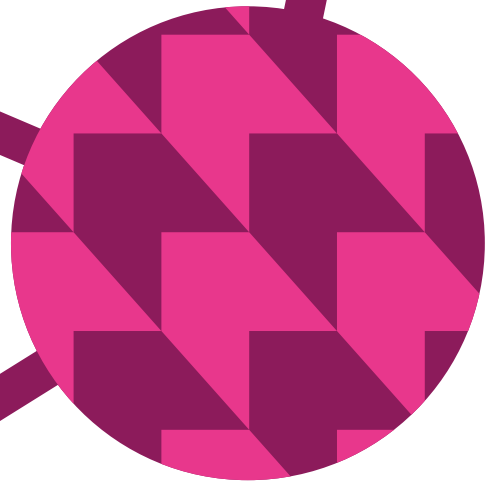


ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17



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Foreword

Kristina Glenn

During 2016/17 we experienced major changes in London and the UK, with the election in May of a new London Mayor, the referendum decision in June to leave the EU, and in March 2017 a terrorist attack in Westminster - followed later in the year by other atrocities in London Bridge, Finsbury Park and most recently Parson's Green.

This backdrop, of change and uncertainty, points to the need more than ever for funders to collaborate, learn and use their collective voice to maximise the benefit they can bring to London's communities. This report shows how we have sought to support our members to achieve this.

The report covers my final year as Chair of London Funders, and the last full year of David Warner's time as Director. I stood down in April 2017 and David Farnsworth, Director at City Bridge Trust and a fellow London Funders Board member, was elected Chair. David Warner left his post in August 2017, handing over to James Banks, who joins us from Greater London Volunteering.

London Funders has developed greatly in the last few years, moving from an organisation concerned chiefly with supporting charitable and voluntary organisations, to one that works for all Londoners. This shift has enabled London Funders to engage with a broader cross section of organisations, ranging from business, local and national government, health and housing, as well as different funders. I welcome David and James to their new roles and wish them well. With developments such as the new Healthy London network, and ongoing work on projects such as London's Giving and the implementation of The Way Ahead report, it is an exciting time to be involved with London Funders.

Kristina Glenn
Chair (to April 2017)
 September 2017

Foreword

David Farnsworth

This report comes at an important time for London Funders. While it enables us to share some of our achievements of the past year, it also marks some big changes for the organisation. As we go to press, we are welcoming a new Director and considering our next phase of development as we look towards a new strategy to build on the work of the last few years.

In considering how our work can continue to support Londoners through stronger civil society and a healthy funding ecology for London's voluntary and charitable sector, we also recognise that it is a time of huge challenge for London and Londoners. We face the ongoing uncertainty around Brexit, and the challenge of coming to terms with the terror attacks that struck the capital during 2017, and the Grenfell Tower fire - a disaster that affected Londoners from all walks of life, reflecting London's social mix but also exposing some of the challenges it faces.

Supporting strong relationships between funders, local authorities and communities is fundamental to London's future. London Funders works to facilitate these relationships and drive collaborative activity. It is a shining example of how the funding community can work with communities to improve lives.

David Farnsworth
Chair
 September 2017



Director's report

This annual report shows some, but by no means all, of what London Funders achieved during 2016/17. Our activities broadly divide into collaborative projects, in which we drive forward work on key issues facing London's communities; events and meetings, at which we bring together funders from different sectors to learn from one another; and topic-specific network groups.

That is the structure we employ within this report, but through all of our work is the thread of seeking to provide ways for our members to share, learn, work together and use their collective voice to bring about change in London.

These strands are described in our theory of change, which we now present in interactive form on our website to show how we have impact. We know that as a second-tier organisation our impact is not directly on London's communities. Our role instead is to help those organisations providing support to do so in better ways, and with a better understanding of communities' needs and how change can be brought about. In our online theory of change we present a range of types of outcome that have resulted, directly and indirectly, from our activities. These relate to knowledge, collaboration and voice, categories that define almost all of our work. But the theory illustrates how real-life impact is felt further downstream, as funders operate more effectively, benefiting grantees and ultimately the communities they serve.

