Draft Prospectus

Local Community Fund

2019 to 2023

Contents

Background

The council is committed to supporting a vibrant, innovative and sustainable voluntary and community sector in Tower Hamlets which is equipped to deliver activities that are flexible and responsive in meeting complex local needs. These activities will contribute towards achieving the outcomes for local residents set out in the [Tower Hamlets Plan](#) and the [council's Strategic Plan 2018-2021](#). The model of change set out in the Tower Hamlets Plan underpins the principles of new Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) funding programmes with a focus on outcomes and assets rather than prescriptive solutions, by prevention through early intervention and through greater integration of services.

The Local Community Fund has been developed working closely with voluntary and community sector organisations and other stakeholders to reflect the vision set out in the [VCS Strategy 2016-19](#) committing the council to working towards achieving, "an independent and sustainable voluntary and community sector, working closely with the council and partners to meet the needs of local people wherever they live in the borough".

The key principles of the Local Community Fund programme are:

a. The programme will be a new range of services funded by the council and co-produced with the VCS.
b. The programme will, as far as possible, operate as a single coordinated entity, with a coherent approach to funding and common approach to the programme's outputs and outcomes across the different themes for delivery.
c. The programme takes into consideration the council's Grants Policy and existing strategic priorities. This maximises impact and avoids funding overlap, as well as supporting the delivery of the Tower Hamlets Plan and Strategic Plan
d. The new programme will fit with the council's wider Commissioning Framework and Co-production Framework recommendations.
e. The programme will adopt an outcomes based approach, allowing organisations to build on local knowledge, skills and expertise and have the flexibility to undertake the activities which have the most impact.
f. The new programme will stimulate greater and more effective support in tackling local issues. This principle will inform the determination of the programme budget.
g. The process will be transparent and fair.

This prospectus sets out the programme in detail. The funding programme is based on five themes. The priorities within each theme have been grouped into funding schemes which VCS organisations are invited to bid to. The prospectus gives general guidance for bidding and some funding schemes include specific guidance relevant to their service areas. The criteria and assessment scheme is also included to give organisations a clear idea of what they need to include in their bids and the relative weighting of questions in the assessment process.

All of the documentation relating to bids to the LCF is on the council's website at [Local Community Fund Information](#). Information is also on the Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service (THCVS) website here [THCVS Web page](#).

General Guidance

This part of the guidance lays out some of the key facts about the Local Community fund and some of the main points to consider before you decide to bid.

Eligibility

The Local Community Fund is for projects and initiatives that will benefit Tower Hamlets residents. Applicant organisations do not have to have a permanent base in the borough but will need to demonstrate how their work will benefit local residents.

Funding is available to:

- voluntary and community organisations
- registered charities, including charitable incorporated organisations
- not-for-profit companies
- community interest companies
- faith groups, where the funding is for secular activity that is open to all

Bids from individuals, sole traders, profit making companies and political organisations will not be considered.

The first stage of the assessment process will assess your organisation's governance arrangements against the criteria listed in section 4 of this document.

How much funding is available?

The total budget for the Local Community Fund is £2.66m per year and will be for three and a half years to 31 March 2023. The budget has been allocated across five themes:

Theme	Annual budget
Inclusion Health and Wellbeing	£990,000
Digital Inclusion and Awareness	£60,000
Information Advice and Guidance	£980,000
Employment and Skills	£435,000
Community Safety	£195,000

How much can organisations apply for?

There is no set maximum or minimum award level under the LCF programme.

Organisations should apply for the funds they need to be able to deliver their projects effectively, whilst being mindful of the overall budget available for each theme and the scope of the schemes and priorities within it.

What can the funding be used for?

LCF funding can be used to cover all the costs of delivering a project, including:

- Staff salaries and associated costs. Note: all staff must be paid at least the London Living Wage
- Room hire
- Equipment, materials and other project resources
- Organisational or core costs (including rent, heat, light, insurance) proportional to the size of the project

Funding cannot be used:

- For capital appeals or major building works
- For general charitable appeals
- To pay back debt or cover past expenditure

Projects will need to demonstrate that they will provide value for money.

Outcomes Focus

The Local Community Fund is an outcomes focused funding programme. Outcomes are the changes that your project aims to bring about over time. They are usually described using change words, such as 'reduced' 'increased' or 'improved'.

Each of the LCF funding schemes includes a set of outcomes, which have been developed over the course of several workshops with the voluntary sector. Applicant organisations will be expected to work towards one or more of the outcomes under the theme to which they are applying and also to describe their own specific project outcomes.

Worked example for an older people's project, based on Big Lottery outcomes guide:

Overarching outcome: 1B, 2 (theme 1, scheme B, outcome 2): Reduced isolation and loneliness among older isolated adults, particularly those who are housebound, and those facing additional challenges (e.g dementia, disability, limited English);			
Example Project Outcome	**Example Indicator**	**Indicator level**	**Timescale**
Older isolated adults report feeling	The number of older isolated	45 older isolated adults are accessing	By the end of each

less isolated as a result of accessing a range of social activities	adults feeling less isolated	new social activities	year
		20 older people attend day trips and state they feel more independent and confident going out and using transport	By the end of each year
		A total of 150 older isolated adults in the borough state that they feel less isolated	By the end of the project
Older isolated adults people in the borough experience improved psychological and physical wellbeing that will help to maintain their independence	The change in older isolated adults' feelings of psychological and physical well-being	10 in year one and 25 in years two and three demonstrate improved health through increased participation in health and fitness activities	By the end of each project year
		25 older people attend day trips and state they feel more independent and confident going out and using transport	By the end of each project year
		A total of 85 older isolated adults state that they feel happier and more motivated	By the end of the project
Local statutory and voluntary agencies will increase their	Number of new culturally appropriate	5 new culturally appropriate services developed	By the end of each project year

awareness of the barriers experienced by older isolated adults to help them plan and deliver more appropriate daytime services	services developed	7 agencies report a better understanding of the barriers experienced by older isolated adults	By the end of the project

Further information and training about how to develop and track project outcomes will be delivered as part of the support offer for the Local Community Fund. Details can be found on the THCVS website www.thcvs.org.uk.

Co-design

Co-design means working collaboratively with residents who use services, volunteers, staff and other stakeholders to design and develop the way your project is run.

Co-design processes should not be rushed so we are not anticipating that they take place before you submit your bid. Instead, we expect organisations to tell us how they will incorporate continuous co-design into the life of their projects.

We recognise that some organisations will be more familiar with the language of co-design and co-production than others, and that some projects, through actively involving and working with people who use their services, may already have co-design principles embedded in their work. Advice and training on co-design will be available to all funded projects and for the wider sector.

Partnerships and consortia

Organisations can apply for funding individually or as part of a partnership or consortium. There is no set requirement for partnerships within any of the themes.

Consortia bids may be made for linked local services which provide a borough wide pattern of provision. If working in a partnership or consortium organisations will need to demonstrate that partnership arrangements are in place.

Whether working as part of a formalised partnership or not, all applicants will be expected to demonstrate how they will work with other voluntary organisations and statutory services in the borough.

Community Cohesion and Poverty Reduction

Community Cohesion and Poverty Reduction are key issues for Tower Hamlets, and crosscutting themes for the entire Local Community Fund. All applicants to the Fund will be expected to describe how their organisation (or partnership/consortium) will ensure that

community cohesion and poverty reduction issues are taken into account in the planning and delivery of their project.

For background on community cohesion, see page 10 of this tender specification, which features some cohesion outcomes that were co-produced as part of a previous funding process.

Equality

Organisations must have an equality and diversity policy and be able to demonstrate:

- Awareness of the diverse needs of the community/area targeted by the project
- What actions have/will be taken to ensure that equalities and diversity issues are addressed in the planning and delivery of project activities/services
- A profile of the anticipated beneficiaries of the project with an explanation if any specific groups are targeted.

Organisations are encouraged to refer to the Borough Equality Assessment outcomes framework [LINK].

Premises

Many organisations lease premises from the council. The council expects these organisations to include an appropriate proportion of their premises costs in their bids. For those which only provide one service from their council premises the premises costs may be included in full. For those where the service which funding is sought for is only one of a number of activities based in a council owned building, organisations will have to work out a proportionate amount to include in the cost of the project they are bidding for.

In some cases organisations will be bidding to the LCF for part of their premises costs, leaving part of the market rent unfunded. In the longer term the council expects organisations to include the relevant proportion of their premises costs in all funding bids but in the shorter term there is support available through the community benefit rent reduction scheme (CBRR). CBRR is essentially a grant for organisations in council premises to cover the cost of rent which cannot be recovered through grants and contracts for services. Details of the scheme can be found on the council website here CBRR details.

