

# COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING MEETING

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## PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS TO THE MEETING

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Wednesday, 22 April 2015 at 6.30 p.m.  
MP702, 7th Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent,  
London, E14 2BG

The meeting is open to the public to attend.

**Members:**

Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM (Chair)      (Commissioner)  
Max Caller CBE      (Commissioner)

**Public Information:**

The public are welcome to attend these meetings.

**Contact for further enquiries:**

Matthew Mannion, Democratic Services,  
1st Floor, Town Hall, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London, E14 2BG  
Tel: 020 7364 4651  
E-mail: [matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk)  
Web: <http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee>

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**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**  
**COMMISSIONERS' DECISION MAKING MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY, 22 APRIL 2015**

**6.30 p.m.**

**4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS (Pages 1 - 22)**

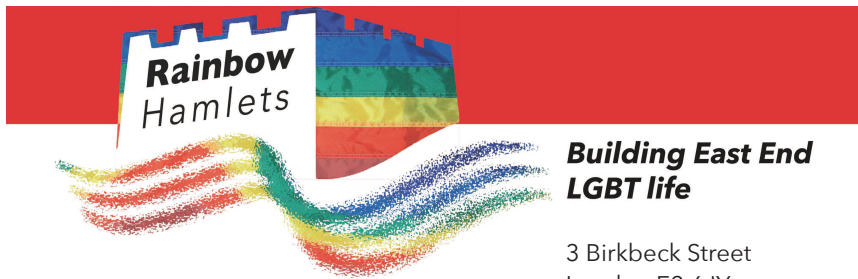
Consideration of any comments received from members of the public in relation to any of the reports on the agenda.

# Agenda Item 4

## **Public Submissions Received in advance of the meeting**

- 1. Rainbow Hamlets**
- 2. Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service**
- 3. Ragged School Museum**
- 4. Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets**

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**Building East End  
LGBT life**

3 Birkbeck Street  
London E2 6JY

**Chief Executive's Office:**

Mobile: 07719 378143

Email: [jack@rainbowhamlets.org](mailto:jack@rainbowhamlets.org)

21 April 2015

Sir Ken Knight  
Chief Commissioner, DCLG  
London Borough of Tower Hamlets  
Mulberry Place  
5 Clove Crescent  
London E14 2BG  
c/o matthew.mannion@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Dear Sir Ken,

**Submission in relation to the Commissioners' Decision Making Meeting  
Wednesday, 22nd April, 2015 6.30 p.m.**

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Trustee Directors of Rainbow Hamlets (RH) with questions and concerns about the equality impact of the proposed Community Engagement, Cohesion and Resilience Mainstream Grant Programme.

Foremost amongst them, we are concerned that the proposed new arrangements are structured in such a way as to preclude an application to continue the essential work funded in the last round in relation to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGB&T) people. This equality impact has not been documented.

LGB&T people are as diverse as the wider community; intersectional identity in which sexual or gender identity is combined with other protected characteristics is extremely common in Tower Hamlets. Unlike characteristics transmitted through families, there are two types of cohesion challenges in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity.

- 1) Intra-community cohesion – building understanding and good relations within the LGB&T population. Historically there has been no investment or support for LGB&T community infrastructure, bringing together LGB&T people from different backgrounds or generations. The engagement work funded by the C&EE MSG grant includes face to face/events, online, in print and via partners to begin to address this. It is an essential prerequisite to delivering inter-community work.
- 2) Inter-community cohesion – building understanding and good relations between LGB&T people and other populations/communities. Looking at learning across the UK, LGBT organisations run 'by and for' the community is the most successful model to develop effective engagement, cohesion and resilience work. Individuals work within such structures, not as isolated 'leaders'. Whilst inter-community relations between faith communities and/or BME communities are generally uncontroversial amongst the mainstream, the same cannot be said in relation to LGB&T community relations. We recognise, as was discussed at the Community Cohesion Contingency Planning and Tension Monitoring Group (CCCPTMG)

held after the recent Paris events, that such inter-community cohesion work is a medium and long term project. In Tower Hamlets, Muslim-LGBT relations requires a strategic approach over several years; as recognised in that meeting no local Muslim faith-based organisations would sign up publicly to direct LGBT engagement right now, whatever private conversations may or may not be happening. Rainbow Hamlets is one of the most adept agencies in this field within Britain, with a record of innovation. The CEO has over 25 years experience of leading work on faith and sexuality. Much work needs to be done to address homophobic slurs, and both violent and non violent attacks/extremism that result. Tower Hamlets is identified by the Metropolitan Police Service as one the three areas of London (alongside Soho/Westminster and Vauxhall/Lambeth) where hate incidents have very high community impact amongst LGB&T people across the Capital.

