

Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, helps launch London grantmaker's new priorities to tackle poverty and promote social justice

City Parochial Foundation (CPF) and Trust for London (TfL) two of London's most significant independent charitable funders launch their new priorities today.

Bharat Mehta, Chief Executive of both organisations, says:

“Tackling poverty in London and supporting new and emerging communities in London are important and challenging issues which CPF and TfL will continue to focus on as we launch our new funding priorities.

“While London is one of the wealthiest and most diverse cities in the world, its prosperity resides cheek by jowl with unacceptable levels of poverty and disadvantage. It has some of the poorest neighbourhoods in the country with high levels of deprivation, unemployment, inequality, homelessness, poor health and pollution.

“We hope to make an impact on these issues and will distribute more than £30 million over the next five years to voluntary and community organisations to tackle some of the root causes of poverty.”

Improving employment opportunities for disadvantaged people; promoting the inclusion of recent arrivals to the UK; promoting social justice; and strengthening the voluntary and community sector are the new priorities for CPF for its next five year period.

“A significant development will see us focusing on campaigning and policy change to achieve social justice,” Maggie Baxter, CPF's Chair, comments on the new priorities.

She adds: “Often our funding goes to causes that are not always ‘popular’ but that does not deter us from taking up the challenge and taking risks: we believe this approach means we meet our objective of reaching those who need the most help.”

With this emphasis on social justice, Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, will be the keynote speaker at the launch of CPF's and TfL's new priorities at Toynbee Hall. She says:

“The need for campaigning and policy change work is needed more than ever in achieving social justice. Areas of particular concern over the next five years are likely to be how we keep our young people away from the criminal justice system and how society can flourish as being both diverse and united in challenging times.

“I am delighted that City Parochial Foundation has committed itself to this area of work. **It** offers a great opportunity to get real social change and tackle endemic issues relating to poverty and discrimination.”

For CPF’s sister fund, Trust for London, the emphasis over the next five years will be on challenging discrimination faced by disabled people; promoting the inclusion and integration of recently established communities; strengthening mother-tongue and supplementary schools to provide creative educational opportunities; and addressing new and emerging needs.

Both CPF and TfL have decided to make fewer but larger grants and to enhance the ‘funding plus’ approach both have developed over the years. Grants are not given in isolation, but additional support and training is offered to help organisations grow and develop, achieve additional benefits through creative approaches, and learn from their work.

“We try as much as possible to make the application process simple to help organisations - which are often stretched and under great pressure - and thus avoid time-consuming procedures which could affect the vital work they are already doing,” Bharat Mehta, Chief Executive, explains.

“We encourage organisations to study the guidelines - we believe these will give them a realistic idea of whether their work fits our criteria and priorities. We are more than happy to talk to them on the phone and assist them through the initial application process.”

For further information please contact Bharat Mehta, Mubin Haq or Sioned Churchill on 020 7606 6145

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Details of the new programmes will be announced at a launch event to be held at Toynbee Hall, 28 Commercial Street London E1 6LS. It will take place on Thursday 21 September, 4pm to 6pm. Keynote speaker at the event will be Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty.
2. If you wish to attend the launch event, please contact Chris Bazlinton on 01279 771 468 or 0771 475 3301

3. City Parochial Foundation (CPF) is a registered charity established in 1891. It aims to enable and empower the poor of London to tackle poverty and its root causes, and to ensure that its funds reach those most in need. Each year CPF expects to make funds of approximately £6 million available, of which more than £4 million will be allocated to an 'open' programme, and the remainder to special initiatives and commissioning other work. Ninety to 100 grants are likely to be made each year through the open programme.
4. Trust for London (TfL) is a registered charity established in 1986. It aims to support small, new and emerging voluntary organisations which have been established to improve the lives of people and communities in London. It believes that local people are often in the best position to identify the problems that affect their lives and the possible solutions to those problems. From the beginning, TfL has remained distinct in its policies and methods of work, despite its clear links to CPF. It has always focused on smaller organisations, making grants to locally-based charitable groups which have no more than the equivalent of one full-time paid member of staff. Each year TfL will make grants of approximately £650,000. The maximum organisations can apply for is £15,000 per year. Fifty grants are likely to be made each year.
5. Copies of the new funding guidelines are available from City Parochial and Trust for London, 6 Middle Street, London, EC1A 7PH - 020 7606 6145 - or can be downloaded from www.cityparochial.org.uk