


Commissioner Decision Report 24 th April 2016	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Debby Jones, Corporate Director Children's Services	Classification: Unrestricted
Notification Report on Early Years Service Grant Funding 2015/2016	

Originating Officer(s)	Jo Green
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Community Plan Theme	A Prosperous Community

Executive Summary

The Early Years Service operates a number of grant schemes to support existing childcare providers and to develop new provision. The funding for these grants is from the Dedicated Schools Grant, which is managed by Schools Forum.

The table below lists the expenditure for all Early Years funding streams in 2015/2016:

Funding Stream	Expenditure 2015/16
Inclusion	14,118
Childminding	450
Training	-
Special Projects	-
Capital	317,291
Ex-MSG Extension	298,247
Parachute Payments	13,663
Total	643,769

Further details of the funding are set out in the report below.

Recommendations:

The Commissioners are recommended to:

1. Note the content of this report on Early Years Grant Expenditure.

1. **REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

For noting only.

2. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

2.1 None.

3. **DETAILS OF REPORT**

3.1 Funding for Inclusion, Childminders, Training and Special Projects

3.1.1 The Commissioners Decision Meeting on the 29th of July 2015 agreed that the operation of the Inclusion Funding, Childminder Grants, Training Grants and Special Project funding streams be approved. The Commissioners also approved that the Service Head for Learning and Achievement be authorised to award grants under the schemes in accordance with the agreed processes.

Purpose of Early Years Service Grant Funding

The Early Years Service operates a number of grant funding programmes to support childcare provision within Tower Hamlets. These awards are non-statutory, but do work towards supporting national targets or statutory obligations.

a) Inclusion Funding

Supports access and inclusion of children with significant additional needs (Special Educational Needs) by supporting childcare providers in funding: additional focused support; specific equipment and/ or adaptations to the environment within the setting.

b) Childminder Grants

Start-up grant to new childminders offers support to local residents in starting up a childminding business by providing the initial paper work, public liability insurance.

c) Training Grants

Supports those employed in the Private Voluntary and Independent (PVI) Early Years workforce to achieve a higher level childcare related qualification to improve the quality of childcare and early education provision in the borough.

d) Special Project Funding

The Early Years Service undertakes several special projects a year to concentrate on areas of work to support development in childcare provision and which relate to key objectives in the team plan. Grants may be awarded to childcare providers to enable them to participate in the projects.

The table below sets out the expenditure of each grant award made.

Early Years Grant Funding Expenditure 2015-16					
Funding Stream and Awards	2015/16				
	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Year Total
	2015/16	2015/16	2015/16	2015/16	2015/16
Inclusion Funding					
Lincoln Hall Playgroup		2,153			2,153
Lincoln Hall Playgroup		2,153			2,153
Munchkins			2,751		2,751
Little Unicorns Day Nursery			1,494		1,494
Lincoln Hall Playgroup			846		846
Mudchute Nursery			1,000		1,000
Elaine Fairman (Childminder)			590		590
Headstart Day Nursery			1,733		1,733
Noah's Ark Nursery				410	410
Barkantine Community Nursery				540	540
Vernon Pre-School Playgroup				450	450
Inclusion Funding Sub-Total	-	4,305	8,413	1,400	14,118
Childminder Grants					
Gemma Ramzan			150		150
Juliana Asajeviciene			150		150
Anne Oldfield				150	150
					-
Childminder Grants Sub-Total	-	-	300	150	450
Training Grants					
					-
Training Grants Sub-Total	-	-	-	-	-
Special Project Funding					
					-
Special Project Funding Sub-Total	-	-	-	-	-
Grand Total	-	4,305	8,713	1,550	14,568

3.1.2 Quarter 1 Grant Awards

No awards were made in Quarter 1 as the approval process was not in place.

