

# Invitation for Expressions of Interest: Provision of bespoke support and management of the London Beacons community health learning project

**Deadline: 12pm, Monday 9th February 2026**

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**Local Trust are seeking an organisation or collective to administer and manage grant funding for an ambitious new community health learning project in London. The successful organisation(s) will work with and provide support to a cluster of 6 resident-led community organisations to embed their legacy, evaluate their impact and share key learning from 10+ years of delivering community-led health initiatives through Big Local.**

## About Local Trust and Big Local

[Local Trust](#) was established in 2012 to deliver the [Big Local](#) funding programme. Funded by the National Lottery Community Fund, Big Local committed £1million each to 150 neighbourhoods across England, enabling residents in those areas to make decisions on how to use the money to make their community an even better place to live. The funding could be spent in any way, provided residents organised themselves locally to plan and manage that funding, involving the wider community in the decision-making process.

The timeframe for Big Local extended over 10-15 years, allowing communities to take their time and build confidence and skills. The activities and initiatives Big Local areas chose to take forward in their plans reflected the diversity of communities involved. This included building affordable homes; tackling antisocial behaviour; creating or preserving community facilities, parks and sports centres; tackling local health and environmental issues; addressing community cohesion; and providing more activities for young people.

While Big Local comes to an end in March 2026, a number of Big Local areas have set up organisations and networks - which we call '*Big Local legacy organisations*' - that will continue to deliver resident-led activity and have lasting impacts in their communities for years to come.

As we approach the end of the programme, Local Trust has launched a range of legacy initiatives that focus on sharing and embedding learning from the Big Local programme and demonstrating the impact of community-led, place-based approaches – with the aim of informing future policy and programmes, ultimately ensuring better outcomes for communities. This includes establishment of the [Independent Commission on Neighbourhoods, 3ni \(the National Network for Neighbourhood Improvement\)](#) and the [Centre for Collaboration in Community Connectedness](#). Local Trust is also supporting an [action research programme in partnership with](#)

the [NHS Confederation](#) exploring community-led approaches to health and wellbeing (see [Appendix 1](#)) and is now launching a new initiative called *Big Local Beacons*.

## About the Beacons project

Local Trust wants to support and build connections between organisations which have developed out of Big Local, to help them sustain their work, grow their impact and raise the profile of the legacy of the Big Local programme.

Through the Beacons project, Local Trust will provide funding to support four clusters – or *Beacons* – of legacy organisations across London, the Black Country, Liverpool City Region and the North East. The aim of this funding is to support connections and practical collaboration between legacy organisations and relevant local partners and use the learning from delivering Big Local to influence their local funding and support ecosystems, and help sustain the programme's impact at a regional level.

Beacons funding will run from **March – December 2026** and will be awarded against priorities identified jointly by the Beacons cluster and by Local Trust, through a co-design process.

Working with the grain of existing relationships in each region, Beacons funding will be awarded to a relevant local partner who can receive, administer and manage this funding on behalf of each Beacons cluster. Ideally the successful organisation will also deliver elements of this funding directly.

The activities we will fund will be dependent on what the local focus is, but might include:

- Shared support to develop financial sustainability or address capacity gaps within legacy organisations.
- Building sustainable networks to facilitate peer learning and skills sharing between local legacy organisations.
- Joint work to evaluate, communicate and promote impact and influence others on successful approaches to addressing a particular local issue.
- Resource to develop practical working relationships with local partners.

## The London Beacon project:

The London Beacon consortium is made up of a cluster of six legacy organisations set up by Big Locals in London:

1. [Battersea Alliance](#) (formerly Big Local SW11) in Wandsworth
2. [C-Change West London](#) (formerly Heston West Big local) in Hounslow, but also operating across, Hillingdon, Ealing, and Spelthorne Borough Council)
3. [North Brixton](#) Big Local in Lambeth
4. [W12 Together](#) in Hammersmith & Fulham
5. [The Big Green Hub](#) (formerly Wembley Central Big Local) in Brent
6. [Wick Award](#) Big Local in Hackney

More information about the activities of each consortium partner is included in [Appendix 2](#).

The London Beacon project will focus on **making the case for community-led approaches to addressing health inequality and improving health outcomes**, based on experience and learning from the Big Local programme. This comes at a time when neighbourhood-level health is a clear policy and funding priority, reflected in strategies such as the Government's 10-Year Health Plan, National Lottery Community Fund Strategy 2023-2030, the Sport England Strategy 2021-2031. The London Beacons project is therefore well placed to share knowledge and influence policymakers and funders on *how* health can be embedded at neighbourhood and community level in practice.