Organisations that lease premises from the council and bid for LCF funding are strongly advised to submit an expression of interest to the CBRR scheme so that they know whether they may be eligible for CBRR if their bid is not successful or if it will only cover part o the cost of their rent.

The council will be holding a special session for organisations which lease premises on 16th April at 2:30 at the Town Hall.

Training and Support

A training and support package will be provided for organisations bidding to the LCF. This will include:

- Bid workshops

- Co-design workshops
- Partnership facilitation
- How to apply – using the on line forms
- Individual bid reviews
- Individual support/query (phone)
- Individual support/query (face to face)

Details of dates, times and booking will be published on the council and THCVS websites

Timeline

The Local Community Fund is a three and a half year programme. Funding will start on 1st October 2019, and will end on 31st March 2023.

The bidding period for the Local Community Fund will last for eight weeks. The deadline for submitting bids is 12 noon on xxx May 2019.

Organisations will be notified of funding decisions in July 2019, ready for projects to start in October 2019.

Bidding Process

All of the documentation relating to LCF bidding is on the council's website at Local Community Fund Information.

All bids must be submitted using online forms via the council's online portal. The council cannot accept submissions by email, by post or by hand.

The online portal was previously used for council grants and is also used by a number of other funders. The council will be running training for organisations which are not familiar with it. The link to the online forms is on the Local Community Fund Information web page.

There are two forms, the Organisation Information Form and the Project Form. Organisations must submit only one Organisation Information Form with a separate Project Form for each project. We expect bids to be co-ordinated and approved by senior management in an organisation so if more than one Organisation Information Form is submitted the data the data should be the same. However, if more than one form is submitted, the information on our database will be overwritten and this may affect the assessment. It may also affect our records of contact details which could result in communications being misdirected.

We expect that most organisations will submit Project Forms to individual funding schemes to meet some or all of the priorities set out in the scheme. The form will ask which scheme and priority or priorities the bid relates to.

However, some larger projects may relate to more than one funding scheme. Organisations can therefore include priorities from more than one funding scheme in a single bid rather than making a number of individual bids as long as the whole bid relates to one theme. If the priorities relate to more than one theme, separate bids must be submitted.

To illustrate this,

Project A	Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing Theme	Scheme 1A	Single bid
		Scheme 1C	
Project B	Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing Theme	Scheme 1A	Separate bid
	Digital Inclusion Theme	Scheme 2B	Separate bid
Project C	Employment and Skills	Scheme 4A	Single bid
	Employment and Skills	Scheme 4B	
	Employment and Skills	Scheme 4D	
	Community Safety	Scheme 5B	Separate bid

Organisations may also submit bids for more than one project and they do not have to be linked.

The section below, 'Assessment Criteria' also includes information on the bidding process which you are recommended to read. It sets out the evidence you need to include, how it will be assessed and the scores for each section.

Assessment Criteria

Funding Criteria

The funding criteria are split into two sections, organisational criteria which relate to your organisation, its governance and management, and project criteria which relate to the activities you are seeking funding for. The tables below set out the criteria, summarise the evidence we are looking for, whether the assessment will be based on documents you submit or specific questions on the Local Community Fund Bid Form, and state what percentage of the score for each section is allocated to each of the criteria.

The organisational criteria are assessed first. If you do not score at least 50% and pass the essential pass/fail questions, none of your projects will go forward to the next stage of assessment.

Organisational Criteria

All bids must meet the basic organisational criteria set out below at a level which is appropriate to their size. We do not expect small organisations to have sophisticated documentation or processes. However, you will need to be able to show that you have thought about all of the criteria and have something in place which is reasonable for your size and income.

For the purposes of the organisational criteria we are defining size by annual expenditure (by which we normally mean as set out in your last approved accounts), as follows:

- Large   over £250,000
- Medium   over £25,000 up to and including £250,000
- Small   up to and including £25,000

New organisations should use their proposed annual expenditure, including the total LCF applied for.

Some organisational criteria are scored '**Pass/Fail**'. Those in bold are essential and your bid will <u>not</u> go forward if the assessment is 'Fail' on 'Governance', 'Financial Management' or 'Equalities'.

Some organisational criteria are scored with the maximum number of available marks indicated in the 'Max Score' column. The total is 100 overall. Your assessment needs to score <u>more than</u> 50/100 for your bids to go forward to the second stage to assessment.

If you fail in the organisational criteria assessment on 'Managing People', 'Safeguarding' or 'Insurance' your bid may still be assessed. However, if your organisation is offered funding it will have to reach the pass standard on all three before any funding contracts can be signed.

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed by	Scoring guidance	Max Score
How you are governed and led	You must have a constitution or other governing document to demonstrate that your organisation is properly established and not for profit.	Submit document	Constitution or other governing document with details of, 1. Membership, 2. Committee structure 3. Not for profit 4. Dissolution clause	**Pass/ Fail**
	You will also need to be able to show that: 1. You have a committee which meets regularly; 2. When you had your last annual general meeting, and 3. If you are a larger organisation, whether you have sub committees to deal with particular areas such as finance or personnel.	Questions xx	Regular management committee meetings List of management committee/Board members (this may be included in annual report and/or accounts) AGM date within past two years Sub Committees (large only)	
Business planning	Do you have a business plan or strategic plan for your organisation or can you show that you can develop a plan if asked? It does not need to be very sophisticated if you are a small organisation, but enough to show you have thought about and planned how you will provide your services.	Question xx and/or submit documents	All large organisations will be expected to have submitted a document describing itself as the organisation's business plan. They may vary and some may have separate strategic plans which the business plan complements. Small organisations or medium size organisations where the funding bid is for the principal or sole service may provide sufficient information through the bid form without the need for a separate business plan. This may be taken into consideration in the assessment **MET (40)** Large organisation – full three to five year plan which	40

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed by	Scoring guidance	Max Score
			includes: • Organisational purpose, aims & objectives; • Client need; • Strategic context, i.e policy environment, issues affecting clients, how needs may change over time (could be PEST analysis) • Assessment of organisational capacity (i. SWOT analysis) • Plans for next 3-5 years (yr 1 in detail) • Resources required to fulfil plans • Risk assessment and contingency planning Medium or small organisation – a document which demonstrates the organisation has considered the seven key issues in detail. Level of detail will be proportionate to the size of the organisation. For a small organisation or a medium size organisation where the funding bid is for the principal service, the information contained in the bid may be sufficient. **PART (20)** Large organisations – Business plan which covers a) some but not all of the key issues, or b) all the issues but not in	

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed by	Scoring guidance	Max Score
			detail Medium and small organisations – Document which demonstrates the organisation has considered a) some but not all of the key issues, or b) all the issues but not in detail **FAIL (0)** Large Organisations – no business plan or business plan which does not cover any or only one of the key issues. Medium and small organisations – no indication either through a separate business plan or through the funding bid that the organisation has considered any or only one of the key issues.	
Managing people	If you employ staff, your management must include: 1. An effective and fair way of recruiting staff using a job description and person specification; 2. Written contracts of employment, which meet legal requirements; 3. Clear written discipline and grievance procedures in line with ACAS codes of practice; and 4. Adequate training for the duties they have to perform. If you use volunteers, your management should include:	Questions xx and/or submit documents	**MET** All YES **FAIL** Any NO	Pass/ Fail

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed by	Scoring guidance	Max Score
	1. A recruitment process to ensure volunteers are appropriately placed; 2. A clear description of volunteers' roles, and 3. Adequate training for the duties they have to perform. 4. Clear procedures for reimbursing volunteer expenses			
Financial management	1. You must keep to all financial and accounting requirements of charity and company law, if appropriate. 2. You must follow good practice in relation to the business' financial controls. 3. You must be able to provide accounts appropriate to the size of your organisation.	Questions xx Submit document	**MET** 1. Financial returns filed within six months of due date 2. Accounts meet charity commission or other regulator's standards 3. Yes to 50%+ questions on 'Finances' 4. Income and expenditure budget for the organisation **NB** New organisations will not have accounts. Assessment should therefore exclude reference to accounts but include all other points.	**Pass**/ **Fail**
Managing the organisation	You must be able to show that you have processes in place to deliver services effectively and that your organisation's resources are managed efficiently. Health and Safety Volunteer Policy and Procedures	Questions xx and/or submit documents	**MET (40)** 'Yes' to 1. written procedures, and either 2. recognised quality mark, or 3. capacity building programme. **PART (20)** 'Yes' to one of the three	40

