

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee			
Report Title	Main grants programme 2016-17		
Key Decision		Item No.	5
Ward	All		
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services, Head of Law		
Class	Part 1	Date:	19 January 2016

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee with a copy of the draft Mayor & Cabinet (Contracts) report scheduled for 17 February 2016 and seek feedback. The draft report follows:

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts):
- Agree the recommendations to fund 60 voluntary and community sector groups, as set out in appendix 1, for financial year 2016-17
 - Agree the London Councils contribution of £291,085
 - Notes the performance of funded organisations to date
 - Notes the approach for agreeing outcomes and outputs for funded organisations over the 12 month period 2016-17
 - Notes the progress made on the Advice Sector review and Equalities review
 - Agrees the recommendations to fund rent grants to four organisations, as set out in appendix 2, for financial year 2016-17

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020, 'Shaping our Future', sets out the borough's ambitions to encourage development, enable citizens to live healthy lives and to empower Lewisham's communities to prosper. It has six strategic priorities, including 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".
- 3.2 The empowered and responsible strand of the strategy highlights the importance of the community and voluntary sector in all areas of public life. It recognises that the sector plays a significant part in Lewisham's ongoing success.
- 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 has a strong history of working with the voluntary and community sector and empowering residents and communities. Lewisham is fortunate to have a strong and thriving sector which ranges from very small organisations with no paid staff through to local branches of national charities. The sector includes charities, not for profit companies limited by guarantee, faith organisations, civic amenity societies as well as social enterprises. There are estimated to be around 800 community and voluntary sector organisations in the borough.
- 3.5 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. In addition they often provide services that the Council cannot easily provide; create links between communities and people; and give people a voice.
- 3.6 As well as being directly involved in delivering services to citizens in the borough, third sector organisations also provide the essential infrastructure to allow the sector as a whole to develop and support individual citizens to be able to play an active role within their local communities.
- 3.7 Lewisham was the first London Borough to develop a compact with the third sector in 2001. The compact seeks to support a positive relationship between the sector and key statutory partners. It includes expectations around the management of grant aid as well as broader partnership working principles. The compact was further developed in 2010 with the addition of guidelines for commissioning with the third sector in recognition of the important contribution that the third sector should play in identifying needs as well as potentially delivering service solutions.
- 3.8 Although the third sector's role within the commissioning of local public services continues to grow (over £30m worth of services were commissioned from the third sector in 2013/14), the council recognises that there continues to be a need for grant aid investment for the following reasons:
- a recognition of the importance of maintaining an independent sector that can act as a critical friend to challenge public sector policy and delivery.
 - a recognition of the key role that the sector plays in building civic participation, providing a voice for seldom heard residents and providing community intelligence.
 - a recognition of the great diversity of the sector and the need to engage with small and emerging groups as well as large established organisations.
 - a recognition of the sector's potential to take risks and innovate which does not always sit easily within commissioning frameworks.
 - a recognition that third sector organisations have been key delivery partners for a wide range of targeted short term initiatives. Grant aid provides a level of security for organisations ensuring that there is a strong sector ready to work in partnership with us.

4. Main grants programme/transitional grants

- 4.1 The current main grants programme was agreed by Mayor and Cabinet Contracts on 13 May 2015. Funding was provided over four themes; Strong & cohesive communities, communities that care, access to advice services, widening access to arts and sports. Funding was awarded for 2 years and 9 months, from July 2015 to March 2018 to 60 organisations although the organisations funded under the access to advice theme only had their funding confirmed for 9 months to allow for a review of that provision – see section 5.

4.2 A further five organisations were awarded funding for 9 months only (until March 2016). Funding was provided to these six organisations on a transition basis, to allow them time to identify alternative funding sources or restructure their business model. The five organisations are as follows:

- Pre School Learning Alliance (PSLA)
- Federation of Refugees From Vietnam in Lewisham (FORVIL)
- CASSEL Centre
- Lewisham Bereavement Counselling
- Young Lewisham Project

4.3 Pre School Learning Alliance

PSLA were awarded transitional funding in light of the fact that they previously received a significant annual grant (£100,000 per annum) and therefore required time to restructure their business model to address the significant change in their income profile.

PSLA have undertaken this work through the deletion of an administration post in the organisation and are undertaking a wider restructure to ensure that their business model fits their current income under their Children's Centre contract. They are also undertaking significant fund raising activity which includes investing reserves in saleable assets and staff expertise in grant and European funding bids. Officers will continue to work with PSLA to ensure that their business model is effective and enables them to deliver quality services in the period following the transition grant.

4.4 FORVIL

FORVIL were awarded a transition grant of £10,000 to allow them time to remodel their service following the loss of a range of funding streams (although they were not previously grant funded). FORVIL have developed an action plan aimed at addressing four areas of business development – managing demand by promoting independence and the use of mainstream services, the reduction of overheads, increased partnership work and finding new funding sources.