3.1.3 Quarter 2 Grant Awards

Inclusion Funding

The following awards were made in Quarter 2 of 2015/16:

Childcare Provider	Funding Award	Description	Approved By	Date
Lincoln Hall Playgroup	£2,152.50	To provide additional focused support for a child attending the playgroup who has chronic lung disease and is dependent on oxygen supply.	Terry Parkin (Service Head)	1/10/15
Lincoln Hall Playgroup	£2,152.50	To provide additional focused support for a child attending the playgroup who has been diagnosed with Autism and in addition has global developmental delay.	Terry Parkin (Service Head)	1/10/15
Q2 Sub-Total	£4,305.00			

Childminder Grants

No funding awards in Q2 2015/16 for this funding stream.

Training Grants

No funding awards in Q2 2015/16 for this funding stream.

Special Project Funding

No funding awards in Q2 2015/16 for this funding stream.

3.1.4 Quarter 3 Grant Awards

Inclusion Funding

The following awards were made in Quarter 3 of 2015/16:

Childcare Provider	Funding Award	Description	Approved By	Date
Munchkins	£2,750.88	Additional worker to provide additional focussed support for a child's learning & development.	Terry Parkin (Service Head)	4/11/16
Little Unicorns Day Nursery	£1,494.00	Additional support worker to fund two children attending Little Unicorns	Terry Parkin (Service Head)	6/1/16
Lincoln Hall Playgroup	£845.62	1-to-1 support for a child who has difficulties with social communication and	Terry Parkin (Service Head)	6/1/16

		interaction.		
Mudchute Nursery	£1,000.00	Additional practitioner to allow key person to support a child with delay in the development of communication and language skills.	Terry Parkin (Service Head)	6/1/16
Elaine Fairman (Childminder)	£590.00	To purchase a double buggy to enable a childminder to care for a child dependent on oxygen.	Terry Parkin (Service Head)	6/1/16
Headstart Day Nursery	£1,732.50	Additional support worker to support a child with significant communication & language delay.	Terry Parkin (Service Head)	6/1/16
Q3 Sub-Total	£8,413.00			

Childminder Grants

Childcare Provider	Funding Award	Description	Approved By	Date
Gemma Ramzan	£150.00	To support a new childminder in setting up their provision and registering with PACEY	Terry Parkin (Service Head)	11/1/16
Juliana Asajeviciene	£150.00	To support a new childminder in setting up their provision and registering with PACEY	Terry Parkin (Service Head)	11/1/16
Q3 Sub-Total	£300.00			

Training Grants

No funding awards in Q3 2015/16 for this funding stream.

Special Project Funding

No funding awards in Q3 2015/16 for this funding stream.

3.1.5 Quarter 4 Grant Awards

Inclusion Funding

The following awards were made in Quarter 4 of 2015/16:

Childcare Provider	Funding Award	Description	Approved By	Date
Noah's Ark Nursery	£410.00	The purchase of a support chair for a child with Microcephaly.	Terry Parkin (Service Head)	January 2016
Barkantine Community Nursery	£540.00	1-to-1 support for a child who has delay in speaking and social	Terry Parkin (Service Head)	March 2016

		communication which is impacting his interaction with others.		
Vernon Pre School Playgroup	£450.00	To support a child with who has a very immature swallow action and as a result needs one-to-one support with eating and drinking.	Terry Parkin (Service Head)	March 2016
Q4 Sub-Total	£1,400			

Childminder Grants

The following awards were made in Quarter 4 of 2015/16:

Childcare Provider	Funding Award	Description	Approved By	Date
Anne Oldfield	£150.00	To support the childminder in setting up their childcare provision, cover essential Public Liability Insurance costs/Tool kit of relevant document/Fire Blanket also provide membership to PACEY	Terry Parkin (Service Head)	February 2016
Q3 Sub-Total	£150.00			

Training Grants

No funding awards in Q3 2015/16 for this funding stream.

Special Project Funding

No funding awards in Q3 2015/16 for this funding stream.

