

## Appendix F: NCIL Ward Fund Equalities Analysis Assessment

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<b>Date</b>	25/02/22	<b>Service</b>	Community Development
<p><b>1 The project or decision that this assessment is being undertaken for</b></p> <p>This Equalities Analysis Assessment (EAA) analyses the impact on equalities of the draft recommendations for funding under the London Borough of Lewisham Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy Ward-Based (NCIL) Grants programme 2022 – 2024.</p> <p>At its meeting on 14th September 2021, the Mayor and Cabinet reaffirmed Lewisham's NCIL strategy (previously agreed in June 2019) and confirmed the budget for the programme at £2,931,270, including an additional £1,188,483 from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts received between April 2018 and March 2020 and complemented by an additional £790,806 identified matched funding – the total funding which recommended applicants have confirmed in their applications that they can raise as match funding from other sources.</p> <p>The June 2019 strategy had outlined the process to be followed for distributing NCIL Ward-based grants in a consultation and grant-making process which was originally due to be completed by mid 2020. However, a combination of the 2019 general election and the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in this process being interrupted as the consultation stage came to an end.</p> <p>NCIL grant applications and allocations were then put on hold until late 2021. When the NCIL process resumed in late 2021, the methodology for fund allocation remained the same, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NCIL levels remain at the maximum 25% of CIL income generated, as agreed by the Council</li> <li>• 50% of CIL funding generated in a ward remains in the ward</li> <li>• 25% of CIL funding generated in a ward contributes to a central fund for borough-wide NCIL projects which had its own grants process in 2021</li> <li>• 25% of CIL funding generated in a ward distributed across wards based on their Indices of Multiple Deprivation status</li> </ul> <p>This resulted in a range of levels of funding across wards, with the highest level of funding available being in Evelyn Ward at £691,020, and the lowest being in Catford South at £30,958.</p> <p>Grant approval of ward-based applications remained with the Local Assembly network but there were a number of adjustments made to the process, including:</p>			

- Additional funding being available as a result of levy funds continuing to be generated while the grant programme was on hold, as described above
- A slightly shortened process to allow for increased speed of grant agreement and expenditure
- An additional priority area agreed at the meeting on 14 September 2021, relating directly to the implications of Covid-19

Over the period since the current NCIL funding round and consultation first opened, in September 2019, the following activities have now taken place:

- Ward-based resident consultation on NCIL fund priorities, using Commonplace online platform
- Consultation asked residents to identify local needs and suggestions for addressing them - a total of over 17,000 comments from over 13,000 unique individuals across the borough
- Each ward identified up to five priorities, which were reaffirmed at Local Assembly meetings in each ward prior to the pandemic
- The agreed priorities provided the basis for the grant application process
- The grant application process was opened on 26 September 2021 and closed on 21 November 2021, with the inclusion of the additional Covid-19 priority
- Once the application window closed, applications were rigorously assessed by Council officers including subject matter experts and discussed with ward councillors
- Following discussion, recommendations were presented to online Local Assemblies and residents were asked to comment on recommendations made
- Their comments were included in the report being submitted to Mayor and Cabinet on 9 March 2022 for approval.

### **The protected characteristics/equalities factors impacted**

The factors listed below have been identified as key factors on which the Ward NCIL programme will impact. They are a combination of Equality Act protected characteristics and locally identified factors. The NCIL programme takes into account all Equality Act protected characteristics but the nature of the programme and the fact it is targeted at Lewisham's local communities and to priorities identified by residents, means that the protected characteristics listed below (in **bold**) are the protected characteristics selected by applicants for Lewisham. They are listed alongside other priority areas identified prior to the funding process as being of importance in Lewisham (in *italics*).

**Age**

**Sex**

**Disability**

**Sexual orientation**

*Communities most impacted by covid*

**Ethnicity/Race**

*Socio economic*

Organisations were asked to identify the factors most likely to be addressed by their projects when they made their applications.

### **3. The evidence to support the analysis**

This evidence collection focuses on the equalities factors (including protected characteristics) that will be targeted by the recommended projects.

