

## **Significant Variation Request**

Organisation: Wadajir Somali Community Centre

Project: Homework Club Two

Grant Amount: Sept 15 – Aug 18 £39,000; Sept 18 – Sept 19 £14,083

### **Request for variation**

Wadajir Somali Community Centre can no longer provide a service for the boys' youth group. We have had issues with getting the boys to the centre as they do not want to attend. We would therefore like to add the 2 hours from the boys' session to the girls' sessions as well as increasing the number of girls to match the difference from the boys. This will help us increase the workshops and activities for the girls group.

The expenditure and funding will remain the same as the hours for the girls will be increased to make up the difference, so the hours for the youth work will therefore be increased.

The overall level of outputs and outcomes will remain the same as the overall number of users will not change. The boys' sessions will no longer run and the number of users for the girls will increase to make up for the difference.

### **LBTH assessment**

The Grants Officer has confirmed that the organisation has not been able to provide a consistent service for boy with reasons including: Several staff changes, limited space at the centre, limited positive and stimulating activities on offer.

The grant agreement does not specify the proportion of girls / boys for the youth provision but does state that the target profile will be "young BAME girls and boys aged 13-19..."

The low attendance of boys to the project is impacting the overall project targets and despite support from the Grant Officer this is becoming unsustainable.

Wadajir's proposal for a girl's only provision does not severely impact on the needs of boys in the area. It would appear that the boys would prefer a more engaging and stimulating environment from which to meet. In this regard, the boys can be signposted to the nearest and also comparatively better equipped Youth Services provision at the Spotlight Youth Centre, Langdon Park, 30 Hay Currie Street, E14 and the drop-in homework club on Saturday, held from 2 to 5pm at Teviot Community Hall.

### **Overall Comments**

In varying the grant agreement for September 2018 to September 2019, the following options were to considered:

1. The earmarked budget for the boy's project is transferred to support extra activities for this girls group for a total of 4 hours per week, which will mean a total of £14,083.
2. The girls group maintains its current provision, which will mean the total grant is reduced by one third to £9,439.

The Third Sector team consulted with the Youth Services team which recommended that the full funding of £14,083 (Option 1) is allocated to the girls provision.

In reaching this recommendation, the Commissioning and Contracts Manager, Youth Services team acknowledges that there is the definite need to support more activities for Somali girls and young women.