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed by	Scoring guidance	Max Score
			questions	
			FAIL (0)	
			'No' to all	
			NB Quality marks should be relevant to the service. National quality marks from umbrella bodies are acceptable if national body is recognised regulatory body, eg. Advice Services Alliance, Sport England, NCVO	
			Policies and procedures should comply with current legislation and should be dated and regularly reviewed	
			Essential policies and procedures are set out in the funding agreement and must be in place before the agreement is signed.	
Financial viability	Have you set out the financial need clearly in your budget and are your costings realistic? Do you have money set aside in reserves which you can use?	Submit budget document for organisation	Clear Income and Expenditure budget which covers all of the points set out in the form Reserves policy that is regularly reviewed **MET (10)** Large organisations should provide full budget for the service and cover all of the issues set out in the requirements Medium & small organisations should cover the issues set out in the budget requirements but proportionate to amount requested. **PART (5)** Clear Income and Expenditure	10

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed by	Scoring guidance	Max Score
			budget but not all other issues covered **FAIL (0)** No budget or expenditure only budget (unless stated that only income will be funding requested)	
Equality and Diversity	You must have an equal opportunities or equalities and diversity policy and be able to show that you actively use it. • In recruitment (to board and team) • In planning and provision of services • In the management of your organisation	Submit document	All organisations must have an equal opportunities or equalities and diversity statement or policy in place. Adequacy of policy will be assessed at contract mobilisation stage if bids successful and funding will only be paid when adequate policy is in place or agreed action plan to revise policy.	**Pass/ Fail**
Safeguarding vulnerable people	Do you have policies on protecting children and vulnerable adults which are appropriate to the service? Are your staff and volunteers appropriately trained?	Submit document	All organisations must have safeguarding policies in place appropriate to their activities. Adequacy of policies will be assessed at contract mobilisation stage if bids successful and funding will only be paid when adequate policies in place.	Pass/ Fail
Insurance	You must be able to show that your organisation has enough insurance cover for your activities, events, staff, premises, equipment and vehicles, including: 1. Public liability (£5m); 2. Employer's liability cover if you employ staff (£10m); 3. Property and equipment	Submit document	Documents should be current and for appropriate amounts. Not all insurance will be required for all activities. New organisations will not have insurance in place but	Pass/ Fail

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed by	Scoring guidance	Max Score
	insurance against fire, theft, loss and damage; 4. Vehicle and driver insurance if vehicles are owned or driven; and 5. Professional indemnity if you give advice to members of the public.		must demonstrate that they have adequate cover in mobilisation phase.	
Other resources	Will our support help you to get other resources such as volunteers or funding from other sources?	Question xx	**MET (10)** YES plus evidence of other funding/resources from accounts/annual report **PART (5)** YES with little evidence **FAIL (0)** NO	10

Project Criteria

This section sets out the criteria we will use to assess your project proposals. We will assess your project proposals proportionate to the size of your organisation. If you are a small organisation, you will not have to provide as much evidence as larger organisations, but you must be able to show that you understand, and are working towards meeting, each of the criteria.

The council will not consider funding any project which scores less than half the available score in any section.

Scoring is on a sliding scale from 'excellent' to 'fail' graduated from five to zero. The scores will then be 'weighted' according to the maximum score for the section. For example, the 'five to zero' score for 'Outcomes' would be weighted x3 to achieve a score out of a maximum of 15 for the section.

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed	Scoring Guidance	Max Score
Ability to deliver	Your bid must show that the arrangements you are proposing can deliver the service effectively. You will need to provide: • A description of the project, including: o What the activities/services are; o Plans for delivery – where, how, how frequently, numbers of beneficiaries (these may be used to set your key performance indicators (KPIs) if your bid is successful); o How you will reach your target beneficiaries; o Geographic area targeted; • Details of any partnership arrangements. These may be informal links to other services or more formal consortium arrangements; • Details of why you think your project is needed such as local research	Question xx	Project description (10 points max) • Clear description of activities • Geographical area and rationale • Target residents and rationale • Delivery plan clarifying when, where and how activities/services will be provided • Clear proposals for KPIs that the project will deliver (may be set out in outcomes section) Partnership arrangements (5 points max) • If there is a formal partnership or consortium, a clear outline of who will deliver the project	25

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed	Scoring Guidance	Max Score
	and user feedback • Details of how your proposal will help achieve the service priority set out in the prospectus		(including details of partnership working if appropriate) • Evidence of informal partnership links • Added value of partnership arrangements articulated Demonstration of need (5 points max) • Local research/user feedback • Local published data (Census, JSNA etc) • National data Link to LCF priority (5 points max) • Clear link between activity and priority	

Track record	You must be able to show that your organisation has a track record of delivering service effectively in the type of service you want us to fund. If your organisation is new, you must be able to show that the individuals involved in it have a successful track record in other organisations	Question xx	Experience (with examples as evidence) should include:
			
			• Delivering projects similar to proposal
			  o Activity
			  o Complexity
			  o Size, and
			  o Value
			• Meeting monitoring and reporting requirements
			• Achievement of outcomes or evidence of impact of previous work
				5

Outcomes	There must be evidence in your bid that you will be able to demonstrate change using outcomes and indicators which are SMART – specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and time-related.	Question xx	Outcomes must be: • Relevant to the specification • Achievable from the proposed activities	15

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed	Scoring Guidance	Max Score
	(Guidance)		• Have relevant indicators and measures • SMART	
Quality assurance	You must show that you have achieved a recognised quality assurance standard or some other evidence which shows your organisation actively tries to improve quality.	Question xx	Appropriate QA accreditation must be in place for 'excellent' score with evidence of action to maintain standards. If no QA accreditation in place, must show evidence of working towards QA and/or evidence that a quality standard framework/process is in place.	10
Service Co-design	How will your proposal include further co-design with residents? We expect organisations to work with residents and other stakeholders towards improving the service over the period of funding. This may include revising the outcomes to be achieved and changing the way the service is delivered. You will need to describe how you will engage with residents and other stakeholders to co-design improvements to your service. (Guidance)	Question xx	Plan should include a process for meaningful engagement of residents and other stakeholders in service improvement through: • User involvement including feedback, focus groups etc • Working with non-users and partners • Needs and trends analysis which make reference to basic principles of co-design: • Inclusion • Respect • Participation • Outcomes focus	10
Local knowledge	How will your proposal demonstrate local value? You will need to demonstrate your ability to reach residents and communities in Tower Hamlets and that you have: a) Good knowledge of the	Question xx	Evidence of local knowledge through: • Local presence • Track record of local delivery • Impact locally	15

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed	Scoring Guidance	Max Score
	neighbourhoods, needs and services where you work (or are planning to work); b) Working links and connections with other organisations (from all sectors); c) Plans to utilise and deepen your local connections over the course of an LCF project, and d) Current or potential partnership arrangements.		(outcomes of previous work) • User feedback • Local research of needs Evidence of local connection through: • Partnerships with local organisations (VCS or public) • Engagement with local structures such as Forum membership • Links with other providers such as referrals or joint activity	
Equalities	You will need to be able to show how your service promotes equalities and how it affects people who have protected equalities characteristics. If your project is specifically targeting people with one or more protected equalities characteristics, you should explain why there is a particular need to do this.	Question xx	Evidence of consultation with people with protected equalities characteristics Proposals to minimise barriers to potential users of services. Proposals to monitor equalities impact If appropriate, sufficient information to justify or explain why the project will be targeting specific groups/sections of the local community	5
Community cohesion and reducing poverty	How will your project contribute towards community cohesion and reducing poverty? You will need to show how your proposed service will help people from different backgrounds get on well together in the local area and meet some or all of the borough's community	Question xx	At least one outcome which links to the borough's community cohesion outcomes Clear evidence that proposal will help reduce poverty in target groups	5

Criteria	Evidence	Assessed	Scoring Guidance	Max Score
	cohesion outcomes			
Value for money	How do you know that the service you are proposing offers good value for money? Have you compared it with other, similar services? Does your service bring something extra which other services would not be able to provide?	Question xx	- Realistic costs - Adequate funding for proposed activity - Cost comparisons - Clear explanation of the basis on which costs have been assessed - Leverage of other resources such as volunteers and in kind support	10

