

Grants Determination Cabinet Sub-Committee 21 st April 2021	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Sharon Godman, Divisional Director Strategy, Policy and Performance	Classification: Unrestricted
VCS Funding Awarded Under Delegated Authority and Equalities contract provision transition fund	

Lead Member	John Biggs, the Mayor Councillor Candida Ronald, Cabinet Member for Resources
Originating Officer(s)	Awo Ahmed, Programme Assessment & Monitoring Officer Emily Fieran-Reed, Senior Strategy and Policy Manager Mark Waterman, Strategy and Policy Manager
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Forward Plan Notice Published	15 th March 2021
Reason for Key Decision	
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	All

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on funding awarded to voluntary and community sector organisations under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee.

The report also seeks a decision to delegate the award of £10,000 in transition funding grants for the changes relating to the Equalities contract provision. The proposal is that the specification for the tendering of the Equalities Hub contract should include the requirement to manage the transition funding as a grant programme.

Recommendations:

The Sub-Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the update on funding awarded and available to voluntary and community sector (VCS) organisations under delegated authority since their last meeting.
2. Agree the creation of £10,000 equalities transition fund to be delivered as a grant programme by the successful bidder of the Equalities Hub contract, as set out in section 3.25 to be allocated in accordance with the terms of this report

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

- 1.1 There are a number of funding programmes to support voluntary and community sector organisations in the borough where decisions are made under delegated authority either by officers or, in the case of the Small Grants Programme, the East End Community Foundation. These decisions are presented to the Sub-Committee for noting.
- 1.2 The transition grants have been identified as a mitigating action within the Equalities Impact Assessment of the recent Equalities Contract Review.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 2.1 The council could decide not to provide funding to VCS organisations through its various programmes. However, to do this would be contrary to the agreed policy to support the VCS in the borough set out in the VCS Strategy.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Small Grants Programme

- 3.1 The Small Grants Programme was established to ensure that local people and community groups will continue to be able to get funding from the council to support community initiatives – people getting together to get things done. The programme is intended to make funds available to support grass roots activity in local communities that will help make life better in Tower Hamlets and achieve the changes set out in the Tower Hamlets Plan and the council's

Strategic Plan. By establishing a single grants programme with different themes or activities to be funded, the council is trying to make sure local groups seeking funds will have a one stop shop to get to the funds best suited to their needs.

- 3.2 The small grants programme has eight themes that constitute the main programme, an additional Covid-19 Outreach and Engagement theme was agreed at Grants Determination Sub Committee on the 9th September 2020.
- 3.3 There have been no small grant awards under delegated authority since the last GDSC meeting.

Main themes

1. **Innovation** - to encourage innovation or pilot something new, especially where there is a gap.
2. **Prevention** - to promote grass roots activity to reduce the need for statutory services.
3. **Neighbourhood action** - to promote local neighbourhood initiatives
4. **Community cohesion** - to develop community resilience, promote cultural opportunities and reduce social isolation.
5. **Partnership working** - making the sector more effective through closer partnership working within the sector and across sectors.

Focussed Themes

6. **Community Support Services for Older People** – to combat social isolation of older people through the provision of community-based support services.
 7. **Access and Participation** – establishing access and participation schemes to provide referral gateways for people from BAME communities.
 8. **Loneliness** - Reducing the impact of loneliness and isolation.
 9. **Covid-19 Outreach and Engagement** - to support the dissemination of key messages around Covid-19.
- 3.4 The Public Health Covid -19 Outreach & Engagement theme of the small grants programme opened for applications for VCS organisations to apply for funding to help disseminate local public health messaging around Covid-19 and improving the uptake of Test and Trace in priority communities.
 - 3.5 Identified priority groups for this theme are; Young People, Carers, Homeless people, New migrants, Students, People experiencing domestic violence, people experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty.
 - 3.6 The total budget available for this theme was £30,000. Grants of up to £1,000 were available to un-constituted groups of residents and grants of up to £3,000 to constituted not-for-profit organisations.

- 3.7 Identified priority groups for this theme are; Young People, Carers, Homeless people, New migrants, Students, People experiencing domestic violence, people experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty.
- 3.8 A total of 23 applications were received and assessed in this theme.
- 3.9 There were 10 organisations that were successful in being awarded funding with a total budget of £29,498.
- 3.10 There is a balance of £502 remaining from the Covid -19 Outreach & Engagement theme and the fund closed for applications on the 4th March 2021.
- 3.11 The organisations that have been awarded funding under this theme are set out in **Appendix A**

