Cabinet	TOWER HAMLETS
31 October 2018	
Report of: Zena Cooke, Corporate Director of Resources	**Classification:** Unrestricted
Local Community Fund Programme	

Lead Member	**John Biggs, The Mayor** **Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for** **Resources and the Voluntary Sector**
Originating Officer(s)	**David Freeman** Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy Manager
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Forward Plan Notice Published	n/a
Reason for Key Decision	n/a
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	**All**

Executive Summary

The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy agreed in 2016, sets out the Council's approach to funding the VCS, which is principally focused on co-production delivering outcomes for local people and a more effective use of the limited resources available. In line with this strategic commitment, a new funding programme co-produced with the voluntary sector (currently called 'the Local Community Fund Programme') will succeed the Mainstream Grants programme (MSG) when it ends in September 2019.

This report presents the themes, priorities and outcomes for the proposed new programme co-produced with the VCS. It also sets out budget proposals for the proposed new programme and a timetable for implementation.

The second element of the replacement of MSG is a smaller, more focused, grants programme which will bring together current small grants schemes and some elements of MSG. The proposals for a new grants programme are detailed in a report elsewhere on this agenda.

Recommendations:

The Mayor in Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Agree the structure and outcomes framework for the proposed Local Community Fund programme as set out in the report and Appendix A:

2. Note that the new programme represents a change in the approach to move towards commissioning agreed in March 2018

3. Note the proposals for continued engagement with the voluntary and community sector in the co-design of the programme;

4. Agree the proposed budget allocation as set out in paragraph 3.41 and authorise the Chief Executive to agree funding recommendations made by the independent contractor and enter into the funding agreements and all other documentation.

5. Note the Equalities Impact Assessment / specific equalities considerations as set out in Paragraph 4

1. REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

1.1 The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) Strategy 2016-19, sets out an approach to supporting the VCS through outcomes based funding arrangements for services developed through co-production with the sector rather than traditional grants programmes.

1.2 The Council's Mainstream Grants programme (MSG) ends on 30 September 2019. This report presents a programme of services from the VCS which will help achieve the VCS Strategy commitments and provide a programme of funding for the VCS to replace MSG from 1 October 2019.

1.3 In the light of the feedback from further consultation with VCS organisations since the report 'Community Commissioning Framework' was considered at Cabinet on 20 March 2018, consideration has been given to establishing a process which will maintain the core principles for future funding of the VCS and address the concerns which have been raised by the VCS relating to the potential barriers the commissioning process might pose to small and medium VCS organisations. This is set out in detail in para 3.10 below and the process is set out below in the section, 'Process and Procedures'.

2. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 The Council could decide to cease specific funding directed towards supporting services and activities delivered by VCS organisations. However, the Council agreed in 2016 a VCS Strategy which recognises the unique

place of the VCS in the local community continues the commitment of the Council to supporting services and activities delivered by VCS organisations.

2.2   The Council could decide to continue to fund VCS organisations through a traditional grants programme. If the Council decided to pursue this option it would also fail to meet the commitments made in the VCS Strategy towards developing the good practice which has contributed towards the ending of the Direction of the Council by central government.

2.3   The Council could use the procurement route to commission services in the proposed new funding programme. However, this approach would risk placing barriers in the process for small and medium size organisations which recent dialogue with the VCS has highlighted may have a significant impact.

3.   **DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

3.1   The Council is committed to supporting a vibrant, innovative and sustainable voluntary and community sector in Tower Hamlets which is equipped to deliver activities that are flexible and responsive in meeting complex local needs. These activities will contribute towards achieving the outcomes for local residents set out in the Tower Hamlets Plan and the Council's Strategic Plan. The model of change set out in the Tower Hamlets Plan underpins the principles of new VCS funding proposals with a focus on outcomes and assets rather than prescriptive solutions, prevention through early intervention and greater integration of services.

3.2   The funding proposals also reflect the vision set out in the VCS Strategy committing the Council to working towards achieving,
        "*an independent and sustainable voluntary and community sector, working closely with the Council and partners to meet the needs of local people wherever they live in the borough*".

