

# **Voluntary Sector Initiative Fund – Local Grants 2016 – 2018**

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1: Summary of VSIF Funded Projects – 2012–2016.....Page 1

Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment Report – VSIF 2016-2018..... .Page 7

## Appendix 1: Summary of VSIF Funded Projects – 2012 - 2016

The Voluntary Sector Initiative Fund (VSIF) was created from the previous Main Programme Grant & Advice budgets and was the result of extensive public consultation with voluntary sector organisations. The Voluntary Sector Initiative Fund (VSIF) has been allocated into four funding streams:

- 1) Local Grants
- 2) Infrastructure Support – CVS funding
- 3) Advice and Guidance Contracts
- 4) London Council's Grant

This report summarised the projects funded under the Local Grants funding stream. The Local Grants were allocated to grant-funded Borough Plan aligned projects

There were 2 VSIF grants programmes running as follows, one being completed in March 2015 and another running until March 2016.

### VSIF Local Grants 2012-2015

This first round of Local Grants for the financial year 2012-13 was allocated to be used for projects which ran for 2 years and 9 months and which were aligned to the Borough Plan priorities excluding crime and regeneration. These are referred to as VSIF Local Grants 2012-15 and were approved by the Executive in January 2012. A budget allocation of £661,147 was allocated between 12 projects. The bids invited were around the following themes

- Theme1: Supporting children and Families and enabling young people to thrive
- Theme 2: Addressing Health and Well Being
- Theme 3: Protecting our environment and enhancing our cultural offer

Crime and regeneration theme funded projects ran until March 2013 and this is why these priorities were not included this round.

The council received 51 bids from 49 organisations seeking a total of £3,017,367 Of the 49 organisations which applied, 23 were new to council grant funding or returning after a number of years. For a number of new organisations which applied in this round there was further development required to meet the funding criteria.

### VSIF Local Grants 2012-15 – Funded Projects

	Project	Organisation	Total	1 <sup>st</sup> nine Months	Year 2	Year 3
1	<b>Adolescents at Risk</b> Counselling and support for mental health of young offenders	Brent Centre for Young People	68,750	18,750	25,000	25,000
2	<b>Chalkhill Crea8</b> Creative activities for young people in Chalkhill	Chalkhill Community Centre	62,051	17,015	22,468	22,568

3	<b>Creative Minds</b> Peer mentoring for young people affected by mental health problems	Brent Active Citizen's	68,550	18,750	24,900	24,900
4	<b>Comprehensive community care services for people affected by SCD, their carers and family</b> Sickle Cell health advice	The Sickle Cell Society	68,750	18,750	25,000	25,000
5	<b>Brent Youth HiCrEc Employment Project</b> NEET activities and accredited training related to the 'Creative Industries'	SABA	68,750	18,750	25,000	25,000
6	<b>Energise Brent</b> Climate Change Champions	London Sustainability Exchange	60,000	16,364	21,818	21,818
7	<b>Expanding Horizons</b> youth activities for young people in South Kilburn	OK Club	27,500	7,500	10,000	10,000
8	<b>Healthy Bodies+ Healthy Minds = Healthy Future</b> Health and Well being activities for young people	Cricklewood Homeless Concern	68,750	18,750	25,000	25,000
9	<b>Healthy Living activities for Older People</b> Food growing, cooking and exercise classes for older people	Elders Voice	52,796	16,197	18,029	18,570
10	<b>Reading for Life</b> Reading support for school children to improve their literacy and personal development	Volunteer Reading Help	63,000	13,000	25,000	25,000
11	<b>Supporting improvement of mental health for residents</b> Club for Older People	Magnolia Senior Citizens Club	4,000	1,000	1,500	1,500
12	<b>Happy and Healthy Families Project</b> - Activities around Education, Employment, Training and Healthy Living Activities to prevent disengagement, poor physical and mental health, and Social Isolation	Pakistan Community Centre	48,250	13,158	17,546	17,546
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>661,147</b>	<b>177,985</b>	<b>241,261</b>	<b>241,902</b>

### VSIF Local Grants 2013-2016

A 3-year funding stream which commenced in the financial year 2013-14 for projects aligned to the range of borough plan priorities (community safety; regenerating the borough; supporting children & families; addressing health & wellbeing and protecting the environment). These grants which offered additional themes are referred to VSIF

Local Grants 2013-16. These were approved by the Executive in February 2013 with a total budget allocation was £1,114,701 of which £951,363 was allocated over a period of three years to 14 projects meeting the grant criteria.

