


<p><b>GDCSC</b></p> <p>3 February 2021</p>	 <p><b>TOWER HAMLETS</b></p>
<p><b>Report of:</b> Sharon Godman, Divisional Director Strategy, policy and performance</p>	<p><b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted</p>
<p><b>Local Community Fund (LCF) Mitigation Actions Update</b></p>	

<b>Lead Member</b>	<b>John Biggs, the Mayor Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources</b>
<b>Originating Officer(s)</b>	David Freeman, Policy and Strategy Manager Robert Mee, Programme Analysis and Review Officer
<b>Wards affected</b>	All wards
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No
<b>Forward Plan Notice Published</b>	
<b>Reason for Key Decision</b>	
<b>Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome</b>	All

### **Executive Summary**

This report provides an update on the proposals for implementing the mitigating actions identified in the equality analysis of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) funding programme, the Local Community Fund agreed at Cabinet on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 including the extension of mainstream grants (MSG) funding to a number of services from 1 October 2019 to 31 March 2020.

## **Recommendations:**

The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the progress relating to the Local Community Fund Equality Analysis Action Plan (EAAP) and equality mitigation actions for services whose Mainstream Grants (MSG) funding came to an end on 30 September 2019 as set out in the report and appendices

## **1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS**

- 1.1 The Mayor in Cabinet agreed on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 a programme of funding through the Local Community Fund for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019, a number of transitional arrangements for organisations funded by the former MSG that will not be funded under the LCF and an action plan to mitigate the impact of the change in funding from MSG to LCF on people with protected equalities characteristics.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on progress in implementing the transition programme and equality mitigation actions

## **2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 2.1 The council could have decided to close the MSG programme without implementing any action to mitigate the impact of closure on people with protected equality characteristics. However, this option could leave the council in breach of its duties under the Equality Act 2010 for failing to implement mitigation for negative impact on people with protected equality characteristics identified in the Equality Analysis relating to the change from MSG to the LCF in funding services provided by VCS organisations.

## **3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The Mayor in Cabinet agreed on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to a programme of funding for voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019, a number of transitional arrangements for organisations currently funded under MSG that will not be funded under the LCF and an action plan to mitigate the impact of the change in funding from MSG to LCF on people with protected equalities characteristics.
- 3.2 Following further consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of matters raised through the call in of these decisions, on 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019 the Mayor confirmed his decisions made on 31<sup>st</sup> July, including the EAAP.

- 3.3 The full list of EAAP actions is set out at Appendix A with timescales and the progress so far. The progress reported to Cabinet on 30 October 2019 is also included for reference where actions have been completed.
- 3.4 Two of the EAAP actions were agreed by the Sub-Committee at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019,
- a. extension of current MSG funding to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 for services in the community language strand of the MSG programme to enable these services to continue until the outcome of the review of the council's community language service (CLS) was known, and
  - b. extension of current MSG funding to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 for the community based services for older people in the lunch club strand of MSG to allow additional time for these services to seek alternative funding through the new Small Grants theme detailed below.
- 3.5 The Mayor decided at the Cabinet meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to set up two new themes in the existing Small Grants Programme as part of the EAAP,
- a. 'Community based facilities for older people' to mitigate the impact of the change for services provided by BAME community led organisations for elders, and
  - b. 'Access and participation' to develop schemes to provide referral gateways for people from BAME communities to mainstream services.
- 3.6 The detailed schemes for these new Small Grants themes were noted by Cabinet at its meeting on 30 October 2019.
- 3.7 The Sub-Committee has received a report on funding decisions made under delegated authority at each of its meetings since November 2019. These reports have included details of awards made through the Small Grants Fund, Contingency Fund and Innovation Fund as part of the EAAP.
- 3.8 The progress on the EAAP actions noted in appendix A show that, since the progress report to Cabinet in October 2019, most of the outstanding actions have been completed or have made significant progress. In particular, services to older people from smaller BAME communities have continued, the small grants programme has supported 16 organisations previously funded through MSG and the transition fund has supported organisations through the change process to adapt their services and seek new sources of funding.
- 3.9 Covid 19 has had an impact on the delivery of the EAAP. Specific actions where Covid 19 has had a direct impact such as the development of sports activities for disabled young people, the new arrangements for the delivery of community language services and day services for older BAME residents, are noted in the progress report. At this stage it is not possible to fully establish the wider impact of Covid 19 on the longer term sustainability of services that have been supported through the EAAP. Most services have tried to adapt to

meet changing circumstances but with the cost of delivering services in a Covid safe way putting additional financial pressure on organisations, many will not be able to achieve the levels of benefit anticipated. Future reports to the Sub-Committee will include more detailed analysis of the impact of Covid 19.