3.3   Since 2008, in England and Wales, local authority support for small and medium size charities has fallen nationally by 44% (Lloyds Foundation report "*Small and Medium Size Charities After the Crash*").   In this context, Tower Hamlets has been one of the local authorities which have striven to maintain support for local VCS organisations and, through a focus on building the capacity of the sector, encouraged expansion and growth. The VCS Strategy sets out the total level of support to the sector through grants, rate relief and service contracts amounting to £59m, including £24m support to housing associations for services such as supported accommodation. In this context the MSG programme of £3m is a comparatively small proportion of the total financial support to the sector but it provides an important source of funding to the small and medium size VCS organisations and helps leverage other funding sources for the borough.

3.4   The two VCS funding programmes, Local Community Fund and VCS Grants (which is reported elsewhere on this agenda) continue the Council's commitment to local VCS organisations and present a new approach to

funding the sector focused on co-production delivering outcomes for local people and a more effective use of the limited resources available.

3.5   The framework rationale and approach for the proposed Local Community Fund programme which has been developed in co-production with the VCS was agreed by the Mayor in Cabinet on 20th March 2018.

3.6   The report in March 2018 set out the rationale for moving from a traditional grant based programme of support to the VCS towards a new funding approach which reflects the development of good practice in open and transparent funding of services from the VCS required by the Commissioners. As previously noted, this commitment to implementing change has contributed towards the lifting of the Direction by the government. In particular, the proposals for the Local Community Fund programme put in place robust governance and the separation of officer and Member responsibilities which the LGA Peer Review recognised as good practice and as a safeguard against some of the issues which gave rise to the Direction imposed by Secretary of State in 2014.

3.7   The report to Cabinet in March also reiterated the commitments from the VCS Strategy to ensure the unique role of VCS organisations in delivering public services is recognised and understood, that VCS organisations are equipped to participate and that the monitoring is appropriate to the levels of funding and complexity of the service.

3.8   The key principles of the proposed Local Community Fund programme are the same as those for the Community Commissioning programme and were set out in the report in March 2018. They are:

   a. The programme will be a new range of services funded by the Council and co-produced with the VCS. The time available before the new programme starts allows an opportunity to ensure it takes into account good practice and learning from current MSG provision in deciding what should be funded in future.
   b. The programme will, as far as possible, operate as a single coordinated entity, with a coherent approach to funding and common approach to the programme's outputs and outcomes across the different themes for delivery.
   c. The programme is being developed with consideration of the new Council Grants Policy (elsewhere on this agenda) and existing strategic priorities. This maximises impact and avoids funding overlap, as well as supporting the delivery of the Tower Hamlets Plan and Strategic Plan
   d. The proposed new programme will fit with the Council's wider Commissioning Framework and Co-production Framework recommendations, currently being developed.
   e. The programme will adopt an outcomes based approach, allowing organisations to build on local knowledge, skills and expertise and have the flexibility to undertake the activities which have the most impact.

f. The proposed new programme is intended to stimulate greater and more effective support in tackling local issues. This principle will inform the determination of the programme budget.

g. The bidding process will be transparent and fair.

3.9 The co-production process has continued and in June 2018 the Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee decided to extend the current MSG programme to 30 September 2019 to allow more time for discussions to develop the shape of the final programme.

3.10 Since June there have been a number of discussions with the VCS about the proposals for the Community Commissioning programme including dialogue between leading Members and a range of VCS organisations. The feedback to Members and officers from the VCS has highlighted concerns about potential barriers for small and medium size local VCS organisations to getting access to the new funding programme. In particular, concerns have been expressed about the process for commissioning and whether the requirements of a commissioning process may be applied proportionately.

3.11 The way forward for future funding set out in the 2016 VCS Strategy describes a move away from traditional grant funding except in specific circumstances towards a funding regime which is:

a) Developed through co-production;
b) Outcomes focused;
c) Fair, open and transparent;
d) Proportionate to the levels of funding available, and
e) Achieves best value for local residents.

3.12 In the light of the feedback from this further consultation with VCS organisations consideration has been given to establishing a process which will maintain the core principles for future funding of the VCS and address the concerns which have been raised by the VCS. This process is set out below in the section, 'Process and Procedures'.

Themes, Priorities and Outcomes Framework

3.13 The proposed structure of the proposed new programme is summarised in Figure 1 below. It focusses on five core themes for the programme and for each of those themes a number of key priorities have been identified through the co-production work with the VCS and other partners.