FORVIL have engaged a quality cohort of volunteers from the Vietnamese Community to deliver the action plan but have not achieved the level of transformation needed to put the organisation on a sustainable footing. Officers will continue to work with FORVIL to assist them in their development and to ensure that all vulnerable services users receive the support they require.

4.5 CASSEL Centre/Lewisham Bereavement Counselling

The Cassel Centre and Lewisham Bereavement Counselling were awarded short term funding as their services fell within the scope of the counselling and psychological therapy review. The Mental Health (MH) commissioning team presented a proposal to establish an integrated care pathway for Psychological Therapies through the creation of a local provider alliance of existing providers at the MH Executive on the 17 December. The Cassel Centre and Lewisham Bereavement Counselling are within the proposed provider alliance. The alliance is not expected to be in place by April 2016 when the Main Grants funding ceases.

It is, therefore, recommended that both these organisations will continue to be funded by the MH commissioning team at the same level as they currently are, on an interim basis, as a component of progressing the development of the integrated pathway, which will need final approval by the AJCG and CCG governing body. In the event that the project is not successful in progressing then a different approach will need to be considered for the grants situation of these two organisations.

4.6 Young Lewisham Project

Young Lewisham Project were awarded transitional funding in light of the fact that they required time to restructure their business model to address the significant change in their income profile. The organisation has been increasing their networks and links with other organisations, such as Seniors (for example a joint men shed project) and Rockbourne youth club; as well as taking part in an annual local assembly event, Lark in the Park, to generate income from sales and orders of upcycled furniture. They continue to look for diverse income generation opportunities. Officers will continue to work with them to ensure that their business model is effective and enable them to deliver quality services in the period following the transition grant.

- 4.7 In addition to the organisations given transition grants Somerville Youth and Play Provision were funded £89,805 in 2015-16 (9 months); of which £71,805 was continuation funding, and £18,000 was new funding under the neighbourhood theme. Future funding of the former was subject to a review of provision during 2015-16. A youth and employee led mutual youth service has been in development during this period, and it was agreed at Mayor & Cabinet on 9 December 2015 that the current Lewisham youth service team would bid for the contract under Regulation 77 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Whilst this process is undertaken the Council will continue to fund Somerville Youth and Play Provision and seek to work with any formed mutual on future provision.

5. Advice Sector Review

- 5.1 The organisations funded under the Access to Advice theme were funded initially for 9 months only (until March 2016) to allow for a review of grant funded advice organisations to take place. This review examined the service offered, with a view to ensuring service effectiveness and managing reducing financial resources. The review was prompted by a number of factors:
- 5.2 The need for advice is growing year on year as a result of welfare cuts and changes, increased sanctions, rising levels of debt and homelessness as well as an ever changing landscape of service/benefit eligibility and policy. These needs are set in the context of a rapid changing public sector and a number of interrelated work streams across the council, including Digital Channel shift, proposed extension of the community library model, the development of 'Community Hubs', health and social care transformation, overall reductions in public sector expenditure.
- 5.3 In addition to the increasing use of technology to support access to services, the nature of other council services and provision is changing, including the use of libraries and community premises. This work, which has been ongoing for several years, offers opportunities for these spaces to be used as flexible resources to meet a range of community needs. These opportunities range from major capital transformation to create hubs for voluntary sector partners to work more closely together to the use of space flexibility to deliver ad hoc advice sessions and/or digital support.
- 5.4 These changes in what might be termed service infrastructure are also overlaid by a number of policy shifts, most importantly the transformation of Health and Social Care – particularly, in this context, relating to Information and Advice.
- 5.5 The guidance for the Care Act 2014 asks local authorities to develop strategies for information and advice, and to report publicly on the improvements they are achieving. Good public information and advice are priorities for Lewisham Council and Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) as a key building block of the local care system.
- 5.6 The Joint Commissioning Intentions specifically relating to information and advice prioritise the need for:

- Better information to support people to have greater confidence to make choices and take control of the management of their own care
 - Better information and advice which is personalised to enable individuals to look after themselves more and be willing to self-manage their health and wellbeing
 - Better co-ordination and joined up health and care services which includes the voluntary sector.
- 5.7 As such it is vital that information and advice provided via the voluntary sector is delivered as part of this wider system and that the elements are sufficiently integrated to avoid major duplication of services.
- 5.8 Finally, the broader context of the review is the on-going reduction in public spending across the majority of service areas. This will both increase the demand on services as outlined in previous papers and summarised at paragraph 5.2 above and potentially reduce the revenue available for service providers.
- 5.9 The advice review therefore sought to take a fundamental look at all aspects of the current grant funded provision and did so by considering the following areas:
- Needs of individuals currently accessing services
 - Service access including geographical location
 - Data collection and monitoring
 - Provider Quality Assurance
 - Additional resources accessed by providers
 - Service users' views
- 5.10 The review highlighted that there is much good work going on across the borough and the quality of services is high. Over the last two years, Lewisham advice organisations have been working to improve their partnership working, including the development of a shared website which incorporates an Advice Finder function. This is intended to address the information needs of potential service users, enable them to resolve some basic advice needs without the need to contact advice centres and, where required, direct them towards the specialist advice they require. This facility could also be considered for its potential to support with basic housing benefit requirements.
- 5.11 Notwithstanding the above the following findings indicate further action is required if the services are to continue to effectively meet needs:
- Arrangements for the provision of advice in the borough require rationalisation in order to achieve sustainability, given increasing demands.
 - There is general agreement that current arrangements, whereby potential service users access services predominantly through a process of drop-in sessions, could be improved. Not only does this involve considerable queuing and uncertainty for service users, it is also resource intensive for providers. Both providers and users appear to welcome a move towards a system based more on telephone-based booking so long as some drop in sessions remain to meet specific needs and for those not willing or able to use the phone or internet in the first instance.
 - In addition to the formal drop-in sessions there should be more informal sessions delivering in community locations provided through Advice Guides (Advice Lewisham volunteers) focused on self-help, digital support and form filling
 - It will be necessary for providers to work together to resource the telephone line and other services across the borough
 - Providers have robust quality assurance systems in place and their staff have a range of appropriate skills. This provides a firm foundation for services to work well together and deliver services to high standards but on-going training is vital if advisers are to keep up with the ever changing picture of policy and entitlement both locally and nationally. Training should be delivered across the providers and

LBL officers should be involved in the delivery of regular updates from a local authority perspective

- A single agreed data collection format is necessary
- The work of Advice Lewisham has provided organisations with experience of undertaking a range of joint projects, including the operation of the Big Lottery funded advice hubs and bidding for other funding sources should be supported by LBL and expanded if possible
- The new Advice Lewisham advice finder tool provides a good starting point for simplifying online support for service users but more work is required to encourage people to seek help for themselves in the first instance. This may be assisted self-help initially but should be clearly designed to promote future independence rather than a circular relationship with services.

5.12 It was therefore proposed that a common telephone-based service for initial advice and triage be established across all advice providers as a starting point for delivering a more comprehensive and consistent service across the borough. This is supplemented by limited drop in sessions at key locations and peripatetic services at further community locations.

5.13 All services will be provided under the banner of Advice Lewisham to allow the sharing of resources and the effective allocation of specialisms.

5.14 With some minor caveats the providers have accepted the outcome of the review and have proposed an initial service model for delivery. A figure of £30,000 has been identified to cover an element of revenue costs in 2016/17 and allow the service to be established ASAP although in reality the majority of the costs will be in kind between the Advice Lewisham partners in terms of staffing resource for the phone line and subsequent appointment slots.

5.14 The providers have agreed to make voluntary contributions towards Advice Lewisham on a pro-rata basis as detailed in the below table which removes the need for any direct 'top-slice' of the 2015-16 grant figure.

Organisation Name	2015/16 Grant (12 month equivalent)	% of total	Pro rata allocation	2016/17 Grant
Lewisham Citizens Advice Bureau	£500,927.00	42	£12,900	£500,927.00
Age UK Lewisham & Southwark	£96,000.00*	8	£2,100	£96,000.00
Evelyn 190 Centre	£206,666.67	17	£5,100	£206,666.67
170 Community Project	£130,666.67	11	£3,300	£130,666.67
Lewisham Disability Coalition	£103,333.33	9	£2,700	£103,333.33
LRMN	£51,920.00*	5	£1,500	£87,920.00
Advice Lewisham - Lewisham CAB	£52,200.00	5	£1,500	£52,200.00
LMLAS	£41,000.00	3	£900	£41,000.00
Total	£1,218,713.67	100	£30,000.00	£1,218,713.67

* This figure represents the Advice theme element of this organisation's funding only.