Rainbow Hamlets was awarded £40,000 over two years from the Community and Economic Engagement Strand in the last MSG round. During this period we transitioned from a voluntary to a professionalised agency and have outstripped every KPI. We have a well-respected reputation for the way we address sensitive and complex cohesion and equality issues, often involving faith and sexuality. This includes extensive participation in No Place For Hate, CCCPTMG and a wide array of other structures in which we advocate for LGBT inclusion, and wider equalities and diversity awareness. The grant has enabled RH to develop new casework roles, models and functions, well-integrated in both pan London LGBT structures, and local public and third sector networks. We participate in the Hate Incident Panel and MARAC, and DV Forum and have established with the local police case management and advisory functions that identify critical incidents, establish reassurance processes and enable better service. We also provide cultural competency advice to other agencies. Our expertise has been recognised by a capacity building award from MOPAC and in a wider role evaluating police work on LGBT-related hate crime at New Scotland Yard.

LGB&T council tax payers benefit very little from programmes funded by Mainstream Grant. Many delivery agencies in the C&EE programme identified no or very few LGB&T beneficiaries. A previously published impact assessment for related economic development programmes have had LGBT participation at less than one half of one per cent.

The local authority and the wider strategic partnership needs a partner with which to work in order to fulfil its public sector equality duty. This grant enabled Rainbow Hamlets to advocate for the needs and experiences of LGB&T people and for wider equalities concerns which otherwise would have no voice.

If the old programme enabled applications of up to £20,000 per annum, the new proposal states in the main report (item 5.1):

#### 3.43.5 Theme 5 - Community Engagement Cohesion and Resilience

This theme will seek to:

- promote community leadership and engagement, supporting projects where local residents and community groups seek to develop activities and services to address locally identified needs; and
- support projects which promote community cohesions, through bringing groups and individuals from different cultures together in an integrated manner, based on our Community Cohesion toolkit model

The service specification will draw on lessons from the Community Cohesion and Neighbourhood Agreements toolkits, One Tower Hamlets and Public Health Can Do

funded projects, in terms of what has worked well and on other ideas that will emerge from discussions with community groups on the Empowering Residents and Building Resilience priority proposed in the revised Community Plan.

*Projects will mainly be funded by way of smaller grants with a life of around 12 months. Scope for rationalising grant streams through combining the One Tower Hamlets and Can Do grants into a single pot with this MSG stream is being explored. {Our emphasis}*

As a participant in the MSG Review process on behalf of the Third Sector, I heard on many occasions an assurance that the new programmes would be strategic grants, not small grants.

**REQUEST ONE** We ask you to consider whether the current proposal is indeed a strategic grants programme.

The Equality Impacts of the changes are addressed in document 5.1k.

It says:

1.4 Arguably the former Community Economic Engagement Services theme was also targeted at promoting cohesion within the borough, yet the entirety of the budget (0.300) is now allocated to Jobs Skills and Prosperity. However, it is not thought that this will adversely impact organisations or groups focused on improving cohesion within the borough given there is now a specific focus via the Cohesion Engagement Cohesion and Resilience theme. Whilst the budget and proportion of funding for this theme is small (0.080), there were very few 'cohesion' projects within the previous theme. Therefore the impact may be greater.

We wish to seek your views on two matters in relation to this:

- 1) The analysis fails to recognise the difference between a programme that enabled agencies to bid for grants of up to £20,000 a year over several years, and one that offers small grants of 5-10k for work over 12 months and on a one-off basis. Whatever the merits of any future bid, this is a structural change that by its nature excludes the kind of innovative extended work undertaken on behalf of LGB&T people over several years in the last programme from the terms of the new one. This is an equality impact on two protected characteristics: sexual orientation and gender identity. **REQUEST TWO** We formally request you review whether or not the engagement, cohesion and resilience needs of LGB&T people as we have set out, can continue to be addressed as effectively by 'smaller grants with a life of around 12 months'. We ask you to ensure this is documented, so that officers can consider how to address it.
- 2) The paragraph also records that not a single penny of the previous C&EE budget is being allocated into the Community Engagement, Cohesion and Resilience theme. **REQUEST THREE** We ask you to consider whether or not this is an appropriate allocation of resource and whether some funds be transferred across to enable a more strategic grant programme in the new theme.