Figure 1
Themes and Priorities

Theme	Priority
Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing	Increase access to Youth Services
	Provision of Early Help support to families
	Support for young carers
	Ageing well and reducing social isolation
	Residents better informed to make healthier choices
	Increased engagement in physical activity
	Residents better informed/equipped to manage health conditions
	Improved health outcomes for disabled people
	Provision of physical and health-promotion activities for older people
	People suffering with mental health issues are better supported
Digital Inclusion and Awareness	Access to ICT support and training for older people
	Children/ young people safety online
	Digital skill development for children and young people
	Improving health and wellbeing facilitated through digital platforms
Information and Advice	Provision of Social Welfare Advice
Employment and skills	Promoting ethical employer practices to focus on improving employment and progression opportunities for disadvantaged people, with an emphasis for employers on improving business productivity.
	Enterprise Support for Women
	Reducing barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups
	Employment skills for vulnerable young people who are NEET
	Employment and skills for young people at risk of achieving poor outcomes
	Support focused on increasing access to art and cultural industries
	Employment and volunteering opportunities for older people
Community safety	Reduction in the exploitation of children and young people, and vulnerable groups
	Improving the perception of young people in the community
	Services for people affected by domestic violence

3.14   One of the main objectives of the proposed new programme is to identify those areas where VCS organisations can best contribute towards achieving the outcomes of the Tower Hamlets Plan and the Council's Corporate Plan. The structure of the programme therefore sets out priorities identified in the co-production process where the VCS can contribute most effectively.

3.15   The outcomes framework sets out key high level outcomes for each priority which service specifications will be developed for. These are set out in detail in Appendix A.

3.16   The principle of the 'golden thread' may be applied to the proposed new programme so that each outcome can be linked back through the priority and theme to the Council's Strategic Plan priorities and the borough wide priorities set out in the Tower Hamlets Plan.

3.17   The programme is structured to reflect the cross cutting nature of the themes. Unlike its predecessor, MSG, the proposed new programme is not organised on a directorate basis but, instead, includes priorities for different directorates under each thematic heading. The chart at Appendix A indicates the outcomes and examples of service area which relate to each directorate.

3.18   The proposed new programme reflects a desire to build on the positive outputs of many service areas currently funded through MSG with new outcomes focused services. However, it also includes priorities in new service areas where VCS organisations could potentially have a significant impact. These include community safety, where VCS organisations already have a track record of success, and digital inclusion and awareness, where VCS organisations' reach into parts of the community which may not traditionally engage with mainstream services is recognised as being of particular value.

3.19   The framework for each of the themes will be used to develop specifications for services to deliver the outcomes identified. As detailed in below, it is intended that, as far as possible, the co-production process will continue with VCS organisations working closely with the lead officers for each theme to develop the service specifications.

Consultation

3.20   The new VCS funding programme has been developed in line with the emerging corporate co-production framework. This has brought together VCS organisations, service leads and partner organisations to develop the themes, priorities and outcomes framework of the programme.

3.21   During the development of the programme since last January there have been five co-production workshops attended by over 140 individual participants from the VCS and council services.   Of these individuals, approximately 100 attended more than one event.

3.22 In addition to workshop sessions the Council has offered the opportunity for individual conversations through open 'surgery' sessions which have been attended by two organisations. There have also been four meetings with groups of organisations representing a service area.

3.23 Throughout the process there has been emphasis on reaching organisations and networks which may not be engaged already in co-production and funding. Accepting that there will be some duplication, it is estimated the promotion of the co-production process reached over 1,500 addresses including faith based organisations, TRAs, community based groups representing people with protected equalities characteristics and others that may not normally engage in more mainstream VCS networks.

3.24 The draft programme which was developed has also been discussed with service leads within the Council and agreed by directorate leadership teams.

3.25 The outcome of the consultation process is the programme which is presented in this report, setting out the themes, priorities and high level outcomes for the Local Community Fund. The dialogue with the VCS also provides the basis for the move towards a more accessible process and procedures for the administration of the programme than that previously anticipated in reports to Cabinet.

Process and Procedures

3.26 The proposed new programme will be published as a prospectus setting out the agreed themes, priorities and outcomes framework. The prospectus will include:

    a. The Local Community Fund principles and framework;

    b. General guidance for proposals, deadlines and process;

    c. Criteria, requirements and quality standards;

    d. Assessment process, scoring system and weightings;

    e. Training opportunities;

    f. Example 'light touch' contract, and

    g. Service specifications.