Full Schemes

1. Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing

Scheme 1A – Children, Young People and Families

Overview
The Tower Hamlets Plan 2019-23 sets out the borough's vision for inclusion, health and wellbeing: We are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of our local population and the quality of the care services they receive. At the heart of this is ensuring our services are person-centred, empowering and that they make a tangible and positive difference to people's lives. We are committed to providing co-ordinated, joined-up services that enable people to have greater independence and more control over their care. Using information, advice, technology and support we will help people to manage their health conditions. We aim to give the people of Tower Hamlets one of the best systems of interconnected health and care in the country. We are delivering this through the Tower Hamlets Together (THT) partnership which brings together providers, commissioners, the community and voluntary and statutory sector, to improve the quality of life for our residents. Through further close partnership working, prevention, early intervention and working with our communities, we will tackle health inequalities, improving the quality of life for our residents and managing demand for services. We know that achieving better health and wellbeing is much wider than improving our health and care services. It involves taking a holistic approach to everything that impacts on how we feel, from good quality housing to accessible parks and open spaces. We know we can achieve improved physical and mental health by providing spaces for people to be active and enjoy. The VCS has a unique role in helping to achieve that vision through innovative community focussed services co-designed with local residents. This theme sets out the priority areas where VCS organisations are well placed to make a significant impact.
Priorities
1. Increase access to Youth Services   In this priority we are looking in particular to increase the use of youth services by girls and young women

2. Provision of Early Help support to families
   In this priority we are looking in particular to support activities which will improve Early Help Assessment outcomes

3. Support for young carers
   In this priority we are looking in particular to support activities which the health and wellbeing of young carers in the borough

Outcomes

1. Children and young people, in particularly girls and young women:
   a. have more confidence in themselves;
   b. are more resilient, and
   c. are able to, and do, access a range of spaces, activities and social opportunites across Tower Hamlets.

2. Girls and young women feel included, are able to participate in any service, and are more likely to train to become youth leaders and/or develop their own initiatives.

3. Children and young people who may feel excluded from participating in mainstream services and activities (e.g from minority groups, who are disabled, who are LGBTQI, or who are carers for others) can participate in a range of activities and experiences.

4. Children, young people and their families are listened to and their input is considered and included in decision making.

5. Young carers are supported and included; their needs and concerns are understood and are taken into account at local and strategic levels.

6. Children under 5 grow up in positive family environments and are supported to thrive.

Note: For the purposes of this Fund:

- 'Children under 5' includes young toddlers and infants and can also cover pregnancy
- 'Children' covers the ages 5-12
- 'Young people' covers 13-18 but there is some flexibility at the lower and upper end of this scale where need can be demonstrated and services can be of clear benefit.
- Children and young people includes those who have special educational needs and/or who are disabled (SEND)

Examples of activities

We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might include:
- Activities to increase engagement with youth services for girls and young women
- Support for families who require specialist early help support
- Support for young carers
- Peer group support

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

Geographic Spread

Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a defined geographic area.
Consortia bids may be made for linked local services which provide a borough wide pattern of provision.

Levels of Funding

The budget allocated to this theme is £990,000 per annum. Each priority area within this theme has a notional budget but there may be some variation depending on the number and quality of bids received. The notional budget for this priority is £190,000 per annum. There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.

Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing

Scheme 1B – Older People

Overview
The Tower Hamlets Plan 2019-23 and Health and Wellbeing Strategu 2017- 2020 set out the borough's vision for inclusion, health and wellbeing, stating a commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of our local population and the quality of the care services they receive. At the heart of this is ensuring our services are person-centred, empowering and that they make a tangible and positive difference to people's lives. We are committed to providing co-ordinated, joined-up services that enable people to have greater independence and more control over their care. Using information, advice, technology and support we will help people to manage their health conditions. We aim to give the people of Tower Hamlets one of the best systems of interconnected health and care in the country. We are delivering this through the Tower Hamlets Together (THT) partnership which brings together providers, commissioners, the community and voluntary and statutory sector, to improve the quality of life for our residents. Through further close partnership working, prevention, early intervention and working with our communities, we will tackle health inequalities, improving the quality of life for our residents and managing demand for services. We know that achieving better health and wellbeing is much wider than improving our health and care services. It involves taking a holistic approach to everything that impacts on how we feel, from good quality housing to accessible parks and open spaces. We know we can achieve improved physical and mental health by providing spaces for people to be active and enjoy. In Tower Hamlets, people typically start to develop poorer health around ten years earlier than London and England. On average, a man living in the borough starts to develop health problems from the age of 54 compared to 64 in the rest of the country. For a woman, it is 56 compared to 64. The borough's Ageing Well strategy highlights the fact that far too many older residents experience chronic loneliness; and caring for our older population presents an increasing financial challenge to the council and the NHS. Set against these challenges there are huge opportunities: the energy and passion of our older population; the rich network of community and voluntary organisations across the borough; the high quality care, health and community services provided locally; and a shared commitment to finding new ways of improving the health, wellbeing and quality of life for local people as they age The VCS has a unique role in helping to achieve that vision through innovative community focussed services co-designed with local residents. This theme sets out the priority areas where VCS organisations are well placed to make a significant impact. Note: For the purposes of this Fund, 'older people' includes 'younger older' people aged 50 +

Priorities

1. Ageing well and reducing social isolation

   In this priority we are looking in particular to:

   a) Encourage people over 50 to feel a greater connection to their community and they are able to continue making a positive contribution to their communities;
   b) Support Tower Hamlets becoming a recognised dementia-friendly community;
   c) Increase the number of older people with dementia who 'live well' ;
   d) Reduce the number of older people who feel lonely;
   e) Encourage more older people to access services that provide support in their local neighbourhoods;
   f) Increase engagement in meaningful relationships in care homes;
   g) Increased meaningful intergenerational contact.

2. Provision of physical and health-promotion activities for older people

   In this priority we are looking in particular to support activities which help older people to be healthier and more active.

Outcomes

1. Older people are able to continue making a positive contribution to their communities;
2. Reduced isolation and loneliness among older isolated adults, particularly those who are housebound, and those facing additional challenges (e.g dementia, disability, limited English);
3. Older people feel more included and integrated in their communities and are able to mix with people of different ages and from different backgrounds to increase the sharing of skills, experience and knowledge both amongst older people, and between different generations;
4. People living with dementia are supported to participate as much as, and as long as possible. Carers of people living with dementia are supported.

Examples of activities

We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might include:

- Intensive support to provide volunteering opportunities to older people;
- Formation of a Tower Hamlets Dementia Action Alliance;

- Befriending services for older people;
- Older People's Peer Support Groups;
- Older People's Lunch Club services;
- Intergenerational programme for older adults and children;
- Provision of events, programmes that support interaction and integration;
- Cross generational projects targeted at services supporting people with dementia and those suffering from social isolation.

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

Geographic Spread
Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a defined geographic area. Consortia bids may be made for linked local services which provide a borough wide pattern of provision.

Levels of Funding
The budget allocated to this theme is £990,000 per annum. Each priority area within this theme has a notional budget but there may be some variation depending on the number and quality of bids received. The notional budget for this priority is £300,000 per annum. There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.

Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing

Scheme 1C – Access, information and self-management

Overview
The Tower Hamlets Plan 2019-23 sets out the borough's vision for inclusion ,health and wellbeing: We are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of our local population and the

quality of the care services they receive. At the heart of this is ensuring our services are person-centred, empowering and that they make a tangible and positive difference to people's lives. We are committed to providing co-ordinated, joined-up services that enable people to have greater independence and more control over their care. Using information, advice, technology and support we will help people to manage their health conditions. We aim to give the people of Tower Hamlets one of the best systems of interconnected health and care in the country. We are delivering this through the Tower Hamlets Together (THT) partnership which brings together providers, commissioners, the community and voluntary and statutory sector, to improve the quality of life for our residents.

Through further close partnership working, prevention, early intervention and working with our communities, we will tackle health inequalities, improving the quality of life for our residents and managing demand for services. We know that achieving better health and wellbeing is much wider than improving our health and care services. It involves taking a holistic approach to everything that impacts on how we feel, from good quality housing to accessible parks and open spaces. We know we can achieve improved physical and mental health by providing spaces for people to be active and enjoy.

The VCS has a unique role in helping to achieve that vision through innovative community focussed services co-designed with local residents. This theme sets out the priority areas where VCS organisations are well placed to make a significant impact.

Priority

Residents better informed/equipped to manage health conditions

In this priority we are looking in particular to;
a) Improve personal management of conditions;
b) Improve knowledge, skills and confidence to manage personal health and care;
c) Improve physical functioning and ability to self-care;
d) Improve quality of life.

