

Equality Assessment of MSG Roll-Over Funding Proposals 2015: Funding Stream

MSG Programme: Proposal to extend or discontinue Main Stream Grant (MSG) beyond 31st March 2015.

Summary

An equalities assessment has been undertaken for each theme within the MSG programme, focusing on the impact of individual projects not receiving extended funding on service users, particularly protected characteristics. The assessments have been based on the equalities impact assessments undertaken in 2012, following the initial MSG grant award and utilised quarter 3 monitoring data.

The results of the EA for each theme are shown below (see table 1). The assessment has not identified any significant equalities impact of failing to fund identified projects. This is primarily due to the failure of these projects to deliver, and also due to significant alternate provision available via the MSG programme. The MSG 2013-15 programme was characterised by lots of small projects, receiving small amounts of money – this has therefore limited the equalities impact of project failure.

Theme	Impact ✓ - Positive ✗ - Adverse 0 = Neutral	Summary
Older People's Lunch Club	0 = Neutral	It is recommended that around one third of the projects within this theme do not receive extended funding. 12 (2 of which have already closed) out of an original 33. Though this is largely through underperformance, there is the potential for an adverse impact for service users. At this time, it is not known whether failure to extend funding will necessarily lead to closure of lunch clubs; a number are expected to become self-sustainable. Therefore it is difficult to assess the extent of the equalities impact if any. In order to mitigate the potential impact of not extending funding, it is recommended that we identify those clubs that will close if funding is not extended and sign posting affected users to alternate provision.
Children & Families Services	0 = Neutral	There are two projects within this theme that are not recommended to receive extended funding; CFS 30 – Childs Play and CFS -31 Recently diagnosed VIPS. Both target young people with visual impairment. Had either of these projects been able to demonstrate

		<p>a positive impact for target users, there may be an adverse impact of these projects not receiving extended funding, however, there is existing borough wide provision for young people with visual impairment. Therefore, there is no adverse equalities impact identified.</p>
Early Years' Services	0 = Neutral	<p>There is limited change in the overall programme, funding is being extended to most projects within the programme. One project has now closed EYS27 – Glamis Road Nursery – based on poor performance and organisational capacity issues. There is no adverse impact on target groups and those groups with protected characteristics based on this project closing. The council is continuously developing its child care provision to ensure there is sufficient capacity to meet needs. No mitigation is necessary.</p>
Study Support Services	0 = Neutral	<p>No adverse impact has been identified. The extended programme remains largely the same and any potential equalities impact is negligible. It is proposed that 3 out of the 33 projects do not receive further funding (one project included within the initial programme and EA declined the grant and as such has never had any impact). 2 of these projects offer a universal study support services (e.g. open to all potential services users), and one is targeted at Bengali students. None of the projects has delivered and no tangible benefit can be demonstrated to service users. Furthermore, there are other study support classes accessible within the borough.</p>
Youth & Connexions Service	0 = Neutral	<p>It is not expected that closure of the projects listed below (see section 6) will have an adverse equalities impact (based on the need established and equalities objectives identified within the initial equalities assessment undertaken for this theme). This is primarily due to the failure of projects to deliver, and also due to significant alternate provision available via the MSG programme and Youth Service universal offer. The MSG 2013-15 programmes was characterised by lots of small projects, receiving small amounts of money – this has limited the equalities impact of project failure.</p> <p>A number of projects were approved for funding which fell outside of the priorities and objectives of this funding stream. As such, closure of some and the decision to not award extended funding will have little</p>

		<p>impact on target users across the 9 protected characteristics as most of these programmes are being catered by mainstream youth service provision. Further, projects that have closed and not been recommended for receipt of roll over funding have not delivered agreed targets or have not been able to evidence that they have delivered. Therefore, there will be little impact on service users if these projects do not continue. There is significant crossover of provision, both via the MSG programme and mainstream funding that in most cases (projects targeting BME youth for e.g.) there is alternative options available for service users. Where applicable, service users will be signposted toward alternate provision.</p>
Community Language Services	0 = Neutral	<p>There are three projects within this theme that are not recommended to receive extended funding; CLS 29 Jeremiah Children Welfare Project Limited Mother Tongue Bengali, CLS 30 Baglay Kota Boli, and CLS 36 Isle of Dogs Bangladeshi Association Mother Tongue Class all of which provide Bengali Mother Tongue classes. There has been no evidence of delivery from either of these projects. There is also significant Bengali Mother Tongue projects remaining within the theme across the borough - 21 remain across the borough.</p>
Arts, Sports & Environmental Services	0 = Neutral	<p>None of the projects that are identified to not receive extended funding are evidencing performance and impact for service users. Therefore it is difficult to assess as to whether there will be an impact if the projects do not receive extended funding. That said, given the attempts to contact and visit organisations, it is highly likely the projects are having very little benefit to service users and target groups. More importantly, the initial programme provided a wide range of cross borough sporting, arts and cultural provision with both universal offering and targeted toward Bengali service users. There is also mainstream provision. Therefore it is not thought that there would be any adverse impact of not funding these projects to service users. It is difficult to ascertain as to whether there may be an organisational impact given the lack of contact with these groups.</p>
Lifelong	0 = Neutral	<p>One project LLS 18 - Olga Education and Training</p>

Learning Services		Project has already closed due to low level participation. No adverse impact due to this project closing has been identified. Despite targeting protected groups there is significant alternate provision provided via the MSG programme and mainstream provision.
Community & Economic Engagement	0 = Neutral	Of the original 48 projects originally funded, 44 are recommended to receive further funding. There are no projects not awarded an extension of funding based on the application of the assessment criteria. Therefore the proposed recommendations do not adversely impact on any groups with protected characteristics.
Social Welfare Advice Services	0 = Neutral	The proposal recommends that 17 of the original 18 projects receive extended funding for a period of 5 months and 1 project (assessed as amber) receive extended funding for an initial period of 3 months. This Equality Impact considers the impact to be neutral.
Third Sector Infrastructure	0 = Neutral	<p>This equality assessment evaluates the impact of the proposal - to extend funding to (5) of the currently funded projects for the duration of the extension period and one (1) of the organisations (assessed as amber) for an initially period of 3 months with the possibility of extending funding for the duration of the extension should the project performance meet the specified targets - as having no disproportionate or adverse effect on any group bearing protected characteristics.</p> <p>Organisations offering infrastructure support to other voluntary organisations or projects tend to focus on specialisms e.g. assist organisations to gain a quality accreditation, capacity building, financial health checks, I.T infrastructure etc. The recommendation for extended funding will continue to benefit groups that support beneficiaries with the following protected characteristics: women, Somali, Bengali, BAME as well as provide a transport for a range of vulnerable people.</p>