

24 October 2008

Dear Resident,

**Launch of the One Housing Group  
Children's Opportunities Fund**

I am writing to advise you of the new Children's Opportunities Fund (COF) scheme that One Housing Group is launching on 27 October. Please find enclosed details of the scheme as well as an application form and guidelines for completing the form.

Sponsored by Mount Anvil and delivered by Community Action, the Children's Opportunities Fund (COF) provides individual grants of up to £300 per child (or £500 per household if the application is for more than one child) to give children access to opportunities that you may not otherwise be available to afford. Grants can be used to fund a wide range of extra-curricular activities, including arts, sports and personal development activities.

Examples of activities that grants could be used to fund include learning to swim, play an instrument, additional tuition for exams, providing a much needed family holiday for carers or allowing a child to take part in a school trip abroad. It can be a one off trip, access to a series of workshops or the purchase of new equipment such as a musical instrument. Where possible the grant will be paid directly to the provider of the service or equipment.

COF grants are available to all young One Housing Group residents aged up to 16 years. This means that any child who is a resident of Community Housing Association, Toynbee Housing Association or Island Homes Housing Association is eligible. Priority will be given to families in receipt of Working Families Tax Credit, Carers Allowance, Income Support or Housing Benefit; however applications from families in receipt of Child Tax Credits will also be considered. In exceptional circumstances other cases will be considered on their merits; for instance after the death of a parent or a sibling, or if the child concerned is the victim of a serious crime.

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**(2) OHG Children's Opportunity Fund**

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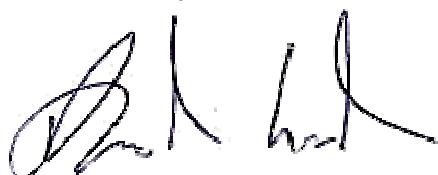
All applications must be supported by two referees. All referees must be professionals, for example a GP, Social Worker, Youth Worker, Housing Officer, Police Officer, teacher, or similar professional.

Where possible grants will be paid directly to the provider of the service or equipment required by the child. In cases where this is not possible grants will be paid to the family and Community Action will require a receipt or invoice for the service or equipment provided. The money must be used for the extra-curricular activity or equipment requested on the application or returned to Community Action. Where parents give consent, we would request that children who receive grants supply us with a testimonial after they have taken part in the activity supported by the grant. This could be in the form of a written letter or report, video / DVD or photos. We are keen to hear about the range of activities undertaken as a result of COF grants.

Applications may take up to two months to process and will be considered by a panel selected from the Trustees of Community Action, The Chief Officer of Community Action and the Managing Directors of Community, Island Homes and Toynbee Housing Associations.

To apply for a One Housing Group Children's Opportunities Fund grant, please complete the enclosed application form and return to Janet Guthrie at the following address: Community Investment Support Officer, Community Action, C/o One Housing Group, Freepost LON 4191, London NW1 0YT. If you would like help in completing this form, require further information, or have a question about the fund, please contact the Community Investment & Youth Services team on 020 7428 4108.

Yours faithfully



**Alasdair Gordon**  
**YOUTH SERVICES MANAGER**

Tel: 020 7428 4316  
E-mail: [ag@onehousinggroup.co.uk](mailto:ag@onehousinggroup.co.uk)

Enclosure.