


# London | *Catalyst*

*Working together to tackle poverty and ill health in London*

## **Samaritan Grants Review**



2006/07

# About London Catalyst

**London Catalyst**, formerly known as the Metropolitan Hospital-Sunday Fund, was established in 1873 following a meeting of religious and civic leaders hosted by the Lord Mayor of London. Appalled at the impoverished lives and poor health of so many in the Capital, it was decided that on one day each year a collection should be made to raise funds to help improve the health of the 'sick and poor' of London. The legacy of the original entreaty and subsequent annual appeal provides the income of the charity.

## Our Samaritan Grants

Our Samaritan Grants programme provides an emergency fund to social work and charitable agencies that have the expertise to distribute grants to people in need. During 2006/07 we gave c£194,000 to 64 different agencies, which helped more than 2,750 people.

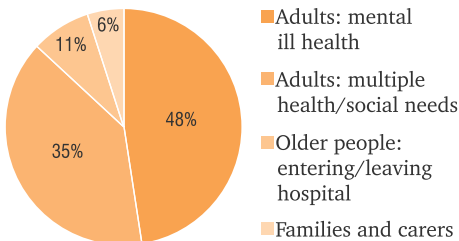
### Where Samaritan Grants are distributed:

Tower Hamlets	£8,500	Camden	£5,300	Hammersmith & Fulham	£37,200
Hackney	£10,200	Lambeth	£8,000	Brent	£25,000
Islington	£10,000	Westminster	£5,000	London Wide	£17,000
Newham	£5,000	Greenwich	£2,000	Other Inner London	£16,400
Haringey	£1,100	Barking & Dagenham	£2,000	Other Outer London	£24,750
Southwark	£11,500	Lewisham	£4,800		

### Findings about distributing agencies:

- 80% of grants go to community or hospital social work teams and 20% to charitable organisations including day centres and specialist charities with a professional advice service.
- Funds are well-managed, purposeful and valued by those who receive them.
- London Catalyst has long-established partnerships with social work teams in some boroughs (Hammersmith & Fulham, Brent).
- Agencies' use of the fund can be adversely affected by staff changes.
- It can be difficult to attract suitable agencies to apply in some boroughs. Public sector agencies can have difficulties establishing an accessible, restricted welfare fund.
- Grants were distributed to 27 of the 33 London boroughs; some boroughs receive a significant amount (Brent, Hammersmith & Fulham), others a modest sum (Haringey, Barking & Dagenham, Greenwich) and some boroughs receive nothing (Hounslow, Enfield, Waltham Forest, Ealing).

### Main beneficiaries of grants



### Uses of grants

- Food
- Clothing and toiletries
- Travel to hospital/welfare appointments
- Household goods and appliances
- Furnishings and repairs
- Respite care
- Emergency child care
- Medical aids and equipment not provided by the NHS



## Key findings

We have learnt through the Samaritan Grants review that:

- There is a growing demand on social services to provide emergency funds in some outer London boroughs (Harrow, Brent, Barnet).
- Hospital social workers are reporting more patients who are destitute (Westminster).
- Grants are used to assist undocumented asylum seekers and migrant workers.
- There is a growing number of destitute migrant workers in some areas (Brent, Deptford, Barking & Dagenham). Many do not speak English and have limited employment opportunities.
- Funds are regularly used to provide emergency financial assistance to people with severe and enduring mental ill health. These people require occasional one-off grants to help cope with chaotic lives and to live independently in the community (Southwark, Hammersmith & Fulham).
- Social workers report difficulties with meeting the 'preferred option' of discharging some older people back to their own homes. There are conflicting demands to free up hospital beds whilst ensuring accommodation is suitable and social care is in place (Tower Hamlets).
- Benefit delays are commonplace.
- More community advocacy services are needed to help vulnerable and isolated people engage with health and social work agencies.
- Some mentally disordered ex-offenders and other mental health service users fall between services having a complex dual diagnosis, learning disability, mental ill health and/or drug and alcohol use.
- There has been an increase in drug use amongst some adults with learning difficulties (Newham).
- Grants are occasionally repaid to hospital social work teams by grateful clients at a later date.
- The grants fill a gap when statutory monies are not available, providing a means to respond to new demands on social work agencies and meet emerging needs.

## Making a difference

# 4 out of 5 agencies report that the Samaritan Grants made a 'noticeable' or 'significant difference' to the 'quality of life' or 'community integration' of beneficiaries

"A client who was pregnant and battling drug addiction, successfully completed rehabilitation and returned with her newborn baby. A washing machine was urgently required and your grant was used to purchase this for her."

**Social Work Team, Wandsworth**

"The availability of the grant has been invaluable to many of our clients and has helped with the after effects of hospitalization and homelessness ... giving the comfort that some extra help is available."

**Community Support Team, Sutton**

"The grant is an invaluable resource ... and has improved the lives of many of our clients, particularly through the provision of clothing and household furnishings, and access to vocational training."

**Hammersmith and Fulham Adult Services**

"A significant issue is those living with a life-threatening illness who are also asylum seekers living on vouchers. It has been invaluable for us, as a social work team, to have ready access to a fund such as the Samaritan Grant."

**St John's Hospice, Westminster**

"The grant monies went directly to people in desperate need; a student was able to attend an ESOL class with the travel card we paid for and a family waiting for benefits to be reinstated were able to eat."

**London Refugee Association**

"Due to a fire, a client lost all her clothing. She is currently living in a hostel. This grant has helped enormously."

**Mental Health Community Agency, Southwark**

## For more information or to discuss an application

Tel: 020 7021 4204

Email: [london.catalyst@peabody.org.uk](mailto:london.catalyst@peabody.org.uk)

## Making a donation

To support the Hospital-Sunday Appeal and provide funds for our Samaritan Grants programme donate on line at [www.londoncatalyst.org.uk](http://www.londoncatalyst.org.uk) or contact the office.

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