

Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee Supplementary Agenda

Thursday, 12 July 2018

7.00 pm, Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

Civic Suite

London SE6 4RU

For more information contact: Katie Wood (Tel: 02083149446)

This meeting is an open meeting and all items on the agenda may be audio recorded and/or filmed.

Part 1

Item	Pages
8. Main Grants Programme Consultation	3 - 28

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SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE		
Title	Main Grants Consultation	
Key Decision	No	Item No. 8
Ward	Borough wide	
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services	
Class	Part 1	Date: 12 July 2018

Reasons for urgency

It is important that the consultation is launched ahead of the Council’s recess to avoid any delays in re-letting the programme once budgets are considered later in the year.

Reasons for lateness

Officers were unable to meet key individuals to seek input ahead of the initial dispatch date. It is acknowledged that this is unacceptable and officers offer apologies to the Committee for the late dispatch.

1. Exclusion of press and public

NA

2. Summary

NA

3. Purpose

This report presents a draft consultation paper on the main grants programme and seeks comments from the Committee on the approach.

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee review and comment on the proposed consultation on the criteria for the main grants programme – attached as Annex A.

5. Policy context

5.1 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”.

5.2 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.

- 5.3 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".
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 What all these organisations have in common is their ability to bring significant additional value to the work that they do through voluntary support and raising funds from sources not available to other sectors such as charitable trusts. In addition they often provide services that the Council cannot easily provide; create links between communities and people; and give people a voice.
- 5.6 As well as being directly involved in delivering services to citizens in the borough, third sector organisations also provide the essential infrastructure to allow the sector as a whole to develop and support individual citizens to be able to play an active role within their local communities.
- 5.7 Lewisham was the first London Borough to develop a Compact with the third sector in 2001. The compact seeks to support a positive relationship between the sector and key statutory partners. It includes expectations around the management of grant aid as well as broader partnership working principles. The compact was further developed in 2010 with the addition of guidelines for commissioning with the third sector in recognition of the important contribution that the third sector should play in identifying needs as well as potentially delivering service solutions.

6. Draft consultation on the main grant programme

- 6.1 Lewisham's main grant programme was last fully let in 2015 following a full public consultation on the revised framework which was agreed by Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) on 12 November 2014. These grants initially ran until the end of March 2018 but were extended to the end of March 2019 as part of the previous round of budget cuts.
- 6.2 As part of the process of re-letting the programme the Council is proposing a number of changes to the assessment criteria. As such it is necessary to run a three month consultation on these changes which also allows for the sector and the wider community to give their views on the overall approach and to highlight any areas that they believe should be included in the programme.
- 6.3 The draft consultation paper attached as Annex A outlines the proposed changes as well as a number of wider questions relating to the programme. This paper will be amended following feedback from the Committee and the Stronger Communities Partnership Board (Chaired by the Cabinet Member for the Community Sector, Cllr Jonathan Slater) on the 18th July 2018. The dates for the consultation meetings will be agreed following discussions at the Partnership Board.

6.4 Following this the consultation will run for three months with the results and revised criteria presented to the Committee and ultimately Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) for approval later in 2018.

7. Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from the consultation for LB Lewisham. The overall budget for the main grants programme will be set as part of the overall budgeting process later in the year.

8. Legal implications

There are no legal implications arising from this consultation for LB Lewisham.

9. Crime and disorder implications

There are no direct crime and disorder implications from this consultation.

10. Equalities implications

The consultation contains a number of questions specially related to equalities issues. Any changes to the grants criteria will be subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment as will the proposed grant allocations.

11. Sustainability implications

There are no sustainability implications arising from this consultation for LB Lewisham.

12. Conclusion

The Committee is asked to review and comment on the proposed consultation on the criteria for the main grants programme – attached as Annex A.

