

# Main Grants Programme 2019 - 2022 Assessment Sheet

## Section 1 – Core Information

<b>Name of applicant</b>	
Evelyn 190 Centre	

<b>Is the applicant eligible to apply for a main grant</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Reasons for ineligibility or any further comments</b>

<b>Is the application for Core or Project funding</b>	Core <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project <input type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Which main grant theme is being applied for</b>	
	Strong and cohesive communities
	Communities that care
X	Access to advice
	Widening access to sports
	Widening access to sports

<b>Annual amount requested</b>
£175,000

<b>Application Form Question 25.</b>	<b>Details of any funding from Lewisham Council within the last 3 years?</b>
Main Grants funding	

## Section 2 - Deliverables

<b>Application Form Question 7</b>	<p><b>Tell us the issue you are seeking to address.</b></p> <p><b>Please ensure you are clear why this issue is Lewisham specific and why you feel the need is not met by the existing assets in the community whether they be people, services (both commissioned and non-commissioned) or available funding.</b></p>
<b>Score</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>The applicant is seeking funding to provide specialist welfare benefits and housing advice face to face to vulnerable people across the borough</p> <p>Some Lewisham-specific information, e.g. gap in Specialist Advice services in the borough providing casework and representation, and acknowledgement of other specialist providers and how the applicant's delivery fits into the general picture.</p> <p>However, no indication of scale of need.</p> <p>They confirm that they are reviewing services and intend to develop a fundraising strategy. They identify outreach venues from which to offer specialist advice appointments.</p>
<b>Word count (400)</b>	<b>399</b>

<b>Application Form Question 8</b>	<p><b>Tell us the assets you will be seeking to engage and mobilise to assist you.</b></p> <p><b>These assets could include individuals, groups, buildings or any or specific strengths that already exist within your community including the lived experiences of those within it.</b></p> <p><b>Tell us the other organisations working in this area and how you will avoid duplication and add value.</b></p>
<b>Score</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Application states that organisation intends to continue to use "long standing volunteer" to staff reception and administrative requirements. In the last year, this support has amounted to 1,545 hours.</p> <p>The applicant has outlined plans to continue relationships with agencies including Advice Lewisham, Mind and Hexagon Housing Association. They state that they currently receive funding for employment advice which is funded from other sources. They are seeking alternative funding to continue debt advice and expand specialist housing and welfare advice. They have stated that they plan to move to new premises which will be more accessible.</p> <p>Overall, the application is non-strategic in its approach to mobilising community assets and makes no reference to benefiting from lived experience. It does not provide reassurance that mobilisation of community assets has been a priority in the past and it fails to provide details of community support that would complement the work of paid advisors.</p> <p>It should also be noted that the application fails to state how it would work with statutory and borough wide provision like the Housing Options service and Community Connections to increase capacity and provide a seamless service for service users.</p>

<b>Word count (400)</b>	<b>399</b>

<b>Application Form Question 9</b>	<p><b>Please tell us what you will seek to achieve over the next three years both with and without the funding you are applying for.</b></p> <p><b>Please include details of how many extra people you would expect to work with, the outputs you will deliver and the outcomes you will seek to achieve.</b></p> <p><b>Please tell us how your service differs from those that are already delivered or commissioned by the council.</b></p> <p><b>You should state the level of funding that you would anticipate attracting during this period both with and without Lewisham's core support.</b></p> <p><b>As you are applying for Core Funding this section should set out your ambitions as an organisation and what Lewisham's funding will help you achieve rather than simply what 'we are paying for.'</b></p> <p><b>NB – this details in this section will form the basis of the monitoring of your organisation although the exact details will be agreement with once the grant has been awarded.</b></p>
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**Without core funding from Lewisham:**

<b>Comments</b>	<p>The organisation continues to make a case for being the only organisation offering the specialist service it describes, but its main concern in the case of not receiving core funding from Lewisham is that it would make the organisation vulnerable, leading to the assumption that the service it offers could not be offered if it did not receive core funding.</p> <p>The organisation makes no reference to the theme priorities for Access to Advice services. It fails to address the theme requirements to better coordinate community organisations involved in providing local advice services, better coordinate activity with statutory services and it makes no reference to developing services with other voluntary sector providers working with vulnerable residents. It fails to address the need to make residents less dependent on service providers through sourcing and identifying their own solutions rather than seeking them through a third party.</p>
<b>Word count (500)</b>	<b>Combined for scenario A and scenario B is 397</b>

**With core funding from Lewisham:**

<b>Score</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Additional outcomes are clearly listed for the receipt of core funding from Lewisham. These are provided as additional outcomes to the standard offer made for the event of no core funding being awarded.</p> <p>It is unclear how individuals would be identified and prioritised or what the rationale for this list of outcomes is.</p>
<b>Word count (500)</b>	<b>See above</b>

