

Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee



Thursday, 26 November 2020 at 5.00 p.m.

Online 'Virtual' Meeting - <https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Agenda

Chair

Councillor Candida Ronald
(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector)

Members

Mayor John Biggs	(Executive Mayor)
Councillor Asma Begum	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Youth and Equalities)
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing)
Councillor Sabina Akhtar	(Cabinet Member for Culture, Arts and Brexit)
Councillor Rachel Blake	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing)
Councillor Mufeedah Bustin	Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (Job Share) - Lead on Social Inclusion
Councillor Danny Hassell	(Cabinet Member for Children and Schools)
Councillor Asma Islam	Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm (Job Share) - Lead on Environment
Councillor Eve McQuillan	Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion (Job Share) - Lead on Planning
Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman	(Cabinet Member for Work and Economic Growth)
Councillor Dan Tomlinson	Cabinet Member for Environment and Public Realm (Job Share) - Lead on Public Realm

[The quorum for the Sub - Committee is 3 Members]

Further Information

Reports for consideration, meeting contact details, public participation and more information on decision-making is available on the following pages.



Public Information

Viewing or Participating in Meetings

The public are welcome to attend meetings of the Grants Determination Sub - Committee. Except where any exempt/restricted documents are being discussed, the public are welcome to view this meeting through the Council's webcast system.

Physical Attendance at the Town Hall is not possible at this time.

Meeting Webcast

The meeting is being webcast for viewing through the Council's webcast system.

<http://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Contact for further enquiries:

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Web:<http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/committee>

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London Borough of Tower Hamlets

Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee

Thursday, 26 November 2020

5.00 p.m.

- | | Pages |
|--|----------------|
| 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE | |
| 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS | 9 - 10 |
| <p>Members are reminded to consider the categories of interest in the Code of Conduct for Members to determine whether they have an interest in any agenda item and any action they should take. For further details, please see the attached note from the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>Members are reminded to declare the nature of the interest and the agenda item it relates to. Please note that ultimately it's the Members' responsibility to declare any interests form and to update their register of interest form as required by the Code.</p> <p>If in doubt as to the nature of your interest, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting by contacting the Monitoring Officer or Democratic Services</p> | |
| 3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES | 11 - 20 |
| <p>To confirm as a correct record of the proceedings the unrestricted minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2020</p> | |
| 4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS | |
| <p>Consideration of any written comments received from members of the public in relation to any of the reports on the agenda.</p> <p>[Any submissions should be sent to the clerk listed on the agenda front page by 5pm the day before the meeting]</p> | |
| 5. EXERCISE OF MAYORAL DISCRETIONS | |
| <p>To note for information individual decisions relating to the award of grants that have been taken by the Mayor the last meeting.</p> | |



6. **GRANTS DETERMINATION SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE, QUORUM, MEMBERSHIP AND DATES OF MEETINGS**

21 - 30

7. **REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION**

7.1	Credit Union Grant Proposal	31 - 34
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7.2	Local Community Fund (LCF) Project Performance and Annual Update Report – October 2019 – September 2020	35 - 124
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Report Summary:

To update the Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-committee on the funding awarded through the Local Community Fund.

To update on project performance and an annual update of the programme from October 2019 to September 2020.

Regular reports have been taken to the Commissioners and then the Grants Determination Sub-Committee to report on the performance of the Council's main grants programmes. Previously a report was taken that gave an update on the first 6 months of the Local Community Fund and this report gives an annual update covering the first 12 months of the programme – Oct 19 – Sep 20.

Wards: All Wards
Lead Member: Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector
Corporate Priority: A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in

7.3	VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority	125 - 172
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Report Summary:

This report provides an update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector organisations under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee

Wards: All Wards
Lead Member: Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector
Corporate Priority:

8. **ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**

Next Meeting of the Committee:

Wednesday, 13 January 2021 at 5.30 p.m. in Online 'Virtual' Meeting - <https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

Tower Hamlets Council
Town Hall
Mulberry Place
5 Clove Crescent
E14 2BG

Agenda Item 2.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AT MEETINGS– NOTE FROM THE MONITORING OFFICER

This note is for guidance only. For further details please consult the Code of Conduct for Members at Part C, Section 31 of the Council's Constitution

(i) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI)

You have a DPI in any item of business on the agenda where it relates to the categories listed in **Appendix A** to this guidance. Please note that a DPI includes: (i) Your own relevant interests; (ii) Those of your spouse or civil partner; (iii) A person with whom the Member is living as husband/wife/civil partners. Other individuals, e.g. Children, siblings and flatmates do not need to be considered. Failure to disclose or register a DPI (within 28 days) is a criminal offence.

Members with a DPI, (unless granted a dispensation) must not seek to improperly influence the decision, must declare the nature of the interest and leave the meeting room (including the public gallery) during the consideration and decision on the item – unless exercising their right to address the Committee.

DPI Dispensations and Sensitive Interests. In certain circumstances, Members may make a request to the Monitoring Officer for a dispensation or for an interest to be treated as sensitive.

(ii) Non - DPI Interests that the Council has decided should be registered – (Non - DPIs)

You will have 'Non DPI Interest' in any item on the agenda, where it relates to (i) the offer of gifts or hospitality, (with an estimated value of at least £25) (ii) Council Appointments or nominations to bodies (iii) Membership of any body exercising a function of a public nature, a charitable purpose or aimed at influencing public opinion.

Members must declare the nature of the interest, but may stay in the meeting room and participate in the consideration of the matter and vote on it **unless:**

- A reasonable person would think that your interest is so significant that it would be likely to impair your judgement of the public interest. **If so, you must withdraw and take no part in the consideration or discussion of the matter.**

(iii) Declarations of Interests not included in the Register of Members' Interest.

Occasions may arise where a matter under consideration would, or would be likely to, **affect the wellbeing of you, your family, or close associate(s) more than it would anyone else living in the local area** but which is not required to be included in the Register of Members' Interests. In such matters, Members must consider the information set out in paragraph (ii) above regarding Non DPI - interests and apply the test, set out in this paragraph.

Guidance on Predetermination and Bias

Member's attention is drawn to the guidance on predetermination and bias, particularly the need to consider the merits of the case with an open mind, as set out in the Planning and Licensing Codes of Conduct, (Part C, Section 34 and 35 of the Constitution). For further advice on the possibility of bias or predetermination, you are advised to seek advice prior to the meeting.

Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act, 1992 - Declarations which restrict Members in Council Tax arrears, for at least a two months from voting

In such circumstances the member may not vote on any reports and motions with respect to the matter.

Further Advice contact: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance and Monitoring Officer,
Tel: 0207 364 4800.

APPENDIX A: Definition of a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

(Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, Reg 2 and Schedule)

Subject	Prescribed description
Employment, office, trade, profession or vacation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the relevant authority) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expenses incurred by the Member in carrying out duties as a member, or towards the election expenses of the Member. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between the relevant person (or a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest) and the relevant authority— (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged.
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the relevant authority.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the relevant authority for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to the Member's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the relevant authority; and (b) the tenant is a body in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest.
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where— (a) that body (to the Member's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the relevant authority; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the relevant person has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

MINUTES OF THE GRANTS DETERMINATION (CABINET) SUB-COMMITTEE

HELD AT 5.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2020

ONLINE 'VIRTUAL' MEETING - [HTTPS://TOWERHAMLETS.PUBLIC-I.TV/CORE/PORTAL/HOME](https://towerhamlets.public-i.tv/core/portal/home)

Members Present:

Councillor Candida Ronald (Chair)	(Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector)
Mayor John Biggs	(Executive Mayor)
Councillor Asma Begum	(Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Youth and Equalities)
Councillor Sirajul Islam	(Statutory Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Housing)

Other Councillors Present:

Councillor Tarik Khan
(Scrutiny Lead Resources)

Officers Present:

Onyekachi Ajisafe	(Strategy & Policy Officer, Strategy Policy & Performance)
Janet Fasan	(Divisional Director, Legal, Governance)
David Freeman	(Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy Manager)
Afazul Hoque	(Head of Corporate Strategy & Policy)
Robert Mee	(Programme Analysis and Review Officer)
Zoe Folley	(Democratic Services Officer, Committees, Governance)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Councillor Asma Begum declared a Non-DPI interest in Agenda items.

This was on the basis that Councillor Tarik Khan was a Trustee of Tower Hamlets Youth Sports Foundation.

Councillor Tarik Khan declared a Non-DPI interest in agenda items. This was on the basis that he was a Trustee of Tower Hamlets Youth Sports Foundation

Councillor Sirajul Islam declared a Non-DPI interest in agenda item 6,2, VSC Funding Under Delegated Authority. This was due to a historic application for an allotment from Prospect Walk (listed in the Attachments)

3. UNRESTRICTED MINUTES

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meeting of the 4th March 2020 meeting were agreed and approved as a correct record.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS

There were none.

5. EXERCISE OF MAYORAL DISCRETIONS

It was noted that the following Individual Mayoral Decision was taken since the last meeting in March 2020

- Community organisations and Faith Based Groups Leasing Premises from the Council – Rent Relief (23 April 2020).

6. REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION

6.1 MSG Performance Report October 2019 – March 2020

Robert Mee (Programme Analysis and Review Officer) presented the report. This was the final performance report and covered the MSG extension agreed by Cabinet.

Councillor Tarik Khan (Scrutiny Lead, Resources) advised of the Overview and Scrutiny's questions on this report, regarding the low take up of the MSG Rent Subsidy scheme, expected participation in the Community Benefit Rent Reduction (CBRR) scheme and whether this was temporary.

In response the following information was noted.

- That the aims of the MSG Rent Subsidy scheme were to provide temporary support to organisations, to prevent large rent increases when agreeing a new lease.

- Only two MSG organisations qualified for support (of the groups listed in the report) - Stifford Centre and Our Base.
- Our Base had discontinued. Therefore, only Stifford Centre participated in the scheme.
- MSG Rent Subsidy was set up as a temporary scheme while the Community Benefit Rent Reduction (CBRR) scheme was developed and implemented.
- To date 11 groups had been awarded funding from the CBRR scheme with one group currently receiving the benefit.
- The other groups need to have their leases finalised before payments can be released.
- The CBRR is a permanent scheme for VCS groups in Council premises, that could demonstrate that they were providing a community benefit.
- Ongoing updates would be provided to the Committee as part of the VCS project updates.
- It was also noted that a video had been prepared showing MSG project outcomes and this could be recirculated.

Written responses to the questions are attached at Appendix 1.

In response, Members noted the amount of work that had gone into the MSG programme and thanked Officers for this. They also acknowledged the wider programme of support provided by the Council to groups, in addition to the Grants programme, which included commissioning and working with partners.

RESOLVED:

1. Note the performance of the Mainstream Grants (MSG) programme as set out in 3.3 – 3.6 and the premises update 3.7 – 3.9 of the report.

6.2 VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority

David Freeman, (Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy Manager), presented the report that provided an update on VCS Funding awarded under delegated authority by Council officers or, in the case of the small grants programme, the East End Community Foundation.

Councillor Tarik Khan (Scrutiny Lead, Resources) advised of the Overview and Scrutiny's questions on this report. In response it was noted that this was a regular update report to the Committee covering the period from the end of February 2020 to the end of August 2020, it included all delegated decisions in respect of the VCS Grants programme, as highlighted above.

Written responses to the questions are attached at Appendix 1.

In response, the Committee were mindful of the challenges that organisations may face due to the loss of income at this time. It was felt important that the Council understood these challenges.

RESOLVED:

1. Note the update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority since their last meeting,
2. Note the new Small Grants Programme theme 'Covid-19 Test and Trace Outreach and Engagement' set out at appendix A2, and
3. Note the decisions made by the Mayor regarding rent relief for VCS organisations that lease premises from the council.

6.3 Local Community Fund (LCF) Project Performance and Update Report – October 2019 – March 2020

Robert Mee presented the report. This was the first report since the introduction of the new LCF programme. The report asked the Committee to agree programme management arrangements and provided an update on project performance.

Councillor Tarik Khan (Scrutiny Lead, Resources) advised of the Overview and Scrutiny's questions on this report. Clarity was sought on the following issues:

- The impact of COVID-19 on project delivery. It was noted that the LCF annual report, covering October 19 – September 20 and plans for the next 12 months, will provide details of project performance and will be submitted to the Sub - Committee on 3rd December 2020.
- Real DPO and Hestia Housing and Support. It was noted that due to the submission of the outstanding paperwork, (that had been outstanding since April 2020) payment could be released to REAL and they were now a green rated project. In addition, due to the satisfactory performance of Hestia Housing in terms of project delivery, payment could also now be made.

Written responses to the questions are attached at Appendix 1.

In response the Committee discussed the following issues:

- The approach to monitoring projects during the Covid 19 period.
- It was noted that the Council sought to take a different approach to monitoring project performance. The intention was to adopt an outcomes based approach, particularly during the Covid period, to identify how projects were actually making a positive contribution, rather than focusing on specific targets.
- Members felt it was important that projects should look at alternative ways of delivering services and outputs if necessary during the Covid period, and set revised targets.

- It was reported that Officers were working with groups to identify any underspends with a view to allocating these to other activities with the same outcomes, by the end of September 2020.
- Officers expressed confidence that the programme should achieve its aims over the remainder of the programme, potentially through using different ways of delivering outcomes.
- The Mayor noted that since last meeting, Rupert Williams the CEO of St Hilda's East Community Centre had retired. He noted he had done a great job.

RESOLVED:

1. Agree the LCF Programme Management arrangements including delegated authority to undertake appropriate actions in respect of all matters relating to the fund including but not exclusively in respect of Premises, Debtors, Projects and performance prior to payment
 2. Note the performance of the Local Community Fund programme as set out in 3.3 to 3.8 for Oct 19 – Mar 20 and the impact of Covid-19 in 3.9 and Appendix 4.1 – 4.5.
 3. Agree the premises condition dispensation continues for Age UK and REAL as set out in 3.8 with future decisions made by delegated authority as part of the proposed LCF Programme Management arrangements.
 4. Agree that the Infrastructure & Capacity Building funding due to Tower Hamlets Community Transport be re-purposed to fund work on restructuring options
7. **ANY OTHER UNRESTRICTED BUSINESS CONSIDERED TO BE URGENT**
There were none

The meeting ended at 6.15 p.m.

Chair, Councillor Candida Ronald
Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee

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Agenda Item	Item Name + Ward Impacted	Summary of item	Questions from Cllrs + Potential Key Lines of Enquiry	Response
6.1	<p>MSG Project Performance Report – October 19 to March 20</p> <p>All Wards</p>	<p>The Mainstream Grant (MSG) 2015/18 Programme was approved by the Commissioners on 29 July 2015 and was initially expected to be delivered from 1st September 2015 through to 31st August 2018. Further extensions to the programme until 30th September 2019 were agreed at GDSC. As part of the transitional arrangements following the move to the Local Community Fund it was later agreed to continue to fund some MSG projects in the Community Languages and Lunch Club strands. This was at the same level of funding under the council's mainstream grants programme (MSG) for a period of six months from 1st October 2019 to 31st March 2020.</p> <p>This is a final noting report, that outlines the projects that have been delivered during this period October 2019-March 2020, particularly those delivered before COVID-19 peaked in the UK.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out of the 7 organisations intended to be put on the MSG Rent Subsidy scheme, is it only one that took part in the scheme? • How many organisations do you expect to take part in the Community Benefit Rent Reduction (CBRR) scheme? • Is it a temporary scheme? If so, what will replace it? 	<p>The MSG Rent Subsidy scheme was a temporary measure put in place while the Community Benefit Rent Reduction (CBRR) scheme was being developed and it was to ensure the MSG funded organisations were not met with a large rent increase when agreeing a new lease. The scheme was in place while the MSG programme was running and a lease needed to be agreed and rent invoices raised and sent to organisations before the MSG Rent Subsidy was paid. Only Stifford Centre and Our Base had rent invoices raised and Our Base subsequently shut down operations when MSG came to an end.</p> <p>The Community Benefit Rent Reduction scheme is a permanent scheme which, subject to eligibility criteria, will benefit VCS organisations that lease premises from the council. The 80% rent reduction is intended to acknowledge the benefit to local residents of activities run by these organisations from our premises where the cost of</p>

				<p>rent is not met by other funding from the council. CBRR is only paid after an eligible organisation has completed a new lease with the council. To date, one organisation is in receipt of CBRR, ten further organisations have approved CBRR and are awaiting completion of their leases before payment commences and we anticipate that a further 10-15 organisations may seek CBRR when they move to formal lease arrangements.</p> <p>It is anticipated that a report on Council premises leases to VCS organisations will be presented to Cabinet in November which will include further information about the CBRR scheme and respond to the issues raised by the Scrutiny Challenge session held in November 2019.</p>
6.2	<p>VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority</p> <p>All Wards</p>	<p>This report provides an update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector organisations under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee. Including the small grants programme, innovation fund, contingency fund, the community benefit rent reduction scheme, and rent relief (the Mayor made an</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What period of funding does this report cover? • Does this report indicate all the grants awarded to VCS organisations during this period? 	<p>This report is a regular item on the GDCSC Agenda and each report covers the period since the last GDCSC meeting. The report presented to the meeting on 9 September covers the period from the end of February 2020 to the end of August 2020.</p>

		Individual Mayoral Decision to award rent relief to support local community based organisations during the Covid-19 pandemic).		The report includes all VCS grants programmes where decisions are made under delegated powers either by officers or, in the case of the small grants programme, the East End Community Foundation.
6.3	<p>Local Community Fund (LCF) Project Performance and Update Report – October 2019 – March 2020</p> <p>All Wards</p>	<p>The Mayor in Cabinet agreed on 31st July 2019 to a programme of funding for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations from 1st October 2019. A total of 50 projects were awarded funding totalling £9.31m up to 31 March 2023 to deliver activity across five themes – Inclusion Health and Wellbeing, Digital Inclusion and Awareness, Information Advice and Guidance, Employment and Skills, Community Safety.</p> <p>This report provides a performance update for the period covering October 2019 to March 2020 on the 50 projects that were awarded funding. Of the 50 projects, 48 are rated Green, 1 Amber and 1 Red.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we identify the impact of COVID-19 on project delivery? • Both Real DPO and Hestia Housing and Support have not met their targets. Considering any impact of the pandemic, do we plan to keep paying them? • Are there any other funds these organisations not on the LCF can go under? 	<p>Grant Officers are working with LCF organisations to support them with project delivery and the impact of Covid-19. An Annual Report covering Oct 19 – Sep 20 will be submitted in October and plans for the next 12 months should also be agreed at this time. This will help identify the impact of Covid-19 on delivery and whether the original aims of the project can be achieved to the same extent going forward.</p> <p>All projects had an impact on achieving targets due to Covid-19. Real DPO and Hestia Housing were not rated Green for specific issues:</p> <p>Real DPO – not submitting a signed funding agreement and partnership agreement – both documents have now been submitted</p> <p>Hestia Housing – did not submit the</p>

				<p>first two monitoring returns and there was a question of what was achieved in that period. A meeting with the organisation has now happened to go through the activity on the project.</p> <p>In both these cases it was more of a project management issue than a delivery issue and now this has been resolved payments can now take place.</p> <p>Due to Covid-19 impacting on the programme no projects have had funding withheld for not meeting targets over this period.</p>
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<p>Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub Committee</p> <p>Thursday 26th November 2020</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director for Governance</p>	<p>Classification: [Unrestricted]</p>
<p>GRANTS DETERMINATION SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE, QUORUM, MEMBERSHIP AND DATES OF MEETINGS</p>	

Lead Member	Councillor Candida Ronald
Originating Officer(s)	Zoe Folley, Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Community Plan Theme	

Executive Summary

This report sets out the Terms of Reference, Quorum, Membership and Dates of Meetings of the Grants Determination Sub-Committee for the Municipal Year 2020/21 for the information of its Members.

Recommendations:

The Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub Committee is recommended to:

1. To note its Terms of Reference, Quorum, Membership and Dates of meetings for the Municipal Year 2020/21 as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3 to this report.

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 This report is for the information of the Sub-Committee and no specific decisions are required.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Not applicable to reports for noting.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Each year in May the Council initiates a new municipal year at which time memberships of committees and the calendar of committee meetings are refreshed.
- It is customary that following the Annual General Meeting of the Council that the committees established:
 - Note their Terms of Reference as set out at Appendix 1.
 - Note the Membership for the forthcoming Municipal Year. These are set out in Appendix 1 and 2 to the report respectively.
 - Receive their calendar meetings for the remainder of the year which have been agreed by Full Council. This information is provided at Appendix 3 to the report.

4. GRANTS DETERMINATION SUB COMMITTEE

- 4.1 Decision making powers in respect of grants to voluntary and community organisations was returned to the Council on 17 January 2017.
- 4.2 To ensure that grant making decisions are delivered in an open and fair manner, the Constitution Part 4.4: Executive Procedure Rules, Delegations to the Executive has been revised to enable the Mayor to delegate grants decision-making powers to the Executive acting collectively in the form of the Grants Determination Sub-Committee.
- 4.3 In accordance with Part 4.4 of the Constitution, Rule 1.2 of the Executive Procedure Rules, *the Mayor may appoint such committees of the Executive as he considers appropriate from time to time* and he has appointed The Grants Determination Sub-Committee to determine decisions relating to grants (the Mayor has delegated the functions of this Sub-Committee to be carried out by the Sub-Committee collectively).
- 4.4 The terms of reference provided at Appendix 1 to this report provide further information relating to the function of this Sub Committee.
- 4.5 The Membership of the Sub-Committee is provided at Appendix 2 to the report.
- 4.6 The schedule of meetings for the municipal year 2020/21 is provided at Appendix 3 to the report.

5. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Matters brought before the Committee under its terms of reference during the year will include comments on the financial implications of decisions provided by the Chief Finance Officer. There are no specific comments arising from the recommendations in this report.

6. LEGAL COMMENTS

The matters for the Sub-Committee to note are in line with the resolutions made by Full Council on 30 September 2020 and the Mayor's Executive Scheme of Delegation.

7. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

When drawing up the schedule of dates, consideration was given to avoiding schools holiday dates and known dates of religious holidays and other important dates where at all possible.

8. BEST VALUE (BV) IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific Best Value implications arising from this noting report.

9. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

There are no specific sustainability implications arising from this noting report.

10. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are no specific risk management implications arising from this noting report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- List any appendices [if Exempt, Forward Plan entry MUST warn of that]
- State NONE if none.

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

Zoe Folley, Democratic Services, 0207 364 4877

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GRANTS DETERMINATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Terms of Reference

3.4.3 Grants Determination Sub-Committee

Description: A Sub-Committee of Cabinet established to take Member level decisions in respect of Grants issues.	
Membership: The Mayor plus 3 other Executive Councillors as appointed by the Mayor – the remaining Members of the Executive are substitute Members.	
Functions	Delegation of Functions
1. To determine all applications for grant funding received by the Council that require a Member level decision where there is no specific delegation to officers	Various grants processes have been specifically delegated to officers (see 3 below).
2. To determine all applications for corporate match funding received by the Council.	No delegations
3. The Sub-Committee may delegate decision making to individual officers, provided that the extent of this delegation is made clear and that it is minuted properly	No delegations
4. Where decision making has been delegated, to receive a report advising as to the exercise of a discretion at the next Sub-Committee meeting following the exercise of such discretion.	No delegations
5. To receive quarterly update reports against defined parameters in order for the Council to demonstrate either: that delivery is in line with the application and, therefore, the grant achieved its purpose; or to provide clear delineation where outcomes were not achieved and the reasons for such failure are apparent. Such Monitoring should therefore include measuring performance against the expected outcomes.	No delegations
6. To determine criteria under which grant applications will be considered.	No delegations
Quorum: Three (3) Members of the Committee	

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LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

DECEMBER 2020

GRANTS DETERMINATION (CABINET) SUB-COMMITTEE		
Membership: The Mayor plus three (3) other Executive Councillors as appointed by the Mayor or their nominees who must also be Executive Councillors		
<i>Members (4)</i>	<i>Substitutes</i>	
Mayor Biggs Councillor Candida Ronald Councillor Asma Begum Councillor Sirajul Islam	Councillor Rachel Blake Councillor Sabina Akhtar Councillor Danny Hassell Councillor Motin Uz-Zaman Councillor Mufeedah Bustin Councillor Asma Islam Councillor Eve McQuillan Councillor Dan Tomlinson	

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SCHEDULE OF DATES 2020/21

GRANTS DETERMINATION (CABINET) SUB-COMMITTEE

Notes

1. In keeping with the schedule of Cabinet and Executive Sub-Committees it is proposed that meetings take place at 5.30pm on the following dates:

Thursday 26th November, 2020

Wednesday 13th January, 2021

Wednesday 21st April, 2021

2. It may be necessary to convene additional meetings of the Sub-Committee should urgent business arise. Officers will keep the position under review and consult with the Chair as appropriate.

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Grants determination sub-committee 26 November 2020	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Ann Sutcliffe	Classification: Unrestricted
Credit Union Grant Proposal	

Lead Member	Cllr Mufeedah Bustin, Cabinet Member for Planning and Social Inclusion
Originating Officer(s)	Ellie Kershaw, Tackling Poverty Programme Manager
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Forward Plan Notice Published	[Insert date notice was published]
Reason for Key Decision	N/A
Community Plan Theme	[State Theme]

Executive Summary

LCCU exists to ***improve financial resilience and reduce poverty within our community*** by encouraging people to save, giving access to safe and affordable credit as well as providing banking solutions to those excluded by traditional banks.

Due to the impacts of the pandemic, it is likely that more residents will need a method of accessing affordable finance. In order to continue to make loans, the Credit Union needs a grant to increase the amount of money it holds in reserves.

Recommendations:

The Grants Determination sub-committee is recommended to:

1. Agree that a grant of £100,000 should be made to London Community Credit Union

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Many residents of Tower Hamlets have been adversely impacted financially by the Covid-19 pandemic. The Credit Union offers a safe, lower interest method of borrowing. In order to make the maximum number of loans possible, the Credit Union needs to maintain a level of funding in reserves. The current level will mean that further loans cannot be made.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The Committee could decide not to make the grant. This would mean that London Community Credit Union would have to reduce the number of loans it is able to make this year.

3. DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 LCCU exists to ***improve financial resilience and reduce poverty within our community*** by encouraging people to save, giving access to safe and affordable credit as well as providing banking solutions to those excluded by traditional banks. They have 16,000 members, with approximately one third of these being in Tower Hamlets.
- 3.2 Since the beginning of the pandemic, requests for loans have increased significantly. The Credit Union has both reduced its rates and reconfigured its services to enable lending and saving to continue throughout this time.
- 3.3 In order to provide loans, the Credit Union is required to hold a minimum capital adequacy ratio, which was increased by the Bank of England this year. The pandemic meant that the Credit Union had a period of subdued income compared to its plan, which has had an impact on reserves. They are requesting £100,000 which will boost reserves to meet this ration, which in turn will enable them to continue to make loans.
- 3.4 The Credit Union is also considering investing a small sum in remote joining options, allowing new members to join without the need to attend in person. This would have the short term impact of increasing safety during the pandemic and the long term impact of making joining easier which they anticipate will boost membership.
- 3.5 In an effort to increase membership, the Credit Union has doubled its advertising budget in 2020/21.
- 3.6 Since the Credit Union was founded in 2000, it has provided £21 million of loans to 18,000 residents in Tower Hamlets. The ability to go to the Credit

- Union prevents residents from accessing other forms of high cost lending. For each £1 borrowed from the Credit Union, a resident who would otherwise access high cost lending saves an average of 46p in interest payments.
- 3.7 Moving forward, the Council intends to work with the Credit Union on an extension to the Resident Support Scheme, incorporating loans for residents who do not qualify for a grant. This would require the ability for the Credit Union to make additional loans.
- 3.8 Savings balances have risen since the start of the pandemic, meaning that money is available for making loans- but the capital adequacy ration must be met.
- 3.9 The grant would be made from Tackling Poverty reserves.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific equalities impacts arising from this recommendation. LCCU reaches a good mix of clients and keeps data on these so that any underrepresentation can be addressed through targeted communications.

5. OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This recommendation could have a potentially beneficial impact on crime reduction by reducing the incidence of use of illegal money lenders.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 The Credit Union offers loans to residents of Tower Hamlets at lower interest rates than private lenders in the markets. The impact of COVID has increased demand for these loan facilities and has resulted in the credit union reserve levels falling below the de minimus level required by the Bank of England.
- 6.2 This report seeks to provide the Credit Union with additional funding of £100,000 to ensure its reserve are above this de minimus level, enabling it to offer further loans to residents within Tower Hamlets.
- 6.3 It is proposed to use the Mayors Tackling Poverty reserve to fund this contribution to the Credit Union. After adjusting for budgeted drawdowns in year, this reserve has a balance of £1.425m. Further commitments of £250k towards the Residents Support Scheme and £399k for team costs have been agreed, reducing the available balance to £776k.
- 6.4 The Tackling Poverty team will be funded from this reserve in 2021/22. Staff costs are estimated to be £600k. This leaves sufficient funding available to meet the contribution to the Credit Union. However, it should be noted that making this contribution will mean that there will be a reduced balance (c£80k) for use on future projects and the decision to fund the credit union should be taken in consideration with other priorities for this funding.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Council has the legal power to make this grant. However, such a grant constitutes state aid for the purposes of EU law.
- 7.2 However, EU law contains a de minimis exemption. The Council will not be subject to state aid penalties where the sum total of the state aid given to the particular organisation is less than €200,000 in any continuous three year period.
- 7.3 The Council will need to ensure that if any future assistance is required by the organisation that consideration is given to any previous assistance granted to ensure that the Council does not breach this threshold in any continuous three year period.
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- LCCU Annual report 2018/19
-

https://londoncu.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Annual-Report-2018-19_web.pdf

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A

Grants Determination Sub Committee 26 November 2020	
Report of: Will Tuckley, Chief Executive	Classification: [Unrestricted or Exempt]
Local Community Fund (LCF) Performance and Annual Update Report Oct 19 – Sep 20	

Lead Member	Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources and the Voluntary Sector
Originating Officer(s)	Robert Mee, Programme Analysis & Review Officer
Wards affected	All
Key Decision?	No
Forward Plan Notice Published	
Reason for Key Decision	Not a key decision
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	All

Executive Summary

The Mayor in Cabinet agreed on 31st July 2019 to a programme of funding for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations from 1st October 2019. A total of 50 projects were awarded funding totalling £9.31m up to 31 March 2023 to deliver activity across five themes - Inclusion Health and Wellbeing, Digital Inclusion and Awareness, Information Advice and Guidance, Employment and Skills, Community Safety

The first year of the programme included the Covid-19 pandemic and organisations worked to support residents through this period. Projects have been RAG rated Green for performance with this rating taking account of these circumstances with all projects working towards achieving their outcome targets.

The Project Summary (Appendix 1) gives an update by project and the Annual Report (Appendix 2) gives a programme overview.

With activity adapting to new ways of delivery funding agreements may need to be amended to reflect this. Appendix 3 shows a summary of changes by Theme and Appendix 4 analyses the geographical and equalities information for the year.

Recommendations:

The Grants Determination Sub Committee are recommended to:

1. Note the performance of the Local Community Fund programme as set out in 3.2 to 3.5 and Appendix 1 - 4 for Oct 19 – Sep 20.

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 Regular performance updates ensure that the LCF themes and individual projects are on track to achieve the targeted outcomes.
- 1.2 Any issues that raise concerns can be addressed and appropriate remedial actions agreed. Where necessary, this could include the reduction, withdrawal or reallocation of funds to ensure that the overall Programme is making the most effective use of resources and maximising the potential achievement of agreed aims and objectives.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 Information relating to various aspects of project and monitoring activity is contained within the report to provide Grants Determination Sub Committee with an overall understanding of how projects and organisations have performed against the key elements of their Funding Agreements.
- 2.2 Grants Determination Sub Committee could request further information or alter the recommendations.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

3.1 Background

The Mayor in Cabinet agreed on 31st July 2019 to a programme of funding for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations from 1st October 2019. A total of 50 projects were awarded funding totalling £9.31m up to 31 March 2023 to deliver activity across five themes - Inclusion Health and Wellbeing, Digital Inclusion and Awareness, Information Advice and Guidance, Employment and Skills, Community Safety

3.2 LCF Theme update

Appendix 1 Project Summary gives an update for each project with key performance indicator and progress updates up to September 2020.

Projects have been able to deliver their activity to support residents in the year with substantial progress being made up to March 2020. The impact of

Covid-19 from late March did have an impact but organisations were able to adapt services and provide support to residents through the second half of the year.

The RAG ratings of GREEN for the projects show that although there has been an impact, projects are still on track to achieve project outcomes for the lifetime of the programme.

48 Local Community Fund projects and the 1 Infrastructure & Capacity Building project delivered activities between October 2019 – September 2020.