Outcomes

1. Residents of all ages are better informed/equipped to manage health conditions
2. Increased awareness of and access to local services, including crisis support
3. Residents and their families are aware of the benefits of healthy eating and eat more healthily

Examples of activities

We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might

include:

- Independent Holistic Care and Support planning/ Peer coaching focused on Multi-disciplinary teams;
- Facilitated peer support;
- One-to-one support to help residents live healthier lifestyles and change behaviours.

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

Geographic Spread

Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a defined geographic area.

Consortia bids may be made for linked local services which provide a borough wide pattern of provision.

Levels of Funding

The budget allocated to this theme is £990,000 per annum. Each priority area within this theme has a notional budget but there may be some variation depending on the number and quality of bids received. The notional budget for this priority is £90,000 per annum.

There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.

Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing

Scheme 1D - Healthy living and healthy choices

Overview
The Tower Hamlets Plan 2019-23 sets out the borough's vision for inclusion ,health and wellbeing:
We are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of our local population and the quality of the care services they receive. At the heart of this is ensuring our services are person-centred, empowering and that they make a tangible and positive difference to people's lives. We are committed to providing co-ordinated, joined-up services that enable people to have greater independence and more control over their care. Using information, advice, technology and support we will help people to manage their health conditions. We aim to give the people of Tower Hamlets one of the best systems of interconnected health and care in the country. We are delivering this through the Tower Hamlets Together (THT) partnership which brings together providers, commissioners, the community and voluntary and statutory sector, to improve the quality of life for our residents.
Through further close partnership working, prevention, early intervention and working with our communities, we will tackle health inequalities, improving the quality of life for our residents and managing demand for services. We know that achieving better health and wellbeing is much wider than improving our health and care services. It involves taking a holistic approach to everything that impacts on how we feel, from good quality housing to accessible parks and open spaces. We know we can achieve improved physical and mental health by providing spaces for people to be active and enjoy.
The VCS has a unique role in helping to achieve that vision through innovative community focussed services co-designed with local residents. This theme sets out the priority areas where VCS organisations are well placed to make a significant impact.
Priorities

1. Residents better informed to make healthier choices
 	
In this priority we are looking in particular to:
   a) Increase engagement with community farms and community projects;
   b) Make a positive impact on health and wellbeing through sports, culture and leisure activity;
   c) Reduce social isolation through sports, culture and leisure activity

2. Increased engagement in physical activity

In this priority we are looking in particular to:
   a) Increase physical activity in the under-represented groups and improving health outcomes;
   b) Increase the proportion of children and young people that achieve the weekly minimum level of physical activity and develop an active lifestyle as a habit;
   c) Improve the sport and physical activity sector delivery interventions that meet the needs of local residents;
   d) Improve cohesion through participation in sport and physical activity;
   e) Improve mental health and reduce social isolation through participation in sport and physical activity;
   f) Improve the quality of the local physical activity and sport offer, offering opportunities for participation for the inactive and less active across a wide variety of disciplines.

Outcomes

1. Increased participation in a wide range of culture, play, physical activity, leisure and sport that are inclusive of age, gender, disability, race and mobility
2. More social opportunities for reducing isolation through participation in culture, play physical activity and sport.
3. Increased participation from marginalised groups
4. Creating opportunities for intergenerational relationships, shared experience through culture, play, physical activity, leisure and sport for all above

Examples of activities

We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might include:

- Promotion of healthy outdoor activity and interaction with animals and plants through supporting local urban farms and growing schemes
- Local groups self-organising to deliver physical activity to meet their own needs; and the VCS, residents, and the council working together to design the borough's physical activity and sports offer
- Sport activities which encourage people from different groups to come together.

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

Geographic Spread

Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a

defined geographic area.

Consortia bids may be made for linked local services which provide a borough wide pattern of provision.

Levels of Funding

The budget allocated to this theme is £990,000 per annum. Each priority area within this theme has a notional budget but there may be some variation depending on the number and quality of bids received. The notional budget for this priority is £210,000 per annum.

There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.

Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing

Scheme 1E – Improved inclusion, health and well-being outcomes for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues

Overview
The Tower Hamlets Plan 2019-23 sets out the borough's vision for inclusion ,health and wellbeing:

We are committed to improving the health and wellbeing of our local population and the quality of the care services they receive. At the heart of this is ensuring our services are person-centred, empowering and that they make a tangible and positive difference to people's lives. We are committed to providing co-ordinated, joined-up services that enable people to have greater independence and more control over their care. Using information, advice, technology and support we will help people to manage their health conditions. We aim to give the people of Tower Hamlets one of the best systems of interconnected health and care in the country. We are delivering this through the Tower Hamlets Together (THT) partnership which brings together providers, commissioners, the community and voluntary and statutory sector, to improve the quality of life for our residents.

Through further close partnership working, prevention, early intervention and working with our communities, we will tackle health inequalities, improving the quality of life for our residents and managing demand for services. We know that achieving better health and wellbeing is much wider than improving our health and care services. It involves taking a holistic approach to everything that impacts on how we feel, from good quality housing to accessible parks and open spaces. We know we can achieve improved physical and mental health by providing spaces for people to be active and enjoy.

The VCS has a unique role in helping to achieve that vision through innovative community focussed services co-designed with local residents. This theme sets out the priority areas where VCS organisations are well placed to make a significant impact.

Note: For the purposes of this Fund, Disabled People includes people with a wide range of physical, mental, cognitive and sensory impairments, disabilities, learning disabilities and long-term health conditions

Priorities

1. Improved health outcomes for disabled people

    In this priority we are looking to support activities which will help adults with complex needs have better health outcomes and activities which will improve the

life expectancy for people with learning disability.

2. People experiencing mental health issues are better supported

   In this priority we are looking in particular to:
   a) Increase the number of residents experiencing mental health difficulties being supported by a peer;
   b) Increase self-referrals to relevant support services, and
   c) Better inform residents where to access help in a crisis.

Outcomes

1. More mainstream services are culturally inclusive, welcoming and accessible for disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues from different ethnic backgrounds, different faith backgrounds, and who are LGBTQI
2. Adults with complex needs (i.e who have multiple issues affecting their lives) have better health outcomes
3. Disabled people and people experiencing mental health issues;;
   i. are more independent
   ii. are more aware of and more likely to participate in local services
   iii. have a better quality of life
4. People experiencing mental health issues have improved knowledge of where to access support, including peer support, social activities, and activities that build confidence and develop resilience

Note: All of these outcomes refer to a broad cohort of potential beneficiaries. Projects that focus people with particular needs, disabilities or issues within the wider cohort are also eligible as long as they can demonstrate that they will help to deliver the outcomes.

Examples of activities

We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might include:

- Improved support provision for people with learning disabilities;
- Specialist provision for residents with disabilities;
- Support recovery in the community and prevent relapse;
- Peer support for people with mental health diagnoses;
- Suicide prevention activities;
- Programmes that support mental wellbeing through arts and literature;
- Training for front-line VCS staff in mental health first aid and suicide prevention.

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

Geographic Spread

Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a defined geographic area.

Consortia bids may be made for linked local services which provide a borough wide pattern of provision.

Levels of Funding

The budget allocated to this theme is £990,000 per annum. Each priority area within this theme has a notional budget but there may be some variation depending on the number and quality of bids received. The notional budget for this priority is £200,000 per annum.

There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.

3. Digital Inclusion and Awareness

Scheme 2A – ICT skills and digital careers

Overview

The Office of National Statistics suggests that there is no single reason for people being digitally excluded but the main reasons tend to include:

- a lack of interest in the internet and digital (59%)
- a belief they lack the skills to go online (21%)
- the cost of equipment (9%)

But it isn't just individuals who are offline and not benefiting from digital access; 23% of small businesses and 58% of charities/community groups lack basic digital skills which will help them thrive.

Basic Digital Skills, as laid out in the Mayor of London's plan for Digital Inclusion, are:

- Managing information: Use a search engine to look for information online; find a website previously visited and download / save a photo found online
- Communicating: Send a personal message via email or online messaging service; make comments and share information online
- Transacting: Buy items or services from a website; buy and install apps on a device
- Creating: Complete online applications forms which include personal details; create something new from existing online images, music or video
- Problem Solving: Verify sources of information found online; Solve a problem with a device/ digital service using online help

The digital inclusion theme is intended to support discreet digital inclusion projects rather than the digital inclusion elements of projects which include a number of different activities.

Digital inclusion and awareness activities that form part of projects submitted to other themes will be funded through the budgets for those themes if the project is successful, not the budget for the Digital Inclusion and Awareness theme.

