

Main Grants 2017-18 report

Name of organisation	IRIE!
Date of meeting	27 September 2016
Names and positions of attendees	Beverley Glean - Artistic Director of IRIE! Patrischia Warmington - Chair of IRIE!'s Board Andy Thomas - Cultural Development Manager, London Borough of Lewisham Nancy Stridgen - Cultural and Community Development Officer, London Borough of Lewisham

Group Name: IRIE!	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Total funding received 2015-16	36,679 18K neighbh'd 18,679 WATAS	-	12,226	12,226	12,227
Total funding to be received 2016-17	48,905 24K neighbh'd 24,905 WATAS	12,226	12,226	12,227	12,226

Outcomes	<p><u>Neighbourhood Funding</u></p> <p>1.1 Provide practical support to build strong and cohesive communities</p> <p>1.2 Facilitating involvement of residents in the issues which affect their lives and supporting collective action to deliver change</p> <p>1.3 Address gaps in participation locally i.e. Outreach work to sectors of community that are currently not participating in community activities</p> <p>1.4 Provide support to local residents and new groups wishing to develop local activities</p> <p>1.5 Provide access to community space</p> <p>1.6 Identify gaps in youth and community provision in the Ward</p> <p><u>Widening Access to Arts and Sports</u></p> <p>2.1 Provide opportunities for people of all ages to explore and develop their creativity and acquire new skills</p> <p>2.2 Provide opportunities for people of all ages to engage with the arts as active participants and members of an audience</p> <p>2.3 Increase awareness and enhance the reputation of Lewisham as a place to spend leisure time</p>				

Outputs:	2015/16 Target	2015/16 Q2	2015/16 Q3	2015/16 Q4	2015/16 Total	% Achieved	2016/17 Target	2016/17 Q1	Q2	Achieved TD
Neighbourhood										
1. Recruit x 1 Community Cohesion and Engagement Officer (P/T) July 2015	1	1	1	1 (left 4 th March)	1	100%	1	0		0%
2. Join New Cross Assembly Coordinating Group - Attend 2 Assembly Meetings	2	1	3	3	5	150%	2	0		No current Engagem't officer
3. Draft 1 x strategy to support local residents and new groups wishing to develop local activities e.g. Incubating/hot-desking as appropriate August 2015	1	0	0	0	0	0%	1	0		0%
4. Draft 1 x outreach strategy to engage sections of the community that are currently not participating in community bases activities	1	0	0	0	0	0%	1	1		100%
5. Support 2 x local residents/new groups wishing to develop local activities through hot-desking	2	2	3	12	12	600%	0	0		In Quarter 2,3&4
6. Provide community facilities in the form of 5 spaces for hire for 300 users from July 2015 to March 2016	300	219	289	343	343	114%	100	249		249%
7. Host x 1 Assembly meeting for up to 85 people per ward per event	1	0	1	1	1	100%	0	0		Not in this quarter

8. Host x 1 Community meeting for up to 150 people	1	0	0	55	55	M- 100% att - 36%	0	0		Not in this quarter
9. Co-ordinate 1 x consultation event for young people and children addressing Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Drug Issues	1	0	1	1	1	100%	0	0		Not in this quarter
10. Provide 15 activity sessions for 30 older people from July 2015 to March 2016	15	5	10	15	15	100%	5	10		200%
10. Number of older people target 30	30	29	29	29	29	97%	30	23		76%
Widening Access to Arts and Sports										
11. Deliver 20 sessions for children and young people from July 2015 to March 2016	20	2	10	20	20	100%	7	10		142%
12. Reach 150 CYP within the 20 sessions from July 2015 to March 2016	150	17	17	17	17	11%	38	17		44%
13. Deliver 4 x public performances with 20 Young People	4	2	4	4	4	100%	0	0		Activities take place In quarters 3&4
14. Dance Yourself Fit Deliver 30 x sessions	30	10	20	30	30	100%	10	10		100%
15. Dance Yourself Fit Within the 30 sessions reach 80 people	80	25	25	25	25	31%	80	70		87%
16. Deliver 1 x cultural and learning event for 500 people	500	550	0	0	0	110%	125	200		160%
17. Deliver Education Programme for 15 London Borough of Lewisham Schools	15	1	5	7	7	47% (see note)	0	0		Activities take place In quarters 3&4

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?

