

The Ireland Funds Great Britain Grant Round 2021

Thank you for your support

This year, more than any other year, we have seen the charities we support in Great Britain and Ireland step up in an exceptional way. They have gone above and beyond to deliver much needed services to their communities - at a time when their resources are limited and their ability to fundraise has been severely restricted. We have been in awe of what they have been able to do.

These outstanding charities have been innovative and creative in their response to the pandemic. They have worked tirelessly to care for the vulnerable, to keep the isolated connected and to deliver food and supplies to those most in need.

Thanks to our donors and supporters who came forward when the need was greatest, The Ireland Funds Great Britain (IFGB) has been able to play a significant part in helping these charities to deliver for the vulnerable communities they serve. This year, our Annual Grant Round will fund 19 remarkable organisations working to make a difference in the following priority areas:

Priority areas



Digital inclusion



Tackling social isolation



Elderly services



Support for arts and culture



Mental health support



Youth engagement

The impact of your generosity



icap

Immigrant Counselling and Psychotherapy (icap), is the only specialist British-based counselling and psychotherapy service supporting people from the Irish community facing a range of emotional issues. icap has particular expertise in working with those who have survived childhood trauma. With our support, icap is continuing the provision of their services to vulnerable Irish people in London, as well as setting up an art group.

Coventry Irish Society

IFGB funding will assist Coventry Irish Society in the weekly delivery of care packages to vulnerable Irish elderly people living in Coventry, helping them cope with isolation and improve their mental and physical health. The deliveries contain food items, quizzes and newsletters and often a copy of the Irish Post.



Irish Community Services

This year's Young Leaders' Grant will be awarded to an Irish Community Services project that will focus on improving digital skills, support people back into employment and provide CV advice and mentorship. The project will be inter-generational, bringing old and young together, and will be mutually beneficial for the whole community.

Brent Irish Advisory Service

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Brent Irish Advisory Service (BIAS) clients have been struggling with isolation and lack of human contact. In response, BIAS, with IFGB funding, will continue to provide much needed assistance in the form of befriending, hot meals and Irish food hampers to their vulnerable clients.





The London Irish Pensioners' Choir

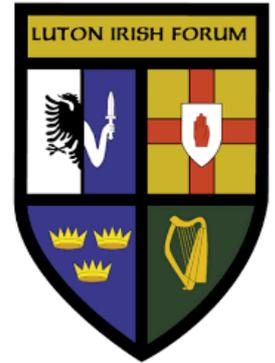


The London Irish Pensioners' Choir

The London Irish Pensioners' Choir has adapted their services to the pandemic and launched a project that invites elderly Irish individuals to tell their stories of forging new lives in the UK. The recordings will be housed in the London Met Irish in Britain Archive. A community theatre and/or radio project will be generated from recordings, which will be an invaluable opportunity for the socially isolated members of the choir.

Luton Irish Forum

Luton Irish Forum provides a wealth of services for its community - a welfare helpline and specialist support, including information on returning to Ireland, quarantine information, Irish Passport assistance/witnessing, befriending and reassurance calls, shopping and pharmaceutical collection service, access to face to face or online social groups, engagement and events, newsletters with ideas for on/offline activities and daily digital information.



Lewisham Irish Community Centre



Lewisham Irish Community Centre

Support from IFGB's Grant Round will go towards Lewisham Irish Community Centre's community meals project to local elderly Irish. These are distributed alongside biweekly activity packs which include newsletters, knitting, crafts, puzzles, card making, home gardening and photography ideas and projects to enable their clients to engage with the community remotely.

IamIrish

IamIrish is a community that connects, advocates and empowers Irish people of multi ethnicity/multi heritage. They have adapted to the pandemic with a new programme of online events, workshops and resources that address representation, inclusion and social justice lead by mixed ethnicity, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Irish people, to challenge perceptions of what it looks like to be Irish. The programme will be funded in part by The Ireland Funds Great Britain.