3.2 Early Years capital funding for two-year-old places

Through the Early Learning for 2 year olds programme (EL2), all local authorities in England have a statutory duty to ensure the provision of free part-time early education for the 20% most disadvantaged two-year olds from September 2013 and the 40% most disadvantaged two-year olds from September 2014.

The offer is for 570 hours of free early education for each eligible two year old. If taken over 38 weeks in a year, this represents 15 hours per week. The policy is an extension to the existing universal entitlement for three and four year olds.

In Tower Hamlets 2,145 children are eligible for an Early Learning for Two Year Olds place. At the end of December 2015, just short of 1000 children were in placements. However, this level of take-up of places still means that Tower Hamlets has one of the lowest levels in terms of percentage take-up. So much work still needs to be done to ensure that as many children as possible are benefiting from this offer.

An allocation of £1.3m capital funding was awarded by the DfE to allow the borough to support childcare providers in adapting, extending and potentially opening new premises in order to increase the number of places available for funded two year olds. The EL2 Capital Global Works Programme was approved by Cabinet on 10th of April 2013.

As Councils had been block funded for the revenue they received for the DfE, and many Councils were not meeting their placement targets, the DfE made it known that they would support revenue contributions to capital from revenue underspends. In light of this a £2.5m revenue contribution to capital from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) was proposed to and approved by Schools' Forum. This was then ratified by the DfE in June 2014 thereby increasing the EL2 Capital funding budget to £3.8m.

The awarding of funding to new projects was stopped in 2014 pending agreement of a funding process. The process was agreed by Commissioners at their meeting on 27th May 2015.

The EL2 Capital Programme Management Group has been working to develop potential capital projects with partners from the private and voluntary sector to increase the number of childcare places available for two-year olds funded through the EL2 programme.

We are currently working on 21 projects of which we are confident will be delivered. These projects will provide 795 two-year-old places and a further 319 three-year-old places at a cost of £2.29m. Other projects are being worked on but are still at a very early stage and we cannot be confident that they will go ahead.

The places being created are in relatively small individual projects by a range of providers, and the providers have different levels of experience in carrying out capital projects. Many of the projects are not within the Council's control; in these cases we are awarding grants to childcare providers in non-council buildings. These factors increase the complexity and risks to the programme.

There have been some delays in individual projects. In many of the projects in LBTH buildings lease issues have arisen, which has delayed implementation. There have also been issues around commissioning in other cases. In non-LBTH building projects a number of problems have resulted in delays. Examples are: the contractor going out of business, budget estimates being well under tender amounts resulting in redesign to bring costs down, providers changing projects they wish to do, failed planning applications. Project management arrangements are in place to minimise the delays as far as possible.

The following tables show:

Expenditure on each approved project to date

Funding award to approved projects, project description and progress to date.

Early Years Capital Expenditure on 2yo Projects

Childcare Provider Name & Project	Expenditure Full Year	Expenditure Full Year	Expenditure Q1	Expenditure Q2	Expenditure Q3	Expenditure Q4	Total expenditure	Total Project Expenditure
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2015/16	2015/16	2015/16	2015/16	
Global Kids – Burdett Rd	42,365	-	-	-	-	-	-	42,365
Selective Learning – Winterton House	80,474	45,807	-	-	-	-	-	126,281
City Gateway – Gateway Tots Mastmaker Court	-	-	-	-	-	18,241	18,241	18,241
Lincoln Hall – Fern Street	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Date Palm	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
LBTH- White Horse One O'clock Club	-	-	7,186	2,083	865	73,107	83,241	83,241
Calvary Charismatic Baptist Church – Calvary Pre-School	-	-	-	34,130	-	-	34,130	34,130
Global Kids – Limehouse	-	-	-	-	11,913	-	11,913	11,913
Harmony @ Account 3 – Birkbeck Street	-	-	-	20,777	40,203	-	60,980	60,980
Somali Integration Team – Chicksand Playgroup	-	-	-	-	34,782	36,440	71,222	71,222
Ocean Somali Community Association- Mile End Rd	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Early Years Network Tower Hamlets – Weavers Pre-School	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Limehouse Project	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
St Matthias Community Centre	-	-	-	-	-	21,790	21,790	21,790
LBTH – Bethnal Green Gardens	-	-	-	-	505	15,269	15,774	15,774
City Gateway - Hind Grove	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	122,839	45,807	7,186	56,990	88,268	164,847	317,291	485,937