**Access to Advice applicants only – please describe how your service fits with the overall Advice Lewisham partnership and builds on the current infrastructure and service offer**

<b>Score</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Comments</b>	The organisation highlights its membership of Advice Lewisham and envisages that its

	<p>service will complement that provided by Advice Lewisham through specialist casework and representation. It also states that individuals could be booked onto appointments through the Advice Line and that clients could be referred for appointments into provision funded from other sources. The service offered appears to link with aspects of Advice Lewisham's provision but does not include the single point of contact or triage arrangements that are required of Advice Lewisham participant organisations.</p> <p>The application does not fully follow the Advice Lewisham requirements for a bespoke service as set out in the guidance which is based on the recommendations agreed by Mayor and Cabinet on 21 November 2018 following the Main Grants consultation.</p>
<b>Word count (400)</b>	<b>159</b>

<b>Application Form Question 10.</b>	<b>Please state how far your service offer is scalable. Please indicate below what percentage of your requested amount would still be feasible in terms of service delivery. Please tick all that apply</b>
75% <input type="checkbox"/>	
50% <input type="checkbox"/>	
Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Comments on value for money of revised offers</b>	The organisation states that it needs a minimum of 85% of its requested funding in order to appoint advisers on a full time basis.

<b>Application Form Question 11.</b>	<b>User profile – this table is copied directly from the application form</b>	
<b>PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC</b>	<b>PLEASE TICK ✓</b>	<b>FURTHER DETAIL</b>
Age	✓	<p>We welcome our legal duties not to discriminate as a service provider. We aim to go beyond the narrow scope of legislative compliance and follow best practice, making equality, fairness and diversity a fundamental part of all our activities. In doing so, we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise people with different backgrounds, skills, attitudes and experiences bring fresh ideas and perceptions</li> <li>Encourage and harness these differences to make our services more relevant and approachable.</li> </ul> <p>Acknowledge the positive value of diversity, promoting equality and fairness, and challenging discrimination.</p>
Gender	✓	
Gender reassignment	✓	
Marriage & civil partnership	✓	
Pregnancy & maternity	✓	
Race	✓	
Religion & belief	✓	
Sexual orientation	✓	
	✓	

<b>Application Form Question 11b</b>	<b>If your proposed programme will be aimed exclusively at one specific community please explain the reasons for this.</b> <b>NB – this could be a community of interest or a geographical area not listed above.</b>
<b>Comments</b>	N/A
<b>Word count (300)</b>	N/A

<b>Application Form Question 12</b>	<b>Please set out how your proposed programme will engage those who do not traditionally access services.</b> <b>This engage should relate to both the protected characteristics but also other groups.</b>
<b>Score</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Application re-states that specialist advice will be provided. They highlight their strong presence in the local community, stating that clients have been recommended by friends and family. The applicant further states that it has further links with community organisations.</p> <p>No analysis provided about groups less likely to access service or specific approaches to addressing this.</p> <p>Methodology for engaging and prioritising hard to reach groups is reliant on existing links within the community, raising concerns that other hard to reach groups might be overlooked due to lack of strategic analysis.</p>
<b>Word count (300)</b>	<b>328 (over word count)</b>

## Section 3 - Track record, finance and governance

<b>Application Form Question 13</b>	<p><b>Collaboration and delivery: your track record of working in partnership and delivering quality services.</b></p> <p>Please use this section to outline the partnerships you have developed over the last three years. Please detail who you have worked with and what you have achieved.</p> <p>Please also details the three service achievements during this period of which you are most proud.</p>
<b>Score</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Comprehensive list of partner organisations provided but limited information as to how partnerships work or what they have achieved.</p> <p>Three key service achievements are provided and suggest that the organisation is highly focused on the needs of its client group. Ability to state savings achieved for client group indicates effective monitoring and analysis of outcomes.</p>
<b>Word count (500)</b>	<b>322</b>

<b>Application Form Question 14</b>	<p><b>Resources: your track record of attracting resources both financial and human.</b></p> <p>Please complete the below tables detailing your track record of the following over the past three years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• funding applications both successful and unsuccessful</li> <li>• other fundraising activities</li> <li>• volunteer engagement</li> </ul> <p>Please add extra rows as required.</p> <p>Please use the space below the tables to provide further details as required (200 words max).</p>
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Total number of funding applications in last 3 years	Level of funding requested	Outcome/level of funding received
3	£158,773	£94,970

Number of fundraising activities undertaken in last 3 years	Level of funding achieved
0 – last activity undertaken in 2014	0

Number of volunteer engagement activity undertaken in last 3 years	Approximate number of volunteer hours delivered
Three volunteering types identified – reception, admin, advice line	18, 9 and 7 hours per week

