



THE STORY SO FAR

The HS2 Camden Fund exists to support Camden communities during the construction of the high-speed railway. The fund aims to create a sense of place in Camden by supporting projects that bring people together, improves physical and mental health and creates a stronger voluntary and community sector.

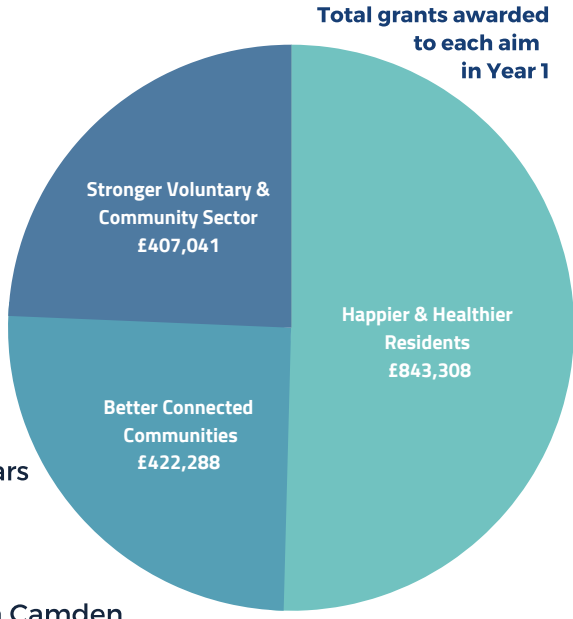
DEMAND FOR FUNDING

Total Funds Available
£3,150,000

Total Applied
79 Projects
£4,813,743

Total Awarded
23 projects
£1,663,638

Residents Reached
40,000 across the next 3 years



Civil society organisations in Camden including social enterprises, schools and charities have benefited from grants between £1,000-100,000. Projects that have benefited range from green-gym conservation volunteering activities, to community theatre and intergenerational film making workshops, to mentoring programmes for primary school children in Camden.

PARTICIPATORY DECISION MAKING

The Camden Fund's cross-sector panel enables local people to lead, learn and influence decisions alongside representatives from Camden Council, DfT and HS2 Ltd. The diversity of skills, expertise, lived experiences and local knowledge is powerful. The panel is chaired by 18 year old student Ranya who has lived in Camden her whole life, is growing up surrounded by heavy development and now lives on the doorstep of HS2.



"Camden faces many complex challenges. The Camden Fund is an opportunity to help everyone benefit from the development of HS2. The fund will support projects where local people are at the heart of their work, be that groups of young people creating projects, isolated communities coming together to celebrate Camden's diversity or small charities being supported to innovate".

Ranya - Camden Fund Resident Chair

ALLEVIATING THE IMPACTS

HS2 is already having an impact on the lives of people who live and work in Camden and often these impacts are always visible or apparent. The Camden Fund creates an opportunity for residents most affected to participate in activities and projects that are reflective of things that they want to see in their neighbourhoods and create a sense of place they can be proud of. In Year 1, the 23 projects funded so far will benefit over 40,000 local residents and alleviate some of the most prominent issues created and/or reinforced by the construction.

Health & Stress
12 projects
9,000 Residents

Currently around 1,500 residents are participating in activities to find solutions to managing stress and improving their well-being, from advice support for parents of children with disabilities, to respite support for older neighbours, to peer to peer talk- therapy training for adults.

Connecting older people together

The Third Age Project are working with 341 older neighbours experiencing barriers in accessing services and facilities, often with poor mental health, lack of confidence and respiratory problems, requiring considerable one to one initial support and encouragement.

"The funding has had a major impact upon our ability to support local older residents as we were able to move to newly refurbished premises in Cumberland Market that has significantly improved access and facilities. We were able to extend our outreach support to more acutely isolated, older people as new registered service users."- Tony Bloor, Manager, Third Age Project

Green Space
3 projects
4,465 Residents

The lack of access to green space affects the physical and mental wellbeing of residents, many also do not have access to a garden or even balcony, but can now join green gyms, a healing garden and an urban story garden with wild flowers, vegetables and herbs.

Gilly's Garden



[Click the photo above to see the transformation!](#)

Women and Health were awarded a grant of £10,000 towards re-scaping their current outdoor space and create a new, urban community garden for local residents to enjoy gardening, learn about the connection between good health and the relationship with nature and gardening. They will run activities such as healthy eating, cooking with herbs, basic plant care, air purifying indoor plants, stress management.

"Having this new garden space has lifted the whole organisation - the women and men who use our services, volunteers, staff and trustees - as we are beginning to experience first hand the balancing, calming and healing power of plants and a safe attractive outside space. I think it is because of that power which plants have to transform our environment that this grant - more than any other - has felt like receiving a real gift. Now we are working to incorporate the space into some of our therapeutic activities as well. Thank you!"
- Elisabeth, Director, Women and Health





Community Cohesion

13 projects
30,000 Residents

The area has substantial number of people with no or low qualifications, low household income and face barriers accessing resources, assets and opportunities to develop resilience, friendships and connections. Residents feel the opportunities created by HS2 are not for them, feel they are not part of the changes and feel a lack of connection to their neighbourhoods. Currently 435 residents are benefiting from the development of community hubs, mentoring programmes, fun ESOL clubs and training opportunities.

Intergenerational Mentoring

The Kids Network provides a mentoring programme for vulnerable children to give them tools and support towards a confident, happy childhood. The programme involves teaching participants about their heritage via exhibitions and visits and sharing cultures.

“Our mentors at The Kids Network have been opening up some of the big Camden institutions for the first time for the children we support. There have been trips to the Wellcome Trust, British Museum and British Library. We’ve seen language exchanges, introductions to fresh foods and new places. Thank you Camden Giving for funding our magical Camden community to connect for change.” - Sarah, CEO, The Kids Network



Love your Neighbour

North London Cares are running a wider programme of fun and educational social clubs to bring 300 older and younger neighbors together to share time, friendship and stories. They are matching an older neighbor with a young professional on a weekly one to one basis and are also working with UCLH to identify isolated neighbours in their care who need a companion once they return home. This allows support towards older people and bridges the gap between the generational communities. North London Cares



Creative Employment for Young Residents

Clime-it Brothers Academy is a creative service that provide employment and apprenticeships placements for ex-offenders and young people at risk. The programme involves teaching 200 participants how to design and manufacture merchandise which will be sold at various markets & shops within the Camden Market. They also run a series of workshops on business practices to help develop vital transferrable skills ie design, marketing, cash flow, merchandising and communication.

Rough Sleeping & Youth Safety

3 projects
950 Residents

Crime, Anti Social Behaviour and Rough Sleeping in Euston, Regents Park and Somers Town is on the rise and migrating to areas in a more concentrated capacity, impacting the local communities significantly. Homeless residents' health and wellbeing is already affected by a number of stressors which are heightened by the construction. Young people feel access to local and quality employment is out of reach so turn elsewhere to support themselves and their family, but need to be given positive growth opportunities both in work and recreation.

Homeless Health Peer Navigation

Groundswell's new Care Navigator with experience of homelessness works closely with local multi-disciplinary services in Camden to support 450 homeless people in accessing healthcare. They will target patients with long-term health conditions who are not engaging with treatment and provide more holistic support around health and wellbeing.

“Thanks to this fund we have been able to recruit a Care Navigator. Over the next three years people experiencing homelessness in Camden will have improved health and services. We will be better equipped to support clients to address their health needs, ultimately helping them move out of homelessness” - Becky Evans, DevelopmentManager, Groundswell

Follow the journey into Year 2 here www.camdengiving.org.uk/thecamdenfund