



Annual Review: 2019




Trust for London
Tackling poverty and inequality



Chair's foreword

Last year was the second year of delivering our five-year funding strategy to tackle poverty and inequality in London. We continue to provide grant funding in seven areas, as well as social investment. In 2019, we distributed £10.3 million in grants, including £430k in grants related funding, and committed £2.9m in social investment to advance our mission. This increase in funding from 2018 was possible because of the continued strength of our endowments, which at the end of the year were valued at £342m. As our endowment has grown we have consistently increased the amount available for grants year-on-year.

Throughout 2019 we continued to invest in our special initiatives, all of which aim to strengthen the voices of people with lived experience of poverty and disadvantage. This includes Strengthening Voices, Realising Rights, which supports Deaf and Disabled people's organisations (DPPOs) to advocate for the rights of Deaf and Disabled Londoners. The grant making on this initiative is made in conjunction with an advisory panel made up of people with first-hand experience of the issues we are addressing.

Working with the University of Warwick and the London School of Economics (LSE), our Commission on Social Security, on which commissioners are all people with current or recent experience of welfare benefits, launched with a consultation that received over 1,000 replies from people and organisations. This vast evidence base has been analysed by the commissioners, who will launch a White Paper with their recommendations in 2020.

During 2019, we continued our collaborative work with the Greater London Authority (GLA) on two projects: the Citizenship and Integration Initiative and the London Housing Panel. We also linked our Moving on Up initiative, which seeks to create greater and more appropriate employment opportunities for young Black men, with the GLA's Workforce Integration Network. We also continued to collaborate with Citizens UK on our strategic housing initiative, which is using community organising to try and address the city's housing crisis.

Trust for London continues to provide grant funding for research projects that could make a significant contribution to our understanding of poverty and inequality in the city. In 2019, we saw the publication of research reports that explored issues including the exploitation of Latin American domestic workers, the interplay between race and class, and debt and economic resilience in Newham. We also began an overhaul of London's Poverty Profile – which will now have a stronger online focus and more timely updates to its data.

Our funding continued to reach grassroots organisations in London; in 2019, 57% of our funding went to organisations with a turnover of less than £1m. These smaller organisations are often led by the communities they serve, utilising their deep knowledge of social issues and trust built with their constituencies to deliver change. Their work is vital both in mitigating the daily effects of poverty and in campaigning for more systemic change and a fairer city for all. Details of all our funding in 2019 – and the projects, initiatives and research mentioned above – are [available on our website](#).

Finally, we must reflect on our saddest moment of 2019, the loss of our colleague Teresa Priest after a short illness. Teresa was a Grants Manager at the Trust, having joined us early in 2019. Despite having been with us for only a few months, she was well liked by her colleagues, with some having known her prior to her time here. Her memory will stay with us as we continue our mission to improve the lives of Londoners.

Jeff Hayes

Chair of Trustees

July 2020

What we do

OUR MISSION IS TO TACKLE POVERTY AND INEQUALITY IN LONDON. WE DO THIS BY:

1. Funding voluntary and community groups

In 2019, we made **128 grants**, which together totalled **£9.9m**, with a further **£430,000** invested in grants-related funding. In addition, **£148,000** was invested in London's Poverty Profile. The majority of grants were spread across our seven funding programmes:



Good Homes and Neighbourhoods:

14 projects funded, totalling **£1,194,500**



Better Work:

25 projects funded, totalling **£2,366,150**



Decent Living Standards:

14 projects funded, totalling **£1,339,559**



Shared Wealth:

01 project funded, totalling **£60,000**



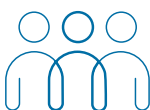
Pathways to Settlement:

29 projects funded, totalling **£2,696,982**



Stronger Voices:

11 projects funded, totalling **£1,204,000**



Connected Communities:

22 projects funded, totalling **£878,870**

The full list of grants made in 2019, with the amount, duration and purpose noted, is available [on our website](#).

2. Developing strategic initiatives

We engage in strategic work on key issues where we can accelerate change to reduce poverty and inequality. We mainly work in partnership with other funders, universities, organisations and grantees on these issues. This includes initiatives to promote social integration, to advance the rights of Deaf and Disabled people (working with DPPOs), to help tackle London's housing problems (working with Citizens UK on a strategic housing initiative), to increase the employment rates of young Black men (working with the Black Training and Enterprise Group) and to design a fairer social security system (working with experts by experience, the University of Warwick and LSE).

3. Commissioning independent research

In 2019, we funded research exploring a range of issues, from insecure work in the gig economy and the experiences of Latin American women in low-paid employment, through to an assessment of how many Londoners have a socially acceptable standard of living and a study of local welfare assistance schemes. All our reports can be [found here](#).