#### **Age**

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) mid 2020 Population Estimate, almost 14% of Lewisham's population of 305,309 is aged over 60 and over 22% are aged 0-18.

#### **Sex**

According to the 2011 Census there are 135,000 (49%) males living in Lewisham and 140,900 females; however, by 2030 it is forecast that the number of males would have surpassed that of females (158,500 men to 157,100 women).

#### **Disability**

The 2011 Census asked about long-term health problems and disabilities. It found that in Lewisham, 14.4% of the population reported that were living with a long-term health condition that limited their day-to-day activities. 7.1% reported that they were limited a lot and 7.3% reported that they were limited a little. 5.3% (14,318) Lewisham residents indicated that they are in bad health or very bad health; 8.1% (22,521) Lewisham residents provide some form of unpaid care. Over 5,000 Lewisham residents provide 50+ hours of unpaid care per week.

#### **Sexual Orientation**

The Annual Population Survey has released experimental statistics on sexual identity at a local authority level, using estimates based on a smaller survey. In Lewisham, it is estimated that 89.0% of the adult population identify themselves as heterosexual or straight; 2.5% identify themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual; and 8.5% don't know, refuse to answer or identify themselves as other (i.e. neither heterosexual / straight, lesbian, gay or bisexual).

The Greater London Authority based its Sexual Orientation Equality Scheme on an estimate that the lesbian and gay population comprises roughly 10% of the total population. At the 2011 census 2% of over 16 year olds were cohabiting with someone of the same sex or were in a civil partnership, this is higher than both the England and London averages (0.9 % and 1.4% respectively). The 2015 Annual Resident Survey, a question on sexual orientation found that 3% of respondents identified as lesbian or gay.

## Communities most impacted by Covid- 19

According to the Trust for London, Covid-19 has particularly impacted on individuals, families and communities that were already struggling prior to the pandemic and has hit London particularly hard, both in terms of health and the economy, especially those living on the lowest incomes. For example, Trussell Trust figures show that food parcels distributed in London increased by 128% between March and September 2020 while the increase in the rest of England was 56%.

### Ethnicity/race

The below table sets out the ethnic profile of Lewisham from the 2011 census.