Highlights: London's Giving and The Way Ahead

One of the most exciting ways in which we have sought to enable this impact is through supporting giving practice for funders across London. The 'London's Giving' initiative started three years ago as a series of funding masterclasses at which our members could share lessons learned from different place-based funding programmes, to help foster new giving initiatives. When we launched the project we thought we might engage three boroughs, but since then we have engaged with 23 through the initiative. We were pleased to receive funding support to continue the programme for a further three years, through a grant from The City Bridge Trust.

Our work through initiatives like London's Giving and our wider series of events and meetings, points towards better grantmaking, improved support for voluntary and community organisations, and better served communities. An important strand of our work this year has been to work in a more direct way to strengthen civil society. Since the publication in April 2016 of 'The Way Ahead' - the final report from our initiative to explore the future of civil society support in London - we have been engaged with members and key strategic bodies in work to bring about changes and see its recommendations implemented. Along with Greater London Volunteering and the London Voluntary Services Council, we commissioned a review of London's civil society support by Srabani Sen and Associates, working closely with a steering group representing a broad cross section of London's civil society, from community groups to businesses.

Grenfell Tower response

These highlights of our activity will, I hope, provide a useful introduction to London Funders for anyone working in London's funding ecology - whether funders in local government, trusts and foundations or corporate trusts, or related sectors such as social finance or other types of investor in London's civil society.





While this report lists some of our activities from 2016/17, it is events since the end of that year that have truly placed our work in context and perhaps provide the best framework for understanding the impact that London Funders has.

The Grenfell Tower fire in July 2017 was a tragedy that exposed profound injustice within the social and political fabric of London and the UK. The loss of life and uprooting of families has had a huge impact on the community in North Kensington, which will last for many years. The response, led from the outset by local people, showed the power of voluntary social action. It also showed how important local voices are going to be in the years of slow recovery and reconciliation that lie ahead.

London Funders was asked by the Grenfell Tower Response team to help coordinate the response from charitable funders. In this role, we have seen the funding community across the country respond with thoughtfulness, energy, imagination and humility. Independent trusts and foundations have an important role to play. They can invest over decades but move quickly when needed. Their independence gives them freedom to operate in a way that many other parts of civil society cannot and enables them to give voice to those needing to speak truth to power.

As we move ahead it is imperative that all the different parts of the funding ecology, from across the public, social investment, and corporate sectors, work together on the ongoing local response, and across London in those places where, like North Kensington, the voice of the community has been lost in the system.

Power of collaborative cross-sector working

The response to the Grenfell fire has vividly illustrated the vital importance of collaborating effectively and thinking at a system-wide level. These have been currents in our work for some time. Work on our 'Way Ahead' initiative is focused on helping the different components of the civil society support system work better together, led by communities and driven by their needs. The Vision for Young Londoners, another collaborative project highlighted in this report, brings together a wide range of organisations to seek a better society for young people, engaging directly with London's government to advocate for change. More recently we launched Building Bridges, a research report from the New Local Government Network, which calls for independent funders and local authorities to work in better collaboration, putting London's communities and civil society at the heart of future conversations.

All of the activities described in this report, from London's Giving events to support local giving initiatives, to our regular network group meetings and other events, are directed at enabling the cross-sector collaboration that comes from mutual understanding and learning.

Our members were able to mobilise quickly and effectively in their response to the Grenfell tragedy because of years of groundwork, networking and building collaborative approaches that had already been achieved. It is more important than ever to recognise and celebrate the value of London Funders in providing a safe place to think, share, learn and act together to meet the needs of Londoners.

David Warner
Director (to August 2017)
September 2017



Collaborative projects

Our collaborative projects are usually time-limited activities that focus on developing a response or outcome relating to a specific challenge for Londoners. Full details, reports and papers from each are available on our website, along with details of completed projects.

London's Giving

Our London's Giving initiative was established in 2014 as a platform for sharing lessons learned and know-how from local giving campaigns to better support charitable activity in the capital. The London's Giving network has attracted over 130 individuals from across London Funders members and has promoted the development of place-based giving campaigns in 16 London boroughs.

During the year we held several well-attended meetings for members. These included a community and crowd fundraising masterclass with The Big Give, the Funding Network and Spacehive, focusing on the changed regulatory environment for fundraising. We held a masterclass on marketing, looking at the key elements of building a brand for a place-based campaign. Speakers from the communications and PR industry and the Media Trust explained approaches to bringing campaigns to life. In July we held a small meeting at Cripplegate Foundation to share learning from Rushey Green Timebank and Lewisham Local's Community Contributor Card.