5.15 As such the grants for all Advice organisations will remain static as detailed in Appendix 1.

6. Equalities review

- 6.1 Voluntary Action Lewisham (VAL) have been asked to coordinate borough-wide work on equalities and to support voluntary and community sector organisations to meet their equalities commitments.
- 6.2 The other organisations that have a specific equalities remit are:
- Age UK Lewisham & Southwark
 - Lewisham Disability Coalition
 - Lewisham Multilingual Advice Service
 - Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network
 - METRO (The Metro Centre Ltd)
 - Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust
 - Lewisham Pensioners Forum
- 6.3 Voluntary Action Lewisham (VAL) are co-ordinating activities for Equalities across the borough and report into the Stronger Communities Partnership Board, with the intention that the Voluntary and Community Sector will contribute towards the 5 outcomes of the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme (CES).
- 6.4 VAL has established an Equalities Working Group (EWG), made up of the Main Grants funded Equalities organisations (with others invited on an ad hoc basis) that will work in partnership to better meet the needs of their communities/service users and help identify gaps in provision.
- 6.5 To date this group has met three times, and will meet every 2 months, focusing on a specific CES objective at each meeting.
- 6.6 The EWG has identified how their current funded work delivers against the 5 objectives of the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme, which is being coordinated by VAL to create a picture of the communities and clients served. This will be analysed to assess how this reflects the make-up of the Borough (this work is ongoing), and identify where additional development work needs to occur.
- 6.7 To help tie all of these elements together, as well as ensure that the EWG has a clear purpose, VAL have produced a draft action plan for the group, which together with the information collated around the 5 objectives will form the basis of the Voluntary and Community Sector's contribution to the Council's Comprehensive Equalities Scheme (and the development of the next CES 2016-2020), and the implementation of a structure for co-ordinated activity.
- 6.8 The EWG is already providing an effective forum for members to better align campaigns and services (e.g. work on hate crime), and members are also contributing to a 'one stop shop' signposting database hosted on VAL's website (and is a key part of the action plan)
- 6.9 EqualiTeam Lewisham has unspent grant funding of £180,000 for the previous round of funding. Officers are working with EqualiTeam to use its outstanding funding and develop a delivery plan with demonstrable outcomes, with progress being monitored every 2 months.

7. Performance

- 7.1 Officers undertake regular monitoring of all organisations in receipt of a Main Grant. This is done in two ways. Firstly, at an organisational and strategic level, an annual monitoring exercise takes place using the Rocket Science assessment tool. This measures leadership, finance, performance review and business development. An example Rocket Science report can be found in Appendix 3. Secondly, a quarterly

monitoring report is submitted by each organisation outlining their performance against agreed outcomes and outputs. For 2015-16 there will be three quarterly returns: Quarter 2 (July-September), Quarter 3 (October – December) and Quarter 4 (January – March). In addition all organisations have had an initial visit from their monitoring officer (many have had more than one visit); as well as attendance at AGMs where these have taken place to date.

- 7.2 There are a very small number of organisations who have not yet fully complied with the monitoring requirements. Officers will be writing to these organisations warning them that they are in breach of their grant agreement and urging them to return them as quickly as possible.
- 7.3 The annual Rocket Science tool is useful in identifying weaknesses and strengths in an organisation as a whole. There are no clear trends across all organisations; with different organisations facing different challenges, or excelling in different ways. Monitoring officers are working closing with organisations where weaknesses have been identified through Rocket Science to develop action plans, and referring them to VAL for further support where relevant.
- 7.4 Only one quarterly report (July – September) has been returned by organisations; however monitoring officers are keeping a close eye on any organisations that are showing signs of being unable to meet their agreed outcomes and outputs. When the next quarterly report (October – December) is received (by end of January) monitoring officers will formally raise concerns with those organisations not on target or indicating how they will meet their targets by the end of the financial year.
- 7.5 Subject to approval for the recommended grant levels for 2016-17 in this report, officers will agree revised outcomes and outputs for 2016-17 for all organisations. For the majority this will be a straight conversion of outputs from 9 months to 12 months. Organisations were written to in October 2015 to inform them of this and requested to work with their monitoring officer if this approach does not work for them.

8. Small and Faith Grants

- 8.1 In addition to the Main Grants Programme a further £100,000 is allocated through the Small and Faith Grants programme to encourage service development and promote innovation. For 2015/16 this element of the programme is being delivered through a crowdfunding approach. The Council has engaged Spacehive, a civic crowdfunding organisation, to host project ideas. Organisations have been required to gain support for their projects from the local community through donations and endorsements. The crowdfunding approach was agreed by Mayor and Cabinet on 30 September 2015. The approach will be fully evaluated by mid 2016, in advance of the launch of the 2016-17 Small and Faith programme. Lessons learnt from the evaluation will be incorporated in the 2016-17 programme.
- 8.2 To date, the initial response has been encouraging, with a number of organisations showing enthusiasm for the adopted approach. The skills developed by organisations in working on the crowdfunding initiative will be of longer term assistance in building their fundraising capabilities and capacity.

9. Rent grants

- 9.1 There is a varied pattern of occupation and management agreements for a number of council owned premises occupied and run by community groups. The council provides support to organisations in a number of different ways, including providing repairs & maintenance, rent grants, main grant funding, peppercorn lease arrangements and so

on. Historically the council has provided rent grants to some organisations to cover the cost of rent charged by the council. The rent grants are not linked to specific outcomes.