Innovation Fund

- 3.12 The council is keen to encourage and support innovation in the sector and acknowledged that this would require some funding to enable the sector to pilot new initiatives and approaches to service delivery and support.
- 3.13 The Innovation Fund supports VCS organisations to "test and learn" new ways of working, new initiatives and new delivery models that if successful could be scaled up and commissioned more formally.
- 3.14 At the Commissioners Decision Making Meeting on the 12th April 2016 the creation of the Innovation Fund was agreed.
- 3.15 The Council has an agreement with the crowdfunding portal, Spacehive, to support local VCS organisations crowdfund for projects and the Innovation Fund budget is £180,000. Total awards to date are £123,479.25 with a remaining balance of £56,520.75
- 3.16 VCS organisations that crowdfund through the Our Tower Hamlets page of the Spacehive portal will have an opportunity to pitch for up to £10,000 (or a maximum of 50 per cent of an organisations crowdfunding target) in match funding for their projects.
- 3.17 Further details can be found on [SpaceHive Tower Hamlets](#) and the [Innovation Fund](#) pages with more information available in the [factsheet](#).
- 3.18 Details of pledges agreed by officers under delegated authority since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee from the Innovation Fund and projects that have succeeded in reaching their targets are set out in **Appendix B**

Contingency Fund

- 3.19 The Contingency Fund was set up by the Sub-Committee to extend the existing Emergency Fund from being purely a fund to support organisations facing 'life and limb' emergencies to a fund that may also support organisations facing the impact of a significant loss of council funding.
- 3.20 At the meeting held on 29 July 2020, Cabinet agreed to close the transition element of the Contingency Fund and extend the Fund further to include support for organisations affected by Covid 19. The Covid Community fund opened for applications on the 5th Nov 2020. For a limited period, Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations in Tower Hamlets will be able to access funding and organisational support.
- 3.21 Awards are made from the Contingency Fund by the Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy and Performance in consultation with the Chair of this Sub-Committee. There have been no awards against this fund since the last Sub-Committee meeting.

Covid Community Fund

- 3.22 The Covid Community Fund Budget is £100k, to date three organisations have been awarded funding totalling £13,972. The remaining balance is £86,028.
- 3.23 Organisations that have been successful in the Covid Community Fund are set out in **Appendix C**

Emergency Funding

- 3.24 The Emergency Funding budget is £50,000, since the last GDSC meeting one organisation has been awarded Emergency Funding set out in **Appendix D**

(Equalities Contract Provision) - Transition Fund

- 3.25 In 2020 and early 2021, Tower Hamlets Council undertook a review of the seventeen contracts it commissioned to deliver services to specific protected characteristic groups on its behalf. Based on the insight gained from conducting the review, including the feedback from consultation and engagement, and the final model and Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) having been through the Council's Corporate Equality Board in January 2021, the council agreed to adopt a 'hub and spoke model' for its core community equalities provision in future. As part of this model, an Equalities Hub is currently being commissioned, linked to seven networks relating to specific protected characteristic groups. The new model is being delivered within the original budget available for this provision.
- 3.26 The model includes a small amount of grant funding for eligible local VCS organisations for equalities related activity. This consists of a £10,000 fund, allocated from the existing budget to deliver the equalities provision and

covering the financial year 2021/22. The fund is part of a range of actions identified in the review's Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) to mitigate against any equality impacts arising from the change to provision, and to enable transition to the new model.

- 3.27 The fund will be administered and managed on behalf of the Council by the organisation which is successful in being awarded the contract to manage the Equalities Hub at the end of the tender exercise, currently underway. Expressions of interest have been received from organisations and the tender is taking place according to procurement practices and regulations, via the Request for Quote (RFQ) system, using the Proactis system. The assessment of the tenders will include consideration of the experience and ability of the organisation to administer a grant fund. The contract is expected to be awarded in May 2021 for delivery from June 2021.
- 3.28 The criteria for the award of grants under this fund will be agreed between the successful organisation and Council officers, in liaison with the Cabinet Member for Equalities.
- 3.29 Grants awarded under this fund will be subject to written grant agreements between the Equalities Hub and the organisation receiving the grant.
- 3.30 Any costs associated with managing and administering this fund will be borne by the commissioned provider and reflected in the price they tender for.
- 3.31 The monitoring of grants awarded under the fund shall be the responsibility of the commissioned organisation, and ultimately of the Council officers managing the contract, who will report back to GDSC on how the grants are used and the impact.
- 3.32 Grant Determination Sub-Committee (GDSC) is asked to agree delegated powers to award this funding to the organisation which is successful in being awarded the contract to manage the Equalities Hub, as agreed by the Divisional Director, Strategy, Policy & Performance. Each grant made as part of the £10,000 transition funding will be reported to GDSC by Council officers through the regular report on grants awarded under delegated authority.
- 3.24 Further background on the review of the Council's equalities contracts can be found in **Appendix E**.

