

## Equality Assessment

Equality Assessment of the potential impact of the recommendations of the Corporate Third Sector Programme Board for 2013-15 funding.

**Responsible Directorate:** Children Services (Children and Families)

### Priorities/Objectives

This stream aims to assist with the delivery of the Council's Community Plan and Children and Young People's Plan Priorities targeted at vulnerable children, young people and families. Funded projects will focus on building resilience and preventing problems escalating, through the provision of flexible services, including those delivered on an outreach basis to ensure ease of access.

Funding is available for projects which provide:

- Focussed, time limited interventions that build resilience so that children and/or families are able to function with the support of universal services
- Family support services that enable the personal and social development of children and young people and families
- Support to vulnerable children at risk of harm or of engaging in risky behaviours
- Services that ensure children and their families receive appropriate support so that they achieve the best possible outcomes
- Services that prevent social care interventions by supporting child/parent interaction to harness and maintain family life and enhance the confidence and skills of parents/carers

Services recommended for funding through this funding stream are expected to deliver improved outcomes for children, young people and families including improved emotional health and well-being, improved educational attainment, safety from harm/neglect and increased economic and community engagement, all of which will impact on their future life chances.

### MSG Budget 2013-15

	Cabinet Approved Indicative Annual Budget	Corporate Programme Board Recommended Allocations
2012/13*	£41,220	£58,444
2013/14	£169,056	£233,778
2014/15	£169,056	£233,778
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£379,332</b>	<b>£526,000</b>

\*2012/13 award only represents 3 months allocation as funding for existing Main Stream Grants projects has been extended until 31st December 2012.

## Identified Need\*

Summarise what we know about the need for this service in the borough, including information how need for the service differs between different equality groups (for example, women and BME communities higher levels of unemployment .lower skills levels)

Tower Hamlets is one of the most deprived boroughs in the country and as such families face a number of challenges which can impact on the life chances of children and young people and sometimes lead to referrals into specialist services such as children's social care.

There are currently approximately 300 children in the borough with child protection plans and a further 280 children and young people looked after by the authority. Tower Hamlets also receives a significant number of referrals to social care that do not lead to a statutory assessment however these families do require support and as such are often referred to services delivered by the voluntary and community sector with the aim of preventing problems escalating. The government also estimates that Tower Hamlets has 1120 families who are deemed 'troubled' who will receive specialist and targeted interventions which might also include sign posting to voluntary and community services such as those delivered through the MSG programme.

The challenges faced by many children, young people and families are often complex and varied and as such they require a range of responses to meet specific needs. It is difficult to estimate accurately the need for specific services across the equalities target groups.

What we do know however is that the number of vulnerable children, young people and families in Tower Hamlets is relatively high and that the growing population and the potential fall-out from the proposed welfare reforms will lead to an increase in the demand for targeted and specialist services.

We also know that current users of existing services broadly reflect local demographics although we have seen an increase in girls (particularly) Bangladeshi girls referred to targeted and specialist services. This indicates that we are generally meeting needs in this respect but need to respond to the growing demand for services for this group of young people. In addition, recent government cuts have impacted on local voluntary and community groups who have seen significant reductions in funding from all available sources which is likely to lead to smaller sector which in turn will impact on need.

This funding stream includes a broad range of services targeted at specific needs. such as children and young people that have experienced sexual abuse, domestic violence, teenage parents, women offenders with children, trafficked individuals, etc. The majority of services are specifically targeted at equalities target groups including BME communities (delivering culturally sensitive services), girls and women, disabled children and young people and lesbian and gay young people. Others provide support for families to prevent family breakdown. All remaining services are open to all communities and groups.

Type of Provision	Beneficiary target group/Area	Identified Need
<b>Universal provision targeted at vulnerable groups.</b>	All communities – CFS-11 E3, CFS 27 – E1	As indicated above we know that there is significant need across the borough for targeted/specialist services for the borough's vulnerable children, young people and families.
<b>Support services for vulnerable BAME children, young people and families</b>	CFS-04 – E1/E2, CFS-05 – E1, CFS – 09 –E1/E2, CFS-10 Borough wide, CSF-12 – Borough wide, CFS 15 –borough wide, CFS 17 –	As indicated above we know that there is significant need across the borough for targeted/specialist services for the borough's vulnerable children, young people and families.

	borough wide.	
<b>Support services for vulnerable Bangladeshi families</b>	CFS-06 – E1/E2, CFSF-16 Borough wide, CFS-19 – E2	As indicated above we know that there is significant need across the borough for targeted/specialist services for the borough’s vulnerable children, young people and families.
<b>Support services for vulnerable women</b>	CFS-02-E1, CFS-03-E1, CFS-07- Borough wide	As indicated above we know that there is significant need across the borough for targeted/specialist services for the borough’s vulnerable children, young people and families.
<b>Counselling support for young people affected by sexual abuse</b>	CFS-01-Borough wide	As indicated above we know that there is significant need across the borough for targeted/specialist services for the borough’s vulnerable children, young people and families.
<b>Services for young people with a disability and their families</b>	CFS-30, CSF31, CFS - 32 – Borough wide	As indicated above we know that there is significant need across the borough for targeted/specialist services for the borough’s vulnerable children, young people and families. However, the council invests significantly in services for disabled children and these service will enhance existing provision.