In March 2017 City Bridge Trust confirmed funding for the initiative to carry on for a further three years.

A Vision for Young Londoners in 2025

Our Vision for Young London, developed with London Youth and Partnership for Young London and launched in 2015, has been a continued focus this year. This collaboration, which strives for a better future for London's young people, involves 95 organisations including local and national stakeholders. Matthew Ryder, appointed Deputy Mayor for social integration, social mobility and community engagement by Sadiq Khan in September 2016, attended an event in February at which we brought together a cross-section of organisations for the purpose of building a youth policy platform for London. We have also engaged with the Greater London Authority on moving the vision forward. The Vision forms an important part of the work of our Children and Young People's network.

The Way Ahead

In April 2016 we launched the final report of our collaboration with London Voluntary Services Council and Greater London Volunteering on the future of civil society in London. 'The Way Ahead – Civil Society at the Heart of London' mapped out a bold new vision for how civil society support can be reorganised to better support London's communities. At its core is the empowerment of communities to develop solutions to the problems they face, rather than have traditional 'top-down' solutions applied to them. The report, along with a briefing on 'pragmatic co-production' and a literature review, is available on our website.

Over the course of the year, we have led efforts to realise the report's recommendations through the steering group and the systems change working group. A stakeholder event in November 2016 attracted 80 attendees. In March 2017 we began work to get businesses more involved in the process.

London Emergencies Trust Impact

Following the terrorist attack in Westminster in March 2017, we mobilized the London Emergencies Trust (LET). The LET was established in December 2015 as a company with charitable purposes, ready to be deployed to coordinate and support the response of London's funders to a major incident in the London area in which people are killed or injured. The LET was modelled on the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund (LBRCF) that operated between 2005 and 2008.

The Trust is an independent body with a board of trustees but works closely with many public, private and charitable sector bodies to receive funds and distribute them effectively to individuals. Since the London Bridge attacks the trust has been working with the Mayor's office and police to offer assistance to victims and their families.

We worked with New Philanthropy Capital during 2015/16 to develop a theory of change for London Funders. This year we developed a new section of our website to present an interactive presentation of the theory, to help explain how we enable and prompt change, and to show examples of our activities and their direct and indirect outcomes. We recognise that as a membership body we do not have direct impact on the people and communities of London who are the ultimate beneficiaries of the work of the charitable and voluntary sector. Our role is to help other organisations to learn, collaborate and use their combined voices to effect change in the capital.



Meetings and events

Our meetings and events provide opportunities for funders of London's civil society to learn about key issues, discuss topical concerns, think together about their support of civil society in London and develop good, well-informed relationships with each other. Our unique membership enables vital cross-sector links to be forged. Reports from meetings and events are available on our website.

Given the challenging economic and political context, we have focused on the ongoing impact of public expenditure cuts and the changing policy environment, and looked at new practices in funding and providing support for London's communities. Here we list some of our events under these themes.

Poverty

We held an event in July 2016 to look at new approaches to supporting work tackling migrant destitution. An increasing number of people sleeping rough are destitute migrants, and the migrant support and homelessness sectors are working hard to support pathways out of destitution.

In November 2016 we teamed up with the Building and Social Housing Foundation to host a seminar exploring issues around homelessness and other forms of social exclusion. In particular the meeting looked at the successes and lessons to be learned for London from the European End Street Homelessness Campaign. We welcomed delegates from Spain for this unique session.

Criminal justice

A roundtable event in June 2016, co-hosted with consultancy and social research organisation MBARC, looked at commissioning services around sexual violence and child sexual exploitation. MBARC has been commissioned by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and NHS England to deliver a sexual violence and child sexual exploitation needs assessment for London. A follow-up meeting in November provided further opportunities for attendees to generate ideas around the themes developed through the first meeting, and to hear about the newly published MOPAC report on the subject.

We engaged further with MOPAC at a meeting in February 2017, which provided an opportunity for members to hear from the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime on their strategy, and how MOPAC will be working in the future.