The Big Local programme pioneered resident-led funding, and over the past decade the six Big Local areas that make up the London Beacon consortium have developed effective place-based, community-led approaches to addressing health and wellbeing. And while each Big Local area took a different approach, collectively they have a wealth of knowledge and experience that they want to evaluate and use to convene and influence the local health ecosystem across London.

The London Beacons consortium partners have all developed community-based approaches to building health, connection and wellbeing in accordance with local needs and priorities set by their Big local partnerships. These range from a 'community prescribing' approach through which community relationships and mutual support reduce the dependency on clinical interventions (Battersea Alliance), working with children and families to address the impact of stress caused by poverty and violence (North Brixton and W12 Together), growing produce and cooking (C-Change West London and Wembley Central) and systematically addressing barriers to health services (Wick Award).

Now working together as the London Beacon consortium, partners have an ambition to change the way that the health sector perceives community-based approaches to building health, connection and well-being. The overarching ambition of the London Beacons project is therefore that **policy makers and statutory health bodies support and adopt the ethos and methods** that have been developed – and demonstrated - by the London Beacons consortium partners.

To do this the consortium have identified four broad aims:

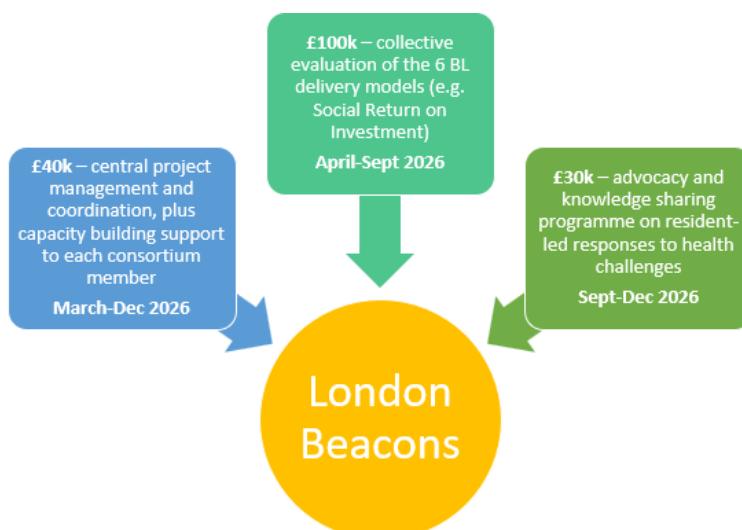
1. To make a compelling and evidenced case for the social value of resident-led and community-based approaches to building health, connection and wellbeing;
2. To address health inequalities within the statutory health sector by demonstrating the need for and benefits of community-based, trauma-informed and culturally appropriate approaches to health, connection and wellbeing;
3. To convene conversations with policy makers and the statutory health sector with the intention of sharing knowledge, influencing and ultimately taking part in the design of health service provision;
4. To enable the six areas making up the London Beacons consortium to build on and continue their work in the area of community-based health, connection and well-being through the development of robust relationships, networks and support systems within the voluntary and community sector and health ecosystem.

## Scope of work and funds available

Local Trust and the London Beacons consortium are looking to fund an organisation or partnership of organisations that will confidently manage, co-design and co-deliver the following elements:

- 1) Deliver a **collective evaluation** that demonstrates the impact of health, connection and well-being activities across the six London Beacon consortium areas. It should respond to the needs, intentions and diversity of approaches each Big Local area took over 10+ years of delivering Big Local. The evaluation should also highlight the benefits of trauma informed and culturally appropriate approaches to health, connection and well-being activities.
  - o The evaluation output will form the basis for the advocacy and knowledge-sharing programme and will also be made available to the London Beacon consortium partners for other uses
  - o The evaluation output may include reports, stories, film or audio
  - o We anticipate that it will include both quantitative and qualitative methods in order to examine the breadth of work and its impact
  - o The evaluation model should be consistent with a resident-led or community-based ethos
  - a. It will also need to be designed to reflect the diverse needs of the six areas rather than a 'one style fits all' approach
- 2) Co-design, coordinate and deliver an advocacy and knowledge-sharing programme – using the outputs of the collective evaluation to convene forums with local funders, Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) and other statutory health stakeholders and community sector leaders to advocate for resident-led responses to health challenges;
- 3) Deliver capacity-building support to help develop and sustain the 6 organisations that make up the London Beacons consortium

**A maximum of £170,000 is available.** Funding will be agreed as a grant from Local Trust, and will be awarded based on the strength of proposals. We have not stipulated how the funds should be split against each of the above elements as we welcome expressions of interest that can demonstrate best value for money overall. However, an example of how the Beacons funds might be invested, and an indicative project timeline could be:



## Requirements for a successful EOI

The nature of this project requires a broad skillset which will include: expertise and track record in delivering high quality evaluation projects; ability to adeptly facilitate and cultivate relationships with a diverse range of people and partners in complex local settings; and excellent communication skills, including the ability to present evidence in compelling written reports, presentations and other materials for a range of audiences.

