

## Health Object: consultation details

This document includes the following:

- the reasons why Trustees are consulting on possible changes to Cloudesley's Health Object
- the proposed change of wording and the implications of this
- the consultation process
- a summary of the consultation questions

### Current Health Object

Cloudesley's current objects are set out in the Charity Commission Scheme of 2 July 1980, as amended in 2016. The Scheme stipulates that half of the charity's net income is to be used for the 'relief in sickness' – Cloudesley refers to this as the Health Object. The other half of the net income is distributed through the Church Object.

The charity's current Health Object is as follows:

#### 29. Relief in Sickness

- (1) The Trustees shall apply income of the Charity applicable for relief in sickness for the purpose of relieving in cases of need persons resident in the London Borough of Islington who are sick, convalescent, disabled, handicapped or infirm by providing or paying for items, services or facilities which are calculated to alleviate the suffering or assist the recovery of such person in such cases but are not readily available to them from other sources.
- (2) The Trustees may make arrangements for such services or facilities to be provided for that purpose by other institutions or organisations in return for donations or subscriptions out of the said income.
- (3) In exceptional cases the Trustees may grant relief to persons otherwise eligible therefor who are resident immediately outside the said area but in the opinion of the Trustees ought nevertheless for sufficient reasons to be treated as if resident therein or who are located for the time being within that area.

#### 30. Restrictions

In applying the income of the Charity for the relief in sickness, the Trustees shall observe the following restrictions:

- (1) They shall not apply any part thereof directly in relief of rates, taxes or other public funds but may apply the same in supplementing relief or assistance provided out of public funds.
- (2) They shall not commit themselves to repeat or renew the relief granted on any occasion in any case.

Since 2015, the charity has agreed funding of c. £6.8mn through its Health Grants programme. In 2023/24, the charity agreed 66 health and welfare grants to 35 organisations totalling £1,042,110, of which £278,500 was grants for individuals and £763,610 was grants for organisations.

Cloudesley is currently providing multi-year funding to 21 organisations. In recent years, our Health Grants programme has also included:

- Small Grants Fund
- Development Fund
- Grants Support Fund
- Individual Grants via our Cloudesley Partner scheme (crisis/welfare grants) and Catalyst Fund (developmental grants)

A summary of Health Grants agreed in recent years is available on our website: [Previous Health Grants](#)

## **Proposed wording of revised Object**

Trustees are keen to hear your views on whether they should apply to the Charity Commission to update and extend the current 'Relief in Sickness' Object with the following wording:

'for the preservation and improvement of health and/or the relief of sickness among persons in need because of poor physical or mental health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage in the London Borough of Islington.

In exceptional circumstances, the Trustees may support persons otherwise eligible who are resident immediately outside of the said area but who, in the opinion of the Trustees, ought nevertheless for sufficient reason to be treated as if resident therein or who are located for the time being within that area.'

## **Why are Cloudesley reviewing the 'Relief in Sickness' Object?**

In recent years, the charity has become increasingly aware of the limitations and restrictions of the current 'Relief in Sickness' Object. The language used in the Object is outdated and stigmatising and does not fit with the social model of disability which the charity uses. The

wording of the 'Relief in Sickness' Object was agreed in 1980 and the provision of health and social care services have changed considerably since this time.

In addition, funding provided by Cloudesley cannot currently be agreed for most health prevention projects and so people supported through our grants need to be 'in sickness' (either physical and/or mental) and/or disabled before they are eligible for Cloudesley's support. Improving the population's health and preventing illness and disease is at the heart of the [NHS Long Term Plan](#) and is key to reducing health inequalities. Because of the level of need in Islington, many local organisations have started to undertake more health prevention activities, for example, through promoting 'five ways to wellbeing' and running health promotion sessions, which the charity is currently unable to fund. The current Object also limits the charity's ability to provide support for younger people, yet, as set out in Islington's Annual Public Health Report 2023/24, 'Adolescence... represents a crucial period for prevention and early intervention to support good health for young people, promote the chances of a long healthy life and reduce the risks of ill health and premature mortality.'

To address this, Cloudesley's Trustees are consulting on the possibility of updating and modernising the 'Relief in Sickness' Object, subject to consultation responses and the Charity Commission's agreement.

