

Voluntary Sector Initiative Fund – Infrastructure Grant 2016 – 2018

Appendix 1

Equalities Impact Assessment

Voluntary Sector Initiative Fund – Infrastructure Grant 2016 -2018

Department	Person Responsible
Performance, Policy and Partnerships	James Curtis
Created	Last Review
25 February, 2016	N/A
Status	Next Review
Not-submitted	TBC

Main Analysis

Introduction

The current Voluntary Sector Initiative Fund (VSIF) which was approved in 2012 has been allocated to four funding streams: i) Local Grants ii) Infrastructure Support iii) Advice & Guidance Contracts and iv) London Council's Grant with a total yearly budget of £2.04M.

Changes to the terms of the VSIF Local Grants 2016-2018 from 3 year to 2 year grants were approved in February 2016. The funding term for the VSIF Infrastructure Grant was originally granted for one year and it is proposed that this be increased to two years.

An annual £410K savings requirement from the VSIF, to be implemented from April 2016, was agreed as part of the Council's wider budget savings in February 2015. These agreed savings do not impact the VSIF Infrastructure Grant as savings were agreed elsewhere within the VSIF.

The approved annual VSIF Infrastructure Grant is £161K and is currently awarded to CVS Brent on a yearly basis through a conditional grant. The proposed two year grant will total £322K (£161K per year).

The revision of the funding stream from one year to two years will have a number of positive equalities outcomes for the nine groups protected by the Equality Act 2010 which will now be examined in turn:

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

A core component of CVS Brent's role is to track the growth of emerging communities in the borough and work with associated emerging organisations to develop their capacity.

Key emerging groups in Brent include Eastern Europeans, primarily Romanians emigrating to the borough following the accession of Romania to the European Union in 2014 and refugees fleeing conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa.

Revising the funding stream from one year up to two years would have a positive equalities impact for the race, ethnicity and religion or belief equality categories. As CVS Brent would have a longer period of time to work with these associated emerging community organisations to develop their capacity.

In addition to this, public opinion polls have shown increasing support for transgender rights in recent years. This may mean that a heavily stigmatised and vulnerable community may begin to feel increasingly empowered to come forward and work with commissioned organisations in the borough.

Revising the funding stream up from one year up to two will allow CVS to support organisations working with transgender residents for a longer period of time and subsequently develop their capacity in a more sustainable way.

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?

All equalities groups will be considered when providing support from CVS Brent so that any one group does not benefit disproportionately more than others. This will be considered against each protected groups' level of need in the context of ongoing budget cuts and other external factors. The infrastructure spending will ensure that support is secured for two year 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?

No negative impacts have been identified.

Please explain how any remaining negative impacts can be justified?

Not applicable.