

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee		
Title	Main grants update	
Contributor	Executive Director for Community Services	Item:
Class	Part 1	25 February 2014

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report updates Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on the main grants programme. This review provides an analysis of the organisations that have been approved for main grant funding in 2014-15, including a breakdown of their main service users and activities. Information has been taken from the monitoring process which was undertaken in September and October 2013, and the organisations' application forms for 2014-15 which were submitted in the same time period.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee are recommended to note the content of this report.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Lewisham has a strong history of working with the third sector and empowering residents and communities.
- 3.2 The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out a commitment to creating a borough that is:

Empowered and Responsible: where people are actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities.

- 3.3 This is reflected in Lewisham's Corporate priorities:

Community leadership and empowerment: developing opportunities for the active participation and engagement of people in the life of the community.

- 3.4 Lewisham is fortunate to have a strong and thriving third sector which ranges from very small organisations with no paid staff through to local branches of national charities. The third sector includes charities, not for profit companies limited by guarantee, faith organisations, civic amenity societies as well as social enterprises. What all these organisations have in common is their ability to bring significant additional value to the work that they do through voluntary support and raising funds from sources not available to other sectors such as charitable trusts.

4. Current organisations in receipt of Main Grants funding

- 4.1 The current main grant funding round started in 2011-12, and a commitment has been made to maintain the grant agreement through to the end of 2014-15. There are currently 70 organisations in receipt of main grant funding. The Investment Fund has supported some additional projects.

5. Analysis

- 5.1 Table 1 summarises the main user groups served by organisations in receipt of main grants funding. A large number provide services to users from many different demographic groups and have been recorded as serving the whole community such as the Albany. Whereas some organisations primarily focus on a particular demographic but may provide some services to other target groups. These organisations have been recorded under their primary user group i.e. Age Exchange do work with young people but their primary user group. Of the 70 organisations providing service user information, the largest single service user group (22 organisations) receiving support was Whole Community Services (31%), with the second largest falling under into the Vulnerable Adults category (16 organisations or 23%). Although all organisations are required to promote equality and diversity through the delivery of their provision, five organisations specifically provide services focused on the needs of BME communities.

Table 1: Groups served by main grants programme

	Number
BME groups	5
Childrens' services	6
LGBT group	1
Older people's services	7
Vulnerable adults' services	16
Whole community services	22
Youth services	13
Grand Total	70

It should be noted that when the 2011-14 grant programme was agreed, the grants were awarded according to agreed priority areas of activity, which were allocating funding as follows:

1	Building Social Capital	£1,315,000
2	Gateway Services	£1,135,000
3	Children and Young People	£1,142,000
4	Communities that Care	£841,000

These award categories are summarised as follows:

Building Social Capital includes support to infrastructure organisations, including Voluntary Action Lewisham and Lewisham Community Transport. It also includes support to organisations providing volunteering opportunities and promoting community cohesion and equalities. A further aspect of this category includes area-based community development which funds community development activity at a

neighbourhood level e.g. Bellingham Community Project and Ackroyd Community Association.

The principal organisations operating under the Gateway Services category provide advice and information services. This category also includes support to organisations providing employability support.

Children and Young People funding supports a range of specific organisations delivering services including youth theatre, youth projects, adventure playgrounds and music organisations. There are also some services for younger children such as Lewisham Opportunity Pre School.

Communities that Care includes a range of services, including those focused on working with older residents. It also includes support services to vulnerable adults.

