

<b>MAYOR AND CABINET (CONTRACTS)</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	Neighbourhood Community Development Partnerships (NCDP) Public Health Funding	
<b>Key decision</b>	Yes	Item No.
<b>Ward</b>	All	
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director for Community Services, Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration, Head of Law	
<b>Class</b>	Open	Date: 14 February 2018

## 1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the award of Public Health grants to two voluntary and community organisations. Better Together, a joint partnership between Voluntary Services Lewisham (VSL) and Entelechy Arts (EA), and Voluntary Services Lewisham (VSL).

## 2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) agree:

- 2.1 To award annual grants for the amounts of £14,332.40 and £24,996.80 respectively as set out in Appendix 1 and 2, for the financial years 2017/2018.

## 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 plays 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 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. Background to Neighbourhood Community Development Partnerships**

- 4.1 In September 2016, Mayor and Cabinet agreed a report recommending a range of public health savings as part of the council's financial review.
- 4.2 The Council decided to cease the commissioning of the Community Health Improvement Service (CHIS), saving a total of £451,448. It was recommended that, in order to mitigate the impact of these savings, the Council would invest

up to £100,000 to support grants in all four neighbourhoods for activities that promote healthy eating, increase physical activity, mental wellbeing, sexual health, and raise awareness of the risks of smoking and alcohol consumption.

- 4.3 The funding was distributed via the newly formed Neighbourhood Community Development Partnerships which were established across the borough in early 2017. The Partnerships are led by Community Connections, working closely with Public Health and the Local Assembly team, and are based on the successful community models which had been established in North Lewisham and Bellingham.

## **5. Neighbourhood Community Development Partnerships (NCDPs)**

- 5.1 The transformation of Community Based Care (CBC) is a critical part of Lewisham's overall vision to achieve a sustainable health and care system: one which better supports people to maintain and improve their physical and mental wellbeing, live independently and access high quality care when needed.

- 5.2 Community based care is the advice, support and care which is provided outside a traditional hospital setting. In Lewisham this includes services provided by GPs, social workers, pharmacists, other NHS and local authority services, as well as that provided by the voluntary and community sector and those provided by private organisations such as care homes.

- 5.3 In Lewisham, health and care partners plan to transform the way in which community based care is delivered so that people can access proactive and co-ordinated advice, support and care which is:

- Accessible to all – so that adults have improved access to local health and care services through, for example neighbourhood care hubs, and so that children have increased access to community health services and early intervention support through, for example children's centres and health visiting. And for everyone to have clear access to enhanced and urgent care when needed;
- Proactive and Preventative – so that people can easily find the information and advice, and local activities and opportunities, they need to improve their health and wellbeing and manage their own health and care more effectively. And for them to be part of resilient communities, working with and alongside voluntary and community organisations;
- Coordinated – so that people receive personalised care and support, closer to home, which integrates physical and mental health and care services, to help them to live independently for as long as possible.

- 5.4 In order to effectively promote health and wellbeing across the borough and reduce the need for formal health and social care provision LB Lewisham has developed a Community Development Charter. The Charter outlines partnership approaches to community development and builds on current neighbourhood and borough wide assets and networks.

- 5.5 The delivery of the aims of the Community Development Charter is led by a borough-wide Community Development Steering group which oversees the work of NCDPs coordinated by Community Connections.
- 5.6 NCDPs were developed to form a formalised partnership between community development workers, organisations and other key stakeholders across Lewisham at a localised (neighbourhood) level in order to facilitate a joined up approach toward the development of community resources.
- 5.7 The development of the NCDPs builds on existing assets and will take different forms in each of the areas based on the history and infrastructure of the local area. A key task of the partnerships is to identify gaps in specific areas and put forward solutions to meet local needs.
- 5.8 These partnerships deliver benefits to local communities over and above those directly related to health and social care as they will provide vehicles for local people and organisations to take control of their areas and circumstances.
- 5.9 To date, the NCDPs have:
- Brought local community and statutory health and care partners together to jointly develop local health and wellbeing priorities in order to inform neighbourhood development plans
  - Provided an opportunity for shared learning and networking.
  - Promoted the voice of the community and community organisations.
  - Provided a platform for public health fund allocation to the sum of £25,000 per NCDP.
  - Developed a bidding system to allocate Public Health funds to local communities in response to the priorities identified, based on a participatory model.
  - Developed a scrutiny panel across Public Health, Ward Assembly officers and Community Connections staff.
  - Brought community partners together to vote on the allocation of funds with final sign off by the Director of Public Health.
- 5.10 The successful proposals were agreed by the NCDP partnership meeting, consisting of a range of community organisations, using a process for participatory budgeting to agree which proposals to support. Both projects were strongly supported by those attending the meetings and were deemed to be projects which addressed priorities for the partnership area and represented value for money
- 5.11 The following recommended grants are for the amounts of £14,332.40 and £24,996.80 respectively:
- Better Together; a partnership between Voluntary Services Lewisham and Entelechy Arts with the purpose of delivering a joint programme that brings together two distinct approaches to supporting isolated and vulnerable older people to be recognised, valued and contributing members of their communities.

- Voluntary Services Lewisham (VSL) will recruit an additional volunteer coordinator to address two health and wellbeing priorities identified by the NCDP; a lack of volunteers and a lack of capacity among voluntary and community organisations working in the neighbourhood to recruit and support volunteers.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 This report seeks approval to award grants to two organisations to support community based care - £14,332.40 to Better Together and £24,996.80 to Voluntary Services Lewisham. Funding is from the 2017/18 ring-fenced Public Health Grant.

## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 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.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 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.
- 7.4 The value of the proposed grants at over £10,000 requires the approval of Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts). The rationale for the proposed award to the particular organisations is set out at paragraph 5 of the report.
- 7.5 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.

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.

- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has 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-actcodes-ofpracticeand-technical-guidance/>

- 7.8 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

- 7.9 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-sectorequalityduty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>

## **8. Crime and Disorder Act Implications**

- 8.1 There are no crime and disorder implications.

## **9. Equalities Implications**

- 9.1 Addressing health inequalities is a central aim for all the funded organisations within this report. Each organisation that receives Public Health funding will be expected to ensure that their services meet the needs of the borough’s diverse communities. They will draw upon a rich knowledge base about how to reach communities, raise awareness, change behaviour and improve health outcomes.

9.2 The NCDPs aim to build closer social networks and social capital, with many training and volunteering opportunities in order to improve mental wellbeing and reduce social isolation.

## **10. Environmental Implications**

10.1 There are no specific environmental implications.

## **11. Conclusion**

11.1 The Council recognises the important part the voluntary and community sector plays in the lives of our residents, and the public sector grants programme seeks to stimulate local community provision.

If there are any queries on this report please contact Frances Fuller, Public Health Strategist on 020 8314 7543.

## **Appendices**

**Appendices 1 and 2** – Summaries of applications submitted by projects.