3.27 Service specifications will reflect the principles of co-production and co-design of services. They will also be designed on the principles of outcomes focus rather than the more traditional, prescriptive outputs and input models. The specifications will therefore set out:

    a. The context of the specification, theme and priority within the programme that it relates to and the high level outcomes;

b. The detailed medium term outcomes which proposals are required to achieve;

c. The requirements for appropriate local focus and how organisations might be expected to achieve these, and

d. The requirements for co-design involving service users throughout the life of the agreement to ensure the activities continue to meet the needs of local people.

3.28 The requirements set out in the specifications will be proportionate to the value of the service.

3.29 The proposed term funding term is to 31 March 2023, a period of 42 months.

3.30 The Local Community Fund is also focused on co-production as a way of harnessing local knowledge and expertise of all stakeholders to design and deliver quality services that meet the priority needs of the community. Organisations will therefore have flexible agreements and, as detailed above, a requirement to involve service users and local people in service development over the life of the agreement to ensure they continue to meet priority needs.

3.31 It is proposed that the assessment and evaluation of the proposals submitted by VCS organisations will be managed externally through a contract with a third party provider. This contract will be managed corporately through the Strategy, Policy and Performance Division.

3.32 The Council will determine in consultation with the VCS the criteria, governance, management and quality standard requirements and a scoring scheme for the programme which will be published in the prospectus and which the external provider will be required to use. The Council may also specify requirements relating to its statutory equalities duties.

3.33 The external provider will be required to provide an objective assessment and evaluation of the proposals submitted based on the agreed process and scoring scheme. The external provider will then provide the Council with a schedule of funding recommendations based on the scoring scheme and a schedule of proposals which are not recommended with reasons.

3.34 It is proposed that ratification of the recommendations from the external provider be delegated to the Chief Executive. The outcome of the equality impact assessment of the final programme will be taken into consideration by the Chief Executive in making the final decisions on funding individual services.

3.35 The funding decisions will be reported to the Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub Committee.

3.36 Monitoring and evaluation arrangements will be put in place which are proportionate but will ensure the achievement of outcomes and performance

indicators is regularly monitored and reported to Members. An annual report on support to the VCS will be presented to the Mayor in Cabinet which will include a report on the Local Community Fund programme.

Budget allocation

3.37   The proposed budget allocation to the Local Community Fund Programme is £2.66m. This is based on maintaining the current level of expenditure for MSG themes 1, 2 and 3. It does not include theme 4, Third Sector Organisation Development, which will form part of the new corporate grants programme budget.

3.38   A commitment to maintain current levels of expenditure on VCS services in a period of financial challenge for the Council reflects the value placed on projects provided by the sector as set out in the VCS Strategy and the longer term benefits to local residents of maintaining a dynamic and effective VCS. Underspend and some undercommitment in the existing MSG budget allows some savings to be made while maintaining actual expenditure. The anticipated savings amount to approximately £180,000, 6% of the current budget.

3.39   The proposed new programme themes include two areas, Community Safety and Digital Awareness and Inclusion, which were not explicitly included in the MSG programme. An allocation has been made to each of these themes based on a reallocation of 10% of the available budget.

3.40   The co-production exercise also highlighted the increasing need for information and advice and the role VCS providers can play in delivering quality services to communities through both generic services and specialist targeted activity. It is therefore proposed that the overall allocation to the Information and Advice theme is increased by 10%.

3.41   The proposed allocation of the £2.66m annual budget for each theme is set out below in figure 2. There may be some slight variation in the final allocations to each theme as more detailed work is taken forward to develop the individual specifications. Spend will be reported on as part of the monitoring and evaluation process for the programme.

Figure 2
Budget Allocation

	Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing	Employment and Skills	Community Safety	Digital Inclusion	Information and Advice	Total
	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000	£,000
Theme Total	990	435	195	60	980	2,660

3.42 The cost of external assessment of the proposals made by VCS organisations will be funded separately. The cost of external assessment of the current MSG programme was approximately £24,000.

Capacity Building

3.43 The change to outcomes based funding will present a challenge to many local VCS organisations, particularly smaller groups which have little or no previous experience. An element of the co-production process was determining the type of support and training organisations may need and, from this a training programme has been developed. It will include:

- How to present an effective proposal
- Developing partnerships and consortia
- Outcomes based funding
- Developing co-production with users
- Technical support on the use of the on line process

3.44 The capacity building programme will be delivered in partnership with THCVS and other local infrastructure organisations. It will be promoted through the Council's communications channels and through THCVS and the various theme networks within the VCS. There will be particular emphasis on promotion with local organisations which may not normally engage in mainstream VCS networks.