Priorities

1. Access to ICT support and training for older people

   In this priority we are looking in particular to support activities which support older people to feel more informed and digitally included.

2. Digital skill development for children and young people

In this priority we are looking in particular to:

a) Increase awareness of careers in the digital sector, and
b) Provide children and young people with the opportunity to develop the skills for the digital sector.

Outcomes

1. Residents with limited digital/ICT skills, particularly older residents, disabled residents, those with English as a second language or other barriers to digital inclusion:

a) Have increased confidence in using ICT, especially around security;
b) Are able to use digital methods to access services, find information, and communicate with others, and do so more regularly;
c) Have increased digital skills.

1. Working age residents have greater awareness of digital careers, have increased digital skills, and have increased access to work and work placements in the digital sector

Examples of activities

We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might include:

- ICT support services for older and/or disabled people, including training/phone-in/drop-in assistance;
- Digital buddying;
- Partnership working with schools;
- 'Hackathon' events

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

Geographic Spread

Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a defined geographic area.

Consortia bids may be made for linked local services which provide a borough wide pattern

of provision.

Levels of Funding

The budget allocated to this theme is £60,000 per annum. Each priority area within this theme has a notional budget but there may be some variation depending on the number and quality of bids received. The notional budget for this priority is £20,000 per annum.

There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.

Digital Inclusion and Awareness

Scheme 2B – Online Safety

Overview
The Office of National Statistics suggests that there is no single reason for people being digitally excluded but the main reasons tend to include: • a lack of interest in the internet and digital (59%) • a belief they lack the skills to go online (21%) • the cost of equipment (9%) But it isn't just individuals who are offline and not benefiting from digital access; 23% of small businesses and 58% of charities/community groups lack basic digital skills which will help them thrive. Basic Digital Skills, as laid out in the Mayor of London's plan for Digital Inclusion, are: • Managing information: Use a search engine to look for information online; find a website previously visited and download / save a photo found online • Communicating: Send a personal message via email or online messaging service; make comments and share information online • Transacting: Buy items or services from a website; buy and install apps on a device • Creating: Complete online applications forms which include personal details; create something new from existing online images, music or video • Problem Solving: Verify sources of information found online; Solve a problem with a device/ digital service using online help The digital inclusion theme is intended to support discreet digital inclusion projects rather than the digital inclusion elements of projects which include a number of different activities. Digital inclusion and awareness activities that form part of projects submitted to other themes will be funded through the budgets for those themes if the project is successful, not the budget for the Digital Inclusion and Awareness theme.
Priorities
1. Children and young people online safety   In this priority we are looking in particular to support activity that raises awareness of potential dangers online among children, young people and their parents and carers, and supports the implementation of suitable prevention measures.

Outcomes

2. Residents are aware of potential dangers online and implement suitable prevention measures
3. Children, young people and their families know how to report online bullying and abuse
4. Older people are aware of how to identify online scams and how to keep themselves safe

Examples of activities

We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might include:

- Children/young people and families taught how to be safe online
- Digital awareness support sessions for older people delivered in partnership with older people's groups.

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

Geographic Spread

Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a defined geographic area.

Consortia bids may be made for linked local services which provide a borough wide pattern of provision.

Levels of Funding

The budget allocated to this theme is £60,000 per annum. Each priority area within this theme has a notional budget but there may be some variation depending on the number and quality of bids received. The notional budget for this priority is £20,000 per annum.

There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.

Digital Inclusion and Awareness

Scheme 2C - Improving health and wellbeing facilitated through digital platforms

Overview

The Office of National Statistics suggests that there is no single reason for people being digitally excluded but the main reasons tend to include:

- a lack of interest in the internet and digital (59%)
- a belief they lack the skills to go online (21%)
- the cost of equipment (9%)

But it isn't just individuals who are offline and not benefiting from digital access; 23% of small businesses and 58% of charities/community groups lack basic digital skills which will help them thrive.

Basic Digital Skills, as laid out in the Mayor of London's plan for Digital Inclusion, are:

- Managing information: Use a search engine to look for information online; find a website previously visited and download / save a photo found online
- Communicating: Send a personal message via email or online messaging service; make comments and share information online
- Transacting: Buy items or services from a website; buy and install apps on a device
- Creating: Complete online applications forms which include personal details; create something new from existing online images, music or video
- Problem Solving: Verify sources of information found online; Solve a problem with a device/ digital service using online help

The digital inclusion theme is intended to support discreet digital inclusion projects rather than the digital inclusion elements of projects which include a number of different activities.

 Digital inclusion and awareness activities that form part of projects submitted to other themes will be funded through the budgets for those themes if the project is successful, not the budget for the Digital Inclusion and Awareness theme.

Priorities

1. Increase in self-management/self-reliance/ confidence/ health literacy

    In this priority we are looking in particular to support activity that increases people's ability to manage their own health and health conditions, increases self-reliance and

confidence and improves health literacy

Outcomes

5. Residents, particularly those who feel digitally excluded, disabled people, and people with limited English:

   a.) Have a better awareness of where to access health information/support, and increased confidence to access/navigate digital health services;
   b.) Are more likely to self manage health issues via digital platforms, including accessing health information, identifying appropriate support services, and connecting with others with similar issues;
   c.) Have increased confidence and knowledge of 'trusted' digital sources of health information.

Examples of activities

We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might include:

- Activities to support community groups to become digitally enabled;
- Development and access to digital platforms supporting improved health and wellbeing

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

Geographic Spread

Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a defined geographic area.

Consortia bids may be made for linked local services which provide a borough wide pattern of provision.

Levels of Funding

The budget allocated to this theme is £60,000 per annum. Each priority area within this theme has a notional budget but there may be some variation depending on the number and quality of bids received. The notional budget for this priority is £20,000 per annum.

There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for

in exceptional cases.

Advice and Information

Scheme A – Advice and Information

Scheme No 3A
Advice and Information
Overview of what the theme aims to achieve

The Council recognises the role that advice services play in mitigating and reducing levels of poverty by supporting vulnerable residents and low income households to access their rights, understand their obligation and maximise their incomes. The high levels of child poverty, pensioner poverty and in work poverty, combined with the impacts of welfare reforms, the roll out of Universal Credit, the housing crisis and continued economic austerity are some of the main drivers of demand for advice services in the borough.

In partnership with the CCG and other providers, the Council is undertaking a major strategic review of health, social care and welfare advice provision in the borough with a view to developing an integrated advice and information offer across the major providers in the public and voluntary sectors.

This review will:

- Establish current levels of need for health, social care and welfare advice provision in Tower Hamlets
- Gather insight into the experience of residents who use health, social care and welfare advice services in Tower Hamlets
- Assess the performance and effectiveness of current partnership arrangements
- Explore how primary and social care services and advice providers can work more effectively coordinate/integrate in order to address the wider social determinants of health
- Make recommendations for how provision of health, social care and welfare advice should evolve and innovate.

More detail about this review can be found at http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=720&MId=8832.

The advice and information services funded through the Local Community Fund will be integrated into this wider strategic approach during the period of the funding contract. However, as the new approach will not begin before April 2020, bids to this Theme of the Local Community Fund will initially address the outcomes set out below. Over the period of the funding contract successful providers will be expected to work with service users, local residents and partner agencies to co-design the future delivery integrated into the wider

strategic approach to advice and information provision. This will be part of the contractual arrangements.

In this scheme we will expect all providers to have appropriate quality accreditation for the level and type of service they intend to provide before any agreements are signed. Where partners in a consortium do not have appropriate quality accreditation we will expect an accredited member of the consortium to act as the accountable body where any element of service is delivered through a non-accredited partner where the accreditation permits this.

The accreditation we expect providers to have achieved are:

1. Advice Quality Standard (AQS) (http://advicequalitystandard.org.uk/). Most generalist agencies and some specialist ones should be accredited to this standard.
2. Specialist Quality Mark (SQM) (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/legal-aid-agency-quality-standards#specialist-quality-mark.) Some specialist agencies may be accredited to this standard.
3. Lexcel practice management standard (https://www.lawsociety.org.uk/support-services/accreditation/lexcel/). Some specialist agencies may be accredited to this standard.

In addition, any provider engaged in immigration advice must be accredited at an appropriate level by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC). There are three levels of accreditation:

Level 1, for initial advice;
Level 2, for casework, and
Level 3, for advocacy and representation.

Organisations or consortia bidding to this priority will need to provide an outline service delivery plan of their partnership arrangements, how they plan to integrate their services and arrangements for peer review and tracking.