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 All grants awarded need to demonstrate how they meet they need of our diverse communities and support the council's Public Sector Equality Duty. Equalities data is collected as part of the monitoring process and this will be reported as part of the annual reporting process.

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

There is a risk that, by not publishing details of funding awarded to VCS organisations, the council could leave itself open to challenge that it is not fulfilling previous commitments to openness and transparency. This report is one of a series that will provide updates on funding decisions made under delegated authority and the VCS Annual Report will provide more detailed analysis.

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 monitoring of the Small Grants Programme.

6. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

6.1 This report notes the update on funding awarded to voluntary and community (VCS) organisations under delegated authority.

6.2 Appendices A to D detail the grants awarded to date and are contained within the available budgets.

6.3 Paragraph 3.26 details that the £10,000 transition fund will be delivered as a grant programme by the successful bidder of the Equalities Hub contract.

7. COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

7.1 There are no legal issues arising from the existing grant funds referred to in this report.

7.2 The Council has the legal power to create the £10,000 equalities grant fund referred to in recommendation 2

- 7.3 The organisation who provides the Equalities Hub (currently being commissioned) will be responsible for allocating portions of the equalities grant fund. The fund is intended to assist in the mitigation of any impact on people who have a protected characteristic following the changes to the grant strategy referred to in this report. Therefore, the hub will allocate funds based on this as a criterion and otherwise in accordance with fair and open criteria agreed with the Council
- 7.4 The report refers to reporting back to GDSC relating to the allocation of the Equalities grant fund. This monitoring will also include ensuring that the money is used by the VCS organisations for the purposes for which it is granted and thereby assisting to demonstrate statutory Best Value.

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

NONE

Appendices

Appendix A Small Grants Covid-19 Awards 2020/21

Appendix B Innovation Funding Awards

Appendix C Covid Community Fund

Appendix D Emergency Funding

Appendix E Summary of the Review of Equalities Contracts

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

- NONE

Officer contact details for documents

Appendix A - Small Grants Awards 2020/21

Covid-19 Outreach & Engagement Theme

No.	Organisation	Project Description	Priority Community	No. of Beneficiaries	Org Previously Funded by LBTH?	Comments	Amount awarded
1	True Cadence CIC	A 5-week video project, in collaboration with social entrepreneur filmmaker Joe Tamplin and co-directed by young people. The project will recruit local young poets/rappers and dancers to produce a 3-5 minute video disseminating the message on NHS Test and Trace. This video will be shared on social media and to relevant local networks that support young people as well as being pushed to local news.	Young People	200	No	A fundable innovative project developed by the priority community and shared to local relevant networks. The organisation is experienced in supporting local young people and having delivered a similar project demonstrates capability. A good monitoring and evaluation plan is in place tracking views, comments and feedback. Overall a good application that aligns well with the theme.	3,000
2	The Ensign Youth Club	A 6-month outreach project delivered in St Katharine's, Whitechapel, Wapping and Shadwell areas to disseminate information on NHS Test and Trace targeting BAME adults and older people who are digitally excluded. An outreach worker will be paid to go out in these areas identifying those who match this priority community and offer them leaflets and telephone services explaining the NHS Test and Trace system. This will also be offered to the organisation's current beneficiaries accessing the their food banks.	People experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty	75	Older People's Theme Mar 2020: £12,770	Originally reviewed in Dec 2020 and additional information requested. The organisation has provided further clarity on their delivery plan which involves their outreach worker contacting older people within the community and through their existing covid-19 response project and providing information and leaflets on the test and trace and vaccination programme. The outreach worker will also contact people by telephone to follow up and support them to access the relevant services. The anticipated beneficiary number has increased and the organisation has developed an appropriate response to the needs of their beneficiaries.	3,000
3	Aishah Help	An outreach and engagement project that	People	200	Yes	Originally reviewed in Dec 2020 and	3,000

No.	Organisation	Project Description	Priority Community	No. of Beneficiaries	Org Previously Funded by LBTH?	Comments	Amount awarded
		delivers information and support via the organisation's existing food service and through the production of a video for local older Bangladeshi people who are excluded from online services. Leaflets and support will be provided face to face and via the telephone to current beneficiaries and the video will be produced with local residents informing others on the test and trace and vaccination programme. This will be shared through local Bangladeshi TV channels.	experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty			additional information requested. The organisation has provided further clarity on their delivery plan which utilises their existing network of volunteers and beneficiaries through their food delivery service. Funding will support staff time and the production of leaflets and a video to be shared through local Bangladeshi TV channels. Outreach will be conducted by telephone and through the food parcel delivery to measure beneficiaries feedback and understanding of current guidelines, test and trace and vaccinations.	
4	Brick Lane Women and Girls Project	To deliver key messages on NHS Test and Trace to vulnerable older BAME women from Spitalfields and who lack digital skills 2 days per week at Kobi Nazrul Centre for 26 weeks. Participants will be recruited from existing project and volunteers will be carrying out outreach work. Sessions will be conducted via telephone depending on current restrictions	People experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty	29	Yes	Originally reviewed in Dec 2020 and additional information requested. The organisation is very small and delivering activities at a grassroots level. Funding would support the organisation leader to deliver a programme of 121 sessions with older Bangladeshi women to share information and provide support with issues they're facing as a result of the pandemic. The organisation will produce information to be shared via leaflets but there is no wider engagement plan beyond the 121 sessions. Overall the application lacks detail however, will provide support at a very grassroots level to older BAME women who may not access other support services	3,000

