

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY FUND

SUMMARY REPORT YEAR 2



Introduction to our Inclusive Community Fund

In 2019, Camden Giving created the Inclusive Community Fund in partnership with the London Borough of Camden's Community Impacts programme. This was a response to break down the existing barriers that existed within community spaces, facilities and activities so that disabled residents could benefit from them more equitably.

The Inclusive Fund was set-up to support disabled residents - of which 18% of Camden's total working age population define themselves as disabled - experience disproportionate, intersectional inequalities everyday.

The health inequalities within Camden can be understood by location, gender, economic status and ethnicity, with disabled people experiencing poorer health on average. The data below demonstrates just some of the inequalities the community face, from those who have reported:

- Camden has a greater proportion of its population stating that day-to-day activities are limited to some degree (14.4%) compared with Inner London (13.6%)
(Source: ONS Camden Profile Dataset, January 2022)
- Disability-related benefits for May 2021 show there were 8,028 cases in receipt of Employment & Support Allowance; 185 were on Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance; 3,969 were on Disability Living Allowance and 9,080 were in receipt of Personal Independence Payments *(Source: ONS Camden Profile Dataset, January 2022)*
- Camden has a higher proportion of its population self-reporting that it is in bad health (5.6%) compared to London averages, and Men and women from the most deprived areas have a life expectancy of 11.7 years and 10.2 years fewer respectively than those from the least deprived areas

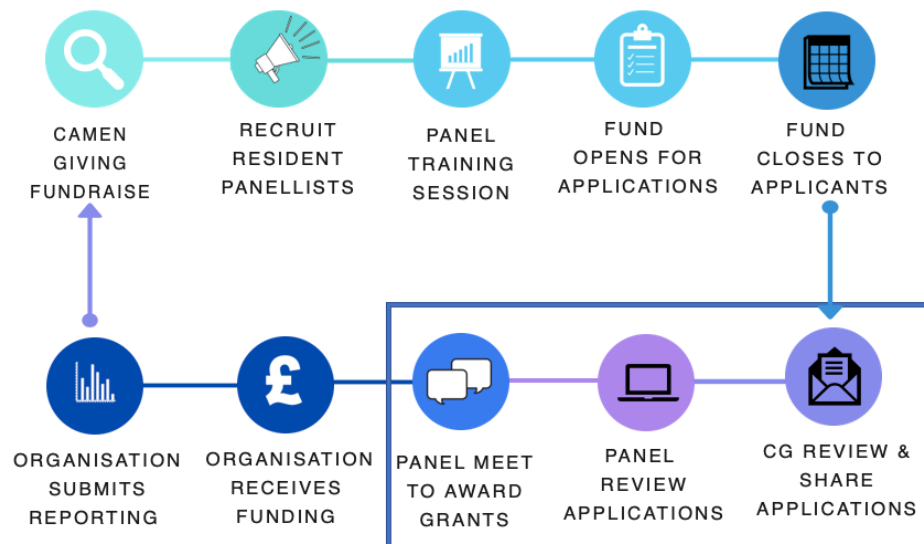
In addition to these existing inequalities, we know the pandemic also had a disproportionate impact on disabled residents, exacerbating physical, mental and cognitive health inequalities that already existed, for example further increasing isolation, increased anxiety, lack of infrastructure support to help access health appointments, lack of funding and welfare support. The ONS published the report 'Coronavirus and the social impacts on disabled people in Great Britain' which reports:

- Disabled people continued to have on average poorer well-being ratings than non-disabled people across all four well-being measures (life satisfaction, feeling that things done in life are worthwhile, happiness and anxiety).
- Among people who indicated coronavirus affected their well-being, 46% of disabled people and 29% for non-disabled people said it was making their mental health worse, 25% are feeling like a burden on others, 67% are feeling stressed and anxious 49% are lonely
- Around 74% of disabled people reported costs of living had increased; higher than non-disabled people (64%).

Year 2 of the Inclusive Community Fund focussed on building on the learnings of the 2019 as well as tackling the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic on disabled residents, to ensure that community organisations, working primarily with non-disabled residents, provided new ways to improve accessibility, participation and inclusion for disabled adults.