- 3.10 Appendix B sets out the costs related to the EAAP. These costs can be met from existing budgets.
- 3.11 The Sub-Committee received a report on the first six months of the Local Community Fund at its last meeting which included matters included in the EAAP such as the geographic spread of the benefit of the new funding programme. A note of the equalities monitoring of the LCF is attached at appendix C for information. The full LCF monitoring report which sets out in more detail the outcomes of the first six months of LCF funding can be found at,  
<http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ielIssueDetails.aspx?IId=110319&PlanId=0&Opt=3#AI117410>
- 3.12 The data set out in appendix C shows the LCF has exceeded expectations in most areas. In particular,
- The level of benefit to Somali residents is significantly higher proportion than the proportion of the population as a whole;
  - The coverage of services provided by the advice consortium through the LCF is generally proportionate to the indicators of need across the borough with the exception of two wards, Poplar and Bromley North, where officers will be discussing with the advice consortium how low take up of service may be addressed;
  - The proportion of older people benefiting from LCF services is higher than the proportion of the population as a whole;
  - With regard to race, overall, the proportion of residents supported through the LCF is consistent with the proportions within the borough as a whole. The major exception to this is the Bangladeshi population where the proportion of the residents supported through the LCF was significantly higher than the borough population profile, and
  - With over 23.1% of residents that were supported through the LCF identifying as having a disability, it appears that, overall, beneficiaries with disabilities are a much higher proportion of the total number of residents supported by the LCF than the proportion in the wider population of the borough.
- 3.13 However, there are some areas where the impact is unclear or there are indications the impact of LCF funding has not met expectations. Officers will be investigating whether there are specific reasons that can be addressed and reporting back in the next LCF monitoring report. These issues include,

- The proportion of Chinese residents benefiting from the LCF is significantly lower than the proportion of the population as a whole. This may be explained in part by the extension of MSG funding to services for older residents, including the TH Chinese Association, for part of the monitoring period, and
- The proportion of LGB residents supported by the LCF is consistent with the proportion of LGB residents estimated to live in the London region but may be lower than the proportion in Tower Hamlets based on the Public Health England modelling.

#### **4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 A detailed equality analysis was carried out on the change MSG to the new Local Community Fund. This report is primarily concerned with implementing mitigating actions in relation to community language provision and to day services for older people, particularly where this is provided by community based organisations.
- 4.2 The detailed equality analysis can be found at appendix A of the report on the Local Community Fund to Cabinet on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019

#### **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

- a. The process of reviewing and reporting progress on an EAAP is part of the process of demonstrating the council is complying with its public sector equality duties under the Equality Act 2010. Failure to conduct such a review would leave the council open to challenge that it is failing to meet its duties under the Equality Act.

##### 5.3 Crime Reduction

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

#### 5.4 Safeguarding

There are no specific safeguarding implications arising from this report. However, ensuring appropriate consideration is given to safeguarding will be addressed in the development of the 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 notes the progress relating to the Local Community Fund Equality Analysis Action Plan (EAAP) and equality mitigation actions for services whose Mainstream Grants (MSG) funding came to an end on 30 September 2019.

6.2 Details on budget allocation of £1.271m over four years is provided in Appendix B. The total cost of the programme will be fully funded from the MSG budget.

### 7. **COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES**

7.1 The applications to the LCF were assessed and awarded in accordance with the pre-advertised evaluation criteria. The Council complied with its legal obligations in this regard. However, in certain areas individuals who have a protected characteristic for the purposes of the Equality Act 2010 may have been adversely affected by the result of the evaluation and the spread of new schemes under the LCF. The Council was legally obliged to follow the results of the evaluation and could not take this into account in order to alter the LCF evaluation itself.

7.2 However, the Council is legally bound to ensure that persons with a protected characteristic are not disadvantaged when compared with persons who do not have a protected characteristic for the purposes of the Council's Equality Duty. Therefore, this report shows the further actions undertaken by the Council to mitigate any such discriminatory effect on persons with a protected characteristic and demonstrates compliance with the Council's duties in this regard.

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### **Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents**

#### **Linked Report**

NONE

#### **Appendices**

Appendix A Transitional Arrangements and Equality Mitigation Actions  
Appendix B LCF Transition and EA Mitigation Costs  
Appendix C Local Community Fund Annual Report: Equality Analysis

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

- NONE

**Officer contact details for documents:**

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## Transitional Arrangements and Equality Mitigation Actions