- 9.2 Four organisations who have previously received rent grants were awarded a rent grant for 9 months, July 2015-March 2016: Ackroyd Community Association, Lewisham Young Women's Resource Centre (LYWRC), The Midi Music Company and Downham Community Association (Wesley Halls). Two of these organisations (Ackroyd and Midi Music) were successful in receiving main Grant funding in 2015-18; whilst the other two were not recommended for Main Grant funding.
- 9.3 During 2015 the Council developed and consulted on a voluntary sector accommodation plan which was agreed by Mayor & Cabinet in July 2015 and November 2015. It was agreed by Mayor & Cabinet in May 2015 that due to this exercise that these four organisation's rent grants would be extended for 9 months until the end of March 2016 to allow for the conclusion of this work.
- 9.4 It is proposed that all four organisations continue to receive their rent grant for 2016-17; as set out in appendix 2. The rationale for these are as follows:

Lewisham Young Women's Resource Centre – This organisation was identified in the plan as either moving to shared premises (e.g. one of the new community hubs) or a full lease to be implemented by March 2017. Whilst discussions are underway with the group it is recommended to continue to pay their rent grant for 2016-17.

Wesley Halls – This community centre was identified as core provision within the borough and it is therefore recommended that their rent grant continues in 2016-17.

Ackroyd Community Centre – This community centre was identified as core provision within the borough and it is therefore recommended that their rent grant continues in 2016-17.

Midi Music – This is identified as a specialist facility in the plan. A lease will be negotiated with them which will be at less than market rate. Whilst these negotiations are underway it is recommended that their rent grant continues in 2016-17.

- 9.5 The position of rent grants for all four organisations will be reviewed for 2017-18 and beyond.

10. Financial implications

- 10.1 This report recommends award of grants totalling £4,187,692.34 in 2016-17 as set out in appendix 1.
- 10.2 The available main programme budget is shown in the following table:

2015-16 Revised Budget - Net	£5,025,300
less	
Savings - COM5 16-17 (balance of £1.5m saving)	-375,000
Reserves – one-off funding 15-16 only (The Casell Centre, Lewisham Bereavement Counselling, Young Lewisham Project, Pre-School Learning Alliance & FORVIL)	-200,000
2016-17 budget	£4,450,300
<u>Allocation of Budget for 2016-17</u>	
London Councils - London Boroughs Grants Scheme	307,701
Small and Faith Grants	100,000

Main Grants Programme.

Somerville Youth and Play Provision-continuation funding	95,740
Main Grant Programme-proposed funding 2016-17	3,946,859
2016-17 Budget	£4,450,300

- 10.3 The gap between the budget for the main grants programme as shown above of £4,042,599 (£95,740 plus £3,946,859) and the recommended award of grants totalling £4,187,692 (see appendix 1) is £145,093 which for 2016-17 will be funded by:

CCG-funding for Community Developments £100,000
Communities That Care (Age Exchange, Ageing Well & Eco-Communities)

London Councils-underspend £16,616
This is the difference between the budgeted Base Borough contribution of £307,701 and the actual contribution of £291,085 following share of one –off adjustments

Community Business/Social Enterprise Capacity Building-loan repayments £15,000
Additional income generated from 5 year loan to Make Believe Arts £25k and Sydenham Gardens £50k - recovered in equal installments across the 5 year loan period September 12-Aug 17.

Other Cultural Development funding £13,477
Small overall funding allocation which will be funded from the Divisional allocation for non-pay inflation

£145,093

This will balance the overall funding position for the 2016-17 financial year.

- 10.4 The proposed allocations in appendix 1 will be reviewed for the 2017-18 financial year in order to achieve the proposed budget saving of £1m (approximately 25%).
- 10.5 The report also proposes (paragraph 9.4) the extension of rent grants paid to four organisations for 2016-17, detailed in Appendix 2. These arrangements are cost neutral to the Council as the cost of the grant is matched by the income to the centre.. However there is an opportunity cost to the arrangement as letting the premises on a commercial basis to an organisation who is not Council funded would reduce the Council's net expenditure.

11. Legal implications

- 10.1 Under S1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has a general power of competence to do anything which an individual may do unless it is expressly prohibited.
- 10.2 The giving of grants to voluntary organisations is a discretionary power which must be exercised reasonably taking into account all relevant considerations and ignoring irrelevant considerations.
- 10.3 In relation to any consultation exercise sufficient reasons must be given for any proposal, adequate time must be given for consideration and response and the outcome of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account by the decision maker.
- 10.4 The Mayor and Cabinet agreed to hear appeals against a change of funding in relation to all organisations that wished to do so and the outcome of the appeals meeting is attached at annex A to this report.