No.	Organisation	Project Description	Priority Community	No. of Beneficiaries	Org Previously Funded by LBTH?	Comments	Amount awarded
5	Film Skool Deluxe	A three-month digital filmmaking course for young people in Tower Hamlets, to work with professional filmmakers and create films that will promote NHS Test and Trace. One session per week where young people will learn about NHS Test and Trace and the filming sessions will take place on the weekends. The young people will also have sessions where they will be made aware of NHS Test and Trace. Once the films have been completed, the plan is to screen the films online, inviting all young people and their parents/carers and the local community. The organisation also plans to post these films online and promote it to other organisations supporting young people as well as creating posters and leaflets promoting NHS Test and Trace to hand out.	Young People	35	No	Although the organisation is registered address is outside of Tower Hamlets they have been working with children and young people in Tower Hamlets for over 16 years through local schools and have been based at Brady Arts Centre delivering their projects. An innovative approach to community engagement and ultimately promoting NHS Test and Trace with the addition of learning digital skills. A good monitoring and evaluation plan is in place with mid and end feedback from participants on their knowledge on NHS Test and Trace. However, this is a similar approach to the grant currently awarded to True Cadence CIC.	3,000
6	ICM Foundation CIC	To support adults with learning disabilities and their carers to create and adapt appropriately targeted COVID-19 safety messages. We will then evolve these into effective messages that inform people with learning difficulties and disabilities about key COVID-19 safety information as well as providing a means for families and carers to understand and share these with those in the community who have specific communication needs. This may include easy read information, short video messages and a developed cascade chain where information can be quickly and effectively shared. We will be liaising with	Young people, Carers, People experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty	30	Small Grants Fund Dec 2020: £4,760	An appropriate response has been developed to support adults and their carer's with relevant Covid-19 safety messages. The organisation has a strong track record of supporting adults with learning disabilities and has been delivering an online engagement programme since the first lockdown. A well planned and user-led project	3,000

No.	Organisation	Project Description	Priority Community	No. of Beneficiaries	Org Previously Funded by LBTH?	Comments	Amount awarded
		Public Health as part of their COVID-19 Outreach and messaging programme and drawing on recent research and information gathered by Healthwatch Tower Hamlets.					
7	Nujum Sports CIC	To conduct COVID 19 awareness workshops with young people between the ages of 13 and 18 who are students. We will also be targeting new migrants who have moved into Tower Hamlets. The workshops will cover NHS test and trace (how to use the app), Information about the vaccination, How to keep yourself COVID secure and Information about how to take a test for COVID	Young People	60	no	The organisation is newly registered as a CIC and delivers advice and support to Muslim athletes. The organisation has developed partnerships with Central Foundation School, Sporting Foundation and Crisis in Aldgate and they will recruit young people and new migrants to participate in the monthly workshops. The organisation anticipates 12 participants at each session, which can be delivered online depending on current guidelines. Costs are reasonable although publicity costs are high and have not been well evidenced. Overall a clear proposal but we would recommend a reduced offer.	2,500
8	Olive Tree Education (OTE)	Offer and support developing materials to help vulnerable groups understand the messages regarding the Test and Trace Programme, using appropriate language. This would include activities posters, leaflet created and dissemination of Council and National Government information , social media to best reach local residents. Targeting vulnerable residents in Canary Wharf through telephone outreach, online and social media. Staff will answer questions and resolve concerns as appropriate and dispel	"Young people, students, People experiencing domestic violence, People experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty"	108	Small Grants Fund Aug 2020: £4,894	The organisation delivers educational support and holiday provision for young BAME people in Tower Hamlets. The proposed activities will be provided twice weekly sessions on a telephone and remote basis providing holistic support and information to their existing beneficiary group, they currently have 200 users registered who will be their target audience. The organisation has established they have good networks in place and an existing beneficiary group who will benefit from	3,000