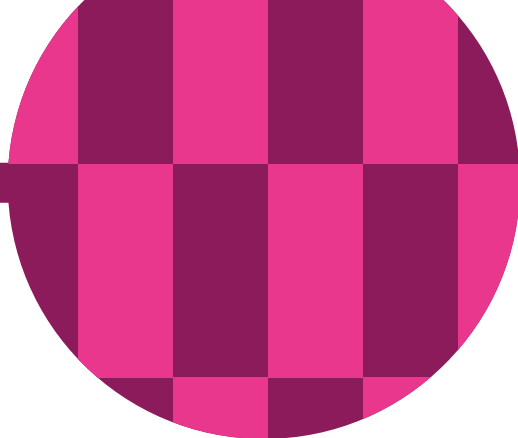
In October 2016, Clinks, which provides support for the voluntary sector working in criminal justice, ran a two-hour session with members looking at the role of the voluntary sector in criminal justice.

Funding practice

Spacehive held a panel discussion at London Funders in June 2016 to help attendees learn how grantmakers are using civic crowdfunding to increase their impact. Examples highlighted at the event included Growing a Greener Britain, Lewisham Council and the Greater London Authority.

An event in October 2016 co-hosted with Rocket Science, and kindly supported by Alan Baxter Associates, looked at learning from Rocket Science's evaluation on capacity building support. The research drew on evidence from the government's Local Sustainability Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund's Transition and Start-up grants, and three Big Lottery Fund schemes - Reaching Communities, Village SOS, and Supporting Change and Impact.





A joint event in February 2017 with 360Giving looked at how open grants data can enhance grantmaking, and what the emerging dataset from the 360Giving initiative was revealing about funding in the capital. This theme links closely with the recommendations from our The Way Ahead report on data sharing and use.

Another event in February 2017 gave members an opportunity to showcase the positive impact that adopting the living wage has had for voluntary organisations. We heard from the Lloyds Bank Foundation, the London Borough of Croydon, Toynbee Hall and the Living Wage Foundation, providing a range of perspectives of living-wage funding from funders and grantees.

Cross-sector collaboration

We convened a roundtable discussion in May 2016 to explore the current and potential role of Business Improvement Districts, which offer a means for businesses to connect with communities and local stakeholders.

In March 2017 we hosted the second meeting of the Lambeth Funders Forum to discuss collaboration between the local authority and independent funders. The meeting provided opportunities to build new contacts, share intelligence with other grantmakers, and gain a firmer sense of the priorities and needs of local people in Lambeth. The forum also heard from our London's Giving initiative, and about how place-based giving might benefit the borough.

London communities

In June 2016 we hosted a roundtable to discuss the 'Unusual Suspects' festival, which came to London in summer 2017. The initiative, co-created by Social Innovation Exchange (SIX), the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and Collaborate, connected to a number of initiatives that we had been involved with and supported over the previous year, including the London Fairness Commission, the London Communities Commission, and our London's Giving and The Way Ahead projects.

A meeting in July 2016 focused on how to engage the new Mayor of London with our work on the London Communities Commission. We explored questions of social and economic integration and further devolution, and what these could mean for London.



Network groups

Our network groups bring together members with particular interests to learn from one another by sharing expertise and intelligence. We publish details of meetings on the London Funders website, where there is an archive of material from past networks.

Unlocking Assets

Our Unlocking Assets network looks at ways funders can deploy their non-cash assets, such as property, to strengthen the community and voluntary sector. The group brings together council officers who work with local authority-owned assets, and funders who support the buying or developing of buildings through grants and loans. In April 2016 the group heard from the Ubele Initiative about its national report 'A place to call home', which looked at the mapping of community assets for African diaspora groups. A second presentation was on a new Community Business Fund from The Power to Change, which has been designed to support community businesses to grow and become more sustainable.

Children and Young People

In three meetings across the course of the year the Children and Young People's network engaged with a range of issues. Presenters from Action for Kids and Muscular Dystrophy UK spoke about the kinds of comprehensive support that are needed by organisations helping disabled young people into employment. The new Young Harrow Foundation reported on its first year of operation and its role in helping members to bid for contracts, especially around young people's mental health work, while London Youth explained its role in encouraging collaboration and consortia across London. In November London Councils discussed the London Ambitions programme, which is supporting young people into careers and employment, and the Young Women's Trust presented research on low pay for young women, called 'No Country for Young Women'.

