

## Equality Assessment

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

**Responsible Directorate:** Children, Schools and Families (Early Years)

#### Priorities/Objectives

State how the funding stream relates to tackling inequality (for example, advice services can help mitigate impact of deprivation; lunch clubs reduce social isolation, sports increase health and well being etc.);

We need to improve outcomes in the early years through improvements in attainment at the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)<sup>1</sup>.

- Contribute to the priorities within the Tower Hamlets Children and Young People's Plan regarding Early Years and Extended Schools initiatives, including contributing to ensuring that there are sufficient funded early education places to meet the needs of the Borough
- Targeted at under fives (Early Years); 3-12 for before/after school and holiday play scheme activities; concentrating on deprived areas across the borough; meeting LBTH targets on healthy living and reducing obesity
- Developing two year old funded places for children from the most economically deprived backgrounds
- Meet the needs of the borough's most excluded communities
- Meet the needs of children with disabilities and additional needs

#### MSG Budget 2013-15

	Cabinet Approved Annual Budget	Corporate Board Allocations	Programme Recommended
2012/13*	£162,983	£128,865	
2013/14	£651,932	£515,461	
2014/15	£651,932	£515,461	
<b>Total Funding</b>	<b>£1,466,847</b>	<b>£1,159,788</b>	

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

#### Identified Need\*

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

4,565 children were born to Tower Hamlets residents in 2010. The birth rate in Tower Hamlets is 66.2 live births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44. The birth rate in Tower Hamlets is lower than the average in London (72.1), but about the same as England (65.5). In the 5 years between 2009/10 and 2014/15 the rate is projected to increase by 5.3% (235 additional births); in the subsequent 5 years between 2014/15 to 2019/20 the rate is projected to increase by 2.2% (100 additional births). Of the 3,798 births in 2009 with ethnicity recorded, 46.5% were born to Bangladeshi women, 21.7% to white women and 6.1% to Black African women.

<sup>1</sup>The EYFS is a statutory framework that sets the standards for the learning, development and care of children from birth to five

The average birth rate per 1,000 for Bangladeshi women aged 15 to 44 is 1.52 times the average for all women. Bangladeshi mothers also tend to be younger than non-Bangladeshi mothers<sup>2</sup>.

The under-fives are the largest age group within Tower Hamlets' 0 to 19 population and the group is expected to grow at a greater rate than other age groups. The 0 to 5 year old population in Tower Hamlets makes up 9.6% of the total population in the borough and 36.8% of the 0 to 19 population. Greater London Authority (GLA) population projections show a population of 24,307 under -fives in 2012. The 0-5 population is projected to rise to 26,251 in 2015 (representing an increase of 7.4%). Of children aged 0-4, 23.7% are white and 55.6% Bangladeshi.

- Around 50% of two year olds living in Tower Hamlets come from very deprived backgrounds
- Ensuring that there is provision available for this 50% of two year olds will become a statutory duty for the council from September 2013
- Around 5% of children in this age range have a significant additional need and around 20% have a low level additional needs

Type of Provision	Beneficiary target group/Area	Units of needs identified Total number of projected beneficiaries identified in project applications	Estimated number of beneficiaries as a result of CGPB recommendations	Difference
Early Years provision	Universal provision for 2 year olds	172	108	-64
Early Years provision	Universal provision for 2-5 year olds	264	233	-31
Early Years provision	Universal provision for children up to 5 years old	32	45	+13
Early Years provision	Universal provision with a larger ratio of Bangladeshi families	114	134	+20
Early Years provision	Universal provision with a larger ratio of Bangladeshi and Somali children	48	45	-3
Early Years provision	Universal provision including children with special needs	105	88	-17
Early Years provision	Provision for children from Traveller Communities	17	4	-13

<sup>2</sup> Mayhew dataset (Network Knowledge Management (NKM) population), is based on administrative databases which include a detailed analysis of the administrative data sets at March 2011

Early Years provision	Infrastructure support to providers of early years provision for 2 year olds	3020	2110	-910
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***Units of need have been identified as the total number of beneficiaries that projects have stated will gain from the service. This has been borne out by previous monitoring statistics as well as projections stated within applications.***

## **Impact Summary**

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

The funding focuses largely on universal Early Years provision which is open to all communities along with some projects targeted at specific groups such as Bangladeshi and Somali communities and children with SEN. It is anticipated therefore that the user profile will broadly reflect the borough profile including within the nine protected characteristics where appropriate. There is therefore no perceived adverse impact on any of the protected characteristics from the recommendations made.