- 10.5 The Equality Act 2012 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 10.6 In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 10.7 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.
- 10.8 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>
- 10.9 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:
- The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
 - Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
 - Engagement and the equality duty
 - Equality objectives and the equality duty
 - Equality information and the equality duty
- 10.10 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sectorequality-duty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>

11. Crime & disorder implications

- 11.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report. Some of the recommended main grant organisations deliver services and projects which help to reduce the fear of crime.

12. Equalities implications

- 12.1 A mini Equalities Analysis Assessment (EEA) was undertaken on each of the recommendations made to Mayor & Cabinet (contracts) in May 2015. In addition an overall EEA was undertaken.
- 12.2 The overall assessment of the EEA was that the spread of services recommended for funding under the Main Grants Programme was considered to be fair and equitable and, considering the overall 25% cut in the available budget, not to disproportionately affect any one particular group. The awarding of grants to a wide variety of organisations that work with and support Lewisham's diverse communities will help to promote equal opportunities.
- 12.3 The findings of this EEA are still relevant to the recommended awarding of main grant funding in 2016-17 as the recipient organisations remain the same and their user profiles have not significantly changed.

13. Environmental implications

- 13.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

14. Conclusion

- 14.1 The Council recognises the important part the voluntary and community sector play in the lives of our residents and the main grants programmes seeks to support this provision. The continued awarding of main grant funding to 60 organisations in 2016-17 will enable these organisations to continue to deliver much needed services across the borough.

If there are any queries on this report please contact **Petra Marshall, Community Resources Manager**, 020 8314 7034.

Appendix 1 – List of organisations recommended for main grant funding for 2016-17

Appendix 2 – List of organisations recommended for rent grants for 2016-17

Appendix 3 – Example Rocket Science monitoring

Appendix 1 – List of organisations recommended for main grant funding for 2016-17

Main Grants		
Organisation Name	2015-16 funding (9 months)	2016-17 recommended funding (12 months)
170 Community Project	£98,000.00	£130,666.67
999 Club	£7,500.00	£10,000.00
Ackroyd Community Association	£36,750.00	£49,000.00
Advice Lewisham bid - Lewisham CAB	£39,150.00	£52,200.00
Age Exchange	£24,375.00	£32,500.00
Age UK Lewisham & Southwark	£324,000.00	£432,000.00
Ageing Well in Lewisham-LCC	£22,690.00	£30,253.33
Albany	£236,568.00	£315,424.00
Bellingham Community Project Ltd	£23,925.00	£31,900.00
Bromley & Lewisham Mind	£26,179.00	£34,905.33
CASSEL Centre, The	£85,000.00	£0.00
Contact a Family	£53,640.00	£71,520.00
Corbett Estate Neighbourhood Forum	£18,000.00	£24,000.00
Deptford Methodist Mission – Disabled People's Contact	£5,438.00	£7,250.67
Deptford Reach	£15,000.00	£20,000.00
Deptford X	£7,500.00	£10,000.00
Eco Communities	£30,000.00	£40,000.00
Entelechy Arts	£30,000.00	£40,000.00
Evelyn 190 Centre	£155,000.00	£206,666.67
FORVIL	£10,000.00	£0.00
Goldsmiths Community Association	£18,000.00	£24,000.00
Greenwich & Lewisham Young People's Theatre	£60,653.00	£80,870.67
Greenwich Carers Centre	£35,000.00	£46,666.67
Grove Centre, The	£14,625.00	£19,500.00
Grove Park Community Group	£18,000.00	£24,000.00
Heart n Soul	£51,751.00	£69,001.33
IRIE!	£36,679.00	£48,905.33
Lee Green Lives	£18,000.00	£24,000.00
Lewisham Bereavement Counselling	£19,275.00	£0.00
Lewisham Citizens Advice Bureau Services Limited	£375,695.25	£500,927.00
Lewisham Community Transport Scheme	£36,000.00	£48,000.00
Lewisham Disability Coalition	£77,500.00	£103,333.33
Lewisham Education Arts Network	£28,500.00	£38,000.00
Lewisham Elders Resource Centre (Seniors)	£34,224.00	£45,632.00
Lewisham Mencap	£30,000.00	£40,000.00
Lewisham Multilingual Advice Service	£30,750.00	£41,000.00
Lewisham Pensioners Forum	£30,000.00	£40,000.00
Lewisham Refugee and Migrant Network	£65,940.00	£87,920.00
Lewisham Speaking Up	£65,000.00	£86,666.67
Lewisham Youth Theatre	£32,357.00	£43,142.67
London Amateur Boxing Association	£15,000.00	£20,000.00
London FA on behalf of Lewisham Football Network	£18,750.00	£25,000.00
London Thunder - Lewisham	£18,750.00	£25,000.00
METRO (The Metro Centre Ltd)	£25,000.00	£33,333.33
Midi Music Company, The	£39,024.00	£52,032.00
Montage Theatre Arts	£7,500.00	£10,000.00
Noah's Ark Children's Venture	£32,000.00	£42,666.67
Parent Support Group (PSG)	£3,780.00	£5,040.00
Pre-School Learning Alliance	£40,000.00	£0.00
Rushey Green Time Bank	£67,500.00	£90,000.00