Background documents and originator

For further information please contact James Lee james.lee@lewisham.gov.uk 020 8314 6548

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London Borough of Lewisham

Consultation on approach to, and priorities for, the main grants programme

July 2018

Cultural and Community Development Service
2nd Floor, Laurence House
1 Catford Road, London SE6 4RU
Community.Enterprise@lewisham.gov.uk

Part 1 – About this Consultation

Topic of this consultation

- 1.1 This consultation is about the proposed **approach to, and priorities for**, Lewisham Council's main grants programme. We want to seek views on the proposed grants criteria and a number of questions relating to how we might allocate funding across the programme.

Audience

- 1.2 The consultation is aimed at all residents of the London Borough of Lewisham and voluntary and community organisations that provide services in the borough. We would also welcome the views of other public or private sector partners who work with the voluntary and community sector in Lewisham.

Duration

- 1.3 The consultation will be open for 3 months from Monday 23rd July 2018. The deadline for responses is Monday 22nd October 2018.

How to Respond

- 1.4 There are several ways to respond to this consultation:
- Via the council's online consultation portal
 - By post to: Community Enterprise Team, 2nd Floor, Laurence House, 1 Catford Road, London SE6 4RU
 - By attending a consultation meeting

There will be consultation meetings on:

xxxxxxx

xxxxxxx

Places at these consultation meetings must be booked in advance by emailing Community.Enterprise@lewisham.gov.uk . Due to potential demand places are limited to one person per organisation at each meeting. If extra spaces are available all those signed up will be contacted one week before the meetings to make this known.

Part 2 – Background/Context

Lewisham Council's Financial Position

- 2.1 Since May 2010 the Council has cut over £165 million from its budget. This reflects the impact of public sector austerity following the financial crash of 2008. The scale of change means that government funding for local authorities will have been reduced by 63% over the decade from 2010 to 2020. At the same time as managing these reductions, Lewisham has been faced with growth and pressures from taking on additional devolved responsibilities, a growing population, and general inflation. Both of these pressures – funding reductions and rising cost of services – are expected to continue into the 2020s.
- 2.2 Lewisham Council anticipates needing to make a further £30 million reduction to its controllable budget over the next two years. For this reason the council has been undertaking a fundamental review of all its budgets including that for the main grants programme but this work will not conclude until later in 2018.

Lewisham Council Commitment to Grant Aid programme

- 2.3 Notwithstanding the above, and despite the fact that the third sectors role within the commissioning of local public services has grown, 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 sit easily within commissioning frameworks.
 - A recognition that third sector organisations have been key delivery partners within Lewisham, including 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 able to address local need, attract additional resources and be ready to work in partnership with us.
 - A recognition that grant aid allows the sector to demonstrate the borough's endorsement of their work to other funders.

- 2.4 As such we are undertaking this consultation to seek the views of residents and the sector regarding priorities and our proposed approach with a view to this informing our approach once overall budgets are decided.

The current main grants programme

- 2.5 Lewisham's main grant programme was last fully let in 2015 following a full public consultation on the revised framework which was agreed by Mayor and Cabinet (Contracts) on 12 November 2014. In summary the criteria invited applications relating to one or more of 4 broad themes with the below summary of each theme made available at that time:

Strong and Cohesive Communities – this theme seeks to develop and maintain strong communities and build a more inclusive and cohesive borough. It is divided into two strands, one to support Borough-wide provision and the other to fund a network of neighbourhood community development projects. With the reduction in statutory resources, residents and communities are being asked to do more for themselves. This theme seeks to ensure that there is an infrastructure across the borough that can encourage and capitalise on active citizenship, supporting grass roots activity. The theme also funds services that provide equalities support to ensure equal access to services.

Communities that Care – the overall intention of this theme is to fund a range of organisations that together provide support to vulnerable adults to assist them in accessing services, prevent their needs from escalating, reduce the burden on statutory services and provide links between statutory services, VCS and communities in relation to working together to support vulnerable adults. The activities funded through this theme form an important part of the borough's preventative strategy.

Access to Advice Services – the advice sector provides an essential service to some of the borough's most vulnerable residents. Advice organisations provide independent, high quality advice to individuals to ensure that they receive the benefits they are entitled to, are supported to manage debts, address financial exclusion and deal with housing issues. Statutory services work closely with the advice sector as addressing these issues are of mutual benefit.