## Equality Assessment

Target Groups	Impact ✓ - Positive ✗ - Adverse 0 = Neutral What impact will the proposal have on specific groups of service users or staff?	Reason(s) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add a narrative to justify your claims around impacts and,</li> <li>Describe the analysis and interpretation of evidence to support your conclusion as this will inform decision making</li> </ul>
Race	✓ - Positive	<p>We know that there are some groups who are less likely to access early years provision and that people from these groups are more likely to have poor educational outcomes at the early years foundation stage. Across the borough, the take up of Nursery Education Funded places is 2.3% by Somali children and 22.2% by Bangladeshi children.</p> <p>The recommendations of the Programme Board include provision which specifically targets Bangladeshi and Somali families in areas of need, particularly in the E1 area. The recommendations also include provision for isolated communities within E3, an area which has a high concentration of families specifically from the Traveller Community. Eleanor Street in Bow, is in fact, the only Traveller site in Tower Hamlets. E3 has also been highlighted within the most recent Tower Hamlets JSNA(2010/11) as receiving one of the highest concentrations of newly arrived migrants. The remaining provision which is the majority of services recommended for funding is universal provision and is open to all communities.</p>
Disability	✓ - Positive	Provision for children with special needs will result in greater support and reduced isolation for these groups and their families. The funding recommendation has reduced slightly for this group compared to the MSG allocation for 2008-12. This means that there will be 17 fewer places for children with special needs.
Gender	0 = Neutral	Take up of Nursery Education Funded places by gender is 54% boys and 46% girls across Tower Hamlets. This represents a fairly even split.
Gender Reassignment	0 = Neutral	
Sexual Orientation	0 = Neutral	
Religion or Belief	0 = Neutral	
Age	✓ - Positive	Provision should continue to develop the trend of steady improvement in young children's achievement at the Early Years Foundation Stage.
Marriage and Civil Partnerships.	0 = Neutral	
Pregnancy and Maternity	✓ - Positive	Outcomes are improving for pregnant women, including early access to maternity services which in turn shows an upward

		trend in 'good and improving' EYFS attainment for all children.
Other Socio-economic Carers	<b>0 = Neutral</b>	A key trend identified is the projected increase of women as a proportion of the ethnic minority population, both among the established and the newly arrived communities in the borough. This trend of an increasing gender gap is likely to make a real difference on service needs in particular areas including childcare.

## Impact Considerations

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

Current recommendations will impact on some organisations in the following ways:

- Quality of provision which will affect the raising of outcomes for the lowest 20%, school readiness, and the support given to children in the prime areas of development and learning (communication, language and literacy, personal, social and emotional development, well-being).
- Financial weakening of the organisations over time will impact on their ability to maintain a high quality service and deliver the outcomes as listed above.
- Funding for particular communities will have a positive impact, for instance, within the Traveller community where we already know that adults within that community have a distrust of mainstream services for a fear of discrimination. Their children are missing out on early years support and intervention which is impacting on their health, their education and on their later life chances. Any positive work with children and their families to engender positive experiences, with support to access services would ensure they recognise that they have a role to play and a responsibility to contribute positively to the borough as well as partaking in the same opportunities as their neighbours.
- Early Years data demonstrates that the Somali community does access its services across the borough, albeit in sporadic numbers in some cases. However in line with the demographics of the community, there is greater attendance in particular sections of the borough, namely, E3 - Lincoln Hall EYS-05, (representing 18.4%), E1 - Rainbow House EYS-24, (representing 11.8%) and E14 – Abertots EYS-02, (representing 10.5%) nursery settings. Whilst some provision targeting Somali children has not been recommended for funding the overall programme of activity will meet the needs of all communities in terms of the borough profile.

