

MCGP Funding
Awarded (lifetime):
£76,533

MCGP Annual
Amount: £22,400

Geographical Area
Based: St Dunstan's

Charity Number:
1155317

Company Number:
06959638

Address: 44 Repton
Street, E14 7PX

Geographical Area
Served:
Poplar
Limehouse
Lansbury
Mile End
Shadwell
Stepney Green
St Dunstan's

Project Payments:
Due: £20,533
Paid: £0

RAG rating: RED

Limehouse Welfare Association

LWA Community Language Bengali and Arabic Support Programme

Organisation Aim

To advance education, training and employment. To develop the skills and the capacity of the members of the disadvantaged community. To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interest of social welfare for recreation or other leisure activities. The provision of advice and guidance on housing, welfare benefits and other such services. Social and cultural community activities.

Project Details

Original Project Proposal

The aim of this project is to provide Community Language, Bengali and Arabic classes, 4 days a week (8 hours), 40 weeks each year, enhancing the achievement of 75 disadvantaged students in Key Stages 1,2 and 3. These classes will improve students' self-confidence, cognitive development, educational attainment and Community cohesion.

Revised Project Description

Provides Community Language, Bengali and Arabic classes, in term time, enhancing the achievement of students in Key Stages 1,2 and 3. These classes improve students' self-confidence, cognitive development, educational attainment and Community cohesion.

25 students registered each year with sessions 4 days a week (6-8 hours), 36 weeks a year.

Apr – Jun 24 Performance Update

The project continued to undertake outreach work and reports it successfully recruited and enrolled 25 children. They also recruited staff and volunteers, communicated with parents, and arranged premises. Additionally, they have formed a network with Tower Hamlets Parents Centre and Stifford Centre to obtain peer support on project delivery and development. Project classes delivery started on the 3rd of July.

Next Steps:

- Decision by GDSC on action to take due to two consecutive Red rated reporting periods.

Options:

- The project activity and targets are revised to take into account the delayed start with the lifetime grant funding of £76,533 reduced to £67,200 due to the non-delivery between Nov 23 and Jun 24.
- The project grant funding is withdrawn. Any evidenced spend on the activity in July is reimbursed but the project is ended following the process set out in the Funding Agreement for termination of the funding. New activity is commissioned to deliver the activity to the residents in the area.

Grant Officers Report

Our allocated Grants Officer has been working in partnership with Limehouse Welfare Association (LWA) since grant approval.

The issues were the budget in the application and the grant awarded was not sufficient to run the project as described in the application, alongside the organisation having no other current projects, regular income, or paid staff. In addition, grant assessments specified the organisation, over time, had to meet several grant conditions it had not fully met.

The level of grant resulted in insufficient funds to pay for the current levels of Council premises costs. The allocation to staff costs was not enough to attract trained staff. LWA collaborated with our Officer to identify what they could provide with the level of grant funding. Sessions expected reduced from 42 to 36 per year to enable the budget to be enough to run the project. This work resulted in a briefing to senior officers and a negotiated funding agreement designed to enable the organisation to provide a successful project, resulting in positive outcomes for participants. This delayed Senior Officers signing off a funding agreement internally until 23 May 2024.

Our Officer expected the project to start at the latest in April after the school holidays. However, the organisation continued to have issues negotiating delivery premises with the Harford Centre. LWA was also reluctant to start work until a signed funding agreement was in place. Consequently, up to the end of June the project had not held any classes. However, some work had taken place. They reported twenty participants had been engaged through outreach work. LWA also undertook student baseline assessment to diagnose language levels to inform classroom activities. Appropriate qualified staff were engaged. LWA designed initial learning plans to meet participants identified needs.

Classes started on the 3rd of July for the last month of the academic year, benefitting twenty-five children. LWA delivered, eight two hourly sessions of Bengali language tuition, resulting in 118 attendances, with 41% of those from boys. Additional three four hourly sessions of Arabic language class, resulting in 29 attendances, with 52% of those from boys. Codesign sessions with parents resulted in recommendations for additional classes, summer trips and events for children and families. LWA is working towards introducing laptops into the classroom practice to enhance the participants learning experience.

During this time Grant Officers undertook two unannounced visits to the Bengali classes. These demonstrated the children were enthusiastic to learn and absorbed in the activities. Discussion with parents waiting for their children identified that they appreciated the provision and expected their children to return to classes in September. LWA reports that they have had more enquiries than places available in the classes.

There has been no indication that there are any breaches in safeguarding, insurance, and health and safety compliance. The organisation has an agreed action plan in place, which is reflected in the funding agreement as conditions. Though delays mean that target dates will need review. Our Officer is engaged in working with the organisation to support the action plan. She feels it would be appropriate for a percentage of project underspend to be allocated to help support our smallest MCGP funded organisation achieve the work identified in the action plan. This would be costs associated with meeting ongoing conditions, including quality mark costs of £2,790. As part of the action plan LWA will also engage someone to spend time on the work through applying to our small grants programme or other external funding if unsuccessful.

LWA is confident it can run the project effectively and efficiently.