

Theme 5 Community Engagement, Cohesion and Resilience

MSG Programme Period 4 (Jul-Sep 2016) Performance Report

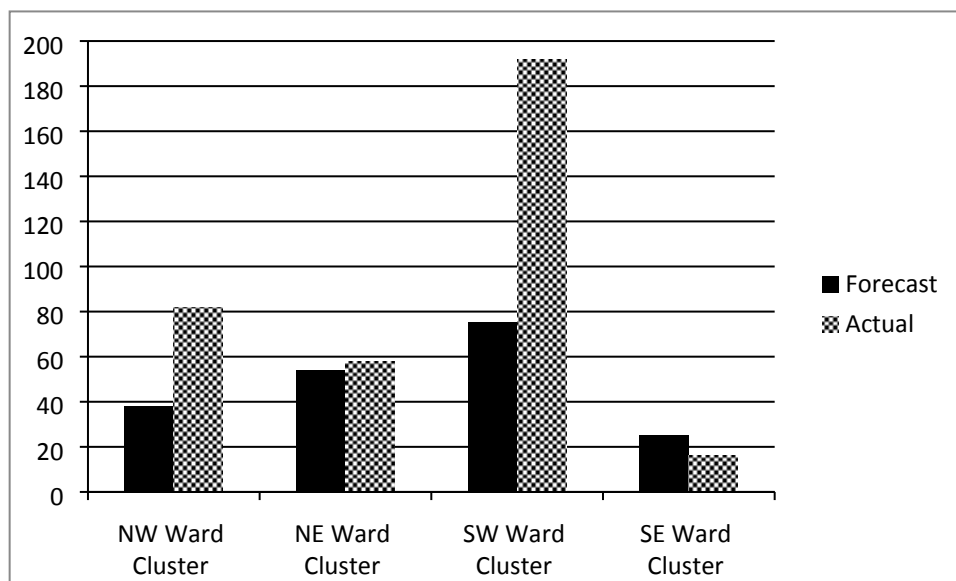
Theme 5 – Community Engagement, Cohesion and Resilience:

This theme focuses on seeking key outcomes including:

- Identifiable increase in numbers of local residents taking on key leadership and representational roles within the community
- Increase in number of people who feel they are getting on better with others in their communities, as identified from annual community surveys
- Increased opportunities for communities to work together on local improvement projects, cultural celebration and exchange

Geographical Breakdown

The table below shows the number of beneficiaries supported during the period July to September 2016 by Ward Cluster:



NW Ward Cluster	NE Ward Cluster	SW Ward Cluster	SE Ward Cluster
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bethnal Green • Spitalfields & Banglatown • St Peter's • Weavers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bow East • Bow West • Bromley North • Bromley South • Mile End 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shadwell • St Dunstons • St Katherine's & Wapping • Stepney Green • Whitechapel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackwall & Cubitt Town • Canary Wharf • Island Gardens • Lansbury • Limehouse • Poplar

Project Portfolio – LPG

No. of live projects – Jul-Sep 16	No. of projects classed as GREEN	No. of projects classed as AMBER	No. of projects classed as RED
10	9	1	0

Nine out of the ten funded projects in July to September 16 are classified as ‘Green’ and all report they are meeting expected outputs. Where appropriate projects have demonstrated activities aimed an inclusion of participants from different communities, targeting those that are not accessing their project. Many have shown continuous improvement in the quality of projects resulting in improved outcomes for participants.

1 project is classed as Amber:

Somali Parents and Children's Play Association - Somali Women Engagement Forum

Staff have been working with the Grant Officer to ensure delivery is in line with the agreement and gaps of service are addressed. A timetable of increased activity is in place to address reduced output demonstrated. Recently there has been a difficulty with the project venue, causing a new challenge for the organisation. However, this small local specialist organisation demonstrated commitment to the service and participants in how quickly they resolved this.

After attending to find no project in place a number of unannounced activity visits have been undertaken since. The reason given to the Grant Officer seeing no activity was that the project had changed the time of the project in order to meet the needs of the women over the summer period. The Grant Officer should have been informed of this.

The latest unannounced activity visits have seen a project in place but brought about concerns about content and quality of sessions.

An outcome analysis report is due. The Grant Officer continues to work closely with this organisation on project development. The organisation has been referred to and is engaged with support from the THCVS. A monitoring visit is planned to look at records, related organisational activity and project finances , as a planned activity visit at the next discussion event.