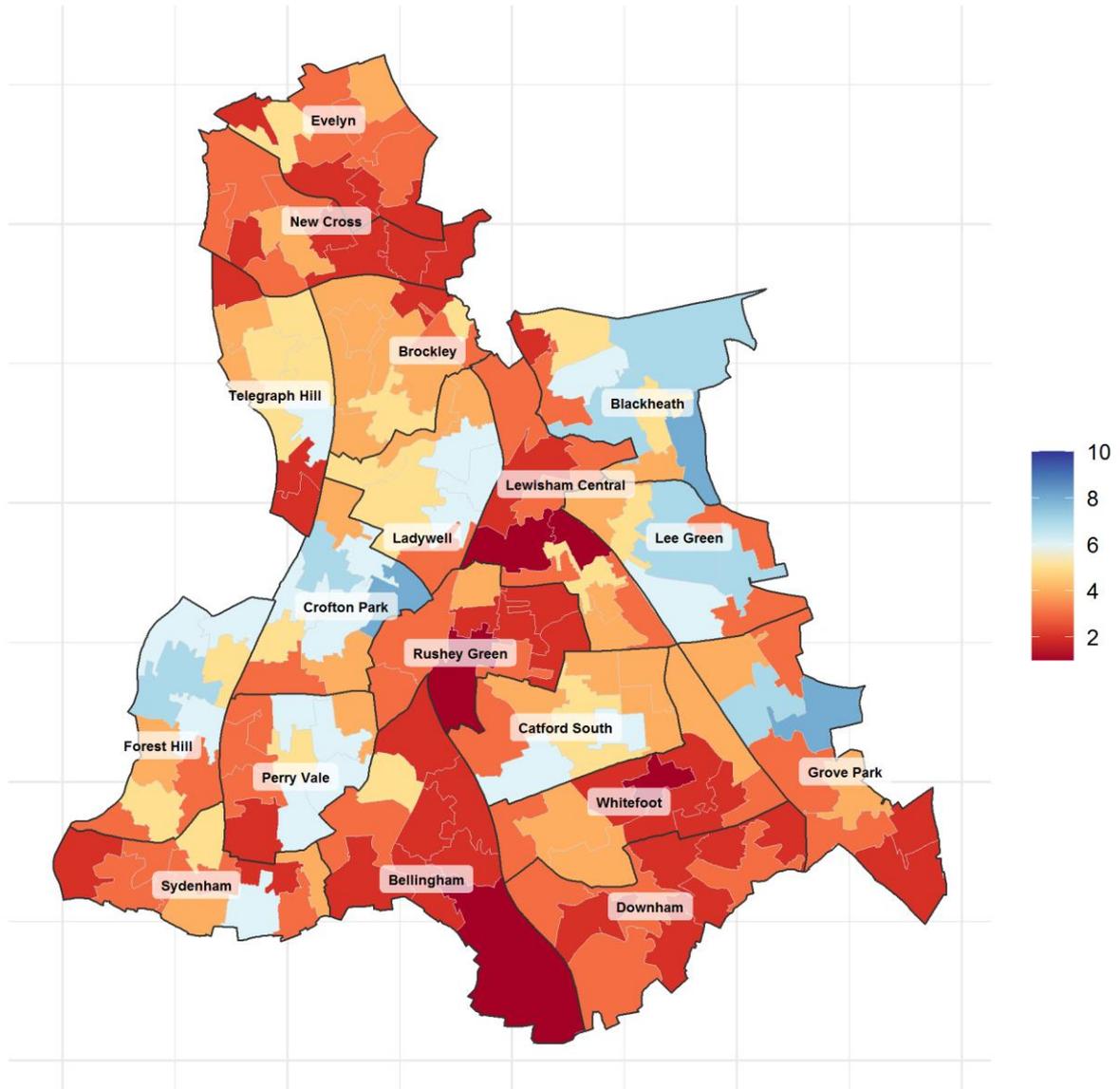
Ethnic Group	2011	
	Number	%
All usual residents	275,885	100
<b>White</b>	<b>147,686</b>	<b>53.5</b>
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	20,472	7.4
Asian/Asian British	25,534	9.3
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	74,942	27.2
Other ethnic group	7,521	2.6
<b>BAME</b>	<b>128,199</b>	<b>46.5</b>

### Socio Economic

Lewisham is the 31<sup>st</sup> most deprived local authority in England from a total of 333.

## Deprivation across Lewisham: Index of Multiple Deprivation

1 is the most deprived in England



Source: UK Government English Indices of Deprivation 2019

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### 4. Impact summary

It is important to note that NCIL funds are being allocated for the first time. The impact on residents with any protected characteristic is therefore positive, as new funds of over

£2.9m are being made available to improve the lives of residents across wards in Lewisham.

Within this, there is varying impact on different protected characteristics, as summarised below.

Of the 151 projects recommended for funding, two thirds (98) have stated that all residents will benefit from their provision.

It should be noted that a significant proportion of projects are focused on improving community amenities and facilities, with 29 of the total recommended projects stating that they are aiming to develop parks and/or green spaces as a primary activity and a further 15 as a secondary activity. By the nature of this provision, this is also likely to have a general benefit to all residents in the wards concerned.

### **Age**

38 projects state that their main beneficiaries will be determined by age. 17 identified "children and youth" as their main priority, with a further 12 identifying this as a secondary priority. The remaining nine applicants that identified age as a priority are not focusing on young people. Another significant figure in this area is the number of projects (22) focusing on health and wellbeing as a primary or secondary priority, with many of these targeting older residents.

A selection of age-related recommended projects is provided below:

**Speech Bubbles - Bellingham and Downham** Speech Bubbles is a drama and communication intervention, delivered in partnership with Primary schools.

