

MAYOR AND CABINET		
Report Title	Public Health Neighbourhood Grants (Neighbourhood Community Development Partnerships (NCDP) Public Health Funding)	
Key decision	Yes	Item No.
Ward	All	
Contributors		
Class	Part 1	Date: 13 February 2019

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the award of Public Health grants to two voluntary and community organisations in Neighbourhood 1 (New Cross, Evelyn, Telegraph Hill and Brockley wards). Brighter Futures Together, a joint partnership between Voluntary Services Lewisham (VSL) and Entelechy Arts (EA), and North Lewisham Good Neighbours; a consortium of 11 partners.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet agrees:

- 2.1 To award grants for the amounts of £11,437 and £13,500 to Voluntary Services Lewisham/Entelechy Arts and North Lewisham Good Neighbours respectively as set out in Appendix 1 and 2, for the financial year 2018/19.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy 2008-2020, 'Shaping our Future', sets out the borough's ambitions to encourage development, enable citizens to live healthy lives and to empower Lewisham's communities to prosper. It has six strategic priorities, including a commitment to creating a borough that is "Empowered and Responsible: where people are actively involved in their local area and contribute to supportive communities".
- 3.2 The "Empowered and Responsible" strand of the strategy highlights the importance of the community and voluntary sector in all areas of public life. It recognises that the sector plays a significant part in Lewisham's ongoing success.
- 3.3 This is reflected in Lewisham's corporate priorities: "Community leadership and empowerment: developing opportunities for the active participation and engagement of people in the life of the community".
- 3.4 The report is consistent with the seven priorities identified in the emergent draft Corporate Strategy which replaces the 2008 Community Strategy. These priorities are:

- 1 Open Lewisham - Lewisham is a welcoming place of safety for all where we celebrate the diversity that strengthens us.
- 2 Tackling the housing crisis - Everyone has a decent home that is secure and affordable.
- 3 Giving children and young people the best start in life - Every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential.
- 4 Building an inclusive local economy - Everyone can access high quality job opportunities, with decent pay and security in our thriving and inclusive local economy.
- 5 Delivering & defending: Health, Social Care and Support - Ensuring everyone receives the health, mental health, social care and support services they need.
- 6 Making Lewisham greener - Everyone enjoys our green spaces and benefits from a healthy environment as we work to protect and improve our local environment.
- 7 Building safer communities - Every resident feels safe and secure living here as we work together towards a borough free from the fear of crime.

3.5 Lewisham has a strong history of working with the voluntary and community sector and empowering residents and communities. Lewisham is fortunate to have a strong and thriving sector which ranges from very small organisations with no paid staff through to local branches of national charities. The sector includes charities, not for profit companies limited by guarantee, faith organisations, civic amenity societies as well as social enterprises. There are estimated to be around 800 community and voluntary sector organisations in the borough.

3.6 Although the third sector's role within the commissioning of local public services continues to grow the council recognises that there continues to be a need for grant aid investment for the following reasons:

- a recognition of the importance of maintaining an independent sector that can act as a critical friend to challenge public sector policy and delivery;
- a recognition of the key role that the sector plays in building civic participation, providing a voice for seldom heard residents and providing community intelligence;
- a recognition of the great diversity of the sector and the need to engage with small and emerging groups as well as large established organisations;
- a recognition of the sector's potential to take risks and innovate which does not always sit easily within commissioning frameworks; a recognition that third sector organisations have been key delivery partners for a wide range of targeted short-term initiatives. Grant aid provides a level of security for organisations ensuring that there is a strong sector ready to work in partnership with us.

4. Neighbourhood Community Development Partnerships (NCDPs)

4.1 The small grants referred to in this paper came into existence as part of the Council's cuts programme for 2017/18, when £451,448 was saved through the

closure of the Community Health Improvement Service (CHIS). Of the total service value of £571,518, the Council took the decision to protect the participatory budgeting grants programme the service administered in Neighbourhood 1, given the evidence of its effectiveness. This previously amounted to £70,000 just in Neighbourhood 1. In recognition of, and to mitigate, the borough-wide impacts of the closure of CHIS, the Council took the decision to invest an additional £30,000 in this programme but to spread this across all 4 Lewisham Neighbourhoods. This meant each neighbourhood retained a grants pot of £25,000, reduced in the 19/20 cuts to £22,500.

