**Emergency Funding provided to our local communities to help them support the most vulnerable.**

I'm delighted to announce that Round 4 of this fund awarded funding of £11,920.00 as set out below.

Round 5 of the Covid19 Emergency Response Fund will take place on Friday 8th May and we will continue on a fortnightly basis until the funding is used up. The funding being awarded results from fundraising efforts by HAL and Team Heathrow Colleagues during 2019. **In the last 4 weeks we have awarded £70,419.46 in funding to 26 emergency projects benefitting a total of 18,912 people.**

In the meantime, all our business as usual grant programmes have been temporarily paused until we know more about future funding.

**Projects funded in Round 4-**

**Afghanistan and Central Asian Association -** volunteers and staff are able to communicate with service users from Hounslow, Hillingdon & Ealing in their own languages (Dari, Pashtu, Farsi, Arabic, Urdu, Hindi) interpreting and translating where needed, offering counselling and reassurance, social contact, assistance and advocacy with financial issues, benefits issues, guidance and support to victims of domestic violence, citizenship applications, mental health advice and support and signposting to relevant health services and bigger charities where necessary.

**Creative Educational Projects** **-** providing equipment, training and support to 40 adults with learning disabilities in Spelthorne who are self-isolating due to health issues, and their carers, to enable them to use digital technologies to communicate whilst they are in self-isolation.

**VICTORIA JUNIOR SCHOOL/Feltham in Bloom –** to roll-out #GrowatHome in Feltham and surrounding areas. They will work to make it possible for ordinary people, many of whom have never needed or wanted to grow plants, to obtain the materials necessary for them to start at home, to grow salads, herbs, vegetables and flowers.

**Background**

**Q. Where does Heathrow Community Trust funding come from**? HCT receives an annual donation from Heathrow Airport Ltd; we also receive donations from other companies involved in the airport, income from sponsored events which HAL colleagues take part in like the Midnight Marathon, and income form airline noise fines when they break the regulations. Currently we have paused our grant programmes for this year as we are not yet sure what donations we might receive. However, in 2019 we were very lucky to receive lots of support from Team Heathrow companies such as Fujitsu and Balfour Beatty, more noise fine income than we were anticipating, and a good amount of income from HAL colleagues’ fundraising. This has meant that we have £95k which we have put to immediate use to fund our Covid19 Emergency Funding.

**Q. Has the Round 1, 2, 3 & 4 funding been given out?** Yes, recognising that charities need to move quickly to respond to the crisis we have awarded these grants very rapidly (within 3 days of receiving applications). Charities have been very grateful:

“I was delighted to receive the news that HCT have, once again, given their support to our Feltham in Bloom / Victoria Junior School project, and its redirected emphasis on promoting the uptake of #GrowAtHome among local families. We will be able to use this, your very welcome additional funding, to source seeds, plants, soils and other materials, which can then be made available to local families, together with advice, information & support to help their gardening efforts to succeed. With so many people compulsorily confined to their own homes, and most adults furloughed from their work or unemployed, sharing the space 24/7 with children, kept home from School, this project offers a real chance for introducing a fun, productive & all- inclusive activity -- home-gardening -- which can reduce stress, boredom & potential conflict. Further, it has a real, tangible & healthy end-product -- the chance to enjoy cheap, fresh, healthy, perhaps organic home-grown food. We have been canvassing practical support from a variety of sources, horticultural, environmental and also Community activist groups, and we are discussing with local Schools possible collaboration, whereby our #GrowAtHome packs might share distribution with their existing Meals-at-Home schemes. We will keep you informed at every stage as the project develops. Once again, thank you so much for your prompt & generous response”. **Rob Antill, Feltham in Bloom.**

“Thank you very much for your email. We are delighted that our application has been successful to enable our charity to continue supporting people and meet increased demand. We really appreciate the support. Kind regards, **Dr. Nooralhaq Nasimi, Founder and Director, Afghanistan & Central Asian Association.**

**Q. Will there be more funding available? How are you deciding what to fund?**

We will be running fortnightly funding rounds until the available funding is used up – there will be awards made every other Friday. The Grant Review Panel is made up of the Chairs of HCT’s 4 Grant Review Panels, and their deputies, who normally help us to decide what to fund in our day to day grant programmes – they are very experienced at reviewing funding applications but it is very tough. We are focussing on awarding funding to those organisations who are most in need and are helping the most vulnerable at this time. Heathrow Colleagues Julie Dunn (People). Michael Murphy (Environment) and Dave Cottrell (T5 Security) sit on the panel, and the remaining panel members are Alison Keeley (CEO LinkAble), Gennie Dearman (COO EDT) and Bobby Basra who have extensive experience working in and with charities.