The remaining budget was allocated to small grants from 2013-2016. The small grants are for a period of one year up to a maximum of £10,000. Small grants funding was awarded to local organisations to assist with on-off projects, events, equipment that will benefit residents in the borough.

The council received 65 bids from 65 organisations seeking a total of £3,017,367 over a three-year period. Of the 65 organisations which applied, 23 were new to council grant funding or returning after a number of years. For a number of new organisations which applied in this round there was further development required to meet the funding criteria

The council is working with CVS Brent to ensure continued support for organisations bidding for funding from the council and other funders and look at the range of other ways in which local groups can have more success in securing other funding for local projects in Brent

#### **VSIF Local Grants 2013-16 – Funded Projects**

	<b>Project</b>	<b>Organisati on</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>
1.	<b>Safe to Achieve</b> Violence Prevention Education in Schools and Communities	Advance Advocacy	£75,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
2.	<b>Dementia Information and Awareness Raising Service</b> This project at increasing dementia awareness in Brent and provide residents affected by dementia with accurate and accessible information on dementia and local support services	Alzheimer's Society	£74,908	24,949	24,959	25,000
3.	<b>Training for Volunteer Advisers</b> Project involves employing a part-time Volunteer Training and Support Worker to recruit, train and support volunteers from amongst unemployed residents in the most deprived wards in the borough.	Brent Citizens Advice Bureau	£71,311	23,596	23,784	23,931
4.	<b>Get Active</b> Awareness Raising activities to improve the health and wellbeing for people with mild to moderate learning disabilities, by increasing their level of physical activity and improving their diet to help improve their	Brent Mencap	£73,651	24,042	24,716	24,893

	physical condition and reduce levels of obesity.					
5.	<b>Community Engagement &amp; Mental Health Promotion</b> Raising awareness of mental health within Brent BMER community and to professionals working in mental health field.	Brent Mind (Association for Mental Health)	£74,456	25,000	24,500	24,956
6.	<b>Healthier Homes</b> Project aims to increase (by 90 - 100 a year) the number of private tenants whose living conditions are improved thereby minimising health risks and promoting a sense of well-being for them and their families	Brent Private Tenants Rights Group	£75,000	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000
7.	<b>Artspiration</b> An integrated, inter-generational activity for young people to break down barriers, bring people together and build a sense of community in partnership with one community school.	Drama Workhouse	£66,525	£22,175	£22,175	£22,175
8.	<b>Brent Community Co-operative (BRECO)</b> Activities around raising awareness about sustainability/ environmental issues in Brent amongst Brent residents	Energy Solutions	£75,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
9.	<b>Hestia Brent Domestic Abuse Services Children's Arts and Drama Therapy</b> Activities to support children to recover from the trauma of domestic violence by providing art or drama therapy sessions in the domestic violence refuges in Brent.	Hestia Housing Support	£34,920	11,640	11,640	11,640
10.	<b>Access to Employment</b> Programme aims to support young people into jobs	I Serve Project - Discontinued	£64,060	£22,020	£21,020	£21,020
11.	<b>The Prince's Trust 'Get into Programme'</b> Programme aims to support young people into jobs.	The Prince's Trust	£64,870	£15,500	£24,620	£24,750
12.	<b>Early Intervention Support for Families</b> Family mediation, 1:1 Counselling, Play therapy to support better relationships and help develop more robust families.	Relate London North West	£63,148	£20,430	£21,043	£21,675