Actions Proposed	Timescale	Progress at 30 October 2019	
Notice of decisions	Aug-19	Complete	Complete
Alternative provision for service users where a service is significantly reduced or comes to an end	Aug-Oct 19	Officers from the Voluntary Sector Team are actively engaging with organisations to identify alternative provision for service users where appropriate.	Completed. All organisations that were not successful in their applications for LCF funding to continue MSG funded projects were supported by the VCS Team.
Target and promote new services funded under LCF programme	Aug-Nov 19	Organisations have been asked to engage with the council's social media channels to promote new services.	Complete
Capacity building	Aug 19-Mar 20	Contract in place for Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service (THCVS) support package that includes training sessions, individual support to organisations referred by the council and targeted support, eg Somali groups. Other measures to be delivered by the council commented on below.	THCVS supported 20 organisations previously funded through the MSG programme. Of these, 13 were organisations led by and supporting people with protected equality characteristics. All were allocated a case worker from THCVS to support them in one to one support, signposting to appropriate training and fundraising advice.
Transitional support	Aug – Dec 19	Officers from the Voluntary Sector Team are actively engaging with organisations previously funded through MSG to develop transition action plans for their services. All MSG organisations have been contacted and programme of visits/conversations arranged.	Completed December 2019. However, since that time officers have continued to support individual organisations through the transition fund and ad hoc pieces of targeted work.



		Discussions have been held with 32 former MSG funded organisations. 5 others have offers of support from officers Referral process in place with THCVS. Revised criteria for emergency fund to be proposed at GDCSC in November to include wider scope for transitional funding support.	
VCS Small Grants programme	(ongoing)	Small Grants Programme continues to March 2023. 1st round to be reported to GDCSC in November. 2nd round closed 24th September. Update will be included in GDCSC November report.	16 projects run by MSG funded organisations have been supported through the main themes of the small grants programme in addition to the specific themes mentioned below. Awards made are reported to the Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub Committee as part of the regular report on grant awards made under delegated authority. Details of support for individual organisations may be found in these reports at <a href="http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=812">http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=812</a>
Tower Hamlets Funders Forum and Funders Fairs	Apr-20	Initial discussions held with THCVS and the East End Community Foundation on Funders' Forum Funding Fair managed by THCVS scheduled for March 2020.	This event has been postponed due the Covid 19 restrictions. However, both THCVS and the Council have been publishing regular funding updates to ensure the local VCS is aware of the funding opportunities available to them. These can be found on the council's website at <a href="https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/community_and_living/community_grants/Community_grant_information.aspx">https://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/community_and_living/community_grants/Community_grant_information.aspx</a> .
Tower Hamlets Spacehive programme	(ongoing)	Dedicated officer support in place to develop crowdfunding initiatives, particularly for organisations previously funded through MSG.	Two MSG funded organisations have been successful in their crowdfunding campaigns, Ability Bow for its project 'Disabled people work hard and get fit' and Toynbee Hall for its project 'Make Caves in Mile End Park'.
Retain the Emergency Fund	Aug 19- Mar 21	Retained as part of transition support package. Report to go to GDCSC on 6th November proposing criteria to make it more accessible for transition funding.	Emergency fund provision has been retained and incorporated into the Contingency Fund which includes the emergency fund, transition fund and Covid 19 fund. The transition fund operated until mid 2020 (as detailed in the next action below). The Covid 19 fund has been set up to support organisations that face significant difficulties as a result of the C19 restrictions on their activities. Awards made are reported to the Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub Committee as part of the regular report on grant awards made under delegated authority. Details of support for individual organisations may be found in these reports at <a href="http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=812">http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=812</a>
High risk MSG organisations	Oct/Nov 19	Initial high risk group identified (financial stability) Second group emerging (ongoing commitment to service users) Arrangements in place for referral to THCVS for bespoke support package Potential call on transition fund.	The council set up a transition fund to support former MSG funded organisations through 'bridge funding' to keep services running while applications for eternal funding were being determined or funding for training and support to promote longer term sustainability. Eight awards were made amounting to £69k. The fund is now closed. Individual awards made were reported to the Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub Committee as part of the regular report on grant awards made under delegated authority. Details of support for individual organisations may be found in these reports at <a href="http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=812">http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=812</a>

			Bespoke support has been provided by THCVS as part of the arrangements detailed in action 4 above.
Support organisations facing significant change and possible cessation of service	Ongoing	Capacity building and other transitional arrangements in place as set out above.	Capacity building and other transitional arrangements in place as set out above.
Manage transition of community language services	Mar-20	Agreed extension of funding to 31 March 2020 for projects supported under MSG in the community language theme. Review scheduled to report to Members by the year end.	Following a review of the community language service (CLS), the council decided to support community based providers for the 20/21 academic year through a one off grant scheme designed to help these services become self sufficient. This scheme was not launched because Covid 19 restrictions closed all community language classes.
Maintain participation and access for BAME communities	Apr-20	Include a new theme in the Small Grants Programme relating to access and participation to establish schemes to provide referral gateways for people from BAME communities. Draft out for consultation during September/October. Final scheme to be reported for noting to GDCSC on 6th November	Funding has been awarded to three BAME organisations to support information and support projects. Awards made are reported to the Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub Committee as part of the regular report on grant awards made under delegated authority. Details of support for individual organisations may be found in these reports at <a href="http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=812">http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=812</a>
Support for community led older peoples services, particularly those led by BAME communities	Apr-20	Include a new theme in the Small Grants Programme to support projects which combat social isolation of older people, particularly in BAME communities, through community based services which will be reviewed over time in the context of the development of the council's review of day care for older people. Draft out for consultation during September/October. Final scheme to be reported for noting to	Eight BAME led organisations were awarded funding in this theme to provide support services for older people in their communities. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, these services have been provided through individual support to residents but it is anticipated that those based on support in group settings and day activities will resume when C19 restrictions are eased and it is safe for them to do so. Awards made in this small grants theme are reported to the Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub Committee as part of the regular report on grant awards made under delegated authority. Details of support for individual organisations may be found in these reports at <a href="http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=812">http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=812</a>

