

SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE			
Report Title	Lewisham Disability Coalition		
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services		
Class	Part 1	Date:	4 February 2019

1. Purpose

This report provides an update for the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee on the discontinuation of Main Grant funding to Lewisham Disability Coalition and the organisation's closure.

2. Recommendation

Members of the Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee are recommended to note the content of the attached report which was agreed by Mayor and Cabinet on 16 January 2019.

3. Closure Update

- 3.1 The organisation's trustees continue to work with Voluntary Action Lewisham, which has been providing technical support for several months, to appoint an insolvency practitioner to undertake the necessary tasks to settle the organisation's liabilities and formally close the charity.
- 3.2 The attached report which was considered by Mayor and Cabinet at the meeting on 16 January 2019 authorises the Executive Director for Community Services to consider reasonable financial proposals from the trustees to meet their outstanding obligations. These proposals are still awaited.
- 3.3 Agencies that previously worked with the organisation have been informed of its closure and advised to direct future enquiries to the Advice Lewisham single point of contact.
- 3.4 All former clients of the organisation have been advised to contact Advice Lewisham and Advice Lewisham has been directly provided with the details of those deemed to be particularly vulnerable in accordance with information sharing protocols.
- 3.5 The lease for the building from which the organisation operated in Bellingham has been taken on by Age UK who also offer an advice service, particularly for older residents.
- 3.6 Applicants to the Access to Advice theme of the new Main Grants programme, which is due to start from 1 August 2019, will be required to address the needs of disabled residents specifically, including outlining how they propose to undertake support arrangements such as home visits for those who are unable to attend the advice centre.