Referring now to the full specifications in 5.1g. There it states that the One Tower Hamlets Fund was meant to be merged with this programme (last paragraph Section 1). Yet it has recently been opened as a discrete grant programme. It would be appropriate to retain the Mayor's One Tower Hamlets Fund if the MSG programme was at the strategic grant level. However if this MSG strand is also a small grants programme, with very similar aims and purposes, it is hard for agencies to understand the distinction between the two. **REQUEST FOUR** Could you clarify

why two over-lapping small grants programmes are on the table and no strategic level grant programme?

Finally, we wish to draw your attention to The Cohesion Tool Kit also known as [Getting Along Together](#). In both this MSG programme and the One Tower Hamlets Fund, it is seen as a key statement of bid criteria. It was written before the Equality Act, and refers to documents which the agencies responsible have updated many times. Yet it has never been updated or consulted upon. It is focussed on models of community organisation involving individual leaders that best suits faith and established BME communities. The document does not once address directly the sensitive and complex cohesion challenges in relation to sexual orientation and gender identity in this borough. There is no recognition of intra-community cohesion challenges, of the need to build relations within as well as between, of complications that arise from intersectionality, of building understanding with reluctant partners. We would question whether it incorporates learning from many of the challenges addressed by the CCCPTMG in recent years.

**REQUEST FIVE** Please consider whether this needs to be reviewed/ revised as a matter of urgency to incorporate cohesion and resilience needs of disabled, LGBT and new migrant communities. In the meantime, we ask you consider its role in grant giving.

We thank you for your attention on this matter. As ever we remain committed to working in partnership with all officers in the excellent work they do in this field, notwithstanding our comments on these proposals.

Yours sincerely,



Jack Gilbert  
Chief Executive  
Rainbow Hamlets  
3 Birkbeck St  
London E2



17<sup>th</sup> April 2015

Sir Ken Knight  
Chief Commissioner, DCLG  
London Borough of Tower Hamlets  
Mulberry Place  
5 Clove Crescent  
London E14 2BG

Dear Sir Ken,

**Funding for strategic level support to the voluntary, faith and community sectors in Tower Hamlets**

We write in relation to the new Mainstream Grants Programme and how funding for strategic level support of the voluntary, faith and community sectors in Tower Hamlets will be provided under the new Grants Programme.

THCVS is a relatively new Council for Voluntary Service, having been set up with the assistance of Tower Hamlets Council in 2010 to support a vibrant, growing and successful third sector in the Borough and to be a strategic partner to the Council.

You will be aware that THCVS has until now been funded by the Council to undertake a number of different activities in the borough to support both the voluntary sector and also the Council itself. This support includes working with voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations to develop their capacity, as well as a second strand of strategic level work of representing the voice of the sector, acting as an independent advocate for organisations, and facilitating partnerships to help increase the sector's ability to work together and to bid for contracts. We have also been successfully providing a focal point for information, by building and maintaining a database and searchable online directory of organisations and services in the borough and supporting the Council and other statutory partners with their communications to the sector.

Over the last MSG programme, both these strands of work have been funded by the Council by way of a "top-slice" - a small amount of funding from each of the MSG funding streams has been used to fund the work of THCVS in supporting the sector overall.

We have read the papers published for the Commissioner's Decision Making meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April and are aware that the proposed new MSG programme contains a Third Sector Infrastructure theme, which includes support to organisations to develop their

capacity (through the development of good strong governance, improving their monitoring and evaluation, helping organisations make successful funding bids and supporting organisations to achieve quality accreditations). This is work we feel THCVS has delivered strongly in the past and we will be making an application for funding under this theme.