No.	Organisation	Project Description	Priority Community	No. of Beneficiaries	Org Previously Funded by LBTH?	Comments	Amount awarded
		myths around the NHS services, encourage adherence to the Government guidelines and provide information leaflets on test and trace and the vaccinations.				the project and printed materials will be produced to disseminate	
9	The Power Movement Organisation LTD	To deliver Covid-19 information workshops for BAME elderly in the Selby Community Centre running 2 workshops a week for 4 weeks, conducted by a trained NHS advisor and professional translators. One session in the mornings and one session in the evenings. Also, knocking on doors, providing information directly to the community verbally and through a printed information sheet.	People experiencing digital exclusion and/or digital poverty	50	No	The organisation submitted a detailed application and proposed an appropriate awareness project that is realistic and achievable. A good monitoring and evaluation plan is in place tracking progress of understanding NHS Test and Trace. The organisation is newly established with no online presence or evidence of activities. Current income is stated as £0 but financial forecast shows current support. If supported, grant should be approved contingent to evidence of previous activities and confirmation of other funding support	3,000
10	Globe Community Project	"Language of Well-being - Covid Outreach Project" is a 10-week project supporting 25 refugee and migrant women. Project is being delivered in partnership with Praxis. Project includes the provision of trauma informed yoga, ESOL, group discussion and digital outreach to access health info related to Covid-19 and will deliver a session around the test and trace app. Sessions will be delivered online weekly (1.5 hr sessions). The aim is to deconstruct myths around Covid-19. Many women speak Bengali, and English language is limited.	New Migrants	25	No	The application mentions that the women will take part in 10 weekly online 1.5 hour sessions, and that these sessions will include a blend of trauma-informed yoga, health education and ESOL work on the themes to elicit her women's experiences, ideas and attitudes towards Covid-19. The organisation confirmed that the women will also discuss, elaborate, educate, demystify, role play, and so on around Covid-19. Each session will blend some body work (tied to the theme of the session, e.g. immune system, infection prevention, respiratory system, transmission) with	2,998

No.	Organisation	Project Description	Priority Community	No. of Beneficiaries	Org Previously Funded by LBTH?	Comments	Amount awarded
						<p>educational input, and the discussion groups. This method (which they have already trialled to great effect) is based on evidence that people who have experienced trauma often do not retain learning in a traditional classroom setting, but are much better able to absorb information when there is a physical component, as part of a holistic approach. The organisation emphasised that the group is really excited about using this methodology to respond to the urgent public situation which particularly threatens this community of refugee and migrant BAME women. This is an innovative project which seeks to inform new migrants about Covid-19 through non-traditional yet culturally and emotionally sensitive mediums. Recommended for funding.</p>	
						TOTAL	29,498
						AVAILABLE BUDGET	30,000
						REMAINING BUDGET	502

Appendix B – Innovation Funding

No.	Organisation / Project	Total crowdfunding target	Recommended pledge	Reason for Recommendation
1.	<p>Chisenhale PTA</p> <p>Chisenhale Learn + Play + Create Space</p>	£9,698	£4,849	<p>This is an innovative project that proposes to support the local community, the proposed space will allow children to have access to the new playground for longer periods as the current set up in the school only allows classes intermittently outside due to covid measures and lack of outdoor play space for the school. In addition to this the space will benefit the whole community as the PTA have partnered up with Chisenhale Art Space who have a programme of events that will benefit the local community including workshops, dance performances and outdoor studio events.</p> <p>shared community space which will be used as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A pop-up playground to allow the children at Chisenhale School to have longer playtimes in their new 'covid-secure' year group bubbles o - An Outdoor classroom where children have PE lessons and gardening club o - Space for safer drop offs and pickups o - A pocket-park for the community to use outside of school hours o - An outdoor venue for a programme of arts workshops, street dance and whatever ideas emerge over the year <p>Delivery;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-2 outdoor classroom spaces • a programme of at least 10 arts events over the next year • a pop up parklet for use of the community outside of school hours • 200sq m of pop-up play space for children • 20 new street trees/shrubs/plants • an outdoor (basic) covid-secure performance space • 18+ secure bike parking spaces <p>Project Page information – 27th Jan @ 07.46am Total amount – £9,698 Pledged to date – £3,385 Campaign deadline – 15th February 2021. Number of backers – 35</p>