Widening Access to Arts and Sports – this theme seeks to ensure that the rich and diverse contribution that the borough's Arts and Sports organisations make to the quality of life of residents is maintained. The Arts and Sports sectors are adept at attracting resources from external funding, earned income and volunteers. However, the sectors still require a level of core funding to enable them to continue to attract these resources that would otherwise be lost to the borough. The focus of our support is on increasing participation particularly by those who

are less able to participate due to disability, economic disadvantage and age.

2.6 In addition to how well applications met the criteria set out in these themes they were also assessed against two overarching area aimed at assessing groups' willingness to work together effectively. These, again as described as part of the 2104/15 process, are set out below.

2.7 Funding Collaboration

It is our view that in these times of diminishing resources the need for collaboration is greater than ever. Our intention is to fund a group of organisations that are committed to working with each other and us to ensure the best possible outcomes for Lewisham's residents with our shared resources. We intend to take a dynamic approach to grant aid that allows for flexibility over the period of funding to ensure that we are able to respond together to changing needs and priorities. We are not just looking to fund organisations but to enlist active partners who are as passionate about Lewisham as we are and have the drive and capacity to make a difference to people's lives.

2.8 Partner Profile

In assessing applications to the grants programme we will be looking at organisation's readiness to work with us as active partners and what they can bring to such a partnership. We will be considering:

- Local Intelligence; the level of understanding you have of local need. Who are your users? Do you serve a geographical area or a community of interest? How do you recognise and record need? What do you know about people who may need your services but are not yet users?
- Transformation; your ability to transform the way you work to better meet needs. How have you adapted your working practices over the last 3 years? What opportunities do you see for further transformation?
- Collaboration; your track record of working in partnership. How well connected are you to other organisations delivering similar services? What opportunities do you see for increased partnership work and what benefit could this bring to your users?
- Resources; your track record of attracting resources both financial and volunteer time. What resources does your organisation bring to the borough? What are your plans for resourcing your work over the next 3 years?
- Shared Values (London Living Wage, Equality, Environmental Sustainability); your commitment to London Living Wage, equalities and environmental sustainability. How can you demonstrate your commitment in these areas? What plans do you have to improve on this?

Part 3 – The proposal

Our Proposed funding approach

- 3.1 We consider the majority of the previous grants programme remains sound and the intention is to maintain many aspects of the criteria and the themes that were previously used. These are set out in appendix A for reference.
- 3.2 Given the financial position outlined above we consider the funding collaboration and partner profile criteria (set out in paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7) even more important than in 2015 and we propose to give these areas increased weighting as part of this assessment round.
- 3.3 Linked to the above we would expect to see partnership bids from organisations working together to deliver single services and propose not to fund two different organisations separately to deliver a joint service as we have previously.
- 3.4 In order to further promote partnerships we intend to reduce the number of sub-criteria with the themes in order to promote innovation and cross-organisational working e.g. Communities that Care would no longer be split into 5 strands - connecting and supporting, transport, advocacy, provision for vulnerable adults and support for families with disabled children and young carers but would focus on the overarching outcomes of the theme and seek innovative bids from the sector to meet these.
- 3.5 This change in no way indicates that funding would not be available for these types of service but the feedback we have received is that applicants in the last round often struggled to directly fit into these categories and would have preferred the freedom to articulate programmes that met a range of needs. As such, we are keen to support organisations to articulate their vision and service provision effectively rather than constraining them with strict sub-themes.
- 3.6 Within Strong and Cohesive Communities we again propose to remove the sub-criteria and are considering whether we should target areas of real need. This need could be defined in terms of the type of support needed by organisations, areas of the borough that are particularly lacking in provision or particular communities that are currently underserved by the programme.
- 3.7 A different approach is proposed within the Access to Advice theme due to the work already undertaken to develop the Advice Lewisham partnership.
- 3.8 The Advice Lewisham partnership has led on the overhaul of information and advice services in the borough following a review of provision in 2015. The main elements of the new approach are:

Annex A – draft consultation paper

- single Advice Lewisham freephone telephone number for residents to call to access advice or information or to make an appointment to see a caseworker in one of the advice agencies if the issue could not be resolved over the phone
- a single Advice Lewisham website
- drop-in advice and information at a limited number of main venues across the borough so that residents can, in an emergency, see someone face to face and be triaged appropriately. The continued availability of drop-ins meets the needs of those residents who are unlikely to use the internet or the phone but times and locations are coordinated to make maximum use of resources
- generalist and specialist casework appointments for more complex needs

3.9 As such, under this theme we propose to take a more targeted approach to preserve the infrastructure developed to date. However, will still wish to support the sector to come forward with a fully developed partnership bid that demonstrates how main grant funding will be used to not only deliver direct services but also brings in non-grant funded services and levers in other funding to provide a genuine network of provision across the borough addressing the myriad of different needs in this area.

3.9 Within the Widening Access to Arts and Sports theme we consider the existing criteria to be broadly fit for purpose but we feel there is a need for groups to be able to more actively demonstrate their impact on the health and wellbeing of their participants and therefore intend to include the following statements as one of the aims of the theme – ‘to provide opportunities for people of all ages to improve their health, wellbeing and resilience via participation’.

3.10 The consultation section below seeks your views on these proposed changes and also seeks views on the overall approach and a number of areas that have been highlighted as potential areas of change over the previous 4 years e.g. the provision of ‘core’ rather than project funding.

Timetable and application process

3.11 Once the consultation has closed all responses will be considered and a summary of responses collated and included in a report to Mayor and Cabinet Contracts during the autumn. This report will seek approval for the main grants programme 2019/20 criteria, proposed budget level and permission to invite applications for funding.

3.12 Due to the fact that the budget available for the programme will be decided alongside all other council spend later in the year the full timetable for re-letting the programme has not yet been finalised.

Annex A – draft consultation paper

3.13 It is expected that this timetable will be agreed before the end of the consultation and a full timetable for applications published with those results.

Part 4 – Consultation Questions

4.1 We are happy to receive responses to this consultation in any format and we are particularly keen to hear your views on the following:

Overall

- a. The council wishes to retain a commitment to grant aid for the voluntary and community sector. Our rationale for this is laid out in paragraph 2.3 above. Do you agree that grant aid is important? Is there anything missing from the rationale?
- b. How long do you think that grants should run for to allow for both organisation stability and new charities and projects to have the opportunity to bid for funding?
- c. Which of the following do you think would deliver better outcomes for the residents of Lewisham:
 - i) Spreading funding across more organisations with each getting less
 - OR
 - ii) Funding fewer organisations to a higher level
- d. Should grants be provided to cover 'core' or project costs? If you feel that the grants should cover 'core' costs please tell us how you think the impact of this funding should be measured.
- e. Do you agree that the current funding themes are the correct ones? If not, please tell us what you feel is missing.
- f. Do you agree that the funding collaboration and partner profile criteria even more important than in 2015? If not, why not?
- g. Do you feel that the proposed changes would have a negative or positive impact on Lewisham residents on the basis of their race, gender, faith/religious belief, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender assignment or marital status? Please provide comments on the impact you feel the proposed changes could have, which groups you feel may be affected and any action you feel we could take to mitigate any potentially negative impact.
- h. Do you have any other comments on the overall proposals?

Strong and Cohesive Communities

- a. What particular infrastructure support needs exist in the sector in Lewisham? What other services are available to support groups?

Annex A – draft consultation paper

- b. Should community development funding be targeted at areas of highest need – either geographically OR demographically?
- c. What is the most effective way of targeting funding around equalities?

Communities that Care

- a. Do you support the removal the sub-themes under Communities that Care? If not, why not?
- b. Are there any specific areas that you feel we should be focusing on under this theme?

Access to Advice Services

- a. Do you support the proposed approach to advice services based on the work of the Advice Lewisham partnership? If not, why not?

Widening Access to Arts and Sports

- a. Do you agree that one of the aims of this theme should be ‘to provide opportunities for people of all ages to improve their health, wellbeing and resilience via participation’? If not, why not?
- b. Should funding under this theme be targeted at groups with traditionally lower rates of participant?
- c. Are there any other areas you would like to see included within this theme?