We have noted however that the strategic level support currently undertaken by THCVS is not included in the new MSG programme. This work includes:

- Undertaking advocacy on behalf of voluntary sector organisations; and providing the voice of the sector;
- Facilitating partnerships between organisations in order to deliver better, more joined-up services to the residents of Tower Hamlets;
- Increasing the awareness of the voluntary and community sector amongst key audiences, and raising the profile of the sector;
- Assisting organisations to take part in consultations and planning, many of whom are small organisations with limited resources;
- Managing projects and taking part in partnerships and social enterprise;
- Administering, facilitating and chairing the Third Sector Advisory Board, a strategic level meeting for the voluntary, Council, health and business sectors to discuss and resolve common issues;
- Helping to ensure the delivery of the Tower Hamlets Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy action plan;
- Providing the view of the sector into borough-wide strategies and consultations, including the Community Plan and the Third Sector Strategy;
- Representing the Sector on the Community Safety Partnership and the Adults Safeguarding Board;
- Facilitating the Training, Employment and Enterprise Forum, bringing together businesses, the voluntary sector and the Council;
- Sector conferences and training, including our annual voluntary sector conference which attracts over 100 delegates from across the Borough;
- Communicating news, advice and legislative updates to the sector via regular e-bulletins and newsletters;
- Maintenance and regular updating of our website, which includes news and resources, a premises directory where organisations can find and list spaces for hire, and a searchable Directory of organisations and services in the borough.

We are very concerned about the impact on the sector should this work no longer be funded; we know that it is important work that is valued by both the sector and also the Council.

We are therefore asking that consideration is given to how this work is funded in the future. We believe there are a number of options available in order to support this work in the future - to add the funding for this work and a specification for it into the new MSG programme; for the Council to commission the work; or for the Council to fund the CVS through a top-slice of the MSG programme as before. We would welcome any of these approaches, but would ask that timeframe for any funding programme matches that of the MSG programme so that this valuable service continues without disruption.

The THCVS board and staff would welcome the chance to discuss these issues, and the work of THCVS and Tower Hamlets voluntary sector with you. Our Chief Executive, Kirsty Cornell, will be attending the public meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, and will be contactable by phone and email both beforehand and afterwards.

Thank you very much for your time.

Yours sincerely,



Suzanne Firth  
Chair  
THCVS



Sharon Hanooman  
Vice Chair  
THCVS



Kirsty Cornell  
Chief Executive  
THCVS

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**Questions for the Commissioner's Decision Making Meeting, 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014**  
**Submitted by THCVS, 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015**

MSG programme consultation and review

1. Page 13, paragraph 3.17 of the papers sets out what the most pertinent pieces of feedback were from the October consultation event. What were the most frequent pieces of feedback from the Consultation?

Could officers provide us with an overview of the main points of the March consultation event as well as some information on how the feedback from that consultation event was incorporated into the revised MSG specifications?

2. Page 17, paragraph 3.33 sets out one of the findings of the MSG review group. What were the other findings from the review groups and to what extent have they been considered and incorporated in the new MSG programme?

The MSG application process

3. Page 32, paragraph 3.83 requests an extension to the timeframe for applications, which we think many organisations will welcome. It does however mean that the time from being notified of funding and starting projects will be reduced to 5 weeks. What assistance will there be to organisations to help them start up their projects in this short timeframe?

What contingency arrangements are in place should there be any delays in the application, assessment and decision- making stages for the new programme? Will the current rollovers be extended?

4. Page 139 (appendix 4, MSG Assessment Process) states that applications scoring less than 46 points will not have met the necessary minimum criteria and would not be recommended for funding unless there is a compelling reason. Can officers provide some clarification on how the figure of 46 points was arrived at?

MSG finance

5. Page 34, paragraph 4.1 explains that budget allocations beyond March 2016 will be assessed as part of the Council's annual budget process. What assurances can successful MSG applicants have for the future years funding of their project over the course of this MSG programme?

Theme specific questions

6. The Community, Engagement and Resilience theme states that projects will have a life of around 12 months. Does this mean this theme will be open to applications on an on-going basis, or should organisations apply now for projects to be run in later years of the MSG programme?
7. The Specification for the Community, Engagement and Resilience theme (page 100) states that there is a proposal to merge this funding stream with the One Tower Hamlets fund. At the beginning of April however the One Tower Hamlets fund was opened for applications. Can we please have clarification on whether the two funds are being merged?

Funding for THCVS

8. Page 18, paragraph 3.40 asks for consideration to be given to the funding for the CVS either by way of a top slice or through a proposal under the Third Sector Infrastructure theme (this is also referred to at pages 36, paragraph 5.11 and 37, paragraph 5.12). When will a decision be made as to the funding arrangements?