		GDCSC on 6th November	
Provision for young people's mental health	Dec-19	Proposal under development. Current timescale development Oct/Nov, tendering Dec/Jan and contract live from 1 April 2020.	<p>The Reach Me! contract was awarded to Step Forward. The project started on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2020 and ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.</p> <p>The Reach Me! service aims to offer young people mental health &amp; wellbeing support tailored to the young person's needs and living circumstances ensuring to break down barriers that prevent them from accessing emotional and mental health services.</p> <p>16 young people completed co-production work with staff teams in November 2020 and their profile are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 from Look Ahead Campbell Road</li> <li>• 1 from the Assessment Centre</li> <li>• 1 from Look Ahead Mile End Road</li> <li>• 13 of the group are aged between 18 – 21</li> <li>• 2 are aged between 22 – 25 years</li> <li>• 1 is aged 26 years old</li> <li>• 12 females and 4 males</li> <li>• 10 members of staff representing the commissioned provisions</li> </ul> <p>The results from co-production of some areas of concern were raised by young people including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25% - emotional/mental health</li> <li>• 25% school/education/work</li> <li>• 31.25% - housing/homelessness</li> </ul> <p>Young people reported that 1-2-1 drop-in and/or regular sessions would help and support them the most, as well as these being available during weekends and evenings. For some, issues such as alcohol and substance misuse can be covered in the sessions, as well as signposting to partners organisations.</p> <p>The remote offer of sessions began on Saturday, 21st November 2020, and regular 2-hour sessions are being offered for young people from the three supported housing provisions. The offer will continue to be delivered virtually due to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>
Provision for early years age children or pregnant and	Dec-19	Proposal under development. Current timescale development Oct/Nov, tendering Dec/Jan and contract live from 1 April 2020.	<p>Young Parents (Mellow Parenting) contract awarded to Toyhouse. The project started on 3rd July 2020 and ends on the 31st March 2023.</p> <p>Mellow Parenting is a 14 full days group-based approach designed to support families who have</p>