Research and Evaluation

The Research and Evaluation network is concerned with learning from grantmaking activity and effective commissioning of research. In June, the group heard from Big Society Capital about its theory of change, and some of the main projects it will be undertaking with regards to impact over the coming years. At a meeting in September the chair of the Research and Evaluation network, Craig Tomlinson, discussed his experiences as Head of Learning and Influencing at BBC Children in Need. We also heard about an individual group member's academic research, which worked with Women's Aid to create an interactive map of women's journeys across London boroughs to seek refuge from domestic abuse. In January the group discussed our interactive theory of change and explored the effectiveness of learning partnerships.



Afterword by James Banks, new Director of London Funders

Healthy London

We added to our range of thematic networks this year by starting a new grouping called 'Healthy London', bringing together organisations with an interest in health and wellbeing. Terms of reference for the group were developed with the Wembley Stadium National Trust and the London Marathon Charitable Trust.

The network is taking forward work begun earlier in the year with meetings on sports funding. In June, we brought together traditional sports funding bodies with the wider funding community, to explore the government's Strategy for an Active Nation. In March 2017 we began a series of meetings for sports funders at which we aim to identify where objectives can be aligned in the short term, mapping sports funding in London in the medium term and developing a common outcomes framework in the long term.

I'm proud to have the opportunity to work with you as Director of London Funders – to build on the excellent work showcased in this report and the many other outstanding examples of members' work not featured in these pages – as we think, share, learn and act together to meet the needs of Londoners.

After five years as Chief Executive of Greater London Volunteering I know the power of membership charities to achieve change. From work on volunteering for London 2012 through to engaging with London Funders and other stakeholders on the 'Way Ahead' project, I've seen first-hand how bringing together like-minded people to share ideas, develop thinking and work together can lead to inspiring results. I know, from this experience and from listening to the London Funders members, how valuable the safe space for networking, information sharing and generating ideas that we provide is, and I'll be working to build on our successes in collaborating and learning together for the future.

We're living in volatile times, yet despite the challenges we are likely to face in the years ahead there is much that gives me hope. Across civil society and the funding community we've seen the emergence of a real appetite to work collaboratively, with a growing impetus to work across sectors to see how we can all be the best we can be in this changing environment. Work that London Funders has helped to drive, from The Way Ahead to London's Giving, provides excellent examples of this collaborative approach in action, and I'm ambitious for us to be a natural partner for anyone in London who wants to see positive change for our communities. I look forward to working with you.



About London Funders

London Funders is the membership network for funders and investors in London's civil society. We provide a safe place to think, share, learn and act together to meet the needs of Londoners.

The formal objects of London Funders are for the benefit of the public and particularly to improve the conditions of life of people who live and work in Greater London. This is through:

The advancement of citizenship and community development, particularly by:

- promoting the voluntary and community sector;
- providing advice and information particularly on funding and social investment opportunities to facilitate co-operation and collaboration between the voluntary and community sector and funding organisations;
- providing resources and funding to the voluntary and community sector.

The advancement of education, particularly by:

- providing training and information to the voluntary and community sector and funding organisations;
- facilitating the exchange of information, knowledge and experience between the voluntary and community sector and funding organisations;

to enable funding organisations to provide support and funding to the voluntary and community sector more effectively.

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Background and structure

London Funders was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 2005. It is a charitable company structured as a membership association. Members are funders of the voluntary and community sector in London. Each pays a subscription and has a named representative (to vote at meetings such as the AGM). Most member organisations involve staff and trustees engaged in a range of activities, such as grantmaking, commissioning, policy and research, in London Funders' activities. Associate membership allows third sector organisations in London which do some funding, but not as their primary remit, to become London Funders members without voting rights.

The London Funders Board is the board of directors of the company and its board of trustees. There are 12 elected members, each can serve a maximum of three three-year terms and are drawn from London Funders' Full members. In addition, the Board can appoint up to three co-opted members. Honorary Officers are elected by the Board from among its members.