9. The current work THCVS undertakes as a strategic partner to the Council, acting as the voice and representation of the voluntary, faith and community sector in the Borough, is not part of the new MSG programme. Will this work continue to be funded after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015?
10. The Equality Analysis makes reference to the CVS top-slice (pages 144, paragraph 1.2 and 145, paragraph 1.3). Will the Equality Analysis be undertaken again if the strategic work of the CVS is not funded after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015, in order to determine if, and to what extent, there are equalities impacts?
11. Page 30, paragraph 3.66 states that the reduction in third sector infrastructure funding should not have an adverse impact on the sector given the MSG programme's new approach on focus and outcomes. Can more detail be given as to why the reduction will not have an adverse impact?

21 April 2015



Max Caller CBE, Commissioner  
Sir Ken Knight CBE QFSM, Commissioner  
London Borough of Tower Hamlets  
Mulberry Place  
5 Clove Crescent  
LONDON  
E14 2BG

Ragged School Museum  
46-50 Copperfield Rd  
London E3 4RR  
T: 020 8980 6405  
F: 020 8983 3481

Dear Mr Caller & Sir Ken Knight

### **LB Tower Hamlets Mainstream Grants Section 106 Agreements**

The Ragged School Museum is grateful to you for the clarity you have brought to the application process for the Mainstream Grants programme, and we look forward to applying. The Museum would also be grateful for clarification over the distribution of Section 106 funds.

The Museum is a charity which has served all the people of Tower Hamlets for over 20 years. Our grade II listed building are the only significant ragged school open to the public in the UK, and the only significant building representing Dr Barnardo's extensive philanthropy in the East End. We are a monument to the struggle for free universal education in nineteenth century Britain.

Saved by local activists from demolition in the 1980's, the Museum has developed and grown over decades. We have built up a loyal following for our education and family learning programmes, drawing 24,000 visitors a year. We offer wide-ranging volunteering for people aged 18 to 80 and work placements for local schools. Young adults with learning difficulties run our small café in the week. We are a hub of community activity which draws visitors from all over the world. This week we have welcomed visitors from California, France and Sweden.

We are at an exciting stage of development, and a first enquiry to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a major refurbishment produced an encouraging response. We currently under-use around 50% of our building but when fully refurbished our initial income forecasts indicate we can be financially self-sufficient. Recognising that local authority support was likely to decline we have already built up new revenue streams. For a number of years we have tried to discover if, and how, we could be considered for funds from Section 106. This support would help us in the transition to becoming financially independent. We feel that the amenity we provide to all local communities enhances the life of the borough considerably. We preserve a very important part of the history of the area, and a history which relevant to every part of the World where universal education is still not a right. (I attach relevant information about the Museum).

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Erica A. Davies'.

Erica Davies, Director

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# RAGGED SCHOOL MUSEUM

The Ragged School Museum is a unique survivor of Dr Barnardo's work in the East End, and the most significant Victorian ragged school to survive. The Ragged School Union was a major reform movement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; campaigning for universal free education, a keystone of social progress. In a richly authentic setting visitors of all ages are inspired by this remarkable history.

The Ragged School Museum is a witness to the power of education and philanthropy to transform lives.

Barnardo converted canal warehouses on Copperfield Road into a free school, opened in 1877. The attendance register for the 1880s is a glimpse of a world of poverty and deprivation. As a registered charity (800538), we generate 70% of our income and additional income is derived from trusts and foundations. We have no regular core funding and a grant of £3k from the local authority. The Museum has 3.7 staff, and we rely on very committed volunteers when we are open to the public.

## Statistics 2012-13

<b>Visitors:</b>	<b>23,031 overall</b>
<b>Schools:</b>	<b>16,305 with 558 sessions delivered to 287 schools</b>
<b>Family Learning:</b>	<b>3,412 participants in 23 sessions</b>
<b>Volunteering &amp; Work placements:</b>	<b>4970 volunteering hours</b>

## 1. Planning a Sustainable Future

Arts Council England awarded the Museum strategic funds to commission a feasibility study; access report; conservation management plan and collection management plan. Our aims are to bring all of the building into public use; improve and extend public facilities; and diversify income to attain financial sustainability. We are also currently supervising a PhD in collaboration with the School of Geography at Queen Mary University: *Health, environment and the institutional care of children in late Victorian London.*

## 2. Museum Learning Programme

We offer a dynamic, interactive experience: a school visit to the Museum has a profound effect, igniting an interest in history, and empathy for the poor pupils of 1877. Our programme is regarded as a beacon of good practice and has been commended by the National Literacy Trust. Pupils at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 can step into the shoes of ragged Victorian children, in sessions that help to teach history, geography and citizenship, as well providing fantastic inspiration for art, drama and literacy. We also offer tailor-made sessions for students of all ages with Special Educational Needs, developed in conjunction with local SEN schools.