new mothers			<p>additional health and social care needs, and who are experiencing relationship challenges with their young children. The aim is to work towards understanding their past and striving to build their resilience.</p> <p>The sessions have been adapted due to Covid-19 restrictions, starting with weekly Stay and Play sessions for the families that have been able attend (i.e. not tested positive for C-19, not isolating, not shielding, and not having older children at home from school!).</p> <p>The 5 families recruited and offered places are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single parent with a 20-month-old, previously on a Care Order. Referred by the Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-visiting (MECSH) and Social Worker.</li> <li>• Single parent and 2-year-old, who is on a Care Order but working with Social worker towards step down. Mother approached Toyhouse directly, and the local Children's Centre support her allocation of a place on the course.</li> <li>• Mother with a nearly 3-year-old with high levels of anxiety and conflicts in parenting styles between mother and father. Nursery school support this place allocation.</li> <li>• Single parent who has been subject to Domestic violence from 2 partners and her 2 daughters have been cared for by various family members. Mother has had an addiction to drugs and is now in rehab, with the girls placed back with her.</li> <li>• A parent who had her 2 children removed from her care in the week before Christmas 2019 and 2020 has been a challenging year with Covid-19 getting in the way of work to bring mother and the children together again. This weekly course will provide an opportunity for a Contact Visit as well as the input to help mother address the issues in her past.</li> </ul> <p>The final day of the Stay and Play sessions ended on 17 December 2020. The 14-day course is scheduled to start on Thursday 7th January 2021.</p>
Provision for young carers priority	Dec-19	Proposal under development. Current timescale development Oct/Nov, tendering Dec/Jan and contract live from 1 April 2020.	<p>Young Carers - The Caring and Coping service contract awarded to Streets of Growth. The project started on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 and ends on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.</p> <p>The Caring and Coping service aims to offer children and young people and their families tailored, holistic support through 1:1 support for children and young people and additional whole-family work to help break down the barriers for unidentified young carers.</p> <p>22 young people have been identified as young carers with caring roles within their family context which in turn has impacted in at least one of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal safety – due to risk behaviours increasing risk of criminal and/or sexual exploitation</li> <li>• Educational engagement and attainment</li> <li>• Lowered career aspirations</li> <li>• Low self-esteem and confidence</li> <li>• Forming unhealthy/negative peer relationships</li> <li>• experience of bullying/abusive relationships</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• family tensions/break down of family relationships</li> </ul> <p>The profile of achievement by young people are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 referred to Young carers project</li> <li>• 1 into a work placement with Kids Law</li> <li>• 5 have attended employability training facilitated in partnership with HSBC and ELBA</li> <li>• 2 have been participating in Rich Mix Young Creatives programme – development partnership</li> <li>• 4 engaged in the Young Leaders/Young Influencers programme and are registered for ASDAN Leadership course</li> </ul> <p>2 secured employment via the programme: 1 retail position in Boots and 1 Childcare apprenticeship Pelican Nursery</p>
Sports provision for young people with disability	Dec-19	Proposal under development. Current timescale development Oct/Nov, tendering Dec/Jan and contract live from 1 April 2020.	<p>Discussion took place between the Communities and the Council's Sports Development team to develop a proposal. The initial lockdown from March and the second lockdown in September has hampered progress.</p> <p>A specification is being prepared to commission services from April 2021.</p>
Geographical Spread	Ongoing	Proposals were assessed to establish whether there was evidence or track record to indicate the borough wide bids could deliver to residents across Tower Hamlets. This will be a specific element of the ongoing assessment of LCF funded projects.	<p>Details of the geographic spread of LCF funded projects was included in the LCF Annual Update Report 19/20 Appendix 4 – Equality Analysis presented to the Grants Determination Cabinet Sub-Committee in November 2020 (<a href="http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=812&amp;MId=11743">http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=812&amp;MId=11743</a>). The analysis showed that the geographic spread of beneficiaries of LCF funded projects was proportionate across the borough.</p> <p>Advice services are funded by the LCF through a borough wide consortium of advice agencies led by Citizens Advice. There was a concern that, because of the geographic distribution of where the consortium members were located, there could be a disparity of service provision across the borough, particularly in the south west.</p> <p>Twelve of the borough's twenty wards are among the 20% most deprived in London and sixteen of the twenty are among the 50% most deprived, reflecting both the high levels of deprivation and the relatively consistent position across much of the borough. Only Blackwall and Cubitt Town, Canary Wharf, Island Gardens and St Katharine's and Wapping were outside the 50% most deprived. This is broadly reflected in the geographic spread of residents supported. Of the five wards in the south west, Shadwell; St Dunstan's; Stepney Green; St Katherine's and Wapping and Whitechapel, three were proportionately higher than would be indicated by the IMD rating and two slightly lower. The coverage of services provided by the advice consortium through the LCF is therefore proportionate to the indicators of need.</p> <p>The two wards that appear to have a particularly low take up of advice services relative to their IMD ranking are Poplar and Bromley North. Officers will discuss with the advice services consortium how this may be addressed, and a further update will be provided in the interim monitoring report.</p>

Somali Groups – targeted support to build capacity	Ongoing	THCVS to arrange targeted support Initial meeting to be arranged through THCVS	Complete. THCVS support has been provided to individual organisations on a one to one basis.
Information & advice – consortium	Oct/Nov 19	LCF consortium will engage with other providers to potentially expand the consortium for bids for other funding and contracts.	This work is ongoing but has been put on hold due to Covid 19 restrictions

## LCF Transition and EA Mitigation Costs

Item	Summary		2019/20 Actual	2020/21 Budget	2021/22 Budget	2022/23 Budget	Total cost
THCVS 'unsuccessful' support package	Support package for organisations which lose MSG	contract agreed	24,800	-			24,800
Emergency and Transition Fund	Supplement for existing emergency fund.	Provision	54,540	100,000	100,000	60,000	360,000
MSG Contract Extension	Extension of Lunch Clubs Contracts & Community Language Services	Agreed by GDCSC	82,296	-	-	-	82,296
Small Grants New Themes	New themes for access for BAME people and Older people	Agreed as part of mitigation	0	150,000	150,000	150,000	450,000
New Small Grants Admin Cost	EECF Admin fee of 12% per year	As above	0	18,000	18,000	18,000	54,000
Commissioned Services	Young people's mental health (£20k), Early years (£20k), Young Peoples disability Sports (20k) , Young carers (£30k)	LCF EA mitigation	0	90,000	90,000	90,000	270,000
Additional capacity Building Funding	Including development of funders forum	Provisional	0	20,000	-	-	30,000
Total			161,636	378,000	358,000	318,000	1,271,096

## Local Community Fund Annual Report: Equality Analysis

### 1. Purpose

- 1.1. This briefing provides Members of the Grants Determination (Cabinet) Sub-Committee (GDCSC) with supplementary analysis of the appendix to the Local Community Fund Annual Report relating to equalities analysis.