An update of Grant Officer findings and support for projects classed as Green:

Betar Bangla – Positive Citizenship

An activity visit was made this during quarter. I saw a well organised environment in which everyone seemed to work comfortably. The trainer demonstrated specialist knowledge in the subject areas. There was evidence of appropriate planning. A participatory stimulating teaching style was used that included role play. The trainer provided constructive feedback to participants alongside support and guidance. Participants showed evidence of learning. They had opportunities to practise their skills and consolidate learning. Course content was appropriate to both the funding stream and organisations priorities. Meeting of the learning objectives was demonstrated in participant's feedback. This small local organisation demonstrates specialist appropriate services as well as a clear understanding of our funding priorities. Grant finance monitoring demonstrates that the project is on track to utilise the grant appropriately. Issues identified during monitoring have been addressed through officer guidance and referral for support from the THCVS. This they took up and implemented changes that addressed risk.

City Gateway – Women's Voice

The women's project is on track to hit the target of 80 marginalised women from a variety of cultural backgrounds to engage in Women's Voice or Inspirational Women sessions. At this stage only verification visits have been undertaken that confirm the outputs put in the monitoring form are in line with what was expected as well as backed up by paperwork. As an activity visit has not been taken so my knowledge of delivery and quality is limited. However, this this month I met a couple of local Somali women who recently engaged in the women's provision provided by this organisation. This unsought feedback was all positive. An activity visit will take place as a priority.

Dorset Community Association – Get Involved

The evaluation received from this organisation demonstrates the achievement that has been obvious during monitoring and activity visits. This organisation is one of the smallest and newest funded under this theme. The project relies on substantial volunteering including completion of monitoring reports. I have no concerns about this provision; it demonstrates the effectiveness of small local front line groups. I have monitored this organisation for a few years prior to this award and am impressed with the professional infrastructure development the organisation has implemented with engagement of

appropriate range of professional support alongside the passion of volunteers to get it right. Grant finance monitoring demonstrates that the project is on track to utilise the grant on the project as well as contribute towards core costs. Issues around apportionment of core costs identified in monitoring have been resolved effectively by the organisation.

East London Advanced Technology Training – Equal Voices

Monitoring and case studies submitted demonstrate achievement in individual's progress towards proposed and additional outcomes. They also demonstrate wider impacts including changes made in a school to bring about increased safety of playground time for pupils. Over this reporting period the project had planned reduced activity due to the term time nature of the work. ELATT's adult training work has been rated as outstanding by OFSTED and they have recently won awards for their provision. This quality is reflected in the funded provision. The second course is now in progress and demonstrates equal success will be achieved. ELATT is active in sourcing funding to develop and continue this successful project to accommodate the needs of more newly-arrived migrant women living in Tower Hamlets. During monitoring verification visits I have met with a finance officer who has been able to demonstrate that our small contribution towards the costs of this project is used for the purpose of grant.

London Gypsy and Traveller Unit – We are Tower Hamlets Residents too!

This is the first mainstream grant award to provide services for Gypsies and Travellers in the borough. Significant progress is demonstrated through effective professional community development work implemented by a successful specialist organisation. Our grant mainly contributes to the salary of the Community Development worker. Focus continues to be on building community representation from TH Gypsy and Travellers on formal groups and structures for the purposes of increasing the number of TH Travellers influencing decisions that impact their community. The project demonstrates significant movement to outcomes in this area with more active local Gypsy and Travellers, working together to tackle their problems. Digital inclusion is incorporated advantaging participants who have limited access.

Newark Youth London – Newark Women's Project

Continuous project improvements implemented by Newark Youth to these events is significant. Events are exciting and aim to inspire the women. Although one off work doesn't bring about the individual outcomes that working with women over a longer period do the project evidence has revealed many participants enrol in their other projects or take up referrals with other local provision. Movement towards outcomes for volunteers is significant and validated through

accreditation. Finance monitoring demonstrates that activity costs are higher than expected and it is clear that the grant is being used appropriately.

Stifford Centre – Residents and Neighbours Club

This provision demonstrates it has increased participants understanding about how their immediate social world functions. Meeting notes demonstrate discussion have taken place about problems encountered, religion, community and housing issues. Outcome measurement and reporting demonstrates that participants have developed skills and confidence that has made them more likely to be actively involved in solving community problems. I have encouraged more action about engaging participants in resolving issues identified and from the latest monitoring return I can see this has been addressed. Case studies include examples of community engagement.

The Rooted Forum – Collective Conscience Project

The project has successfully implemented and continues to implement planned activities to meet shared priorities. I have attended a stakeholders meeting as part of my monitoring. Outcome analysis and evaluation is due this quarter. This project demonstrates the difference a local organisation can make to an area through effective engagement with others. Grant finance monitoring demonstrates that the project is on track to utilise the grant appropriately.

Wapping Bangladesh Association – WBA Community Engagement & Citizenship Project

The organisation is now working with the support of the volunteer centre and the project was advertised on their website to recruit new volunteers. As a result, five new volunteers have been recruited for the new period of October 2016-March 2017. Citizenship workshop sessions are being carried out by the project worker and volunteers as well as in house session for local residents. I continue to work with this organisation as a priority and have offered time to support delivery. This has recently been taken up.