\*You may want to adapt the first 3 columns of this table to improve how you present the “identified need”.

## Impact Summary

Summarise any overall impact of the recommended allocation on the protected groups.

In relation to the profile of the proposed portfolio of projects there is no perceived adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics from the recommendations made.

This funding stream primarily supports Bangladeshi and other BAME communities along with other vulnerable groups with specific needs including those from other equalities target groups.

Levels of need are evident across the borough. Data from social care for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 and 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 for families referred to social care but who did not require a statutory intervention show that the number of referrals were higher in E3 and E14 however there was also a large number of referrals from the E1/E2 area. It is also evident from borough needs analysis that there are high levels of need as a result of poverty, low educational attainment, worklessness, health inequalities, etc. across the borough which impacts on social inclusion, poor outcomes and life chances.

There were a large number of bids from organisations based in the E1 and E2 areas as compared to other parts of the borough and the final amounts awarded reflect this. It is envisioned that those borough-wide services which have received funding can help to address need in other areas.

Whilst there has been some change in provision, the portfolio of services will continue to meet the diverse needs of vulnerable children, young people and families. Where there have been reductions/cuts in funding in the majority of cases we are confident that support can be provided through alternative provision and we will work with existing providers on transition planning.

## Equality Assessment

Target Groups	Impact ✓ - Positive ✖ - Adverse 0 = Neutral What impact will the proposal have on specific groups of service users or staff?	Reason(s) Add a narrative to justify your claims around impacts and, Describe the analysis and interpretation of evidence to support your conclusion as this will inform decision making
Race	✓ <b>Positive</b>	The organisations recommended for funding from this funding stream predominantly support Bangladeshi and other BME communities – CFS – 04, CFS-05,CFS-06,CFS-09, CFS-10, CFS-12, CFS- 15, CFS-16, CFS-17 andCFS-19. A small number of services are open to all communities and all programmes aim primarily to improve the life chances of children, young people and families through the services they provide.
Disability	✓ - <b>Positive</b>	A small number of projects support young people with SEN/disability (CFS 15, CFS 20, CFS 19, CFS 30, 31, 32. Three of these are new services. However some existing organisations have seen funding reduced/cut. TH invests significantly in services for disabled children and young people and through a recent commissioning exercise we have increased the level of provision available which means that existing users of previously funded services can utilise our newly contracted services.
Gender	✓ - <b>Positive</b>	The overall portfolio of services recommended for funding support both boys and girls.
Gender Reassignment		
Sexual Orientation	✓ - <b>Positive</b>	CFS-01 is the only service of its kind in the borough that works with LGBT young people. The recommendation to reduce funding may well impact on the viability of the project and will as a minimum reduce significantly the number of young people that can be supported.
Religion or Belief	✓ - <b>Positive</b>	Services recommended for funding are culturally sensitive which will include taking account of the religions/beliefs of the communities they serve.
Age	✓ - <b>Positive</b>	This funding stream has a number of priorities aimed at supporting the borough's most vulnerable children and families across the age ranges.
Marriage and Civil Partnerships.	✓ - <b>Positive</b>	CFS-10 provides a family support programme aimed at preventing family breakdown which will included supporting those adults who are married.
Pregnancy and Maternity		N/A.
Other Socio-economic	✓ - <b>Positive</b>	All services will support children, young people and families with multiple needs with the aim of improving overall outcomes and future life chances.

## Impact Considerations

What are likely to be the “real life” consideration for beneficiaries, in light of the proposed changes/recommendations.

### Overall summary of projects recommended for funding

#### Universal services general population (all communities)

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
CFS-11	Early intervention programme working with children under five years focusing on the specific needs of vulnerable, hard to reach families.	E3	To be negotiated with providers as recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.
CFS-27	YP 5-14 years experiencing difficulties at key transition points.	E1	To be negotiated with providers as recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.
<b>Comments:</b>			
CSF-11 is a new programme which will enhance provision for hard to reach families.			

#### BAME Groups

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
CFS-04	Somali & BAME families where children are at risk of reduced educational attainment.	E1 and 2	To be negotiated with providers as recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.
CFS-05	BAME families requiring support relating to healthy eating and lifestyles.	E1	To be negotiated with providers as recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.
CFS-09	BME groups attending Muslim Centre requiring support with improving school attendance and attainment.	E1 and 2	To be negotiated with providers as recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.
CFS-10	BME families at risk of breaking down.	Borough wide	To be negotiated with providers as recommended

			funding levels are lower than that requested.
CFS-12	Multi-lingual advocacy for Bengali, Chinese, Somali & Vietnamese communities.	Borough wide	To be negotiated with providers as recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.
CFS-15	BME young people and others with special needs and their carers	Borough wide	120 families
CFS-17	Vietnamese families, special needs young people aged 16-18 years	Borough wide	10 young people and 30 families

### Bangladeshi families

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
CFS-06	Bangladeshi families (particular women at risk of DV and other issues)	E1 and 2	To be negotiated with providers as recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.
CFS-16	Bangladeshi families requiring counselling.	Borough wide	
CFS-19	Bangladeshi YP with disabilities and their families.	E2	To be negotiated with providers as recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.

