**Partner Testimony – Haringey Council – Carers Improvement Programme**

“Community Catalysts is delighted to partner with The London Borough of Haringey to help them to establish a Carers Coproduction Group to work alongside the Carers Services Improvement programme and put the Haringey Deal into practice.

At Community Catalysts we know that people and carers with lived experience of social care, their families and supporters know what good (and bad) provision and support looks like. We believe passionately in coproduction and taking a partnership approach to understand what works and what could be better in order to implement changes that people want and that will make a difference. But we know it’s hard to do in practice, not least because different people can come from very different, and often conflicting perspectives, and managing a process that works with this diversity can be tricky and time consuming. We have developed an approach that takes account of the wonderfully messy nature of people and communities and makes it possible to engage and work with people who come from very different perspectives.

Working together with the council we have set out to apply this approach to coach, train and support unpaid carers in Haringey to have the skills and confidence to codesign and cocreate an effective Carers Coproduction Group to work alongside the Carers Services Improvement programme.

We have been impressed by the council`s commitment to carers and coproduction. The Carers Coproduction Group is a real opportunity for the council to implement the values and principles of the Haringey Deal, enabling carers and local people involved in carers services to influence the development of a carers strategy and local offer that provides the services that matter to them and will make a difference to their lives.

We work in many places across the UK and not all authorities act on and actually implement the necessary actions to make coproduction a reality. It`s great to work with a council that has done just that.”