Early Years Capital 2yo Projects

Childcare Provider Name & Project	EL2 Capital Funding Awarded	Childcare Provider Match Funding	Total Project Costs	New EL2 Places Created	Total Childcare Places Created	Approved by	Approval date	Project Description and Progress
Global Kids – Burdett Rd	£43,875	£14,625	£58,500	72	100	Service Head / Finance Manager / Chief Legal Officer & Director	Dec-13	Conversion of a newly built site, specifically: the demolition of some walls to improve accessibility and layout; creation of: a new reception area; new children's and adults' WC facilities; a staff office area; installation of: a serving hatch and worktop area in kitchen; a sink for the wet-play area and new floor covering; new storage cupboards; construction of 2 new sheds in the outdoor area. Project was completed in March 2014; setting has been operational since then.
Selective Learning – Winterton House	£153,836	£51,279	£205,115	72	120	Service Head / Finance Manager / Chief Legal Officer & Director	Dec-13	Conversion of an old office building to make it suitable for sessional childcare provision through: the removal of internal partition walls; replacement of flooring; replacement of plumbing, drainage and heating; creation of children's WC's and baby-change areas; replacement of electrics; decoration. Project was completed in July 2014; setting has been operational since then.
City Gateway – Gateway Tots Mastmaker Court	£19,320	£114,900	£134,220	40	62	Service Head / Finance Manager / Responsible Procurement Officer/ Chief Legal Officer & Director	May-14	Contribution towards the preparation and fit out of a self-contained childcare unit with its own dedicated outdoor area, within newly developed building that provides a space for its community-based service provision. Project was completed in August 2014; setting has been operational since then. Payment not made till proper accounts submitted.
Lincoln Hall – Fern Street	£170,000	£75,846	£245,846	55	80	Service Head / Finance Manager / Chief Legal Officer & Director	Dec-13	Alteration and adaptation work within the Fern Street Settlement Centre, specifically: the removal of the existing partitions, to create one large space; to create space for an office for the playgroup; the removal of some of the existing cupboards and new openings formed; new WC and baby-change facilities; new flooring over the existing; and installation of new access doors to the front and rear garden areas. Project has been delayed while lease is being agreed between Fern Street Settlement and LBTH. Draft lease has been issued. Meeting planned with the Settlement to resolve issues.
Date Palm	£19,700	£21,958	£41,658	48	48	Service Head / Finance Manager & Director	Jan-16	Expand and refurbish a space used for 3 and 4 year old children and to prepare the space for the 2 year olds. Works included: removing toilet to create space for installation of nappy changing table, removal of stud wall, opening up and installing an extra door to the toilets, painting, flooring and sound proofing, levelling outdoor path to make suitable for buggies. Project completed - financial monitoring being undertaken.
LBTH- White Horse One O'clock Club	£300,000	-	£300,000	40	60	Cabinet	Sep-15	Enabling project to allow development of the Ocean site for childcare. This project is for a Children's Centre. Project is currently being implemented. Expansion of building with 50% increase in footprint. Creating offices, training room and stay and play/classroom.