Participatory Process Timeline

Camden Giving's Trustees delegate all decisions on grant awards to our community panel, which means they can meet fortnightly at times that work for them and around other commitments - such as work, studies, childcare, health appointments, recreational activities - to award grants that serve a diverse range of community initiatives and we can process grant payments rapidly. The Inclusive Community Fund has created a unique opportunity for us to explore how local government, civil society & residents can work better together, more equally and rapidly.



Our timeline below demonstrates how we set-up the Inclusive Community Fund during a very uncertain and volatile time in the midst of the pandemic for Camden's civil society.

November 2020

Camden Giving secured funding from Camden Council to establish the Inclusive Community Fund.

December 2020 - January 2021

Recruited a diverse group of panellists remotely through our networks. We held informal interviews, in ways that worked for them, with everyone who applied to be part of the panel and identified additional participation needs such as digital devices to understanding when breaks were needed.

February - April 2021

We met the panel over 3 virtual sessions to train them in all aspects of grant-giving, including local data insights, placemaking, and prepared them to make decisions as a team.

The panel then co-designed the grant application process to ensure they received the information they considered important. They were paid London Living Wage for their time. Camden Giving created application forms, grant acceptance forms and guidance led by their insights

April 2021

Launched the fund and opened for applications for grants up to £20,000 and carried out due diligence checks on applications. The panel reviewed applications via our online portal. They were able to make notes to share with each other in advance of the meeting and raise questions to Camden Giving staff.

May 2021

The panel met on Zoom to discuss the funding applications meeting and made collective decisions on which projects they wanted to award grants to.

June 2021

Camden Giving sent the panel decision outcomes to successful and unsuccessful grantees, offering feedback and further 121 support to reapply for future funding

June 2021

Our first Inclusive Fund grantees were paid 80% of their grant to begin their projects, with the final 20% of their grant paid at the end of their projects.

The panel also attend additional training sessions to supplement their existing knowledge to aid their decision-making for example participating in a session with diversity and equality specialists BRAP focussing on grant-making with a racial justice and equality-lens. After the panels term comes to an end in June 2022, they will support with our new Coffee & Chat Reporting approach - bringing together the panellists and the organisations they have funded to understand the impact of the grants they gave on their communities.

The Inclusive Fund Panel

Funders often have the power to dictate what services are provided and their grant-givers often lack lived experience of the issues facing Camden's people. We believe funding decisions made by residents are much better informed, authentic and meaningful than decisions made on their behalf. Participatory grant-making works with the deep knowledge that communities have, taking into consideration millions of factors that real lives teach us.

Camden Giving's approach has benefits from being informed by knowledge that traditional grant-making struggles to capture, this ultimately means that funding goes to places where it is most helpful. Camden is made up of a unique and diverse community, housing a wide range of ages, ethnicities, qualities, experiences, all contributing to creating the innovative and multicultural environment that we call home. Our grant-makers represent a wide range of voices, experiences and deep rooted knowledge of gaps in services and opportunities as well as the solutions needed to meet the aim of the fund.

We worked with existing disability services in the borough, such as Camden Disability Action, Elfrida Rathbone Camden and Unity Works as well as existing grantees, to recruit a diverse, representative group of 7 adult grant-makers with lived experience of a disability, who felt they wouldn't otherwise have an opportunity to hold power in their community.

One of our new panellists, Paul, was involved in our first Inclusive Fund through his involvement with grantee Pro Touch SA. They were awarded a grant to run training sessions for young adults with Special Educational Needs, led by local resident and football coach Paul, who used his love of football to tackle his own mental health challenges and Autism to break down barriers. Paul applied to be part of the panel to use his experience and knowledge of running inclusive sports activities that bridge the gap between disabled and non-disabled residents to the Year 2 of the fund.