## 3. Family Learning Holiday Activities

The Museum produces innovative and creative family activities during school half terms and holidays. Designed to stimulate the creativity and imagination of children, our activities are inspired by the history of the Ragged School and help promote intergenerational learning. Greater parental involvement in a child's education is a priority for London boroughs. Because local children face multiple deprivations, we offer all our holiday sessions free.

## 4. Volunteering & Work Placements

The Museum has been committed to volunteering since its foundation and a core group of volunteers is still integral to our work. Today our volunteering encompasses: young adults with learning difficulties through the Tower Project; local university and school students helping with our family learning; high quality university placements (Cumbria, Greenwich, Goldsmith's and Exeter Universities); and work experience (Sir John Cass and Central Foundation Schools, among many others).



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## RAGGED SCHOOL MUSEUM

The Ragged School Museum is a unique survivor of Dr Barnardo's work in the East End, and the most significant Victorian ragged school to survive. The Ragged School Union was a major reform movement of the 19<sup>th</sup> century; campaigning for universal free education, a keystone of social progress. The RSM is the only ragged school to be available to the public and the only building associated with Dr Barnardo in the area of the East End where he began his philanthropy.

The Museum has never been funded on a regular basis and has relied on a mix of grants and earned income often in widely varying proportions.

### 1. Development of the Ragged School Museum & the History of funding

**1.1. 1990 -2000** In the first decade of operation the largest element of the RSM's income was a grant from the London Boroughs Grants Scheme (£10k – 1991; £28K – 1997) with various grants from LB Tower Hamlets and support from a variety of trusts and foundations and a smaller group of corporate donations.

**1.2. 2001 – 2007** By the turn of the century LBGS changed priorities and the RSM was no longer eligible for their grants. Grants from LBTH increased and the amount raised from trusts and foundations reflected the growth of the Museum's programme of exhibitions and events. Museum staff numbered at its peak 5.7 (5 full time and one part time) plus the sessional actors. LBTH contributed a large proportion of the grant income, nearly £80K in 2006. By 2007 the RSM generated 38% of its income through the shop & café, room hire and schools income.

**1.3. 2008 – 2013** The financial crash had a major impact, trusts and foundations, and corporates contracted their giving. Grants from LBTH steadily declined. The Museum reduced staff to 3.7 plus the sessional actors. The popularity of the schools programme increased steadily and the Victorian lesson gained a strong reputation for the quality of the experience. A redesigned timetable enabled more schools to take part. The income the RSM generated from selling services particularly as a location for film and photo shoots, and paranormal investigations reached a peak of 69% in 2012

**1.4. 2014** We currently generate 64% of our income. Additional income is derived from trusts and foundations. We have no regular core funding and currently the only recurring grant is £3.7k from the LBTH. The Museum has temporarily not replaced a vacancy and currently employs 2.7 staff.

Financial year end	Income	Spending	View	LBTH grants	Trusts & Foundations	Earned Income	%
31 Mar 2013	£199,213	£203,027	<a href="#">Accounts</a>	£5,267	£28,621	£127,576	64
31 Mar 2012	£171,285	£172,884	<a href="#">Accounts</a>	£6,148	£46,686	£117,572	69
31 Mar 2011	£175,502	£175,928	<a href="#">Accounts</a>	£8,970	£44,957	£120,045	68
31 Mar 2010	£176,780	£176,566	<a href="#">Accounts</a>	£32,390	£25,481	£115,717	65
31 Mar 2009	£179,958	£185,773	<a href="#">Accounts</a>	£26,648	£41,600	£108,191	60
31 Mar 2008	£172,094	£191,269		£33,000	£40,345	£ 96,642	56
31 Mar 2007	£195,890	£183,361		£47,000	£66,679	£ 73,453	38
31 Mar 2006	£232,062	£213,255		£79,591	£63,843	£ 88,293	38
31 Mar 2005	£202,744	£241,545		£70,460	£63,286	£ 67,295	33
31 Mar 2004	£228,132	£221,091		£47,216	£120,279	£ 57,879	25
31 Mar 2003	£219,468	£192,667		£50,000	£96,555	£ 59,631	27
31 Mar 2002	£278,721	£261,197		£68,971	£134,756	£ 58,322	11
31 Mar 2001	£207,874	£179,985		* £50,160	£150,403	£ 43,763	21