### 2. Background

- 2.1. The GDCSC considered the LCF Annual Report at its meeting on 26 November 2020. The equality analysis at appendix 4 of the annual report provided details of the equality data provided by LCF funded organisations as part of the monitoring process. This briefing note provides a more detailed analysis of that data which may be included in the final published version of the LCF Annual Report.
- 2.2. A more detailed update report will be presented to the GDCSC at its next meeting in January 2021 of the outcome of the LCF Equality Analysis Action Plan agreed at Cabinet on 31 July 2020. However, this paper provides commentary on the specific concerns noted by Cabinet at that meeting regarding provisions for smaller minority community residents and the geographic coverage of advice services

### 3. Detail

- 3.1. When the original LCF recommendations were discussed at its meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019, Cabinet noted matters raised during discussion of the agenda item. These were
  - Provision to meet the needs of Somali and other minority community residents, and
  - How the advice consortium will provide wide geographic coverage including in the south west area of the borough and will reach excluded communities.
- 3.2. The beneficiary data provided by LCF funded organisations shows that, relative to the overall population of Black African origin in the borough (3.7%), LCF funded projects served a proportionately higher number of residents of Black African origin (6.8% of all beneficiaries). The borough profile data does not separately identify residents of Somali origin separately from other Black African residents but the LCF data shows 3.8% of beneficiaries were of Somali origin, indicating a significantly higher proportion than the proportion of the population as a whole.



- 3.3. Other smaller minority communities have a less significant variation except for the Chinese community where it appears the proportion of LCF project beneficiaries is lower than might be expected from the proportion within the overall population. The variation may be explained by the fact that services for older residents of Chinese origin continued for most of the monitoring period under separate extended MSG funding arrangements so would not have been reported as part of the LCF data. A further update will be provided as part of the report to Grants Determination in January 2021.
- 3.4. Advice services are funded by the LCF through a borough wide consortium of advice agencies led by Citizens Advice. There was a concern that, because of the geographic distribution of where the consortium members were located, there could be a disparity of service provision across the borough, particularly in the south west.
- 3.5. Twelve of the borough's twenty wards are among the 20% most deprived in London and sixteen of the twenty are among the 50% most deprived, reflecting both the high levels of deprivation and the relatively consistent position across much of the borough. Only Blackwall and Cubitt Town, Canary Wharf, Island Gardens and St Katharine's and Wapping were outside the 50% most deprived. This is broadly reflected in the geographic spread of residents supported. Of the five wards in the south west, Shadwell; St Dunstan's; Stepney Green; St Katherine's and Wapping and Whitechapel, three were proportionately higher than would be indicated by the IMD rating and two slightly lower. The coverage of services provided by the advice consortium through the LCF is therefore proportionate to the indicators of need.
- 3.6. The two wards that appear to have a particularly low take up of advice services relative to their IMD ranking are Poplar (ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in IMD rating and 11<sup>th</sup> in proportion of residents supported) and Bromley North (ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in IMD rating and 15<sup>th</sup> in proportion of residents supported). Officers will discuss with the advice services consortium how this may be addressed, and a further update will be provided in the interim monitoring report.

**Table 1 Advice Services**

Ward	Residents supported	%	2019 IMD ranking
Bethnal Green	1241	7.4	12
Spitalfields & Banglatown	857	5.1	10
St Peter's	1005	6.0	7
Weavers	716	4.2	8
Bow East	998	5.9	13
Bow West	771	4.6	14
Bromley North	844	5.0	2
Bromley South	973	5.8	9

Mile End	1323	7.9	11
Shadwell	1105	6.6	6
St Dunstan's	875	5.2	4
Stepney Green	839	5.0	5
St Katherine's and Wapping	468	2.8	20
Whitechapel	1122	6.7	15
Blackwall & Cubitt Town	585	3.5	17
Canary Wharf	432	2.6	18
Island Gardens	385	2.3	19
Lansbury	1100	6.5	1
Limehouse	536	3.2	16
Poplar	678	4.0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>16853</b>	<b>100.3</b>	

### Equality protected characteristics

- 3.7. The equality monitoring data provided by LCF funded projects with regard to race, age, sex, sexual orientation and disability have been analysed relative to the borough population as a whole and, where available, regional and national data is also provided

### Age

- 3.8. With regard to age, table 2 below shows that, compared with the Borough as a whole, residents supported are more likely to be aged 35 to 64 and less likely to be children and young people. There is also a slightly higher proportion of older people using LCF funded services.
- 3.9. About 40% of the LCF fund supports the advice services consortium where the number of residents supported is high compared to other services that provide a more ongoing service. Advice services tend to be provided across the age spectrum, with the exception of younger people. The comparatively high proportion of adults aged over 35 is therefore likely to be mainly attributable to this part of the programme.
- 3.10. Younger people are supported through the LCF but these services are more specialist and intensive, and therefore with lower numbers than might be expected from more generic services provided for younger people. The majority of young people were supported in projects funded in Theme 1 (Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing) where over 40% of the beneficiaries were under 25. All of the projects for young people funded in that theme were rated as green indicating good progress in achieving their outcomes.