3.45 The Council will not require VCS organisations to work in formal partnerships or consortia but, recognising the added value this may bring and the potential benefits to smaller organisations, these arrangements are encouraged where appropriate. Effective consortia and partnerships take time to build and there will be opportunities for organisations to come together post funding award to develop more formal partnership arrangements.

Premises issues

3.46 Approximately 70 Council owned premises are occupied or partially occupied by VCS organisations. There is therefore the potential for many to successfully bid for Local Community Fund. In order to ensure fairness in the process, organisations will be expected to include in their costings the cost of accommodation for the proposed services. For some this will be the full cost of premises but for the majority it is likely to be only a proportion of these costs.

3.47 There is a risk that, by trying to ensure fairness in the funding process, the Council may create a situation where some of the Local Community Fund budget is simply returned to the Council through rent payments. To mitigate

what would, in effect, be an unintended reduction in Council support to VCS services, a budgetary adjustment will be made to the Local Community Fund budget to ensure the net effect is neutral.

Next Steps

3.48   The next round of engagement with the VCS will commence in November with a series of workshops for each theme in the programme to develop the specifications for services which will contribute towards the agreed priorities and outcomes.

3.49   The table below sets out an indicative timescale to ensure that new services are in place by 1 October 2019.

Nov - Jan	Co-design of service specifications
Feb	Finalisation of prospectus
Mar - Apr	Programme open
May - Jun	Evaluation of proposals
July	Awards
Jul - Sept	Mobilisation

3.50   Awarding funding in the summer will also allow time for MSG funded services to manage the transition to the Local Community Fund. For some this may be redesigning an existing service to meet the new specification. For others it may be the orderly wind down to a different level or cessation of service. Details of how such arrangements may be implemented are set out below.

MSG Transitional Arrangements

3.51   There will be activities currently funded through MSG which will not be funded through the Local Community Fund. Some of these may be significant, good quality services which no longer meet highest priority needs but which are, none the less, important in their communities. The Council recognises that in any period of change it is important to ensure that this happens in a managed, orderly way and that as far as possible any adverse impact on organisations and their service users is mitigated.

3.52   To reduce the impact of change the Council will:

   a.   Support a programme of capacity building to increase organisations' chance of bidding successfully, provided by THCVS, the Council and other providers;

   b.   Give as much notice as possible when decisions are made to give organisations the opportunity to adjust to their new funding levels;

   c.   Make available, through THCVS and other partners as appropriate, a programme of support available in advance of the end of MSG to help VCS organisations in the transition from MSG to either alternative funding or an orderly change in the level of service;

d. Work with organisations to seek alternative provision for service users where a service is significantly reduced or comes to an end;

e. Introduce a VCS Grants programme and link to other funders to provide funding opportunities for organisations to meet new and emerging needs and develop new ways of tackling existing needs, and

f. Retain the Emergency Fund to help organisations meet the costs of transition, particularly those directly linked to lower levels of revenue funding.

3.53 The support offered to organisations facing significant change and possible cessation of service will be a major element of the Council's proposed mitigation of potential disproportionate negative impact on people with protected equalities characteristics.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The proposed structure of the Local Community Fund programme provides opportunities to fund services and activities for people with protected equalities characteristics previously supported by MSG services. At this stage no disproportionate adverse impact has been identified. The cross cutting themes of the Local Community Fund should ensure that opportunities for a positive impact for people with protected equalities characteristics are maximised.

4.2 Until decisions are made on funding specific services it is not possible to predict precisely the impact of the change from MSG funding to the Local Community Fund. However, it is inevitable that in any change there are winners and losers. It is therefore important to have measures in place to mitigate any potential disproportionate impact. The measures planned are set out in para 3.51 above:

4.3 A continuous process of impact analysis will be carried out for the Local Community Fund programme funding as decisions are made.

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.

5.2 Risk Management

Uncertainty will have an impact on staff morale in organisations currently funded through MSG. There is therefore a risk of the loss of experienced and skilled staff who seeks alternative employment if they perceive that their future employment is insecure. Timely decision making by the Council will mitigate the potential impact of this risk, particularly ensuring that funding decisions are made in advance of MSG funded organisations issuing protective redundancy notices to staff at the end of the funding.

