# Children's Opportunities Fund application guidelines

- The Children's Opportunities Fund is a scheme that offers residents the opportunity to apply for a grant of up to £300 (up to £500 per household where the application is for more than one child). This is to be used to enable your child to take part in an extra-curricular activity that may otherwise be unaffordable.
- To apply please fill in the application form, using additional sheets of paper if required.
- If you need help filling out the form, please call our community investment and youth services team on 020 8821 5162.
- If there is any other information that you feel is important, please add it in at the end of the form or on additional sheets of paper if necessary.
- Please enclose any supporting letters and / or additional documents that you feel may support the application.

### Who is One Housing Group?

- One Housing Group manages over 13,000 homes in 26 local authorities across London and adjacent counties.
- We also offer a wide range of additional services to our residents to improve their quality of life, that of their families and the communities in which they live.
- Our care arm, One Support, helps customers with a wide range of needs and is the largest developer of new supported housing schemes in London.
- The Children's Opportunities Fund is sponsored by Mount Anvil and administered through Community Action, the charitable arm of One Housing Group.

### What is the Children's Opportunities Fund?

- One Housing Group residents can apply for a grant for their child or children aged up to 16 years. The grants are to fund activities such as sport, arts, educational or skills training or cultural activities. These might include music lessons, extra or private tuition, participation in summer schemes, school trips and many more.
- It can be a one off trip, access to a series of workshops or the purchase a piece of equipment, such as a musical instrument.
- Grants are intended to fund a chosen extra-curricular activity to provide the child with a new opportunity otherwise not available to them.
- The fund will not pay for the purchase of Computers or IT related equipment, school uniforms or family holidays (except in exceptional circumstances).

# Children's Opportunities Fund application guidelines (continued)

- In exceptional circumstances, other cases will be considered on their merits. For instance, after the death of a parent or a sibling, or the child concerned being the victim of a serious crime.
- Wherever possible, the grant will be paid directly to the provider of the chosen service or equipment.
- Applications must be supported by **two written references**. References must be supplied at the same time as the application.
- Referees must be professionals, for example a GP, social worker, youth worker, housing officer, teacher or similar. One of the two referees must be a non-family member who has known you for at least two years.

## Who can apply?

- Your child must be a One Housing Group resident to be eligible for a grant. This means that they must live in a home rented from One Housing Group or Island Homes.
- Priority will be given to families who receive working families tax credit, housing benefit, incapacity benefit or similar state benefits, but families receiving child tax credits will also be considered. Priority will also be given to those families who have not applied before.
- Proof of benefits must be submitted with your application (photocopies are acceptable).

## Scheme Conditions

- The money must be used for the purpose stated in the application, or returned to Community Action.
- You must provide a receipt or invoice for the item or service provided. We can pay the provider directly if you prefer.
- For our records, when you finish the scheme you will be required to complete a feedback form and testimonial about you and your child's experiences. This will help us to improve our services in the future.
- We would also appreciate any photographs of your child benefiting from the grant. This would help us to better promote the schemes and services we offer to children and young people in the future.

Decisions on the grants will be made every two months by a panel. The panel will be selected from the Community Action trustees, the Chief Officer of Community Action and the Managing Directors of One Housing Group and Island Homes and other One Housing Group Housing Services Managers.

For further advice or guidance in completing the application form, please our call our youth services and community investment team on 020 8821 5162.