- 4.2 In order to effectively promote health and wellbeing across the borough and reduce the need for formal health and social care provision LB Lewisham has developed a Community Development Charter. The Charter outlines partnership approaches to community development in the form of Neighbourhood Community Development Partnerships (NCDPs).
- 4.3 The NCDPs were established across the borough in early 2017 and are led by Community Connections, working closely with key voluntary and community (VCS) stakeholders across Lewisham at a localised (neighbourhood) level in order to facilitate a joined up approach towards the development of community resources.
- 4.4 The development of the four NCDPs builds on existing assets and take different forms in each of the areas, facilitated by Community Connections, based on the history and infrastructure of the local area. A key task of the partnerships is to identify local health and wellbeing priorities and put forward joint solutions to meet local needs.
- 4.5 The partnerships deliver benefits to local communities over and above those directly related to health and social care as they will provide vehicles for local people and organisations to take control of their areas and circumstances.
- 4.6 Each Neighbourhood brings a different approach to their NCDP;
 - In Neighbourhood 1, a number of local VCS groups came together to form a consortium to share knowledge, training and expertise leading to increased access for local residents to community development programmes.
 - In Neighbourhood 2, 47 small VCSOs have participated in the NCDP, delivering projects primarily supporting BME and other minority communities.
 - Neighbourhood 4 has fewer VCSOs and NCDP funding was used to create a volunteer coordinator post which aims to increase capacity in the community sector.
 - Neighbourhood 3 had a similarly collaborative approach: a local leisure centre used its transportation resources to increase access to six locally-

based exercise groups. These groups, who had not previously worked together, now have increased membership and accessibility due to the joined-up approach.

The NCDPs, facilitated by Community Connections have:

- Provided a vehicle to bring local community and statutory health and care partners together to jointly develop local health and wellbeing priorities in order to inform neighbourhood development plans
- Provided an opportunity for shared learning and networking.
- Promoted the voice of the community and community organisations.
- Provided a platform for public health fund allocation to the sum of £25,000 per NCDP.
- Developed a bidding system to allocate Public Health grants to each NCDP based on a participatory budgeting model.
- Developed a governance structure to oversee the shortlisting of Public Health grants to ensure that applications for funding are linked to locally agreed health and wellbeing outcomes.
- Brought community partners together to vote on the allocation of funds with final sign off by the Director of Public Health.
- Developed outcomes reporting mechanisms to ensure that funded groups are delivering projects linked to local health and wellbeing outcomes.

4.7 The successful proposals were agreed by the NCDP partnership meeting made up of a range of community organisations, using a process for participatory budgeting to agree which proposals to support. Both projects were strongly supported by those attending the meetings and were deemed to be projects which addressed priorities for the partnership area and represented value for money

4.8 The following recommended grants are for the amounts of £11,437 and £13,500 respectively:

- Brighter Futures Together; a partnership between Voluntary Services Lewisham and Entelechy Arts with the purpose of delivering a joint programme that supports vulnerable and isolated older people to be recognised, valued and contributing members of their communities. The partnership also aims to recruit, train and support volunteers to support this work.
- North Lewisham Good Neighbours Consortium; consisting of 11 partners delivering a broad range of projects addressing all 3 locally identified health and wellbeing priorities; long term health conditions, mental health and wellbeing and access to information. Projects range from a community garden to befriending services for older isolated people to young filmmakers, support for people living with HIV, support for carers, refugees and asylum seekers. The consortium aims to increase partnership working by improving referral pathways across each of the projects, providing joint training opportunities for staff and volunteers and sharing resources and expertise.

- Robust outcome reporting mechanisms will be implemented to ensure each of the projects continues to deliver services that fulfil the health and wellbeing outcomes listed above.
- Community Connections will offer ongoing support and assistance to all of the funded NCDP community groups.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 These two grants totalling £24,937 will be paid from an existing 2018/19 budget £100,000 relating to the Area Based Programme within the Public Health grant.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Under S1 of the Localism Act 2011 the Council has a general power of competence to do anything which an individual may do unless it is expressly prohibited.
- 6.2 The giving of grants to voluntary organisations is a discretionary power which must be exercised reasonably, taking into account all relevant considerations and ignoring irrelevant considerations.
- 6.3 In relation to any consultation exercise sufficient reasons must be given for any proposal, adequate time must be given for consideration and response and the outcome of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account by the decision maker.
- 6.4 The level of grants at over £10,000 requires the approval of Mayor and Cabinet. The decision will be a key decision under Article 16(c.) (xiii) of the Constitution.
- 6.5 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
 - advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
 - foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 6.6 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and

proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.

- 6.7 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled "Practice". The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at:

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-actcodes-ofpractice- and-technical-guidance/>

- 6.8 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:

- The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
- Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
- Engagement and the equality duty
- Equality objectives and the equality duty
- Equality information and the equality duty

The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sectorequalityduty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/>.

7. Crime and Disorder Act Implications

- 7.1 There are no crime and disorder implications.

8. Equalities Implications

- 8.1 Addressing health inequalities is a central aim for all the funded organisations within this report. Each organisation that receives Public Health funding will be expected to ensure that their services meet the needs of the borough's diverse communities. They will draw upon a rich knowledge base about how to reach communities, raise awareness, change behaviour and improve health outcomes.

8.2 The NCDPs aim to build closer social networks and social capital, with many training and volunteering opportunities in order to improve mental wellbeing and reduce social isolation.

9. Environmental Implications

9.1 There are no specific environmental implications.

10. Conclusion

10.1 The Council recognises the important part the voluntary and community sector plays in the lives of our residents, and the public sector grants programme seeks to stimulate local community provision.

If there are any queries on this report please contact Frances Fuller, Public Health Strategist on 020 8314 7543.

Appendices 1 and 2 – Summaries of applications submitted by projects.