4. Supporting social investment

We make loans and invest in projects that offer a financial and a social return. In 2019, we committed to investments totalling **£2.9m** and agreed in principle to investments totalling **£1.1m**.

5. Providing support and training to campaigners

In 2019, we ran campaigning workshops, learning seminars, and reporting and evaluation training.

6. Sharing knowledge and expertise on London's social issues

Our knowledge on London's social issues comes from the on-the-ground experience of the hundreds of groups we fund and our staff who work with them, as well as from the research we fund. We also provide data and insight through [London's Poverty Profile](#).

Highlights from 2019

Tackling London's air pollution

Illegal and harmful levels of air pollution cause severe health problems for London's residents, including heart attacks, strokes and asthma attacks. Air pollution affects vulnerable groups disproportionately, including children, older people and those living in the most deprived areas. ClientEarth's legal and campaigning efforts resulted in the introduction of the Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) 18 months earlier than planned.



Initial analysis has shown a 30% drop in levels of nitrogen dioxide in London following the introduction of the ULEZ. ClientEarth's Clean Air Parents' Network has been instrumental in influencing policy, with the Mayor directly referencing the support he received from parents as a key factor in his decision to push ahead with ambitious action to clean up our air.

Securing commitments to increase affordable housing

Citizens UK achieved a number of successes at mayoral and local authority level in 2019, including the Mayor of London committing to increasing affordable housing on two Olympic sites, five local authorities proceeding with plans for landlord licensing, and hundreds of people across London sustaining their engagement with housing issues. This was achieved in a participatory manner through citizen assemblies, training for community leaders, residents getting involved in decision making for building planning, and support for a tenants-led movement tackling bad and criminal landlords in the private rented sector.

Improving Universal Credit policies and practices

Citizens Advice Sutton has worked to improve Universal Credit policies and practices as well as understanding of the long-term impacts of Universal Credit. A lot of the policy debate around Universal Credit has focused on first claims, but issues continue throughout the process, particularly with people's circumstances changing regularly. This project identified key issues experienced by users in the short and long term when claiming Universal Credit. It has contributed to the evidence base for Universal Credit as well as to Department for Work and Pensions and social security enquiries. We also supported Citizens Advice Sutton's one-to-one advice service.

Ensuring diverse communities have access to good quality social welfare advice

We fund a number of advice organisations. One of those is Advice UK, which offers one-to-one support and consultancy to help its members and other voluntary groups and charities gain the Advice Quality Standard (AQS). The process of preparing and applying for this accreditation, and maintaining the requirements of the standard, helps to improve the quality of advice provided. Advice UK supports management committees, trustees, managers and others leading advice services, with consultancy tailored to the needs of smaller, less well-resourced organisations, particularly organisations serving Black, Asian, minority ethnic and refugee communities and people affected by poor mental health, poor physical health or disability. This has enabled more people from diverse communities in London to have access to high-quality free independent social welfare advice. In 2019, support was given to 10 organisations working towards achieving the AQS.



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WPI | ECONOMICS

London's Poverty Profile: 2020

Improving London's Poverty Profile

London's Poverty Profile provides evidence on and insight into poverty and inequality in London. It shines a light on these issues to prompt action from local and national government, the third sector, faith groups, practitioners, experts, businesses, the public and indeed anyone who cares about making London a fairer city to live in. In 2019, the website was reworked so that it now includes over 100 indicators across five key themes: People; Living Standards; Housing; Work, Worklessness and Benefits; and Shared Opportunities.

Supporting young people to develop an inquiry into food insecurity

The Food Foundation led an inquiry into food insecurity among young people. The #Right2Food Charter made recommendations to government, the Mayor of London and local authorities on how to deal with food insecurity. The inquiry has been referenced over 25 times in parliamentary debates and has achieved coverage across all major broadcasters. Our funding allowed young people to be directly involved in the inquiry, and in January 2020 they presented the charter at the very first London Children's Food Insecurity Summit, calling for city-wide systematic change to end food insecurity once and for all.

Campaigning for a UK property foreign ownership register

Using secretive companies to purchase property is a key way in which corrupt individuals seek to hide their ownership of UK homes. Transparency International has previously identified more than £5 billion worth of property bought with suspicious wealth, the majority of which was purchased using corporate vehicles based in secrecy jurisdictions like the British Virgin Islands. To tackle this, Transparency International has campaigned for a UK property foreign ownership register to unmask the true owners of UK property. It has worked hard to keep the property register on parliament's agenda across two governments, and legislation for it was announced alongside the Queen's Speech. Transparency International will now work to ensure that this bill passes through parliament and is implemented properly.