5.3   Crime Reduction

The specific theme relating to Crime and Disorder will ensure that through the Local Community Fund new services will be delivered to reduce crime and disorder. The priorities for the theme are:

a)   People affected by domestic violence;
b)   Exploitation of children, young people and vulnerable groups, and
c)   The perception of young people in the community.

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 Local Community Fund 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 details the progress to date and next steps in developing the new local community fund programme that will replace the current mainstream grants programme. This work has been carried out through existing resources within the (Strategy, Policy, Performance) SPP team.

6.2   Details on budget allocation are provided in section 3.41 above. The current MSG budget totals £3.2m per annum. It is proposed that £2.66m of this will be channelled through the local community fund programme and potential savings of £180k are proposed, arising from resources not previously allocated and which therefore does not impact on existing approved programmes. This will be considered as part of the Council's 2019/20 budget proposals

7.   **COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

7.1   The Council has the legal power to fund organisations in the manner referred to in this report as it relates to the carrying out of various functions of the Council.

7.2   The Council also has the legal duty to ensure that the functions it delivers and therefore any contracts it enters into for the delivery of those functions represent Best Value having regard to the Efficiency, Effectiveness and Economy of those services.

7.3   The Council is legally bound by the general European principles of fairness openness and non-discrimination in the conduct of its business. The report describes that the Council is voluntarily following a number of aspects of a tendering regime in order to ensure that high levels of probity and transparency are maintained. This also has the effect that the Council will be abiding by these European principles as well as demonstrating that the Council is achieving Best Value by awarding funding to bids which under the bidding procedure are determined as being the most economically advantageous when assessed against the pre-published evaluation criteria detailed in the prospectus and or other accompanying information.

7.4   The bids will be evaluated by an organisation contracted to the Council for this purpose. The contractor and will be sourced using a competitive tender allowing the Council to comply with procurement and Best Value legal obligations.

7.5   The Executive has vested the decision making power relating to grants in the Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-committee. However, there is no legal definition of a grant. Therefore, the delegation to enter into the funding agreements should also be sought from the Grants Determination Sub-committee to ensure compliance with the Council's current constitution.

7.6   At this stage there are no specific legal equalities issues although the scheme overall has been assessed generally for equalities impacts. Also, at points throughout the scheme the Council has planned in assessments of the overall decisions made by the Chief Executive to ensure that the Council continues to abide by its Equality Act duties. However, further equalities consideration will take place when the specifications for the agreements are created.

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Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report
   * Cabinet 20 March 2018 'Community Commissioning Programme Framework Report'