Neighbourhood

IRIE! received £18,000 Neighbourhood funding for 2015/16 and will receive £24,000 for 2016/17. 64% of outputs were achieved for the period 2015/16.

The organisation was successful in achieving some its output targets which were largely in relation to providing access to the Moonshot centre as follows

- 12 groups were given the opportunity to hot desk against a target of 2 (600%).
- 343 users were given a community space to hire against a target of 300 (114%)
- 29 older people accessed regular provision at the centre against a target of 30 (94%).
- 3 community events were held, including a youth event around the themes of crime and antisocial behaviour and an older people's tea dance.

However the outputs in relation to a wider community development approach have not been achieved. These are particularly in relation to the development and implementation of outreach strategies which would underpin a genuinely outward facing community development presence in the area. One of the strategies has now been completed and approved in the 2016/17 period but overall the organisation has not been able to demonstrate real progress in this area of work.

Widening Access to Arts and Sports

IRIE! received £18,679 widening access to arts funding for 2015/16 and will receive £24,905 for 2016/17.

Impact and Reach

Community Dance

Due to the lack of capacity to recruit, the figures for the adult 'Dance Yourself Fit' were low in this period (25 participants against a target of 80). A new street dance class has been added in 2016/17 and in quarter 1 participation figures have increased to 70.

Youth Classes

17 young people regularly engaged on Saturday youth classes at a subsidised rate. (The target for this group was 150). The organisation is planning increased recruitment via local schools in 2016/17.

Schools

Although IRIE! did not reach their target in 2015/16 for the number of schools engaged (7 against a target of 15). However, it is the view of officers that the target for this output was over ambitious and the fact that 536 children were reached in schools within 20 sessions represents a good achievement. Schools pay a heavily subsidised rate of £50 per workshop.

58% of outputs were achieved for the period 2015/16 but there are mitigating factors that need to be taken into account as can be seen below.

Partnership work in the public realm

Recent work securing audiences outside of a venue has included a free performance by the foundation degree students in Deptford Market square partnering with Midi Music.

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

Neighbourhood

Under the neighbourhood theme there are concerns that the wider community development outcomes have not been achieved. The organisation has not been able to demonstrate significant progress against the following:

- 1.2. Facilitating involvement of residents in the issues which affect their lives and supporting collective action to deliver change
- 1.3. Address gaps in participation locally i.e. Outreach work to sectors of community that are currently not participating in community activities
- 1.6. Identify gaps in youth and community provision in the Ward

Widening Access to Arts and Sports

The 'Widening Access to Arts and Sports' outcomes have been met overall although participant numbers are lower than target across two areas. This requires significant attention but officers feel that IRIE! Is able to address these issues if they refocus their activity on their core business.

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?

Neighbourhood

The organisation has experienced difficulties in recruitment and retention of the Community Engagement Officer. A member of staff was initially recruited but left the post 4 March 2016 and was not replaced successfully. This has clearly made an impact on the ability of the organisation to develop the work around this theme. Some small pieces of work were carried out by a temporary member of staff over the summer and a new recruitment process is currently under way. However it is the view of officers that the organisation should have been able to make more progress with recruitment in the past 7 months.

Widening Access to Arts and Sports

It is the view of officers that outputs have not been reached in this time period due to:

- Reduced staffing at IRIE!, When the initial application was made a project manager was in post and the capacity for marketing fundraising has been reduced.
- Over ambitious participation figures without robust planning for achievement.
- The 'Neighbourhood' funding was a new area of work for IRIE! and it is possible that this has distracted the organisation from its core work.

Meetings have taken place with IRIE! to work on potential solutions to improve performance and allow the organisation to increase capacity and reach its goals.

IRIE! has taken up one of the suggestions for support via the pro-bono 'Enterprise for London, Start and Grow' initiative. This has benefited the organisation with 100 consultant hours to assist in finalising their business plan and financial model.

The application for an asset transfer of the Moonshot centre from Lewisham Council to IRIE! has focused business planning in the last 6 months.