The successful organisation/s would also have knowledge and well-developed professional relationships and networks in the health sector.

We are open to all applications to deliver this work, including joint or partnership submissions where this would draw in strong expertise across the disciplines required.

### **Successful organisation (s) will be able to demonstrate:**

1. Ability to take direction from and work alongside the 6-resident led Big Local partnership groups (the London Beacons project consortium)
2. Experience of working with placed-based resident and/or community groups
3. An understanding of how communities experience or are alienated by the statutory health sector and the importance of community-based approaches
4. Have the capacity to project manage a range of different requirements and have the flexibility to respond to 6 areas with different needs
5. Ability to convene conversations, symposiums or forums between the 6 areas and health stakeholders
6. The ability to reimagine community delivery in partnership with strategic partners.
7. Have existing relationships and expertise in engagement with the public sector
8. Have extensive experience in researching and managing evaluation projects, particularly in community contexts
9. A willingness to share know-how and expertise
10. Strong communication skills
11. A commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion through throughout your work.

In addition, the successful organisation(s) must be able to pass Local Trust's due diligence checks. As part of this process, Local Trust will check if the lead organisation: is constituted and that receiving/administering this grant funding is within its objects; has the experience and capability to administer and account for the funding (we ask for the organisation's most recent set of financial accounts (published within a year); has a bank account in the name of the organisation with at least two signatories who are not related to one another or reside at the same address.

We expect the successful organisation to deliver the following outputs:

- An interim progress report summarising activities undertaken and funding spent to date (by September 2026)
- A formal evaluation report across all six areas, with time factored in for two rounds of comments on high quality drafts
- A high-quality set of presentation materials (which may include reports, stories, film or audio) that can be used by the London BLC project consortium partners' individual areas as part of their ongoing advocacy and development work.

## Timeline

- Invitations for Expressions of Interest published: **Friday 9 January 2026**
- Deadline for EOIs: **12noon, Monday 9 February 2026**
- Interviews (online): **between 16-24 February 2026**
- Successful organisation informed: **by 28 February 2026**
- Grant begins from: **1 March 2026 and runs to 31 Dec 2026**

## How to submit your Expression of Interest

To submit your EOI, please send us a short statement (max. 4 pages) outlining:

- How you meet the requirements and details of previous relevant work and/or expertise in this area.
- An indicative timeline and budget, including initial thoughts about allocation of funding to the broad areas of delivery.
- What governance of this project would look like and who within your organisation would lead on this. If you are applying as a 2 or more partner organisations please include how you intend to work together and what prior experience you have of working in partnership.
- How you would approach working closely with the London Beacons consortium members to ensure they continue to lead the direction of the project.

In addition to the short statement (max. 4 pages) please provide:

- Your / the lead organisation's most recent set of financial accounts.

To submit an expression of interest, please email the above to [Programmes@localtrust.org.uk](mailto:Programmes@localtrust.org.uk) by **12 noon on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026**.

If you have any questions or would like an informal conversation before you submit, please email [Programmes@localtrust.org.uk](mailto:Programmes@localtrust.org.uk) with the subject line “London Beacons”. We will aim to respond to general questions within 2 working days. Questions will be added to a general FAQ document and published on this web page to ensure equity. Please note the deadline for any questions is 4 February.

## Appendix 1 - Local Trust legacy and research context

This project sits within the context of developing neighbourhood model of healthcare models. Local Trust has been working alongside the [NHS Confederation](#) to explore the importance of community-led health in the Big Local programme and the need for radical transformation when it comes to health and care in the UK. Some outputs of this work are listed here:

- Resetting the relationship: towards a social model of health creation and care: [Policy Sprint Write Up](#)
- [Policy Sprint Blog](#)
- [Health Starts in the Neighbourhood Blog](#)
- [10 year plan response](#)

## Appendix 2 – The 6 London Beacon consortium member profiles

### **Battersea Alliance**

Battersea Alliance (from BLSW11) have pioneered a new approach to community based Primary Prevention by investing £500,000 in measures that address Isolation, loneliness and mental health (Depression & Anxiety) challenges through ‘community prescribing” in which relationships and mutual support from within the community reduce the dependency on clinical interventions.

### **North Brixton**

The North Brixton Big Local health and well-being spans across all our projects and work. We fund and work with at least 11 projects in this area. We take a trauma informed approach because the communities we serve have, for a long time, suffered trauma and continue to be retraumatised, particularly when they lose a child to violence. Children as young as eight years old already experience trauma or have challenging behaviours.

We categorise our projects under Three Pillars that also demonstrate intersectionality.