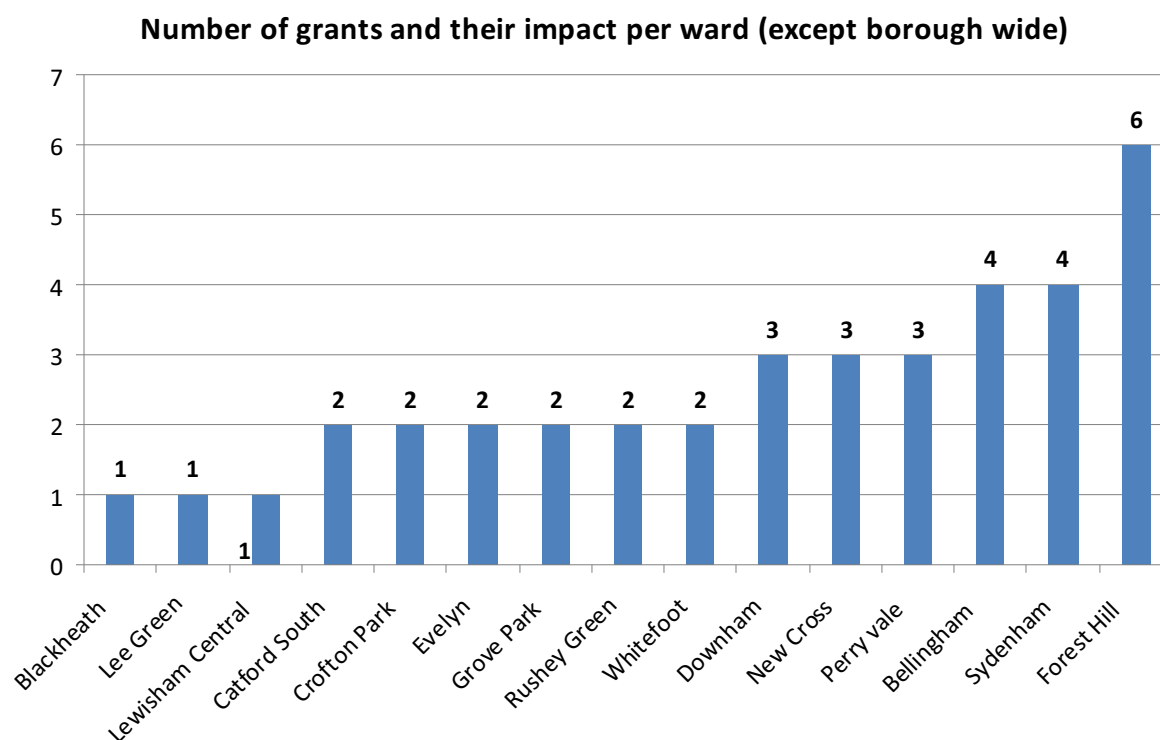
Although all the service user groups listed in Table 1 fall under one of the four above categories, it should be noted that a number currently bridge at least two of the categories.

- 5.2 Geographically speaking, the vast majority of organisations indicate that they deliver services on a borough-wide basis. However, analysis of provision on a ward-specific basis shows that a number of organisations consider their services to be focused on specific wards (in some cases, organisations have provided a return which shows them delivering across more than one named ward), as shown in Tables 2 and 3, with Table 3 further illustrating the services delivered by those organisations that target services at ward level. Six organisations show that their work particularly impacts in Forest Hill, whilst both Bellingham and Sydenham receive ward-specific services from four organisations each. Only Brockley, Ladywell and Telegraph Hill are not specifically designated as receiving ward-specific services.

Table 2: Services delivered by geographical location

Borough wide	55
Bellingham	4
Blackheath	1
Brockley	
Catford South	2
Crofton Park	2
Downham	3
Forest Hill	6
Evelyn	2
Grove Park	2
Ladywell	
Lee Green	1
Lewisham Central	1
New Cross	3
Perry vale	3
Rushey Green	2
Sydenham	4
Telegraph Hill	
Whitefoot	2

Table 3:



5.3 The Lewisham grants received by organisations represent a significant income for a number of groups. Grant awards range from £5,000 to almost £500,000. It is clear from analysis that the organisations for which the grant represents the highest percentage against overall income are those with an annual turnover of less than £1m, where the main grants programme represents an average of 20.3% of annual income. However, grants are also provided to a number of large organisations, including national organisations with annual income exceeding £10m, bringing the overall average of grant against income to 4.2%. If we exclude those working predominantly outside Lewisham, particularly national organisations, the average amount generated by organisations for every £1 invested amounts to approximately £4.

It should be noted that lead officers have worked closely with organisations to help them diversify their funding base and make them less reliant on funding from Lewisham. As a result of this, many organisations are accessing a broader range of funds. In a small number of cases, where organisations have been overly reliant on Lewisham main grants, targets for diversifying their funding bases have been included as a condition of grant aid.

5.4 Each main grant funded organisation has a designated Lewisham Lead Officer who works closely with the organisation in achieving agreed outputs and outcomes which are set annually. Progress against these is reported on quarterly. Lead Officers maintain contact with organisations throughout the contract year in supporting organisational development and maintaining communication between individual organisations and Lewisham Council. Each year, there is a full monitoring and evaluation programme for each organisation which analyses the key aspects of their governance, delivery and performance, including quality, financial management and equalities and diversity. As demonstrated above, the role of the Lead Officer can be key in ensuring value for money and organisational sustainability through, for

example, the achievement of diversification targets and in the early identification of potential future difficulties.

6. Financial implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal implications

7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

8. Conclusion

8.1 The Council's main grant programme will reach the end of its final year of current funding at the end of March 2015. Proposals for a new 3 year grants programme will be consulted on from July - September 2014. The programme will open to applications in Autumn 2014 for new awards to commence from 1 April 2015. Proposals for the new programme priorities will take account of existing main grants spend but will also seek to ensure that the grants programme complements other sources of third sector investment and takes into account changing local needs.

If there are any queries on this report please contact Winston Castello, Community Enterprise Manager, 020 8314 7729.