

Main Grants Programme 2019 - 2022 Assessment Sheet

Section 1 – Core Information

Name of applicant
The Grove Centre

Is the applicant eligible to apply for a main grant	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
---	-----	-------------------------------------	----	--------------------------

Reasons for ineligibility or any further comments
N/A

Is the application for Core or Project funding	Core	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Project	<input type="checkbox"/>
--	------	-------------------------------------	---------	--------------------------

Which main grant theme is being applied for	
	Strong and cohesive communities
x	Communities that care
	Access to advice
	Widening access to sports
	Widening access to sports

Annual amount requested
£13,482 p.a. <i>(this represents a reduction before inflation of 22.5% over the previous grant as we continue our pathway towards being self-sustaining)</i>

Application Form Question 25.	Details of any funding from Lewisham Council within the last 3 years?
	Only Main Grant Funding

Section 2 - Deliverables

Application Form Question 7	<p>Tell us the issue you are seeking to address.</p> <p>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.</p>
Score	2
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The organisation do fit within the Communities That Care theme and give some reference to the criteria within this. • The application is strong on explaining its place in the community and its offer to older people. • They also reference in part, but in no detail, other services and how they fit within the need. • However, is the no specific data or quantifiable evidence on need - at a ward level, Lewisham level, or beyond. • With exception of referencing to immediate partners there is no reference to wider Lewisham assets serving this area of need, nor how they link and sit within this complementing the whole.
Word count (400)	402 – OVER LIMIT

Application Form Question 8	<p>Tell us the assets you will be seeking to engage and mobilise to assist you.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Tell us the other organisations working in this area and how you will avoid duplication and add value.</p>
Score	2
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The applications gives detail of the assets it has immediately at is fingertips including its people, building the church etc. but only limited detail about the volunteers and users • It refers briefly to immediate partners • This section of the application makes little reference to wider assets and partnership options, outside of the Church – from whom it gets support • It does not make reference to feeding into the local and wider Lewisham networks that are crucial to success and growth such as the NCDP
Word count (400)	394

Application Form Question 9	<p>Please tell us what you will seek to achieve over the next three years both with and without the funding you are applying for.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Please tell us how your service differs from those that are already delivered or commissioned by the council.</p>
------------------------------------	---

	<p>You should state the level of funding that you would anticipate attracting during this period both with and without Lewisham's core support.</p> <p>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.'</p> <p>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.</p>
Without core funding from Lewisham:	
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Organisation works hard to ensure they are working toward self-sustainability. • The major factor of not receiving MG funding from LBL will have a damaging effect on the Lunch Service - which is their primary offer under the CTC Theme. • They suggest the lunch service will need to be stopped and staff put on noticed or experience reduction in hours • They would also need to re-evaluate their collaborative work with Key partner ageing well (who are also nearly fully reliant on an LBL grant) • They would also have to rethink their policy of free or subsidise rental for charitable or not for profit organisations that use their centre
Word count (500)	473
With core funding from Lewisham:	
Score	2
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The outlook from the application forms suggests that Core Funding will allow the organisation to continue their current activities and service offer. • They refer to how they will go their charitable activities (as mentioned on their applications form under Safer Stronger Theme) but under the Theme they are applying for (CTC) they are not demonstrating any added value • However it should be noted that they are asking for a smaller grant than previously in receipt of, to reflect their move towards a more self-sufficient future - so in effect they are offering around a 22% added value programme • There is little innovation, smart objectives for improvement, or reference how they will work to attract other grant funding
Word count (500)	499

Application Form Question 10.	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
75%	<input type="checkbox"/>
50%	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 66%
Comments on value for money of revised offers	<p>The organisation have already reduced their application by in excess of 22% of their previous grant before inflation as they continue our movement towards self-sustainability</p> <p>A reduction down to a further 66% will result in significant scaling back of the lunch service to fewer days and result in redundancies and reduction in volunteering hours</p> <p>Any reduction larger than 66% will result in the loss of the lunch service and have a knock on effect to partner organisations such as Ageing Well</p>

Application Form Question 11.	User profile – this table is copied directly from the application form	
PROTECTED CHARACTERISTIC	PLEASE TICK	FURTHER DETAIL
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	facilities and activities are open to everyone, though we have ticked those protected areas that are currently supported in particular by our current services and groups.
Disability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Gender	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Marriage & civil partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Pregnancy & maternity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Religion & belief	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	

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

Application Form Question 12	<p>Please set out how your proposed programme will engage those who do not traditionally access services.</p> <p>This engage should relate to both the protected characteristics but also other groups.</p>
Score	1
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The application demonstrates only a vague plan to continue promoting their services to their current users They are extremely limited in scope and do not reference any specific groups of

	<p>hard to reach people who may be marginalised due to protected characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gives little thought to how these can be improved and other engagement activities that make reap rewards and have not given any examples of plans to enhance their engagement plans • The organisation suggest they will continue to carry on much as before, despite a drop in numbers and an acknowledgement that the needs of the community are growing • There is no evidence of a successful track record in successfully engaging with hard to reach groups of people and or individuals – the care facilities they mention are a positive step forward, but again very limited to their doorstep • There is no suggestion of establishing stronger partnerships with other organisations to develop referrals, or working closer with the local authority and NHS or primary care services to develop social prescribing opportunities and other referral links to their service in this section – these are primary sources to engage the hard to reach
Word count (300)	223