London Funders is a company limited by guarantee, registration number 5596299. Charity registration number 1116201

Board officers

Chair

Kristina Glenn MBE

Cripplegate Foundation

Chair

David Farnsworth

The City Bridge Trust

(From April 2017)

Vice Chair

Monica Needs

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Treasurer

Victoria Lawson

London Borough of Hounslow

Board members

Sacha Rose-Smith

Big Lottery Fund – co-opted

Simon Courage

London Councils – co-opted

David Farnsworth

The City Bridge Trust

Caroline Forster

Social Investment Business

Kristina Glenn, MBE

Cripplegate Foundation

John Griffiths

Rocket Science

Victoria Lawson

London Borough of Hounslow

Rohan Martyres

CAN

Andrew Matheson

London Borough of Southwark

Bharat Mehta, CBE

Trust for London

Erik Mesel

John Lyon's Charity

Monica Needs

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

Matthew Patten

The Mayor's Fund for London

Jonathan Sandall

Peabody

(From April 2017)

Staff members

David Warner

Director

James Banks

Director

(From September 2017)

Geraldine Blake

Projects Director

Geraldine Tovey

Networks and Projects

Co-ordinator

Professional advisers

Accountants

Accountability

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London N7 9DP

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank

Nine Brindleyplace

Birmingham B1 2HB

Solicitors

Russell-Cooke LLP

2 Putney Hill

London SW15 6AB



London Funders members at 31 March 2017

Allia	Hammersmith United Charities	London Borough of Haringey
Allen and Overy Foundation	Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity	London Borough of Harrow
Battersea Power Station Foundation	Henry Smith Charity	London Borough of Havering
BBC Children in Need	Heritage Lottery Fund	London Borough of Hillingdon
The Berkeley Foundation	Hillingdon Community Trust	London Borough of Hounslow
The Big Give	Hyde Charitable Trust	London Borough of Islington
Big Lottery Fund	Imperial College Healthcare Charity	London Borough of Lambeth
Big Society Capital	Impetus - The Private Equity Foundation	London Borough of Lewisham
Blackbaud	John Lyon's Charity	London Borough of Merton
Camden Town Unlimited	Joseph Levy Charitable Foundation	London Borough of Newham
CAF Venturesome	Kensington and Chelsea Foundation	London Borough of Redbridge
CAN	LankellyChase Foundation	London Borough of Richmond Upon Thames
CARITAS Diocese of Westminster	Lloyds Bank Foundation	London Borough of Southwark
CCLA Investment Management Ltd	Local Trust	London Borough of Sutton
Charity Bank	Localgiving	London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Citizens Advice	Locality	London Borough of Waltham Forest
City of London Corporation	London Borough of Barking and Dagenham	London Borough of Wandsworth
City of Westminster	London Borough of Barnet	London Catalyst
Coalition for Efficiency	London Borough of Bexley	London Community Foundation
Comic Relief	London Borough of Brent	London Councils
Commonweal Housing	London Borough of Bromley	London Housing Foundation
Community Development Foundation	London Borough of Camden	London Legal Support Trust
Cripplegate Foundation	London Borough of Croydon	London Marathon Charitable Trust
CSV	London Borough of Ealing	London Youth
	London Borough of Enfield	Media Trust
	London Borough of Hackney	Metropolitan Migration Foundation
	London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	

New Philanthropy Capital
 Oak Philanthropy (UK) Limited
 Paul Hamlyn Foundation
 Peabody
 Poplar HARCA
 Power to Change
 Premier League Charitable Fund
 Project Oracle
 Richard Cloudesley's Charity
 Richard Reeves Foundation
 Rocket Science
 Royal Bank Of Scotland Plc
 Royal Borough Of Greenwich
 Royal Borough of Kensington
 & Chelsea
 Royal Borough of Kingston
 upon Thames
 Royal British Legion
 Save The Children
 Sir John Cass's Foundation
 Social Finance
 Southern Housing Group
 sported
 St. Andrew Holborn Church
 Foundation
 The City Bridge Trust
 The Cranfield Trust
 The Mayor's Fund For London
 The Mercers' Company
 The Money Advice Service
 The Pears Foundation
 The Pilgrim Trust
 The Social Innovation
 Partnership
 The Social Investment Business
 The Tudor Trust
 The Wakefield & Tetley Trust
 Thomas Pocklington Trust
 Trust for London
 United St Saviour's Charity
 Wates Family Charities
 Wellington Management UK
 Foundation
 Wembley National Stadium Trust
 Youth Music
 ZING

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