Where partners in a consortium do not have appropriate quality accreditation we will expect an accredited member of the consortium to act as the accountable body where any element of service is delivered through a non-accredited partner where the accreditation permits this.

Priority

This theme has a single priority, Social Welfare Advice and Information.

In this priority we are looking to fund VCS advice and information providers to provide a range of generalist and specialist social welfare and advice services across the borough to meet the outcomes set out below through the provision of integrated, coordinated, accessible services that meet the needs and demands of local people for legal advice on welfare benefits, housing, debt, employment rights, immigration issues and other social welfare issues.

Within this priority we are also seeking to support specific project work to provide training and capacity building services to improve service integration, volunteer training, promotion of best practice and coordination with public sector providers through forums and networking.

Partnership applications are encouraged in this scheme as we move to a more integrated advice service offer to local residents across all agencies in the public and voluntary sectors. Partnership approaches that maximise the use of resources and the integration of generalist and specialist advice provision through effective triage and referral are particularly welcome.

Partnership arrangements may also include cooperation and/or co-location with other community based services.

The added value of partnership arrangements in the advice and information sector will be acknowledged in the assessment process.

Outcomes

In this theme the Council is seeking to achieve a range of outcomes to reduce poverty across the spectrum of social welfare advice and information activity:

1. *Increased access to social welfare advice and income from benefits*
2. *Improved personal budgeting, financial stability and reduction in personal debt*
3. *Reduction in the number of people negatively impacted by welfare reforms and housing repossessions*
4. *Individuals are more informed about their legal rights*
5. *Individuals are more informed about their housing rights*
6. *Increased employment security*
7. *Increase access to immigration/asylum advice and casework*
8. *Increased engagement of older people with social welfare advice services*

We are also looking to achieve outcomes for individuals which may be demonstrated by the numbers of residents where advice and information services have:

1. *Increased income and other financial gains*
2. *Reduced indebtedness*
3. *Improved financial skills and confidence*
4. *Prevented homelessness*
5. *Resolved employment issues*
6. *Resolved immigration matters such as right to reside*
7. *Resulted in successful appeals*

We expect projects to achieve a mix of higher level outcomes and outcomes for individuals.

In relation to capacity building and training within the sector, we would expect projects to work towards achieving the main outcomes of the programme and, in addition, may work

towards:

1. *Improved coordination and cooperation between advice providers*
2. *Increased integration of service both within the VCS advice sector and with services in other sectors*
3. *Increased number of local volunteers achieving a recognised advice training accreditation*
4. *Improved liaison and co-ordination with public sector agencies*
5. *Improved access to information for providers*

Examples of activities

We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might include:

1. *Activities to support the development, quality and integration of social welfare advice services;*
2. *Activities to develop more effective signposting and referral, particularly from smaller and non-specialist community groups;*
3. *Services providing information, advice and representation concerning individuals' legal rights, particularly for vulnerable, marginalised and hard to reach groups;*
4. *Specialist immigration/asylum advice and casework;*
5. *Debt advice and support with budgeting and financial stability, particularly for vulnerable, marginalised and hard to reach groups;*
6. *Housing/homelessness advice and casework;*
7. *Employment advice;*
8. *Activities which increase confidence in the use of digital tools to gain better value for money, particularly among older people*
9. *Activities that increase awareness of and access to advice and information among older people*

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

We will expect successful projects to use standard methodologies such as New Matter Starts to record data and measure success. These will be discussed in detail as part of the Project mobilisation after funding is awarded.

Geographic Spread

Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a defined geographic area.

Consortium bids may be made for linked local services which provide a borough wide pattern of provision. Given the diversity of the population, consortium or partnership bids for advice services must demonstrate how they will ensure accessibility for residents of all backgrounds and those who may experience additional barriers such as language, disability or sensory issues. In this theme we wish to ensure there is a balance of advice provision across the borough, particularly in areas of highest deprivation. Providers will

therefore need to ensure that projects are accessible to residents in more deprived areas through physical location and/or appropriate alternative access channels.

Levels of Funding

The budget allocated to this theme is £980,000 per annum.

There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the Council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.

We anticipate the budget for the capacity building and training project will be about £50,000

Employment and Skills

Employment and Skills

Scheme 4A - Developing and embedding good practice in the work place for people with disabilities, learning difficulties and physical and mental health barriers to work

Overview of what the theme aims to achieve
We want to help local residents to capitalise on the dynamic employment growth occurring around them. This is because we know that being in work improves outcomes in many areas of life including mental and physical health and wellbeing. We will encourage employers and education providers to work closely and ensure that the education and skills training available supports the needs of the job market. We want residents to take advantage of the skills and employment training services available locally. And we are working with local employers to ensure they play their role in supporting the community, through inclusive recruitment, responsible employment and fair access to jobs. We will push for economic investment that is coordinated and focused and for a borough that is a dynamic place for innovation and those who want to set up a business. And as large employers, the members of the Tower Hamlets Partnership will also ensure our own organisations are inclusive and open to local people too, improving our apprenticeship schemes, community outreach and local employment practice.   The VCS has a unique role in helping to achieve that vision through innovative community focussed services co-designed with local residents. This theme sets out the priority areas where VCS organisations are well placed to make a significant impact.
Priority
Promoting ethical employer practices to focus on improving employment and progression opportunities for disadvantaged people, with an emphasis for employers on improving business productivity.   In this priority we are looking in particular to: 1. Improve employee retention;   2. Increase employee progression;   3. Improve employee-employer relations;   4. Ensure employers are better informed of how to support their employees;   5. Employees feel more comfortable and better supported in the work place;   6. Increase take-up of relevant support services;   7. Develop packages of support measures for businesses and employees;   8. Enhance productivity

Outcomes

1. More disabled people and people with mental health issues access work experience placements and employment opportunities
2. Disabled employees feel more comfortable and better supported in sustainable roles in the workplace
3. Disabled people have access to meaningful, relevant training and skills development
4. Tower Hamlets employers are more inclusive and employ more disabled people and people with mental health issues, and are more aware of how to support them.

Examples of activities

We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might include:

- Activities focused on improving communication, increasing confidence, employers making reasonable adjustments, and mediation between employer and employee;
- Activities focused on improving access and sign-posting to relevant services for support in the work place; including wide range of access needs, health and other in-work support and other flexible working needs;
- Business/employer ethical working policies and practice developed and embedded;
- Ambassadors from business and business support organisations recruited to promote programme

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

Geographic Spread

Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a defined geographic area.

Levels of Funding

The budget allocated to this theme is £435,000 per annum. Each priority area within this theme has a notional budget but there may be some variation depending on the number and quality of bids received. The notional budget for this priority is £125,000 per annum.

There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.

Employment and Skills

Scheme 4B - Reducing barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups

Overview of what the theme aims to achieve
We want to help local residents to capitalise on the dynamic employment growth occurring around them. This is because we know that being in work improves outcomes in many areas of life including mental and physical health and wellbeing. We will encourage employers and education providers to work closely and ensure that the education and skills training available supports the needs of the job market. We want residents to take advantage of the skills and employment training services available locally. And we are working with local employers to ensure they play their role in supporting the community, through inclusive recruitment, responsible employment and fair access to jobs. We will push for economic investment that is coordinated and focused and for a borough that is a dynamic place for innovation and those who want to set up a business. And as large employers, the members of the Tower Hamlets Partnership will also ensure our own organisations are inclusive and open to local people too, improving our apprenticeship schemes, community outreach and local employment practice.

The VCS has a unique role in helping to achieve that vision through innovative community focussed services co-designed with local residents. This theme sets out the priority areas where VCS organisations are well placed to make a significant impact.

Priority

1. Reducing barriers to employment for disadvantaged groups

2. In this priority we are looking to increase employment and training opportunities for a range of groups who may be considered further from the labour market, including young people and women who have been away from work and may want to start their own businesses. Employment and volunteering opportunities for older people

In this priority we are looking in particular to:

a) Increase in the proportion of older people who feel they are able to continue making a positive contribution in our communities through volunteering;
b) Older people develop employability skills;
c) Older people have more confidence to look for opportunities

3. Employment skills for vulnerable young people and those who are NEET

In this priority we are looking in particular to:

a) Increase the number of vulnerable young people engaging and accessing provision;
b) Reduce in the percentage of young people who are NEET

4. Employment and skills for young people at risk of achieving poor outcomes

In this priority we are looking in particular to:

a) Increase educational attainment - post 16;
b) Increase in attainment for young people at risk of not reaching their full potential – e.g. white working class.