**Table 2**      **Age**

Category	Residents supported	%	Borough		London		United Kingdom	
0 to 15 years	1,841	8.4	65,557	20.2%	1,843,581	20.6%	12,697,836	19.0%
16 to 24 years	1,159	5.3	42,319	13.0%	936,049	10.4%	7,073,193	10.6%
25 to 34 years	4,551	20.7	83,933	25.8%	1,608,119	17.9%	9,011,381	13.5%
35 to 44 years	5,112	23.3	57,688	17.8%	1,442,552	16.1%	8,415,206	12.6%
45 to 54 years	3,702	16.9	33,241	10.2%	1,163,631	13.0%	9,063,137	13.6%
55 to 64 years	2,525	11.5	21,148	6.5%	886,542	9.9%	8,161,093	12.2%
65 to 74 years	1,049	4.8	12,145	3.7%	586,472	6.5%	6,687,066	10.0%
75 to 84 years	596	2.7	6,114	1.9%	344,126	3.8%	4,040,624	6.0%
85 and over	212	1.0	2,600	0.8%	150,917	1.7%	1,647,271	2.5%
Prefer not to say	1,200	5.5						
	<b>21,947</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>324,745</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8,961,989</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>66,796,807</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Race

- 3.11. More than two-thirds (69%) of the borough's population belong to a minority ethnic group. Tower Hamlets is ranked as the 16th most ethnically diverse local authority in England out of 325 local authorities.
- 3.12. The borough's two largest ethnic groups are the White British and the Bangladeshi populations, each accounting for one third of the population. Tower Hamlets has the largest Bangladeshi population in the country.
- 3.13. The third largest group is the White Other population, who account for 12% of the borough's population. This group is diverse and includes residents from a mix of ethnic backgrounds, Europeans, Australians and Americans.
- 3.14. A significant proportion of the borough's population are Somali. The 2011 Census identified 2,925 Somali-born residents, 1.2% of the population. The overall size of the population in the borough, including subsequent and second generations, is considerably larger, between 6,000 and 9,000 or 2-3% of the population.
- 3.15. The detailed ethnicity breakdown of residents supported reflects the large population groups within the borough though it is not in direct proportion to their presence within the overall resident population. The borough level ethnicity data relates to the 2011 Census and this should be taken into consideration, particularly given the high level of population mobility within Tower Hamlets.
- 3.16. Table 3 below shows that for most population groups, the proportion of residents supported through the LCF is consistent with the proportions within the borough as a whole. The major exception to this is the Bangladeshi population where the proportion of the residents supported through the LCF was significantly higher than the borough population profile. Although the data is not directly

comparable, as explained above, it also appears that the black African population which includes the Somali community, had a proportionately higher number of residents supported through the LCF.

3.17. The smaller numbers of people in other minority ethnic communities make statistical differences in the data less reliable but, as discussed in para 3.3 above, the Chinese community appears to have a lower proportion of residents supported through the LCF.

**Table 3 Race**

Category	Residents supported	%	Borough profile	London (from 2011 census)		UK (from 2011 census)	
White British	3605	17.1	31.2%	3,669,284	44.9%	55,073,552	87.17%
White Irish	243	1.2	1.5%	175,974	2.2%		
Traveller Irish Heritage	0	0.0	0.1%	8,196	0.1%		
White Gypsy	0	0.0					
White Other	1995	9.5	12.4%	1,033,981	12.6%		
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	166	0.8	1.1%	119,425	1.5%	1,250,229	1.98%
Mixed White and Black African	272	1.3	0.6%	65,479	0.8%		
Mixed White and Black Asian	37	0.2	1.2%	101,500	1.2%		
Mixed Other Ethnicity	198	0.9	1.2%	118,875	1.5%		
Asian/Asian British Indian	323	1.5	2.7%	542,857	6.6%	1,451,862	2.30%
Asian/Asian British Pakistani	334	1.6	1.0%	223,797	2.7%	1,174,983	1.86%
Asian/Asian British Bangladeshi	9114	43.2	32.0%	222,127	2.7%	451,529	0.71%
Asian/Asian British Other Asian	248	1.2		398,515	4.9%	861,815	1.36%
Black/Black British Somali	625	3.0	3.7%	573,931	7.0%	1,904,684	3.01%
Black/Black British African	800	3.8					
Black/Black British Caribbean	381	1.8	2.1%	344,597	4.2%		
Black/Black British Other	429	2.0	1.5%	170,112	2.1%		
Other Chinese	184	0.9	3.2%	124,250	1.5%	433,150	0.69%
Other Vietnamese	58	0.3					
Prefer not to say	2065	9.8					

**Gender and Gender Identity**

3.18. With 52.1% male residents and 47.9% female residents, Tower Hamlets has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest ration of males to females of local authority areas in the UK. However, the proportion of female residents supported by LCF projects was over 52%. The programme

has been particularly successful in supporting younger women and girls through projects in Theme 1 ((Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing), Theme 4 (Employment and Skills) and Theme 5 (Community Safety) where over 60% of the beneficiaries were female.

