

Main Grants 2017-18 report

Name of organisation	VSL (Access Lewisham)
Date of meeting	20 September 2016
Names and positions of attendees	Val Fulcher, VSL Chair Lorna Taylor, Trustee Evelyn Brady, Chief Executive Steven Oldfield, Deputy Chief Executive James Lee, Head of Service, LBL Winston Castello, Community Enterprise Manager

Group Name:	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Total funding received 2015-16	£73,650	N/A	£24,550	£24,550	£24,550
Total funding to be received 2016-17	£93,200	£24,550	£24,550	£24,550	£24,550

Outcomes	<p>More Lewisham residents accessing groups clubs and services</p> <p>Reduce isolation of vulnerable/older people in Lewisham</p> <p>Prevent health deterioration of vulnerable/older people</p> <p>Increased success of the groups that we support/partner by increasing participation</p> <p>Reduce the burden on specialist services.</p> <p>Increase partnership opportunities</p> <p>Improve quality of life for a greater number of vulnerable and socially isolated people</p> <p>Greater equality of opportunity</p> <p>Increase the number of volunteer hours in Lewisham</p> <p>More cost effective providing better value for money</p>
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Outputs:	2015-16 Target	2015-16 Q2	2015-16 Q3	2015-16 Q4	2015-16 Total	% Achieved	2016-17 Target	2016-17 Q1	2016-17 Q2	% Achieved TD
To maintain a bank of 25-30 volunteers as car drivers, minibus drivers, passenger assistants, admin support and database support to ensure service provision	25-30	39	5	-	44	100%+	35	40		114%
Increase volunteer hours by 20% (2830)	20%	6%	12%	20%	20%	100%	3000 Maintain	3500		117%
All drivers will take either a MiDAS Car and MPV or MiDAS minibus test. Passenger Assistants will take PATs test	All drivers have undertaken relevant courses				Achieved	100%	20	6		30%
To maintain a bank of service users	960	950	1000	1000	Achieved	100%	1000	911		91%
Meetings with referrers in order to ensure we maintain current level of referrals	N/A	4 meetings	3 meetings	2 meetings	Achieved	100%	12	3		25%
Meetings with organisations funded through CTC to discuss and target needs will be organised on a regular basis	N/A	3 meetings	3 meetings	3 meetings	Achieved	100%				
Maintain transport requests from July 2015 to March 2016 at current levels	Transport request levels have increased during the course of the year						2000	2000		100%
Recruit Travel Training Coordinator		Achieved			Achieved					
Meet with referring agencies to identify potential Travel Training beneficiaries	6			6	6	100%	16	4		25%
Maintain pool of travel coaches							10	9		90%

Train 10 people to travel independently	10			11		110%	15	3		20%
Provide 6 people with supported Travel Training journeys. Targets reviewed due to LBL training requirements. Agreed new target was 6 people to begin TT in 4th quarter				6	6	100%				
Meet with LBL and LCTs to discuss 'one stop transport shop' with a view to all community transport in Lewisham being based at VSL premises	A number of discussions have taken place between VSL, Lewisham Community Transport and LBL officers					Achieved				

1. Remove funding from under-performing groups/those performing least well

Have you achieved at least 90% of the agreed reporting outputs and outcomes in all quarters since the start of the programme?

VSL recruits, trains and supports volunteers for its Access Lewisham project. They work in partnership with Lewisham Community Transport scheme. They have developed an effective way of working with Lewisham Community Transport. However, the number and availability of the vehicles provided is sometimes not sufficient to enable VSL to meet demands from residents and community organisations.

The project has a number of specific outputs, including:

- maintaining a bank of volunteers
- MIDAS training for car and mini-bus drivers
- maintaining a bank of service users
- coordinating transport requests
- undertaking travel training

The organisation achieved all the agreed outputs. However, in the case of its travel training, planned arrangements with Lewisham teams working with individuals with learning disabilities were not achieved. The organisation therefore revised this area of work and provided travel training support to local schools working with young people with disabilities.

Have you achieved all of the wider outcomes outlined in the initial grant application?

The wider outcomes for this initiative include more residents accessing groups, clubs and services, reduced isolation, prevention of health deterioration, reduce the burden to specialist services and increasing the number of volunteer hours.

The work of Access Lewisham supports these outcomes.

The project is increasingly referred to by organisations planning activities to ensure that vulnerable residents have the required transport in place to be able to access a range of activities. These activities include Council-supported initiatives such as Meet Me At Albany and Allsorts.

If no to either of the above:

- what are the mitigating factors?
- what plans are in place for improving performance?
- what progress has been made against actions agreed with your Development Officer?

N/A

What local support/evidence of need can you identify for the work you are undertaking?

Significant local support for the project is evident, with strong take up from a range of organisations. Service providers increasingly plan their service delivery in conjunction with Access Lewisham in order to meet service users' transport needs.

2. Negotiate reductions and seek alternative funding streams

Are there any proposals that you can put forward that will deliver significant saving against current expenditure? This can include capital investment to change your delivery/business model.

VSL, the management organisation for Access Lewisham, is due to move to the Leemore Centre and will work more closely with Lewisham Community Transport Scheme. This will offer opportunities for the exploration of potential savings.

What alternative funding streams are you already pursuing?

The organisation recently received a grant of £10,000 to support its recruitment and support of volunteers.

VSL are open to considering all funding streams and will work with council officers to explore these.

Are there any other funding streams that you can identify that the council can support you to access?

The organisation is engaged in discussion with learning disabilities commissioners and other Council officers to explore broadening the range of transport services offered by Access Lewisham.

3. Work with groups to consider mergers or asset sharing

Are there any organisations doing similar work to you in the borough who you may consider sharing resources or merging with? Who have you considered/approached?

The organisation states that it is willing to collaborate with other organisations delivering transport services and believes that the move to Leemore will offer further opportunities.

Are there other groups in the local area that you could share resources with even if they are delivering a different type of service? Again, who have you considered/approached?

The organisation has stated its willingness to share its volunteer recruitment and training expertise with other organisations and it also believes there is significant potential in further development of its travel training offer.

What support might you need to move these suggestions forward?

The organisation would welcome support from Council officers and commissioners in modelling its transport offer to better meet the needs of individuals with personal budgets.

4. Pro-rata reductions across all groups

What would a 25% cut in your grants look like in service delivery terms? What are the wider impacts?

The organisation states that a 25% cut would lead to a corresponding reduction in service delivery as it would result in reduced staffing resources.

Have you modelled this cut and developed an action plan for its implementation?

The cut has not been modelled by the organisation. However, the organisation's trustees will be discussing the potential impact of any reduction before the end of the year.

Conclusion

Any other comments / areas discussed

N/A

Conclusion and recommendation

The organisation has achieved all agreed outputs and no immediate savings are identifiable. **It is therefore recommended that a pro rata reduction is made.** However, to mitigate the impact, Council officers are keen to develop the organisation's transport offer to enable it to commission services from other Council teams.

Equalities groups disproportionately impacted by recommendations

Ethnicity:		Pregnancy / Maternity:	
Gender:		Marriage & Civil Partnerships:	
Age:	X	Sexual orientation:	
Disability:	X	Gender reassignment:	
Religion / Belief:			

Commentary and potential mitigations:

The organisation's main target groups are older residents and people with disabilities and long term health conditions. To mitigate the impact of any reduction in services, Access Lewisham will aim to work in a more coordinated way with other similar providers.