- 2 groups of up to 10 KS1 children are referred by their school, having been identified as needing support with their communication skills, confidence, attention / listening skills, or wellbeing. Each child constructs a story which is acted-out by the group the following week. This gives them almost total control which equals total engagement. In telling their own stories, planning, and acting them out, they discover that they can change things resulting in:

- major, measurable improvements in speech, language, and communication
- major positive changes in relationships, confidence, and motivation

**Downham Detached Youth Project – Downham and Whitefoot** This project intends to place a part time youth worker in Downham and Whitefoot wards, working in a detached capacity. The Youth Worker will be based out of St Luke's and St Mark's but going to where young people are on the estate as well as providing support to other community groups in delivering youth work. The need for youth work on the estate is consistently identified as a ward priority for both wards. This project also meets the recovery from COVID priority as young people have been particularly impacted by lock-down and the pandemic, with many sharing their anxieties about the future.

**Grove Park Youth Park** To provide essential repairs to the main entrance to the building; the replacement of sections of original windows; the installation of a new wheelchair platform at the main entrance; and the replacement of two garage doors. The repairs are essential to render the building more secure, prevent water ingresses from causing damage to the interior while also restoring various windows, window frames and door frames to their original state. These windows and door frames are in a poor state of repair and need this remedial action to restore the building to be fit-for-purpose for future years.

**Bring Sunshine, Fun and Wellbeing to Elders in Catford South** The project aims to support older residents recover from the impact of Covid19 especially beneficiaries who are bereaved, isolated, lonely or living with long-term conditions and disabilities throughout Covid19 but little contact with family and friends. The project will assist in Lewisham's Covid-19 recovery by demonstrating a benefit to the local community at ward level by offering 20 monthly health and wellbeing sessions for the residents of Catford South. These will take place at Hartley Hall and Zoom for local residents unable to make it to the hall.

### **Sex/Gender**

Only two projects specifically identified gender as their main focus. However, many other projects stated that they intend to engage with under-represented groups including groups that, by their nature, will be women, e.g. increasing accessibility to traditionally male sports by establishing a girls' football team. Summaries of the two projects are provided below:

**Girls-R-Us Downham** To develop a youth project for girls aged 8 to 13. The aim is to create a safe space to meet regularly away from their homes / schools in order to help them with a smooth transition from primary to secondary school and to boost their self-esteem and encourage ambition. We will organise workshops around personal and group issues of safety, identity, maturation, self-image, substance abuse, hygiene and Covid; and relationships within an environment whilst offering opportunities for personal support. We will organise a range of group activities through visual and performing arts, crafts, health, sport, fitness and visits out.

**Evelyn Young Women Changemakers** The project aims to support 16 young women to identify, plan, develop and deliver projects locally around improving community safety for all (including work with peers and intergenerational work). Whilst undertaking this work, the participants will be trained and supported to develop leadership skills and connect with the wider community and statutory services (such as the council and the police), with a view to improving wider civic engagement. The delivery organisation demonstrates significant experience of local delivery, and the established partnerships. It also has support from a local councillor. There is a gap for young community leaders in Evelyn ward.

## **Disability**

Five projects in total prioritised people with disabilities as principal beneficiaries, including a SEND project to provide respite support for children and their families, also targeting young people. An example of a recommended project is provided below.

**Brent Knoll and Watergate Co-operative Trust** The aim of the project is to improve the lives of local children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and families outside school; children completely excluded from mainstream holiday playschemes because of their additional needs and disabilities. The current project reaches out to pupils of Brent Knoll and Watergate Schools across the borough, at least 38 of these 300 vulnerable children live in these two wards. The project aims to bring stimulation and relaxation for SEND children. Families can spend time with the child's siblings, or go to work, or interact with neighbours and other members of the community, which strengthens community bonds and understanding and eases the toll on the family's collective mental (and physical) health.

## **Sexual orientation**

Only one project prioritising sexual orientation was recommended for funding, reflecting a small number of applications in this area. The successful application was from a local arts organisation, Capture Arts, and is for funding to develop a community building to create affordable studio space for people from the LGBTQ community. However, many other projects stated that they intend to engage with under-represented groups including members of the LGBTQ community. A summary of the project is provided below.