No.	Organisation / Project	Total crowdfunding target	Recommended pledge	Reason for Recommendation
2.	TechInclusion UK Tech For Towerhamlets	£36,187	£10,000	<p>Using the above IF assessment criteria the organisation scored 87% - with this score the organisation is eligible for 50% of total target, this equates to £4,849.</p> <p>Conditions of offer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The organisation must obtain council planning permissions to convert the land into a playground before funding is released. Partnership agreement signed with Chisenhale Gallery Arts (Registered Charity 1026175) project detailing the use of the space, including safeguarding policy. <p>Providing the conditions above are met the organisation is recommended to be awarded £4,849 of the Innovation Funding.</p> <p>This is a great project that fits in with the TH Priorities and outcomes as the focus of this project is to help digitally excluded young people with devices or connection to the internet, the organisation is prioritising young people who are ineligible for government support that need to be able to access learning at home and for them to really be able to reach their full potential.</p> <p>The project was created during lockdown by Collette and Rich (TechinclusionUK) initially started as a small project, the project creators have a background in business operations and law and have a clear passion to bridge the gap of digitally excluded young people in the borough.</p> <p>The organisation is also proposing an eco-model project which is environmentally sustainable – they will be sourcing, and re-conditioning used devices. Research provided by the organisation states that there are 11 million unused devices in the UK. Circular solution for digitally excluded young people.</p> <p>This is a great project that is well put together, the organisation has provided a lot of information and research into the needs of the project locally and internationally as they reference the UN Global Goals for sustainable development and they reference two goals the project is aligned to. ‘Goal 4 Quality Education and Goal 12 Responsible Consumption and Production’.</p> <p>The organisations website is clear and concise with a donate tech tab and the steps to donate is clearly outlined register – collection of device – security clean – allocation.</p>

No.	Organisation / Project	Total crowdfunding target	Recommended pledge	Reason for Recommendation
				<p>Delivery;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional refurbishing of up to 500 donated devices • Purchasing up to 100 already refurbished laptops <p>Steps to get it done;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securely wipe and restore devices • Distribute devices into the community via the Tower Hamlets Education Partnership • Help individuals connect to the internet • Empower individuals with access to digital skills training. • Partnerships – volunteers from Covid Tech Support, We Make Change UK, Tower Hamlets Education Partnership <p>Project Page information – 24th Feb @13.08 Total amount – £36,817 Pledged to date – £15,223 Number of days left of campaign - 27 Number of backers – 79</p> <p>The organisation scored 99% in their innovation fund assessment and using the above criteria guidelines – the organisation is recommended for £10,000 funding.</p>

Total Budget Available for The Innovation Fund – £180,000.

Total awards to date – £123,479.25

Remaining balance – £56,520.75

Appendix C Covid Community Funding Awards 2021

No.	Organisation	Project	Recommended Award	Reason for Recommendation
1.	Dorset Community Association	DCA	£4,975	<p>Dorset Community Association</p> <p>This organisation has been working continuously since the start of the pandemic and have adapted to deliver services safely and in line with social distancing measures – they closed the community centre and moved all programmes online. They have a robust system in place when volunteers are required to come into the building to prepare food parcels and other essential household items. They have requested this funding to purchase more PPE equipment as the previous batch is nearly finished and they need to place signage and purchase equipment to make the centre safer for staff.</p> <p>Delivery & Costs breakdown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaning supplies, PPE, hand sanitizer station, signage, fittings and furniture to enable safe delivery of services £850 • 10 x Samsung Tablets @ £140 each plus protective case and screen protector @ £16.20 – total cost per tablet with accessories = £140 x10 = £1400 £1400 • Staff Costs – ICT Inclusion and support worker @ £15 per hour for 25 hours Comprising 20 hours working with 10 families, spending 2 hours with each family and 5 hours of ICT set up and administration. • Food Hub coordinator @ £15 per hours for 30 hours, comprising 3 hours a week over 10 weeks plus 1-hour admin £825 • 300 x healthy cooked meals @ £3 each £900

				TOTAL £4975
2.	Wapping Bangladesh Association	WBA	£4,000	<p>WBA have submitted a strong application with a good business case for covid community funding as the funding is required to purchase equipment to re-purpose delivery as detailed below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equipment will enable WBA to move to the virtual and online delivery of services by key core staff to meet increased demand. • IT equipment, software and training are necessary to enable secure effective working at home within Covid restrictions. • Volunteers will be provided with a tablet that will improve communication with the organisation and users, enable remote training, supervision, and other meetings. New outreach support work with existing and new participants has been introduced increasing the number of volunteers who need to be supported and managed. <p>Training will be provided through this budget to support new IT use and ensure safety of workers and volunteers</p>
3.	Ocean Women's Association	OWA Befriending Project	£4,997	<p>Covid-19 has stopped the delivery of services as the OWA has had to cease all face-to-face provision.</p> <p>It is clear that the OWA needs this funding in order to provide more remote services – such as a new befriending service through telephone. The lack of face-to-face provision will be the biggest impact of Covid on its service delivery and have therefore seeks to begin a 'befriending project' via telephone to maintain OWA's relationship with service users as much as possible.</p> <p>Without the telephone befriending service, many Bangladeshi women will continue to be isolated, worsening long term physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>The loss of this service will be detrimental to the 'People access joined-up services when they need them and feel healthier and more independent' and 'People feel they are part of a cohesive and vibrant community' aims in the Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Delivery People / Staffing costs for manager: 4 days per month x 6 months (including on</p>

				costs)= 24 days - £ 3,325 People / Volunteer expenses: 5 volunteers supporting 3 clients each weekly x 6 month - £1,200 Resources: 12 mobile phone top up cards at £6 each - £72 Overheads: contribution to payroll, accounts, insurance - £400 Total - £4,997.00
--	--	--	--	--