Appendix A

Lewisham Grants Programme Criteria July 2015 to March 2019 (these are for reference and will be amended following the consultation)

THEME CRITERIA

Theme 1: Strong and Cohesive Communities

This theme is around developing and maintaining strong communities and building a more inclusive and cohesive borough. The theme is split into two strands:

- a. Borough wide infrastructure and equalities support
- b. Neighbourhood community development and youth work support

1a. Borough Wide

We wish to fund a group of organisations that will adopt a strong collaborative approach, sharing resources and minimising duplication to achieve the following:

- I. Provide support around the development of policies and procedures to ensure that all communities and individuals have fair and equal access to services.
- II. Identify and work in partnership to address issues that lead to particular communities experiencing difficulties accessing services.
- III. Identify inappropriate over representation of particular communities within services and work with partners to address this.
- IV. Build a more inclusive and cohesive borough, promoting understanding across different communities and reducing marginalisation.
- V. Develop and coordinate networks and collaborations and provide effective representation at appropriate levels for the voluntary and community sector
- VI. Assist existing organisations in building their capacity and capability through advising on best practice and supporting the introduction of effective operational and developmental systems in order to provide a responsive range of high quality services, including promotion of the exchange of skills between the VCS and private sector
- VII. Promote and broker partnerships to maximise access to and cost-effective use of both statutory and non-statutory funding
- VIII. Promote volunteering and provide a brokerage service for community organisations to access volunteers
- IX. Provide advice on volunteer recruitment and supervision and advise organisations on effective volunteer management systems

In your application you will need to specify which of the above objectives you intend to address. Describe your intended users and beneficiaries. Outline your programme of activity in Year 1 with milestones, outcomes and outputs. Describe how you will work with the other organisations funded through this

strand and what opportunities you see for collaboration over the course of the 3 year programme. Detail the additional resources you will be leveraging in and provide an income and expenditure budget for Year 1.

1b. Neighbourhood

We wish to fund a network of organisations that will work in designated ward(s) alongside the Local Assembly to deliver:

Community Development (indicative allocation of £24,000 per ward)

- I. Practical support to build strong and cohesive communities
- II. Strengthen local area partnerships by bringing organisations in an area together to work collectively for and with residents in that neighbourhood, a local level infrastructure provider
- III. Coordination and delivery of locally based community activities
- IV. Harnessing skills and volunteer time to develop strong and resilient communities
- V. Facilitating involvement of residents in the issues which affect their lives; and supporting collective action to deliver change
- VI. Identify gaps in youth and community provision in ward
- VII. Deliver activities to meet gaps where possible and raise additional resources through volunteers and fundraising to extend provision

In your application you will need to identify which ward or wards you would like to work in. Please also indicate whether there is a minimum level of funding that you can operate at i.e. if you apply to cover 3 wards could you still deliver a service if your application was only successful for 1 ward. You will need to provide details of how you would work with the local assembly and other ward based organisations to develop and deliver your work programme for Year 1, giving indicative milestones. The assessment will be largely based on the skills and experience you bring as a local partner as the detail of your work programme will need to be developed with residents and other stakeholders.

Theme 2: Communities that Care

The overall intention of the Communities that Care theme is to fund a range of organisations that together provide support to vulnerable adults to assist them in accessing services, prevent their needs from escalating, reduce the burden on statutory services and provide links between statutory services, VCS and communities in relation to working together to support vulnerable adults. The theme will also offer support to organisations providing services for families with disabled children and young carers. The theme is split into 5 strands:

- a) connecting and supporting
- b) transport
- c) advocacy
- d) provision for vulnerable adults
- e) support for families with disabled children and young carers

2a) Connecting and supporting

We wish to fund a consortium of organisations that will work together to:

- I. Deliver community development support to organisations working with vulnerable adults across the four integrated health and social care neighbourhoods.
- II. Identify gaps in provision for vulnerable adults at neighbourhood level and work in partnership to address these gaps.
- III. Take referrals from health and social care professionals for vulnerable adults who would benefit from being connected to community activity in their area.
- IV. Deliver a volunteer befriending service for vulnerable adults who are experiencing social isolation.
- V. Deliver a network of timebanks across the four integrated health and social care neighbourhoods.