Two LCF projects managed by REAL began in April 2020 with a condensed delivery over three years. These projects were new and there were lengthy discussions around agreeing the funding agreement which delayed project staff recruitment. In early 2020 it was agreed to rework the targets over a three-year period with delivery beginning in April 2020.

- 3.2.1** The Infrastructure & Capacity Building Fund is funding the Tower Hamlets Voluntary and Community Sector (THVCS) Infrastructure project lead by Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services (THCVS) in partnership with Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets (VCTH) and Tower Hamlets Community Transport (THCT).

This also includes support to those organisations funded through the LCF programme and other Council funding as well as other VCS organisations in the borough.

At the Cabinet meeting of 21 October 2020, it was agreed to vary the funding agreement to incorporate the continued delivery of the Covid-19 Volunteering Hub as recommended below:

Agree the proposed grant variation to the funding agreement between the Council and Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service (THCVS) in relation to the Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grants Programme. This grant is delivered by a partnership led by THCVS, with the relevant element within that delivered by Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets (VCTH). The proposed variation will change the volunteering focus of the programme to prioritise the delivery of a Covid-19 Volunteering Hub to VCS organisations.

A revised funding agreement is being prepared with specific key performance indicators identified for the delivery of the Covid-19 Volunteering Hub.

- 3.2.2** There are several LCF funded organisations that are in Council buildings and there are regular meetings with Asset Management to ensure that there is an appropriate property agreement in place and that the project is meeting its Premises Condition.

There are two organisations that do not have a property agreement in place – Age UK and REAL. A waiver was agreed at the 9th September GDSC that these organisations could be paid while discussions with Asset Management

continue and future decisions would be delegated to the SPP Divisional Director in consultation with the Corporate Director Place.

It has been a general principle that if delays to getting an appropriate property agreement in place were with the Council then organisations should not be penalised. This can be difficult to determine as lease documents go back and forth and legal teams for the Council and the organisation need to sign off documents.

There are three organisations where the Council is trying to put in place property agreements that have been flagged as having potential to not meet the conditions:

- Age UK – while there has been a waiver agreed by GDSC there is potential for the next payment to be withheld until the lease has been signed.
- REAL – there has been discussion of the direction the Council wants to go with this, but the latest approach is to agree a 12-month licence with REAL for the occupation of a floor at Jack Dash House. Clarification has been sought with Asset Management over what is causing the delay to have this in place.
- Working Well Trust – although this organisation has a Tenancy at Will and is paying rent on a monthly basis Asset Management are looking to move to a more appropriate property agreement.

3.3 Annual Report

Appendix 2 Annual Report presents a programme report, highlighting the work done by Theme including case studies and equalities and geographical breakdowns using the information from the individual project reports and from the support work done by grant officers through the period.

An Annual Report was a key part of the reporting process but was originally scheduled to begin with an update up to March 2020 (the first six months of the programme) and each subsequent year. This was to align the reporting with financial years. However, the impact of Covid-19 in March onwards meant in order to relieve some of the project management / reporting pressures on groups it was agreed that the Annual Report would be for the first 12 months of the programme and every 12 months after that with the final report covering the last 6 months.

A variation to the projects Funding Agreements that included the original reporting schedule was sent out 30 June 2020 and projects were due to submit their annual reports by 21st October 2020. The information included with this report includes an outcomes update, equalities and geographical data, case studies and general project progress for the year.

3.4 Next Steps – October 2020 – September 2021

With the impact of Covid-19 on the LCF programme it was important to support groups with planning, including what steps to take if there were further lockdowns, as has happened with the announcement of a lockdown from 5 November 2020. To this end grant officers worked with groups to identify what changes there are to funding agreements – any description or indicator that refers to activity that could no longer take place e.g. face to face sessions would need to be amended. This exercise found that there were no significant changes to the aims or outcomes of the projects with lifetime targets still on track to be met.

Appendix 3 – Changes to Original Funding Agreements summarises the position by theme confirming how many projects fall under the following categories:

- No changes to the funding agreement / minor changes – this could include a project name change, minor changing to wording of project description or outcomes / indicators to reflect a change of activity e.g. Move to remote delivery
- Substantial changes – this could include a change of indicator target for year 2, a change to the indicators, e.g. to better capture the steps to achieve the outcomes
- Significant Variation – this would be a change to the project aim or outcomes or a significant change to lifetime targets and would need Committee approval

There are no significant changes identified other than the change to the Infrastructure & Capacity Building project that was approved at Cabinet 21 October 2020.

In addition to identifying any changes to the funding agreement projects agreed a plan for the next twelve months identifying the adapted services and contingency planning for further restrictions and setting out estimated KPI targets for Year 2.

Projects have adapted services due to the impact of Covid-19 with remote delivery now a key component of project activity.

Examples include:

- A Volunteer Digital Buddies project was piloted to match clients who need digital support to get online, access services, learn how to use devices to trained and vetted volunteers for weekly support. The project will continue a remote and online process of interviewing, vetting of DBS and ID.
- Deliver activities through Zoom, WhatsApp, telephone and email.

- Continue to provide weekly workshops and health and fitness classes through Zoom
- Continue to provide virtual group activities to reduce social isolation, provide opportunities for the children and young people to connect and provide some routine throughout the week.
- Job Club - The project has moved their project online and will be continuing to do so for the foreseeable future. This includes engaging their clients via online mediums such as email and talking over the phone.
- The project is and will continue to engage with their clients through MS Teams and videocall. They have created an Instagram account to which they have found great success in getting participants involved.
- Digital inclusion activities to help older residents online – this will include ‘how to’ videos, to teach them how to use platforms like zoom, that can connect them to their family and friends.

3.5 Geographical and Equalities Breakdown

The beneficiary breakdown for the entire programme, as reported by the projects within their Annual Report, is set out in **Appendix 4 Equality Analysis – Oct 19 – Sep 20** which looks at the actual numbers for the first year of the programme and compares to the original Equality Analysis and Borough Profile.

The geographical breakdown shows that residents from across the borough have been supported by the programme and that the protected groups identified in the Equality Analysis have been supported broadly in line with expectations.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A strategic assessment was undertaken of the proposed Local Community Fund (LCF) programme with the Equality Analysis comprising part of the report recommending funding as agreed at the 31 July 2019 Cabinet. This included looking at the change from Mainstream Grants (MSG) to the Local Community Fund and whether the recommended projects were able to deliver against identified need.
- 4.2 The analysis identified some potentially negative impacts relating to age, race and disability and these were addressed by initiating activity outside the LCF programme including:
- New themes developed for the Small Grants Programme
 - Access and Participation

- Community Support Services for Older People
 - Commissioned Services contracts to address key areas:
 - Young People’s Mental Health
 - Early Years
 - Young People’s Disability Sports
 - Young Carers
- 4.3 The programme continues to deliver against the themes developed to address the identified need.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This section of the report is used to highlight further specific statutory implications that are either not covered in the main body of the report or are required to be highlighted to ensure decision makers give them proper consideration. Examples of other implications may be:

- Best Value Implications,
- Consultations,
- Environmental (including air quality),
- Risk Management,
- Crime Reduction,
- Safeguarding.
- Data Protection / Privacy Impact Assessment.

5.2 There are no other specific statutory implications relevant to consideration of this report.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 This report updates on the performance of Local Community Fund programme and the impact of Covid-19 on delivery of objectives.

6.2 The Council’s Local Community Fund programme has total funding allocation of £9.31m until March 2023, approximately £3.1m per annum. The council has also included a claim for central government funding of £1.464m to support the Covid-19 voluntary and community sector response.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 All organisations have Green status in respect of their performance of the relevant fund agreements. It is important however, especially considering an uncertain environment, that monitoring continues to ensure that the Council meets its legal Best Value Duty.

7.2 The Council needs to progress the implementation of written tenancy agreements with those organisations who occupy Council buildings as this

was part of the original Best Value Action Plan as agreed with the Secretary Of State

7.3 There are no other legal implications arising from this report.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE

Appendices

- Appendix 1 Project Summary
- Appendix 2 Annual Report
- Appendix 3 Summary of changes to Original Funding Agreements
- Appendix 4 Equality Analysis - – October 2019 – September 2020

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A

Theme / Scheme	1- Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing 1A - Children, Young People & Families
Priorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase access to Youth Services 2. Provision of Early Help support to families 3. Support for young carers
Outcomes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Children and young people, in particularly girls and young women: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. have more confidence in themselves; b. are more resilient, and c. are able to, and do, access a range of spaces, activities and social opportunities across Tower Hamlets. 2. Girls and young women feel included, are able to participate in any service, and are more likely to train to become youth leaders and/or develop their own initiatives. 3. Children and young people who may feel excluded from participating in mainstream services and activities (e.g from minority groups, who are disabled, who are LGBTQI, or who are carers for others) can participate in a range of activities and experiences. 4. Children, young people and their families are listened to and their input is considered and included in decision making. 5. Young carers are supported and included; their needs and concerns are understood and are taken into account at local and strategic levels. 6. Children under 5 grow up in positive family environments and are supported to thrive.

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Canaan Project / Canaan Project - Isle of Dogs	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£100,835	Canaan Project provides activities for young women aged 11-19 on the Isle of Dogs. Working with George Green’s school and Café Forever we offer activities including cooking, craft, sports, and inspirational workshops at our weekly lunch and after school clubs as well as opportunities to join us for regular trips.	<p>Young women in year: demonstrate increased confidence in one or more dimensions – 125</p> <p>demonstrate an increased knowledge of how to build and maintain positive relationships – 76</p> <p>From July have been unable to run sessions due to Covid-19. Have continued to engage with young women through online sessions and mentoring.</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>The project is adapting to the challenges of Covid-19, and expects to achieve the milestones still, but the timeline of its progress has changed.</p>

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Half Moon Young People's Theatre / Professional Theatre and Inclusive Participatory Drama for Young People	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£133,746	Professional theatre shows and inclusive participatory drama opportunities in an accessible and welcoming venue. The activity is for children and young people from 0-18 (or 25 for disabled young people) from all backgrounds and abilities from across Tower Hamlets, providing free access support to anyone who needs it.	Over the year 198 young people from Tower Hamlets participated in Youth Theatre sessions at Half Moon. 84% of them attended at least 80% of sessions a term and 132 young people performed in an end of term show for family and friends.	GREEN The project has adapted well to the challenges of Covid-19 and has achieved the desired outcomes.
Look Ahead Care and Support / Domestic Abuse Children's Worker	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£141,825	A specialist Domestic Abuse Children's Worker to support children who are vulnerable due to early exposure to domestic abuse. Providing emotional support through age appropriate engagement, e.g. play, to address challenges faced by children living at our LBTH Domestic Abuse Service and in the community.	Recruitment of new child beneficiaries to be supported by the project – 30 Mothers of all children supported by the project will report improved communication with their child – 6	GREEN The project has adapted well to the challenges of Covid-19 and has achieved the desired outcomes.
Newark Youth London / Girls in Action	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£70,634	Our project aims to increase access to regular youth services by girls and young women so they develop their confidence and life skills; make them resilient and enable them to participate in a six month social action project and other learning opportunities so they develop their leadership, communication and organisational skills.	Number of girls and young women registering onto the project (contacts) – 48 Number of girls and young women attend 5 or more sessions (participants) – 45 Number of girls and young women state they are able to cope with things better after gaining knowledge and understanding and getting advice and guidance - 35	GREEN The project has adapted well to the challenges of Covid-19 and has achieved the desired outcomes.
Osmani Trust /	01/10/2019	£126,000	Our project aims to provide through	Increase in families getting early	GREEN

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Family Mentoring Project (FMP) Early Help	31/03/2023		family mentoring a range of Early Help support to children, young people and their families to help them overcome their immediate challenges and meet their needs in order for them to thrive in healthy and safe families.	help - 30 Increase in confidence in young people and families - 20 Parents Improvement in parenting skills - 18	The project has adapted well to the challenges of Covid-19 and has achieved the desired outcomes.
St Hilda's East Community Centre / St. Hilda's Girls Driven Project	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£57,624	St. Hilda's Girls Driven Project is an inspirational initiative designed to support, inspire, drive girls and young women to reach their full potential and realise their authentic ambitious life goals. Enhance core skills, confidence, grit, motivation, equality and leadership by building on current and long heritage of successful girls work.	Number of girls and young women who report an increase in confidence - 14 Number of girls and young women have developed skills through activities and workshops to be a support system for others – 13	GREEN COVID-19 continues to shape the organisation's response and adaptation for the Girls Driven project but with unintended benefits not least that the project has centred upon its core focus of being delivered in response to need. It has also meant that some of the more 'traditional' methods of delivery have had to be re-assessed such as how to collect project evidence in a virtual/online world which the organisation will continue to work on and learn as they go.
Stifford Centre Limited / Stifford Young Girl's Project	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£50,974	The Project will run a Young Girl's Club that will offer disadvantaged young girls a safe space in which they can socialise, participate in a range of activities that encourage their wellbeing, improve confidence and learn skills that are useful for their future development.	40 young girls report feeling less isolated and happier as a result of accessing a range of activities - 38 24 young girls attending a range of workshops and reporting increased levels of self-esteem - 36 16 disadvantaged young girls report having improved social, personal and educational	GREEN The project has adapted well to the challenges of Covid-19 and has achieved the desired outcomes.

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
				development as a result of completing accredited training - 8	
The Yard Theatre Ltd / Tower Hamlets Teens	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£129,196	Free, fortnightly youth leadership workshops, weekly drama workshops, summer masterclasses, and schools' performances for Tower Hamlets teenagers. Delivered at Tower Hamlets assets, Hub67, The Yard, and local schools, it increases access to youth services, improves participants' health and wellbeing through cultural activities, and supports community cohesion through public events.	<p>Due to the Covid-19, our original planned activities have been disrupted, in some cases severely. Our School's Programme, projected to reach 150 young people, was postponed in late March 2020, while regular Queen's Yard Company and The Committee had to switch to online delivery, with in-person events cancelled.</p> <p>By April we moved 90% of services for young people online. 100% of surveyed participants in our programmes say that they have valued being in touch with The Yard during this period, with 79% strongly agreeing that it is important to them ("working with the yard [is] brings me hope and joy at the moment").</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>Overall, the Yard Theatre has made great progress in engaging with its young people and giving them a voice and the space to develop their confidence and self-esteem. The young people have been instrumental in planning and shaping the delivery of the sessions.</p> <p>The organisation was also part of local grassroots Covid-19 Emergency Response: coordinating 145 volunteers to organise 157 telephone calls, 124 food packages, 423 hot food deliveries and 66 shopping trips.</p>

Scheme:	1B – Older People
Priorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ageing well and reducing social isolation Provision of physical and health-promotion activities for older people
Outcomes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced isolation and loneliness among older isolated adults, particularly those who are housebound, and those facing additional challenges (e.g dementia, disability, limited English); Older people are able to continue making a positive contribution to their communities; Older people feel more included and integrated in their communities and are able to mix with people of different ages and from different backgrounds to increase the sharing of skills, experience and knowledge both amongst older people, and between different generations; People living with dementia are supported to participate as much as, and as long as possible. Carers of people living with dementia are supported.

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Age UK East London / Caxton Hall, a dynamic activity centre led by older people for the whole community.	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£258,090	Caxton Hall is a dynamic activity centre led by older people. Come and enjoy a warm welcome, healthy snack at our cafe, meet your neighbours and connect to others young and old in your community.	<p>Number of new older people accessing services at Caxton Hall each year – 66</p> <p>Number of older people contributing to running the Hub Café per quarter – 8</p> <p>Number of older people feel more included and integrated as a result of participating in a community cohesion project - 133</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>The café has been closed since March. 23 older people were consulted via telephone regarding their thoughts and feedback on returning to face to face, socially distanced and outdoor activities.</p> <p>Despite the impact of Covid-19 in the year the project has been able to support residents through adapted services to clients with most of the services moved on-line.</p>
Age UK East	01/10/2019	£220,866	Matching housebound older people who would like a bit more company at	Isolated, housebound older people are matched with a Friend at Home	GREEN

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
London / Friend at Home	31/03/2023		home with volunteers who would like to share an enjoyable hour or two of conversation and company with them.	and receive weekly one-hour visits – 71 91.5% of isolated, housebound older people reported an increase (or stabilisation) of SWEMWBS response	The Project has adapted to provide remote services during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.
Community of Refugees from Vietnam - East London / Vietnamese and Chinese Lunch and Social Club	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£114,548	The Vietnamese and Chinese Lunch and Social Club project provides healthy lunches and social and health promotion activities for people aged over 50, from the Vietnamese and Chinese community in Tower Hamlets. The Club meets every Monday and Thursday at St. Nicholas Church, Aberfeldy Street in Poplar.	Number of people attending the project reporting that they have an improved diet and healthier eating habits – 60 Number of housebound people supported to reduce isolation - 15	GREEN The Project has been able to adapt its services providing on-line services as well as offering food, prescription and shopping services to vulnerable clients.
East London Out Project / Tower Hamlets LGBT Support	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£96,661	LGBT Community Support to enhance peer networks, lessen isolation and provide mental health crisis prevention support. Two facilitated social support groups, for older people, people with mental health needs or other disabilities, Individual mental health crisis prevention support provided. LGBT training available to other organisations.	LGBT people over 50 per year accessing new social activity per year and report on increased social connections and increased social activity and feeling less lonely – 23 Disabled LGBT people or those experiencing mental health concerns attend either group or individual support per year and report better life satisfaction and better quality of life 3 months after start of service - 65	GREEN The Project has continued delivering online and have continued to provide social and support groups and one to one support. It has also delivered some online training this quarter.

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
St Hilda's East Community Centre / Older People's 'Feeling Good!' Wellbeing Project	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£105,000	'Feeling Good!' wellbeing project is based in Weavers Ward and open to older people from throughout the Borough, Monday-Friday. Providing nutritious lunches, it is more than an ordinary Lunch Club, providing invigorating opportunities from indoor sport, IT learning, singing, art, intergenerational activities with schoolchildren, outings and quizzes, and much more!	Number of older people attending the varied 'Feeling Good!' activities programme report feeling less isolated and lonely – 72 Number of older people report improved wellbeing: the regular nutritious lunch they have improves their health - 72	GREEN The over 50's Feeling Good team have continued to deliver an alternative service. Many of the service users were still shielding; a lot of work was focused on welfare phone calls and supporting them with lunches and shopping
Tower Hamlets Friends and Neighbours / Older Peoples Befriending Project	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£175,000	THFN will be providing befriending and advocacy services to older people in the borough. Our team of befriender advocates will provide regular one to one support to people in their own homes and assist with making appointments and help in accessing services, as well as organising small group outings locally.	Number of isolated older adults are visited by a befriender advocate on a fortnightly basis per year – 21 Number of older people attending group outings – 5 50 isolated older adults are called by a befriender advocate on a weekly basis this quarter due to Covid-19 restrictions. 85% of adults called report improved outcomes, reduced isolation	GREEN Due to the corona virus, THFN have ceased face to face visits and adapted services to support beneficiaries remotely through a tele befriending service
Toynbee Hall / The Wellbeing Centre at Toynbee Hall	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£144,949	This project will offer holistic relational support to older people aged 50+ in Tower Hamlets. It aims to make Toynbee Hall's existing provision at our Wellbeing Centre more inclusive and responsive to needs and to build stronger networks of information sharing and peer-support between users and those not accessing services.	Number of individuals (older people) attending health promotion sessions per year held at the Wellbeing Centre per year – 34 Number of service users recruited into volunteering opportunities per year – 16	GREEN The Project has been able to continue adapting its services with some physical face to face sessions re-introduced in September. Covid-19 has had an impact on the KPI numbers but the Project is still attempting to deliver the outcomes for residents'

Scheme:	1C – Access, Information and Self-Management
Priorities:	1. Residents better informed/equipped to manage health conditions
Outcomes:	1. Residents of all ages are better informed/equipped to manage health conditions 2. Increased awareness of and access to local services, including crisis support 3. Residents and their families are aware of the benefits of healthy eating and eat more healthily

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Globe Community Project / Take Back Your Life	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£98,165	A mindfulness-based pain management programme, addressing chronic pain/illness, related social isolation and inactivity. Designed for Tower Hamlets residents with potentially lower language, literacy and income levels and/or from hard to reach groups. Based on the award-winning book: 'Mindfulness for Health' and delivered by experienced, fully accredited Breathworks trainers.	40 - 48 participants per year report increased knowledge, awareness and confidence to self-manage health condition (through mindfulness, nutrition and exercise) over one year – 32 40 - 48 participants reporting increase in levels of pain self-efficacy after 5-week course – 2	GREEN The Project has adapted well and exceeded the KPI targets for the July – Sept quarter with 21 people supported against a quarterly target of 10 – 12.
Real DPO Ltd / Taking control of your life	01/04/2020 31/03/2023	£218,714	The "Taking control of your life" project delivers creative support planning support alongside a user-led co-production group harnessing the views of people with lived experience of disability. This project maximises independence, supporting people to make decisions on how they want to fulfil their ambitions and also help 'change the system'.	We have undertaken a significant amount of work in the second quarter in both securing support planning clients, and in working with partners to create stable pipelines for potential clients. We are additionally working to sharpen our procedures around delivering a professional, innovative, and personalised support planning service. It has been key for us to work with existing structures and professionals across the borough to both understand and support disabled people with their needs in their communities and contexts. This has included contact with over two hundred different organisations and groups across the borough to introduce the service and to communicate to these partners, ranging from social care and health workers through to educational and community support services.	GREEN The project began delivery in April 2020.

Scheme:	1D – Healthy living and healthy choices
Priorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residents better informed to make healthier choices 2. Increased engagement in physical activity
Outcomes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased participation in a wide range of culture, play, physical activity, leisure and sport that are inclusive of age, gender, disability, race and mobility 2. More social opportunities for reducing isolation through participation in culture, play physical activity and sport. 3. Increased participation from marginalised groups 4. Creating opportunities for intergenerational relationships, shared experience through culture, play, physical activity, leisure and sport for all above

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
London Tigers / Exercise for health: BAME women, children and young people	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£149,590	Exercise for health project delivers a series of sports, physical activities and health-related workshops for women, young people and children to make positive choices about their health and wellbeing. It will provide pathways to stay involved, excel in sports, and develop healthier habits for life.	To date we have engaged 145 women and 107 CYP and delivered more than 36 sessions per quarter. Our activities and reach will ensure we attract and sustain more participants in physical activities within Tower Hamlets.	GREEN The project delivered hybrid sessions with most activities online, via telephone as well as in-person (outdoor) activities. The project has been keen to building a positive relationship to tackle inequalities within the communities and build healthier, prosperous communities during these uncertain times.
MUDCHUTE ASSOCIATION / Playing out at Mudchute	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£70,000	We will use Mudchute’s unique natural facilities to provide a range of freely chosen play opportunities in a safe, stimulating environment. Enabling children access to participate in freely chosen, innovative leisure and sporting activities will promote; exercise, healthy eating, social and life skills through the	For the first half of the year completed 55 hours of play provision with 1060 attendees over this period. The impact of coronavirus has meant we have not been able to facilitate any face to face play work sessions at Mudchute but through co design have	GREEN The Coronavirus pandemic has had a major effect on the project. Mudchute was in total lockdown between March and June 2020, opening some services in July. The Park has been open to the general public throughout the pandemic and visitors have been able to view the animals out in the fields.

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
			process of ‘Learning through Play’	been able to deliver digital workshops and localised street play	However, the farm and stable courtyard have not yet been re-opened to the general public as the area does not allow them to put in adequate measures that will ensure the safety of visitors.
Newark Youth London / Healthy-Active-Together (HeAT)	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£98,399	The Healthy-Active-Together (HeAT) project will offer a wide range of sports and physical activities across the borough with the objective of engaging inactive young people (10 to 25) and their families in regular sports and physical activities to improve health and wellbeing and reduce isolation and exclusion.	Number of previously inactive children, young people and adults participating in sports and physical activity regularly – 127	GREEN From end of July to first week of September the project delivered a 6 weeks summer programme, from 5 different sites, offering outdoor multi-sports and games to close to 300 children and young people. The summer project also introduced outdoor boxing to CYP, and it was very popular amongst the CYP who do not normally attend the youth clubs or football sessions.
Stifford Centre Limited / Healthy Lifestyle Partnership Programme	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£280,095	A free membership health club with over 20 different classes and groups per week, brought to you by seven different organisations working together. Build points, beat your personal best and feel your health improve. Health Club is suitable for all ages, and participants will design the activity program alongside providers.	400 people are registered users of health club per annum – 401 80% of members report higher levels of wellbeing - 167	GREEN The 5 partners have adapted their services and delivered online and some in-person activities and resources with mixed results. All sessions were held once Covid-19 risk assessments and procedures were in place.
The Bangladesh Youth Movement	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£75,397	‘Live Healthy, Enjoy Life’ will operate from BYM’s Women’s Centre providing	BAMER women to access health support activities – 177	GREEN Due to COVID-19 pandemic most of the health exercise classes and

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
(BYM) / Live Healthy Enjoy Life [the Female Health & Development Project]			proactive and responsive health development activities which ensure excluded BAMER women develop healthy lives and manage their own physical and mental health; peer volunteer befriending and development of social networks will alleviate isolation and facilitate inclusion.	Number of BAMER/Bangladeshi females raising their awareness to a range of health issues appropriate to leading healthier lives – 177 Numbers accessing the women’s forum - 21	activities were delivered remotely and via online. During Jul - Sept some of the women’s health activities were delivered in the Centre base following the government guidelines around social distancing.
The Royal Society for Blind Children / Live Active, Live Well Tower Hamlets	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	63,463.00	Live Active, Live Well Tower Hamlets will enable 60 blind and partially sighted young people aged 8-25 to gain the confidence and motivation to participate in physical activities and inform their ability to make healthier choices over the next three years.	20 recruited. KPIs are built around face to face, group, physical activity which has been prevented by Covid-19 lockdown restrictions.	GREEN During July to end September, Live Well Live Active beneficiaries have continued to benefit from 1:1 support with 30 sessions provided across the quarter. Staff continued to motivate children and young people to keep active through the sharing of weekly health and wellbeing challenges.

Scheme:	1E – Improved inclusion, health and well-being outcomes for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues
Priorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved health outcomes for disabled people 2. People experiencing mental health issues are better supported
Outcomes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More mainstream services are culturally inclusive, welcoming and accessible for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues from different ethnic backgrounds, different faith backgrounds, and who are LGBTQI 2. Adults with complex needs (i.e who have multiple issues affecting their lives) have better health outcomes 3. Disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) are more independent b) are more aware of and more likely to participate in local services c) have a better quality of life 4. People experiencing mental health issues have improved knowledge of where to access support, including peer support, social activities, and activities that build confidence and develop resilience

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
deafPLUS / Improving Health and Wellbeing for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Tower Hamlets	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£158,249	A borough wide health and wellbeing project that will address health inequalities, loneliness and isolation, mental health issues and barriers to employment, lack of confidence and self-esteem by bringing deaf and hard of hearing people together across communities.	<p>Deaf and hard of hearing adults and families will feel less isolated (some individuals will participate in more than one activity meaning a higher number than total unique participants) – 83</p> <p>As the Covid pandemic continued, through Quarter 2, the services resumed for face to face and 1:1 work. As most of this project work involves groupwork, it has not been possible to resume this for both clients’ and staff safety.</p> <p>Therefore, we have continued to carry out the service by providing our weekly workshops through Zoom, contacting clients through Zoom, WhatsApp calls or through text message and email. This means we delivered a total of 14 events</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>The project adapted due to Covid-19 and are continuing their planned activities via Zoom, WhatsApp calls or by messaging and emailing them. The project is on track to achieve their lifetime targets.</p>

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
ICM Foundation CIC / CORE Projects Get Active Newspaper - Promoting Healthy and Active Lifestyles	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£45,952	From October 2019 to March 2023, 20 people with learning disabilities aged 18+ from Tower Hamlets will work in partnership with ICM Foundation. Three times each year we will design and deliver 5000 accessible newspapers, on the theme of health and wellbeing, distributed to communities that reflects the borough's diversity.	For those attending our online sessions, they have improved confidence in using technology and they have told us that the sessions have helped them cope with the current crisis therefore make them less socially isolated. The newspaper was printed in the first quarter however we were unable to distribute it, we produced a digital copy in the 3rd quarter and we intend to release another digital copy at the end of the year.	GREEN The project is using JITSi software to engage with all their clients. They have changed to distributing digital newspapers and have changed most of their content to Covid-related topics. They are on track to achieve all their lifetime targets.
St Hilda's East Community Centre / St. Hilda's Surjamuki Disabled Youth Project	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£45,231	Surjamuki disabled youth project supports young people with learning and physical disabilities across Tower Hamlets, offering a range of educational and recreational opportunities and free wheelchair accessible minibus transport.	Number of disabled young people will report an increase in confidence – 21 Number of disabled young people report improved communications skills – 15 Number of disabled young people report increased leadership skills – 3	GREEN The project team have continued to deliver an outreach service on the doorstep to young people and their families and in a virtual/online space by supporting the young people engaged to get online and keep their minds healthy and active.
Woman's Trust / Therapeutic Support Groups for women affected by Domestic Abuse	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£67,478	Our Therapeutic Support Groups provide a safe, moderated space for female survivors of domestic abuse to share experiences and support each other. Groups help women to recover their mental health by reducing isolation, learning from shared experiences, being empowered by supporting others and thereby gaining confidence and independence.	Women report reduced stress and anxiety - 9 Women report increased confidence and self-esteem - 10 Women report reduced isolation - 7 Women access support groups – 15	GREEN The project is running Zoom sessions and webinars with their clients on understanding what is domestic abuse, financial abuse and technological abuse.

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Working Well Trust / Upskill	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£379,698	Improve the wellbeing of people with lived experience of mental health by supporting them to achieve their goals by accessing new opportunities and including support from their peer, enabling to reconnect with the local community.	<p>The project made excellent progress in the first quarter already having an established network of referrers in the borough Upskill was able to make progress in reaching new targets among the over 50s. A community base was established at Island house and links formed with the over 50s group based at Ideas Store. Targets were either achieved or close to achievement in the first two quarters. During the third quarter and lockdown priorities changed and Upskill was able to make use of it database of opportunities to support and signpost clients to online opportunities. There was also an increase in one to one support, welfare checks and signposting to crises services both mental health and practical such as foodbanks.</p> <p>Quarters 4 has seen referrals increase from community partners as well as mental health services as uncertainty and isolation have had an increased effect on mental health. Continuing to use online resources as much as possible and Working Well Trust IT support offering one to one support to help people access IT. have ensured we have been able to support and keep clients engaged.</p>	<p>GREEN The project is using Zoom to engage with all their clients. They are on track to achieve all their lifetime targets.</p>

Theme / Scheme:	2 – Digital Inclusion and Awareness 2A – ICT Skills and Digital Careers
Priorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Access to ICT support and training for older people 2. Digital skill development for children and young people <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Increase awareness of careers in the digital sector, and b) Provide children and young people with the opportunity to develop the skills for the digital sector.
Outcomes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Residents with limited digital/ICT skills, particularly older residents, disabled residents, those with English as a second language or other barriers to digital inclusion: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Have increased confidence in using ICT, especially around security; b) Are able to use digital methods to access services, find information, and communicate with others, and do so more regularly; c) Have increased digital skills. 2. Working age residents have greater awareness of digital careers, have increased digital skills, and have increased access to work and work placements in the digital sector

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Limehouse Project / DigiTIES	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£62,297	<p>The aim of DigiTIES workshops is to prevent digital exclusion in older adults in order to prevent social isolation and increase their ability to access online health related support. The content of the workshop includes how to use social media, managing email accounts, and accessing online health related support services.</p>	<p>Older people, including BAME residents with English as a second language, have learned to use at least 3 ICT platforms such as email, social media, search engines and online information – 58</p> <p>Older people made new friends and learned how to use communication platform e.g. Skype and WhatsApp – 31</p> <p>Older people have learned to use a search engine to find health information on NHS websites - 34</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>The Project has been able to adapt its services and has moved services on-line. It has been also able to bring in additional resources to help clients</p>

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Newham New Deal Partnership / @online club network Tower Hamlets	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£68,320	@online club network will build the confidence of older residents (over 50s) to go online using tablet devices, learning in small friendly groups, through taster sessions and eight-week or longer programmes of practical activities based on the needs and interests of participants.	We reformulated our group training offer for over 50s, so that it is more resilient to future Covid-19 lockdowns. In essence, the programme will be largely online one a one-to-one basis, but still trying to reach the more digitally unconfident over 50s. The programmes will be run by telephone/Zoom, using trained Digital Buddy volunteers, supported by our new Digital Inclusion Worker. We have a small amount of additional funding to provide additional capacity for volunteer management in the short term (Lloyds Bank Foundation).	GREEN C-19 has severely impacted the Project though it still was able to provide a limited service. It has recruited a new staff member who will work 2 days on the Project to help meet the targets.
Wapping Bangladesh Association / Digital First	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£16,503	Digital First will engage socially isolated BME older adults aged 55+ but not exclusively living in Wapping and Shadwell, who are not computer literate and are digitally excluded. The Project will deliver ICT and Internet training that will help older adults to cope with facing key life transitions or challenges.	7 Older adults on the Project will develop a better understanding and appreciation of the potential benefits of learning to use computers and how to navigate around the internet – 7 75 % of older Adults increase social contacts and community involvement as a result of accessing the project – 5	GREEN The Project has adapted its services through remote on-line provision and using other resources to support the needs of Digital Project clients in terms of delivering food, shopping and medicine, ensuring their physical and mental health is supported.