Appendix D Emergency Funding Awards 2021

Organisation	Defined Emergency	Amount Requested	Recommended Award	Reason for Recommendation
Black Women's Health & Family Support	Closure of organisation	£6,847	£6,847	<p>BWHFS have been supporting TH residents for over 35 years, a BAME led women's organisation providing vital support services to vulnerable families and children in the borough. Since the end of their MSG funding they have suffered significant financial difficulties. This compounded with the Covid pandemic has resulted in the unfortunate position of the organisation having to close its doors and claim insolvency. With over 30k in debt the organisation is requesting EF funding to recruit an insolvency practitioner to enable them to wind up the organisation without incurring financial implications to the trustees as set out below.</p> <p>Wind-up cost Breakdown Insolvency Practitioner – £6,600</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will help claim the Director' redundancy payment from the HMRC recovery scheme; and • Will serve formal notification to creditors re insolvency – ensuring trustees are not liable for any financial implications as a result of closure. • The cost is broken down as £5,000 fee + £500 disbursements, plus VAT = £6,600. <p>Accountancy/Advice Fees – £600</p>

• Will help with financial advice on insolvency, preparation of 'Statement of Affairs'

• The cost is broken down as 6 hours @ £100ph + 6 hours @ £0pm = £600.

Finance Worker – £900

• Will require the services of a Finance Worker who will need to liaise with the Insolvency Practitioner and the Trustees. Charges £150 for a "normal" month and £300 for an "intense" month (i.e. the month in which accounts are due). The organisation owe two "normal" months outstanding, and for the month in which 19/20 accounts were prepared.

• The cost is broken down as 2 months @ £150pm + 2 months @ £300pm = £900.

Director Salary for remaining two months – £2,646

• The Director is the charity's only employee currently on partial furlough (organisation is receiving part of her payment from the government). February salary costs will be offset by the Furlough scheme,

• The cost is broken down as 2 months' salary @ £1,964 – 1 month recovery @ £1,282 = £2,646

Current Assets: Funds in bank – £3,900

• The organisation is not applying for the full amount of wind-up costs as they have some assets to meet these costs. However, they state in their application that time is essential as 'the longer we delay declaring insolvency, the more these funds will deplete, and the larger our shortfall will grow. We cannot declare insolvency until we employ an Insolvency Practitioner'.

• The figure is taken from the balance as at 5/2/21, less outgoings predicted up to 22/2/21.

Total – £6,846

Limiting risk - BWHFS Is part of a LCF Health Consortium Project with Stifford Centre – They have informed them of their current situation – LBTH Officers will need to work closely with BWHFS to conduct impact assessments, ensure clients are appropriately signposted on to other services

Conditions of offer

- LBTH officers to closely work with the organisation to ensure smooth transition of beneficiaries onto relevant services, in addition
- To ensuring their LCF Health Consortium partnership has transitioned appropriately and beneficiaries and partners have all been informed and

				provided sign posting information.
--	--	--	--	------------------------------------

Appendix E – Summary of the Review of Equalities Contracts

In discharging the council's duties under the Equalities Act 2010, the council commissioned various Voluntary and Community Sector organisations to deliver services to specific protected characteristic groups on its behalf.

There are seventeen equalities contracts commissioned by the council's Corporate Strategy and Policy team. They range from strategic forums to events programmes as well as individual events and projects.

There had never previously been a formal review of these contracts. The review of these contracts was necessary to:

- improve management of equalities services and make them more cost efficient
- create a more joined-up approach to equalities contracts
- identify any gaps that are not met by either this provision or other local provision
- build capacity and competence amongst all providers delivering equalities services
- create greater flexibility to respond to intersectionality of people from multiple protected characteristics (e.g. BAME women or LGBT+ and disabled)

The consultation and engagement to support this review consisted of a number of phases. Initially, discussions occurred between officers, elected members and Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service, in order to clarify the issues to be considered by the review, determine its scope and activities, and identify key stakeholders. Stakeholders were then invited to engage with options of engaging by email, through a one to one (online) meeting with a council officer or by attending an (online) focus group.

An online survey was then published on the 'Let's Talk Tower Hamlets' portal which any registered user of the portal was able to participate in. This survey informed the development of the model of future provision, as well as the Equalities Impact Assessment of the new model. It provided an opportunity for all those initially identified as a stakeholder, as well as the general public, to engage with the review.