<b>Score</b>	2
<b>Comments</b>	<p>Three applications submitted in the last three years, of which two were successful.</p> <p>This is a very limited return given the range of funding available for services of this type.</p>

<b>Application Form Question 15</b>	<p><b>Overall financial health: Please complete the below table and answer the following questions.</b></p> <p><b>What is your reserve policy and current reserves status as a percentage of your turnover?</b></p> <p><b>We would expect organisation who are more than three years old to have a minimum of 10% of their annual turnover in reserve.</b></p> <p><b>If you are seeking funding and do not meet this threshold please provide a detailed account of why and what you intend to do to bring your reserves to an adequate level.</b></p> <p><b>Regardless of your reserve position please explain how your organisation is financially viable.</b></p>
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The below table is copied directly from the organisation's application form

Year	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/deficit
2015/16	£224,282	£234,821	(£10,539)
2016/17	£212,790	£239,844	(£27,054)
2017/18	£195,607	£185,788	£9,819
2018/19 (anticipated)	£177,134	£174,634	£2,500

<b>Score</b>	2
<b>Comments</b>	<p>The organisation had deficits in 15/16 and 16/17. However, a surplus of £9,819 was achieved in 2017/18 and £2,500 is forecast for 18/19. The trustees have set the level of reserves at £60,000. They state that this represents 25% of annual expenditure. However, on 2017/18 expenditure, £60,000 is closer to 35% of annual expenditure.</p> <p>The organisation is almost wholly reliant on their grant from Lewisham and has not sought to diversify funding income despite on-going messages from officer that this is necessary.</p> <p>The organisation's current reserves, in any event, stand at approximately £10,000 according to the accounts submitted with the application. This means that the organisation is in an extremely perilous financial position.</p>
<b>Word count (250)</b>	<b>145 including finance table</b>

<b>Application Form</b>	<b>Shared values: Please use this section to demonstrate your commitment to these (London Living Wage, equalities, being Dementia Friendly, ending Modern Slavery</b>
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<b>Question 16</b>	<b>and sustainability) and plans to develop these commitments.</b>
<b>Score</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Comments</b>	The applicant has stated that it is committed to the London Living Wage and equality of opportunity. It commits to Dementia Friendly training and delivery, and appears to have a strong commitment to social value issues.
<b>Word count (250)</b>	<b>209</b>

<b>Application Form Question 23</b>	<b>Board Statement: Please include a statement from your Board regarding its overall approach to managing the organisation. This should include the details of the most recent skills audit and how the key posts on the Board are recruited to.</b>
<b>Score</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Comments</b>	<p>The statement provides detail on when the Board meets but there is no information on the Board approach to organisational management.</p> <p>The recruitment process is clearly outlined, but there are no details around the findings of the most recent skills audit, although there is a commitment to undertaking one at the beginning of every financial year and addressing issues identified as they arise.</p>
<b>Word count (250)</b>	<b>124</b>

<b>Has the organisation met all other requirements of the application?</b>		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Does the organisation have a Board of at least 5 with all major posts filled	X	
Is the organisation currently compliant with filing requirements?	X	
Does the organisation have a reasonable awareness of opportunities and threats?		X
Does the organisation have all the requested documents available?	X	
Has the organisation attached their accounts for 2017/18 – or most recent set of management accounts if formed after 2017?	X	
Relevant quality assurance systems in place	X	
<b>Comments</b>	A clear list of opportunities is provided. However, threats all allude to funding. No wider threats are identified, including threats affecting service users.	

<b>Overall comments/Recommendation</b>
<p>Total score = 23</p> <p>The application is seeking funding to maintain a specialist advice service, working with up to 1000 individuals. Little evidence is presented to back up the stated need for this level of service and</p>



there is limited reference to developing self-efficacy in service users. The organisation's financial position gives cause for concern, with only limited levels of reserves and an over-dependence on Main Grants funding over several years. The application also fails to address the key requirements of the Access to Advice theme, particularly in relation to building on the progress made by Advice Lewisham since February 2017 in respect of a single point of contact which assesses and provides a service based on individual need.

The application does not demonstrate that it has sought additional strategic partnership links which would help support vulnerable people across the borough in a holistic manner.

This application is not recommended for funding.

However, funding for Advice services are being maintained at a significant level via the Advice Lewisham Partnership and the partnership may wish to engage the organisation to deliver some specialist element of the overall service offer.

Regardless of the outcome of conversation between Evelyn 190 and the Advice Lewisham Partnership it is clear that the organisation needs to undertake an urgent review of their current finances to ensure that they are solvent in the short-term.

Officers will work with the staff and trustees at Evelyn 190 to ensure that the impact of this funding recommendation on current service users are kept to a minimum.