Scheme:	2B – Online Safety
Priorities:	1. Children and young people online safety
Outcomes:	1. Residents are aware of potential dangers online and implement suitable prevention measures 2. Children, young people and their families know how to report online bullying and abuse 3. Older people are aware of how to identify online scams and how to keep themselves safe

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
SocietyLinks Tower Hamlets / E-Safety Champions	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£20,293	The E-Safety Champions project will train local women to become ‘champions’ for e-safety in the community. Weekly workshops will cover all areas of online safety. Once trained, our champions will go into schools and community groups to spread their knowledge to young people and parents/carers through presentations and workshops	Project attendees a quarter report a gain in confidence and knowledge about taking action to improve online safety at home. – 44 Project participants a year report a specific action that they have taken at home to improve online safety – 54	GREEN The Project has adapted well, sessions were held outside and plans in place in case of a second lockdown. Most of the KPIs have been met despite C-19 circumstances. Satisfactory report.
Sporting Foundation / Building Digital Resilience	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£30,811	Sporting Foundation will build the digital resilience of children and young people and raise the awareness of online safety with parents so that as families they are safe from risk and able to utilise digital resources and managed effectively and reduces harm.	50 parents per annum have increased confidence in understanding the relationship between social media and online grooming – 60 100 children and young people per annum have increased confidence in understanding the relationship between social media and online grooming - 115	GREEN The Project has gone well this quarter despite the challenges of C-19 able to engage more parents and young people face to face due to resuming training activities in open space. Satisfactory report.

Theme / Scheme:	3 - Advice and Information
Priorities:	This theme has a single priority, Social Welfare Advice and Information.
Outcomes:	<p>Reduce poverty across the spectrum of social welfare advice and information activity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increased access to social welfare advice and income from benefits 2. Improved personal budgeting, financial stability and reduction in personal debt 3. Reduction in the number of people negatively impacted by welfare reforms and housing repossessions 4. Individuals are more informed about their legal rights 5. Individuals are more informed about their housing rights 6. Increased employment security 7. Increased access to immigration/asylum advice and casework 8. Increased engagement of older people with social welfare advice services <p>Capacity building and training within the sector:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improved coordination and cooperation between advice providers 2. Increased integration of service both within the VCS advice sector and with services in other sectors 3. Increased number of local volunteers achieving a recognised advice training accreditation 4. Improved liaison and co-ordination with public sector agencies 5. Improved access to information for providers

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
East End Citizens Advice Bureaux / Advice Tower Hamlets	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£3,234,357	Advice Tower Hamlets provides free, confidential, independent, quality-assured advice services to help Tower Hamlets residents resolve the problems they face, including welfare benefits, housing, money/debt, employment, immigration, consumer, education, community care, family, personal issues. This service is led by Citizens Advice	<p>A minimum of 21,000 clients assisted p/a - 19,828</p> <p>A minimum of 35,000 New Matters Start (NMS) - 36,579</p> <p>14,998 New matter starts successful by challenging decisions. Each category will be reported on individually. - 15,107</p> <p>3700 Clients supported to increase/maximise incomes. - 4,772</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>The Project is continuing to provide phone and on-line support. The KPIs will have been affected due to stop in drop-in services. The Project is still providing support and working with clients to resolve issues.</p>

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
			Tower Hamlets, in partnership with twelve local advice agencies.	<p>£3,000,000 debt reduction/write offs resulting in reduction in amounts of personal debt. Each category will be reported on individually (Managed/ Written off). - £2,901,815.19</p> <p>£23 million income increased and/or backdated. (Is anyone better off) - £18,578,281.23</p>	
Island Advice Centre / Tower Hamlets Advice Training and Capacity Building Project	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£175,000	The project improves capacity, training, quality and access to the borough’s advice services. We will develop coordination and cooperation between advice and other sectors providing recruitment and training for volunteers, facilitation of the THCAN network, updated website of advice provision and information / factsheets, coordination of meetings, delivering formal training.	The project recruits’ volunteers, finds work placements and offers training/NVQ’s in Advice and Guidance for local people who want to become advice workers, delivering a 12-month training program. Volunteers attend training every week and volunteer in an advice centre in LBTH. The training covers: Advice Skills (policies and procedures), Benefits, Housing and Debt (they gain a nationally recognised certificate Learning to Advise). Paid workers can also attend the training, either the whole course or select days/units. We facilitate; welfare rights networks, training workshops, information emails, factsheets, THCAN meetings and website. The training course started October 2019 and most was completed when Covid started. Other training and meetings have resumed using zoom or teams. Level 3 NVQ in Advice and Guidance has continued, again digitally. Volunteers have completed their Learning to Advise training and all have now found work.	<p>GREEN</p> <p>The Project has been able to deliver advice training to local people through on-line training and delivery of advice information and guidance to the sector.</p>

Theme / Scheme:	4 – Employment and Skills 4A - Developing and embedding good practice in the workplace for people with disabilities, learning difficulties and physical and mental health barriers to work
Priorities:	1. Promoting ethical employer practices to focus on improving employment and progression opportunities for people with additional needs, with an emphasis for employers on sustaining or improving business productivity.
Outcomes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. More disabled people and people with mental health issues access work experience placements and employment opportunities 2. Disabled employees feel more comfortable and better supported in sustainable roles in the workplace 3. Disabled people have access to meaningful, relevant training and skills development 4. Tower Hamlets employers are more inclusive and employ more disabled people and people with mental health issues and are more aware of how to support them.

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Apr 20 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
REAL DPO / THEN & NOW	01/04/2020 31/03/2023	£405,729	A holistic package of services, underpinned by coproduction, to support Tower Hamlets companies develop the confidence and capacity to be excellent employers of disabled people, and increase levels of employment amongst them. The project creates communities of current and potential workers, and employers, to drive positive change.	One of our first actions was to discuss the branding of the project with a selected panel of disabled people who were interested in the challenges disabled people face in employment. This has led to a rebranding of the project to THEN & NOW, with a further tagline on our advertising labelling the project as “An Inclusive Employment project”. This change retains the Tower Hamlets Employers Network (THEN) and Network of Workers coproduction group (NOW) acronyms but removes any possibility that the work of inclusive employment might be undertaken occasionally by employers, or merely “now and then”. The change would improve google searches by moving away from an existing expression likely to score higher and reflects the focus on the Tower Hamlets Employers Network as being the first focus of the project for change.	GREEN The project has undertaken a significant amount of promotional and coproduction work and have rebranded their project name to THEN and NOW after discussions with their panel of disabled people. The project is on track to achieve their lifetime targets.

Scheme:	4B - Reducing barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups
Priorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reducing barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups 2. Employment and volunteering opportunities for older people 3. Employment skills for vulnerable young people and those who are NEET 4. Employment and skills for young people at risk of achieving poor outcomes
Outcomes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Young people have increased life skills, employability skills, communication /presentation and interview skills and confidence, and have access to mentoring, work experience and internships 2. Older people gain life skills and secure employment and/or voluntary roles 3. Potential entrepreneurs/business founders have access to independent support and advice and increased knowledge of business and financial planning 4. Increased opportunities for women who are far from the labour market or on a low salary to develop their confidence, soft skills, and work ready skills to access employment or start their own business.

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Limehouse Project / Developing Potential	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£176,033	Developing Potential is an integrated programme of personal skills development designed to enable women to make informed choices on their futures, supporting them into training, volunteering and work. This project will link with the existing provision and act as a progression route forwards new opportunities for women in Tower Hamlets	<p>Number of cohorts of 6-week personal development course to increase knowledge of their strengths and weaknesses (300 women engaged per year) - 161</p> <p>120 (80%) of women by March 2023 who attend accredited course will complete and gain certifications (40 per year) – 9</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>The project has continued to deliver courses remotely and have provided 1-2-1 support to their clients. They continue to work with local partners to achieve positive outcomes for their clients, the project is on track to achieve their lifetime targets.</p>
SocietyLinks Tower / Job Club	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£53,536	This project will deliver two weekly job club sessions Mondays and Wednesdays 9-	The number of people who are NEETs and/or from workless	<p>GREEN</p> <p>The project has moved their</p>

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
			12 pm run by our experienced employment support worker. The sessions will include access to computers and tailored employment support with creating a CV, accessing emails, job searching, applications and using Universal Job Match.	households) access employment support at SocietyLinks’ job club every year to assist their employment prospects - 54 The number of people that have an updated CV - 53	services online and offering support through email, telephone and social media platforms. The project has done considerably well despite the pandemic and are on track to achieve their lifetime targets.
St Giles Trust / Choices Tower Hamlets	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£198,800	We will support NEET Young people who are facing multiple disadvantages to access education, skills development and employment. The project will deliver credible, consistent and holistic work via individualised one-to-one support, supporting the young person to address and overcome barriers to raise their aspirations and towards reaching their potential.	Number of young people engaged on a consistent voluntary basis, minimum of one face to face intervention per a week - 35 Number of young people show improved levels of mental health and wellbeing due to reducing barriers to employment, increased confidence in their future and access to specialist mental health support as required – 14	GREEN The project has been negatively impacted by the pandemic and have re-established face to face contact with their young clients where appropriate alongside continued remote support. The project is on track to achieve most of their lifetime targets.
Stifford Centre Limited / BAME Women’s Employment Support Programme	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£106,323	This project will run a training programme to help long-term unemployed and economically inactive, isolated and disenfranchised BAME women and improve their job prospects. The focus is on carers and single parents of Bengali, Somali and BAME heritage with limited English language, confidence and secondary education for community learning.	Socially and economically disenfranchised BAME Women complete ESOL training and feel able to communicate in English – 36 BAME women with limited educational experiences and certification gain accreditation and skills to move towards employment - 32	GREEN The project is continuing to engage with their clients by email, Whatsapp, videocall and telephone. They have had to postpone the ESOL exam due to the pandemic. The project is still on track to achieve their lifetime targets.

Scheme:	4C - Support focused on increasing access to art and cultural industries
Priorities:	1. Support focused on increasing access to art and cultural industries
Outcomes:	1. Increased opportunities in the arts and cultural industries for BAME people, women, disabled people, working class people, older people; 2. Increased access to industry relevant training; 3. Increase in people participating in arts projects for the first time

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Auto Italia South East / Learning Live!	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£38,500	Learning Live! is a training and mentoring programme designed to support young people in Tower Hamlets progression into higher education courses, with the aim to aim to increase access into the art and cultural industries.	Technology workshops at Auto Italia are attended by young people from Tower Hamlets - Tours of local galleries and arts organisations are attended by young people from Tower Hamlets – 54 Numbers of BAME and working-class young people attending portfolio review and mentoring workshops per annum, portfolio review and mentoring in Tower Hamlets schools focussing on HE progression for young people in particular BAME – 92	GREEN The project has delivered from October 2019 to June 2020 and used Jul-Sept 2020 period to evaluate and put in necessary adaptations for year 2. They are on course to achieve their lifetime target.
Four Corners Ltd / ZOOM Film School	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£284,806	ZOOM Film School will work with 90 disadvantaged residents particularly BAME communities, women and people with disabilities to nurture their creative talent, increase confidence and self-esteem, and enable them to acquire the practical skills, experience, and industry knowledge needed to move into work in the creative industries.	6 Trainees completed their ZOOM film school training in camera, production and editing and undertook their OCN accreditation tests in person at Four Corners. 5 Trainees completed a 1.5 min promotional film for BBBC to use on their Instagram account. 1 trainee was unable to complete her edit due to personal circumstances, but she did continue with her OCN accreditation test. 2 Trainees from the January cohort began a work placement with The Guardian News video production team, which is ongoing. 7 trainees had 1:1 mentor sessions with an industry professional.	GREEN The project is on track to achieve their lifetime targets. The project is using Zoom to carry out their activities and participants are using their phones to produce short films. The project has already completed two cohorts as planned.

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Magic Me / Artworks	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£96,587	Artworks is a new traineeship delivered by arts charity Magic Me, identifying and supporting talented Tower Hamlets Residents from BAME and working-class backgrounds to gain the knowledge, skills and confidence to access careers in community arts coordination and producing.	<p>Number of community partners identified/contacted for recruitment pathways - 14</p> <p>Number of trainees recruited/selected for work placement – 3</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>The project is progressing well despite the pandemic. They are on track to achieve all of their lifetime targets. The organisation is also working to develop their anti-racist strategy as well as moving offices in January 2021 to increase accessibility.</p>
The Bromley by Bow Centre / Creative Communities	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£202,237	Our project will equip at least 180 people from under-represented communities to increase their participation and readiness for employment in the creative sector. We will do this through a flexible community-based programme of engagement, needs assessment, practical group work and 1:1s, combining personal and core skills development, with individual support.	<p>Participants from target groups are enrolled and assessed – 50</p> <p>Participants identified as having not previously engaged in an arts/culture activity, state they have now participated in such an activity. – 50</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>The project had to be re-designed due to Covid-19 and an additional part-time local resident/arts specialist has been recruited. Clients are being engaged through MS teams. There are 8 workshops planned. The project is on track to achieve their targets.</p>

Theme / Scheme:	5 – Community Safety 5A – Reduction in the exploitation of children, young people and other vulnerable groups
Priorities:	1. Reduction in the exploitation of children and young people, and vulnerable groups
Outcomes:	1. Children, young people and other vulnerable people: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Have increased confidence and critical thinking skills; b) Have an increased understanding of what a safe relationship is, what exploitation is, and how to spot the signs of abuse and exploitation; c) Have an emotional and actual vocabulary to articulate what is happening to them; d) Are better able to challenge and support each other around relationships.

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Kazzum Arts / Build	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£63,552	Build will support young people excluded from mainstream education, currently educated at a pupil referral unit (PRU) in Tower Hamlets. Students in this setting are at risk of exploitation and coercion into criminal activity. Through a programme of creative activities our project will develop confidence, emotional literacy and interpersonal skills.	<p>Vulnerable young people in PRUs will be able to communicate their thoughts, feelings and behaviours through developing language and self-reflection skills. – 13</p> <p>Artist facilitators working on the project participated in 9 hours of Trauma informed Practice Training. They released their 3rd animation exploring the approaches professionals can take when supporting CYP impacted by trauma. They have begun the creative process for the 4th animation around the impact of traumatic stress on professionals working with young people affected by adverse childhood experiences.</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>Kazzum continued to adapt services to meet Covid challenges, including remote activities and development of resources. The 3rd animation on approaches professionals can take when supporting CYP impacted by trauma was released.</p>

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Osmani Trust / Schools and Community Resilience Programme	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£125,843	<p>This proposal seeks to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. transform and change the attitudes and behaviour of secondary school children; improving their confidence, critical thinking skills and emotional intelligence. 2. deliver a peer programme engaging young people as ambassadors to their peers, changes attitude, promotes understanding, increase community cohesion and ultimately empowers young people. 	<p>Improvement in attitudes and outlook on life for young people at secondary school - 24</p> <p>Improvement in life skills and experience, making more positive choices - 9</p> <p>Increase in knowledge and understanding of consequences of youth and violent crime - 19</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>Continued engagement with current pupils. Peer workers holding regular detached session, backed up by remote tailored workshops and discussions meetings. Outcomes continue to be worked towards.</p>
Streets of Growth / Resilient Young Leaders Programme	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£90,356	<p>The Resilient Young Leaders Programme is an innovative, impactful initiative led by and for young people (15-19 years) to enable young people to build skills and capacity to feel safe, confident, and responsible when demonstrating the community safety and positive change they want to see in their neighbourhoods.</p>	<p>Young people engage in and complete the resilient leaders training. – 13</p> <p>Young people remain engaged with the project, sharing ideas, supporting each other to maintain positive lifestyles. - 13</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>Planned face to face work delayed, due to Covid issues. Continued online work and movement to outcomes. Impact - a participant, caught up in drug selling and held in bonded labour, now engaged as an effective influencer.</p>

Scheme:	B – Improving the perception of young people in the community
Priorities:	1. Improving the perception of young people in the community
Outcomes:	1. Children and young people are, and are seen to be, a positive part of the community 2. Increased community cohesion and sense of belonging 3. Residents, especially older people, people feel less wary of children and young people

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Four Corners Ltd / Into Focus photography project	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£58,044	Into Focus offers an intergenerational photography project for 24 people each year (12 young people aged 14-25 years and 12 over-50s). Groups will create work for a final exhibition, focusing on social perceptions and misconceptions between older and younger people to promote positive attitudes and increasing mutual understanding.	12 participants were supported in the year. Covid-19 had an impact from April onwards with participants dropping out of the project due to various personal circumstances. For Jul-Sept the remaining participants were lent 35mm cameras and given film so shooting could resume in preparation for a return to the darkrooms. Six participants plus one new group member booked darkroom space to print in July. Due to social distancing, only four participants instead of twelve could use the facilities at any one time. Therefore, the finishing date for this first project was extended so participants could continue learning and produce enough work for an exhibition in October 2020. Tremendous progress was made by participants to achieve this aim.	GREEN Reporting provides a picture of the projects progress during this exceptional time. Participant quotes demonstrate outcomes are being achieved. Evidence of co-production, creative continuation of remote and small group face to face work has taken place.
Leaders in Community / Project Connect	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£68,391	A group of young people recruited by LiC will collaborate with older people to design a programme of activities and celebrations, which enable long-term social connections to be made, and ideas and points of view to be exchanged. The outcomes of the activities will be shared with the wider community.	Older project participants have a more positive view of younger people within the community. – avg participant score out of 10 – 9.6 Older and young participants feel more positive about their community and an increased sense of belonging. – avg participant score out of 10 – 6.9	GREEN The project has created exciting solutions to engage older participants, enabling outcomes to be worked towards as well as contribute towards our digital inclusion priorities.

Scheme:	C - Services for people affected by domestic violence or other unsafe circumstances
Priorities:	1. Services for people affected by domestic violence
Outcomes:	1. More residents, particularly families and young people, are aware of the different forms that domestic violence and sexual abuse (DVSA) can take, know how to report it, and where to access support. 2. Young victims and witnesses of DVSA are supported to recognise and report it.

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Hestia Housing and Support / Families Safe and Secure in Tower Hamlets	01/10/2019 31/03/2023	£80,850	This project will support families who have experienced DVSA and who are living in a local refuge to address the trauma they've faced and to learn about what a healthy relationship looks like. It will also raise awareness amongst the Tower Hamlets community of DVSA and how to report it.	Children improve levels of self-confidence having gone through the project – 64 Adults will directly be introduced to the Bright Sky DVSA app during the awareness raising campaigns / Partner organisations will promote the app to their service users and our staff will make additional visits to promote the app – 74	GREEN Continued support to families in the refuge. TH pharmacies supported to facilitate the Safe Spaces scheme for victims. All funded outcomes continue to be worked towards and the project is achieving in all expected areas.

Fund:	Infrastructure and Capacity Building Support
Priorities:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Skills exchange and accessible training 2. Making organisations ready to respond to new funding opportunities 3. Fundraising support for smaller, volunteer led organisations without staff 4. Developing quality assurance 5. Managing assets for community benefit 6. Developing resilience and supporting organisations through periods of transition
Outcomes:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Broader pool of organisations accessing public service funding 2. Increased proportion of organisations achieving recognised quality assurance standards 3. VCS more resilient with more sustainable funding base 4. Organisations supporting each other

Organisation / Project	Start / End Date	Grant Amount	Project Description	GDSC Progress Summary – Oct 19 – Sep 20	RAG Rating / Comments
Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Services (THCVS) / Tower Hamlets Voluntary and Community Sector (THVCS) Infrastructure Partnership	01/10/2019 30/09/2022	£780,000	<p>THVCS Infrastructure Partnership brings together the main Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) infrastructure support agencies in Tower Hamlets to increase the range and number of VCS organisations that are well-run, resilient and sustainable; and to strengthen the VCS as a key Public Sector Strategic Delivery Partner in Tower Hamlets.</p> <p>Partners: Volunteer Centre Tower Hamlets (VCTH) Tower Hamlets Community Transport (THCT)</p>	<p>Number of VCS organisations supported – 147</p> <p>Number of volunteer managers being trained – 54</p> <p>Number of VCS organisations with improved volunteering practices – 33</p> <p>Number of VCS organisation staff attending training/peer learning workshops – 172</p>	<p>GREEN</p> <p>The partnership project has adapted well to the challenges of Covid-19, and THCVS and VCTH have achieved the desired outcomes. THCT had to furlough staff due to various health concerns that made the team very vulnerable to Covid-19.</p>

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Local Community Fund and Infrastructure & Capacity Building Fund Annual Report – Oct19–Sep20

26/11/2020

Table of Contents

Foreword	3
Programme Overview.....	4
Theme 1 – Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing.....	5
Scheme A – Children Young People & Families.....	7
Scheme B – Older People	9
Scheme C – Access, Information and Self-Management	10
Scheme D – Healthy living and healthy choices	11
Scheme E - Improved inclusion, health and wellbeing outcomes for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues	12
Theme 2 – Digital Inclusion & Awareness	13
Scheme A: ICT skills and digital careers	13
Scheme B – Online Safety.....	14
Theme 3 – Advice and Information	15
Theme 4 – Employment and Skills.....	16
Scheme A – Developing and embedding good practice in the workplace for people with disabilities, learning difficulties and physical and mental health barriers to work.....	16
Scheme B – Reducing barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups	17
Scheme C – Support focused on increasing access to art and cultural industries	18
Theme 5 – Community Safety.....	19
Scheme A – Reduction in the exploitation of children, young people and other vulnerable groups	19
Scheme B – Improving the perception of young people in the community	21
Scheme C – Services for people affected by domestic violence or other unsafe circumstances.....	22
Infrastructure & Capacity Building Fund	24
Tower Hamlets Voluntary and Community Sector (THVCS) Infrastructure Partnership	24
Appendix 1 – Geographical data	26
Appendix 2 – Equalities data.....	27

Foreword

Welcome to the first annual report for the Local Community Fund and Infrastructure and Capacity Building Fund.

These programmes began delivery in October 2019 in what became a challenging first 12 months. The organisations funded to deliver these programmes rose to the challenge to support residents over and above their planned activities.

During April to June in particular, organisations supported the borough's response to Covid-19 through delivering food parcels and medicines, providing online and telephone support through befriending, advice provision and with volunteers.

This willingness to participate and help others demonstrates the community spirit and 'can do' attitude that is a credit to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations supported by these schemes.

We recognised that Voluntary and Community Sector organisations had been impacted by the pandemic and it was important that we continued to fund organisations more flexibly through this period. The Mayor confirmed this in the letter on 27 March 2020 sent to funded groups and the Council has signed up to London Funders ["We stand with the sector"](#) funder response to Covid-19 statement.

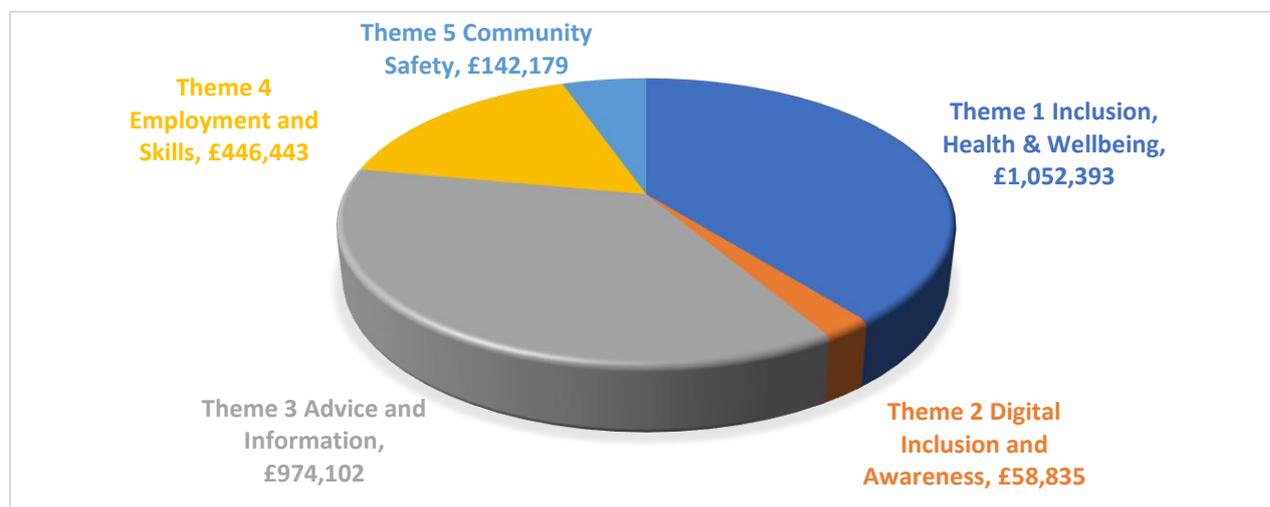
Despite the impact there have been clear successes through the first year of the programme highlighted in this report. This annual report demonstrates the range of projects and many of their achievements. Thank you to funded organisation for the photos and quotes.

It has been important to balance the support to residents dealing with Covid with enabling the organisations to deliver the Local Community Fund aims and objectives. The Council will continue to support organisations to strike that balance.

The next 12 months are starting off in an equally challenging environment but the priorities of the programme including digital inclusion, welfare advice provision, employment support and reducing isolation have never been more important.

Programme Overview

The **Local Community Fund** began implementation 1st October 2019 with 39 organisations awarded funding totalling **£2.67m** per year to deliver 50 projects across five themes.



At the same time the **£260k** per year was awarded from the **Infrastructure & Capacity Building Fund** to Tower Hamlets Voluntary and Community Sector (THVCS) Infrastructure Partnership project to support organisations across the borough.

During the first year of the Local Community Fund programme over 20,000 residents have been supported through the programme from all ages and throughout the borough with delivery through 13 schemes

- Theme 1: Scheme A Children, Young People and Families; Scheme B Older People; Scheme C Access, Information and Self-Management; Scheme D Healthy living and healthy choices; Scheme E Improved inclusion, health and well-being outcomes for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues
- Theme 2: Scheme A ICT skills and digital careers; Scheme B Online Safety
- Theme 3: Scheme A Advice and Information
- Theme 4: Scheme A Developing and embedding good practice in the workplace for people with disabilities, learning difficulties and physical and mental health barriers to work; Scheme B Reducing barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups; Scheme C Support focused on increasing access to art and cultural industries
- Theme 5: Scheme A Reduction in the exploitation of children, young people and other vulnerable groups; Scheme B Improving the perception of young people in the community; Scheme C Services for people affected by domestic violence or other unsafe circumstance

Theme 1 – Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing

Theme 1 incorporates a range of schemes supporting children and families, older people and people with disabilities from across the borough. We fund 28 projects, focusing on improving the health and wellbeing of residents and the quality of the care services they receive. The table below provides a breakdown of this theme.

Theme	Scheme	Priority	Number of Projects
Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing	Scheme 1A – Children, Young People and Families	Increase access to Youth Services	8
		Provision of Early Help support to families	
		Support for young carers	
	Scheme 1B – Older People	Ageing well and reducing social isolation	7
		Provision of physical and health-promotion activities for older people	
	Scheme 1C – Access, information and self-management	Residents better informed/equipped to manage health conditions	2
	Scheme 1D - Healthy living and healthy choices	Residents better informed to make healthier choices	6
		Increased engagement in physical activity	
	Scheme 1E – Improved inclusion, health and well-being outcomes for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues	Improved health outcomes for disabled people	5

Theme one projects made progress in engaging with their service users. Projects had an empowering person-centred approach, making a tangible and positive difference to people's lives. Providers collaborated with community and statutory agencies to ensure the best outcomes for residents. Funded activities included:

Leadership programmes	Lunch club enrichment sessions with year 7	Fitness and sports sessions for children and women	Therapeutic activities for children and mothers who are victims of domestic violence
Digital newspaper for people with learning disabilities	Young Farmer and Forest School sessions	Workshops on safeguarding and personal safety	Support planning for disabled people
Bollywood Dance Classes, Tai Chi and Yoga sessions	Healthy Cooking course and Health talks	Volunteering opportunities for older people	Trips to the Tower Bridge exhibition and fun interactive family activity

Impact of Covid-19

Projects adapted their services; some more quickly as they already had systems in place to do so. Others needed extra resources (laptops / mobile phones) to provide tangible and effective support to residents. Examples of adapted activities:

Online interactive creative sessions for families	Girls Club Online for young women on the Isle of Dogs	<p>Socially distanced activities at St Hilda's</p> 
Performance that examined the impact of technology on teenagers' lives	Video of some easy to follow mindfulness activities and tips on managing feelings of anxiety	

Impact on adapted activities:



Some organisations indicated that this period has enabled them to forge a strong alliance with the Council's Early Help team and Social Services. Resulting in Working with Early Interventions Support Workers to ensure support for the families deemed most in need.

There have been mixed reactions to how online services have worked. Some organisations have taken the opportunity to develop this as an additional resource.

Feedback from service users during lockdown included:

"we are all here for each other's wellbeing"

"Isolation is hard and being in the same room helps"

"It's amazing. Thank you, for not letting me go"

"Some service users have found this particularly difficult, being in isolation and experiencing 'screen fatigue'".

The onset of the coronavirus pandemic part way through the year had a big impact in the borough, on organisations, and on residents. Project resources were, in some cases, diverted to provide Covid response. This included co-ordinating, food delivery and providing medicine delivery to residents who were shielding, alongside advice and support over the phone.



Hot meal home deliveries to service users and other vulnerable residents.

Scheme A – Children Young People & Families

There are 8 projects within this scheme. The focus is to a) increase access to Youth Services, b) provide Early Help support to families, c) support for young carers.

Projects are intended to:



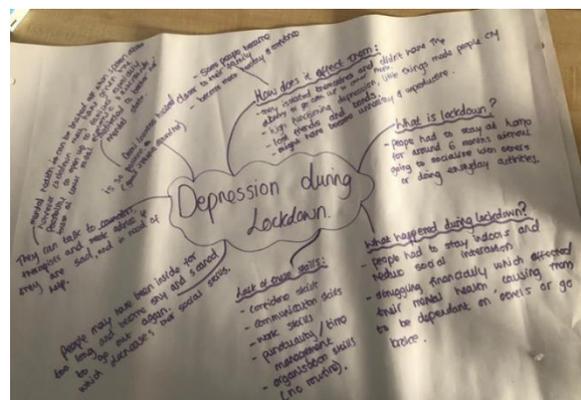
Projects in this scheme progressed well, achieving priorities and outcomes. In this first year, over 600 children and women were supported to explore experiences of self-worth and confidence.

Outcomes and achievements include:



Girls in Action

8 girls report they can cope better with mental health issues after participating in workshops





Tower Hamlets Teens

18 young people have benefited from in-depth, one-to-one coaching and support.

“This year I have come closer to reaching my potential, creating pieces I can actually be proud of, and it’s all thanks to you,” and “I don’t think I really would have discovered and expressed my creative side if it wasn’t for all of you, so thank you.” - participant



Family Mentoring Project supported 30 families.



38 girls participated in the leisure, health and creative activities of the Young Girl's Project.



83% of young women report they feel more positive and confident to sort out conflict with family or friends



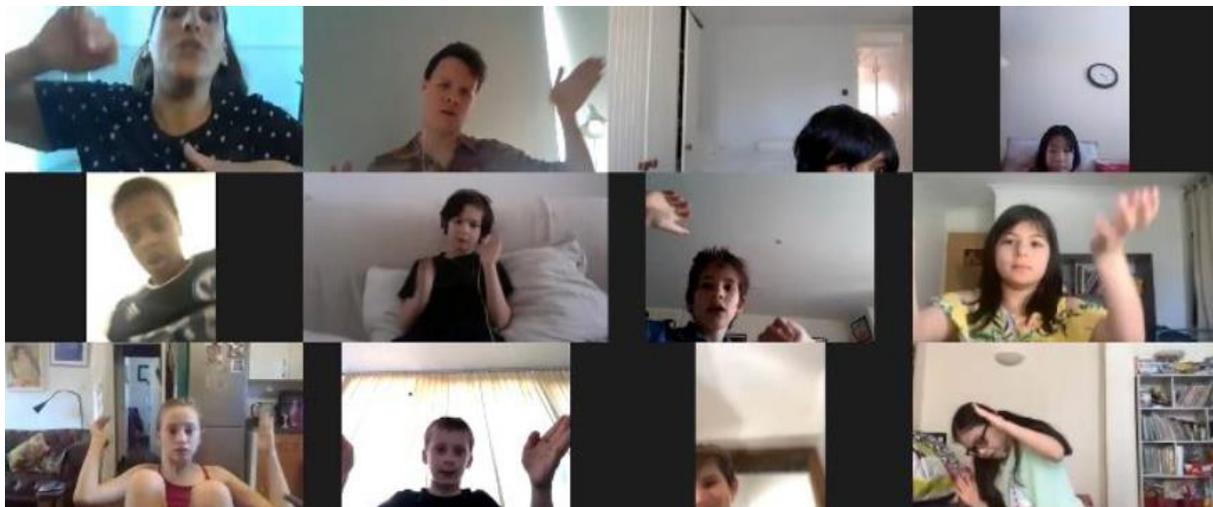
Domestic Abuse Children's Worker

42 children supported in the refuge



198 young people participated in Youth Theatre sessions, 4929 audience members. 88 families took part in Creative Play.