In your application you will need to specify which of the above objectives you intend to address. Describe your intended users and beneficiaries. Outline your programme of activity in Year 1 with milestones, outcomes and outputs. Describe how you will work with the other organisations funded through this strand and what opportunities you see for collaboration over the course of the 3 year programme. Detail the additional resources you will be leveraging in and provide an income and expenditure budget for Year 1.

2b) Transport

We wish to fund an organisation or consortium of organisations that will deliver an integrated community transport service that complements existing provision such as taxi card, dial a ride etc and incorporating group transport, individual journeys and support to access other mainstream transport in order to reduce social isolation and increase access to services for vulnerable adults. The service will need to work closely with referring agencies to ensure provision is targeted at people for whom there is no other feasible transport option. Services such as travel training should form part of the integrated offer to enable those individuals who need to build confidence in using public transport to be able to access mainstream provision rather than become

dependent on a specialist service. The service will need to work with other organisations funded through the Communities that Care theme to encourage them to consider transport at the early stages of planning activities and inform them of the wide range of transport options available to their users.

In your application you will need to describe your intended users and beneficiaries. Outline your programme of activity in Year 1 with milestones, outcomes and outputs. Describe how you will work with the other organisations funded through this strand and what opportunities you see for collaboration over the course of the 3 year programme. Detail the additional resources you will be leveraging in and provide an income and expenditure budget for Year 1.

2c) **Advocacy**

We wish to fund an organisation or consortium of organisations to provide advocacy support for people with learning disabilities to ensure that they can:

- Gain access to services improving their quality of life and social well being
- Be better connected and less excluded
- Improve their confidence and be able to assert their rights and views including influencing local policy and practice

In your application you will need to detail how you intend to achieve the above outcomes. How many people you intend to support. How you will use volunteer advocates to further develop the reach of your services. How you will ensure you are well connected with services that PWLD want to access and your approach to building strong partnerships with both statutory and non statutory services in order to deliver positive outcomes for PWLD.

2d) **Provision for vulnerable adults**

We wish to fund a network of organisations to provide activities for vulnerable adults that reduce isolation and provide an alternative to mainstream day services. We are looking for activities that can accommodate adults with both moderate and substantial needs and your application should demonstrate your approach to charging and how you are able to accommodate individuals with direct payments where appropriate. Organisations funded through this strand would be expected to work collaboratively with each other and us to adapt services to meet changing needs over the period of the grant. This may mean changing the time or location of activities, improving referral processes, accommodating more or different types of users etc.

We are looking to support activities for the following users:

- Older Adults – to combat isolation, increase independence, reduce or delay the need for statutory services and offer an alternative to day centres. Services for older adults should consider how they are able to accommodate adults with dementia and identify what steps they would need to take in order to achieve this.
- Adults with learning disabilities – to extend the range of available day activities, provide access to social activities in a safe environment.

Annex A – draft consultation paper

- Mental Health service users – to offer cost effective activity programmes that support mental health service users and reduce their dependence on statutory services.
- Adults with complex social needs – to provide positive activities for adults with complex social needs that support them to build their self-esteem and be actively engaged with their local community.

2e) Support for families with disabled children and young carers

We wish to fund organisations who can provide support to families with disabled children and young carers in order to deliver the following outcomes:

- Reduce isolation/social exclusion of parent carers of disabled children and young carers.
- Improve access to services and take up of entitlements by parent carers of disabled children and young carers
- Parent carers of disabled children and young carers are able to influence local policy and service design
- Young carers have improved educational attainment and well-being.

In your application you will need to detail which of the above outcomes you intend to achieve and how. How you will ensure that you are working effectively with other CYP services so as to complement rather than duplicate service provision. How you will go about prioritising your resources to ensure that your services reach those with greatest need. What other resources you will lever in to extend the reach of your services.