Developing new models for social housing

Social housing models do not always meet people's needs. Sometimes people can get trapped in expensive hostels or supported housing. They can find themselves unable to pay high rents in their current accommodation if they gain employment due to the way the benefit system works. Or they can find the experience lonely and isolating.

In partnership with other social investors, we provided key social investment that enabled Commonweal Housing, Thames Reach and Catch22 to develop a peer-led shared housing model for vulnerable Londoners. The peer-led model offers a different approach to accommodating people within a shared housing model, with support from a peer landlord – one of the residents in the property given specific training – rather than a professional. It provides a stepping stone to those needing little direct housing support, enabling them to gain life skills and experience to make a success of private sector shared housing. The security of tenure means that they can focus on other areas of their life, such as finding employment or studying. The peer element enables strong supportive relationships to evolve within the houses, with people describing how their housemates look out for and after them.

Learning from the project has been taken up by the Peter Bedford Housing Association and Depaul UK, who are considering rolling out the model in several properties in London.

Supporting community and grassroots groups

We have a long tradition of supporting small community groups because we believe they are well placed to respond to the needs of their communities. In 2019, we funded **22 small groups** across London through our Connected Communities funding programme.



DAWN (DAWN CHARITABLE TRUST)
Formerly Diwa Asian Women's Network

brings different ethnic communities together to reduce isolation and allow these communities to socialise and integrate with each other and access mental health support. In 2019, we funded a social wellbeing programme, which focused especially on addressing inequality, poverty and social exclusion of multi-disadvantaged Black, Asian and minority ethnic women living in economically deprived areas.

COMMUNITY OF TIGRAYAN IN THE UNITED KINGDOM (CTG-UK)

is the only Tigrayan-focused charity in London. It provides support and advice on health, housing and education. In 2019, we funded CTG-UK's advice work on welfare benefits, housing and casework, which included creating links to health and specialist services through a new, part-time advice worker.



**HORN
OF AFRICA
DISABILITY AND ELDERLY
ASSOCIATION (HADEA)**

provides community advice and advocacy support focusing on those from the Horn of Africa. In 2019, we funded the continuation of HADEA's drop-in advice service in partnership with Ealing Law Centre and the Ealing Centre for Independent Living.

**MIDDLE
EASTERN
WOMEN AND SOCIETY
ORGANISATION (MEWSO)**

is a user-led charity, supporting Black and minority ethnic women in London to rebuild their lives. It works to prevent and end abuse against women and promote equality and integration. In 2019, we supported MEWSO's work to give welfare advice on issues such as benefits and housing.

FOCUS E15

is a housing and social justice campaign. It supports those facing unjust evictions, helps to empower those directly affected by homelessness, campaigns to highlight housing policies that leave the most vulnerable at risk, and challenges local and national governments to provide fairer access to decent housing without discrimination. In 2019, we funded campaign and organisational costs for Focus E15.

**ACTIVE
HORIZONS**

aims to strengthen the voice and engagement of young people aged 13–25 years from Black and minority ethnic communities living in Bexley. In 2019, we funded work to strengthen the voice and engagement of these young people in Bexley through leadership and advocacy sessions.

Convening and amplifying networks

We convene a number of networks, bringing together different actors to share insight and work together to accelerate change.

In summer 2019, we worked with the Mayor of London to establish the **London Housing Panel**, which brings together voluntary and community organisations with an interest in housing in London. Since it was set up, the Panel has been advocating for all Londoners to have access to good quality affordable housing, for communities' voices to be heard in decision making, and for the Mayor to use his powers to protect the homeless and vulnerably housed.

We also partner with the Social Change Agency to convene the **London Housing Campaigners Group**, to share knowledge about the different campaigns that are taking place, explore opportunities for joint working, and keep abreast of the latest policy developments in the sector.

To ensure that all Londoners are able to obtain employment advice, we set up the **Employment Legal Advice Network (ELAN)** in 2014. In 2019, this network of over 40 organisations provided input to the government's Good Work Plan consultation on creating a single enforcement body to improve employment practices and access to rights for workers.

The **Commission on Social Security led by Experts by Experience** is a Trust for London initiative delivered in partnership with the University of Warwick and LSE. The Commission, on which all commissioners have current or recent experience of claiming welfare benefits, is working to improve the social security system. The Commission is designed to build consensus and set out recommendations for reducing poverty. In 2019, the Commission launched with a call for evidence, receiving over 1,000 replies from organisations and individuals in the UK.

In August 2019, the **Better Work Network** launched the Better Work map, which is designed to help workers find local support options and strengthen networks between providers and stakeholders. The Better Work Network is hosted by the Learning and Work Institute and Trust for London. It draws together those involved in initiatives addressing low pay and the quality of work in London to bring real and long-lasting change.