“I loved the games we played and everyone is always so nice to me. Thank you everyone I hope to see you in Sept 2020.”



Scheme B – Older People

There are 7 projects within this scheme. The focus is to provide a programme of a) ageing well and reducing social isolation, b) physical and health-promotion activities for older people.

In the first year, over 800 beneficiaries were supported to build stronger networks of information sharing and peer-support between users and those not accessing services. Below are some of the achievements of this scheme:

increased engagement	maintained relationships	less loneliness	improved mental health	increased confidence
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Consultation discussion group on transportation to key services at the Vietnamese and Chinese Lunch and Social Club.



Tower Hamlets LGBT Support Project

23 people have developed social connections that they have maintained outside of the group.



“I love how St Hilda’s is all about bringing people together no matter your age or backgrounds – for me, this is the very essence of great community.”



Friend at Home
120 volunteers active, with 71 new matches since October 2019

‘Being a befriender is more than I anticipated. Our weekly chats are something I look forward to as well as the client looking forward to it. My client is lovely and has lots of funny stories to tell.’

Caxton Hall Activity Centre
led by older people.
Help run the Hub café, proving a warm welcome and healthy snacks, enabling local people to connect with others, young and old, in the community. The cafe was closed due to the lock-down and the project applied actions to support each other. As a result of the project, 225 old older people were supported and report feeling less isolated.



Older Peoples Befriending Project

- 50 older residents visited, report feeling less loneliness through greater contact with other older people
- 2 older people were recruited as new volunteers during the lockdown and report making a positive contribution to their communities.



The Wellbeing Centre at Toynbee Hall

- 120 people aged 50+ report increased social networks and have maintained these relationships outside the project
- 80 older people report feeling confident to take control of their health and tackle challenges



Scheme C – Access, Information and Self-Management

There are 2 projects within this scheme. The focus is for older residents to be better informed and equipped to manage health conditions.



Take Back Your Life, a mindfulness-based pain management programme, addressing chronic pain, related social isolation and inactivity.

58 people were supported through five pain management courses, alongside additional one to one telephone support during the COVID-19 pandemic.



“The course was good because I learned so many things.... like how to calm down yourself... your mind”



The **"Taking control of your life"** project delivers planning support alongside a user-led co-production group harnessing the views of people with lived experience of disability. This project started in April.



Scheme D – Healthy living and healthy choices

There are 6 projects within this scheme. The focus is for a) Residents to be better informed to make healthier choices, b) Increase engagement in physical activity

The projects in this scheme have progressed in achieving priorities and outcomes. In the first year, 1900 beneficiaries have been supported to make informed choices on keeping fit and healthy. Below are some of the achievements of this scheme.





Exercise for health project

- 158 women participating report feeling less lonely and isolated
- 60% reported feeling more positively connected






Street Art 'play on our streets'

Playing out at Mudchute project using Mudchute's unique natural facilities to provide a range of freely chosen play opportunities in a safe, stimulating environment.

1300 residents participated in a wide range of culture, play, physical activity, leisure and sport inclusive for all

Live Active, Live Well Tower Hamlets

“20 Blind and partially sighted children and young people living in Tower Hamlets have improved ability to make healthy life decisions”.



- 127 children, young people and adults registered on the project.
- The summer programme sports sessions brought families to come together to play and build relationships.



Live Healthy Enjoy Life

152 women participated in various health and well-being activities and report they increased ability to care for their health needs and those of their families.

Healthy Lifestyle Partnership Programme



A consortium of local organisations delivering a programme of healthy lifestyle activities, classes and opportunities. The partnership supported 401 residents, of whom:

85% report higher levels of wellbeing after six weeks of membership

90% report that they have experienced improved symptoms of ill-health

Scheme E - Improved inclusion, health and wellbeing outcomes for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues

There are 5 projects within this scheme. The focus is improved health outcomes for disabled people. In the first year, over 340 disabled people and their families have been supported to make informed choices on their wellbeing. Below examples of scheme achievements:

15 therapeutic support sessions for women affected by domestic abuse

72 clients attended a workshop on how to stay safe in relationships

produced an online newspaper for people with learning disability

6-weeks Bollywood dance class



Improving Health and Wellbeing for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people in Tower Hamlets

61 beneficiaries participated in various activities such as wellbeing workshops.



10 over 50s accessed volunteer placements including Covid-19 response placements. 6 clients accessed paid work.



Get Active Newspaper

- 40 people with learning difficulties attended the initial newspaper launch
- 13 beneficiaries reduce social isolation



'Being a befriender is more than I anticipated... My client is lovely and has lots of funny stories to tell.'



Therapeutic support for women affected by Domestic Abuse

- 9 out of 15 service users reported reduced stress and anxiety
- 10 reported improved confidence and self-esteem and feelings of control over their future

Theme 2 – Digital Inclusion & Awareness

We fund five Digital Inclusion and Awareness projects. All Theme 2 projects performed satisfactorily up to the end of March 2020.



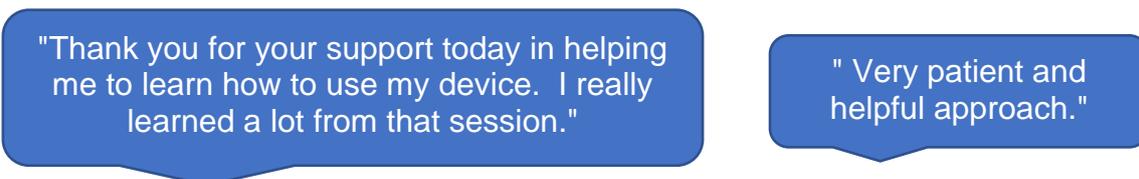
Intended outcomes for participants:



The Covid-19 lockdown measures had an impact with organisations contributing to the Borough’s Covid-19 response with services paused or adapted from April. Increased use of IT to stay in touch highlights the importance of this theme to enable increased inclusion of older people and safety of children.

Scheme A: ICT skills and digital careers

Projects deliver sessions that enable older people to be confident in using ICT programmes, going online safely and learning to use social media platforms to communicate and connect with people. We fund 3 projects under this scheme:





“I have been able to go online alone, something I didn't think I could do! ... Taking part in this free course has been good for me and something I haven't been able to do before. I enjoyed the learning with a young volunteer to talk me through what to do. I am now going to study another course online”

Scheme B – Online Safety

The schemes priority is the online safety of children and young people. Activities raise awareness of potential dangers and supports parents and carers to implement suitable prevention measures.

Projects funded in this scheme are:

<p>E-Safety Champions delivered by</p>  <p>SocietyLinks</p>	<p>Building Digital Resilience delivered by</p> 
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Projects continue to:

- provide activities online
- share resources and links to useful websites with adult service users
- respond to enquiries and requests for support
- encouraged their users to share tips that they do with their children to maintain a safe online environment



“Mary told the group that she was very happy to have been made aware of how she could protect her children as she hadn't realised the dangers that are present online”.

Theme 3 – Advice and Information

Theme 3 funds local advice and information services. A consortium of advice organisations is funded to provide local people advice on welfare benefits, housing, debt, employment rights, immigration and other social welfare issues. Within this theme we support the Tower Hamlets Advice Training and Capacity Building Project that provides training for volunteers embarking on advice careers.

Scheme Highlights

Advice Tower Hamlets – 13 organisations in partnership - **£3,234,357** funding up to March 2023



19,828 clients assisted with social welfare advice in the first 12 months

4,772 clients supported to increase and maximise incomes in the first 12 months



£18,578,281 client's income increased and or backdated in the first 12 months

£2,901,815 debt reductions or write offs resulting in reduction in amounts of personal debt

Tower Hamlets Advice Training and Capacity Building Project – £175,000 funding up to March 2023

7 volunteers found **paid work** within the first 12 months of the programme

19 Learning to Advise **certificates** were **awarded** (11 to volunteers and 8 for staff)

Advice consortium partners



St Peters Bengali Association



Case study Toynbee Hall - Client is 31-year -old female of Bangladeshi origin, divorced, unemployed with long term mental health condition and lives in a Hostel with no dependent family. Client presented us with a debt of £2,900 which was made of money owed to utility companies and rent arrears from previous accommodation which she doesn't know how she accrued. The client also feels suicidal because of the rejection from her ex-husband after 16 years of marriage. We advised and assisted our client to negotiate payment arrangement plans with her debtors and helped her to contest some debts to be written off. The client is relieved of the outcome of her case and has expressed her gratitude to Toynbee Hall for the empathy and assistance she received.

Theme 4 – Employment and Skills

Theme 4 has three schemes supporting 9 projects.

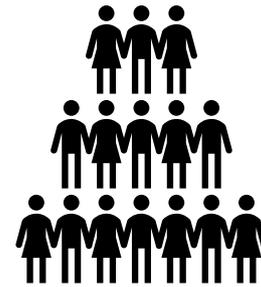
Scheme A - Developing and embedding good practice in the workplace for people with disabilities, learning difficulties and physical and mental health barriers to work

Scheme B - Reducing barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups

Scheme C - Support focused on increasing access to art and cultural industries

Projects adapted well due to Covid-19 and delivered revised project activity. Scheme A started in April 2020, by setting up and maintaining two networking groups consisting of people with disabilities and employers.

Projects in scheme B and C managed to secure laptops, tablets and smart phones from various places and organisations so that both their staff and participants had the tools needed to progress virtually. Some organisations focussed their energy and resources in providing front-line Covid-19 response work.



485 beneficiaries supported in the last 12 months

Scheme A – Developing and embedding good practice in the workplace for people with disabilities, learning difficulties and physical and mental health barriers to work

The project funded under this scheme, started in April 2020, and has carried out significant work over the last 6 months. Achievements include:

Direct contact with 77 potential employers, with more intensive follow up with 11 employers

Setting up two networks made up of disabled workers and employers called Network of Workers (NOW) and the Tower Hamlets Employers Network (THEN)

Refining focus to respond to the changing needs of employers while they make organisational change due to Covid-19



'THEN and NOW' employment project empowers organisations to confidently recruit, employ and retain disabled staff. The project also aims to better support local disabled people into work by addressing the barriers and promoting positive change.

Scheme B – Reducing barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups

This scheme has 4 projects who have different target groups. Two projects focus on young people while the other two on women. Projects have progressed well in order to achieve set outcomes. Below are some of the annual achievements:



Examples of projects and achievements



“Building my skills and gaining my qualifications shows my children if I can do it they can to. I hope to work in a school with children and help them grow and learn. I am proud of what I achieved and couldn't have without Limehouse” Project’. August 2020



- 84 individuals accessed the job club
- 75 people supported to develop their CV
- 43 individuals supported in setting up email systems or in learning how to navigate their email
- 17 individuals gained accredited outcomes

Scheme C – Support focused on increasing access to art and cultural industries

This scheme aims to increase numbers of people participating in arts activities and schemes that lead to training and employment in the creative sectors.



195 beneficiaries supported

Projects in this scheme started off well setting up a series of workshops, exhibitions and events to encourage participants to fully access the opportunities available in the arts and cultural industries.

81 people participated in arts projects for the first time



In March, projects quickly adapted to remote ways of working in order to maintain the interests, motivation and participation of their beneficiaries.



108 people gained increased opportunities in the arts and cultural industries

108 people increased access to industry level training



Project examples and achievements:

[Auto Italia](#)



73 young Tower Hamlets residents from Black and Minority Ethnic and working-class backgrounds participated in art and cultural projects



Artworks

“The first trainee's experience was interrupted by covid 19; she has not completed her traineeship yet. The picture to the right links to the work she has completed. She filmed and edited this herself”.



Theme 5 – Community Safety

Theme 5 has three schemes supporting six projects.

Scheme A - Reduction in the exploitation of children, young people and other vulnerable groups

Scheme B - Improving the perception of young people in the community

Scheme C - Services for people affected by domestic violence or other unsafe circumstances

Resilience and a willingness to find new ways of working during the lockdown was demonstrated by organisations funded under Theme 5. Implementing strategies and actions to guarantee continued engagement whilst at the same time responding to needs demonstrated by participants. Flexibility was in place of when planned project activities happened. Organisations used project time and additional hours to provide Covid-19 support to residents as well as responding to the widening inequalities experienced by participants.

Examples of work carried out during the first Covid lockdown

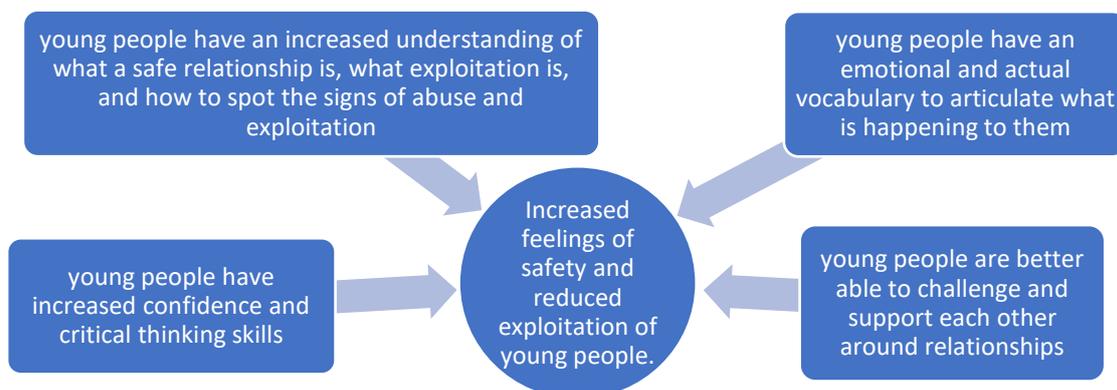
- A new domestic violence reporting service in six local pharmacies
- Care parcels to vulnerable residents and activity packs to young people without digital availability
- Continuing regular contact with participants and to take new referrals allowing response to crisis situations.

When allowed projects returned to a mix of safe face to face work alongside online activities developed during the lockdown. Organisations have put in place project plans with flexible delivery to enable participants to continue to benefit as Covid restrictions change over the coming months.

Scheme A – Reduction in the exploitation of children, young people and other vulnerable groups

This schemes priority is to reduce the exploitation of children and young people, and vulnerable groups and to increase the extent to which young feel safe and reduce the number of children and young people, and vulnerable groups being exploited.

There are four intended outcomes as outlined below:



Scheme highlights October 2019 to 2020 include

Participants developed to challenge stereotypes and terminology

13 young leaders, engaging with other young people in schools to reduced exploitation

Resources for Adults - Adverse Childhood Experiences, developed, reviewed 1062 times online

Young people moved away from harmful situations and rescued from exploitation



The Resilient Young Leaders Programme is an initiative led by and for young people (15-19 years) enabling young people to build skills and capacity to feel safe, confident, and responsible in making positive changes they want to see in their neighbourhoods and society.

Participant won the Youth Champion Award for making a positive contribution to his neighbourhood and also in respect of the positive changes he made in his life.



“You made our wishes come true... you stuck by us and believed in my brother from day one... I am thankful from the bottom of my heart” – Participants sister.



The Schools and Community Resilience Programme achievements included:

- Series of one-off workshops on knife crime awareness, grooming and exploitation engaging 177 young people
- Seamless continuation of provision by rapidly moving face-to-face mentoring sessions to virtual and phone meetings
- 12 peer workers delivering on street activities

“He was able to find encouragement and motivation to get out of his comfort zone and benefit others and at the same time develop himself with new skills and experiences” project worker.

KAZZUM ARTS

The Build project uses arts to develop relationships, emotional literacy and communication skills of young people excluded from mainstream education.

A collection of short animations created to support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people. Each animation explores one of four broad themes: Mindfulness, Relationships, Movement and Relaxation.

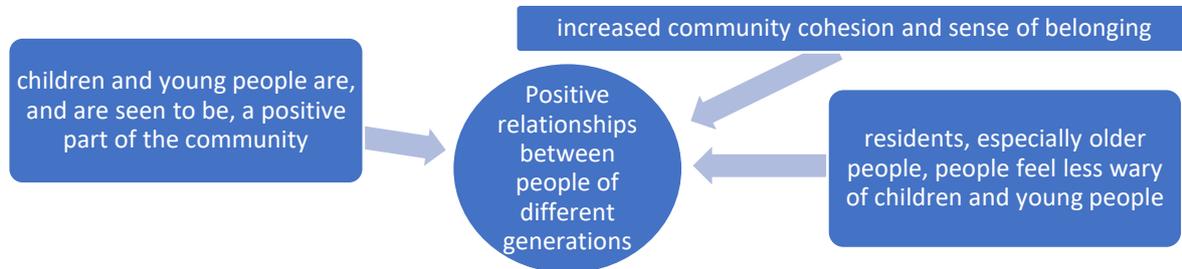


“I felt listened to by the adults because they take in all the ideas that we come up with. It’s important to have space and talk. The sessions have been good for my confidence, I feel better.” — Participant

Scheme B – Improving the perception of young people in the community

This scheme supports relationships with others in the community by breaking down barriers and supporting positive relationships between people of different generations.

There are three intended outcomes for this scheme:



Scheme Highlights October 2019 to 2020

Successful crowd funding to bring about digital inclusion of older people supported by young people	Individual regular telephone phone calls providing companionship alongside ensuring older participants accessed support
12 participants (five under 25,s, and seven over 50,s) took part in making photograms, a portrait studio workshop and learnt to develop black and white photographs	Into Focus Exhibition 22 - 24 and 29 - 31 October Thursday - Saturday



“The intergenerational aspect made it interesting, bringing together older people like me who recall when we only had the use of analogue cameras, together with those who see this film as an exotic new way to express creativity. The course provided me with a useful project perspective for resurrecting my analogue practice; and specifically, after lockdown, it gave me a very welcome excuse to rope in my three adult children as black-and-white photography models!”
- Participant.



“On 28/01/2020 the larger co-design session took place, where the planning for the April event was carried out. 14 older people and 6 young people met at Poplar Union, where older participants usually have a dancing class. From session, the ideas that had the most support surprised young people: Quiz night, line dancing workshop (the adults teach the young people one of their routines), storytelling workshop, tai chi class, and yoga”. Project worker.

Scheme C – Services for people affected by domestic violence or other unsafe circumstances

The priority of this scheme is services for people affected by domestic violence. It aims to increase the extent to which young people and families, affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse, **feel safe**.

There are two intended outcomes:

- More residents, particularly families and young people, are aware of the different forms that domestic violence and sexual abuse (DVSA) can take; know how it, and where to access support.
- Young victims and witnesses of DVSA are supported to recognise and report it.

Scheme highlights October 2019 to 2020

A new domestic violence reporting service in six local pharmacies resulting in over 100 women using these to access support services	Refuge service supported 74 women and 64 children over the year	100% of women participating in an empowerment session reported improved understanding of different forms of abuse
Launch of access to Bright Sky DV information app on Royal Mail Parcelforce and Ebay websites resulting in 1,500 visits in 3 days	100% of women supported in the refuge report increased knowledge of how to report DA or where to access help	Provided tablets, games and activities to keep the children engaged with education and to promote their wellbeing during lockdown



As outreach and awareness raising components of this project were unable to run as planned during lockdown and covid related restrictions on events, the project rapidly pivoted to raising awareness and increasing available support across Tower Hamlets

Greater needs emerged during COVID-19 and the organisation adapted as necessary to continue delivering the project in the most appropriate form. Survivor ambassadors helped shape the Safe Spaces project during a survivor feedback forum.





Bright Sky a free to download mobile app providing support and information for anyone who may be in an abusive relationship or for those concerned about someone they know. Bright Sky can also be used by practitioners and employers to learn more and provide support.

Key sessions with the project worker addressed the children's trauma in order for them to understand their experiences of domestic abuse and understanding the purpose of a refuge and the requirement of keeping the location safe. As a result of the support provided, an average of 89.8% of the children in the refuge agreed that they felt more safe and secure.

Below: Writing in, 'I am Happy' Buddy bag foundation book completed by a service user.

he was happy that
he was in his island
and finally ~~met~~ met
his friends

the end
happy ending

Infrastructure & Capacity Building Fund

Tower Hamlets Voluntary and Community Sector (THVCS) Infrastructure Partnership

THVCS Infrastructure Partnership brings together three Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) infrastructure support agencies to increase the range and number of Voluntary and Community Sector organisations that are well-run and resilient.

THCVS is an independent membership organisation for voluntary, community faith and social enterprise organisations in the borough of Tower Hamlets.



Providing a range of services including:

- Information and resources
- Training courses, events and conferences
- Strategic representation and policy work
- Free advice and support

Achievements this year include supporting Voluntary and Community Sector organisations securing resources to provide activities.



Highlights of inward investment.

- **16** Voluntary and Community Sector organisations supported to secure **£235,00** from external sources
- **25** Voluntary and Community Sector organisations supported to secure **£379,377** funding from Public Sector Partnership programmes.

‘Since we were forced to make our Fundraising Officer redundant in March, I have worked closely with THCVS and particularly the Development Officer. I have valued both her suggestions of new grants to pursue and her review of applications - it is always useful to discuss possible applications ... comments reviewing applications almost always provide greater focus and enhanced chance of success. ... excellent level of service, responding quickly to my emails. I have no doubt whatsoever that our funding success has been greatly increased due to the skills and experience of the THCVS team’.

Examples of work carried out during the first Covid lockdown

- 29 groups received follow-up one to one support sessions during April to June
- 2 Health and wellbeing networking sessions (63) and 1 Health and Wellbeing Forum - (35) events with 98 people attending
- Supported holiday hunger scheme
- 8 Ebulletins circulated to 13,403

provides a comprehensive and responsive volunteering infrastructure service to all volunteer-involving organisations in Tower Hamlets.

Annual project achievements include:



32 best practice advice sessions to a total of 21 unique organisations

“I will be more consistent in how I communicate boundaries with volunteers. It was good to learn about the legal issues around volunteering also”.

2 organisations supported to achieve the Investors in Volunteers (iV) programme



“... the Farm now has “better induction; a more consistent and confident approach across staff to managing challenging situations with volunteers, and better understanding of why it's important to do so”.



12 e-bulletins published in the year and circulated to organisations



11 individuals completed accredited training

Tower Hamlets Community Transport contributes by managing a fleet of accessible minibuses for hire by member Voluntary and Community organisations. This resource enables vulnerable residents to access a variety of services ranging from social care for the elderly to children accessing sports activities.

4 individuals received Midas training



They also support local Voluntary and Community organisations by providing training, garage services, and through collaborating on community projects.



7 trips in collaboration with the Tackling Poverty Team

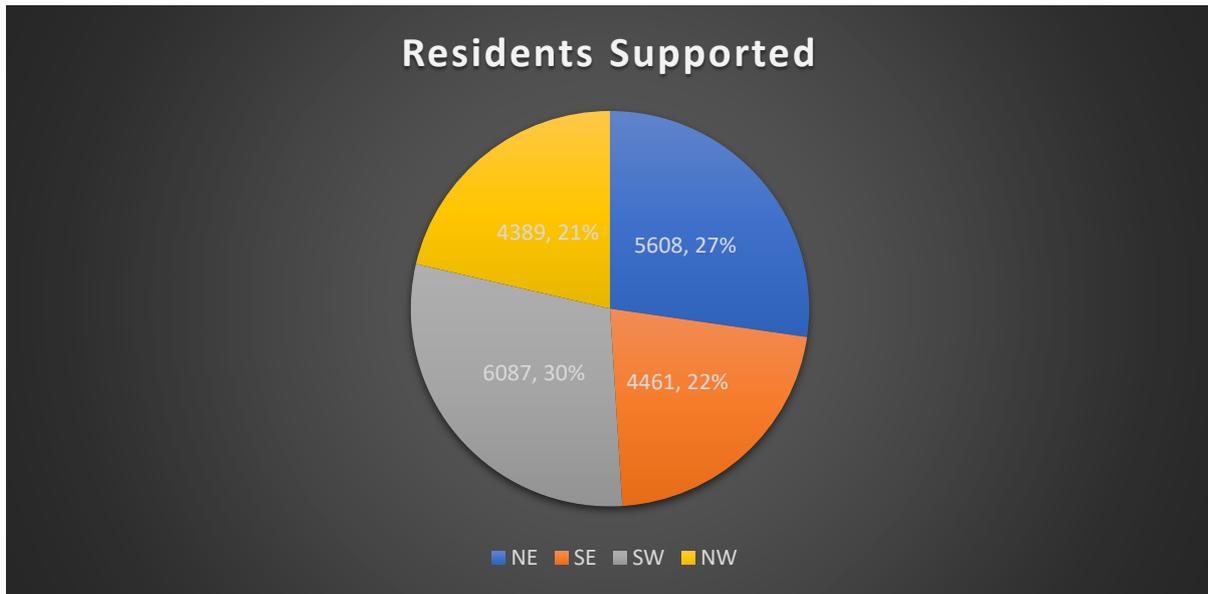
MIDAS (Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme) training ensures drivers using a minibus can provide a safe service.

912 journeys and 5 transport days for a local primary school

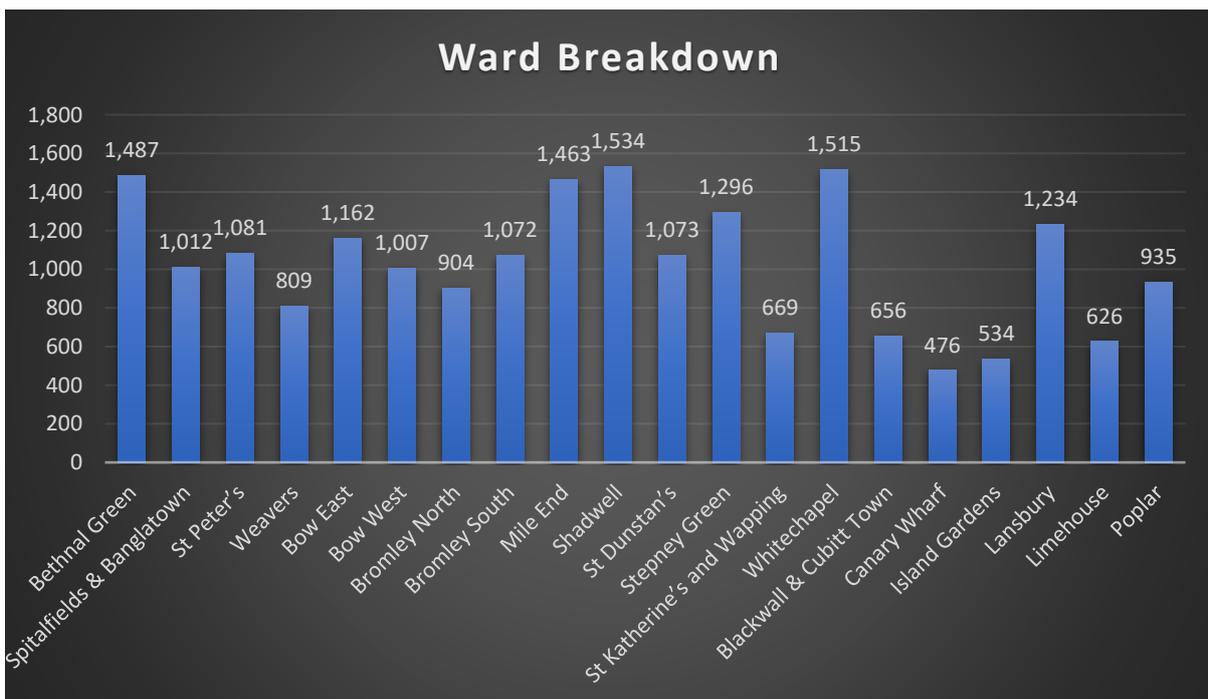


THCVS and VCTH have maintained service throughout the period by moving to online working, with minimum disruption to access. Both organisations have also responded by taking on additional work, some of which is funded by LBTH e.g. the Volunteer Hub. And some of which has been absorbed within existing resources, for example, involvement in about 10 different borough wide Covid-19 response planning meetings. THCT was unable to operate during the Covid pandemic and services were suspended. They have put measures in place to mitigate risk, monitor changes and react accordingly. They are slowly getting back on the road.

