

Main Grants 2017-18 report

Name of organisation	Lewisham Disability Coalition
Date of meeting	30th August 2016
Names and positions of attendees	Roz Hardie, Director Winston, Community Enterprise Manager, LBL

Group Name:	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4					
Total funding received 2015-16	£77,500	N/A	£25,833. 33	£25,833. 33	£25,833.33					
Total funding to be received 2016-17	£103,33 3.33	£25,833. 33	£25,833. 33	£25,833. 33	£25,833.33					
Outcomes	1. Disabled people receive quality speciality advice and information 2. Increase number of disabled people receiving the benefits they are entitled to 3. Disabled volunteers trained to deliver and advice form filling sessions 4. LDC supports quality assurance and consistency of advice provision across the borough 5. The social model of disability is promoted across Lewisham through member engagement in specific projects									
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
550 clients assisted with their cases	550	247	304	287	838	152%	733	330		
Increase in positive financial outcomes for clients	£155,750	£173,571	£208,048	£73,090	£454,709	292%	<i>To be agreed</i>	£19,917		
Increase capacity to meet demand	3	1	3	3	7	233%				

Participation in Advice Lewisham partnership	3									
		1	3	3	7	233%				
Design and deliver three discrete disability equality projects per annum	2.5	0.5	0	2	2.5	111%				
LDC engagement with prioritised LBL/partnership consultations						Engaged with priorities				

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?

LDC has achieved all its stated outputs. The number of individuals provided with advice services has significantly exceeded their forecast. 500 was forecast and 838 was achieved.

The organisation also achieved its outputs in the area of participating in Advice Lewisham partnerships and the design of three discrete disability projects per annum.

For 16/17, the organisation is keen to revise outputs to include targets not only for its advice services but for its representative role as a borough-wide disability campaigning organisation.

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

The organisation has developed its partnership working during the course of the year, making a significant input to the borough wide equalities working group. A number of initiatives have been developed to improve access to services for people with disabilities. Work undertaken has included initiatives involving Fusion Leisure Services, where the organisation has worked with Fusion to identify ways to increase the number of people with disabilities accessing leisure services in the borough.

Other significant initiatives have included a campaign to highlight hate crimes aimed at people with disabilities.

LDC is developing its strategy to improve its role as an organisation campaigning for and representing the interests of people with disabilities. Their plan going forward includes: the promotion of access and inclusion; and the development of initiatives to challenge barriers and all forms of discrimination. The organisation is aiming to achieve a position where LDC becomes a source of expertise on matters relating to access and inclusion.

During the course of the year, the organisation has made a positive contribution to the borough-wide review of grants-supported advice services and its director is represented on the advice services project board which is seeking to re-shape the grants funded advice services. It also achieved the Advice Quality Standard.

During the course of the year, LSC's trustee board has been significantly strengthened and a number of outstanding issues relating to governance and financial management have been tackled.

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?

The organisation has established positive links with a range of partner agencies working with people with disabilities. The advice service it offers is seen as specialist provision to which other advice providers refer clients requiring specific support relating to their disability.

The organisation reports extremely positive feedback for the service they deliver. They further state that the move to digital channels risks a reduction in access to services for people with disabilities.

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.

LDC is taking part in the advice review and is contributing to the re-design of services across the borough.

What alternative funding streams are you already pursuing?

LDC has identified a range of activities that it is undertaking to pursue funding from alternative sources. This includes:

- Health to provide HIV transition services
- Trust funds via City Bridge
- Research funds in partnership with Goldsmiths
- An increase in online donations

They have submitted three funding applications which have been unsuccessful, but they believe that improved recording of outcomes and a more attractive annual report will support more effective fundraising in future.

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

LDC is keen to support Neighbourhood Care Networks if funding is available.

They have also stated that they would seek support from the Council to become an advice and digital inclusion hub, including support for their office to become a one stop service for disability.

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?

LDC is in discussion with all disability organisations in the borough and currently considering a change to its articles of association in light of recent horizon scanning activities.

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 feels that, given its involvement in the advice review, it is restricted in its ability to discuss service re-design with other organisations outside the Advice Lewisham partnership. Nonetheless, with regard to its representative role, LDC has made links with similar organisations in Greenwich and Bexley and may consider mergers or asset sharing. LDC is also exploring the potential for shared services with other organisations, including ICT and payroll.

What support might you need to move these suggestions forward?

The organisation has stated that assistance with brokerage, guidance on TUPE implications of Advice Lewisham's service design, clear advice for equality work in the borough and access to key health and wellbeing discussions would all be helpful in enabling them to move work forward. The organisation would also welcome assistance from Lewisham officers in resolving difficulties it is experiencing regarding the lease on their Lewisham owned premises.

3. 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 has undertaken a review and believes that a 25% reduction would have an impact on service delivery. However, some of this might be mitigated by the results of the advice review. Nonetheless, the likely impact would include the loss of at least one member of staff or a reduction in staffing hours.

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

The organisation's trustees have discussed the potential cut and believe that the way forward could include developing a disability one stop shop which includes other services which could attract additional income. The organisation will also consider renegotiating staff contracts to make them more generic and enable broader team working.

Conclusion

Any other comments / areas discussed

The organisation is keen to take a strategic approach to any changes in income. It is also keen to continue the development of LDC as a key strategic partner for the local authority as well as the delivery of services.

Conclusion and recommendation

A pro rata reduction in grant is recommended. However, the impact of the cut on the additional role of LDC as a representative organisation needs to be recognised. This recommendation is conditional on the full involvement of LDC in the review and the organisation's commitment to jointly plan and deliver advice provision across the borough.

Equalities groups disproportionately impacted by recommendations

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

Commentary and potential mitigations:

LDC works principally with people with disabilities. This group is likely to be disproportionately affected by a reduction in services. 60% of the organisation's service users are women, a group which would also be disproportionately affected by a reduction in services. The impact of this will be mitigated by the planned advice service changes which will provide better planning for service users and improved referral arrangements between the existing advice providers.