Saxon Crown (Lewisham) Swimming Club	£10,000.00	£13,333.33
Second Wave Centre for Youth Arts	£39,843.00	£53,124.00
Somerville Youth & Play Provision (neighbourhood theme)	£18,000.00	£24,000.00
South East London Tennis (Tennis Lewisham)	£22,250.00	£29,666.67
Stephen Lawrence Charitable Trust	£30,611.00	£40,814.67
Sydenham Arts Ltd	£7,500.00	£10,000.00
Sydenham Garden	£29,337.00	£39,116.00
Teatro Vivo	£26,000.00	£34,666.67
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	£68,000.00	£90,666.67
Voluntary Action Lewisham	£139,216.00	£185,621.33
Voluntary Service Association (Access Lewisham)	£73,650.00	£98,200.00
Voluntary Services Lewisham	£69,264.00	£92,352.00
Volunteer Centre Lewisham	£70,000.00	£93,333.33
Wheels for Wellbeing	£25,600.00	£34,133.33
Young Lewisham Project	£50,000.00	£0.00

Main Grant Programme	sub-total	£4,091,952.34
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Somerville Youth & Play Provision – continuation funding	£71,805.00	£95,740.00
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Continuation Funding	sub-total	£95,740.00
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Grand Total	£4,187,692.34
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Appendix 2 – List of organisations recommended for rent grants for 2016-17

Organisation Name	Recommended rent grant for 2016-17
Ackroyd Community Association	£13,250
Downham Community Association, Wesley Halls	£29,700
The Midi Music Company	£10,500
Lewisham Young Women's Resource Centre (LYWRC)	£12,000

Appendix 3 – Rocket Science monitoring example

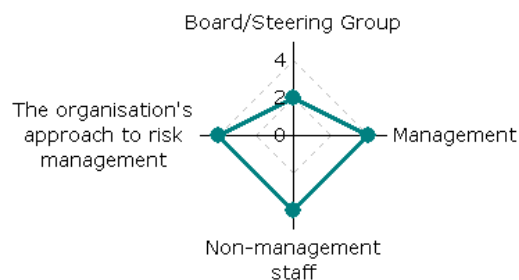
As an example of the Rocket Science report and how it highlights any organisational weaknesses please see the example below, that details the 4 areas, any weaknesses, how officers will assist, and an overarching summary graph.

Leadership – The report clearly highlights that there are issues with the Board of trustees. The associated narrative completed by the organisation goes on to tell us that the board are all relatively new and inexperienced, and that having completed a skills audit, there is a definite lack of finance and budgeting experience.

Leadership

This chart shows how well you perceive the leadership of the organisation in managing change. It will help to pinpoint where you may need to focus extra support or development.

Average score: 3.5



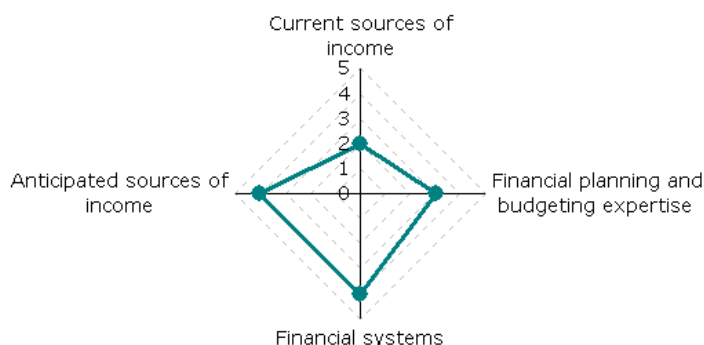
Officer response – To work with the organisation to help firstly identify potential training and/or mentoring opportunities for the trustees, and to then put them in contact with the Volunteer Centre Lewisham to see if there are any potential volunteers looking for a leadership opportunity that have the requisite finance and budgeting experience (that could potentially be co-opted onto the board in the first instance, followed by a more exhaustive recruitment process.)

Finance – The report refers again to the lack of skills at board level regarding finance and budgeting, but also goes on to highlight the issues around diversifying their funding streams. The organisation has recently seen a cut in funding streams, but have identified this as an issue and want to work and collaborate with other similar or complementary organisations, as well as see if they can deliver a separate profitable service to subsidise their current work.

Finance

This chart shows the financial resilience of the organisation. It will help to pinpoint where you may need to focus extra support or development.