**Capture Arts New Cross** The project aims to develop an LGBTQ+ cultural centre at 32-34 Watson Street, given under a lease from LBL. The building is a combination of workspaces, education space, gallery and small social club. Open for anyone to come in and see exhibitions, shows, performances or to attend community workshops (pottery, sewing etc.). The funding will help to:

- Refurbish a social club
- Repair and decor studios and galleries
- Develop website and social media
- Develop education projects
- Deliver education projects in schools on LGBTQ+ history
- Deliver community workshops
- Redesign and develop two garden areas (will be used for gardening projects and allotment)

## **Communities most impacted by Covid -19**

17 successful applications cited Covid-19 recovery as their first priority with a further 29 identifying it as a second priority. These included a project providing group activities for older residents and a project to encourage activities for teenagers. Summaries of a number of the projects are provided below.

**hArtslane Gallery refurbishment New Cross** hARTslane is a community art hub which was awarded an Asset of Community Value award in 2013. They work with schools, care homes & charities, refugees & migrant communities, Goldsmiths & Kingston University, Lewisham Visual Art Network.

The building, an old garage is owned by Lewisham Council. The refurbishment will transform the currently dilapidated space into a fully accessible, zero-carbon, community gallery, welcoming existing & new audiences through an exciting programme of residencies, exhibitions, Saturday clubs, screenings and events. Refurbishment will include:

- upgrading of electrical system and introduction of an air source heat pump for energy
- upgrading of the existing floor area with the addition of underfloor heating
- add safety lighting at front and throughout gallery
- creating an office space for staff
- creating an accessible WC
- wall and floor insulation
- electrical boiler for heating

**The Feast Rushey Green** The Feast operates in the heart of Rushey Green, offering a safe place for those facing homelessness and rough sleeping as well as those who are working hard to maintain their tenancies. The Feast offers a three-course hot meal every Wednesday night for 11 months of the year but it is about more than just food. Many come seeking advice with; housing, benefits, employment, money and debt issues. The NCIL ward funding would allow Kings Church to keep the Feast open for 2 more years while they explore options to restart the social enterprise and/or find other Funding options.

**TH Network Reaching Out Telegraph Hill** TH Community Network (THCN) is a network of community groups, voluntary organisations, faith and community-based statutory agencies active since 2011.

The Reaching Out project will:

- Strengthen THCN's ability to share information and build community intelligence
- Provide peer support to build the capacity of member groups to provide community facilities
- Facilitate joint initiatives and collaborative working to maximise impact locally
- Support the raising of additional resources.

In addition it will provide a mechanism for community engagement with ward residents.

THCN will to engage a part time freelance Community Connector to:

- Amplify the work and extend the reach of the network members within ward communities.
- Support groups as local assets to help develop more resilient, inclusive and engaged ward communities.
- Connect groups, residents and communities through local giving of time, skills, knowledge and money.

Provide a local infrastructure for listening to and engaging with ward residents.

**Ethnicity/race**

Two recommended projects specifically identified ethnicity as their priority, including a project by a BAME-led dance organisation to renovate their premises. However, across the recommended projects, there were a number that highlighted their commitment to enabling access to a representative range/cohort of residents to services, including youth led projects such as Youth First and Legendary Community Club that would target BAME communities as part of their service. The two projects identifying ethnicity as a priority are summarised below.

**Moonshot Community Centre Refresh New Cross** The aim of the project is to raise sufficient funds to provide the buildings tenants and service users and local residents with refreshed, working and safe facilities to reconnect and participate in its service development following the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions.

Objectives are to:

Improve Air Quality: Replace existing broken air conditioning system and improve ventilation in changing rooms

Energy Efficiency: Continue with programme of replacing standard light fittings with LED fittings

internally and externally

Improve Community Safety: Installation of sensor light for front of building

Improve Building Interior: Redecorate following roof leaks

**Collective Cultivation Bellingham** An Afro diaspora led food growing project, proposing workshops to tackle food insecurity and to support social prescribing services, particularly for Bpoc who are disproportionately under-served by mainstream healthcare. The proposed workshops will be delivered 3 times per week between April and October 2022, 4 weeks per cohort on Black horticulturalism and herbalism- seed sowing and harvesting, plant and soil maintenance, plant & food history, healing herbs education, how to grow your own at home and plant based cooking on site.

