**United St Saviour’s Charity (UStSC)**

**Community Investment Grants Programme**

**(February 2020)**

**Programme Aims and Guidance for Applicants**

1. **Introduction**

This document provides the context and aims of the UStSC Community Investment Programme. It is meant as a reference and guide for organisations applying for funding. More specific instructions for completing the forms are provided online, as you complete the form. Please note that the ‘Challenges and Opportunities’ sections below relate largely to the whole of the London Borough of Southwark but we only currently fund organisations delivering in the north of Southwark.

1. **Southwark: Key Challenges**

Southwark is a rapidly changing inner city borough where large scale regeneration is transforming the physical and social fabric. These developments provide great opportunities in terms of economic growth, employment and progress but many communities are unsettled by the pace of change.

The borough is increasingly characterised by contrasts of wealth and poverty. Demographic changes over the past few years mean that the area has become more affluent – but deprivation and poverty are a growing concern. Almost a third of residents live in communities ranked in the 20% most income deprived in England; 8% live in the 20% most affluent. Life chances and opportunities are very unevenly spread.

As in many London boroughs, child poverty is high – exacerbated by the high cost of inner city housing - and concentrated in certain areas. 35.4% of children are growing up in poverty in Southwark and this is as high as 43% in some wards in the centre/north. While school performance at KS4 is higher than the London average so are permanent exclusion rates. Interestingly, all Southwark secondary schools are academies.

The increasing incidents of levels of knife crime affecting young people is a concern across the capital and Southwark is particularly badly affected; for the last five years Southwark has experienced higher levels of knife crime than the London average. A majority of knife related deaths of young people have been in the centre/north of the Borough.

Low wages, welfare reforms (particularly the early introduction of Universal Credit in Southwark), and public funding cuts mean that poverty is widespread and deep. Certain population groups are particularly badly affected. No firm statistics are available but Southwark council is supporting more No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) residents than anywhere else in the country, and there are likely to be many more who are undocumented.

The older population is growing in Southwark as people are living longer. People experiencing multiple long term health conditions are expected to increase by 30% over the next 10 years. A relatively high level of pension-age residents live alone in Southwark (60% compared to an England average of 43%). One of the reasons suggested for this is that families cannot afford to remain in the borough because of high costs of housing, leaving older residents behind. 8.8% of Southwark residents report feeling often lonely (higher than the London average of 7.9%), something that tends to disproportionately affect older residents. Income deprivation for over 65 year-olds is also high, with Southwark ranking 6th highest borough in the country for over 65s income poverty.

The capital-wide housing shortage means that there are not enough affordable homes. The local authority has big ambitions to increase the supply of affordable housing but Southwark still has one of the highest overcrowding rates in London. Feedback from community partners is that poor conditions and high rents for many low income families living in private rental properties, is a widespread and growing problem. Homelessness and rough sleeping are prevalent.

As noted below, Southwark is home to a very diverse and active community and voluntary sector. However, funding pressures and reducing public services are causing a lot of stress for many organisations and their staff. Charities and other frontline service providers are now operating under huge strains and the social sector is feeling increasingly fragile.

1. **North Southwark: Assets and Opportunities**

The rather negative outline above does not, of course, paint the full picture. Southwark is a thriving, creative and tolerant place. Its cultural diversity generates an energy and dynamism that is largely unmatched.

It also has a strong sense of history and place. Renowned for its old inns and taverns, Southwark is also the historical home of the capital's arts and entertainment industry. Today it hosts both established and new arts and cultural institutions, from the Globe, The Tate Modern, to the new Theatre Peckham.

There is a strong community and voluntary sector operating across the area, with many excellent and well governed charities and social enterprises. Some deliver essential and valuable services and others are pioneering new services and business models. Many Tenants and Residents Associations and community groups operate across the borough and do amazing things for their local community. There is a culture of volunteering and giving and many local groups benefit from the generosity of Southwark’s residents.

There is a rich organisational infrastructure beyond the voluntary sector, with many small and large businesses, and 3 Business Improvement Districts which provide great opportunities for engaging with the private sector. There is also the fantastic Borough Market and a burgeoning food and drinks sector spreading from Flat Iron Square to The Blue Market, Bermondsey.

As mentioned above, Southwark is also undergoing large scale regeneration. A number of ambitious schemes are underway or in planning. These include Canada Water, Bermondsey Biscuit Factory, Elephant and Castle, The Aylesbury, Tideway, the extension of the Bakerloo Line and the Old Kent Road. Ensuring that these developments meet the needs of the ‘old’ and the ‘new’ populations is an ongoing challenge for the local authority, business and civil society.

1. **The Outcomes We Want to Achieve**

In 2017 United St Saviour’s introduced 3 programme themes to guide its grant-making and related activities. Having carried out a review of our programme, and talked to many local people and groups, we consider these to be relevant and important. So from 2020 so we will continue to focus on the same things, but with a greater emphasis on the outcomes we want to achieve.

The outcomes that we want to achieve through our grants programmes are that:

1. **Older people are experiencing a great quality of life (POSTIVE AGEING)**
2. **That communities are inclusive, strong and supportive of each other (STRONG, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES)**
3. **That all residents have the same life opportunities and chances (LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD)**

Applicants will not be required to identify with (or select) any one particular theme but you must show how you are contributing towards the outcomes.

In recognition of the funding challenges facing a many local charities, from 2020 we are introducing the option of applying for **core funding** for those organisations whose activities align with our outcomes. By core funding, we mean central organisation costs such as management and administration salaries, general office costs, fundraising, governance, systems, etc.