Appendices
   * Appendix A – Local Community Fund Programme Outcome Framework

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012
   * NONE

Officer contact details for documents: N/A

Theme	Priority	Outcomes	Directorate	Examples of activity
Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing	Increase access to Youth Services	• Increased usage of youth services by girls and young women (Youth and Commissioning)	Children	• Activities to increase engagement with youth services for girls and young women (Youth and Commissioning)
	Provision of Early Help support to families	• Improvement in Early Help Assessment outcomes (Youth and Commissioning)	Children	• Support for families who require specialist early help support (Youth and Commissioning)
	Support for young carers	• Improved health and wellbeing for young carers (Children's Social Care)	Children	• Support provision for young carers (Children's Social Care) • Peer support (Children's Social Care)
	Ageing well and reducing social isolation	• Older people feel they are able to continue making a positive contribution to their communities (Ageing Well) • Tower Hamlets becomes a recognised dementia-friendly community (Ageing Well) • More older people with dementia 'live well' (Ageing Well) • Fewer older people feel lonely, less often (Ageing Well) • More older people access services that provide support in their local neighbourhoods (Ageing Well) • Increase engagement in meaningful relationships in care homes (Public Health) • Increased meaningful intergenerational contact (Public Health) • People over 50 feel a greater connection to their community (Ideas Store)	HAC/ Resources/ Children	• Intensive support to provide volunteering opportunities to older people (Ageing Well) • Formation of a Tower Hamlets Dementia Action Alliance Ageing Well) • Befriending services for older people (Ageing Well) • Older People's Peer Support Groups (Ageing Well) • Older People's Lunch Club services (Ageing Well) • Intergenerational programme for older adults and children (Public Health) • Provision of events, programmes that support interaction and integration (Ideas Store) • Cross generational projects targeted at services supporting people with dementia and those suffering from social isolation (Ageing Well/Public Health/VCS)
	Residents better informed to make healthier choices	• Increased engagement with community farms and community projects (Sports, Culture and Leisure) • Positive impact on health and wellbeing (Sports, Culture and Leisure) • Reduce social isolation (Sports, Culture and Leisure)	Children	• Promotion of healthy outdoor activity and interaction with animals and plants through supporting local urban farms and growing schemes (Sports, Culture and Leisure)
	Increased engagement in physical activity	• Increasing physical activity in the highlighted under-represented groups and improving health outcomes (Sports, Culture and Leisure) • Increase the proportion of children and young people that achieve the weekly minimum level of physical activity and develop an active lifestyle as a habit (Sports, Culture and Leisure) • The sport and physical activity sector deliver interventions that meets the needs of local residents (Sports, Culture and Leisure) • Improved cohesion through participation in sport and physical activity (Sports, Culture and Leisure) • Improved mental health and reduced social isolation through participation in sport and physical activity (Sports, Culture and Leisure) • Improve the quality of the local physical activity and sport offer, offering opportunities for participation for the inactive and less active across a wide variety of disciplines (Sports, Culture and Leisure)	Children	• Local groups self-organising to deliver physical activity to meet their own needs; and the VCS, residents, and the Council working together to design the borough's physical activity and sports offer (Sports, Culture and Leisure) • Sport activities which encourage people from different groups to come together (Sports, Culture and Leisure)
	Residents better informed/equipped to manage health conditions	• Improved personal management of conditions • Improved knowledge, skills and confidence to manage personal health and care • Improved physical functioning and ability to self-care • Improved quality of life	HAC	• Independent Holistic Care and Support planning/ Peer coaching focused on Multi-disciplinary teams • Facilitated peer support • One-to-one support to help residents live healthier lifestyles and change behaviours
	Improved health outcomes for disabled people	• Adults with complex needs have better health outcomes (Mental Health) • The life expectancy for people with learning disability will steadily improve (Mental Health)	HAC	• Improved support provision for people with learning disabilities (Mental Health) • Specialist provision for residents with disabilities (VCS)
	Provision of physical and health-promotion activities for older people	Older people are healthier and more active (Ageing Well)	HAC	• Tai Chi recognised by Public Health England as cost-effective method to combat falls (Ageing Well) • Canoeing as intergenerational project, using Tower Hamlets' canal assets (Ageing Well)
	People suffering with mental health issues are better supported	• Increase in number of residents suffering with mental health being supported by a peer (Mental Health) • Increase in self-referrals to relevant support services (Mental Health/Ideas Store) • Residents are informed of where to access help in a crisis (Public Health)	HAC/ Resources	• Support recovery in the community and prevent relapse • Peer support for people with mental health diagnoses (Mental Health) • Suicide prevention activities (Public Health/VCS) • Programmes that support mental wellbeing through arts and literature (Ideas Store) • Training for front-line VCS staff in mental health first aid and suicide prevention. (Public Health)
Digital Inclusion and Awareness	Access to ICT support and training for older people	• Older people feel more informed and digitally included (Ageing Well)	HAC	• ICT support services for older people, including training/phone-in/drop-in assistance (Ageing Well) • Digital buddying (VCS)
	Children/ young people safety online	• Children/young people and families are aware of potential dangers online and implement suitable prevention measures	Children	• Children/young people and families taught how to be safe online
	Digital skill development for children and young people	• Increased awareness of careers in the digital sector • Children and young people have the opportunity to develop the skills for the digital sector	Children	• Partnership working with schools • 'Hackathon' events
	Improving health and wellbeing facilitated through digital platforms	• Increase in self-management/self-reliance/ confidence/ health literacy (Public Health)	HAC	• Activities to support community groups to become digitally enabled (Public Health/VCS) • Development and access to digital platforms supporting improved health and wellbeing (Public Health)