### **Implications of the proposed revised Health Object**

The proposed revised Health Object would not affect the overall level of funds which will be available through the Health Grants programme from year to year, but, if agreed, would mean that it will be possible for grants to be agreed for some additional purposes. Trustees intend to continue both making grants to individuals (as now) and organisations to 'relieve sickness'. However, this revised wording would also make it possible to fund projects to prevent ill health. We believe that if work to prevent sickness could be supported as well, this would enable the charity's funds to have a greater impact and reach more people. We hope that this would enable the charity to work more effectively in the current social and economic circumstances and in line with the priorities of local organisations. The current purposes were adopted in 1980 and it is crucial that the charity's activities evolve to reflect the needs of its beneficiaries and to ensure it continues to operate effectively and efficiently.

Last year, we took some initial soundings from Disability Action in Islington (DAII) and Healthwatch Islington about this. Following our discussions, the draft revised wording set out above was developed by Trustees with advice from the charity's lawyers, Bates Wells, and reflecting some of the comments made by DAII and Healthwatch. The proposals include some updating of language, although we have been advised by our lawyers that any more fundamental re-writing is unlikely to be supported by the Charity Commission.

The charity's 'Relief in Sickness' Object sets out what it is possible for Trustees to fund, providing an overarching framework. Within this, Trustees agree funding priorities through a Health Grants programme. The current [Health Grants for Organisations programme \(2019-24\)](#) aims to reduce health inequalities in Islington by improving health outcomes amongst people who are living in poverty and experiencing multiple disadvantages. The charity is currently reviewing its Health Grants programme and expects to agree a new funding programme for 2025-29 later this year.

## Consultation process and next steps

We hope that all the organisations we are approaching will submit a response to this consultation.

Please submit your consultation response to us via the [online form](#) by **5pm on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024** at the latest.

Once the responses are received, they will be considered by Cloudesley's Trustees. Trustees will then decide whether to proceed to the next step and ask the Commission if it might make changes to the 'Relief in Sickness' Object. Depending on the responses received, this could either be to take forward the proposals as outlined in the Proposed Wording section above or amended in light of consultation responses.

We will update you again once the Trustees have considered the responses and made a decision about whether to approach the Charity Commission.

## Summary of consultation questions

If you have any questions about what is being proposed and would like to talk to us about this before submitting your consultation response, please do get in touch.

Views on the proposed revised 'Relief in Sickness' Object

1. Do you support the proposal to change the 'Relief in Sickness' Object as below?  
Yes/No/Unsure

*'for the preservation and improvement of health and/or relief of sickness among persons in need because of poor physical or mental health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage in the London Borough of Islington.*

*In exceptional circumstances, the Trustees may support persons otherwise eligible who are resident immediately outside of the said area but who, in the opinion of the Trustees, ought nevertheless for sufficient reason to be treated as if resident therein or who are located for the time being within that area.'*

Please set out your reasons for this response.

2. Does your organisation currently carry out any work which could be classified as health prevention?

Yes/No

If yes, please provide summary details of this work. Please include an indication of how much of the work which you carry out could be classified in this way.

3. Is your need for external funding for health prevention work likely to increase, reduce or stay about the same in the next 5-10 years?
4. If the revised 'Relief in Sickness' Object is supported and then agreed by the Charity Commission, what current and future needs might this assist in your organisation in the next 5-10 years?
5. Please add any other comments here.

## Further information

If you would like to discuss the consultation process and/or what is proposed, please do get in touch. We would be very happy to come along to your organisation to meet with you or set up an online meeting or phone call. Please contact Cloudesley's Director or your Grants Manager about this via the details below.

- Melanie Griffiths, Director  
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- Catherine Sorrell, Grants Manager  
[catherine.sorrell@cloudesley.org.uk](mailto:catherine.sorrell@cloudesley.org.uk), 020 7697 4049
- Kevin Turner, Grants Manager  
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If you have any questions about the online response form, please contact Jo Latham, our Operations and Database Officer - [jo.latham@cloudesley.org.uk](mailto:jo.latham@cloudesley.org.uk), 020 7697 4094

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