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

Neighbourhood

The organisation stated that the following evidence of need for programming in this area:

- The Moonshot Centre was built specifically for the African and Caribbean communities in New Cross and surrounding areas.
- Provision of affordable well maintained spaces for hire for the local community.
- Need for extra programming to bring in increased numbers of local residents into the Moonshot Centre.

Widening Access to Arts and Sports

The organisation stated that the following evidence of need for programming in this area:

- The largest BAME communities in Lewisham are Black African and Black Caribbean. IRIE!'s mission is to develop, deliver and sustain a range of creative, educational and artistic activity based on stimuli derived from Africa and the Caribbean.
- The Moonshot Centre was built specifically for the African and Caribbean communities in New Cross and surrounding areas with funding made available by the Urban Program funding and local donations.
- Case studies of progression and positive outcomes from IRIE!'s participants
- Need for subsidised programming to allow low income families arts participation opportunities for positive health, wellbeing and progression outcomes.

2. Negotiate reductions and seek alternative funding streams

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

IRIE! has reduced their expenditure significantly over the last 3 years and cut staffing posts, therefore savings cannot be made by reducing staff members.

A new business model has been proposed which grows the staffing team and includes the asset management of the Moonshot centre.

What alternative funding streams are you already pursuing?

Work is being carried out to access the following funding streams:

- Big Lottery - Reaching Communities (tied into the application to asset manage the Moonshot Centre)
- Arts Council England - Grants for the Arts (Widening Access to Arts)
- Increase in earned income via hires (general income)
- Selling services via workshop model, to schools and corporately (Widening Access to Arts)

The Grants for the Arts application would not replace a LBL cut in Main Grant funding as this application is not for community dance and fitness programming.

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

The organisation requested further partnership work to take place in the Big Lottery Reaching Communities application, if the Moonshot Asset transfer takes place. Officers will explore with IRIE! how this support can be provided.

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?

IRIE! do not think it is appropriate to merge with another organisation as its services are unique within the borough and stated that savings could not be realised via this change of model. The organisation is willing to share resources.

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?

Please see above.

What support might you need to move these suggestions forward?

The organisation has requested clarity of the decision on the potential asset transfer for the Moonshot centre. Officers will continue to work with IRIE! to ensure that appropriate support is provided around these issues.

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 stated that community arts participation classes may have to close with a 25% cut.

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

The 25% cut was modelled into the business plan for 2017/18 income.

Conclusion

Any other comments / areas discussed

Conclusion and recommendation

Neighbourhood

It is recommended that IRIE! is no longer funded under this theme in 2017/18. Although some positive steps have been taken towards a better connection with the local community and links with the New Cross Assembly, the organisation has not achieved important output targets and has not been able to demonstrate significant progress in this area of work.

Widening Access to Arts and Sports

It is recommended that IRIE! receive a pro-rata cut under this theme.

Although IRIE! has underachieved in its output targets, the organisation has delivered on its outcomes. IRIE! plays an important role in the borough, with its history of delivering African and the Caribbean educational and artistic activity. The Foundation Degree which IRIE! runs from the Moonshot Centre is the only UCAS accredited course in African and Caribbean dance in the UK and there are benefits to residents from this taking place in Lewisham.

Funding only under this theme will encourage a stronger focus on the organisation's core business. Officers will work with IRIE! to develop plans for an increase in participant numbers.

Equalities groups disproportionately impacted by recommendations			
Ethnicity:	X	Pregnancy / Maternity:	
Gender:		Marriage & Civil Partnerships:	
Age:	X	Sexual orientation:	
Disability:		Gender reassignment:	
Religion / Belief:			
<p>Commentary and potential mitigations:</p> <p>The organisation is funded under the neighbourhood theme to deliver generic services and cuts to this funding will not therefore impact disproportionately on any of the equalities groups</p> <p>The organisation is funded under the Widening Access to Arts and Sports to deliver activities particularly for BME communities, children and young people and older adults. Cuts to funding will therefore have a disproportionate effect on these communities. Officers will work with IRiE! on its action plan and the organisation is actively fundraising to mitigate against this impact.</p>			