

# Citizenship and Integration Initiative

## Summary

Trust for London, in partnership with Unbound Philanthropy and the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, has established an initiative to ensure that Londoners of all backgrounds can contribute to the life of the city as active, socially integrated citizens.

The Citizenship and Integration Initiative (CII) is a pooled fund to support work on citizenship and integration in London. Other independent funders have contributed to this fund which aims to raise and distribute £1 million over four years between 2017 and 2022. The Mayor of London has appointed a Deputy Mayor for Social Integration, and the Greater London Authority (GLA) have made an equivalent investment into their new Social Integration team.

The CII builds on recommendations suggested in the British Future report, Making Citizenship Matter (2016), and those made to Sadiq Khan by Citizens UK and Let Us Learn during the mayoral election campaign.

The CII is independent of the Mayor of London and the GLA but has shared goals and objectives on social integration. The independent funders and the GLA are agreed that increasing social integration has the potential to benefit Londoners from all backgrounds – creating stronger, more diverse social networks, increasing trust and belonging, and helping to reduce inequalities, isolation and loneliness. All partners believe that the best way to achieve meaningful change towards these goals is for civil society organisations and the public sector to collaborate, drawing on the strengths and resources of all.

The CII is loosely based on similar initiatives in the United States supported by funders such as the Robin Hood Foundation and JM Kaplan Fund in New York. This gave all partners some confidence that an initiative of this nature could work.

## Shared Goals

The initiative's goals are:

1. **Civic Engagement:** Encouraging the take up of citizenship and democratic engagement
2. **Young Londoners:** supporting young Londoners to secure their legal rights to residence
3. **Diversity, social contact and identity:** celebrating diversity and building shared identity.

## **The model**

The model is based on a secondment scheme, with additional funding available for project ideas developed by the secondees but delivered outside of the GLA. The secondment scheme places secondees employed in civil society organisations into the Social Integration Team within the Communities and Social Policy Unit of the GLA. The secondment model was chosen to enable the GLA to draw on the strengths of civil society, facilitating culture change within the regional authority and a more informed approach to citizenship and integration issues. The aspiration is for this model to have a more lasting effect than less intensive partnership approaches (such as delivering joint projects without formal secondments).

Four part time secondments have been funded in Years 1 and 2 of the CII (April 2017-April 2019). The secondees are selected for their knowledge, expertise and networks on issues relating to citizenship and integration and come from Coram Children's Legal Centre, Just for Kids Law (Let us Learn), Citizens UK, Migrants Organise, New Europeans. Achievements to date include:

- Piloting new ways of delivering citizenship ceremonies that increase civic engagement;
- Commissioning new political literacy resources for schools;
- Establishing a Young Londoners Forum to enable young people with insecure status to engage directly with policy makers;
- Producing GLA guidance for young people with insecure status and the professionals that come into contact with them;
- Setting up a small grants scheme for welcome groups in the capital;
- Contributing to the Mayor's Strategy for Social Integration and providing detailed briefings on policy issues that enable the GLA to engage fully in these debates.

The CII has also funded a pilot project to test the provision of legal advice to families with insecure status through partnering with primary schools.

## **Learning**

The CII has appointed Renaisi as an independent learning partner to draw out learning, informing practice across and between sectors, and sharing with other stakeholders, particularly in other city regions with devolved powers. Key learning which has fed back into the CII's work has included the need for clarity on roles in a complex multi-sector collaboration, ensuring each partner is able to maintain independence and critical distance, as well as much on the practicalities of setting up effective secondments. The Learning Partner has identified factors underpinning the success of the CII being the number of experienced civil society organisations with capacity able to take part, the strength of existing relationships across sectors, and the commitment and buy-in on all sides.

## **Impact**

The impact of the CII to date has been:

- Issues affecting and disadvantaging some people and communities in London have gained greater resource and focus within the GLA's broader agenda, and projects have been developed that are likely to benefit these groups in subsequent years of the CII.
- The GLA has gained capacity, benefitted from secondees' expertise and has been able to develop projects and policy faster than would otherwise have been possible.
- Funders have tested a new approach to partnership with the public sector.
- Civil society organisations have gained insight into the GLA and what opportunities exist to work with the public sector towards common aims, as well as strengthening their partnerships with each other.
- Secondees have increased their knowledge of the public sector, developed professional relationships with GLA colleagues, and developed projects and policy for the GLA that will further the issues they care about.

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