## 1. Overall summary of projects recommended for funding

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
EYS-02	Universal service for 2 year olds	E14	18
EYS-05	Universal service for 2 year olds	E3	24
EYS-07	Universal service for 2 year olds	E14	27
EYS-08	Universal service for 2 year olds	E2	40
EYS-22	Universal services for 2 year olds	E1	23
EYS-26	Universal services for 2 year olds	E14	40
<b>Comments:</b> Funding recommendation was made in all geographical areas.			

### Universal provision for all 2 – 5 year olds

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group Children and parents	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
EYS-12	Universal service for 2 - 5 year olds	E14	40
EYS-14	Universal service for 2 - 5 year olds	E14	32
EYS-18	Universal service for 2 - 5 year olds	E3	32
EYS-21	Universal service for 2 - 5 year olds	E1	24
EYS-25	Universal service for 2 - 5 year olds	E1	24
EYS-30	Universal service for under 5 year olds	E1	32
EYS-32	Universal service for 2 - 5 year olds	E3	Not indicated
EYS-33	Universal service for under 5 year olds	E2	80
<b>Comments:</b> Funding recommendation was made in all geographical areas.			

### Universal provision for under 5 years old)

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group Children and parents	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
EYS-31	Universal service for under 5 year olds	E14	Not indicated
EYS-34	Universal service for 3 months to 5 year olds	E3	22
EYS-36	Universal service for under 5 year olds	E3, 14	36
<b>Comments:</b> Funding recommendations made excludes E1 and 2 geographical areas.			

### Universal provision for up to 8 year olds

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group Children and parents	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
EYS-18	Universal service for 2 - 5 year olds	E3	32
<b>Comments:</b> This was the only application received for this category.			

### Universal provision with a larger ratio of Bangladeshi families

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group Children and parents	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
EYS-04	Universal service for under 5 year olds but with a larger ratio from Bengali families	E2	30
EYS-09	Universal service for under 5 year olds but with a larger ratio from Bengali families	E1	24
EYS-15	Universal service for under 6 year olds but with a larger ratio from Bengali families	E1	Not indicated
EYS-20	Universal service for 2 - 5 year olds but with a larger ratio from Bengali families	E1	24
EYS-27	Universal service for 3 months to 5 year olds but with larger ratio from Bengali families	E1	36

**Comments:** The funding recommendation has increased for this group, albeit in the E1 geographical area.

### Universal provision but with a larger ratio of Bangladeshi and Somali children

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group Children and parents	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
EYS-24	Universal service for under 8 year olds but with a larger ratio from Bengali and Somali families	E1	48

**Comments:** The funding recommendation has reduced slightly for this group; however any resultant demand could be met by other projects in the same geographical area.

### Children from Travellers Community

No of Projects	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
EYS-39	0-10 year olds from Irish Travelling Group	E3	17 families

**Comments:** EYS 39 - Hackney Play bus proposes to offer children and families of Irish Traveller heritage living on the Eleanor Street site E3 support in school readiness, enabling children to thrive in education and support parenting in uniquely difficult circumstances.

Hackney Play bus will address community cross cutting themes to support these families and improve prospects for these children and has already established links with Mile End Nursery (EYS 34). The project has secured match funding to further develop this project.

### Universal provision including children with special needs

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group Children and parents	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
EYS-01	Universal service for 3 months to 5 year olds but up to 8 years those with special educational needs	Boroughwide	41
EYS-06	Universal service for 3 months to 5 year olds but up to 8 years those with special educational needs	E14	16
EYS-40	Universal service for 8 - 12 year olds but with a larger ratio from Somali families and those with special educational needs	E1	48

**Comments:** The funding recommendation has reduced slightly for this group. This means there will be 17 fewer places for children with special needs.