MyBag

Nottingham-based charity MyBag provides a practical bag of comfort items for every child who enters foster care. With the help of The Ireland Funds, MyBag will expand their current provision of comfort boxes for young people living in semi-independent care. These boxes, delivered four times a year, include hygiene products, a book and food supplies to make a meal.



English Cross Community Group

English Cross Community Group seek to educate local youth (aged 12-20 years) on issues such as mental health and well-being, substance and alcohol abuse, physical health and fitness, social media by delivering a series of workshops and team building away days and encouraging participants to share their experiences in a safe and confidential setting.

Cruse Bereavement Care

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, Cruse Bereavement Care, has seen demand for its service increase hugely. IFGB Grant Round funding will recruit new volunteers and upskill existing volunteers to meet the ongoing needs of bereaved children, young people and adults.



Irish Cultural Centre Hammersmith

In response to the pandemic, Irish Cultural Centre Hammersmith (ICCH) will with the assistance of IFGB Grant Round funding continue their 'Culture Hotline'. The telephone hotline welcomes weekly callers who take part in a singing group and listen to free lunchtime concerts by talented Irish musicians. It is a service that allows the people of the community who suffer from data poverty to not feel left out or forgotten in a time when online services have become so dependable.

Irish Community Care

Irish Community Care (ICC) is the leading participant in the provision of support, information & guidance for all Irish, Irish Gypsy and Traveller communities across the North West of England. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, ICC launched CARA, which aims to ensure that people who are particularly vulnerable stay safe, well and connected. With IFGB Grant Round funding, ICC will continue CARA through a practical shopping buddy service, befriending and newsletters.



Irish Heritage

Irish Heritage is the only Irish performing arts organisation in Britain dedicated to helping young Irish musicians and composers in the early part of their careers. With the support of IFGB, Irish Heritage launched a unique music bursary for composition in 2018 and they will continue this bursary in 2021 with our support.

IMDL

IRISH MUSIC AND DANCE IN LONDON



Irish Music and Dance London

With the support of IFGB's Grant Round, Irish Music and Dance London (IMDL) will run year-round COVID-19 safe rehearsals, workshops and performances for the Trad Gatherings youth project. A core group of 25 people will rehearse in a socially distanced setting with others joining online. Donegal fiddler, Danny Meehan, will have his music presented and create new cultural awareness and understanding of social history and musical style relating to Irish music in London.

Leeds Irish Health and Homes

Leeds Irish Health and Homes (LIHH) has successfully adapted its projects and activities to the restrictions of COVID-19. With the support of IFGB, they will continue to deliver 'Craic Packs', which give a 'taste of Ireland' to people with foodstuffs, quizzes and newsletters; letting them know that LIHH is thinking of them. These are delivered to 300 people and have proved hugely popular and an effective way of monitoring people's wellbeing, as each 'Craic Pack' delivered often becomes an impromptu welfare visit.



LEEDS IRISH HEALTH & HOMES | care culture community



Irish Chaplaincy

Irish Chaplaincy has a strong track record of providing support to those most vulnerable in the community in a holistic manner – to prisoners, Irish Travellers and seniors. It is the only charity supporting Irish prisoners across the whole of England and Wales and with IFGB Grant Round support it will supply essential items to Irish prisoners on release, in order to assist those people at this most vulnerable of times, and to avoid recall to prison.

London Irish Centre

The London Irish Centre in Camden will, with IFGB Grant Round support, provide a community kitchen serving nutritious meals, extended befriending services and social connections. This will reach those who fall below the threshold for statutory care programmes but who are still vulnerable and self-isolating and at risk of severe mental and physical ill health.



ViaWings

IFGB Grant Round support will enable Co. Down based charity, Via Wings to continue to provide regular home deliveries of fresh food, ambient food, toiletries, and cleaning products to disadvantaged and vulnerable families and individuals and provide a pastoral care service for older people.

On behalf of all of us at The Ireland Funds and the programmes we support

THANK YOU

Together we can make a huge difference. To find out more and to support us, please contact ifgb@irelandfunds.org