The following opportunities to strengthen equality provision were identified through the consultation and engagement:

- Development of partnership working with each other, improving communication, actively participating in events across different protected characteristics and being committed to mutual sharing and collaboration
- Addressing the lack of a forum for both women and BAME communities to represent their views, share information and good practice and act as a vehicle for partnership working
- Opportunities for provision representing different protected characteristics to come together to share information
- Supporting equalities events which focus on a wider range of perspectives, in particular, supporting experiences relating to intersectionality and providing opportunities for different groups, to come together, where appropriate
- Focusing on addressing the impact of inequalities identified by being a voice to those they represent and providing a route to feed into policy and decision making in order to ensure issues are addressed

- Addressing intersectionality between different characteristics through greater communication and collaboration
- Being supported by the council, through the provision of a clear route to engage with decision makers and decision-making forums

An Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken. It noted the following positive impacts:

- The creation of a BAME network
- The funding of a Women's Network
- Linking the Older People's Reference Group and Youth Council into the Equalities Hub Network.
- Each of the networks amplifying the role and voice of these parts of the community.

The Equality Impact Assessment noted the following potential negative impacts:

- No longer directly commissioning Diwali or Chinese New Year events (Race/Religion or belief)
- No longer directly commissioning the Faith in Schools project (Religion or belief)
- No longer directly commissioning the Accessible Venues directory (Disability)
- Reduced network/event funding overall for disabled and LGBT groups (Disability, Sexual Orientation and Gender reassignment)

The Equality Impact Assessment included the creation of an action plan to mitigate potential negative impacts on particular protected characteristic groups, including:

- Additional funding of £6,000 per year to be added to the existing small grants programme for local VCS organisations that support particular protected characteristics
- £10,000 Transitional support fund for areas where funding has been significantly reduced
- Signposting to support from Council, CVS and the new providers to apply for other funding
- Better coordination, a community led approach and links to the hub

Based on the insight gained from conducting the review, including the feedback from consultation and engagement as well as the Equality Impact Assessment, the council has adopted a 'hub and spoke model' for its core community equalities provision. An Equalities Hub, is being established linked to seven networks relating to specific protected characteristic groups.

The Hub has a new strategic remit, supporting work across different networks, providing opportunities to feed into the council decision-making processes and enabling the networks to shape decisions by giving them a greater voice in matters relating to the protected characteristic groups.

The seven networks will be:

- Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Network
- Women's Network
- Disabled People's Network
- LGBT+ Network
- Faith Network (delivered through the Tower Hamlets Interfaith Forum)
- Older People's Reference Group
- Youth Council

The new model will address significant gaps in the current provision. For example, the absence of a network to represent the views of the borough's BAME communities has been a significant gap as 55% of the borough's population come from BAME communities. Moreover, gender equality is

recognised as a strategic priority for the Council while issues impacting local women have increased during the COVID-19 Pandemic. There is therefore some urgency to establish a Women's Network.

While some of the networks, such as the LGBT+ Network, will replace existing commissioned provision, others, such as the Youth Council, are existing forums separate from the current equalities provision and will in future link with the Equalities Hub.

All of the networks will act as community leaders within the relevant protected characteristic group, working with VCS organisations and residents in Tower Hamlets, shaping local decision-making and working with other networks to address intersectionality. All provision will continue to be commissioned, with the networks delivered by local VCS organisations.

The Equalities Hub and Networks will be supplemented by continuing support for a number of events led by the council's Arts & Events Team.

Whilst no further equalities provision would be directly commissioned, one off additional funding of £6,000 per year for three years will be added to the existing small grants programme for eligible local VCS organisations to apply for grant funding for equalities projects. The budget for this fund will come from the existing budget for equalities. The fund shall be used as part of the mitigation against the impacts on protected characteristic groups as a result of the review, as identified in the Equalities Impact Assessment.

£10,000 will be allocated in 2021/22 to a transition fund for grants to local VCS organisations to ease the transition to the new model and mitigate against any equalities impacts. The fund will be administered by the organisation which is successful in being awarded the contract to manage the Equalities Hub. The organisation which is successful in being awarded the contract to manage the Equalities Hub is being commissioned through the council's usual procurement procedures. The model includes a built-in assessment of the ability of applicant organisations to administer grants.

The decision not to renew core funding to certain existing provision was based on the new networks assuming responsibility for some services and bringing the council into line with most other boroughs in not directly commissioning the provision.

Under the existing provision, the total cost of all services is £192,000. The new provision creates efficiencies within the same overall budget. There is the potential to make savings of 7.81% of the existing expenditure from 2022/23, reducing annual costs by £15,000.