United St Saviour’s Charity (UStSC)
Community Investment Grants Programme, 2017-2020

Programme Aims and Guidance for Applicants

1. Introduction
This document provides the context and aims of the UStSC Community Investment Programme for 2017-20. 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.

2. North Southwark: Key Challenges
North Southwark (our Area of Benefit - AoB) is characterised by contrasts of wealth and poverty. Whilst the area has recently become more affluent because of demographic changes, deprivation continues amongst certain groups and in particular areas (8 neighbourhoods are within the bottom 10% most deprived in the country). Life chances and opportunities are unevenly spread.

Child poverty is relatively high – and concentrated in certain areas. Borough-wide, 1 in 5 children live in out-of-work households and 27% under 16-year-olds live in poverty (the England average is 18.6%). Southwark also has one of the highest rates of childhood obesity in the country at age 10-11 (this is most severe in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe). Overall, educational attainment is good up to Level 3, although there is a marked decline at Level 4.

Southwark-wide, census data shows 40% of the population are white British and 29% were born in non-EU countries. The immigrant community often experiences language, skills, and integration challenges, and minority ethnic groups are disproportionately affected by deprivation and crime.

Older residents experience high levels of income deprivation and isolation. Income deprivation for the over 65 year-olds in Southwark ranks no. 6 in the country. A relatively high level of pensionable-age people 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.

Health inequalities are also high. Of particular significance are rising levels of depression and anxiety, and higher than average levels of general mental health concerns – particularly amongst young people (13.4% of the population reported depression and anxiety in 2014/15, compared to a London average of 11.7%).

The capital-wide housing shortage means that there are not enough affordable homes, and Southwark has one of the highest overcrowding rates in London. In 2011, 15.7% of Southwark households were overcrowded, compared to a London average of 11.6%. 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.

The intensifying and rapid regeneration and gentrification taking place across the Borough (and particularly in our AoB) brings both benefits and problems. Many longer-term residents are concerned that the gentrification is breaking up their communities, driving out lower income residents and community owned businesses, and changing the face and character of Southwark. A recurring community and voluntary sector theme is the lack of community cohesion and disruption of existing social networks - particularly related to the rapidly changing local population.
3. North Southwark: Assets and Opportunities

There is a strong community and voluntary sector in the AoB, with a field of strong, well governed and dynamic charities. Many continue to deliver essential and valuable services, and others are pioneering new services and business models.

Southwark also has a progressive local authority. While there have necessarily been cuts to budgets and certain services, it has retained a commitment to the voluntary sector, and continues to invest in areas such as parks and libraries.

There is also a rich organisational infrastructure beyond the voluntary sector, with many large businesses, 3 Business Improvement Districts, and major cultural institutions keen to reach out. There are also increasing numbers of affluent residents – particularly in the north area.

Several ambitious regeneration/redevelopment schemes are underway or in planning, with the potential for local benefit. These include Surrey Quays, Elephant and Castle, and the Old Kent Road.

4. Our Ambition

The UStSC ambition is that:

- All residents in north Southwark have the same life opportunities and chances
- Older people in north Southwark are living a full and positive life
- That communities within north Southwark are inclusive, strong and supportive

5. Community Investment Programme Themes

On the basis of the above, our grants programme for the next 3 years will have the following themes:

1. **Positive ageing**: reducing isolation and increasing wellbeing amongst Southwark’s older residents
2. **Strong, resilient communities**: connecting, enabling and strengthening communities within Southwark (both communities of place and communities of interest)
3. **Levelling the playing field**: supporting population groups disproportionately experiencing social and economic disadvantage

Applicants will not be required to identify (or select) with one particular theme. They may submit applications for projects that straddle themes; what is more important is that initiatives meet the aims/outcomes shown in the third column below
### Table 1: Programme themes and aims

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
<th>We want to fund initiatives which aim to:</th>
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<td>1. Positive aging</td>
<td>North Southwark is undergoing rapid physical and social transformation. For economic/housing reasons families often move away, resulting in social isolation for older residents. Inner city living is costly, and income deprivation amongst over 65s is relatively high – with circumstances often very difficult for older residents on low incomes. And 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 older residents are also a huge resource to the community. Large numbers of UStSC projects show how much older people can offer in terms of skills, knowledge and time.</td>
<td>• Reduce loneliness and isolation for older people&lt;br&gt;• Increase mental, physical and/or financial wellbeing for older people&lt;br&gt;• Build relationships between old and young&lt;br&gt;• Enable older people to contribute towards their community (and visa-versa)&lt;br&gt;• Increase the visibility and voice (influence) of older people</td>
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<td>2. Strong and resilient communities</td>
<td>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 arguably 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 the residents are disproportionately affected. We believe that strengthening social networks will help to create more healthy and resilient communities - better able to respond to these challenges. And with the increase in religious and cultural intolerance in London (and elsewhere) we think it is important to proactively promote cohesion between different groups, and nurture the tolerant and liberal values of north Southwark.</td>
<td>• Build and strengthen networks within, and between, communities&lt;br&gt;• Foster skills and confidence within communities&lt;br&gt;• Enable communities to influence their environment and futures&lt;br&gt;• Enable delivery of local ideas and improvements&lt;br&gt;• Build on the rich culture and history of North Southwark</td>
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<td>3. Levelling the playing field</td>
<td>North Southwark is characterised by both affluence and inequality. Changing demographics (and increased wealth) are reflected in a reduction in crime and improvements in educational achievement, yet conversely, almost one in three children live in poverty. This figure increases to 39% when housing costs are included in the calculation. In addition, certain population groups tend to disproportionately experience social and economic disadvantage, and therefore require specific, targeted, interventions to level the playing field. These groups may include, for example, refugees and new immigrants, single parents on low incomes, carers, children growing up in overcrowded conditions and poverty.</td>
<td>• Provide services to particularly disadvantaged groups&lt;br&gt;• Help particularly disadvantaged groups to integrate and access mainstream services&lt;br&gt;• Help to build the foundations - skills, confidence and connections - of disadvantaged groups to improve their life chances</td>
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6. **Prioritising Criteria**

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

- Address the issues and aims outlined in Table 1
- Demonstrate creativity
- Foster reciprocity
- 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

7. **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 will not fund:

- Projects where the main beneficiaries are living or working outside our area of benefit
- Individuals (including sole traders)
- For Profit companies
- Local authorities and public bodies
- Purely religious activity
- Political or animal welfare activity
8. **Types of Grants**

**Grant programmes:** for the period April 2017-March 2020, UStSC will run two main grants programmes:

A. **Community Investment Programme:** grants of more than £5,000.

B. **Community Engagement Programme:** small grants of £5,000 or less. This programme will primarily support the theme of ‘Strong, Resilient Communities’ but also initiatives that support the other two themes (but seeking smaller amounts of funding).

For more information, please contact Sarah Thurman at UStSC (Sthurman@UStSC.org.uk)