13.	<b>Steel Pan in the Community 2013-16</b> Musical activities for young people.	St Michael's Youth Programme	£75,000	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000
14.	<b>The Green Works</b> Programme aims to support young people with disabilities into jobs	Toucan Employment	£63,514	22,572	20,501	20,441
	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£951,363</b>	<b>£311,924</b>	<b>£318,958</b>	<b>£320,481</b>

## **Appendix 2: Equality Impact Assessment Report – VSIF 2016-2018**

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

Amendments to the Voluntary Sector Initiative Fund – Grants for 2016 – 2018

**Department**

Chief Operating Officer's

**Person Responsible**

James Curtis

**Created**

26 November, 2015

**Last Review**

03 December, 2015

**Status**

Awaiting submission

**Next Review**

TBC

### **Introduction**

This Impact Assessment considers the proposal to make amendments to the Voluntary Sector Initiative Fund – Local Grants, which was approved previously from 2012 – 2015.

The proposal reasserts the underlying principles for grant funding whilst taking into account the reduced budget that is available to provide large grants and the new priorities of the borough as set out in the Borough Plan 2015 – 2019.

The main amendments to the new grants programme are:

- Alignment of the priorities of the grant programme to the new priorities of the Borough Plan 2015 – 2019;
- A decrease of the total annual amount of funding available of £168k;
- A change in the term of grant funding from 3 years to 2 years; and
- An introduction of a grant condition of paying all staff funded through the grant the London Living Wage.

### **Impact Assessment Data**

#### **What effects could your policy have on different equality groups and on cohesion and good relations?**

The amendments to the grant programme will align the proprieties of the grant programme to those set out in the new Borough Plan 2015-16: better locally; better place and better lives. This will require them to be fully inclusive of all equality groups in the borough and have a positive impact on cohesion in the borough overall.

There will a general reduction in funding of £168k, although as this is an across the board reduction in spending, it should not impact any one protected group disproportionately more than any of the others should it do so at all. There is also no reason to believe that a change in grant term from three to two years as set out in the introduction should raise any equalities concerns.

The introduction of the London Living Wage for paid staff will also have positive equalities outcomes insofar as it may narrow the income gap between those equality groups in the borough who often do not earn as much as the mainstream.

Any possible adverse impacts across these characteristics will likely become more apparent in the current fiscal climate of reduced public expenditure and the subsequent £168k change in grant spending. Infrastructure spending for Brent CVS will be maintained and is intended to support the growth and maintenance of a robust voluntary sector in Brent. This will have positive equalities outcomes for the borough as a whole.

### **Summary of research and/or engagement activities**

#### **Could any of the impacts of the advice and guidance review be unlawful under the Equality Act 2010?**

No

#### **What actions will we take to enhance the positive potential impacts that have been identified?**

Ensure that all equalities groups are considered when awarding grant funding so that any one group does not benefit disproportionately more than others. However, due to the cumulative and disproportionate impact of budget cuts on some protected groups, there may be a need for positive action towards those groups when awarding grant funding. This will be considered against each protected groups' level of need in the context of budget cuts. In addition to this, infrastructure spending will remain in place to support the growth and maintenance of a thriving voluntary sector in the borough serving all equality groups.

#### **What actions will be taken to remove any potential negative impacts that have been identified?**

In allocating grants, consideration will be given to ensure that the widest range of services and activities are funded within the budget limits, taking into consideration the communities and needs in Brent. This will ensure that the grant funding programme as a whole is fully inclusive of all groups protected by the Equality Act.

#### **Please explain how any remaining negative impacts can be justified?**

The fiscal constraints imposed upon the borough by central government set out in the Comprehensive Spending Review mean that we have no choice but to reduce the budget for the grants programme. Under the 2012-15 arrangement, some equality groups benefitted disproportionately more than others for example, disabled,



BAME and female residents, therefore a general reduction in spending may impact these groups disproportionately. Under the new arrangement, consideration will be given to every group when awarding funding to ensure that the program is fully inclusive of all groups protected by the Equality Act. However, the disproportionate impact of budget cuts on certain groups in the borough may necessitate a higher level of grant funding for those groups. This will be considered when awarding grant funding and will help to mitigate the potential negative effects outlined above.