

Main Grants 2017-18 report

Name of organisation	Lewisham Youth Theatre (LYT)
Date of meeting	15 September 2016
Names and positions of attendees	Lou Errington General Manager (maternity Cover) -Lewisham Youth Theatre Helen Stanley – Creative Director, Lewisham Youth Theatre Andy Thomas – Cultural Development Manager, London Borough of Lewisham Nancy Stridgen – Development Officer, London Borough of Lewisham

Group Name:	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Total funding received 2015-16	32,355	-	10,785	10,785	10,785
Total funding to be received 2016-17	43,142	10,785	10,785	10,785	10,785

Outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Young people aged 8-24 explore and develop creativity by taking part in arts activities as active participants 2. Young people aged 8-24 gain improved wellbeing, resilience, social skills and emotional literacy through participation in positive drama activities 3. Lewisham people of all ages have more opportunities to engage with the arts 4. Young people who otherwise may not be able to engage with the arts have increased participation in the arts. 5. Young people and community members gain skills and knowledge progression pathways, leading to greater access to opportunities.

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
1. 100+ young people aged 8-24 take part in 4 sustained youth theatre projects.	100	60	87	159	159	159% numbers of YP 250% projects	100	192		192%
2. 100+ sessions delivered across 4 youth theatre age groups	70	58	62	167	167	239%	90	265		294%
3. 80 participants take part in 4 intensive production weeks culminating in a performance	50	54	29	70	70 (3)	140%	80	115		143%
4. % Participants report increase in creative skills	No target	29	27	62	62	No target 95%	No target	104		No target 84%
5. All session focus on development of key social & emotional skills % increase	No target	58	62	167	167	No target	No target	265		No target
6. Participants report increase in social & emotional skills	No target	29	39	74	74	No target 95%	No target	119		No target 90%
7. 200+ participants in 10 LBL schools in areas identified as high on the indices of deprivation participate in free recruitment sessions.	160	24	169	206	206 (9)	129%	200	233		116%
8. 400+ young people, community members & family engage with LYT's activities as audience members	400	500	60	521	521	130%	400	726		182%
9. 10 x storytelling sessions delivered in early years settings and primaries, reaching 200+ under 10s and families.	8	0	3 (95)	8	10 (206)	125%	3	4 (124)		133%
10. 40+ young people attend professional theatre performances	20	0	17	39	39	195%	40	51		127%

11. 50% of LYT's annual members are identified as low income, special educational need or 'at-risk' by referral partners, or are self-referred as in-need.	50%	80%	83%	86%	86%	140%	50%	81%		162%
12. 10 referral partners (including schools, colleges, and youth services) engaged in referring young people to LYT projects	10	1	9	20	20	200%	10	26		260%
13. 1 x outreach project at partner venue targeting young people at risk	0	0	0	0	0	Happens in Q1	1	1		100%
14. 2 x Step-Up projects targeting 10 x young people aged 16-24 who are not in full-time education, employment or training	2	0	1	2 (24)	2 (24)	100%	2	2		100%
15. 20 young people engage in 10 x Members Committee sessions develop leadership skills	20	0	22	41 (14)	41 (14)	205%	0	0		Not in this quarter
16. Members Committee plan and deliver 2 x Member-led events (including AGM)	2	0	2	2	2	100%	0	0		Not in this quarter
17. 10 x Bronze & Silver Arts Awards and minimum of 5 AQA unit awards	6	0	0	5 (55)	5 (55)	86% timing of moderation of entered in Q1 1617	5 (5)	11 (55)		100% Bronze and Silver 1100% AQA Arts Awards
18. 10 x young people facing disadvantage take part in one-to-one mentoring.	10	0	16	25	25	250%	10	25		250%
19. 4 x Work Experience placements for members aged 14+	2	1	2	2	2	100%	3	4		133%
20. 25 x Volunteer placements from community members and education placements	20	16	3	33	33	165%	20	33		165%

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?

Lewisham Youth Theatre (LYT) has overachieved on all outputs for 2015/16.