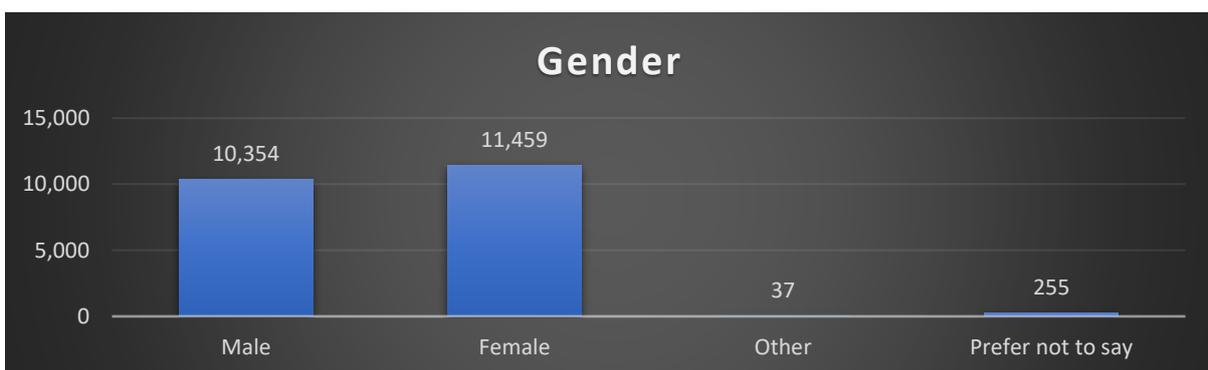
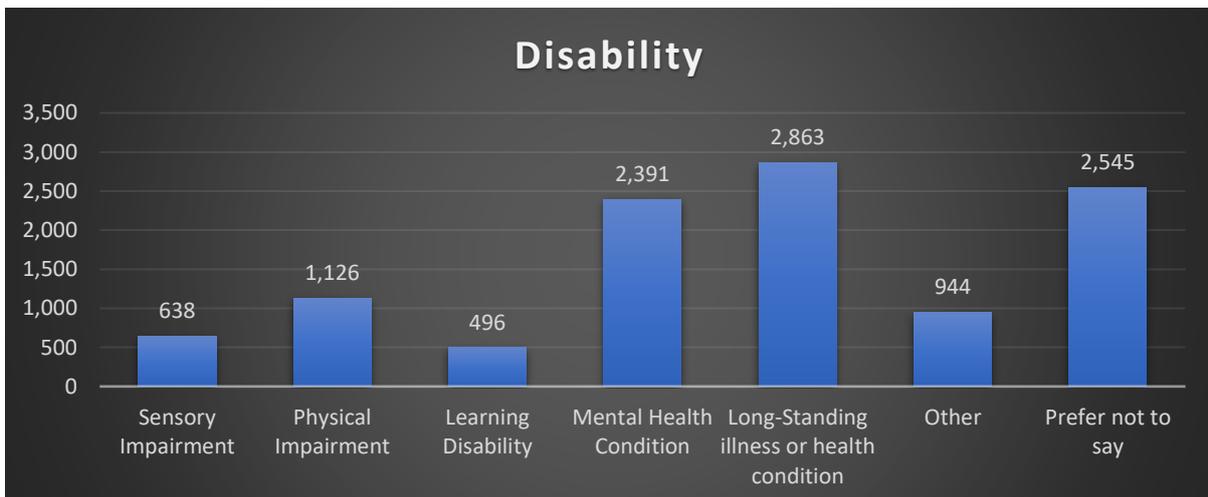
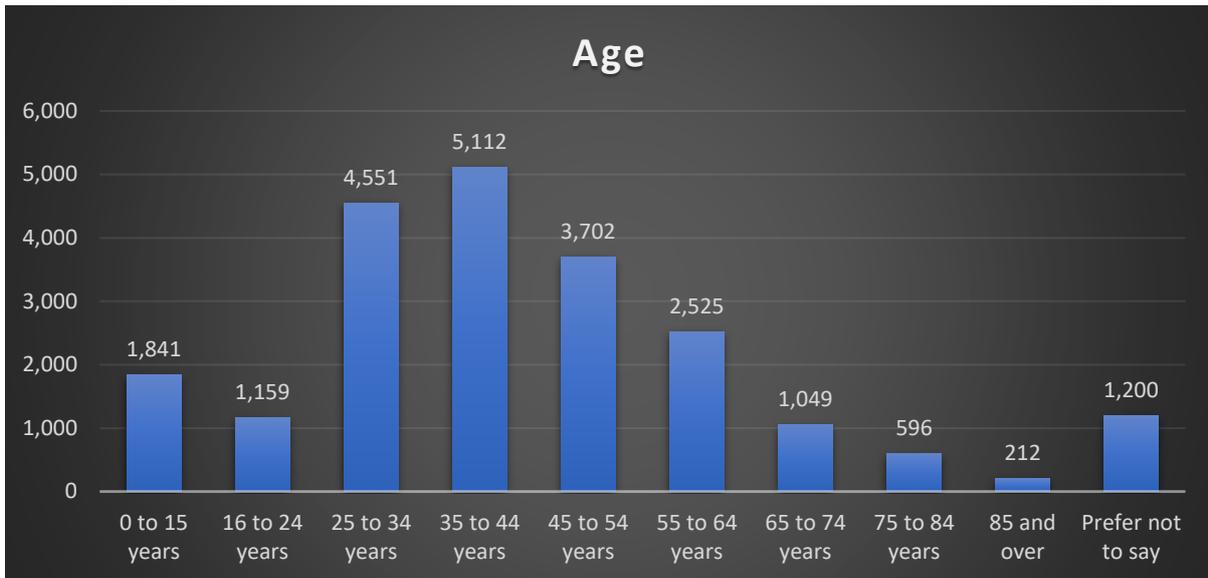
Appendix 1 – Geographical data

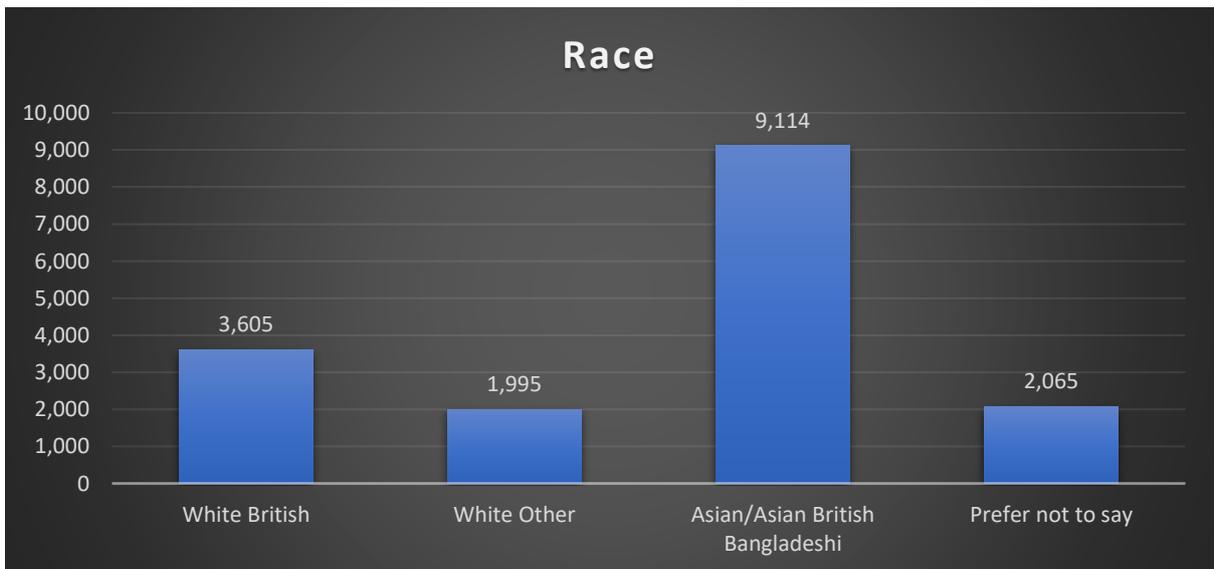
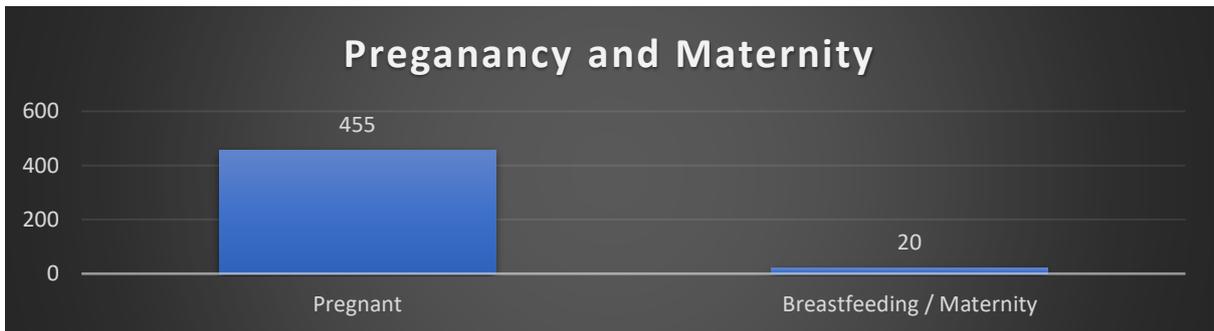
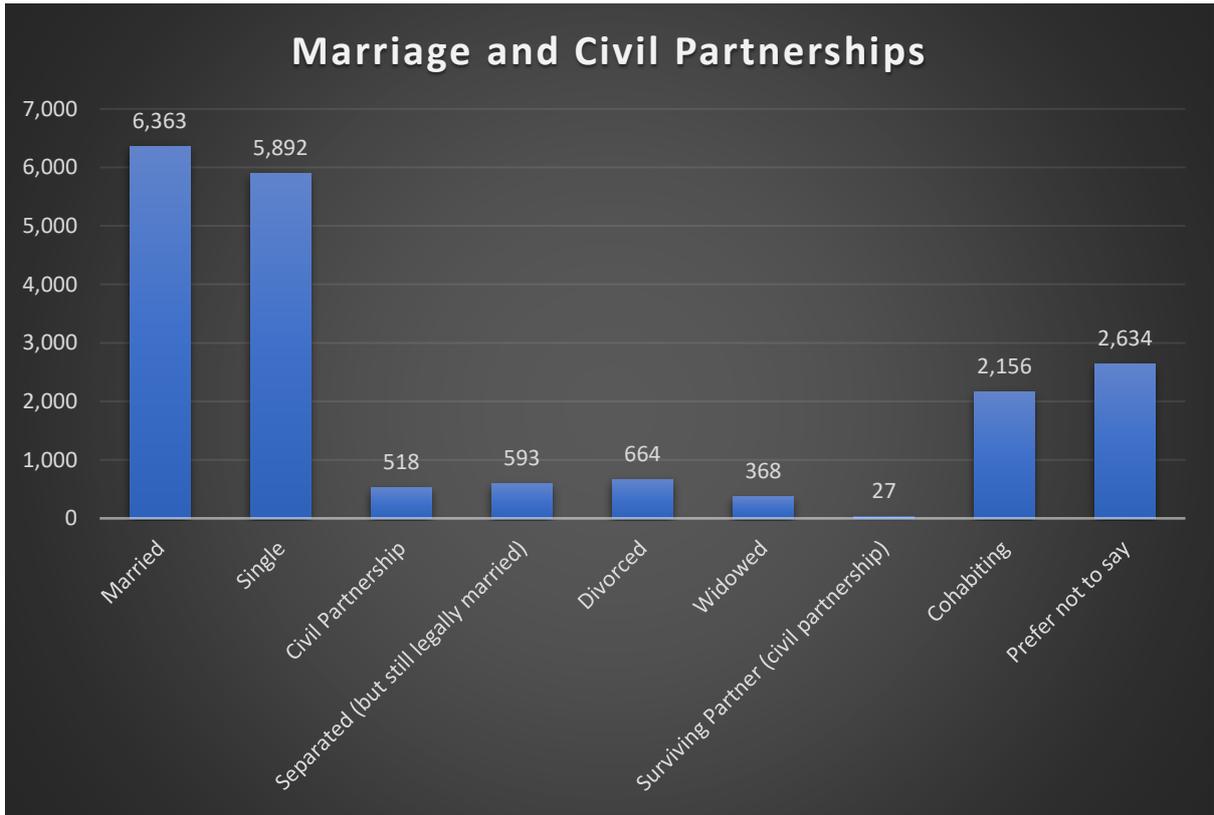


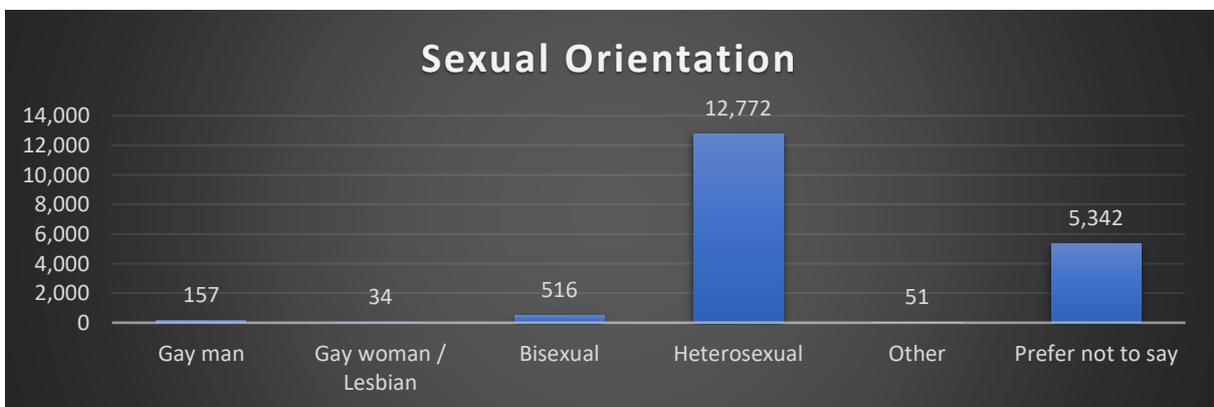
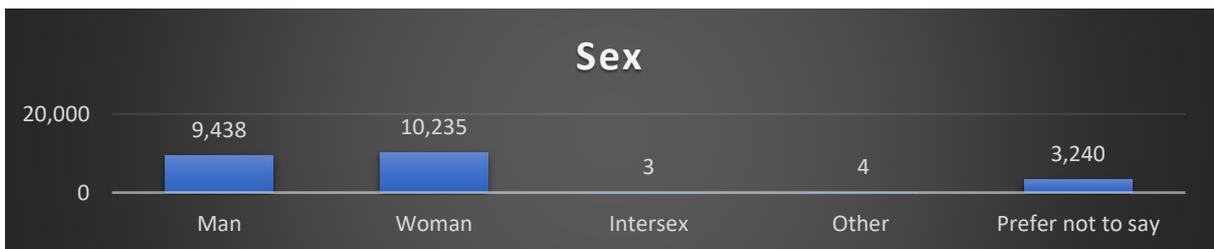
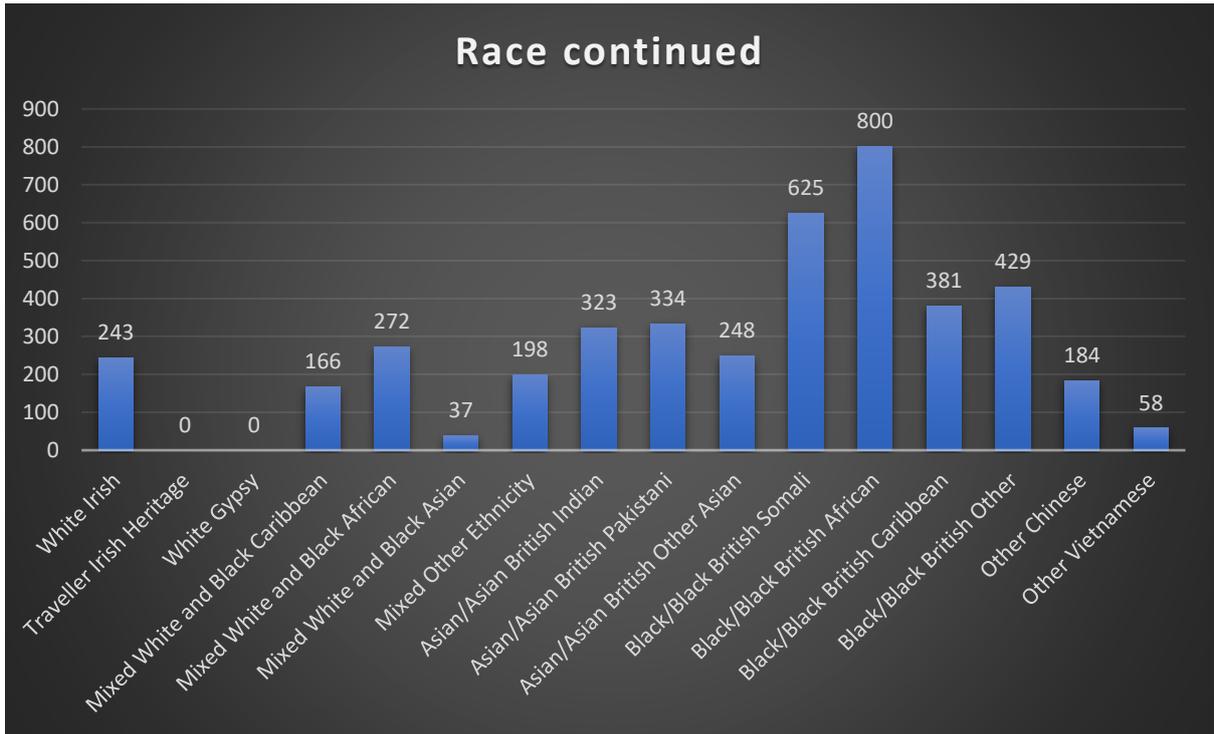
<p>4,389 in the NW cluster</p> <p>(Bethnal Green, Spitalfields & Banglatown, St Peter's, Weavers)</p>	<p>5,608 in the NE cluster</p> <p>(Bow East / West, Bromley North / South, Mile End)</p>	<p>6,087 in the SW cluster</p> <p>(Shadwell, St Dunstan's, St Katharine & Wapping, Whitechapel)</p>	<p>4,461 in the SE cluster</p> <p>(Blackwall & Cubitt Town, Canary Wharf, Island Gardens, Lansbury, Poplar)</p>
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Appendix 2 – Equalities data







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Appendix 3 – Summary of changes to original Funding agreements

In March 2020 as the coronavirus pandemic was having an impact with a national lockdown imminent the decision was taken by the Council to continue to fund projects through April to June with their scheduled payments. VCS organisations were best placed to support residents with the impact of Covid-19 and funded groups were encouraged to do what they could to support the borough response.

For Local Community Fund projects this meant that for some although they were supporting residents, including delivering food and medicine, providing volunteers and support by phone, they were not delivering activity as set out in their funding agreements.

Changes to funding agreements need to be agreed and while some changes just require officer approval a significant variation such as changing the aim of the project or the outcomes projects were working towards would need Committee approval.

The letter sent by the Mayor in March covers the April to June period and a further decision to continue funding in July to September covers that period.

From October 2020 projects were expected to deliver their projects as set out in the funding agreement.

Grant Officers have been working with the LCF organisations throughout the summer and supporting them as they adapted their services to deliver remotely using a variety of online resources.

The Local Community Fund is set up to be a flexible and responsive programme with a focus on continuous co-design. The Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are a way to measure progress to achieving outcomes rather than an end unto itself. Activity, indicators, targets can all change to improve the service to residents to achieve project outcomes and the aim of the project.

In many cases the project description, outcomes and indicators do not describe how activity is delivered and so there is not a change required, for example if an outcome is to improve the confidence levels of young women then this would be the same if activity is delivered in person or online.

Theme 1 Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing

Number of projects	No changes / minor changes	Substantial changes	Significant Variation
28	27	1	0

Minor changes - Amendments to wording of indicators to change reference to specific activities

Substantial change - Removal of indicator that involves holding public events

Theme 2 Digital Inclusion and Awareness

Number of projects	No changes / minor changes	Substantial changes	Significant Variation
5	5	0	0

Minor changes - Amendments to wording to change reference to specific activities

Theme 3 Advice & Information

Number of projects	No changes / minor changes	Substantial changes	Significant Variation
2	1	1	0

Substantial change - KPI 1 removed - This had been highlighted as a required change since July 2020. Volunteers need to be supervised and work in advice centres and not all advice centres are resourced in the same way to supervise and guide volunteers.

Theme 4 Employment & Skills

Number of projects	No changes / minor changes	Substantial changes	Significant Variation
9	8	1	0

Minor changes – Project has changed their Project Title to better reflect the aim of the project, a project description has been amended to reflect the move to remote delivery.

Substantial change – the target for one KPI reduced for Year 2 with the intention to catch up in Year 3 and meet lifetime target

Theme 5 Community Safety

Number of projects	No changes / minor changes	Substantial changes	Significant Variation
6	6	0	0

Minor changes – Project has changed their Project Title, amendments to indicator wording where specific activities stated

Infrastructure & Capacity Building

Number of projects	No changes / minor changes	Substantial changes	Significant Variation
1	0	0	1

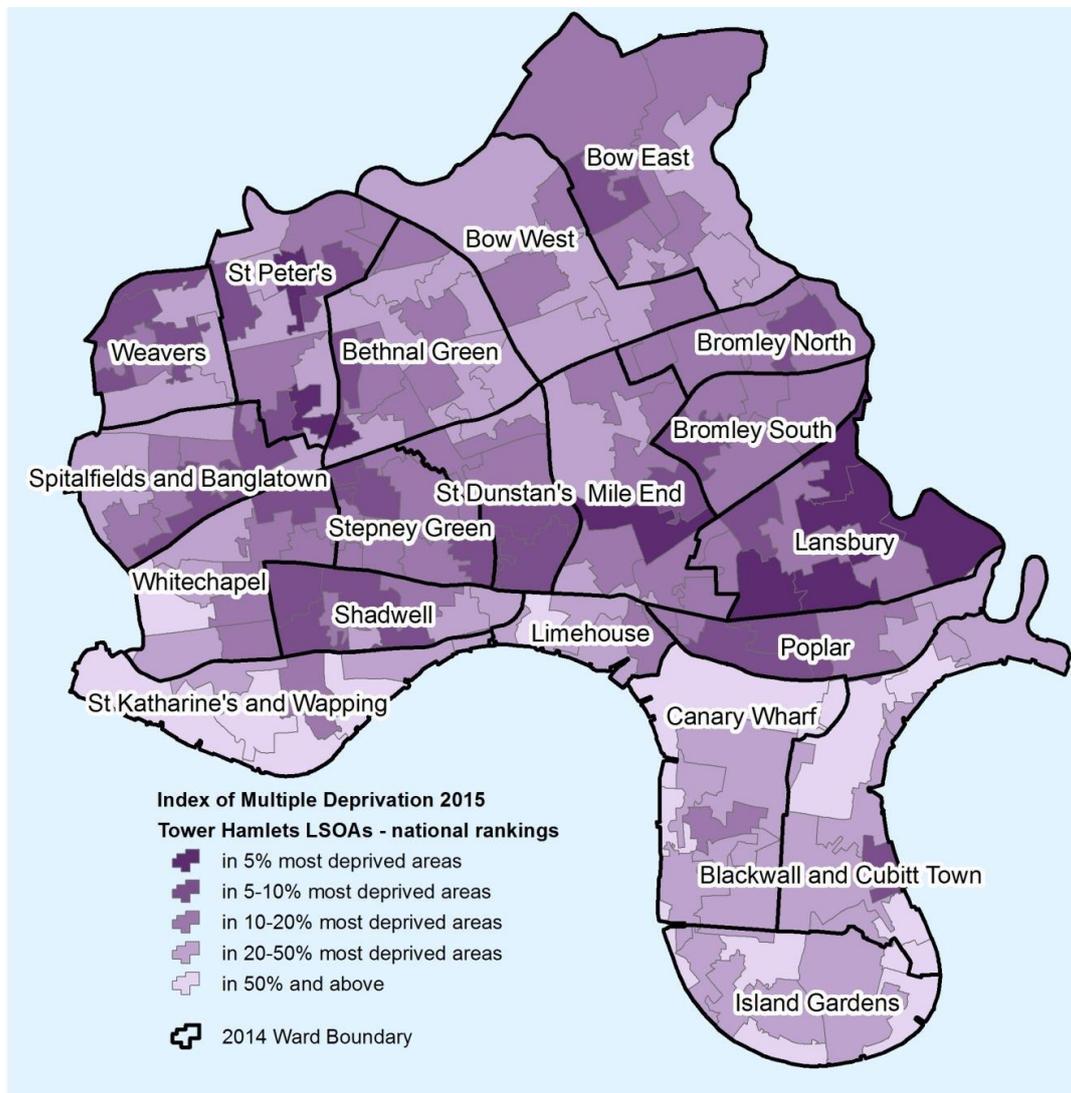
Significant Variation – change to volunteering element of the project agreed at Cabinet 21 October 2020

Local Community Fund

Equality Analysis – October 2019 – September 2020

Geographical breakdown

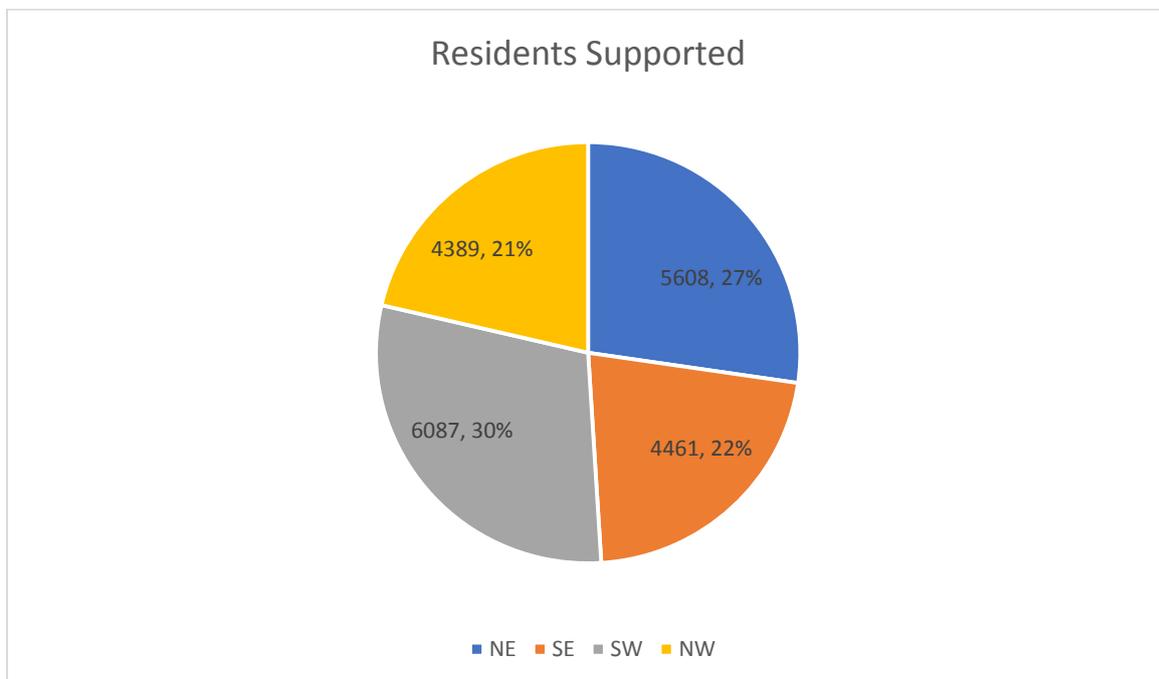
The Equality Analysis of the recommended programme included the breakdown of indices of multiple deprivation across the borough.



The Action Plan included:

Recommendation	Key activity	Progress milestones including target dates for either completion or progress
Need to ensure Geographical Spread	Ensure successful bidders provide a borough wide service in the areas of highest need through regular assessment and development work with projects	Reviewing performance after 1 year

The beneficiary data submitted by projects for the first year of the programme show that residents from across the borough have been supported by projects



The ward breakdown confirms the borough wide reach of the programme.

Ward	Residents supported	%	Cluster	Residents supported	%
Bethnal Green	1,487	7.2	NW	4,389	21.4
Spitalfields & Banglatown	1,012	4.9			
St Peter's	1,081	5.3			
Weavers	809	3.9			
Bow East	1,162	4.7	NE	5,608	27.3
Bow West	1,007	4.9			
Bromley North	904	4.4			
Bromley South	1,072	5.2			
Mile End	1,463	7.1			
Shadwell	1,534	7.5	SW	6,087	29.6
St Dunstan's	1,073	5.2			
Stepney Green	1,296	6.3			
St Katherine's and Wapping	669	3.3			
Whitechapel	1,515	7.4			
Blackwall & Cubitt Town	656	3.2	SE	4,461	21.7
Canary Wharf	476	2.3			
Island Gardens	534	2.6			
Lansbury	1,234	6.0			
Limehouse	626	3.0			
Poplar	935	4.6			
Total	20,545	99		20,545	100

Of the 50 LCF projects 27 had boroughwide as the geographical area served. The remaining

4,389 in the NW cluster (Bethnal Green, Spitalfields & Banglatown, St Peter's, Weavers)	5,608 in the NE cluster (Bow East / West, Bromley North / South, Mile End)	6,087 in the SW cluster (Shadwell, St Dunstan's, St Katharine & Wapping, Whitechapel)	4,461 in the SE cluster (Blackwall & Cubitt Town, Canary Wharf, Island Gardens, Lansbury, Poplar)
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projects had several specific wards stated.

The 9 protected characteristics

Race

From LCF Equality Analysis 2019 - Tower Hamlets is ranked as the 16th most ethnically diverse local authority in England in terms of the mix of different ethnic group populations. More than two thirds of our residents belong to minority ethnic groups and the borough is home to the largest Bangladeshi population in the country who comprise 1 in 3 residents. The second largest ethnic group, making up 31 per cent of the population is White British.

Current Borough Profile

More than two-thirds (69%) of the borough's population belong to a minority ethnic group. Tower Hamlets is ranked as the 16th most ethnically diverse local authority in England out of 325 local authorities.

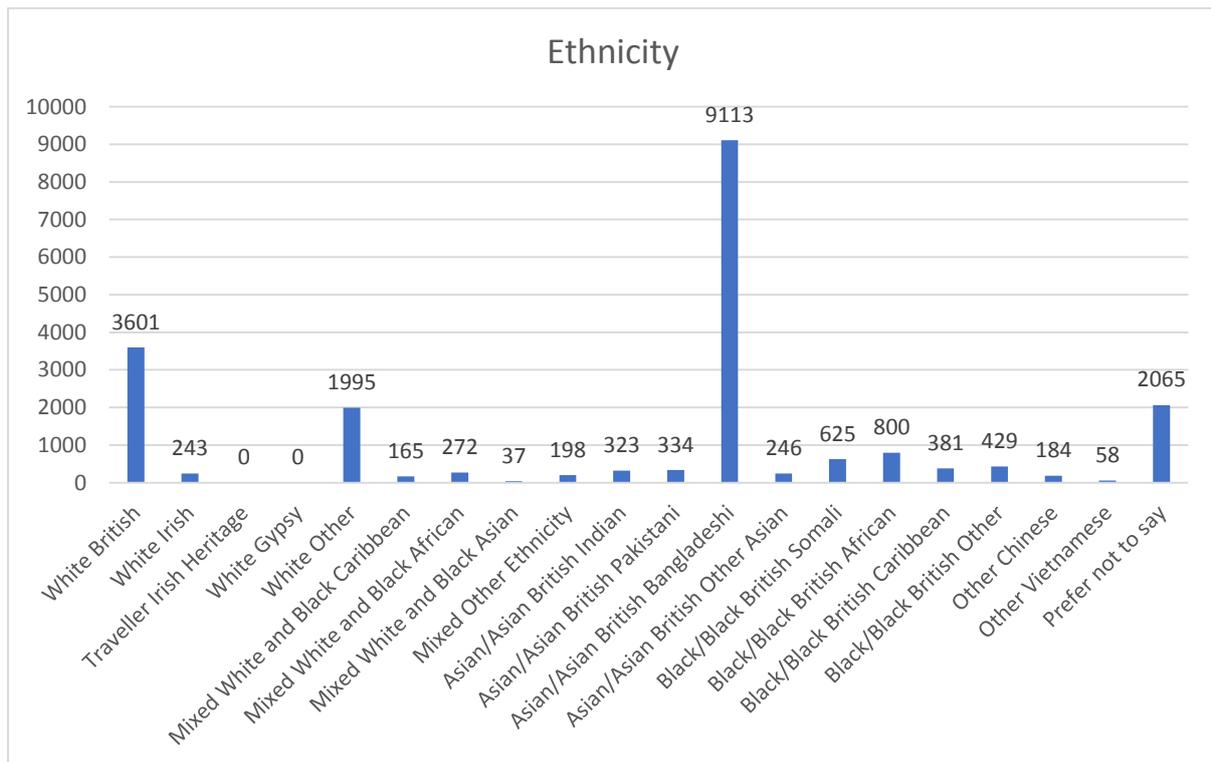
<p>White Ethnic Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ White British 31.2% ➤ White other 12.4% ➤ White Irish 1.5% ➤ White Gypsy/Irish Traveller 0.1% 	<p>Asian/Asian British Ethnic Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bangladeshi 32.0% ➤ Chinese 3.2% ➤ Indian 2.7% ➤ Pakistani 1.0%
<p>Black/Black British Ethnic Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ African 3.7% ➤ Caribbean 2.1% ➤ Other Black 1.5% 	<p>Mixed Ethnic Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mixed White and Asian 1.2% ➤ Mixed Other 1.2% ➤ Mixed White and Black Caribbean 1.1% ➤ Mixed White and Black African 0.6%
<p>Other Ethnic Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arab 1.0% ➤ Any other Ethnic Group 1.3% 	

The borough's two largest ethnic groups are the White British and the Bangladeshi populations, each accounting for one third of the population. Tower Hamlets has the largest Bangladeshi population in the country

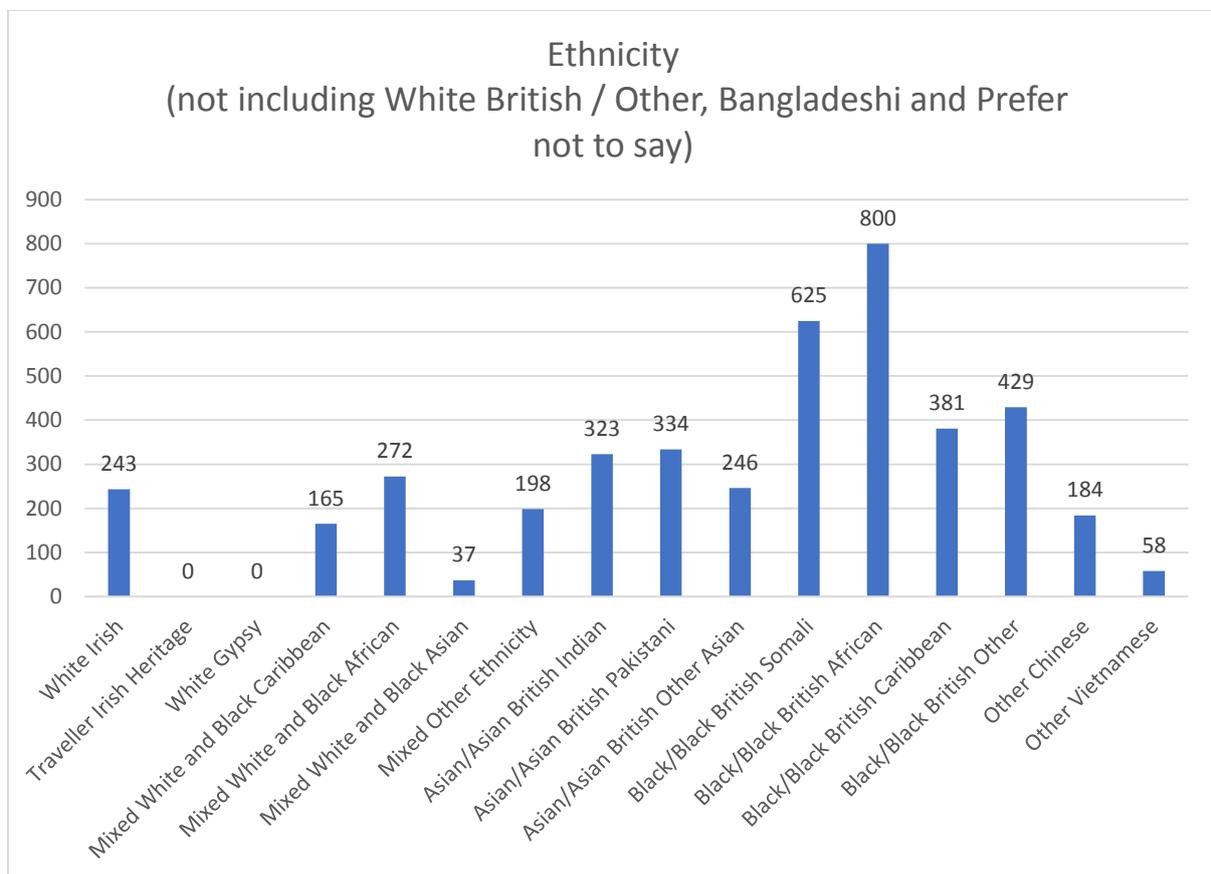
The third largest group is the White Other population, who account for 12% of the borough's population. This group is diverse and includes residents from a mix of ethnic backgrounds, Europeans, Australians and Americans.