Childcare Provider Name & Project	EL2 Capital Funding Awarded	Childcare Provider Match Funding	Total Project Costs	New EL2 Places Created	Total Childcare Places Created	Approved by	Approval date	Project Description and Progress
Calvary Charismatic Baptist Church – Calvary Pre-School	£102,391	£34,130	£136,521	48	80	Service Head / Finance Manager & Director	Jun-15	Conversion work to space within Church site on East India Dock Road, to create sessional childcare facilities. Works include: replacement of doors and entry system and betterment of Entrance/Foyer; creation of large play space through the conversion of 3 separate rooms; betterment of existing WCs; installation of a new disabled WC for parents & disabled access ramp; repairs to the office; landscaping of outdoor area . Project delayed due to contractor going bankrupt; new contractor appointed and project is being implemented.
Global Kids – Limehouse	£14,684	£4,894	£19,578	36	27	Service Head / Finance Manager & Director	Jun-15	Alterations to the provider's current building to allow more funded 2 year olds; works included: removal of an internal wall; fitting of an internal window; installation of internal storage units, CCTV system & air-conditioning system; painting and decorating throughout. Project was completed in and operation since October 2015.
Harmony @ Account 3 – Birkbeck Street	£62,333	£20,000	£82,333	36	60	Service Head / Finance Manager & Director	Jun-15	Internal reworking of a significant proportion of the office and training space within the provider's building to create a new space for sessional childcare provision operating alongside the current full daycare provision. Project was completed in and operational since November 2015.
Somali Integration Team – Chicksand Playgroup	£114,998	£8,000	£122,998	40	56	Service Head / Finance Manager & Director	Jun-15	The refurbishment of an old community club for sessional childcare. Works included: repair/ replacement of doors and frames; creation of children's and staff toilets; replacement of kitchen units, flooring, large cracked window pane; installation of a wet play sink; service and overhaul of roller shutters & window grills; refurbishment of electrics; repair of extraction & ventilation systems and heating & hot water systems. Works have been completed; childcare provision will not commence until lease has been agreed and signed. Negotiations over the terms of the lease are regarding the opening hours, use at weekends and bank holidays. The use of the garden area is also being looked into. The issues are linked to old terms and conditions and the rights of those living in the flats above.
Ocean Somali Community Association- Mile End Rd	£39,147	£13,049	£52,196	24	40	Service Head / Finance Manager & Director	Jun-15	Conversion of a building for sessional childcare provision; the main focus of the works are: upper-ground floor to create an internal area of 48 Sq. Mts. This will provide the primary internal play space for the new facility; construction of staff toilet and baby changing area and two toilets for children; construction of staff room and office. Project was delayed in getting landlord's permission to works; planning application submitted.

Childcare Provider Name & Project	EL2 Capital Funding Awarded	Childcare Provider Match Funding	Total Project Costs	New EL2 Places Created	Total Childcare Places Created	Approved by	Approval date	Project Description and Progress
Early Years Network Tower Hamlets – Weavers Pre-School	£151,137	£50,379	£201,516	48	64	Service Head / Finance Manager & Director	Jun-15	The conversion of space within a community resource centre for sessional childcare provision; specific elements include: demolition works and internal structural works; construction of: a new kitchen area; new WC utility room; mezzanine play area and office space; two outdoor play areas. Tender cost came in well above estimates. Project delayed while works reduced to meet budget, and getting lease arranged with landlord. Lease has now been signed and project is being implemented.
Limehouse Project	£148,311	£34,898	£183,209	40	60	Service Head / Finance Manager & Director	Nov-15	The conversion of a current community space for sessional childcare provision; the main elements of work include: strip out and preparation of the site; refurbishment of: the current staff toilet area; staff kitchen; the construction of new children's toilets; conversion of current crèche, office and meeting room space into one childcare space. Waiting for lease to be agreed with LBTH. Provider wishes for greater consideration to be given to the fact that they are a community group and would like rent lowered because of this.
St Matthias Community Centre	£65,370	£21,790	£87,160	48	96	Service Head / Finance Manager & Director	Nov-15	The main focus of the work is to create childcare facility within the community centre's hall space. Works include creating: two children's toilet/baby changing room; new staff room and office, new outdoor play area in the church backyard; reception at the main door entrance. Started March 2016, completion due end April 2016.
LBTH – Bethnal Green Gardens	£268,860	-	£268,860	40	60	Cabinet	Sep-15	Conversion of an old park rangers' station into childcare space by: demolition and alteration works to convert office into nursery space; construction of a small external extension - within the confines of the existing footprint of the site; and external works- including landscaping, installation and making good of ramp to access the building Contractors chosen through tender process. Works starting April 2016. Completion due September 2016.
City Gateway - Hind Grove	£76,436	£34,403	£110,839	14	26	Service Head / Finance Manager & Director	Mar-16	Conversion of hall in community centre space. Works include: new flooring, wooden panels for lower windows, pipe boxing, privacy film on windows; removal of a partition wall; conversion of toilets to create children's toilets; creation of an outdoor play space; installation of ramps to outdoor play space; creation of additional entrance to rear of property. Funding award approved. Works to start May 2016. Completion July 2016.
TOTAL	£1,750,398	£500,151	£2,250,549	701	1,039			

