

## Local Community Fund 2019-23 Schemes

### Scheme No 3A

#### Advice and Information

#### Overview of what the theme aims to achieve

The Council, in partnership with the CCG and other providers, 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?CIId=720&MIId=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.

#### Priority

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

In this priority we are looking in particular to fund VCS advice and information providers to provide a range of social welfare and advice services across the borough to meet the

## Local Community Fund 2019-23 Schemes

outcomes set out below.

### Outcomes

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. *Increased engagement of older people with social welfare advice services*

### Examples of activities

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

1. *Improved co-ordination, capacity, and integration of advice services*
2. *Develop more effective signposting and referral, particularly from smaller and non-specialist community groups;*
3. *Improve access to holistic assessments;*
4. *Improve access to information, advice and representation concerning individuals' legal rights, particularly for vulnerable, marginalised and hard to reach groups*
5. *Increase access to immigration/asylum advice and casework;*
6. *Increase access to debt advice and support with budgeting and financial stability, particularly for vulnerable, marginalised and hard to reach groups;*
7. *Improve knowledge and understanding of universal credit;*
8. *Increase access to housing/homelessness advice and casework;*
9. *Increase referrals to employment support, advice and training;*
10. *Increase confidence in the use of digital tools to gain better value for money, particularly among older people*
11. *Improve 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.

### 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 £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

## Local Community Fund 2019-23 Schemes

in your bid and that the Council will only be making offers different from the amount bid for in exceptional cases.

<http://democracy.towerhamlets.gov.uk/documents/s141990/6.4%20Information%20and%20Advice%20Plan.pdf>

DRAFT