Our participatory approach ensured our panellists have the power to participate in and have complete control over decisions on their own services. The panel worked together across training sessions, co-designing the grant call-out, deciding which applicants should receive funding and carry out coffee and chat reporting. Kamilah, one of the panellists, shared her hopes for organisations applying to the fund:

“

I'm hoping to see passionate, inclusive driven leaders with positive energy, honesty, good communication skills and commitment to make a change to apply for this fund



Participation & Accessibility

We also change the way we work to suit the needs of individuals and value being flexible in our approach around panellists personal lives. Our panellists have to juggle commitments, responsibilities and personal challenges alongside this work which can be demanding and sometimes traumatic, so it's a key pillar of our participatory approach to make sure they are supported and valued. We explore additional support they require that tackles barriers to inclusion and participation, this might be; providing equipment to bridge the digital divide, hosting panel meetings in the evening to ensure people can join after work, school, around childcare, or reimbursing payment in vouchers to ensure it doesn't impact on welfare benefits. It means we can reach residents who are often locked out of opportunities, providing a richer insight into the issues we aim to address.

We provided Agnes - Inclusive Community Fund Panellist - with a tablet so she could participate in all training sessions and panel meetings. We also provided her with 121 support in person to help set-up her device, demonstrate how to use it and offer ongoing IT and Tech support during her time as a panellist, when many people had to adapt to working in a digital world to be able to be included in decision-making. She told us:

“

Thank you most sincerely for working so hard to make it possible for me to join your forthcoming zoom sessions. I am deeply touched by your generosity and kindness and I promise to work relentlessly at Camden Giving for the ideals and aspirations we both share.

One of the projects the panel funded was Camden People's Theatre and the panel invited Keir Starmer, Leader of the Labour Party and MP for Holborn and St Pancras, to visit the theatre with them and discuss ways that people with disabilities could have better experiences of Camden. The meeting enabled two groups of decision-makers holding different types of power to come together in a safe, inclusive space, to share challenges and understand what might be possible when more disabled people in the community, who are often under-represented in decision making roles, have access to more power and discuss ways that disabled residents can contribute to effecting positive change, increase social mobility and accessibility, from their own lived experiences and new knowledge learnt from being an Inclusive Fund Panellist.

“

I felt like I gained more confidence to go out and access new opportunities. It was an amazing experience and learnt something new. Being part of something bigger than myself was amazing and empowering, especially loved learning about collective decision making. It increased self-satisfaction by helping someone else, and made me feel valued and appreciated.

The panellists are giving grants to people in their own communities, and there's a huge sense of accountability for their communities when they come together to award grants. This adds a significant sense of urgency to their work. The panellists' commitment and determination to show up and making important decisions together has been proven many times throughout the year and we believe our flexibility and wraparound holistic support enables them to participate and access community power in ways they otherwise not have been able to.

We've had panellists join meetings from environments and under challenged circumstances that, for traditional funders or similar positions where decision-making takes place, would not be the norm and there would not be a support structure or flexibility in place to allow them to participate.



Pathways to Power

Participatory grantmaking builds power, connectivity and networks within communities. The value of the process is as important as the outcomes of the grants. So we work with panels beyond their roles as community panellists so they can truly benefit from a rapidly changing city. We identify individual needs for money, connection and well-being, exploring new opportunities that enable them to gain individualised support and access to other forms of political, economic and community power.

The Participatory Grant-Making model is gaining traction across the globe. Many funders working in and beyond London are reaching out, seeking our panellists' knowledge to learn about the practicalities of our participatory grant-making approach, to enhance their grant-making and work better together with residents experiencing challenges they exist to tackle through their funding. In response to this, we have recruited a group of former panellists as freelance Participatory Grant-Making advisors. The advisors offer both a practical and values-driven introduction to Participatory Grant-making, which guides and encourages other funders to consider participatory approaches. The advisors support them through a series of 121 sessions that help them make the decision if adopting PGM is right for them, and if so to make informed decisions about their approach. Caroline is one of our PGM advisors and you can learn more about why she wanted to be involved here:

www.camdengiving.org.uk/lg-participatory-grantmaking

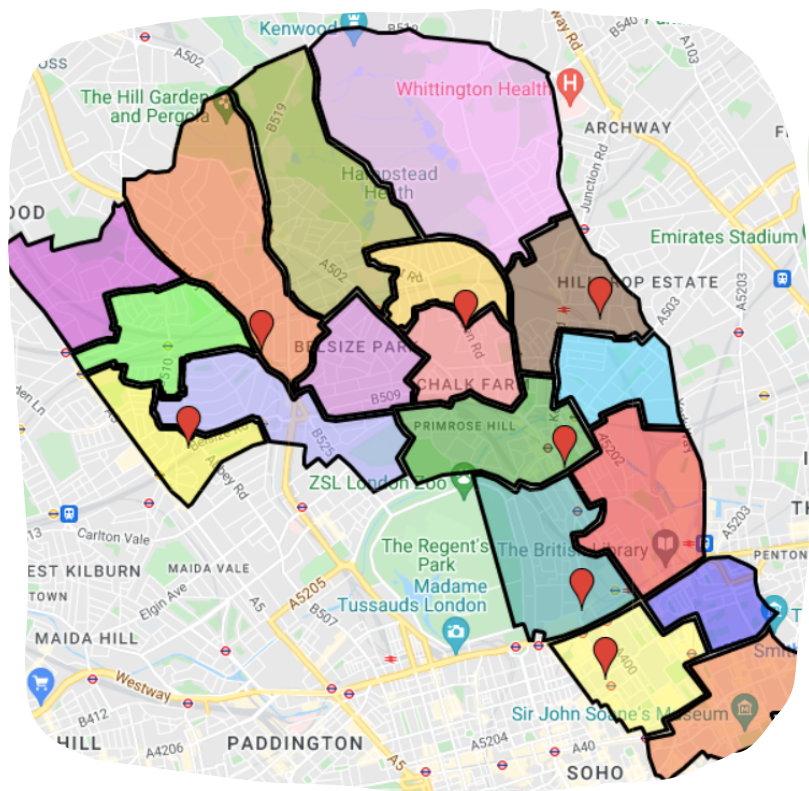
Caroline has since joined our We Make Camden Panel, because of her direct insights into the aims of this fund through her experiences of an underrepresented community, that we might otherwise not have been able to recruit. We've connected her with various choirs, including some of our grantees, as a result of her request to connect to others over a shared interest. We also shared our policy templates after she recently became a Trustee at an arts charity, so she had resourced to support in her role, without having to spend a significant amount of their own time to research and create new policies.

We have also engaged the panel in other opportunities that they've identified as a priority for them to enhance their participation, such as sharing job opportunities tailored to their needs. Agnes is now a Euston Community Review Panellist, providing her with the opportunity to feed into the Governance and influence decision making in relation to ongoing redevelopment of Euston station, as well as accessing training, capacity building support and paid London Living wage.

Nady recently joined a focus group we ran and shared his interest in community consultation projects, so we have introduced him to Camden Council's initiative with Transport for London to find an exciting meanwhile use for a vacant premises in the neighbourhood. He also shared that because he gained more power and confidence he has been able to. Being on the panel, which was a completely new experience and gave him confidence in himself that he can still learn new skills and explore new opportunities out of his usual area of expertise, that help build employability. He really valued this opportunity as he's been unemployed since the start of the pandemic, so this came at the right time to ensure he stayed active, continued learning and earning some money. After the panel he also volunteered with DWP for 2 months as judicial assistant, supporting residents to access funding and supporting with income claims, advice and universal credit support.



Inclusive Community Fund Grant Awards



7

PANELLISTS

8

GRANTS AWARDED

3

CONTINUATION GRANTS FROM YEAR 1 GRANTS

2,620

CAMDEN RESIDENTS SUPPORTED

£105,850

AMOUNT AWARDED

The panel awarded grants of up to £20,000 to charities across Camden and we have started to understand the impact of these grant awards from Year 2 through our grantee reporting. We've changed the style of our reporting to 'Coffee and Chats' between panellists and grantees, which better reflects our participatory model. We started this for funds we ran in 2021 and has been really successful and positively received by grantees and panellists. It is much more approachable and conversational because the grant-makers, who are often also benefitting from the grants, are able to use their experience to lead meaningful questions to organisations they value in their community. And the organisations get to interact with potential residents benefitting from their activities and services who they value their voices and feedback from, which is a really important dynamic that allows for honest, candid conversations.

It also doesn't overburden grantees with additional forms to complete, especially during last 2 years as their capacity stretched and demand for services are rising as a result of the pandemic, meaning they can focus their time and energy on delivering vital services.

The panellist and grantee have much more honest, candid conversations. It is increasing panellists' confidence, access to pay, develops transferrable skills, and expands their knowledge of their work they've funded, what's happening locally and how they've made a difference to their communities. It is empowering panellists to understand their impact, learn more about what other services exist so they can signpost people there, and benefit from this new knowledge themselves.