#### Comments:

CFS 06 BYM Women's Centre of Excellence is a new bid which will focus on women at risk of gang culture, sexual and physical abuse and mental health and may be able to absorb some of the demand on organisations whose funding has been reduced or cut.

Both CFS 16 East London Asian Family Counselling Service. Funding has been reduced to this organisation however, CFS -10 - The Osmani Shaathi Family Support programme is a new service that provides a similar service aimed at families that are at risk of breaking down and are isolated from mainstream support.

### Women's groups, Women Ex Offenders and Migrant mothers

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
CFS-02	Women and teenagers requiring parenting support.	E1	To be negotiated with providers as recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.
CFS-03	Women offenders & their children (under 5s)	E1	To be negotiated with providers as

			recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.
CFS-07	Trafficked women & children & domestic violence victims	Borough wide	To be negotiated with providers as recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.

**Comments:**

CFS 02 City Gateway, is a new bid which will focus on improving outcomes for parents and their children through a programme of early intervention workshops.

CFS 03 Jagonari Women's Educational Resource Centre is a new bid which will focus on women offenders and those at risk of offending and may be able to absorb some of the demand on organisations whose funding have been reduced or cut.

CFS 07 Praxis Community Projects focuses on peer support to mothers and their children to rebuild their lives from physical and sexual abuse. The organisation has seen a reduction in funding from this funding stream however other MSG funded programmes are likely to be in a position to work with families who are unable to access the reduced service.

**Counselling for victims of sexual abuse**

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
CFS-01	YP whose lives are affected by sexual abuse	Borough wide	To be negotiated with providers as recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.

**Comments:**

CFS 01 Step Forward provides a sexual abuse support and counselling service to young people and supports the LGBT community. It is also only one of three different projects recommended for funding in the E2 area. The recommendations propose a reduction in funding which will reduce the numbers served.

**Young people with a disability**

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
CFS-30	Parents/carers of a blind child aged 0-5	Borough wide	To be negotiated with providers as recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.
CFS-31	Blind/partially sighted TH residents aged 14-25	Borough wide	To be negotiated with providers as recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.

			requested.
CFS-32	Families with newly diagnosed blind/partially sighted children	Borough wide	To be negotiated with providers as recommended funding levels are lower than that requested.
<b>Comments:</b>			
These are new bids from the same organisation which will enhance provision for children and young people who are visually impaired and their families.			

### Projects not recommended for funding that had received MSG funding in 2011/12

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
CFS-24	Somali YP 5-12 years	E1	280
<b>Comments:</b>			
CFS 24, Somali Integration Team, E1 is the only such provision targeted at Somali Girls and their families. This organisation was referred to the youth service funding stream (YCS-47) and was recommended for funding.			

### Projects not recommended for funding who were not previously funded under this stream

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
CFS-22	Adult Learners – Parents from all communities.	E2	300 Adults
CFS-23	Children 0-10 years, Irish Travellers	E3	17 families
CFS-25	8-12 aged Somali YP	E1 and 2	150
CFS-26	New migrant mothers with children under 5	E1 and 2	100 families
CFS-28	Vulnerable YP requiring support with employment. All communities.	Borough wide	50
CFS-29	YP aged up to 12 – drop in play scheme. All communities.	Borough wide	3000
CFS-34	Young children – creative writing programme. All communities.	E1	70
<b>Comments:</b>			
CFS 23 Hackney Playbus to support children from the travelling communities in E3. This is a new bid which was made to the Children and Families budget but was reassigned to the Early Years funding stream as the specification indicated educational support for children up to the age of 12 and was recommended for funding.			
CFS-25 – This project was not recommended for funding as it did not meet the criteria for this funding stream however it was referred to Early Years funding stream and has been recommended for funding.			
CFS-28 – This project did not meet criteria for funding for this stream but the organisation is funded by YCS.			
CFS 29 – This project did not meet criteria for this funding stream but the organisation is funded by CLC.			



As projects are new there will be no impact on current services.

**Projects not recommended for funding who were not previously funded under this stream where the primary beneficiary are from one of the 9 protected characteristics.**

No of Projects	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Delivery Proposed	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
CFS-25	8-12 aged Somali YP	E1 and 2	150
CFS-26	New migrant mothers with children under 5	E1 and 2	100 families

**Comments:**

CFS-25 – This project was not recommended for funding as it did not meet the criteria for this funding stream however it was referred to Early Years funding stream and has been recommended for funding.

Migrant mothers is a new service for families with children in the early years. Families can access our universal early year provision.

**BACKGROUND**

**Applications received:** 34 - Total full year (2013/14) amount requested £1,833,858

**Number of projects recommended for funding:** 19 through CFS and 5 referred recommended for funding under other funding streams.

**Number of projects not recommended:** 10