Theme 3. Access to Advice Services

i. Introduction

The Council is seeking bids from Lewisham-based voluntary sector advice organisations for the provision of Legal, Advice and Information Services under the Access to Advice Services theme. This theme promotes the delivery of social welfare advice and information services in the borough which are of a high quality, are flexible to changing need and are responsive to ongoing welfare and legal aid reforms.

In particular, the theme is aimed at organisations which deliver effective advice and information services to vulnerable residents, such as older people, disabled people and newly arrived communities, to ensure that all individuals, regardless of their barriers, access services and are supported to live fulfilled and independent lives.

The Council welcomes bids from organisations working in partnership or as part of a consortium and from those who have experience in utilising digital technology innovatively to support local people to address their own advice needs.

ii. Overview of requirement

Services will need to meet the following core objectives:

- The provision of legal advice services in the borough meets the key borough-wide principles of being fully customer-focused and achieving value for money from the resources available
- Services respond flexibly to the multiple and complex legal advice needs of people who live, work or study in the borough
- Delivery of services is flexible to ensure increased choice in the way in which clients access services
- Clients are empowered to address their own advice needs through utilising digital technologies
- Services are delivered comprehensively and innovatively across the borough, using outreach as required, so that all geographies and groups are served (see section iii below)

The Council wishes to fund a mixture of generalist, specialist and client specific legal advice services. Organisations offering basic advice and casework will require or need to be working towards the appropriate Advice Quality Standard (AQS) Advice or Advice & Casework accreditation. Organisations offering more specialist advice, casework and representation will need to employ supervisors and caseworkers who are appropriately qualified and who individually meet the Specialist Quality Mark (SQM) for their area of competence. Where appropriate, organisations may also require the Lexcel quality mark or be registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA).

Organisations will be required to deliver advice in the following priority areas:

- Welfare rights
- Debt and money advice (including multiple debts and arrears)
- Housing advice (including homelessness, repairs, possession proceedings and tenancy issues)
- Immigration, compliant at OISC Level 1 (Basic Advice);
- Employment advice

In all cases, Assisted Information should be provided to all users to enable active signposting to the appropriate provider.

iii. Geographical Coverage and organisational characteristics

The Council wishes to fund a broad geographical spread of support. However, given their ranking within the 10% most deprived wards in England, services operating within Bellingham, Downham, Evelyn and New Cross wards will be prioritised.

Where a generalist agency is bidding to provide a borough wide service, they will need to demonstrate how they are able to ensure effective delivery of the proposed service across all parts of the borough, particularly in areas where there is a current lack of voluntary/community sector activity.

Organisations offering specialist advice services will be expected to demonstrate effective partnership working with other advice agencies to ensure that the specialist service is accessible on a borough-wide basis. Specialist organisations will also be expected to take referrals from other advice agencies, community groups and statutory agencies.

Providers should demonstrate innovative approaches, using outreach and other techniques to show how they will deliver alternative ways of providing access to services for people unable to make use of open door access. Such techniques may include but are not limited to:

- Empowering and encouraging customers to utilise digital technology to address their own needs
- Showing how need for a home visit or vulnerable/referred clients will be assessed, provided for or referred on
- Provision of targeted outreach or other access routes where there is evidence that particular groups or communities are not accessing open door services
- Plans based on comprehensive needs assessment for the provision of outreach in locations where open door access is not provided or easily accessible by public transport.

Organisations will be expected to comply with the following:

- Staff have the relevant skills, knowledge and competency to deliver advice at specialist level

Annex A – draft consultation paper

- Appropriate case file records are maintained so there is a clear audit trail of the advice and support given to clients
- The organisation is able to meet the language needs of clients through the use of bi-lingual staff, volunteers or use of translation service

iv. Level of work

Generalist social welfare and client specific advice services

Organisations seeking funding for generalist social welfare and client specific advice services will be expected to comply with the following definition of the level of work to be undertaken:

- General Help – estimated to take an average of 20 minutes and ranging from initial diagnosis of client's problem to general advice (no follow up action required)
- General Help with Casework – estimated to take an average of 60 minutes and ranging from writing a letter/phone call on behalf of clients, form filling and general advocacy.