Numbers of young people and community members reached are significantly higher than targeted.

- 159 young people regularly access the youth theatre across 4 age brackets. (159% target).
- The number of sessions 239% of target.
- 20 local agencies currently refer young people to LYT.

86% of annual members of LYT are identified as being from low income households, have special educational needs or are stated as being 'at-risk' by referral partners, or are self-referred as in-need.

Schools

415 young people participated in schools, 206 of those took part in a Primary School storytelling project aimed to address mental resilience.

NEET – Step Up

24 young people (target 10) engaged with the 'Step-Up' projects for young people aged 16-24 who are not in full-time education, employment or training. **This programme has had a retention rate of 85%, and 64% of participants reengaged with education/employment after attending.**

Arts Award

11 young people have been entered for a Bronze or Silver Arts Award by the end of Quarter 1 2016/17. Lewisham has one of the lowest take up of Arts Awards in the South East and LEAN have been tasked by 'New Direction' to encourage more schools and organisations to take up this UCAS accredited certification. Other than Trinity Laban, Lewisham Youth Theatre as an arts organisation have the largest numbers of young people being supported through this. 55 young people have also gained the lower level AQA award against a target of 5.

Members Committee / Peer Mentors / Volunteer placements

41 young people are actively involved in the Members Committee. Peer mentors are structured to work with younger age groups. There were 33 volunteer placements against a target of 25.

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

The organisation has achieved all wider outcomes during the 2015/16 period.

Outcome 2. Young people aged 8-24 gain improved wellbeing, resilience, social skills and emotional literacy through participation in positive drama activities

LYT run programming at Lewisham Park for young people who are CAMHS service users. CAMHS also refers young people to the main youth theatre. Feedback from CAMHS include "This project is highly valued within Lewisham CAMHS. Clinicians report young

people being discharged following attendance.” 25 young people also received specialised mentoring during the 9 month period.

LYT has also developed 4 new programme strands to support vulnerable participants who need more support to engage (Life Skills, Forum Theatre, Step Up workshop, Technical Theatre).

Outcome 3. Lewisham people of all ages have more opportunities to engage with the arts

Catford Tales involved partners from local education, business and creative sectors including 2 schools, Lewisham Adult Education, Lewisham Libraries, The Peoples Patchwork, The Big Draw Lewisham, 4 local artists and Lewisham Archives.

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?

Output not over 90%:

Outcome 17. 10 x Bronze & Silver Arts Awards and minimum of 5 AQA unit awards

This output measured 86% at the end of 2015/2016 due to the timings when moderation occurs during the year. 6 entries in quarter 1 16/17 brings the 12 month total to 11. The number of AQA's (basic level) Arts award was greatly above target (55 with a target of 5).

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

Evidence provided by the organisation showed that in 2015/16 88% of young people engaged with LYT were not engaged with the Lewisham Youth Service. 65% of participants face significant disadvantage (mental health, marginalisation, low academic expectation and attainment), 53% live in low-income households and 75% are BAME.

The organisation expressed that referrals from local services are increasing and young people are presenting with more complex mental health needs. LYT has developed 4 new programme strands to support vulnerable participants who need more support to engage (Life Skills, Forum Theatre, Step Up workshop, Technical Theatre).

- LYT is free for young people to attend and 80% of participants advised that they could not participate with a charge.
- Programmes have been expanded over the last 3 years but all projects remain oversubscribed, requiring in some instances over 30% of applicants to be unsuccessful.

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.

The organisation stated that overheads are only 8% of LYT's current budget and majority of costs are core staffing salaries for those that directly support programme delivery. It was stated that cutting posts would require reduction of participant numbers to ensure safety is not jeopardised due to the high proportion of vulnerable young people in sessions.

What alternative funding streams are you already pursuing?

The organisation has gained or is actively seeking funding from the sources below. These streams represent project funding (with the exception of the Individual Donor programme) and would not replace the pro-rata cut of Lewisham funding.