Theme	Priority	Outcomes	Directorate	Examples of activity
Information and Advice	Provision of Social Welfare Advice	• Increased access to social welfare advice and income from benefits (Resources) • Improved personal budgeting, financial stability and reduction in personal debt (Resources) • Reduction in the number of people negatively impacted by welfare reforms and housing repossessions (Resources) • Individuals are more informed about their legal rights and housing options (Resources) • Increased employment security (Resources) • Increase proportion of older people maximise their income (Ageing Well) • Increased engagement of older people with social welfare advice services (Ageing Well)	Resources/HAC	• Provision of benefits and welfare advice services (Ageing Well • Personal budgeting • Specialist advice to address debts • Activities to support the development, quality and integration of social welfare advice services • Housing advice • Advice provision covering: Immigration and asylum, Employment rights, Education Rights, Homelessness, Housing disrepair, Welfare benefit for disabled people, Domestic Violence, Tenants' rights, and Specialist rights and representation.
Employment and skills	Promoting ethical employer practices to focus on improving employment and progression opportunities for disadvantaged people, with an emphasis for employers on improving business productivity.	• Businesses/employers experience enhanced productivity (Economic Development) • Improved employee retention (Economic Development) • Increased employee progression (Economic Development) • Better employee-employer relations (Economic Development) • Employers better informed of how to support their employees (Economic Development) • Employees feel more comfortable and better supported in the work place (Mental Health) • Increased take-up of relevant support services (Economic Development) • Package of support measures developed for businesses and employees (Economic Development)	Place/HAC	• Activities focused on improving communication, increasing confidence, employers making reasonable adjustments, and mediation between employer and employee (Economic Development) • Activities focused on improving access and sign-posting to relevant services for support in the work place; including for mental health, disabilities, learning difficulties, health, other flexible working needs (Economic Development/Mental Health) • Business/employer ethical working policies developed and embedded (Economic Development) • Ambassadors from business and business support organisations recruited to promote programme (Economic Development) • Strategic indicators developed to test programme (Economic Development)
	Enterprise Support for Women	(No.) of Women owned start ups	Place	• Publicity and recruitment campaign to target audience (Economic Development) • Business development courses specifically for women. Course content including: business planning, defining your market, market research and analysis, marketing strategies, tax requirements, legal structures, pricing, cash flow forecasting, profit and loss forecasting (Economic Development) • Supporting access to sector business networks (Economic Development)
	Reducing barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups	New priority - outcomes to be developed	Place	• Activities focused on supporting disadvantaged groups find employment, including: ex-offenders and homeless people, the long-term unemployed and economically inactive.
	Employment skills for vulnerable young people who are NEET	• Increase in the number of vulnerable young people engaging and accessing provision (Youth and Commissioning)• Reduction in the percentage of young people who are NEET (Youth and Commissioning)	Children	• Employment skills provision for vulnerable young people who are NEET (Youth and Commissioning)
	Employment and skills for young people at risk of achieving poor outcomes	• Increase in educational attainment - post 16 (Education and Partnerships) • Increase in attainment for young people at risk of not reaching their full potential – e.g. white working class (Education and Partnerships)	Children	• Support to improve levels of attainment (Education and Partnerships) • Support to post 16 pupils with SEND (Education and Partnerships) • Access to supported internship (Education and Partnerships)
	Support focused on increasing access to art and cultural industries	• Higher numbers participating in arts activities and schemes that lead to training and employment in the creative sectors (Sports, Culture and Leisure)	Children	• Mixed arts provision for young people and disadvantaged groups (e.g. BAME groups) • Provision of activities focused on skills development for cultural industries (Sports, Culture and Leisure)
	Employment and volunteering opportunities for older people	• Increase in the proportion of older people who feel they are able to continue making a positive contribution in our communities through volunteering (Ageing Well/VCS) • Older people develop employability skills (Ageing Well/VCS) • Older people have more confidence to look for opportunities (Ageing Well/VCS)	Resources/HAC	Provision of activities to support development of employability skills, self-confidence and job seeking (Resources)
Community safety	Reduction in the exploitation of children and young people, and vulnerable groups	• Increase the extent to which young people feel safe (Children's Social Care) • Reduction in the number of children and young people, and vulnerable groups being exploited. (Children's Social Care)	Children	• Activities focused on prevention and entry into gangs (Children's Social Care) • Work with schools (Children's Social Care) • Partnership working (Children's Social Care)
	Improving the perception of young people in the community	New priority - outcomes to be developed	Children	
	Services for people affected by domestic violence	• Increase the extent to which young people affected by DVSA feel safe (Children's Social Care) • Increase the extent to which families affected by domestic violence feel safe (Children's Social Care)	Children	• Activities focused on supporting children affected by domestic violence (Children's Social Care) • Activities focused on supporting families affected by domestic violence (Children's Social Care) • Activities focused on supporting people affected by domestic violence (Children's Social Care)