\* Inc LBGC

(The links are to the RSM accounts on the Charity Commission website)

### Current Operations Statistics 2012-13

<b>Visitors:</b>	<b>23,031 overall</b>
<b>Schools:</b>	<b>16,305 with 558 sessions delivered to 287 schools</b>
	<b>On average 97% of the sessions are booked</b>
<b>Family Learning:</b>	<b>3,412 participants in 23 – 25 sessions</b>
<b>Volunteering &amp; Work placements:</b>	<b>4970 volunteering hours</b>

## 2. Planning a Sustainable Future

The Museum has been developed in stages:

1. No48 Copperfield was developed from the mid 1980's until the opening in 1990,
2. No 50 was refurbished in 1996 as offices with wheelchair access.
3. Parts of No46 have been brought into public use; currently 618 sqm of the buildings is underused.

The Museum cannot generate more income in the current state of our buildings. The staff and trustees accept that the development of the building is imperative. A grant from Arts Council England has facilitated strategic planning. Our aim is to make an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the funds to bring the entire building into public use and to increase resilience and achieve financial sustainability

### 2.1 The RSM aims to:

- Create a wheel chair accessible Victorian classroom & disability access to the whole building.
- Develop an exhibition on the history of the buildings & the Ragged School Union, the work of Dr Barnardo and the social history of the Victorian East End.
- Ensure that the historical fabric is respected, enhanced and secured for the future.
- Improve public facilities - bring No46 fully in o public use, improve the condition of all the buildings.
- Create a temporary exhibition space to attract repeat visits.
- Create, within the limitations of its historic fabric, an energy efficient sustainable building.

### 2.2 Work complete or in progress:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| • Conservation management plan         | Richard Griffiths Architects |
| • Feasibility study & Development Plan | Richard Griffiths Architects |
| • Access Audit                         | Earncliffe                   |
| • Collections management Review        | Heritage & Community         |
| • CAD plans                            | Downland Partnership         |

### 2.3 The RSM aims to increase sustainability and resilience by:

- Hire of the refurbished top floor for seminars / conferences.
- Hire of the refurbished top floor for corporate events.
- An expanded schools & education programme.
- A café / restaurant opening onto the canal
- A section of the first floor of 46 let on a desk basis
- More capacity for additional venue hire for photo shoots etc.

### 2.4 Business Planning in progress

Initial evaluation of potential income are encouraging. A conservative estimate of the annual revenue generated from a café / restaurant is £57K. Letting of desk space on the first floor of No 46 could generate £60K. These are entirely new sources of income. We are working on projections of income from:

- Increased capacity for school / education / U3A visits.
- Increased visitor numbers as a result of longer opening hours.
- Corporate hire of rooms / whole venue.
- Increased use by film & photo shoots because facilities are improved



The Ragged School from 1879 to 2009

### General Comments

- The general drive of the new MSG funding, with the exception of the Community Engagement Theme, appears to be towards funding fewer organisations/consortia with larger grants. Whilst we broadly welcome this more strategic approach to local funding, we note that this will leave many smaller volunteer involving organisations ineligible for MSG funding. It is vitally important that LBTH launches the new Community Fund now, providing grants of up to £10k simultaneously. This will enable smaller organisations to direct their project applications appropriately and secure funding for small-scale projects that benefit Tower Hamlets residents, rather than waste organisational time and resources on submitting MSG applications that are later rejected.
- Very little of the feedback from the Consultation Event on 12 March or from individual written submissions seems to have been incorporated into the revised proposals. Whilst we would not expect all of the voluntary sector's recommendations to have been taken on board, it is unclear why most of it was disregarded. Officers make reference to having included "pertinent" comments, but very many valid contributions and common concerns have been ignored without explanation.

### Application Process

- It remains unclear whether an organisation may apply more than once in the same stream. It is also unclear whether an organisation can submit multiple applications to several streams. This needs to be made unambiguously clear ahead of the launch of the programme.
- It is unclear whether there is any financial cap on the funding amount that any individual organisation or consortium will be awarded. If there will be a cap, then it would be helpful if this could be clarified ahead of 27 April.
- How was the application "pass mark" of 46 points arrived at?
- It would be helpful for LBTH to define the appeals criteria and process in advance of applications (in addition to the timetable already published), so that applicants are clear from the outset about any recourse they may have.