3.3 Early Years Sector Support (ex-MSG)

Extensions to the Early Years Sector Support previously provided through the MSG programme of 2012/2015 were extended to 31st August 2015 through the DSG.

The Early Years Sector Support was awarded to support voluntary playgroups and to infrastructure support and other early years activities.

The grants to playgroups ended on the 31st August and their funding was replaced by a supplement to the hourly rate for the two-year-old funding, as approved by Schools Forum.

The commissioning process for some grants has not yet been completed and the DSG funding for the six groups concerned (see Infrastructure Support Groups) has been extended until 31st July 2016.

The funding awards made in 2015/2016 are set out in the table below.

Early Years ex-MSG Extension Grants 2015/2016		
Playgroup grants	Burdett Estate Playgroup	2,222
	Mudchute Association	6,796
	Poplar Play Centre	12,778
	Scallywags Playgroup	2,778
	SSBA Community Trust	5,185
	Abertots Playgroup	3,333
	Island House Playgroup	3,372
	Mile End Nursery	3,333
	Lincoln Hall Playgroup	5,926
	Island House Pre-School Playgroup	2,248
	Ranwell Playgroup	6,347
	Allen Gardens Playgroup	5,215
	Avebury Playgroup	6,852
	Brayford Square Playgroup	4,630
	Wapping Playgroup	4,630
	Scallywags Parent Run Nursery	5,000
Jagonari Women's Educational Resource Centre	8,154	
Sub-total Playgroup Grants		88,799
Early Years Infrastructure support grants	Early Years Network Tower Hamlets	100,000
	Hackney Playbus	3,000
	Somali Parent and Children Play Association	8,633
	St Hilda's East Community Centre	8,000
	Toyhouse Libraries Association of Tower Hamlets	35,556
	Tower Hamlets Opportunity Group	54,259
Sub-total Early Years Infrastructure support grants		209,448
Grand Total		298,247

Parachute Payments

To ease transition from the block grant of the MSG to the supplement to the two-year-old funding, parachute payments were agreed by Schools Forum. Payments for last year cover the period from September 2105 to March 2016. A further payment will be made in 2016/17. There will be no further payments after this. A list of payments in 2015/16 is shown below.

Parachute Payments 2015/2016		
Playgroup	Allen Gardens Playgroup	772.69
	Avebury Playgroup	1,030.26
	Brayford Square Playgroup	600.98
	St Francis Family Playgroup	919.57
	Island House Pre-School Playgroup	858.55
	Lincoln Hall Playgroup	915.78
	Munchkins Playgroup	1,030.26
	Poplar Play Centre	858.55
	Rainbow House	1,112.93
	Rainbow Playgroup	801.31
	Ranwell Playgroup	667.76
	Tate House combined	168.53
	THOG	1,748.89
	Vernon Pre-School Playgroup	600.98
	Wapping Playgroup	1,575.96
Total		13,663.00

Infrastructure Support Groups 2012-16

The infrastructure support groups have had their grant awards extended to 31st July 2016. Information on the groups and the service for which the grants were awarded is listed below.