AMPLIFYING VOICES

A key component of our work is amplifying the voices of those with lived experience – those who experience the problems related to poverty and inequality that we are trying to address. We want to ensure the voices of those who have direct experience of poverty are heard and that those with lived experience are involved in the campaigning and leadership of organisations and movements.

In 2019, we funded **On Road Media**, which encourages better understanding and media coverage of misrepresented groups and issues. It does this by connecting people with lived experience of social issues strategically and safely in behind-the-scenes interactions with senior media professionals, thereby inspiring nuanced news stories and long-term narrative change in the media leading to social change. Specifically, we funded its Talking About Poverty in the Media network, which trains and supports people to frame their experiences and expertise around poverty with journalists and broadcasters in London.

We also supported **ATD Fourth World**, which helps families in persistent poverty. ATD aims to influence policy, practice and opinion on issues that affect these families by working in partnership with them. In 2019, we funded ATD's Giving Poverty a Voice programme, which aims to change local systems, structures and policy by promoting and supporting stronger participatory work.

FINANCE 2019

Trust for London Annual Report and Consolidated Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2019 will be available on our website shortly after 24 September 2020.

Who we are

Trustees

Rehana Ameer (appointed April 2020)
Peter Baxter
Peter Brooks
Andrew Brown (appointed June 2020)
Stephen Burns
Grey Collier (appointed June 2020)
Luis Correia da Silva (term ended July 2020)
Alexandra Doyle (appointed March 2020)
Naomi Eisenstadt (term ended March 2020)
Peter Estlin
Tara Flood (appointed Vice Chair March 2020)
Alison Gowman
Jeff Hayes
Nigel Howell
Sue Logan
Edward Lord (term ended April 2020)
Lorraine Martins (Vice Chair, 2019; term ended March 2020)
Meredith Niles
Rosemarie Paul (appointed January 2019)
Dr Onkar Sahota
Sonia Sodha
The Rt Revd Dr Joanne Woolway Grenfell (appointed September 2019)

Co-optees

Bims Alalade
Andrew Allen (appointed February 2020)
Maggie Baxter (term ended July 2019)
Luis Correia da Silva (appointed July 2020)
John Colbert (appointed October 2019)
Naomi Eisenstadt (appointed March 2020)
Mulat Haregot
Cliff Hawkins
Denise Joseph (term ended March 2020)
Robert Laurence (term ended April 2019)
Edward Lord (appointed March 2020)
Babette May (appointed October 2019)
Lorraine Martins (appointed May 2020)
Adam Matan (appointed October 2019)
Alison McDonald
Bernadette McKernan
David Moylett
Nick Peters (appointed April 2020)
Antony Ross
Rickardo Stewart (appointed October 2019)
Vikrant Vig
Peter Williams (term ended September 2019)

Grants advisers to the Strengthening Voices, Realising Rights initiative

In 2018 we set up a Grants Advisory Panel to live up to the principles of “nothing about us, without us”. The Panel, which is chaired by one of our Trustees, and made up of advisors who identify as Deaf and Disabled people, has been co-producing every aspect of our grant-making, including strategy, our programmatic approach as well as informing funding decisions.

Geraldine O’Halloran

Eleanor Lisney
Iyiola Olafimihan (from September 2019)
Liz Mercer (up until January 2019)

Staff

Tunde Akinkunmi – Finance Manager
Jaspal Babra – Senior Grants Administrator
Tania Bronstein – Programme Manager
Sue Caller – Accounts Assistant
Sioned Churchill – Director of Grants
Hilary Cornish – Evaluation and Learning Manager (joined February 2019)
Susie Dye – Grants Manager
Emily Fiddy – Communications Officer (joined July 2019)
Georgia Gray – Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive (left February 2019)
Douglas Gunn – Social Enterprise Manager
Carol Harrison – Director of Finance and Administration
Laura Harrison – Grants Administrator
Manny Hothi – Director of Policy
Ayca Ilcen – Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive (joined November 2019)
Charlotte Lindus – Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive (joined March 2019 – left September 2019)
Bharat Mehta – Chief Executive
Mara Normile – Admin and Facilities Manager
Teresa Priest – Grants Manager
Winnel Radcliffe – Office Assistant
Navprit Rai – Communications Manager (left September 2019)
Martin Reynolds – Senior Administrative Assistant
Julian Rouse – Seconded
Klara Skrivankova – Grants Manager (joined March 2019)
Tina Stiff – IT and Publications Manager
Austin Taylor-Laybourn – Grants Manager
Claire Thomson – Communications Officer (left July 2019)
Louisa Tribe – Head of Communications (joined January 2020)
Helal Uddin Abbas – Grants Manager

Teresa Priest joined us as a Grants Manager in March 2019 but sadly passed away after a short illness in September 2019.




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