### Concerns about cuts to the Third Sector Organisational Development Theme

- **Disproportionate cuts to funding for infrastructure**

This stream appears to largely replace what was previously titled "*Third Sector Infrastructure Support*". In the 2013-2015 round of MSG, 6 infrastructure projects were funded, including Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets. The total value for the 6 projects over 27 months was £214,000 - £95,111 per annum. In addition to this, Tower Hamlets CVS received £200k per annum as a top slice. This meant a total of £295,111 per annum was allocated to infrastructure activities. The current proposals will slash this funding to just £160,000 per annum. So while the overall MSG funding pot is not cut, there is a hugely disproportionate cut in funding of 46% to infrastructure projects. We are extremely concerned by this proposed reduction in funding to infrastructure at a time when the need for advice, support, training and

volunteering brokerage is greater than ever. Although the papers acknowledge a cut to infrastructure funding, they do not illustrate how vast this is (46%) and it is glossed over with a comment that; *“it is not thought that this will adversely affect the sector at this time – given the new approach and focus on outcomes”*. How has this conclusion been reached? Surely almost halving funding for infrastructure must have a significant negative impact. We ask that the proposed funding for infrastructure be urgently reconsidered.

- **Top slicing for universal infrastructure organisations**

At present, Tower Hamlets CVS is the only organisation to receive funding for infrastructure support outside of the main MSG stream, and they currently receive £200k per annum. Despite questions raised by the voluntary sector, it remains unclear at this time whether this top slice arrangement will continue and, if so, at what financial level. There needs to be clarity on this, and the justification for it, before MSG applications are invited in late April.

As a universal infrastructure provider, we believe that the Volunteer Centre merits equal consideration as the CVS for top-sliced funding, and that failure to fund VCTH under the same methodology as the CVS could be seen as unfair and open to challenge. We would therefore urge LBTH to either top slice funding for VCTH in the same way as THCVS, or to fund both infrastructure organisations via MSG, or to use another open and fair process to commission infrastructure services.

- **Volunteering Brokerage missing**

VCTH welcomes the inclusion of training and 1:1 advice for organisations to effectively manage volunteers in Priority 1, as it is vital that VCS organisations manage existing volunteers well, giving them a positive volunteering experience and enabling them to provide high quality services to Tower Hamlets residents. Many of the projects that will be funded by other MSG themes will rely on the involvement of volunteers. It is therefore critical that the Third Sector Organisational Development theme also includes the brokerage of new volunteers to replenish and diversify volunteer cohorts within third sector organisations. Failure to do this will result in supplies of volunteers drying up, putting at risk services delivered to residents by volunteers. It may also result in organisations only recruiting volunteers from particular communities, reducing access to volunteering, and potentially having a negative impact on community cohesion. Why has volunteering brokerage been ignored?

- **Target Outcomes**

We welcome the inclusion of Volunteer Recruitment and Training Strategies in the outcomes. However, this is rather restrictive and could be widened to include organisations having a comprehensive Volunteer Policy. This would include recruitment and training but also cover issues such as equalities, support and supervision, retention, expenses, resolving problems with volunteers, etc. It may also be helpful to include increased diversification of volunteer forces as a target outcome, encouraging organisations to involve volunteers with additional support needs in their work.

<b>Guiding Principles and Governance Arrangements</b>
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- This paper proposes that a new Grants Executive Board is established to make funding and time-critical decisions. The composition of this Board is unclear. Will it be elected Councillors? Paid officers? DCLG appointed commissioners? Or a combination of these groups?

- There is no reference to continuing the best practice principle of funding organisations quarterly in advance. There have been rumours that, in future, MSG may be funded in arrears. Most local third sector organisations have very limited reserves and cannot afford to cashflow projects. Of the 327 MSG projects funded in 2012-2015, only 5% (18 projects) were rated red for serious underperformance. 86% of MSG-funded projects were rated green and were delivered entirely satisfactorily. A further 9% (29 projects) were rated amber, so largely delivered. Any risk to MSG funds given quarterly in advance is already proven to be minimal. Please continue the principle of funding the third sector in advance.

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