



## Mayoral Meeting

### Neighbourhood Community Development Partnerships (NCDP) Public Health Funding

**Date:** 25 March 2020

**Key decision:** Yes

**Class:** Part 1

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Director of Public Health

### Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the award of Public Health grants to voluntary and community organisations in *Neighbourhood 1 (New Cross, Evelyn, Telegraph Hill and Brockley wards)*, *Neighbourhood 2 (Blackheath, Ladywell, Lee Green, Lewisham Central, Rushey Green wards)*, and *Neighbourhood 3 (Catford South, Downham, Grove Park and Whitefoot wards)*

It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) agree:

To award grants for the amounts of £11,000, £10,264 and £11,500 respectively as set out in Appendix 1, 2 and 3, for the financial years 2019/20.

## **Timeline of engagement and decision-making**

In February 2017 LB Lewisham developed a Community Development Charter which outlines a partnership approach to community development and builds on current neighbourhood and borough-wide assets and networks by the creation of four Neighbourhood Community Development Partnerships (NCDPs).

The delivery of the aims of the Charter is led by a borough-wide Social Prescribing Coordinating Group which oversees the work of NCDPs coordinated by Community Connections.

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1. Neighbourhood Community Development Partnerships (NCDPs) bring together all the relevant partners in each Neighbourhood to identify resources within communities to maximise their potential while also highlighting gaps in service provision and working with the local voluntary sector to develop services to meet local needs.
- 1.2. In 2018 each NCDP was allocated a Public Health grant fund of £25,000 to deliver local solutions to the local priorities identified. From April 2019 this grant reduced to £22,500 per neighbourhood.
- 1.3. In total, there were 32 applications and, after assessment, 13 projects are being recommended for funding in 2019-20.
- 1.4. This report summarises the projects recommended for NCDP funding. Projects valued at more than £10,000, presented to Mayor and Cabinet, are included for completeness

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) agree to award grants for the amounts of £11,000, £10,264 and £11,500 respectively as set out in Appendix 1, 2 and 3, for the financial years 2019/20.

### **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. 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.

- 3.5. 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:
- 3.6. a recognition of the importance of maintaining an independent sector that can act as a critical friend to challenge public sector policy and delivery;
- 3.7. 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;
- 3.8. 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;
- 3.9. 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. 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).
- 4.2. 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.

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.

- 4.3. 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.

#### **5. Main Body**

- 5.1. Each NCDP has agreed up to three health and wellbeing priorities for each Neighbourhood. Applications from local voluntary and community organisations were sought for projects which focussed on the local priorities as well as taking a partnership approach with other local organisations in order to share local assets and expertise.
- 5.2. In total, there were 32 applications and, after assessment, 13 projects are being recommended for funding.
- 5.3. Each application was assessed by a panel consisting of community representatives, Public Health specialists and LBL community development officers. Each panel has made recommendations in relation to the applications received for their NCDP area. The process was facilitated by Community Connections to ensure that projects address the neighbourhood priorities and demonstrate value for money. In some cases, panels consulted with applicant organisations to seek reductions in the amount originally requested or to encourage organisations to work together to deliver value for money, e.g. Lee Green and Manor Park.

- 5.4. The following recommended grants are for the amounts of £11,000, £10,264 and £11,500 respectively:
- 5.5. The Somerville (Somerville Youth and Play Provision): The project is a partnership project with Just Older Youth (JOY) aimed at reducing social isolation by pro-actively recruiting individuals to community-based activities with proven therapeutic outcomes, including cooking, mosaic art and upcycling. The applicants have identified that the project will achieve sustainability through peer and local volunteer training, increasing the skills of local residents.
- 5.6. Lee Green Lives and Manor Park Friends: This project consists of two organisations who have come together to deliver a range of activities. The overall aim of the activities is to increase social inclusion and general health and wellbeing, including general exercise such as befriending, walking and gardening, exercise focused on older people from BAME communities, arts and crafts sessions to support general wellbeing, a Men's Group led by Blue Ribbon, and promotion of volunteering by encouraging local residents to support all the activities in a voluntary capacity. The project expects to achieve sustainability by evaluating which activities have had most success and basing future fundraising endeavours around these, using an asset based approach.
- 5.7. Diamond Club Holidays at Home: The project consists of an inter-faith partnership providing co-ordinated activities in Neighbourhood 3 for people aged 60+ and their carers and families, providing alternative activities locally to people unable to take a traditional family holiday. The project will aim to deliver Holiday At Home events throughout the year, including a full week in the summer holidays. The applicant organisation sees these activities as part of the growing social prescribing agenda and will promote this approach by producing an evaluation report for consideration by Primary Care Networks as part of the commissioning process, as well as using it as the basis for future funding applications. The project also aims to continually increase its volunteer base.
- 5.8. 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.
- 5.9. Community Connections will offer ongoing support and assistance to all of the funded NCDP community groups.

## **6. Financial implications**

- 6.1. This report seeks approval to award three grants totalling £32,764 to address health and wellbeing priorities in three neighbourhoods. The grants are: The Somerville Youth and Play Provision - £11,000, Lee Green Lives and Manor Park Friends - £10,264 and Diamond Club Holidays at Home - £11,500.
- 6.2. These NCDP projects are funded from the ring fenced Public Health Grant.

## **7. Legal implications**

- 7.1. 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.
- 7.2. 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.
- 7.3. 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.

- 7.4. The level of grants at over £10,000 requires the approval of Mayor and Cabinet. The decision will be a key decision under Article 16.2(c)(xiii) of the Constitution
- 7.5. 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.
- 7.6. 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.
- 7.7. 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.
- 7.8. 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/>
- 7.9. 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/>

## **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.

## **9. Climate change and environmental implications**

9.1. There are no specific climate change and environmental implications.

## **10. Crime and disorder implications**

10.1. There are no crime and disorder implications.

## **11. Health and wellbeing implications**

11.1. The Neighbourhood Community Development Partnerships 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.

11.2. They will draw upon a rich knowledge base about how to reach communities, raise awareness, change behaviour and improve health outcomes.

## **12. Social Value implications**

12.1. There are no social value implications

## **13. Background papers**

13.1. Appendices 1, 2 and 3 – Summaries of applications submitted by projects.

## **14. Report author and contact**

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