- Individual Donor programme
- St James Place Trust, William Wates Memorial Foundation, Henry Smith Foundation, Children In Need, Sumner Wilson Foundation.
- 5 year Big Lottery Fund grant has just ended, reapplying in 2017.
- Hillcote Trust.
- Heritage Lottery Fund, Ironmonger's Company, PIMCO, Trusthouse Foundation, Twinkle Trust, City Bridge Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation.

It was stated by the organisation that LBL funding of £46K (Main Grant and Youth Service £6K) has enabled £130k of other funding to be brought into the borough (based on 16-17 budget).

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

Lewisham officers will support the organisation with information on corporate and business sponsorship and developers in the borough.

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?

LYT has been in partnership with and based at Broadway Theatre since 2002 and benefits from shared resources, opportunities and assets. They discussed that they are open to working with another host and would like to be the specialised youth provision for an arts centre model.

The organisation expressed that LYT's methodology and offer is unique and while they are interested in growing to help further reach service demand, they do not believe a merger with another arts group is appropriate and would be effective at reducing costs.

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 stated that sharing of resources takes place via:

- Health Improvement Training Team – Mental Health First Aid course.
- Subsidised or pro bono offers of space
- Asset sharing with other local youth and arts organisations. (equipment)

Other shared resources could not be identified. Current administration and bookkeeping is carried out by in house staff with other specialist skills. All staff, including the Executive Director and Administrator, are trained facilitators and involved in regular programme delivery. Other specialist functions such as legal advice and company finance are provided free of charge by key board members.

What support might you need to move these suggestions forward?

Lewisham officers will support the organisation with information on relevant opportunities.

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?

It was stated by the organisation that a 25% cut (£10,785) would be taken from the core team staffing costs. This would reduce places by 20% (40 young people) by 2018. This will be increased if the £6.5K of Lewisham Youth First funding is also cut. Also stated was that a cut to core staffing would decrease the ability to evaluate and fundraise, having a long-term impact on LYT's sustainability.

2017-18 is a key year for funding as core grants from Big Lottery Fund (five years) and St James Place (3 years, funding the post supporting NEET delivery) end during this period. A Big Lottery funding gap of 12 months will also reduce income.

It was stated by the organisation that delivery may have to be cut further due to the added reduction in core funding from grants in 2017/18.

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

As above.

Conclusion

Any other comments / areas discussed			
<p>Flexible Partner / Growth to other geographic area of borough LYT are a very flexible partner and have stated that they would like to grow and take on further outreach provision in different areas of the borough if needed.</p> <p>Growth CYP Mental health and resilience LYT are interested in being considered for any strategic investment programmes that Lewisham Council may be considering in refocusing provision, and to help devise more services supporting mental health and resilience amongst age groups 3-24.</p>			
Conclusion and recommendation			
<p>LYT has had a successful year and exceeded outputs and outcomes. There are no clear opportunities for finding efficiencies through partnership or mergers and although the organisation is actively fundraising this will not replace cuts to Lewisham funding</p> <p>It is recommended that Lewisham Youth Theatre receive a pro-rata cut.</p> <p>During this monitoring and evaluation process it has become apparent that there is a lack of parity in levels of funding provided to different organisations for similar services that are being provided. Officers will be undertaking a review of grants awarded to organisations that provide similar activities around youth theatre and performing arts and expect to report back to Mayor and Cabinet in June 2017 with further recommendations.</p>			
Equalities groups disproportionately impacted by recommendations			
Young People, Disabilities, Ethnicity			
Ethnicity:	X	Pregnancy / Maternity:	
Gender:		Marriage & Civil Partnerships:	
Age:	X	Sexual orientation:	
Disability:	X	Gender reassignment:	
Religion / Belief:			
Commentary and potential mitigations:			
<p>Lewisham Youth Theatre provides a service to young people, with high ratios of young people who are BAME. LYT also provides a service to young people with disabilities and mental health issues. Cuts to funding will therefore have a disproportionate impact on these groups. The organisation will continue to seek funding that will mitigate against these cuts and officers will provide support in exploring other ways in which this might be done.</p>			