Outcomes

1. Young people (up to age 25 if needs are clear) have increased life skills, employability skills, communication /presentation and interview skills and confidence, and have access to mentoring, work experience and internships
2. Older people gain life skills and secure employment and/or voluntary roles
3. Potential entrepreneurs/business founders have access to independent support and advice and increased knowledge of business and financial planning
4. Increased opportunities for women that are far from the labour market or on a low salary to develop their confidence, soft skills, and work ready skills to access employment or start their own business.

Examples of activities

We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might include:

- Publicity and recruitment campaign to target audience;
- Business development courses specifically for women;
- Supporting access to sector business networks;
- Activities focused on supporting disadvantaged groups find employment, including: ex-offenders and homeless people, the long-term unemployed and economically inactive;
- Employment skills provision for vulnerable young people who are NEET- support to improve levels of attainment;
- Support to post 16 pupils with SEND;
- Access to supported internship.

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

Geographic Spread

Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a

defined geographic area.

Levels of Funding

The budget allocated to this theme is £435,000 per annum. Each priority area within this theme has a notional budget but there may be some variation depending on the number and quality of bids received. The notional budget for this priority is £125,000 per annum.

There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.

Employment and Skills

Scheme 4C - Support focused on increasing access to art and cultural industries

Overview of what the theme aims to achieve
We want to help local residents to capitalise on the dynamic employment growth occurring around them. This is because we know that being in work improves outcomes in many areas of life including mental and physical health and wellbeing. We will encourage employers and education providers to work closely and ensure that the education and skills training available supports the needs of the job market. We want residents to take advantage of the skills and employment training services available locally. And we are working with local employers to ensure they play their role in supporting the community, through inclusive recruitment, responsible employment and fair access to jobs. We will push for economic investment that is coordinated and focused and for a borough that is a dynamic place for innovation and those who want to set up a business. And as large employers, the members of the Tower Hamlets Partnership will also ensure our own organisations are inclusive and open to local people too, improving our apprenticeship schemes, community outreach and local employment practice.   The VCS has a unique role in helping to achieve that vision through innovative community focussed services co-designed with local residents. This theme sets out the priority areas where VCS organisations are well placed to make a significant impact.
Priority
1. Support focused on increasing access to art and cultural industries   In this priority we are looking in particular to increase numbers participating in arts activities and schemes that lead to training and employment in the creative sectors
Outcomes

1. Increased opportunities in the arts and cultural industries for BAME people, women, disabled people, working class people, older people;
     2. Increased access to industry relevant training;
     3. Increase in people participating in arts projects for the first time

Examples of activities
We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might include: • Mixed arts provision for young people and disadvantaged groups;   • Provision of activities focused on skills development for cultural industries.

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

Geographic Spread

Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a defined geographic area.

Levels of Funding

The budget allocated to this theme is £435,000 per annum. Each priority area within this theme has a notional budget but there may be some variation depending on the number and quality of bids received. The notional budget for this priority is £185,000 per annum.

There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.

5. Community Safety

Scheme 5A – Reduction in the exploitation of children, young people and other vulnerable groups

Overview
The Tower Hamlets Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017-2021 aims to reduce the number of crimes and anti-social behaviour in the borough, but in some categories, it aims to increase the number feel confident enough to report it to us. By increasing reporting and therefore recording, we will then be able to offer appropriate support to those victims and take appropriate action against the perpetrators. The Partnership Plan 2017-2021 four key priorities Priority A: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Priority B: Violence Priority C: Hate Crime, Community Cohesion and Extremism Priority D: Reducing Re-offending The Children and Families Plan 2016-19 has a priority called 'free from harm', which highlights the need to protect children and families from harm and exploitation: The VCS has a unique role in helping to achieve that vision through innovative community focussed services co-designed with local residents. This theme sets out the priority areas where VCS organisations are well placed to make a significant impact.
Priorities
1. Reduction in the exploitation of children and young people, and vulnerable groups 2. In this priority we are looking in particular to Increase the extent to which young people feel safe and reduce in the number of children and young people, and vulnerable groups being exploited.
Outcomes

1. Children, young people and other vulnerable people:
   a) Have increased confidence and critical thinking skills
   b) Have an increased understanding of what a safe relationship is, what exploitation is, and how to spot the signs of abuse and exploitation
   c) Have an emotional and actual vocabulary to articulate what is happening to them
   d) Are better able to challenge and support each other around relationships

Examples of activities

We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might include:

- Activities focused on prevention
- Work with schools

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

Geographic Spread

Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a defined geographic area.

Consortia bids may be made for linked local services which provide a borough wide pattern of provision.

Levels of Funding

The budget allocated to this theme is £180,000 per annum. Each priority area within this theme has a notional budget but there may be some variation depending on the number and quality of bids received. The notional budget for this priority is £60,000 per annum.

There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the councl will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.

Community Safety

Scheme 5B – Improving the perception of young people in the community

Overview

Tower Hamlets' Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) Blueprint states that reporting ASB is a subjective and not completely reliable process due to personal tolerance and perceptions as to what constitutes acceptable behaviour. Young people are often viewed as perpetrators of anti social behaviour, which can create longstanding negative perceptions and exacerbate community tensions. One of the visions of the borough's Children and Families Plan 2016-2019 is 'for children and families in Tower Hamlets to have the best possible health, a good standard of living and to grow up in an environment that respects

their right to play and relax.

The VCS has a unique role in helping to achieve that vision through innovative community focussed services co-designed with local residents. This theme sets out the priority areas where VCS organisations are well placed to make a significant impact.

Priorities

1. Improving the perception of young people in the community

   In this priority we are looking in particular to provide children and young people with opportunities to develop good relationships with others in the community to help break down barriers and and develop good, positive relationships between people of different generations

Outcomes

1. Children and young people are, and are seen to be, a positive part of the community
2. Increased community cohesion and sense of belonging
3. Residents, especially older people, people feel less wary of children and young people

Examples of activities

We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might include:

- Intergenerational projects to create mutual understanding between young people and their communities
- Cohesion projects co-produced with and delivered with young people

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

Geographic Spread

Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a defined geographic area.

Consortia bids may be made for linked local services which provide a borough wide pattern of provision.

Levels of Funding

The budget allocated to this theme is £180,000 per annum. Each priority area within this theme has a notional budget but there may be some variation depending on the number and quality of bids received. The notional budget for this priority is £60,000 per annum.

There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.

Community Safety

Scheme 5C – Services for people affected by domestic violence or other unsafe circumstances

Overview
Tower Hamlets Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2016-19 states that abuse can take place regardless of gender, ethnicity, faith, sexuality or age. Whilst the council recognises that issues in its current Domestic Violence strategy have a disproportionate effect on women (97% of victims), we also recognise that boys and men are victims of violence too . Any victim of violence and abuse deserves to access support and help. Examples of the kinds of violence covered in the strategy are: - Sexual Violence   - Domestic Violence   - Trafficking   - Prostitution   - Child Sexual Exploitation including in a gang context   - Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)   - Forced Marriage   - So-called 'Honour' Based Violence   - Dowry Related Abuse   - Stalking and Harassment   The VCS has a unique role in helping to tackle these issues through innovative community focussed services co-designed with local residents. This theme sets out the priority areas where VCS organisations are well placed to make a significant impact.

Priorities

1. Services for people affected by domestic violence
 	
In this priority we are looking in particular to:
  a) Increase the extent to which young people affected by domestic violence and sexual abuse (DVSA) feel safe;
  b) Increase the extent to which families affected by domestic violence feel safe

Outcomes
1. More residents, particularly families and young people, are aware of the different

forms that domestic violence and sexual abuse (DVSA) can take, know how to report it, and where to access support.
2. Young victims and witnesses of DVSA are supported to recognise and report it.

Examples of activities

We can achieve these outcomes through a range of activities and services. These might include:

- Activities Activities focused on supporting children affected by domestic violence;
- Activities focused on supporting families affected by domestic violence;
- Activities focused on supporting people affected by domestic violence.

These examples provide a flavour of the types of activity we might support but it is not intended to be a full list.

Geographic Spread

Bids may be submitted for borough wide projects or for projects which are specific to a defined geographic area.

Consortia bids may be made for linked local services which provide a borough wide pattern of provision.

Levels of Funding

The budget allocated to this theme is £180,000 per annum. Each priority area within this theme has a notional budget but there may be some variation depending on the number and quality of bids received. The notional budget for this priority is £60,000 per annum.

There is no limit on the amount you may apply for but we intend to fund a number of projects within this priority so unless you are bidding as a consortium you should not bid for the whole of the budget. Also, please bear in mind the guidance about including full costs in your bid and that the council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.