Early Years Network Tower Hamlets

An umbrella organisation for Under 5's groups in the voluntary sector in Tower Hamlets; EYNTH provides information, resources, advice, support and training services for these groups, and works in partnership with the statutory and private sector.

The service funded through the EYS Mainstream Grant 2012-15, extended to July 2016 has been: infrastructure administrative support and advice to approximately 120 providers, including: production and distribution of regular newsletters; running and managing a bulk buy shop of resources; running an annual information and resource day for registered childcare providers and childminders; managing equipment loans or recycling of equipment; providing outreach visits to groups; managing and organising the distribution of small grants of equipment for parent / carer / toddler groups; providing a payroll service and recruitment and staffing support to member groups.

Hackney Playbus

A mobile play project which offers play opportunities on housing estates from a double decker bus.

The service previously funded through the EYS Mainstream Grant 2012-15, extended to July 2016 has been providing play sessions for children under 10 years old from Irish Travellers Community in Eleanor Street.

Somali Parent and Children's Play Association

Provides mobile play activities from various locations within the borough of Tower Hamlets; services are delivered after school hours, weekend and during school holidays. The project focuses on providing children from socially excluded backgrounds with the opportunity to participate in play activities, in particular Somali young children, the majority of whom have never accessed play provision before. The project works closely with parents in order to give them a basic understanding of the positive impacts that play would have on their children's lives.

The service previously funded through the EYS Mainstream Grant 2012-15, extended to July 2016 has been providing play sessions at Mile End Adventure Park for children from ages 8 and 12 years old; designed specifically, but not exclusively, for Somali children with special needs.

St Hilda's East Community Centre

A multi-purpose community centre catering for all sections of the local community offering a wide programme of activities, including: advice services, youth projects, support for parents and pre-school children, work with older people, women's projects, volunteering placement and carers' respite.

The service previously funded through the EYS Mainstream Grant 2012-15, extended to July 2016 has been a crèche and Family Learning for children aged 6 months to 5 years.

Tower Hamlets Opportunity Group

A playgroup and a registered charity that provides a borough wide service situated in Tower Hamlets. The playgroup is for children aged between 2 to 5 years and operates with a criteria that 51% of the children supported have a disability/additional needs.

The service previously funded through the EYS Mainstream Grant 2012-15, extended to July 2016 has been early years support for children with a disability/additional needs.

Toyhouse Libraries Association of Tower Hamlets

Provides a range of play based, supportive services for children and their parents/carers living in Tower Hamlets; including: a mobile toy library service, soft play projects, outreach, drop-in sessions and groups.

Two specific services have previously been funded through the EYS Mainstream Grant 2012-15, extended to July 2016:

- a) **Home Visiting Mobile Toy Library** – taking a stock of toys and play resources, plus bilingual play focused staff into the home of families with pre-school aged children with special needs.
- b) **Soft Play Projects** - Active Play sessions for both children and their parents held at Mile End Play Pavilion

4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 4.1 This report provides an update to Commissioners on how DSG funded Early Years grants have been spent in 2015/16. There are no additional financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

5.1 This report is for noting only advising as to the Early Years Service Grant Funding for 2015/2016 and the funding for these grants is from the Dedicated Schools Grant, which is managed by Schools Forum. There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 N/A

7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT

7.1 N/A

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

8.1. N/A

9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS

9.1 N/A

10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT

10.1 There are no specific efficiency contributions as a result of these funding processes.

11. SAFEGUARDING IMPLICATIONS

11.1 N/A

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- None

Appendices

- None

Background Documents

- None

Officer contact details for documents:

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