Section 3 - Track record, finance and governance

Application Form Question 13	<p>Collaboration and delivery: your track record of working in partnership and delivering quality services.</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>
Score	2
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application lists a number of partner organisations – some historic – and these partnerships are broad • They also provide information on activities they provide space for free as part of their charitable aims and objectives. • However with the exception of a few, most of the partners listed hire space in the centre, they do not make clear that these partnerships are embedded and 2 way. • Of their achievements it is clear that they have been involved in partnerships that have grown and evolved such as setting up VSL, developing a programme with SLAM and supporting the Lewisham Credit Union – however these achievements are historic • We would have like to have seen some more specific achievements around the lunch club, their users and their team - which is their primary deliver under the CTC theme
Word count (500)	483

Application Form Question 14	<p>Resources: your track record of attracting resources both financial and human.</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"> • funding applications both successful and unsuccessful • other fundraising activities • volunteer engagement <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>
-------------------------------------	---

Total number of funding applications in last 3 years	Level of funding requested	Outcome/level of funding received
0	0	0

Number of fundraising activities undertaken in last 3 years	Level of funding achieved	
2016	Voluntary giving towards work of the church and	£58,255

	centre	
2017	Voluntary giving towards work of the church and centre	£60,047
2017	Social Events / quiz nights etc	£ 1,244
2017	Legacies and gifts towards building project	£14,415
2018	Voluntary giving towards work of the church and centre	£62,319
2018	Table sales / Quiz night etc for building project	£ 4,165
	Total	£200415

Number of volunteer engagement activity undertaken in last 3 years		Approximate number of volunteer hours delivered
2016	Opening/ closing facilities Help in kitchen, serving meals Help with cleaning Maintenance and Gardening Management committee time	1,366 hrs
2017	Opening/ closing facilities Help in kitchen, serving meals Help with cleaning Maintenance and Gardening Management committee time	1,342 hrs
2018	Opening/ closing facilities Help in kitchen, serving meals Help with cleaning Maintenance and Gardening Management committee time	1.474 hrs

Score	2
Comments	<p>The Centre is underpinned by the Grove Centre Church who support the centre work through its members and voluntary giving</p> <p>This has scored low as they have not been able to demonstrate on the form that they are raising any other grant funding, thus being too heavily reliant on LBL grant for the Lunch Service.</p> <p>However the church do provide an exceptional amount of support in both volunteering and charitable giving.</p>

Application Form Question 15	<p>Overall financial health: Please complete the below table and answer the following questions.</p> <p>What is your reserve policy and current reserves status as a percentage of your turnover?</p> <p>We would expect organisation who are more than three years old to have a minimum of 10% of their annual turnover in reserve.</p> <p>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.</p>
-------------------------------------	--

Regardless of your reserve position please explain how your organisation is financially viable.

The below table is copied directly from the organisation's application form

Year	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/deficit
2015/16	£98,268	£99,527	(£ 1,259)
2016/17	£97,544	£99,857	(£ 2,313)
2017/18	£89,472	£86,276	£ 3,196
2018/19 (anticipated)	£89,714	£ 91,043	(£1,329)

Score	2
Comments	<p>The Grove Centre have a clear reserves policy The centre remains viable through its mix of revenue streams from one off and regular lettings, revenue from the lunch service, lease payments from the long-term use of one of its building by a nursery, and through the giving's to the Church for its work from its members and one-off legacies. They are running on a small deficit in 3 of the 4 years as detailed above This is c1% of income</p>
Word count (250)	202

Application Form Question 16	Shared values: Please use this section to demonstrate your commitment to these (London Living Wage, equalities, being Dementia Friendly, ending Modern Slavery and sustainability) and plans to develop these commitments.
Score	3
Comments	The Grove Centre shows a clear commitment to the above but in many cases have not been able to reach targets or have policies in place
Word count (250)	246

Application Form Question 23	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.
Score	2
Comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board for the Grove Centre Church are in place with exception of the secretary role. • The management committee of the Grove Centre directly deals with the centre and the Lunch Service • The statement refers to skills audits and appears to have the appropriate level of skill required for an organisation of this size • The statement indicates the appointment process but not how trustees are recruited from the wider community or user group • Although the application cites the aims of the Church and Centre are aligned - It is unclear how involved the Church Board are with the day to day operations of the centre and vice versa
Word count (250)	245

Has the organisation met all other requirements of the application?		
	Yes	No
Does the organisation have a Board of at least 5 with all major posts filled		No
Is the organisation currently compliant with filing requirements?	Yes	
Does the organisation have a reasonable awareness of opportunities and threats?	Yes	
Does the organisation have all the requested documents available?	Yes	
Has the organisation attached their accounts for 2017/18 – or most recent set of management accounts if formed after 2017?	Yes	
Relevant quality assurance systems in place	N/A	
Comments	The organisation details their risks well and understands some of their opportunities but these could go much further. They are seeking to appoint a secretary in the near future.	

Overall comments/Recommendation
<p>SCORE – 18</p> <p>A mixed application which clearly demonstrates the use of the services provided but demonstrates significant organisational weaknesses.</p> <p>The application does not demonstrate that the organisation have tried any other ways to secure the ongoing funding of this service, either through sourcing other grant income, or working with Fair Share to reduce the costs of food and work to help reduce food waste as other lunch services have done.</p> <p>Officers have long signalled to all Main Grant funded groups of the need to change their delivery models to ensure they are not wholly funded by the council but unfortunately the organisation has not demonstrated that their primary offer under CTC theme is sustainable without full cost responsibility sitting with LBL.</p> <p>It is not clear that anything is likely to change with the service with on-going funding.</p> <p>It is clear that the Grove Centre are achieving its overall goal of supporting and encouraging charitable social action, through sustaining a “place for people” where all are welcomed – however this is not directly linked to the theme under which they are applying.</p> <p>However, due to overall pressures on the budget and the desire to support a range of organisations who are providing significant added value it return for their grant funding this application is not recommended for funding.</p>