A significant proportion of the borough's population are Somali. The 2011 Census identified 2,925 Somali-born residents, 1.2% of the population. The overall size of the Somali population in the borough, including subsequent and second generations, is considerably larger, between 6,000 and 9,000 or 2-3% of the population.

LCF programme data



As expected, the largest group amongst the LCF beneficiaries are from Asian / Asian British Bangladeshi followed by White British and White Other.



LCF programme %

Category	Borough Profile %	LCF Programme %
White British	31.2	17.1
White Irish	1.5	1.2
Traveller Irish Heritage	0.1	0.0
White Gypsy		0.0
White Other	12.4	9.5
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	1.1	0.8
Mixed White and Black African	0.6	1.3
Mixed White and Black Asian	1.2	0.2
Mixed Other Ethnicity	1.2	0.9
Asian/Asian British Indian	2.7	1.5
Asian/Asian British Pakistani	1.0	1.6
Asian/Asian British Bangladeshi	32.0	43.2
Asian/Asian British Other Asian		1.2
Black/Black British Somali	3.7	3.0
Black/Black British African		3.8
Black/Black British Caribbean	2.1	1.8
Black/Black British Other	1.5	2.0
Other Chinese	3.2	0.9
Other Vietnamese		0.3
Prefer not to say		9.8

Appendix 4

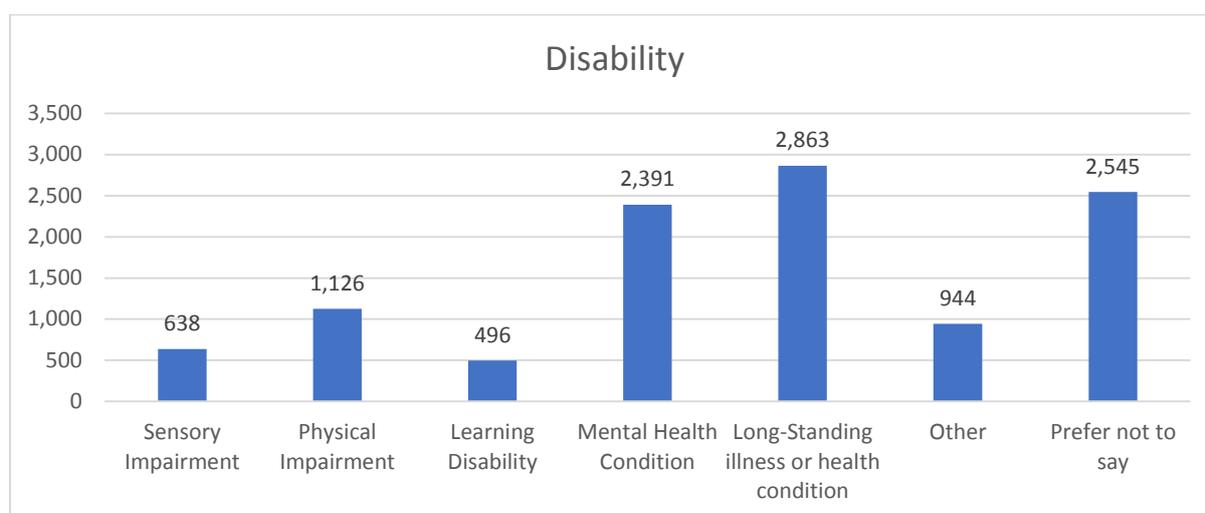
Data by Theme

Row Labels	White British	White Irish	Traveller Irish Heritage	White Gypsy	White Other	Mixed White and Black Caribbean	Mixed White and Black African	Mixed White and Black Asian	Mixed Other Ethnicity	Asian/Asian British Indian	Asian/Asian British Pakistani	Asian/Asian British Bangladeshi	Asian/Asian British Other Asian	Black/Black British Somali	Black/Black British African	Black/Black British Caribbean	Black/Black British Other	Other Chinese	Other Vietnamese	Preferred not to say
Theme 1 Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing	1599	40	0	0	74	42	18	14	39	46	47	1523	37	36	80	131	53	67	41	178
Theme 2 Digital Inclusion and Awareness	8	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	1	6	336	4	17	0	13	0	0	0	6
Theme 3 Advice and Information	1950	202	0	0	1908	116	254	20	156	235	237	6911	190	524	713	219	364	116	17	1779
Theme 4 Employment and Skills	23	1	0	0	9	6	0	3	3	5	10	247	3	46	7	18	5	1	0	88
Theme 5 Community Safety	25	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	36	34	97	14	2	0	0	7	0	0	14
Grand Total	3605	243	0	0	1995	166	272	37	198	323	334	9114	248	625	800	381	429	184	58	2065

Disability

From LCF Equality Analysis 2019 - From national estimates 2.17 per cent of the adult population would be expected to have a learning disability which equates to 4,848 people in Tower Hamlets. However, there are only 961 people in Tower Hamlets registered with GPs as having a learning disability of which 46 per cent were of Asian background, mostly Bangladeshi. People with learning disabilities have poorer health and die younger with a lifespan that is 14 years less for males and 18 years less for females. Their complex health needs mean that residents with disabilities are more vulnerable and require additional support.

LCF Programme data



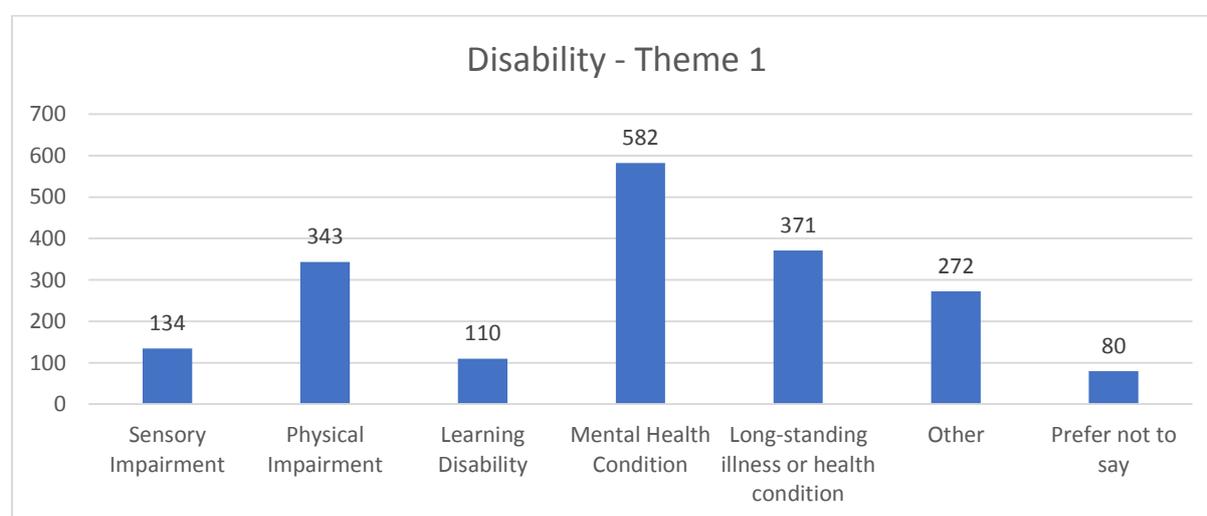
Row Labels	Sensory Impairment	Physical Impairment	Learning Disability	Mental Health Condition	Long-Standing illness or health condition	Other	Prefer not to say
Theme 1 Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing	134	343	110	582	371	272	80
Theme 2 Digital Inclusion and Awareness	0	23	2	10	24	4	157
Theme 3 Advice and Information	499	746	368	1755	2436	630	1902
Theme 4 Employment and Skills	1	12	10	12	23	22	316
Theme 5 Community Safety	4	2	6	32	9	16	90
Grand Total	638	1126	496	2391	2863	944	2545

Theme 1 Scheme E ‘Improved inclusion, health and well-being outcomes for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues’ is specifically targeted to improved inclusion, health and well-being outcomes for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues.

Projects across the theme have an inclusive offer for all service users, including those with disabilities. Most projects included within the Youth provision provide inclusive support including targeted provision for disabled users.

18 out of 29 projects in this theme have specifically addressed this protected characteristic in their bids, most of them with projects that are specifically targeted at disabled people.

Theme 1 data



Row Labels	Sensory Impairment	Physical Impairment	Learning Disability	Mental Health Condition	Long-standing illness or health condition	Other	Prefer not to say
Theme 1 - Scheme A: Children, Young People and Families	3	4	24	13	4	56	40
Theme 1 - Scheme B: Older People	73	280	12	297	286	114	4
Theme 1 - Scheme C: Access, Information and Self-Management	0	13	0	5	34	6	7
Theme 1 - Scheme D: Healthy living and healthy choices	33	35	58	10	29	83	3
Theme 1 - Scheme E: Improved inclusion, health and well-being outcomes for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues	25	11	16	257	18	13	26
Grand Total	134	343	110	582	371	272	80

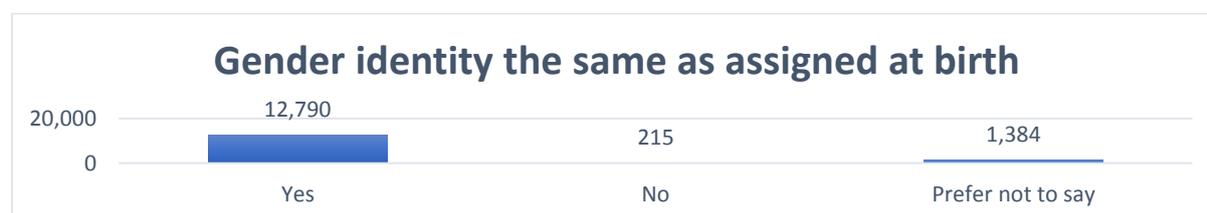
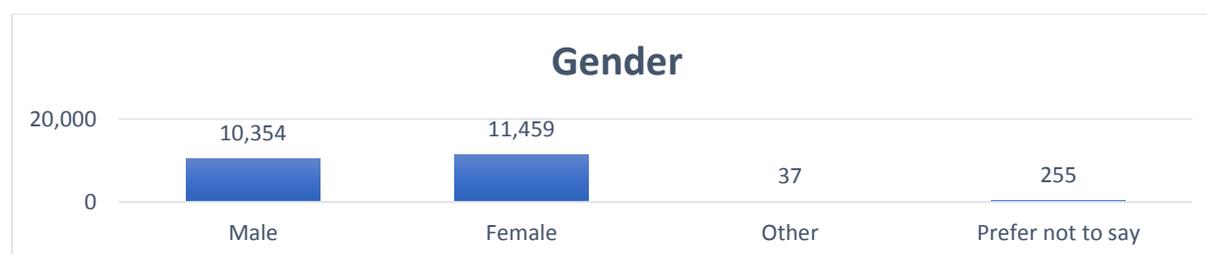
Gender

LCF Equality Analysis 2019 - According to the 2018 Borough Profile, in 2014-16, healthy life expectancy was lower for men and women compared to London and England averages and particularly low for women. Disability-free life expectancy was significantly lower for men and women when compared to London and England averages.

Borough Profile

- We have around 14,000 more male residents than female residents. This is the 4th highest ratio of males to females in the country, this is higher than the ratio in both London and UK where there are more females than males.
- The borough has 52.1% male residents and 47.9% female residents (ONS Mid-Year Estimates 2019).

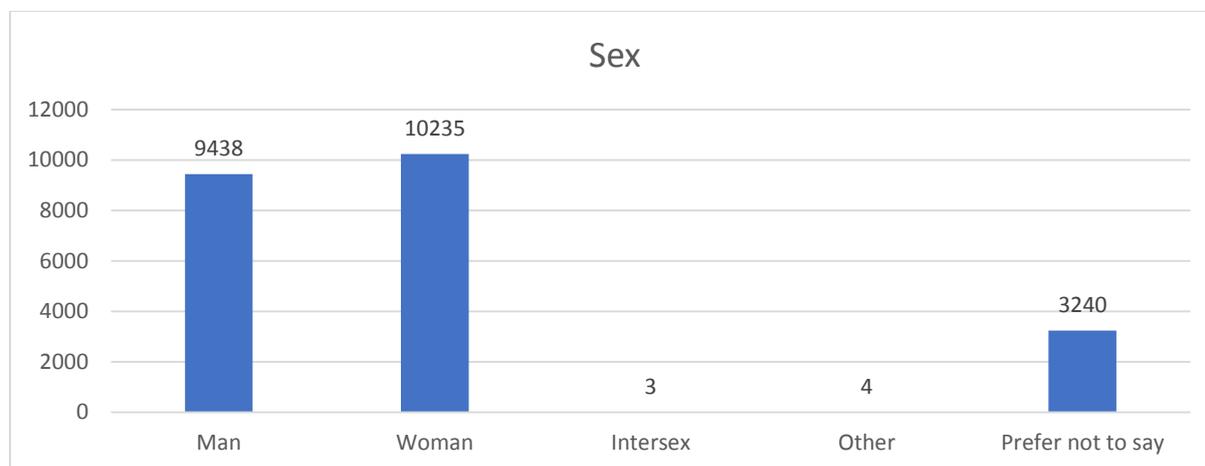
LCF Programme data



Theme	Male	Female	Gender Other	Gender Prefer not to say	Gender Same Yes	Gender Same No	Gender Same Prefer not to say
Theme 1 - Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing	1686	2608	8	35	964	10	685
Theme 2 - Digital Inclusion and Awareness	184	204	0	10	203	0	188
Theme 3 - Advice and Information	8245	8134	29	194	11164	205	402
Theme 4 - Employment and Skills	154	331	0	16	223	0	78
Theme 5 - Community Safety	85	182	0	0	236	0	31
Grand Total	10354	11459	37	255	12790	215	1384

Sex

LCF Programme data



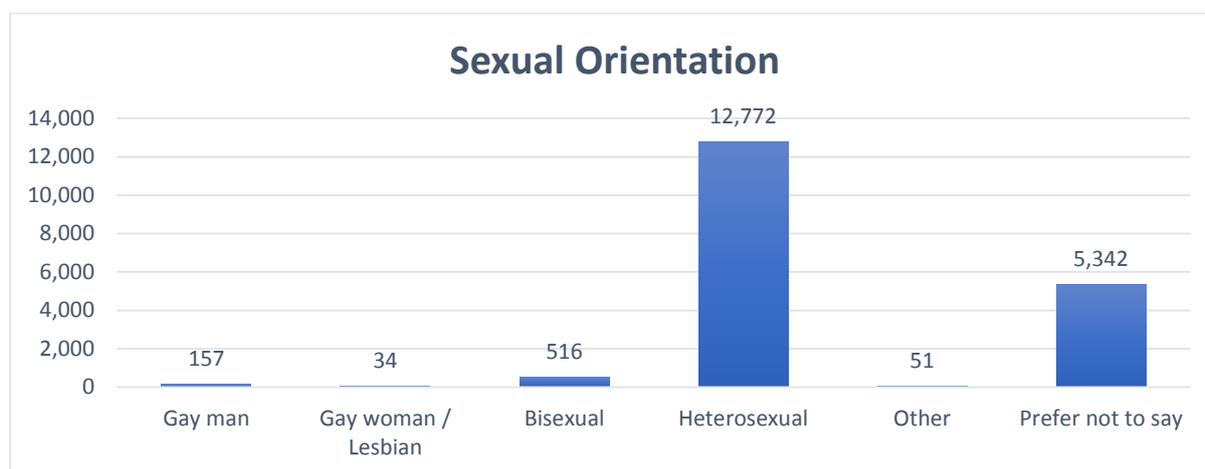
Theme	Man	Woman	Intersex	Other	Prefer not to say
Theme 1 - Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing	1400	1996	3	4	289
Theme 2 - Digital Inclusion and Awareness	184	208	0	0	6
Theme 3 - Advice and Information	7677	7601	0	0	2851
Theme 4 - Employment and Skills	106	265	0	0	94
Theme 5 - Community Safety	71	165	0	0	0
Grand Total	9438	10235	3	4	3240

Sexual Orientation

LCF Equality Analysis 2019 -

4 projects in Theme 1 have specifically addressed this protected characteristic in their bids:

- ELOP Tower Hamlets LGBT Support project will enhance peer networks, lessen isolation and provide mental health crisis prevention support to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community
- Yard Theatre Tower Hamlets Teens project says it will be open to everyone irrespective of sexual orientation and at least 15% of participants will be LGBTQ
- The Globe Community Project is targeted at a number of hard to reach groups including LGBTQ people.
- The Real project aims to make more mainstream services culturally inclusive, welcoming and accessible for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues who are LGBTQI



Theme	Sexual Orientation					
	Gay man	Gay woman / Lesbian	Bisexual	Heterosexual	Other	Prefer not to say
Theme 1 - Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing	44	20	10	1410	46	570
Theme 2 - Digital Inclusion and Awareness	0	0	0	204	0	194
Theme 3 - Advice and Information	108	8	503	10919	5	4269
Theme 4 - Employment and Skills	5	4	3	168	0	282
Theme 5 - Community Safety	0	2	0	71	0	27
Grand Total	157	34	516	12772	51	5342

Age

LCF Equality Analysis 2019 -

Young people

According to the HMRC's Children in Low Income Families Local Measure, around 20,270 children in Tower Hamlets were living below the national poverty line in 2016 – this represents 32.5 per cent of children in the borough – the highest rate in Great Britain. In addition, welfare reform is likely to add increased financial pressures for families in receipt of benefits, presenting a key challenge for some families.

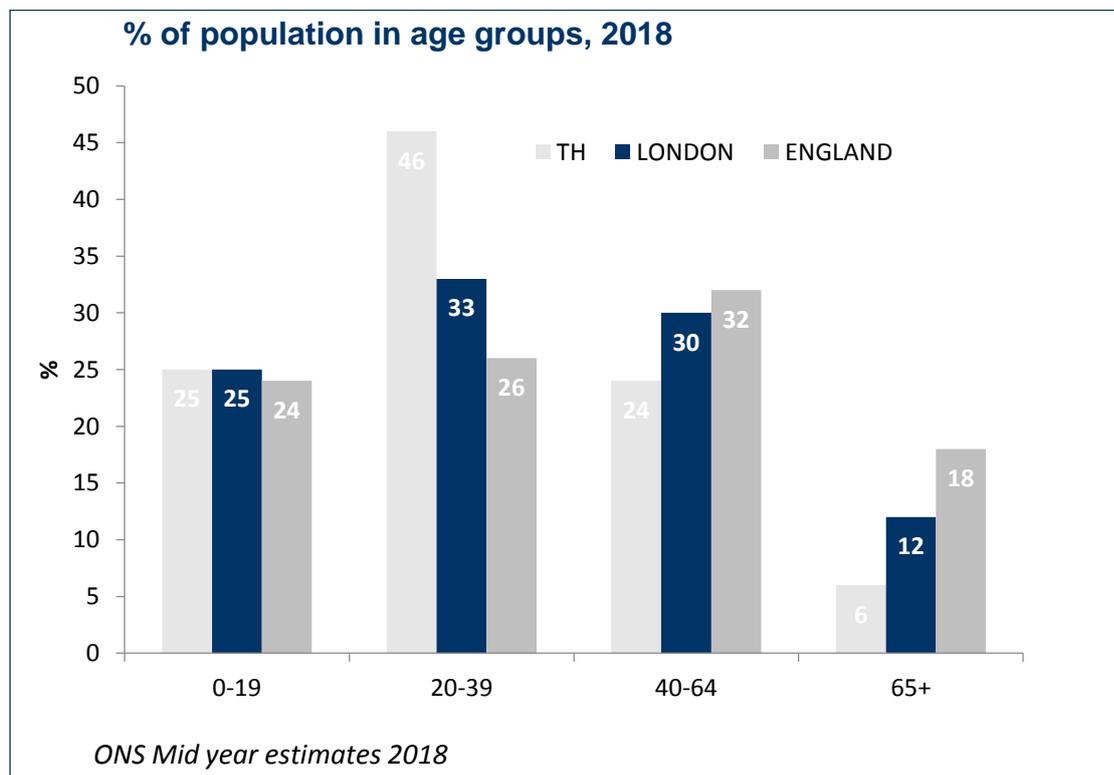
A high proportion of children are eligible for free school meals. This is based on means tested benefits and is an indicator of the level of financial need within families with children. 33 per cent of our primary pupils are eligible for and claim free school meals, compared with 16 per cent in London and the national average of 14 percent. Similarly, 40 per cent of our secondary pupils are eligible for and claim free school meals, compared with the London average of 17 per cent and the national average of 13 percent.

Older People

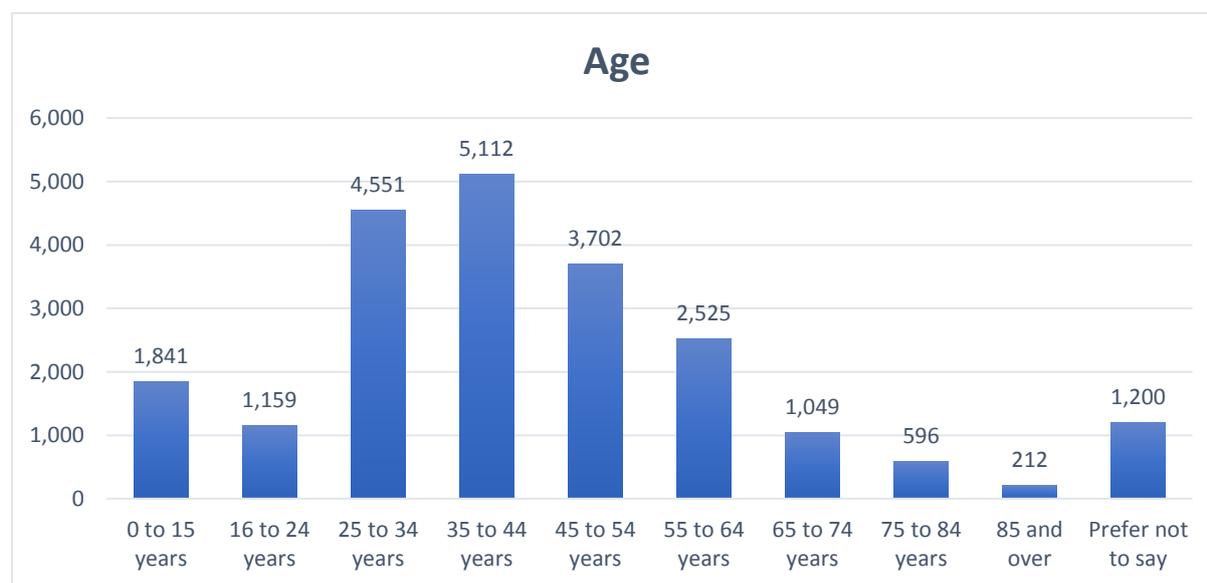
The Tower Hamlets Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2016 for Older People in Tower Hamlets stated:

- In 2015, less older people (36%; 5,948) were living alone in TH compared to in London (37%) but similar to England (36%).
- Depression: is estimated at 10-15% of the older population and severe depression is estimated at 3%.
- Approximately 11.4% of the Serious Mental Illness register is made up of people aged 65 and over.

Borough Profile



LCF Programme Data



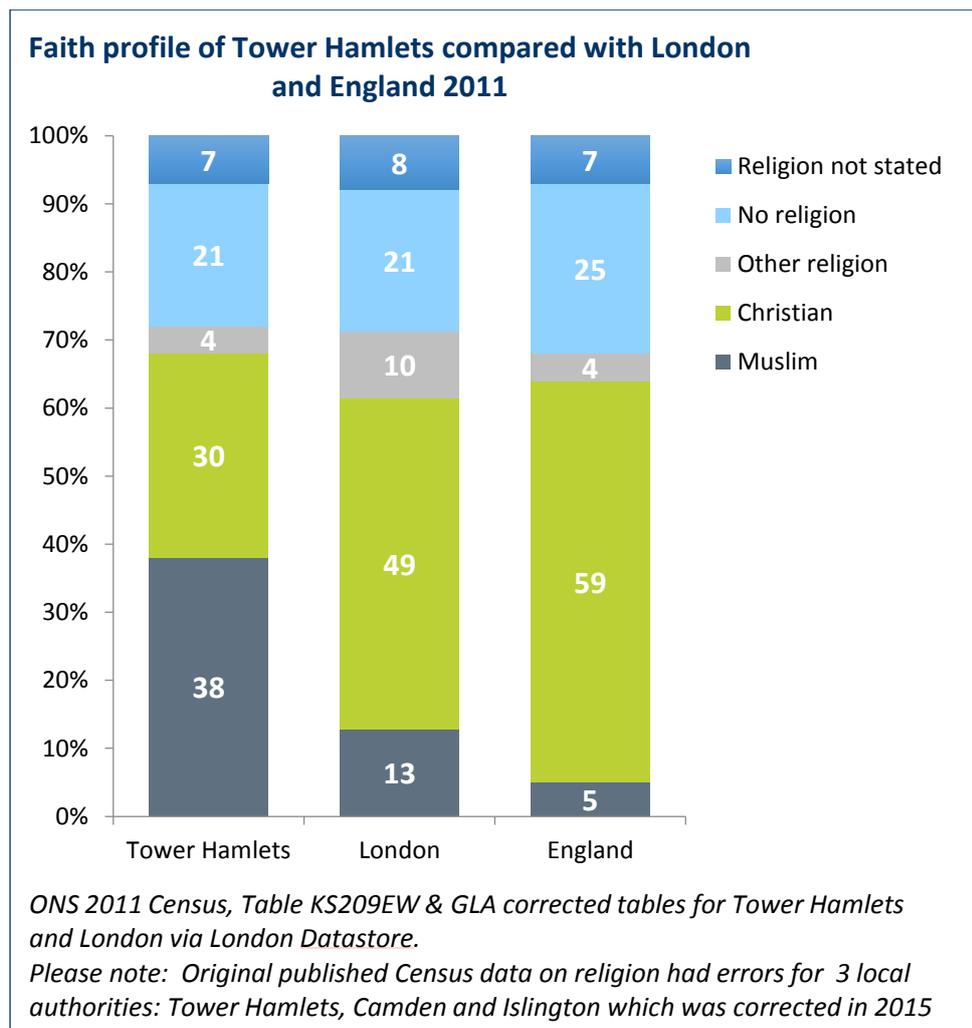
Theme	0 to 15 years	16 to 24 years	25 to 34 years	35 to 44 years	45 to 54 years	55 to 64 years	65 to 74 years	75 to 84 years	85 and over	Prefer not to say
Theme 1 - Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing	1540	312	374	686	287	258	275	326	170	68
Theme 2 - Digital Inclusion and Awareness	149	4	31	102	39	32	27	7	1	6
Theme 3 - Advice and Information	13	612	4052	4182	3289	2206	741	263	36	1116
Theme 4 - Employment and Skills	2	193	59	120	73	19	0	0	0	0
Theme 5 - Community Safety	137	38	25	22	14	10	6	0	5	10
Grand Total	1841	1159	4541	5112	3702	2525	1049	596	212	1200

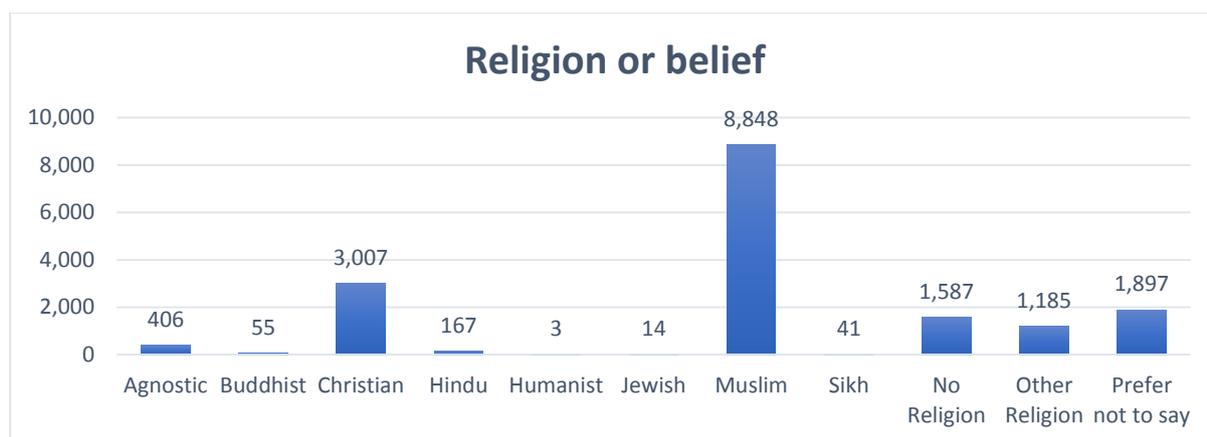
Religion or Belief

LCF Equality Analysis 2019 - Tower Hamlets has the highest proportion of Muslim residents in the country. In 2011, 38 per cent of borough residents were Muslim compared with 5 per cent in England and 13 per cent in London. Other smaller, but significant, faith groups represented in the borough include Hindu (1.8 per cent), Buddhist (1.2 per cent) Jewish (0.6 per cent) and Sikh (0.4 per cent).