1. Pillar One: Trauma and Mental Health – working with schools, families and young people directly affected by youth violence.
2. Pillar Two: Family & Community well-being – utilising open spaces and short summer activities as tools for supporting well-being in the community, schools and networks that use social prescribing and tackling health inequality.
3. Pillar Three: Therapeutic approach – collaborative work in schools and families that are affected by poverty and Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE).

### **W12 Together**

Over the past 10 years, W12 Together has used Big Local funding to deliver a wide range of resident-led initiatives across Wormholt and White City, focusing on Youth, Coming Together, and Health & Well-being. Our work has included youth employability training, talent showcases, and excursions, community-building events such as Eid celebrations and International Women's Day, and health-focused initiatives like five annual community Health & Well-being Festivals, free Tree of Life training, and a Christmas dinner for local care-leavers at risk of isolation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, W12 Together rapidly mobilised support through a £25,000 emergency grant scheme, funding local organisations to deliver food, befriending, and emotional support to vulnerable residents. We also contributed £10,000 to the local foodbank and partnered with Citizens Advice to provide financial advice to families under stress. Cultural and social inclusion was championed through initiatives such as the Black Lives Matter workshops and *We Exist* film. Through all of this, W12 Together has built stronger connections, empowered local voices, and created a more inclusive, resilient neighbourhood.

### **Heston West**

The overall aim of Heston West Big local over the past 10 years was to improve the Health & Well-being of our Community. This is quite a deprived area in the London Borough of Hounslow, in terms of transport, access to GP surgeries, job opportunities with a transient population. We have done this by working with a number of partners to deliver a wide range of projects to support resident's, of all ages, mental health and physical health. Activities have included:

- Intergenerational Football and Family Boxing
- Health family cooking, using vegetarian food only. Offering ideas of how to cook without meat, followed by a community meal. This now takes place in Chiswick House and Gardens.
- Grow your own projects on the local estates
- Providing transport for senior residents isolated in the area to attend a weekly bingo session
- Family Sundays, an inclusive offering for parents and children. Opportunities include multi sports or film club for the young people, and craft or activity to enhance (e.g. yoga). It's finished off with a free meal every week which anyone in the community to come in and have a chat. We partnered up with a counselling service, where young people, residents can book a slot to speak with a counsellor on site. There's no waiting list and have proved helpful for all.
- Events for people with disabilities, such as Bocca, and often combined, with partners such as public Health or the council health team, coming in to offer free blood pressure, vaccinations and support on medical topics.
- GPs come and speak on topics such as menopause, vaccinations, well-being, along with partners showing residents chair exercises and how to keep both physically and mentally fit.
- We have inspired local groups to set up, and have partnered up with them on projects, such as Let's go outside & play, Creative spaces, Heston Action Group, which has meant the communities are integrating and it's supporting to help reduce social isolation.
- Health Events such as Health outreach team conducting blood pressure, Height and weight checks, and monitoring blood sugar levels. Providing talking therapies for local

residents to monitor their health and well-being and creating a safe space where they can share their thoughts and feelings openly.

### **Wick Award**

Wick Award Big Local used funding to deliver a wide range of projects addressing the three priority areas identified by local residents;

- Creating opportunities for young people
- Improving well-being primarily by addressing loneliness and social isolation
- Building community connections

All of these areas of work have involved working with residents and local partners to address health inequalities. This work includes;

- Supporting the development of three weekly community lunches which have developed into supportive hubs for isolated or vulnerable residents
- Responding to covid by rapidly mobilising support through a local volunteers and organisations to deliver food, medicines and befriending,
- Supporting community well-being initiatives through community chest grants
- Neighbourhood Forums - Wick Award is contracted to facilitate forums for Well Street Common Neighbourhood, where Wick Award is located and for Hackney Marshes Neighbourhood, the neighbouring local heath area.

<https://cityandhackneyneighbourhoods.org.uk/> The forums bring together residents, local VCS partners and health and social care services to share ideas on improving health and well-being by addressing and working to remove barriers to local services. Issues addressed by forums include; increasing awareness and access to health navigation, promoting support for unpaid carers, designing health services for young people including developing a counselling service located in a boxing club.

### **Wembley Central (The Big Green Hub)**

The Big Green Hub, carrying on from Wembley Central Big Local, deliver a range of programmes and activities designed to bring the community together and support local health and well-being needs, including:

- **Weekly Tea and Coffee Mornings** that help residents connect with one another and reduce social isolation.
- **Regular fitness and well-being classes** such as salsa, yoga, Pilates and boxercise, encouraging residents to stay active and improve their physical health.
- **A volunteer-run community allotment** that promotes healthy eating, time in nature, and opportunities for residents to work together and build community connections.