Average score: 3.3



Officer response – The trustee element is already covered above, however, regarding alternative funding streams, income generation and partnership working

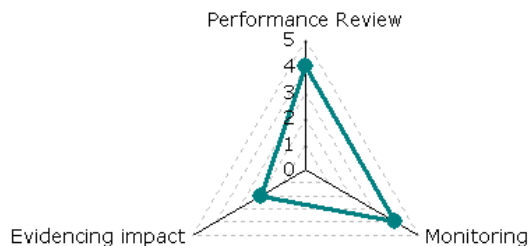
we will work with the organisation to help identify other providers that could be worthwhile partners and help them explore how they can bid for funding in partnership. Additionally, some of the services provided could be the sort of thing that philanthropic individuals would be interested in, so have suggested exploring crowd funding in the first instance (and Spacehive in particular). Regarding other income sources, we have identified that the organisations doesn't currently make full use of its' premises as a result of funding cuts and a reduced workforce, and have suggested either looking to bring a partner in to share space or consider taking advantage of the new Voluntary and Community Sector Hubs.

Demonstrating Impact - In this instance the report highlights that the organisation, whilst adept at completing monitoring and ensuring the requisite boxes are ticked, are poor at evidencing the impact of their work. They know how many people they have seen and had contact with, but can't show the impact that their service has had on those people's wellbeing.

Demonstrating impact

This chart shows how well your organisation demonstrates the impact it has. It will help to pinpoint where you may need to focus extra support or development.

Average score: 3.3

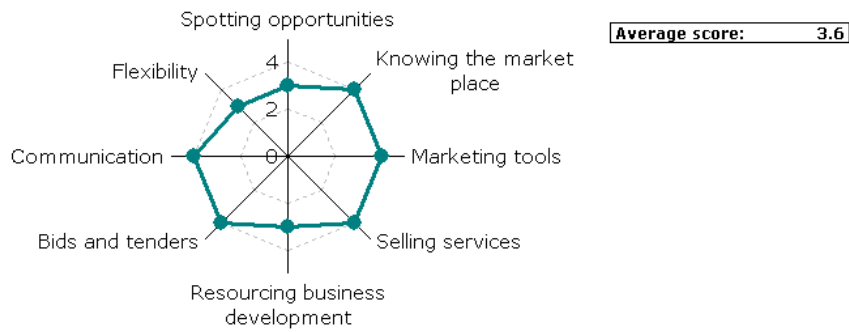


Officer response – Share current best practice with the organisation regarding effective evaluation of service delivery, to include template evaluation forms, links with a known organisation that currently does this element well, and the opportunity to discuss the importance at evidencing impact (particularly in the current climate) at one of their board meetings.

Business Development – The report shows that in general the organisation is aware of the opportunities open to it, and indeed the narrative highlights that the organisation is moving to a new stage in it's development, looking to work more flexibly and with the support of the board, able to take advantage of relevant opportunities when they come along, as well as exploring new ways of working.

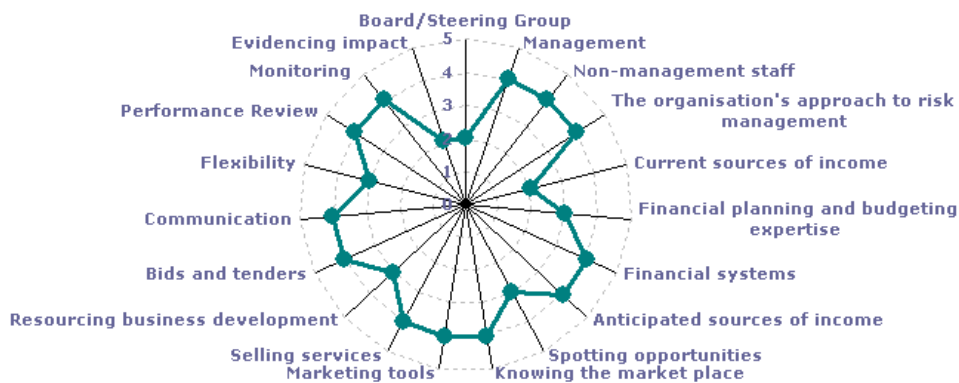
Business development

This chart shows how well your organisation develops its business. It will help to pinpoint where you may need to focus extra support or development.



Officer response – The narrative is very positive towards the future, and the direction in which the organisation is going. We will look to continue to encourage the organisation to work more collaboratively, and ensure that any opportunities that we are made aware of are communicated swiftly to allow the organisation time to decide on any course of action. We have also suggested to the organisation to sign up to Voluntary Action Lewisham, and to play a part within the relevant forums and working groups that are currently looking at how organisations change and adapt.

Finally, the overarching summary graph shows in detail where the organisation thinks its strengths and weaknesses lie.



As we can see, the graph reinforces the fact that the organisation is heading in the right direction but obviously has some issues around income streams, the board and how they evidence impact.