None of the schemes specifically focus on any religion or belief. All projects will be required to demonstrate how they are culturally inclusive and welcoming for people of different ethnic backgrounds. All providers will also be required to demonstrate due regard in service delivery and mitigate adverse impact on any particular group

Borough Profile



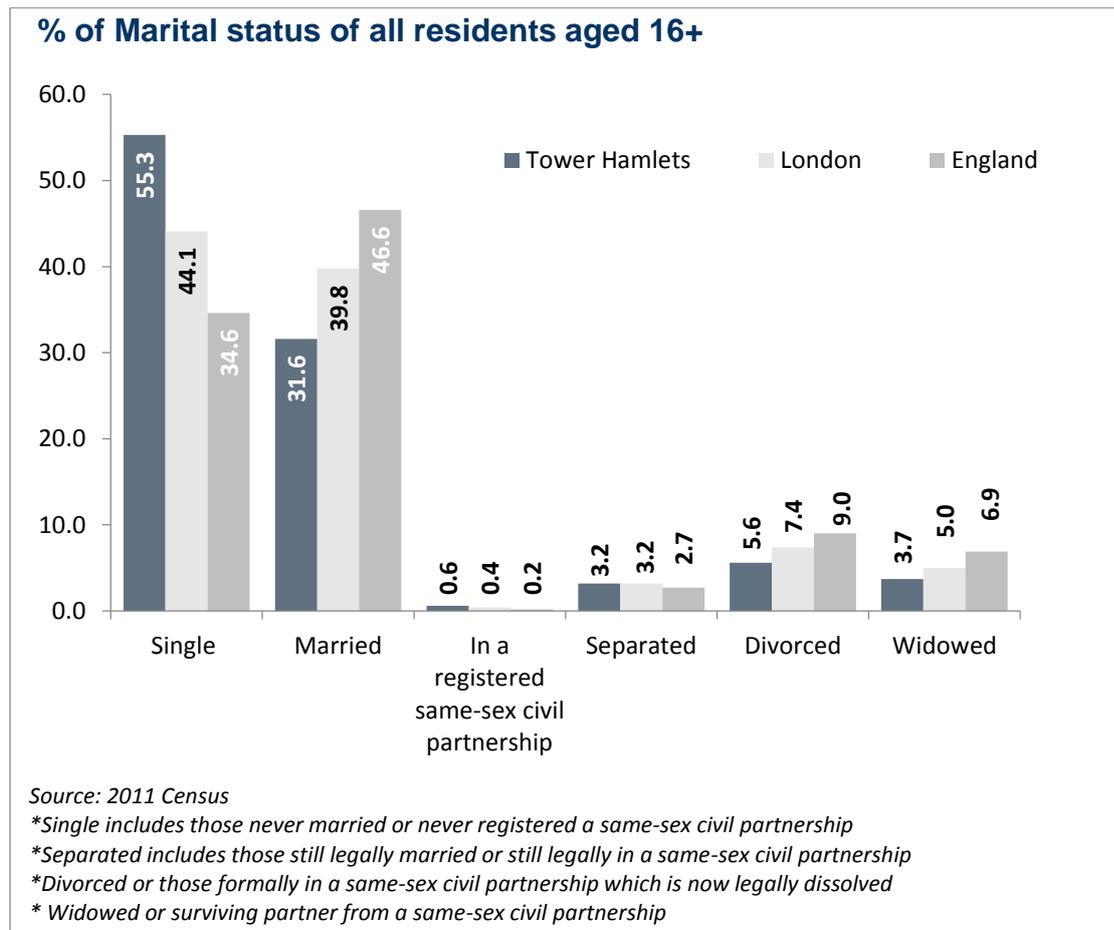


Theme	Agnostic	Buddhist	Christian	Hindu	Humanist	Jewish	Muslim	Sikh	No Religion	Other Religion	Religion - Prefer not to say
Theme 1 - Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing	19	43	507	13	2	5	1059	4	132	64	708
Theme 2 - Digital Inclusion and Awareness	0	0	6	2	0	0	359	0	1	13	17
Theme 3 - Advice and Information	384	9	2466	119	0	8	7019	24	1434	1095	1006
Theme 4 - Employment and Skills	3	0	20	0	0	1	307	0	14	13	135
Theme 5 - Community Safety	0	3	8	33	1	0	104	13	6	0	31
Grand Total	406	55	3007	167	3	14	8848	41	1587	1185	1897

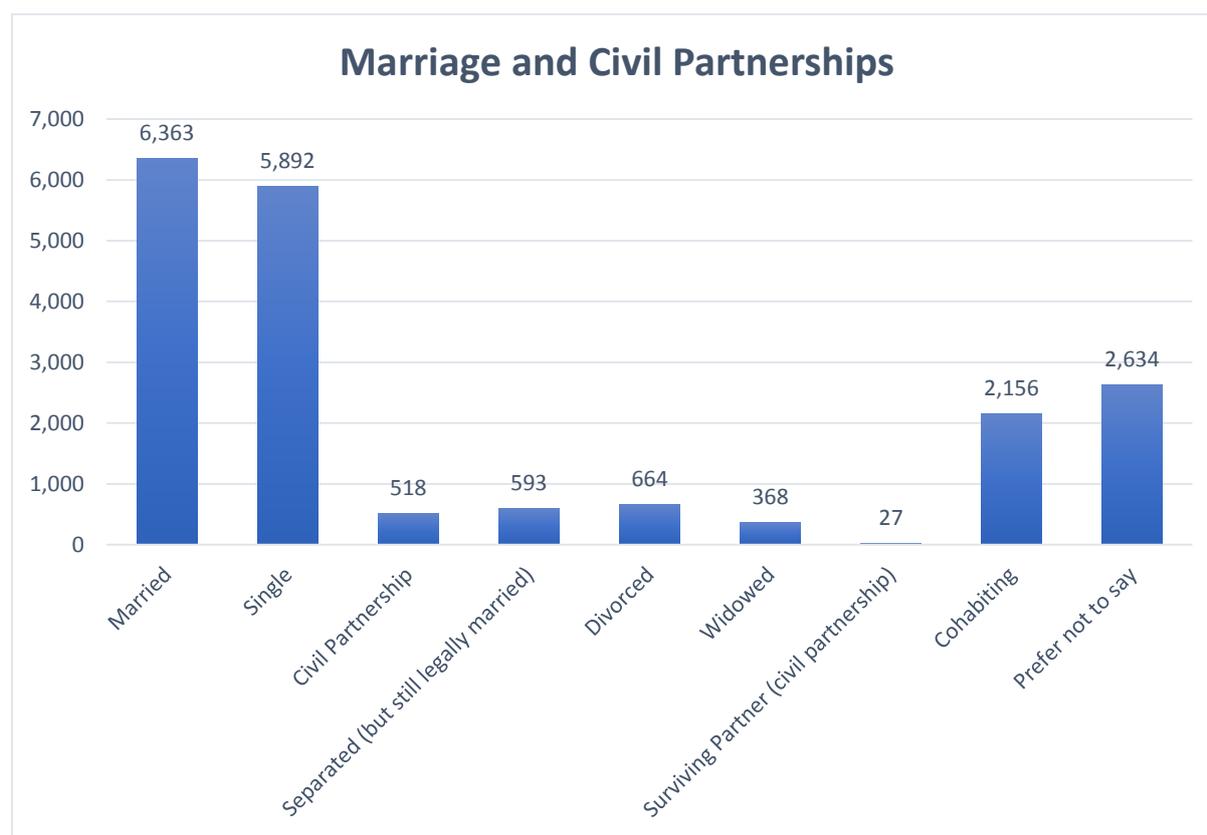
Marriage and Civil Partnerships

LCF Equality Analysis 2019 - None of the schemes specifically focus on marriage and civil partnerships. All projects will be required to demonstrate how they are inclusive and welcoming for people of different backgrounds. All providers will also be required to demonstrate due regard in service delivery and mitigate adverse impact on any particular group.

Borough Profile



LCF Programme Data



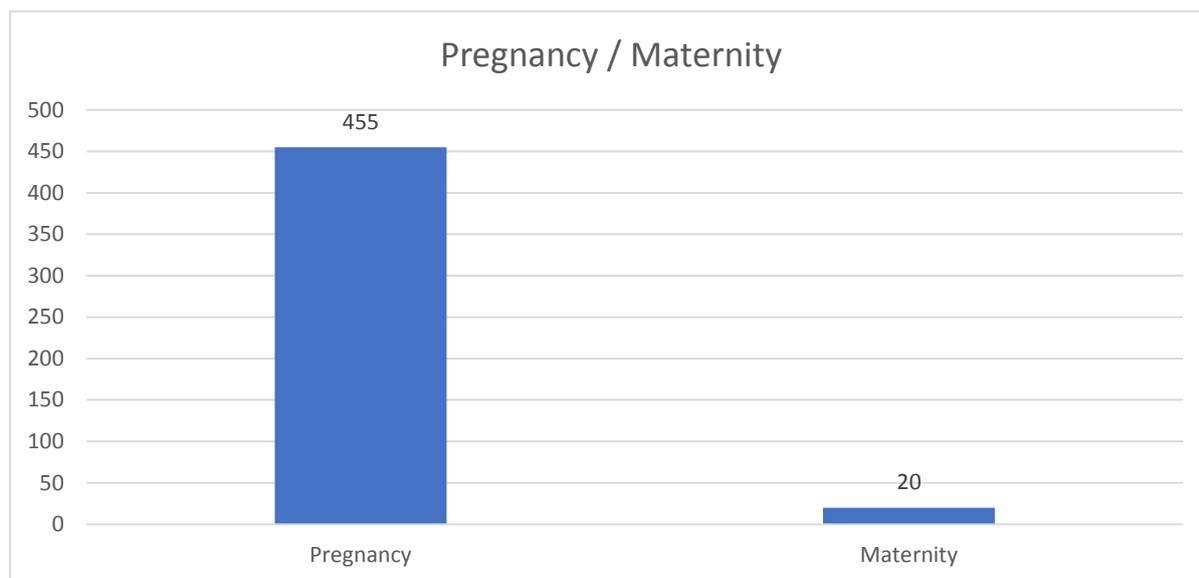
Theme	Married	Single	Civil Partnership (but still legally married)	Divorced	Widowed	Surviving Partner (civil partnership)	Cohabiting	Prefer not to say	
Theme 1 - Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing	630	586	8	51	93	133	0	53	
Theme 2 - Digital Inclusion and Awareness	131	36	0	5	11	10	0	0	
Theme 3 - Advice and Information	5391	5079	509	528	550	223	27	2100	
Theme 4 - Employment and Skills	131	117	1	5	3	2	0	3	
Theme 5 - Community Safety	80	73	0	4	7	0	0	0	
Grand Total	6363	5891	518	593	664	368	27	2156	2634

Pregnancy and Maternity

LCF Equality Analysis 2019 - It's recognised that one of the most effective interventions for minimising health inequalities is ensuring that every child has a healthy start, with a focus on maternal health and the first 2 years.

The infant mortality rate, in infants under 1 year old, in 2014-16 was 5 deaths per 1,000 live births. This was the highest of all London boroughs.

LCF Programme Data



Theme	Pregnant	Breastfeeding / Maternity
Theme 1 - Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing	51	1
Theme 2 - Digital Inclusion and Awareness	1	0
Theme 3 - Advice and Information	398	14
Theme 4 - Employment and Skills	2	1
Theme 5 - Community Safety	3	4
Grand Total	455	20

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

<p>Grants Determination Cabinet Sub-Committee</p> <p>26th November 2020</p>	 <p>TOWER HAMLETS</p>
<p>Report of: Sharon Godman, Divisional Director Strategy, Policy and Performance</p>	<p>Classification: Unrestricted</p>
<p>VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority</p>	

Lead Member	John Biggs, the Mayor Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources
Originating Officer(s)	Emily Fieran-Reed, Senior Strategy and Policy Manager Awo Ahmed, Programme Assessment & Monitoring Officer
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Forward Plan Notice Published	[Insert date notice was published]
Reason for Key Decision	Not a key decision
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	All

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector organisations under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee.

Recommendations:

The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the grant funding streams available to be awarded under delegated powers.
2. Note the covid contingency plans that have been agreed in relation to small grants.
3. Note that at the time of reporting there have been no further grants awarded under delegated powers since the last Grants Determination

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

(Cabinet) sub-committee

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 There are a number of funding programmes to support voluntary and community sector organisations in the borough where decisions are made under delegated authority either by officers or, in the case of the Small Grants Programme, the East End Community Foundation. These decisions are presented to the Sub-Committee for noting.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The council could decide not to provide funding to VCS organisations through its various programmes. However, to do this would be contrary to the agreed policy to support VCS activities in the borough set out in the VCS Strategy 2016-19 and draft Strategy 2020-2024.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT**Small Grants Programme**

- 3.1 **Please note that no grants have been awarded since the last Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee. We are expecting a number of grants to be awarded in the near future and therefore the details of these will follow at the next Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee meeting.**
- 3.2 The Small Grants Programme was established to ensure that local people and community groups will continue to be able to get funding from the council to support community initiatives – people getting together to get things done. The programme is intended to make funds available to support grass roots activity in local communities that will help make life better in Tower Hamlets and achieve the changes set out in the Tower Hamlets Plan and the council's Strategic Plan. By establishing a single grants programme with different themes or activities to be funded, the council is trying to make sure local groups seeking funds will have a one stop shop to get to the funds best suited to their needs.
- 3.3 The collaborative partnership between EECF and LBTH has been instrumental in building the future capacity of the VCS sector and achieving the outcomes of the small grants programme. Having a single point of contact within the council for the small grants programme provides greater opportunities to discuss applications and make the required recommendations.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

- 3.4 The programme has eight themes. The five themes that constitute the main programme have been open for projects commencing from 1st October 2019 and three more targeted themes set up during 2019/20 have funded projects commencing from 1st April 2020.
- 3.5 An additional theme was agreed at Grants Determination Sub Committee on the 9th September 2020. Covid-19 Test and Trace Outreach and Engagement – further details in 3.6 of this report.

Main themes

1. **Innovation** - to encourage innovation or pilot something new, especially where there is a gap;
2. **Prevention** - to promote grass roots activity to reduce the need for statutory services;
3. **Neighbourhood action** - to promote local neighbourhood initiatives
4. **Community cohesion** - to develop community resilience, promote cultural opportunities and reduce social isolation, and
5. **Partnership working** - making the sector more effective through closer partnership working within the sector and across sectors.

Focussed Themes

6. **Community Support Services for Older People** – to combat social isolation of older people through the provision of community based support services.
 7. **Access and Participation** – to establishing access and participation schemes to provide referral gateways for people from BAME communities.
 8. **Loneliness** - Reducing the impact of loneliness and isolation
- 3.6 Details of the first round of small grant awards for 2020/21 are set out at Appendix A.
- 3.7 Applications to this round of the small grants programme were submitted prior to the restrictions put in place relating to Covid 19. Since the start of the pandemic EECF have been liaising closely with all previously funded programmes and requesting covid contingency plans detailing how they have re-purposed their small grants award since the pandemic. All contingency plans are required to be agreed by EECF in conjunction with council officers. Further due diligence work is carried out by EECF with organisations that have re-configured delivery in light of covid, for example ensuring that risk assessments are undertaken and social distancing policies are applied.
- 3.8 Details of the Covid repurposed contingency plans that have been approved or pending for further discussions are set out at Appendix B.
- 3.9 The new Public Health small grants theme was open for applications for VCS organisations to apply for small grants funding for improving the uptake of Test & Trace in the community. No grants have so far been awarded under

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

this theme to date, although we are expecting awards in the near future. Any further details of grants awarded will be reported to the next meeting of Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee.

- 3.10 The priorities of this fund are to support projects that take a culturally sensitive and responsive approach to enable communities to proactively engage with NHS Test and Trace services and ensuring key public health messaging is reaching the following identified priority communities: Young People, Carers, Homeless people, New migrants, Students, People experiencing domestic violence, people experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty.
- 3.11 The total budget for this theme is £30,000, grants of up to £1,000 are available to un-constituted groups of residents and grants of up to £3,000 are available to constituted not-for-profit organisations. It is anticipated that this theme will fund 10 to 20 projects with a range of annual funding levels up to a maximum of £5,000 per annum.
- 3.12 Details of the Small Grants Theme: covid-19 Test & Trace outreach & Engagement is set out in Appendix C.
- 3.13 The budget and expenditure across all the themes to date is set out below.

Small Grants Financial Summary				
Theme	2019/20 budget £,000s	2019/20 expenditure £,000s	2020/21 budget £,000s	2020/21 expenditure £,000s
Innovation Prevention Neighbourhood action Community Cohesion Partnership working	90	90	180	57
Community Support Services for Older People	0	0	100	100
Access and Participation	0	0	50	15
Loneliness	0	0	50	27
Covid-19 Test & Trace	0	0	30	
Totals	90	90	410	199

Innovation Fund

- 3.14 **No grants have been awarded under this fund since the last Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee.**
- 3.15 The council is keen to encourage and support innovation in the sector and acknowledged that this would require some funding to enable the sector to pilot new initiatives and approaches to service delivery and support.
- 3.16 The Innovation Fund supports VCS organisations to "test and learn" new ways of working, new initiatives and new delivery models that if successful could be scaled up and commissioned more formally.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

- 3.17 VCS organisations that crowdfund through the Our Tower Hamlets page of the Spacehive portal will have an opportunity to pitch for up to £10,000 (or a maximum of 50 per cent of an organisations crowdfunding target) in match funding for their projects.
- 3.18 Further details can be found on the [Space Hive Tower Hamlets](#) and the [Innovation Fund](#) pages with more information available in the [factsheet](#).
- 3.19 Decisions are made by the Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance in consultation with the Chair of this Sub-Committee based on recommendations of an advisory panel which consists of the Chief Executive of the East End Community Foundation, the Head of Corporate Strategy and Policy and officers from the VCS Team.
- 3.20 The Tower Hamlet's Food hub has been facing a significant shortage of food supplies to distribute to vulnerable residents in the borough.
- 3.21 One of the options presented to tackle the food shortage was to set up a Food Appeal Campaign on the council's Crowdfunding Portal 'Our Tower Hamlet's'. Agreed at CLT Gold on 23rd October the Emergency Food Appeal for Tower Hamlets campaign was launched on the 5th November 2021.
- 3.22 The Tower Hamlet's Food Hub campaign page can be found here; [Emergency Food Appeal for Tower Hamlets](#)
- 3.23 Briefing Note approved at CLT which details the processes and outcomes of the campaign are set out at Appendix D
- 3.24 Details of pledges agreed by officers under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee from the Innovation Fund and projects that have succeeded in reaching their targets are set out in Appendix E.

Innovation Fund Financial Summary		
Previous awards:	Amount pledged (£)	Amount released (£)
Total pledged	£87,292.50	
Pledged to organisations that met target	£77,292.50	
Released to date		£46,961.50
Original Budget	£120,000.00	
Remaining Balance	£42,707.50	

Contingency Fund

- 3.25 No grants have been awarded under this fund since the last Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

- 3.26 The Contingency Fund was set up by the Sub-Committee to extend the existing Emergency Fund from being purely a fund to support organisations facing 'life and limb' emergencies to a fund that may also support organisations facing the impact of a significant loss of council funding.
- 3.27 VCS organisations that meet criteria set out in the Contingency Fund agreed by the Sub Committee at its meeting on 6th November 2019 may apply to the council for funding to meet 'life and limb' emergencies, normally significant financial liabilities that might not have been reasonably foreseen.
- 3.28 Where an organisation has recently lost significant funding from the council the Contingency Fund may also be used for transitional support for an ongoing service if an organisation can demonstrate that there is a reasonable chance of alternative funding being secured, normally within six months of the end of council funding.
- 3.29 At the meeting held on 29 July 2020, the Mayor in Cabinet agreed to close the transition element of the Contingency Fund and extend the Fund further to include support for organisations affected by Covid 19.
- 3.30 The Covid Community fund opened for applications on the 5th Nov 2021. **No grants have yet been awarded under this fund.** For a limited period, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations in Tower Hamlets will be able to access funding and organisational support as detailed below;
- a. Covid Organisational Support Fund – Up to £5,000 Available for VCS organisations that need to restructure their organisation to incorporate the current Social Distancing and other restrictions or to respond to covid 19 more generally. This includes organisations currently funded to deliver frontline/direct contact services to residents who will need to restructure their organisation to reflect the current climate.
 - b. Covid Re-Purposing Fund – Up to £5,000 VCS organisations could apply for this fund, either to deliver services differently to residents and beneficiaries – adapting services to remote delivery or ii. where Covid has meant that there is good reason for the organisation to deliver different kinds of services. Funding could be applied to cover the up-front costs of changing the way services are delivered (e.g. any new equipment, or training), and then enabling to continue to deliver in these new ways (including staffing and ongoing service costs) to increase the reach and capacity of services.
 - c. Wider Support – Alongside the award of funding, council officers and Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service (THCVS), will engage with organisations on the issues they face arising from or impacted by covid and work with them to develop a detailed organisational transition plan and agree support measures ranging from;

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

- Repurposing delivery models including implementing social distancing measures and working in different ways
- Finances and funding including bid writing
- Business planning and business continuity
- Governance, strategy and policy
- Training and skills
- Matters relating to staffing or volunteers
- Communications and engagement including social media digital

3.31 VCS organisations can also apply for wider support on a standalone basis, without applying for funding.

3.32 Further details of the Covid Community Fund are set out on Appendix F.

3.33 The budget identified for 2020/21 for the Contingency Fund is £100k. There are already 2 awards made against this budget in this financial year totalling £25,795.50 and a further application pending approval of £5,000. There is therefore £69,204.50 remaining. A further £50,000 has been drawn down from reserves to support the Covid Community Fund. The total budget remaining for 20/21 is therefore £119,204.50.

3.34 Awards are made from the Contingency Fund by the Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance in consultation with the Chair of this Sub-Committee. Details of awards made by officers under delegated authority from the Contingency Fund since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee are set out at Appendix C

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 All grants awarded need to demonstrate how they meet they need of our diverse communities and support the council's Public Sector Equality Duty. Equalities data is collected as part of the monitoring process and this will be reported as part of the annual reporting process.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Best Value

Recent legislation, particularly the Localism Act 2010, has emphasised the role of communities working in partnership with local authorities to help achieve more effective and less costly services to local people. The process of co-production of services delivered by local voluntary and community organisations is a tool now widely recognised as a means to achieving this outcome.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME**5.2 Risk Management**

There is a risk that, by not publishing details of funding awarded to VCS organisations, the council could leave itself open to challenge that it is not fulfilling previous commitments to openness and transparency. This report is one of a series that will provide updates on funding decisions made under delegated authority and the VCS Annual Report will provide more detailed analysis.

5.3 Crime Reduction

There are no specific crime reduction considerations arising from this report.

5.4 Safeguarding

There are no specific safeguarding implications arising from this report. However, ensuring appropriate consideration is given to safeguarding will be addressed in the development of the Small Grants Programme, both through governance requirements and in the capacity building programme for the sector proposed.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 This report notes the update on funding awarded to voluntary and community (VCS) organisations under delegated authority. There have been no further grants awarded since the last report.

6.2 Grants awarded to date are contained within the available budget, along with the funding for both the Rent Relief Scheme, £93,696 and the Covid Community Fund, £119,205 which are included in the Covid-19 claim submission to central government.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from this report

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report
NONE

Appendices

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

- Appendix A Small Grants Programme
- Appendix B Small Grants Covid Contingency Plans
- Appendix C Small Grants Theme: covid-19 Test & Trace outreach & Engagement
- Appendix D Tower Hamlets Food Appeal Campaign
- Appendix E Innovation Awards
- Appendix F Covid Community Fund

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents:

N/A

**Appendix A – Small Grants Programme
Main Programme 2020/21 Round One**

1. This round of the Small Grants Programme closed on 9 March 2020. 40 applications were submitted with an overall total of £150,904 requested against the £180,000 in the small grants budget to be allocated in the three funding rounds for the current financial year.

Theme	No. of Applications	Total Requested £
Innovation	2	10,000
Prevention	12	2,150
Neighbourhood Action	2	55,659
Community Cohesion	24	83,095
Partnership	0	0

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Total	40	150,904
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2. Applications were received from a wide range of projects, though, as illustrated above, the half focussed on the community cohesion theme.
3. 24 projects are recommended for funding amounting to £57,427 as set out in the attached spreadsheet and summarised below. Of these, 12 projects are recommended £1,000 or less (total £8,578) and 12 are recommended more than £1,000 (total £48,849).

Theme	No. of Grants	Total recommended £
Innovation	1	5,000
Prevention	5	23,649
Neighbourhood Action	2	2,150
Community Cohesion	16	26,628
Partnership	0	0
Total	24	57,427

4. Of the 24 grants recommended:

- Five are from BME community led organisations;
- Eight focus on older people;
- Two focus on supporting women;
- Five focus on children and young people;
- Two focus on mental wellbeing

5 2020/21 Budget

2020/21 budget	£180,000
Round One grants	£57,427
Balance remaining for rounds two and three	£122,573

6 Locality Funding

Two projects have been recommended for funding through the LHC Community Benefit Fund, a scheme administered by Locality, the national community development organisation that the council has worked with previously on the development of community hubs.

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

LHC is public sector procurement consortium providing specialist technical and procurement services to its members throughout the UK. As a not-for-profit organisation, any surpluses generated from procurement activity is returned to members. As part of this a Community Benefit Fund (CBF) has been set up with funding available for each of the member local authority areas in which it works, which includes Tower Hamlets. The CBF is particularly interested in funding small projects that have the potential to link in to its work on developing social outcomes.

Locality has been liaising with EECF to select small grants applications that would meet the CBF criteria. It is proposed the CBF will fund the community cohesion theme application from the Oitij-jo Collective and, in the Loneliness theme, the application from Bowhaven.

The two £5,000 grants will be administered by EECF as part of the small grants programme with no additional administrative cost to the council

Access and Participation Theme 2020/21 Round One

1. The Access and Participation Theme of the Small Grants Programme was set up as one of the Local Community Fund Equality Analysis Action Plan (EAAP) mitigating actions to support the role of smaller BME community led organisations as a gateway for people from those communities to gain access to mainstream services through signposting and referral and to act as an advocate for those communities that might not otherwise have a collective voice. This is the first round of applications to this theme.
2. This round of the Small Grants Programme closed on 9 March 2020. Three applications were considered with an overall total of £16,916 requested against the £50,000 allocated to this theme in the three funding rounds for the current financial year. The three applications and the amounts awarded are set out in detail in the table below. They are,

Organisation	Project Name	Amount recommended £
Wapping Bangladesh Association	Community Information Access	4,916
Isle of Dogs Bangladeshi Association	IoD Bangladeshi Residents Club	5,000
Hornafrik Integration Projects	BME Bridging Project	5,000
Total		14,916

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

3. All three projects focus on the access priorities of the theme. This is the first round of the theme and there will be the opportunity during the year to promote the theme further and generate a wider range of applications.
4. The total budget for the theme is £50,000. £14,916 has been allocated in this round, leaving £35,084 for the remaining funding rounds.

Loneliness Theme 2020/21 Round One

1. The Mayor's task force on Loneliness aims to stimulate and support a social movement of people across the borough that are engaged and encouraged to take their own actions, however small and local, that will make a difference and bring people together to increased social connectedness at street level, neighbourhood level and across the borough. To help this an additional theme in the small grants programme has been established that focuses around loneliness and social isolation specifically. This is the first round of applications to this theme.
2. This round of the Small Grants Programme closed on 9 March 2020. Ten applications were considered with an overall total of £45,397 requested against the £50,000 allocated to this theme in the three funding rounds for the current financial year. The applications and the amounts recommended are set out in detail in the attached spreadsheet (worksheet 'Access and Participation'). The seven recommended applications are listed below
3. The total budget for the theme is £50,000. It is recommended that £26,666 is allocated in this round. Taking account of the £5,000 CBF funding for Bowhaven, £28,334 remains for the two further funding rounds.

Organisation	Project Name	Amount recommended £
Neighbours In Poplar	Loneliness	4,680
Wapping Bangladesh Association	Wapping's Mums Club	5,000
Wadajir Somali Community Centre	Wadajir Girls Youth Group	5,000
Blossom Project	Blossom Together	4,986
Individual Application - Shahnaz Rifat	Mindful Mothers Project	1,000
Individual Application - Abdul Rawkib	Chai Club	1,000
BowHaven	Operation Loneliness	5,000
Total		26,666

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

4. This theme allows applications from individuals for 'micro' grants (ie £1,000 or less) where the funding is granted through an accountable body that is a constituted VCS organisation. In both cases the accountable body is Social Action for Health. This approach has been used successfully in the past by public health to deliver small grants to support very local initiatives.

Community Support Services for Older People Theme

1. The benefits of providing community support services for older people are well documented in helping to promote wellbeing and a longer healthy life through reducing social isolation, increasing physical activity and maintaining independence in older age. The Equality Analysis of the change from the council's Mainstream Grants programme to the Local Community Fund highlighted a potential negative impact on services for older people, particularly those from smaller minority communities who use services provided by organisations led by members of their own community.
2. This small grant theme therefore focusses on supporting community based services run by BME led community groups. It is set up to fund activities that bring older people together and provide activities that will increase independence and wellbeing and reduce social isolation.
3. In this theme priority was given to services for older people provided by BME community led organisations.
4. 13 applications were received amounting to £168,600. Of these, eight met the criteria and were awarded funding. One was declined because it duplicated a service provided through the Local Community Fund, two were referred to the main programme and were funded in the Community Cohesion theme. The other two were declined because they did not present good value for money.
5. This theme was set up as part of the Local Community Fund Equality Analysis Action Plan. It was intended to be awarded in full in a single round and the successful applicants will have the opportunity to renew their funding subject to satisfactory performance

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Small Grants Main Programme

N o.	Organisatio n	Project	Project Description	Grant
Innovation				
Page 134	You Be You	You Be You	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a project focused on breaking down gender stereotypes amongst primary school children in the borough. They will provide fun activity boxes to be used by teachers and for parents to use with children at home and also plan to sell the associated Key Stage 1 curriculum resources to schools. The aim is to engage 10 schools in the first year and three schools in the borough are currently on a waiting list to take part. The organisation is in conversation with two more schools and there are plans to engage more through links with local community and parent groups, cooperation with Councillor Danny Hassell and targeting multi academy trusts.	5,000
	Prevention			
2	ALL 4 TEENS (A4T) chic	ISBEDEL	The organisation is proposing to deliver a varied programme of sessions for 40 young BME people, aged 13-19, hosted at Granby Hall. Participants will be recruited through the organisations existing sport sessions, posters and links with other community groups. The project will run for 48 weeks and sessions will take place every Tuesday evening for two hours. Each week the participants will alternate between boys and girls and two qualified volunteer youth workers will support the delivery. The project plan includes the following for each group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 cooking and nutrition sessions • 6 life skills sessions on subjects such as budgeting 	4,949

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

			<p>and planning for the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 workshops delivered by inspirational role models such as the Young Mayor of Tower Hamlets • 3 sessions on community issues such as drug and alcohol awareness and gang culture 	
Page 135	Sketch Appeal	The Art of Self-Love	<p>The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a six week course of weekly creative workshops for 15 adults that are socially isolated or living with mental health needs. The sessions will focus on personal development and utilise drawing as a form of mindfulness and creative play. Participants will be required to complete an application form to ensure that places are given to those most in need and, if successful, will be required to commit to the full six weeks. The organisation will also arrange eight monthly full day drop-in sessions for participants in need of ongoing support and social connection. Recruitment of participants will be through referrals from GP's and other social prescribers.</p>	3,940
4	The Bangladesh Youth Movement (BYM)	"Inclusive Advice" [Female Advice & Advocacy Initiative]	<p>The organisation is proposing to deliver a varied programme of advice and advocacy for local BAME women experiencing exclusion, debt and poverty. This will include a four hour drop-in advice session per week, one follow up appointment per week and ongoing telephone support for women who find it difficult to visit the organisation's centre. Women will be able to seek advice on subjects such as Universal Credit issues, housing support and debt management. Advice will be delivered by a dedicated Officer and the project will be supported by 10 volunteers, two at each</p>	4,891

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

			session. The organisation is AQS accredited to deliver the advice service.	
Page 136	The Shadwell Community Project	Grow, Cook and Eat!	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a food growing programme at Glamis Adventure Playground in Shadwell. The project will take place during the summer months and will produce fruit and vegetables for children to cook and eat. A gardener will be employed to run 15 planting sessions and a chef will teach children how to cook with the harvested ingredients. Three open access community events will also be arranged, the first of which will be delivered with the allotment users on Open Gardens Day in June. Volunteers, staff and young members will host activities and the Children's Cafe will raise funds for future activities. The organisation anticipate that a total of 400 local children and young people and 100 adults will visit the sessions.	4,884
6	London Jaguars FC	Women's Only Fitness and Nutrition Sessions	The organisation is proposing to deliver a varied fitness and nutrition programme for 20 adult BAME women in the borough. Sessions will take place for two hours each Saturday at Blossom Project and will run for 45 weeks. Activities will include Zumba, fitness sessions, group discussions, talks by guest speakers and an awards ceremony at the end of the year. The organisation has a waiting list of those that have expressed interest in the programme at a focus group and the sessions will be promoted through flyers, social media and word of mouth.	4,985
Neighbourhood Action				

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

7	Prospect Walk Allotments Association	Prospect Walk Allotments Association Communal Shed	The organisation is seeking funding to purchase and install a large communal shed to store shared gardening tools and set up a seed bank allowing members to save and swap seeds in an organised way. The shed will also provide storage for advice leaflets, gardening books and other information and it is intended to use it as a focal point for future community open days. Part of the grant would also go towards replacing two of the allotments water tanks that are in an advanced state of decay.	1,200
8	Roman Road Bow Neighbourhood Forum	Bow People's Plan	The forum produced a draft plan with groups and individuals from Bow and want to carry out more public engagement to seek local responses to the plan before submitting it to the council. The engagement will be conducted through public activities and online consultations and afterwards the plan will be voted on in a local referendum.	950
Community Cohesion				
9	Alpha Grove Community Centre	Community Fun Day	To organise a community Fun Day at the Alpha Grove Community Centre during the summer for disadvantaged families. The event will consist of a barbeque, games, arts and crafts activities and other outdoor activities.	678
10	Ebeegees	New Years Trip for Elderly	A coach trip to Burstead Golf Club with lunch and entertainment for socially isolated elderly people.	600
11	Emmott Close Senior Citizens Club	Forever Young	Weekly activities providing breakfast and lunch sessions throughout the year for socially isolated elders. The grant will contribute towards weekly food shopping for the sessions and also hiring a mini bus from for a seaside trip.	1,000

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

12	Friends of St Eugene	Enabling Friendships 2020	The grant will cover four get-togethers throughout the year for young adults who feel lonely in the area of Whitechapel and St Katherine's. The individuals have been identified from previous events delivered.	900
13	Golden Girls	Coach Trips, BBQ & Refreshments	The grant will cover three to four coach trips, barbeques, afternoon teas and refreshments for elderly from all backgrounds.	600
14	Sonali Day Trippers	Sonali Day Trippers	The grant will cover two seaside trips and one community barbeque for elderly residents at Sonali Gardens .	1,000
15	Island House Craft Club	Island House Craft Club	The grant will cover coach fees for day trips and arts and craft sessions delivered once a week for local elderly people.	350
16	St John's Bingo Club	Thursday Bingo Group	To carry on running the Bingo Club at St. John's (IOD) Community Association allowing the elderly to meet and have fun throughout the year.	500
17	The Geezers Club	The Geezers Club	To arrange combined trips for club members with Bow Bowls, Bow Belles and Age UK East London. Speakers from different local service providers will also give talks on a range of issues.	500
18	Queen Victoria Seamen's Rest	Monthly Lunch Club	The grant will cover the costs of a summer outing to a seaside resort, a theatre trip, guest speakers and Christmas gifts and birthday parties for elderly club members.	500