For client specific advice services, in order to meet the diverse language needs of the various smaller communities and new residents in the borough applicants will also have to show that they are able to provide services to meet the needs of one or all of the following community groups:

- People whose first language is not English
- Older people
- People with disabilities

Organisations providing language based advice services will be expected to demonstrate effective partnership working with other agencies to ensure that the provision is accessible on a borough-wide basis and will also be expected to take referrals from other advice agencies, community groups and statutory agencies.

Specialist Advice Services

Organisations applying for specialist advice services will be expected to comply with the following definition of the level of work to be undertaken:

- General Help & Support – estimated to take an average of 60 minutes and including activities such as writing a letter/making a phone call on behalf of clients, form filling and general advocacy
- Casework – estimated to take an average of 3 hours – assumes a degree of complexity and ongoing negotiation with third party, preparation of matters up to appeal level
- Representation – advocating on a client's behalf at tribunals, appeals, or court hearings

Annex A – draft consultation paper

Applicants will also be required to provide second-tier advice and support to generalist advice providers through providing access to training, information sharing and technical supervision support.

Theme 4. Widening Access to Arts and Sports

The intention of this theme is to fund organisations or consortiums of organisations that will take a strategic approach to increasing the number of people who participate in the arts and sport in Lewisham. This will particularly involve addressing barriers and providing opportunities for those who are less able to engage. Applications will be expected to demonstrate how they will:

- a. Increase participation, particularly including people who are less able to participate due to disability, economic disadvantage and age (young people and older people).
- b. Nurture talent and provide progression pathways, including developing outreach links into other settings such as schools.

The theme is split into two strands

4a Widening Access to Arts

Lewisham has a rich and diverse arts sector and is recognised as a borough in which creativity can thrive. It is also home to some of the capital's most exciting and innovative organisations. We recognise the huge impact that the arts and creative industries have had on issues such as health and wellbeing, education and the economy but also value the way in which they have helped to make Lewisham the dynamic place that it is. We want to continue to encourage innovation and the ongoing development of an atmosphere in which new things can emerge. Whilst recognising the importance of access to the arts for all ages we also want to ensure that we are building for the future by responding to the current climate in which opportunities for young people to access the arts and develop creative skills in settings other than school is becoming increasingly important.

Through this theme we expect to fund a network of organisations that will deliver activities that:

- Provide opportunities for people of all ages to engage with the arts as active participants and members of an audience.
- Provide opportunities for people of all ages to explore and develop their creativity and acquire new skills.
- Increase awareness and enhance the reputation of Lewisham as a place to spend leisure time.
- Capitalise on funding and other support opportunities from regional and national bodies.

4b Widening Access to Sports

Lewisham has a strong sporting tradition and recognises the vital role that sport and physical activity can play in improving the quality of life of the borough's residents. We want Lewisham to continue to be a place where talent is nurtured and encouraged and where sporting participants fulfil their potential. We also want to make sure that opportunities are available to all of the boroughs residents to regularly participate in sport and physical activity as a means of maintaining and improving their health.

Annex A – draft consultation paper

In recent years Lewisham Council has invested significantly in developing high quality sport and leisure facilities and continues to fund Fusion and 1Life to manage these facilities and deliver a programme of associated activities.

To complement these facilities we want to work with a range of voluntary sports clubs and organisations to develop a more coordinated and partnership driven approach to sports provision in the borough in order to make the best possible sporting offer available to the residents of Lewisham. In this context we expect to fund partnerships or single organisations that will take a lead in facilitating partnerships to develop & deliver borough wide, development plans for specific sports. Applications will be expected to show how they will meet the general criteria for this fund (a and b above) and also respond to the following questions:

- Can you demonstrate high levels of demand or growing demand for your sport within Lewisham?
- How will you make the best use of the borough's current and emerging facilities?
- How will you capitalise on funding and/or other support opportunities from regional and national bodies?
- How will you provide activities that encourage people to participate in recreational sport and physical activity?

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