Inclusive Community panellist Caroline has been undertaking our Coffee & Chat reporting to better understand the learnings, successes, activities undertaken of the panels grantees. It's provided an opportunity to bring together the experiences of the people who might now benefit from the services and those delivering, to learn from one another through interview-style chats between our panellists and grantees. Here is what we have learnt so far.

Grant Award Summary

Organisation	Award Amount	Main community benefitting	Project Summary
Abbey Community Centre	4,992	Older people (65+)	This funding is for 'Reaching out, Bringing in' and will mobilise existing members and volunteers to organise and enable older members with disabilities to visit the centre and participate in activities.
Camden People's Theatre	18,771	All	This funding is to increase the number of accessible performances for local residents; improve communications; inspire a new generation of theatre-makers to create work inclusively; and commission disabled artists.
Healthwatch Camden	16,556	All	The grant will improve the accessibility of online GP services and improve existing digital services more inclusive, ensuring Healthwatch Camden is 'inclusive by default'.
NW5 Project	20,000	Young Adults	This funding is to enable equal involvement by disabled young adults in services we provide ourselves and jointly with others, and greater participation at every level of our organisation.
Pro Touch SA	19,845.10	Young people (13-18);Young adults (19-25);Adults (26-65)	This funding is for communal dining sessions for people experiencing food poverty and Statutory homelessness. Beneficiaries gain skills, share experiences, have autonomy in food choice and access nutritious food.
The Caraf Centre	5,685.90	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups	The grant will improve the Caraf Centre's advocacy service and support staff to better support and integrate those with disabilities into the wider Camden community.
The Whitefield Charity SK Corporation	20,000	Young people (13-18);Young adults (19-25);Adults (26-65);Seniors (65+)	The funding is to support the increased demand in for the soup kitchen's community-wide mental health drop-in clinic, expanding the days and hours in order to better serve the local disabled community.

Grantee Case Studies

The Whitefield Charity Corporation: £20,000

The Soup Kitchen is a resource for the homeless, elderly, lonely and vulnerable in London. They provide free nutritious meals, clothing and mental health support to nearly 150 people each day. They aim to tackle some of the core issues of homelessness in an environment that is welcoming to everyone.

The funding for the mental health clinic is a world first. After a successful pilot in Summer 2019, this grant enabled them to scale-up the service to reach even more residents, beyond rough sleepers, to ensure disabled residents had access to the clinic too, most importantly those who have hidden disabilities. One of the main goals is to spread awareness about their work, the organisations that help them and the people that they directly help. Not all disabilities are obvious and that is especially true in the rough sleeping community.

2020 shined a spotlight on mental health and made us all realise how vulnerable we are. For many people in our community, it was even more devastating because they suffer from physical disabilities as well as mental disabilities. Our mental health drop-in clinic is for absolutely anyone who needs it and funding from Camden Giving will allow us to expand our days and hours in order to better serve our local community.



“

Sometimes, we just need someone to listen to us. Talking and getting things out can have such a positive effect on our mental health.

Feedback is critically important and so we've asked and listened to our guests' needs and this is the result!

Healthwatch Camden: £16,556

Healthwatch Camden provides a collective voice for health and social care users in Camden and exists to listen to residents about their experiences with health and social care. They highlight these experiences to decision-makers within the health and care system to influence policy and advocate for equality for Camden's communities.

This project enabled them to work with disabled residents that:

1. Worked with GPs with the aim of making apps/digital services more inclusive to disabled people
2. Translation services to convert the executive summary of their research reports in 2021/22 into Easy Read and Braille
3. Provide BSL and speech-to-text interpreters for four online 'Q&A events' in 2021/22 to make these important information events accessible by default.
4. Translation services to convert the written summary of these events into Easy Read and Braille.
5. Ten pay-as-you-go smartphones to send to disabled people so that they can more easily take part in future research.

“

We introduced Hybrid services due to the pandemic - to make sure there is access for those staying at home. Also moving into a Somerstown Living Centre has meant increased personal attendance and some better partnership links, including help from social services, who have contact with many of those staying at home in the area who need additional access,