- 3.19. The Government Equalities Office acknowledged in 2018 that there is no robust data on the UK transgender population, going on to ‘tentatively estimate that there are approximately 200,000 to 500,000 transgender people in the UK’. This equates to somewhere between 0.3% and 0.75% of the UK population. If the transgender identifying population in Tower Hamlets was consistent with this then this would equate to around 1000 to 2500 people.
- 3.20. The proportion of residents supported identifying their gender identity as not being the same as that at birth is higher than the nominal proportions estimated by the Government Equalities Office. It is not clear whether this is a feature of the fund or (perhaps more likely) whether the Tower Hamlets population in 2020 is not consistent with these very broad estimates.

**Table 4 Gender**

Category	Residents supported	%
Male	10,354	46.8
Female	11,459	51.8
Other	37	0.2
Prefer not to say	255	1.2
Gender identity the same as assigned at birth		
Yes	12,790	88.9
No	215	1.5
Prefer not to say	1,384	9.6

### Sexual Orientation

- 3.21. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) Annual Population Survey publishes estimates of sexual orientation by UK region with the most recent being for 2018.
- 3.22. In total, 2.8% of London residents identified as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual. This was higher than the rate across the UK as a whole (2.3%)
- 3.23. Public Health England modelling for Greater London based on the 2015 GP Patient Survey estimated that 8.7% of Tower Hamlets patients were Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual. This compared to a London

average of 5.1% based on the same approach and a synthesised England average of 2.5% (mid 2014) and was the third highest proportion among London boroughs after Lambeth and Westminster.

- 3.24. The proportion of LGB residents supported by the LCF set out in table 5 below is consistent with the proportion of LGB residents estimated to live in the London region but may be lower than the proportion in Tower Hamlets based on the Public Health England modelling.

**Table 5 Sexual Orientation**

Category	Residents supported	%	Borough	London (2018)	UK (2018)
Gay man	157	0.8	8.7%	2.1%	1.4%
Gay woman / Lesbian	34	0.2			
Bisexual	516	2.7			
Heterosexual	12,772	67.7		91.5%	94.6%
Other	51	0.3		0.7%	0.6%
Prefer not to say	5,342	28.3		4.9%	2.5%

**Disability**

- 3.25. The census definition of disability relates to having a long-term condition or disability which limits activity. Under this measure, 14% of residents had a disability in 2011. This was the same as London (14%) and below England (18%). However, disability rates vary considerably by age with almost two thirds (65%) of 65+ year olds having a disability.
- 3.26. PANSI (Projecting Adult Needs and Services Information System) predicts that in 2020
- 0.6% of the working age population (18-64 yrs) had a moderate or severe learning disability (England average 0.6%)
  - 4% of this group had impaired mobility (England average 6%)
  - 0.1% had severe visual impairment
  - 0.6% had severe hearing loss.
  - 21% had a common mental disorder (England average 19%).

- 3.27. POPPI (Projecting Older People Population Information System) predicts that in 2020
- 6% of 65+ year olds in Tower Hamlets had dementia (England average 7%)
  - 0.3% of 65+ year olds had a moderate or severe learning disability (England average 0.3%)
- 3.28. The proportions of residents with disabilities supported by the Local Community Fund set out in table 6 below reflect the high proportion of residents with mental health conditions and with restrictions to their physical mobility and their day to day activities. The number of residents with sensory impairment supported by the LCF appears to be higher than the proportion of the population as a whole.
- 3.29. With over 23.1% of residents that were supported through the LCF identifying as having a disability, it appears that, overall, beneficiaries with disabilities are a much higher proportion of the total number of residents supported by the LCF than the proportion in the wider population of the borough.

**Table 6 Disability**

Category	Residents supported	%
Sensory Impairment	638	5.8
Physical Impairment	1,126	10.2
Learning Disability	496	4.5
Mental Health Condition	2,391	21.7
Long-Standing illness or health condition	2,863	26.0
Other	944	8.6
Prefer not to say	2,545	23.1

#### **4. Next Steps**

- 4.1. Equalities information will continue to be monitored and any anomalies will be addressed with providers.