, but are nevertheless doing valuable local activities.
- 7.3 OPM's research has shown that there is potential for replicating the model in other London boroughs, providing there is strong local leadership from a respected funder. Further work needs to be done to engage with and communicate to these local funders how a similar approach would benefit their localities and what would be needed to be put in place to help develop the idea; similarly to test the feasibility of interesting larger funders such as BIG in supporting the development of what has now become known as place-based Philanthropy.

8.0 Mayoralty Support

- 8.1 Alderman Woolf has indicated that, if elected, she would like to help support and disseminate both the learning and the model of Islington Giving.

9.0 Conclusion

- 9.1 Your involvement in Islington Giving has helped smaller organisations and individuals who normally would not benefit from your grant-making, thereby extending your reach into a neighbouring borough.
- 9.2 There is considerable interest in the model and your leadership and contacts in other parts of London could be exceedingly helpful in sharing

the learning from the model, with the aim of leveraging in additional resources to some of the poorest communities in London. This could be funded as part of your sharing learning strategy to be presented to your September or October meeting.

- 9.3 A feasibility study on identifying suitable communities (Lambeth, Hackney and Hillingdon have been suggested) and on gauging the level of interest and what it might take to develop the model, is needed.

Recommendation:

That you instruct your officers to explore further the desirability of a feasibility study into replicating Islington Giving in partnership with Cripplegate Foundation.

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Report written: 18th June 2013