### Infrastructure support to providers of early years provision

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group Children and parents	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
EYS-10	Universal mobile toy library service with stock of toys and play resources for under 5 year olds and their families	Boroughwide	3000 families
EYS-13	Universal soft play service for under 5 year olds and their families	Boroughwide	20 families
EYS-16	Infrastructure and administrative support	Boroughwide	Not indicated

**Comments:** The funding recommendation has reduced significantly for this group. This will threaten the viability of these organisations and will certainly have a serious impact on their ability to deliver the services in their supporting capacity to children, families and local nurseries and playgroups.

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

No of Projects	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
EYS -11	Universal service for 8-12 years olds	E2	100
EYS-23	Universal service for 8 - 12 year olds but with a larger ratio from Somali families	Boroughwide	90
EYS - 29	Universal mobile toy library service core operations, Toy Library Support including work with Somali families.	Boroughwide	3000

**Comments:**

EYS -11 Weavers Adventure Playground, seeks funding to provide a 'Keep Fit' programme for whole family units. The service is directed at children from deprived backgrounds and meets key LBTH targets dealing with healthy living and tackling obesity. Weavers has been recommended for funding through the Arts, Sports and Environmental Spaces funding stream.

EYS – 23 Somali Integration Team is a project which has a focus on Somali families with a Boroughwide reach as they have a number of playgroup sessions in various LAPs. Funding has been recommended for an alternative organisation EYS – 40 Somali Parent and Children Play Association, however this organisation has a very specific focus which is Somali families with children with special needs. However, the universal services that have been recommended for funding work with all communities and children can access these services.

EYS – 29 Toyhouse Library Core Operations – lack of funding for core operations could affect the viability of other projects within the organisation that have been agreed for funding.

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

Ref	Beneficiary Target Group	Geographic Area/s of Proposed Delivery	Anticipated Output/Users per annum
EYS-03	Universal provision for 2 year olds	E2	36
EYS 17	Universal provision for under 5 year olds	Boroughwide	Not indicated
EYS 19	Universal provision for 2 year olds	E1	12
EYS 28	Universal provision for 2 year olds	Boroughwide	600
EYS 35	Universal service for 3 months to 5	E1W	Not indicated



	year olds		
EYS-37	Youth club for 5-10 year olds	E2	Not indicated
EYS 38	Play sessions for children 5 years old and under	E14	Not indicated

**Comments:** Projects not recommended for funding have a wide geographical spread and any resultant demand could be met by other projects in the same geographical areas.

*n.b.* EYS 28 - Spitalfields Music indicates provision for several hundred users however the proposed project describes provision of music sessions for children (incorporating learning and development techniques) rather than nursery or child care provision which is the primary focus of the MSG Early Years funding stream. The CGPB did not recommend any funding as there has been such an unprecedented pressure on the Early Years budget and furthermore the priority for 2-4 year old nursery places has become acute.

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

**NONE**

## BACKGROUND

- i) **Applications received:** 41 (this includes an additional 2 projects which were referred for funding from the Children and Families funding stream). Total full year (2013/14) amount requested £3,325,314
- 7 - Universal provision for 2 year olds
  - 11 - Universal provision 2 – 5 year olds
  - 3 - Universal provision for children up to 5 years old
  - 1 - Universal provision for children up to 8 years old
  - 1 - Universal provision for children up to 12 years old
  - 1 - Universal provision but with a larger ratio of Bangladeshi and Somali children
  - 6 - Universal provision with a larger ratio of Bangladeshi families
  - 1 - Universal provision with a larger ratio of Somali families
  - 4 - Universal provision including children with special needs
  - 1 - Provision for children from Traveller Communities
  - 4 - Infrastructure support to providers of early years provision
- ii) **Number of projects recommended for funding:**29 (of which 4 are new projects)
- iii) **Number of projects not recommended:**10