**Youth First – Evelyn Youth Street based Project – Evelyn** The project proposes to deliver 4 trauma trained youth workers holding 2 sessions a week to target and work with young people who are vulnerable to youth violence and social exclusion. The team will work directly with young people delivering the sessions which are well known as places that young people congregate. The aim of the project is to open up a dialogue regarding the risks, needs, aspirations and lifestyle of young people providing a safe space for young people to raise their concerns while aiming to ensure early intervention.

**Legendary Community Club Evelyn** The project aim is to make and provide hot meals 3 times a week for each youth session that is held at the Richard McVicar Playground and the Riverside Youth Club. The meals will be provide throughout the year (during term time and school holidays). The project delivery team will include 2 school leavers/young people with a secondary focus on providing employment opportunities and improving young people's employability. The project team will be supported by a part-time project manager, HR co-ordinator and driver.

## **Socio economic**

The distribution of funds relating to socio-economic factors reflects deprivation across the borough, with funding being focused in wards in the north and south, as follows:

Evelyn - £691,020

New Cross - £405,109

Bellingham - £86,040

Downham - £88,589

Whitefoot - £81,855

The council's NCIL strategy allowed for the distribution of NCIL funding to parts of the borough that would not have been allocated high levels of NCIL funding because of a lack of development work in their area. It was important that these areas were able to have equitable access to funding and appropriate funding formulae were developed to ensure that this was the case. Sample projects are provided below.

**Empowering Deptford** The project aims to support families who are experiencing fuel poverty due to the current inflation rates and energy prices by running a referral and advocacy service that aims to:

- To reduce energy expenditure by enabling clients to engage in the energy market
- To enable clients to access discounts for low-income households from water and energy (The Warm Home Discount and Watersure)
- To enable clients to better understand how they can change their behaviour to reduce unnecessary energy usage and to save energy
- To enable clients who are in debt to their energy company to access debt relief
- Advocate for clients in disputes with energy companies and support clients with complaints to the energy ombudsman service.
- To increase the energy efficiency of the homes of clients by installing light measures

and by supporting clients to access funds for major measures

**Advocating for New Cross** Community Advocate Coordinator and an Outreach Welfare Rights Advisor. The Coordinator will help re-democratise the ward by regularly consulting and engaging and feeding this information up to decision makers, putting local people in a better position to shape local strategy and empowering residents to organise collectively. The Welfare Advisor will offer expert advice to residents on a range of issues, signposting to services to help improve their health and wellbeing. Both posts will contribute to building a robust and resilient NX. The Coordinator will organise quarterly meetings of neighbourhood. Based at Hatfield Close, both roles will also spend time working from venues across the ward, where the Welfare Advisor will offer weekly services and the Coordinator will hold focus groups.

**Kids Kitchen Bellingham.** Kids Kitchen Bellingham aims to reduce the isolation of vulnerable new parents in Bellingham by creating supportive micro-communities using food and parenthood as points of connection. The project will reach at least 140 families (estimate 400 individuals), with around 70 families (200 individuals) benefiting significantly from repeat session attendance.

The benefits each family experiences depends on their starting point, it is anticipated that all parents and kids will \*have fun, \*try new food, \*learn new skills and \*get to know others in their area. Parents who volunteer or train with will benefit by developing confidence, skills and career prospects.

### **5. Mitigation**

As the NCIL ward programme is funding new provision, including significant investment in amenities and locally based activities, no immediate negative impact requiring mitigation has been identified.

Work will be undertaken with successful projects to ensure their engagement plans include under-served communities not currently accessing services.

As NCIL funded projects are new initiatives based on priorities agreed by local communities, the impact will be overwhelmingly positive. The NCIL projects will be further complemented by initiatives supporting Lewisham's year as the London Borough of Culture 2022.

The Council's Main Grants programme initiatives will also contribute to wider community initiative networks for mutual support.

### **6. Service user journey that this decision or project impacts**

The provision of new services will be communicated to relevant service teams within the Council. In addition, the projects will be part of the borough's broader community development networks.

The monitoring and assessment framework currently being developed for Main Grants funded organisations will provide a consistent basis for assessing the impact of ward NCIL projects.

**Signature**      **of**  
**Director**