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

19	Rethink Mental Illness	Carers Healthy Cooking & Gardening Group	To run a healthy cooking and gardening club for mental health carers. St Peters North Community Centre will be used to grow fruits and vegetables, as a kitchen and as a space to eat. The grant will be used to purchase seeds, soil, gardening equipment, cooking ingredients and utensils. There will also be nutrition and pain management advice for the carers.	1,000
Page 139	Rainbow Film Society	21st Rainbow Film Festival	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver the 22nd Rainbow International Film Festival, taking place between 30th May - 6th June 2021 at Genesis Cinema and the Rich Mix Centre. The festival is anticipated to attract 1000 visitors primarily from Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani and Somali communities and they will be recruited through the organisations links with a range of local organisations and a marketing campaign. The festival will be supported by 25 volunteers and activities will include daily screenings of films from across the world, a poster and picture exhibition, Q & A sessions, dedicated screenings for children, a women's conference and film making workshop and an awards ceremony.	3,500
21	Udichi Shilpi Gosthi	Bangladesh Book Fair, Literary and Cultural Festival	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver their tenth Bangladesh Book Fair, a literary and cultural festival showcasing Bengali writers, artists, performers and cultural activists. Other performances from groups representing the Somali, Chinese and Irish communities will also feature. Additional activities on the day will include poetry recitations, creative workshops and children's activities. Approximately 35 arts organisations and 150 artists will contribute towards the two-day event and the organisation expects to attract a multi-cultural audience of over 1000.	3,500

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

22	Lower Regent's Coalition	East End Canal Festival and Film Project	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver the East End Canal Festival, celebrating 200 years of the Regent's Canal with workshops, presentations and open days in advance of the event. This will include an art exhibition inspired by the canal, boat trips, guided walks, stalls, children's activities, creative workshops and a floating cinema. The grant requested would cover project management, the costs of providing the boat trips and the production of a film by local filmmaker, gathering memories from Bangladeshi residents about living by water in Bangladesh to illustrate a history in common. This would then be screened at the event and used in the organisations work with schools and other local organisations.	3,500
23	Weavers Adventure Playground Association	Cooking with Culture	The organisation is proposing to organise three events which will take place during the summer period and engage 25 parents and 75 children. Activities at the events will include a food festival during which children and their parents will cook using different methods, a communal meal, traditional music and dance from different cultures and the opportunity for parents to share their experience of living in Tower Hamlets with others. Each event will last for four hours and will be hosted at the adventure playground.	3,500
24	The Oitij-jo Collective	TATI Textiles	The organisation is proposing to deliver a six-week programme of textile skills training for Bangladeshi women. There will be 10 sessions in total and the course will involve four weeks of screen printing workshops, two weeks of sewing workshops and their will be the opportunity to exhibit and sell the finished creations. Recruitment of participants will be done via advertising on social media, flyers and word of mouth.	5,000
				57,427



SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Access and Participation Theme

No.	Organisation	Project Name	Project Description	Grant
1	Wapping Bangladesh Association	Community Information Access	The organisation is proposing to deliver a programme of digital and online skills training to enable local residents to access and trust online services provided by organisations such as the council, NHS and HMRC. The project will comprise of two stages, firstly three cohorts of 10 people will take part in a four-session course teaching basic computer and internet skills, how to create an email address and how to access and navigate public services online. After participants have completed the course, the organisation will offer a weekly three-hour long drop-in session for residents to review their knowledge and practice their skills.	4,916
2	Isle of Dogs Bangladeshi Association	IoD Bangladeshi Residents Club	The organisation is applying for funding to continue to deliver their support services to the Bangladeshi community. Three times a week sessions will be held which include the provision of general information, support with health issues, legal advice and accompaniment to appointments. Once a week open days including keep fit sessions, refreshments and opportunities to socialise will be hosted. There will also be separate sessions for women held once a month and a programme of day trips and events throughout the summer holidays.	5,000

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

3	Hornafrik Integration Projects	BME Bridging Project	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a project designed to reduce the barriers to accessing mainstream support services for Somali and other BAME residents in the Poplar, Blackwall, Canary Wharf and Island Gardens wards. The project will focus on signposting to services supporting residents to improve their English and to access employment and training opportunities. The organisation will use existing links with other groups and local schools to recruit participants and target those in most need of support. Trained volunteers will conduct three hours of outreach sessions a week visiting such organisations and will provide support in small groups or to individuals. There will also be quarterly workshops at which community members will be invited to identify gaps in provision and inform the future of the project.	5,000
				14,916

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

Loneliness Theme

No.	Organisation	Project Name	Project Description	Grant
1	Neighbours In Poplar	Loneliness	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a year-long programme of activities designed to compliment existing outreach work they are undertaking with older, vulnerable and disabled residents. As a result of the outreach, a number of activities to combat loneliness have been identified and they will be delivered through one session a week at three separate venues: a portacabin in Limehouse, a Tower Hamlets Homes centre in Wapping and an undecided venue in Shadwell. The activities will include arts and crafts, yoga, other exercise and IT sessions including a buddy system. The organisation expects to reach 80 beneficiaries throughout the course of the project.	4,680
2	Wapping Bangladesh Association	Wapping's Mums Club	The organisation is applying for funding to organise a user-led club for 25 lonely and isolated Bangladeshi and BAME mothers. The club will provide a safe environment to socialise, talk and build peer support networks. A range of activities have been designed in consultation with local mothers and they will encourage the building of relationships between participants. This will include coffee mornings, arts and crafts, exercise and music. Sessions will take place twice a week during school term time and there will also be a coping skills workshop once a month and a pampering session once a term. Participants will be recruited through the organisations existing participants, social media advertising, outreach on local estates and flyers.	5,000

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

3	Wadajir Somali Community Centre	Wadajir Girls Youth Group	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a programme of activities for 30 young Somali women aged 11 to 19. Drop-in sessions will take place for three hours on Saturday and Sunday afternoons at Teviot Community Hall and will provide the opportunity to socialise in a culturally appropriate environment. Activities will include arts and crafts, healthy eating sessions, higher education workshops and intergenerational Somali dancing.	5,000
Page 145	Blossom Project	Blossom Together	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a project engaging 40 local people over the course of a year and building on the weekly intergenerational coffee morning they currently organise. Outreach to other community groups, doctors surgeries and cultural centres will be conducted in order to establish referral pathways. The programme of activities has been codesigned with local residents and existing service users and this will include weekly sessions including topical discussions on a variety of subjects, walking and exercise, and arts and crafts. Gardening will also be included on a seasonal basis and employability support will be offered twice a quarter to those expressing an interest in a career in community work . Two trips will also be organised as part of the project.	4,986
5	Individual Application - Shahnaz Rifat	Mindful Mothers Project	The individual is applying for funding to deliver a programme of support for 20 expectant and new mothers. The project will provide a safe space for mothers to share their thoughts and feelings and sessions will take place on a fortnightly basis. The activities will alternate between a talking group at which participants will discuss stress management and overcoming isolation and a walking group which will encourage physical activity and healthy	1,000

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

			behaviours. The group will meet at John Smith Children’s Centre and walks will take place at local parks.	
6	Individual Application - Abdul Rawkib	Chai Club	The individual is proposing to deliver a series of eight community tea mornings for 15 elderly Bangladeshi women in the Bethnal Green area. Sessions will last for one hour and will provide the opportunity for networking and structured activities such as mindfulness, health advice, art and dance will also be included. Six out of the eight sessions will be delivered with the help of external professionals who will give short talks of 15 minutes and volunteers will also support the delivery.	1,000
7	BowHaven	Operation Loneliness	The organisation is applying for funding to deliver a varied programme providing support and opportunities for local residents to connect in a number of settings. The project will include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six meet-ups in Victoria Park and other public places including music, arts and crafts and other outdoor activities. • The creation of a communal art project in the park to give participants the chance to represent loneliness using physical materials and audio-visual techniques. • An online platform hosted on the BowHaven website featuring videos of people talking about their own experience of loneliness. • A weekly online meeting space, supported by BowHaven staff members, where people can drop in and socialise in a less pressurised setting. 	5,000
				26,666



SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

	Organisation Name	Project Name	Summary of Request	Grant
1	Somali Senior Citizens Club	Somali Elders Lunch Club & Community Engagement Project	The organisation is proposing to continue delivering a lunch club for Somali elders, taking place five days a week for 48 weeks throughout the year. Sessions will take place between 1-3 at Granby Hall. As well as receiving a freshly prepared meal, participants will be encouraged to socialise, and staff will refer them to other support services provided by the organisation such as welfare advice and support with health issues.	12,770
2	Wadajir Somali Community Centre	Wadajir Elderly Lunch Club	The organisation is applying for funding to continue delivering a lunch club for local Somali women aged 55 and over. Sessions will take place 10-2 Monday to Thursday and at Teviot Community Hall. Sessions will provide a chance to socialise, gain access to support services, learn healthy recipes and take part in traditional Somali dance classes. Additionally, an advice worker employed at the centre will give advice on issues such as benefits, rent and utilities.	12,770

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

3	Wapping Bangladesh Association	The Older People's Friendship Club	The organisation is proposing to deliver an Older People's Friendship Club with the intention of helping them stay active and mentally healthy. The project has been developed through consultation and will offer a variety of activities which will take place at sessions held three times a week, from 11-4. Activities include socialising, a variety of cultural activities, information and advice on healthy diets, cooking and the provision of a light lunch and refreshments, physical activities such as walking, chair exercises and complementary therapies and confidence building activities supported by volunteers	12,770
4	Dorset Community Association	Dorset Older People Lunch Club	The organisation is proposing to provide a weekly lunch club for residents aged 50+ in the North West of the borough. Participants will be at risk of social isolation or losing their independence and two five-hour sessions will be delivered each week: one for 20 men and one for 20 women. The lunch clubs will include socialising, cooked meals and advice and guidance. Structured sessions on healthy cooking and exercise and social events to mark holidays such as Christmas and Eid will be organised.	10,610
5	The Ensign Youth Club	UNITY Project	The organisation is applying for funding to continue to deliver their UNITY project for Bangladeshi and Somali older people. Coffee and lunch club sessions will take place three times a week at the centre and this will run for 45 weeks. Additional activities will also be included as part of the project and include health eating workshops held once a month	12,770

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

			for 10 people, self-management of chronic illness workshops held every six weeks for 10 people, ongoing advice, guidance and signposting and translation sessions held once a month for 10 people looking at TV and newspapers	
6	Weavers Community Forum	Weavers Health Project	The organisation is proposing to deliver a programme of health support for older BAME women. Sessions will take place for 2 hours each on Mondays and Thursdays. The project will run for 45 weeks. General activities will include light exercise such as yoga as well as the provision of coffee and refreshments. Additional activities include health eating workshops held once a month, self-management of chronic illness workshops held every six weeks, ongoing advice, guidance and signposting and translation sessions held once a month looking at TV and newspapers	12,770
7	Hornafrik Integration Projects	E14 BME Senior Citizen Project	The organisation is seeking funding to deliver a project for BME elderly residents in E14, participants will predominantly be from a Somali background and live in the Phoenix Court and Mast House Terrace. The project will be hosted within Phoenix Court and at The Reach Community Hub, with travel provided. The organisation will host weekly four-hour sessions with a mixture of time to socialise and advice sessions on subjects such as benefit entitlements and health issues. Two healthy eating workshops a month will also be arranged.	12,770

SMALL GRANTS PROGRAMME

8	The Bangladesh Youth Movement	Golden Years	The organisation is proposing to deliver a one-year pilot programme targeted at older women living in Whitechapel, who are experiencing issues such as health problems, financial hardship and isolation. Between 30 and 40 individuals are expected to benefit throughout the year and bi-weekly activities will include trips and celebratory events, surgeries with health professionals, healthy eating and exercise sessions, and advice on welfare benefits and money management. The project will involve the training of volunteers to befriend and conduct home visits with local older people and an Elders Forum will be established to allow participants to input into the direction of the project.	12,770
				100,000

Appendix B – Small Grants Covid Contingency Plans

June Round

Approved – Contingency plans have been reviewed and approved by EECF and LBTH officers.

Pending – Contingency plans are in discussion stage or awaiting further information from groups.

Organisation	Theme	Proposed Changes	Approved by LBTH?
The Bangladesh Youth Movement	Prevention	Advice to be offered online and over the phone from July 1st onwards. Face to face advice sessions will resume when government guidelines allow.	Approved
Page 152 Wapping Bangladesh Association	Loneliness	If the centre is able to open for face to face sessions in August then social distancing will be observed, PPE will be worn and enhanced cleaning will take place. In order to observe social distancing measures, three sessions a week will be arranged for 10 mothers at a time, as opposed to two sessions a week for 15 mothers at a time. If the centre is not able to open then the project will either be delayed until October or the organisation will look to deliver it remotely. This would include the distribution of activity packs, group Zoom sessions and support via email and telephone.	Approved
Wapping Bangladesh Association	Access and Participation	If the centre is able to open for face to face sessions in August then social distancing will be observed, PPE will be worn and enhanced cleaning will take place. The number of people entering the centre at any one time will be restricted and people will be encouraged to access the advice service remotely. If the centre is not able to open then the project will be delivered remotely and this will include telephone support, email support and online sessions. If this is the case then the organisation will increase the hours the Advice Worker is available to help people.	Approved
St John's Community Association	Community Cohesion	The grant will be spent when the Bingo Club are able meet for their weekly sessions again.	Approved

Sonali Daytrippers	Community Cohesion	The grant will be used to arrange a daytrip to Brick Lane Music Hall and to organise a New Year party.	Approved
Udichi, Shilpi, Gosthi	Community Cohesion	Three options: 1. The event is delayed 2. The event is goes ahead but with rules enforced such as wearing PPE, disinfecting books and a maximum of 10 people attending at one time. 3. The delivery of a virtual book fair using the online platform Hopin. This allows for a 'main stage' and other areas where talks can be held and people can interact with others in different sessions. This will also allow people from Bangladesh to join the event.	Approved
Wadajir Somali Community Centre	Loneliness	The start of the project will be delayed until September and if necessary the number of attendees will be reduced to 15 girls per session in order to enforce social distancing.	Approved
Lower Regent's Coalition	Community Cohesion	The film will be ready in Autumn of 2020 and will be available online. The festival will not be delivered until next year and the potential dates are 3-4th April or July 3-4th. The date of the festival will be confirmed by the end of July	Approved
The Shadwell Community Project	Community Cohesion	The site will be open and sessions will delivered in smaller groups. The large outdoor area means children will be able grow things and whilst staying socially distanced. Each child will be supplied with a growing kit which the can use at home if needed and if sessions cannot be run on site the doorstep deliveries of activity packs, recipes and cooking challenges will be arranged.	Approved
Rainbow Film Society	Community Cohesion	The film festival was always scheduled for June 2021 and so there are no changes at this stage.	Approved
London Jaguars Community Association (changed name from London Jaguars FC)	Prevention	The target group are not proficient users of technology and so the preference is to delay the project until it can be delivered as planned. However, if this not possible by October then sessions will be delivered. If online sessions are delivered then this will reduce the cost of the project dramatically and the group will keep EECF updated about this.	Approved
Ebeegees	Community Cohesion	Delay the trip until it is able to go ahead.	Approved

You be You	Community Cohesion	Project delivery will now begin in January 2021. If schools are not fully open then they may need to reduce the number of schools they work and/or look at working in partnership with libraries and the Museum of Childhood. If shareable activity boxes are not able to be used then cheaper single use activity boxes will be produced. The curriculum will also be made available online.	Approved
Individual Application - Abdul Rawkib	Loneliness	All eight sessions will now be delivered in September and not into October as planned. This is to avoid the restrictions that would come about as a result of any second wave. Only 10 people a session will be able to attend instead of 15. Some of the planned budget for refreshments will be spent on PPE.	Approved
Prospect Walk Allotments Association	Neighbourhood Action	All work will be carried in small groups with social distancing in place and PPE will be worn.	Approved
Hornafrik Integration Projects	Access and Participation	If face to face outreach is not able to be arranged then the organisation will host bi-weekly Zoom meetings with parents and volunteers, distribute information leaflets and organise online mentoring and informal guidance for parents and children that need support with issues such as the transition back to school.	Approved
Blossom Project	Loneliness	Online activities arranged for those that are shielding and socially distanced face to face activities provided for a small 'bubble' of participants that feel safe in taking part.	Approved
Isle of Dogs Bangladeshi Association	Access and Participation	Face to face services have been paused unless the case is very urgent. The majority of support will be delivered over the phone instead.	Approved
Sketch Appeal	Prevention	Instead of a 6 week group course with 15 people the organisation will offer 17 weekly online social sketching and art sessions on Zoom. The sessions will be offered on a drop in basis instead of for the same cohort of 15 people.	Approved
Spitalfields City Farm	Street Parties	Instead of an event marking the Great Get Together the group want to use the grant to organise a Virtual Summer Fayre on 8th August. It will feature virtual stalls, performances, workshops and a farm tour. Alison Denning has been notified and has agreed to it.	Approved

Golden Girls	Community Cohesion	Activities and day trips will be delayed until it's safe to do so.	Approved
Alpha Grove Centre	Community Cohesion	Instead of a community fund day at the centre, food will be delivered to families instead.	Approved
All 4 Teens	Prevention	The sessions will go ahead as planned when the venue opens (expected to be in September). Young people will be required to wear a face mask and observe social distancing.	Approved
Friends of St Eugene	Community Cohesion	The events will be delivered with social distancing measures in place. For particularly vulnerable people that do not want to attend meals would be delivered and eaten with them or some kind of online interaction would be facilitated.	Approved
BowHaven	Loneliness	Each of the three project elements will be delivered with reduced numbers, social distancing and extra cleaning in place. The project end date will also be extended	Approved
Neighbours in Poplar	Loneliness	All activities - yoga, chair exercise coffee mornings etc will take place in bubble groups of reduced numbers.	Approved
Trapped in Zone One	Street Parties	A virtual Great Get Together event in Mid-October streamed live via Facebook. It will take place in a venue in Tower Hamlets with a small group from the Mohila Ongon Women's Group celebrating who are their 10 anniversary.	Approved
Weavers Adventure Playground	Community Cohesion	Food parcels have been delivered to families throughout the summer. Instead of a number of events that were scheduled over the summer there will be one event at the end of October. If guidelines do not allow this then a full day of online activities will be delivered instead including recipes and cooking workshops, 'stories from my childhood' from different cultures and music activities.	Approved
Island House Craft Club	Community Cohesion	Delay the trips until they can get access community transport	Approved
Emmott Close Senior Citizens Club	Community Cohesion	They are waiting until the council has conducted a risk assessment to open the centre and find out how many people can attend at once. If they are not able to open the centre then meals will be cooked and delivered to residents at home.	Approved
The Geezers Club	Community Cohesion	Project delayed until safe for venues to reopen again.	Approved

September Round

Organisation	Theme	Proposed Changes	Approved by LBTH?
Grand Union Music Theatre	Community Cohesion	The intention is for the five events to be public in some way. However if this isn't possible they have contingency plans to film and publicise the events online.	Approved
True You Today	Prevention	All face to face contact postponed and sessions will move to online delivery.	Approved
Trapped in Zone One	Community Cohesion	Workshops will be delivered remotely and the mural will be painted with social distancing in place and PPE worn.	Approved
Associates of Community Trust UK	Community Cohesion	Either delay the start of the project or deliver telephone and remote support instead of coffee mornings. This will be decided after consultation with beneficiaries.	Approved
St. Peters Women's Wellbeing Programme	Loneliness	All face to face activities have been postponed and before they begin in future a risk assessment will take place alongside Tower Hamlets Community Housing. For now they will deliver telephone outreach, video sessions, socially distanced gardening activities and delivery of winter care packages.	Approved
St Paul's Arts Trust	Community Cohesion	The project plan will not change much. Although more of the workshops will be scheduled for after Easter in the hope that this will allow for more face to face and not just online sessions.	Approved
Toyhouse Libraries	Loneliness	Delay the start of the project until January 2021 due to the ongoing uncertainty.	Approved
Un-Age	Innovation	Delay the delivery of the project until February 2021. preparation and recruitment will happen in the meantime.	Approved
Kayd Somali Arts and Culture	Community Cohesion	The event is still scheduled to be held online and the precording sessions will be spaced out to adhere to the new government guidelines.	Approved

London Young Stars Elite	Innovation	Face to face activities will be limited to two families per session - this will mean less volunteers will be needed and the money saved will be spent on venue hire to put on additional activities. Sports will be held outside and there will also be puzzles and board game sessions delivered online.	Approved
Woodwork for Wellbeing	Prevention	Sessions will be delivered to smaller groups (maximum of six people in the room) and social distancing measures will be in place, tools cleaned and face masks worn.	Pending
Babel Theatre	Loneliness	See attached letter.	Pending
Olive Tree Education	Loneliness	See attached letter.	Pending
Eastside	Access and Participation	Most sessions will now be delivered virtually as the majority of beneficiaries have access to the internet. However, where vulnerable people are not able to access the internet, support and advice will be offered face to face, adhering to government guidelines and with social distancing in place. The planned gatherings for Christmas, Eid and Diwali will now not take place.	Approved
Wapping Youth FC	Prevention	Sessions will be delivered in smaller groups and online sessions will be held for those classed as vulnerable. All activities will be non-contact and no equipment will be shared.	Pending
EFA London	Community Cohesion	Classes will be moved online for the foreseeable future . If the situation changes they will work with the host venue to provide classes in person in a way which is safe. The trip at the end of the project will be carried out using social distancing measures and it will likely be a trip outside.	Approved

LB Tower Hamlets VCS Small Grants Programme

Small Grant Theme: Covid-19 Test and Trace Outreach and Engagement

Improving the uptake of Test and Trace in the community

Tower Hamlets Public Health and partner teams and organisations plan to keep Tower Hamlets safe by coproducing a culturally sensitive and responsive approach that enables our communities to proactively engage with NHS Test and Trace.

Our engagement plan is focussed on NHS Test and Trace programme. It is designed to marry data on the success (or otherwise) of all aspects of NHS Test and Trace in Tower Hamlets with local intelligence on the messages and the way they are delivered that may make a difference.

We have generated a set of proposals around different modes of engagement and different supporting materials.

A literature review was conducted to ascertain which population groups are likely to be (i) disproportionately affected by coronavirus, and (ii) more likely to experience difficulties in adherence to NHS Test and Trace requirements. Alongside a pan-London community mapping exercise, and a Tower Hamlets community impact assessment, this generated a list of priority communities for engagement.

A perceptions survey has been commissioned to understand community-wide perspectives of the NHS Test and Trace programme so that we can understand more representative perspectives, which can provide a helpful counterpoint from which specific communities may differ. Healthwatch have also been applying their repository to collate relevant insights from their research activities.

Initial and repeated feedback has indicated that people are more likely to engage with NHS Test and Trace if they hear information from a trusted source, and there is a proactive offer of support.

A small pot of funding (in the region of £30K) will be made for community groups and members to apply for grants to support the dissemination of key messages. The nature and process of the grants fund will be developed once the other mechanisms of engagement described here have been established to ensure it is targeted for maximum added value.

The Public Health Healthy Communities Team has oversight of the programme of community engagement, ensuring appropriate and sufficient coverage of high-risk groups across all activity and maintaining professional input into the public health messages being shared.

A reporting tool will capture the calendar of activities and, for monitoring purposes, map the target community groups against sessions completed and attendees, forward planned dates, RAG rating of penetration in community and acceptability of messages with notes to explain.

Through the small grants we want to encourage local actions that help people to support the dissemination of key messages around Test and Trace. We are particularly interested in small local actions that make a difference to people at the high-risk of not engaging. To support this, small grants are available up to £1,000 which can be accessed by people without an established group, although you will need to identify an “accountable body” that will support you by holding the funds for you.

We will also support larger grants up to £5,000 if you can show how it will make a difference in a neighbourhood or to a wider group of people as well as being innovative.

Funding can be used flexibly but is primarily intended to cover revenue costs. Funds can be used to fund a whole project or to pay for elements of a wider project there must be a quantifiable contribution to the proposed activity either in cash (other funding) or in kind (volunteer time, rent free premises etc). However, we do not require match funding

The total budget for this theme is £30,000. We anticipate that this theme will fund 10 to 20 projects with a range of annual funding levels up to a maximum of £5,000 per annum.

Tower Hamlets Plan and Strategic Plan Priorities

C1	Strong, resilient and safe communities	√
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C2	Better health and wellbeing	√
C3	Good jobs and employment	√
C4	A better deal for young people	√
S1	People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities	√
S2	A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in	√
S3	A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and partnership working to respond to the changing needs of our borough	
Theme priorities (Links to Outbreak Control Plan)		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Innovative community engagement and information dissemination around Test and Trace 2. Projects and activities that address the PHE disparity report and target groups most at risk of the impacts of Covid-19 		
Theme outcomes		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People are aware of NHS Test and Trace and are willing to engage 2. People are able to identify symptoms of Covid-19 and self-isolate 3. People take a test in a timely way 4. People with a positive test for Covid-19 are all promptly followed up as part of test and trace 5. All contacts are contactable 6. All contacts respond to test and trace follow up promptly 7. All contacts self-isolate for 14 days (unless they test positive, from which time they self-isolate for 10 days) 		
Examples of projects and activities		
<p>Some examples of the type of activities we would support (but don't be limited by this list as we are looking for creative proposals that we might not have thought of!)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters or leaflet dissemination • Materials to promote Test and Trace in neighbourhoods • Other projects that contribute to the outcomes above 		
Eligibility		

1. Size of organisation

We welcome applications from small local organisations including from informal/unconstituted groups for grants up to £1,000. We also welcome applications from established community groups for grants up to £3,000.

Organisations with an annual turnover in excess of £250,000 are not eligible to apply to the Small Grants Programme

Individuals are not eligible but small grants are available up to £1,000 which can be accessed by people without an established group, although you will need to identify an “accountable body” that will support you by holding the funds for you.

2. Not for Profit

The grants programme will only support activities run by groups which can demonstrate they are set up as not for profit groups. The types of organisation which the Council considers to be not for profit is set out in the VCS Strategy and included in the TH Grants Policy framework at.

3. Locally based

The grants programme is intended to support the local VCS and community activity. The eligibility criteria for all grant themes reflects this principle. Organisations based outside the borough are not excluded from eligibility, but they must show very clear connections to Tower Hamlets either through existing activity or local leadership of the proposed project. Applications will be encouraged from organisations based across the borough.

4. Good governance

Organisations will be expected to achieve an acceptable level of governance with appropriate policies for the activities they propose to undertake. The acceptable level will be proportionate to the size of organisation and type of activity. The Council will accept applications from organisations in the process of developing appropriate policies, but funding will not be paid until they are in place.

5. Other criteria

We are keen to support grant applications under £1,000 from informal or un-constituted groups but these should be supported by an organisation with appropriate levels of

governance which will act as the 'accountable body' for any funds awarded.

Levels of Funding Available

1. Up to £3,000 for projects

The total budget for this theme is £30,000. We anticipate that this theme will fund 10 to 20 projects with a range of funding levels

Monitoring arrangements

1. Three monthly progress report and annual/end of project report and visit.
2. Data will be cross referenced with borough wide take up rates of Test and Trace.

Appendix D – Innovation Fund Awards

Innovation Fund Awards

No.	Organisation Name	Project	Comments	Amount awarded
1	I am Tower Hamlets	4x Community Tea Dances	<p>I Am Tower Hamlets is a partnership between the council and Better that provides activities for the whole community in and around the borough's leisure centres, this charitable social enterprise arm of the GLL group have a range of community activities that promote physical activity across Tower Hamlets.</p> <p>This is a good project which aims to promote the Councils Community Plan theme 'A great place to live'.</p> <p>The TH Sports development team have pledged to this project on two different occasions indicating that this type of project/ activity is needed in the local community and backed by the Sport's Development Team</p>	£4,060.75
	Christ Church Isle of Dogs	Open to All – Project to replace fixed pews in Christ Church and replace with furniture that can make space in the church so that it can be open for community events and activities.	<p>The Tower Hamlets Isle of Dogs Neighbourhood Plan sets out 20 key objectives that are pertinent to the local infrastructure, environment and social issues connected to this part of the borough which has a smaller number of VCS organisations delivering services to the local residents. Some of these objectives fall in line with the 'Open to All' project such as;</p> <p>Sufficient indoor and outdoor spaces for people to enjoy, which are open to the public to use, including space where children can play and everyone can relax.</p> <p>Christ Church has worked hard on raising the profile of their campaign. The PDM had very little experience of crowdfunding but was driven by the need of the local community and such has developed this campaign with a lot of local community support.</p>	£6,309.50

No.	Organisation Name	Project	Comments	Amount awarded
			In addition they have organised 3 fundraising events linked to their campaign, they have unlocked new support & pledges from posting updates on their Facebook page.	
			TOTAL	£10,370.25

Appendix E – Covid Community Fund

Covid Community Fund

The Voluntary and Community Sector in Tower Hamlets has been vital in responding to the Covid 19 pandemic across the borough. The rapid mobilisation and deployment of resources to meet the increase in demand and the adaptation of services demonstrate the sector's key role in responding to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic in the borough and its vital importance.

Tower Hamlets Council's focus is on achieving positive outcomes for the residents of the borough and enabling the borough to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic. The pandemic, and now the second wave, will require changing previous ways of doing things and in support of this, Tower Hamlets Council has launched the Covid Community Fund.

For a limited period, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations in Tower Hamlets will be able to access funding and organisational support as detailed below.

- **Covid Organisational Support Fund** – Up to £5,000 available for VCS organisations that need to restructure their organisation, either to incorporate the current social distancing and other restrictions, or to respond to Covid 19 more generally. This includes organisations delivering frontline or direct contact services to residents who will need to restructure their organisation to reflect the current climate.
- **Covid Re-Purposing Fund** – Up to £5,000 available for VCS organisations, either to deliver services differently to residents and beneficiaries, such as adapting services to remote delivery, or where Covid has meant that there is good reason for the organisation to deliver different kinds of services. Funding could be provided to cover the up-front costs of changing the way services are delivered (e.g. new equipment, or training), or continuing to deliver in these new ways, such as increasing the reach and capacity of re-purposed services.
- **Wider Support** – Alongside the award of funding, council officers and Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service (THCVS), will engage with organisations on the issues they face arising from or impacted by covid and work with them to develop a detailed organisational transition plan and agree support measures. The elements of support that could be provided include, for example support with:
 - Repurposing delivery models including implementing social distancing measures and working in different ways
 - Finances and funding including bid writing
 - Business planning and business continuity
 - Governance, strategy and policy
 - Training and skills
 - Matters relating to staffing or volunteers
 - Communications and engagement including social media
 - Digital

VCS organisations can also apply for **wider support** on a standalone basis, without applying for funding. In order to access wider support if not applying for funding, simply email us at the address below and we will follow up to discuss how we can support you.

Please note, we have a limited amount of money and are expecting demand to exceed the money available. Please read the eligibility and criteria for the fund on the **links below** which will be used to assess all applications.

Eligibility & Criteria

FAQ's

Covid Community Fund Application Form

Completed applications and requests for wider support from VCS organisations not applying for funding should be returned to third.sector@towerhamlets.gov.uk

Please see the link below for the Tower Hamlets Plan 2020-23.

https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/lgnl/community_and_living/community_plan/tower_hamlets_plan.aspx

Receipt of your application will be acknowledged, and we will keep you updated on its progress. You may be contacted if any further information is required.

Emergency Fund

None since last report to GDCSC

Transition

No.	Organisation Name	Summary of Request	Amount awarded
1	Green Candle Dance Company	Bridge funding for organisation's core costs needed to support projects and fundraising	£7,725
2	Rooted Forum	Bridge funding for MSG projects pending outcome of fundraising	£19,096
3	Udichi Shilpi Gostthi	Bridge funding for MSG projects pending outcome of fundraising	£3,750
4	Vallance	Bridge funding for MSG projects pending outcome of fundraising	£12,810
5	Weavers Adventure Playground Association	Bridge funding for MSG projects pending outcome of major Lottery funding bid	£5,100
6	Pollyanna	Bridge funding for MSG projects pending outcome of fundraising	£4,687
7	Attlee Youth and Community Centre	Bridge funding for MSG projects pending outcome of fundraising	£5,576
8	Shadwell Community Project	Bridge funding for core staff pending outcome of fundraising	£10,443
	TOTAL		£69,187