**Table 1: Programme Outcomes and Examples**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Outcome** | **Rationale** | **We will consider supporting proposals which:** |
| 1. **Positive ageing** | Growing older in the inner city is not always easy. For reasons often related to cost of living and housing, local families frequently move out of the area. This, combined with the demographic changes, too often results in social isolation for older residents. The cost of living is high and income deprivation amongst over 65s is relatively high; circumstances can be difficult for older residents on low incomes.  While the older population is relatively small, people are living longer, and likely to disproportionately experience the impact of a health and social care system under pressure.  But growing older also opens up new opportunities. Retirees have more time to get involved in their community and are a huge resource; large numbers of UStSC projects show how much older people can offer in terms of skills, knowledge and time.  And just because you are older, it doesn’t mean you have to stop having fun! | **We want our funds to help make sure that older residents in north Southwark are experiencing a great quality of life**.  This could include proposals that do the following:   * Increase connections and friendships * Build relationships and understanding between generations * Increase mental or physical wellbeing * Enable older people to live fulfilled, joyful, healthy lives * Increase the visibility and voice of older people   You could apply for other activities as long as you can demonstrate that they help to improve quality of life. |
| 1. **Strong and resilient communities** | Located next to the river and a stone’s throw from the City, north Southwark has been used to change. But the current pace is unprecedented and contributing to high levels of local anxiety. At the same time Southwark is experiencing reductions in funding for public services and there are neighbourhoods where residents are disproportionately affected and feeling the strain. This also impacts on community cohesion.  Many Tenants and Residents Associations and community groups operate across the borough and do amazing things for their local community. There is a culture of volunteering and giving and many local groups benefit from the generosity of Southwark’s residents. We want to build on this energy and support such groups.  With recent increases in religious and cultural intolerance, we think it is important to proactively promote cohesion between Southwark’s wonderfully diverse groups, and nurture the tolerant and liberal values of north Southwark.  We believe that strengthening social networks will help to create more healthy and resilient communities, better able to respond to the current challenges. It will also create more caring and supportive places to live. | **We want to use our funds to ensure that north Southwark communities are inclusive, strong and supportive of each other.**  This could include proposals that do the following:   * Build and strengthen networks within, and between, communities – connections and friendships * Encourage kindness and caring * Enable communities to influence their environment and futures * Encourage and support local community groups * Help to create a sense of place and belonging |
| 1. **Levelling the playing field** | Southwark is characterised by both affluence and inequality. Almost a third of residents live in communities ranked in the 20% most income deprived in England, yet 8% live in the 20% most affluent. Life chances and opportunities are very unevenly spread. Almost 35% of children are growing up in poverty.  Certain population groups (and people living in particular neighbourhoods) disproportionately experience social and economic disadvantage. For example, young people living in less affluent areas are more affected by violent crime and have fewer life opportunities, single parents are disproportionately affected by poverty, new immigrant families frequently lack the tools and connections to progress and thrive. This list goes on.  We believe that everyone in Southwark has the potential to achieve their goals, but sometimes they need the right support, skills, connections to get there. | **We want to use our funds to ensure that all residents have the same life opportunities and chances**  This could include proposals that do the following:   * Enable groups to overcome social and economic disadvantage. For example by building skills, confidence and connections to improve their life chances and opportunities * Provide targeted services to particularly disadvantaged groups * Support particularly disadvantaged groups to integrate and access mainstream services * Enable disadvantaged groups to benefit from the assets and facilities that Southwark has to offer: cultural institutions, businesses, etc |

1. **Prioritising Criteria**

On assessing applications for funding, UStSC will prioritise initiatives that:

* Address the issues and aims outlined in Table 1
* Foster reciprocity (the process of mutual support, giving back to the community or to others)
* Clearly meet local need
* Are protective or preventative in approach (i.e. tackle root causes and prevent later problems)
* Leverage resources (in cash or in kind)
* Have a positive and broad impact (both directly, and through influence over policy, practice or systems)

Priority will also be given to organisations that demonstrate the following:

* Track record of effective delivery
* Clarity of purpose and strategy
* Effective leadership
* Strong and appropriate governance
* Collaborative approach and working practice
* Effective financial and operational management
* Appropriate impact measurement and reflection

1. **Eligibility**

UStSC will fund a wide range of organisations including:

* Charities
* Social enterprises
* Companies Limited by Guarantee (with a social purpose)
* Faith based organisations (where activities are not specifically connected with religion)
* Organisations based within, or outside, the AoB as long as they are delivering initiatives within the area. Organisations based outside will be expected to have good local knowledge and connections, and bring something that adds value to local groups/clearly increases benefit to local people.

We generally will not fund:

* Proposals where the majority of beneficiaries are living or working outside our area of benefit
* Individuals (including sole traders)
* For Profit companies
* Local authorities
* Purely religious activity
* Political or animal welfare activity

1. **Types of Grants**

**Grant programmes**: UStSC runs two open grants programmes:

1. **Large Grants Programme:** grants of more than £5,000.
2. **Small Grants Programme:** small grants of £5,000 or less.This programme is largely focussed on ‘Strong, Resilient Communities’ outcome but will also support initiatives delivering the other two outcomes (but seeking smaller amounts of funding).

We also have a Strategic Grants Programme which is by invitation only.

For more information on our grants programmes please contact UStSC’s Community Investment Team:

**Sarah Thurman:** [**Sthurman@ustsc.org.uk**](mailto:Sthurman@ustsc.org.uk)

**Matthew Allgood:** [**Mallgood@ustsc.org.uk**](mailto:Mallgood@ustsc.org.uk)