

TOWER HAMLETS

**Local Community Fund  
Theme Workshops**

# **Community Safety**

**12<sup>th</sup> December 2018**



# Overview

David Freeman  
VCS Strategy Manager



# Legacy

Rebuilding trust and confidence in VCS funding

- Perception of political patronage
- Lack of transparency and openness
- Loss of trust
- Excessive bureaucracy
- Disproportionate process particularly monitoring



# Progress and Change

- Change set out in 2016 VCS Strategy
  - Signalled move to new approach to funding
  - Outcomes based funding developed through co-production
- LGA Peer Review commented positively on direction of travel
- Commitment to change contributed towards lifting of Direction



# Programme development

- ‘Community Commissioning’ programme development
- Joint workshops to identify priorities
- Concerns raised about competitive commissioning
- Rollover of Mainstream Grant to allow more time to develop new programme
- Cabinet agreed Local Community Fund Programme themes, priorities and outcomes



# Local Community Fund

- Outcomes focused
- Working towards coproduction
- Locally based



# Local Community Fund

- Open and transparent bidding process local VCS is familiar with through GIFTS
- Transparent and objective external assessment through independent, experienced provider
- Equality and Community Safety impact
- Proposals ratified by Chief Executive
- ‘Light touch’ contractual arrangements
- Outcomes based agreements with proportionate monitoring
- Annual reporting to Cabinet of impact of programme



# Shape of Local Community Fund

## Five themes

- Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing
- Digital Inclusion and Awareness
- Advice and Information
- Employment and Skills
- Community Safety

Theme	Priority	Outcome	Activity
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# Shape of Local Community Fund

Theme	Funding	Priorities	Workshop details
Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing	£990k	10	Fri 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov am Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec pm
Digital Inclusion and Awareness	£60k	4	Weds 14 <sup>th</sup> Nov pm
Information and Advice	£980k	1	Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov pm
Employment and skills	£435k	7	Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov pm
Community safety	£195k	3	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec am



# Specifications

- Co-designed with VCS
- Outcomes focus
- Promote creative solutions
- Include local value
- Continuous co-design with users throughout contract
- Proportionate requirements



# Monitoring & Evaluation

- Outcomes based
- Data from indicators measures impact not outputs
- Some KPIs
- Proportionate approach



# Budget

- £2.66m LCF
- £420k grants
- Expenditure maintained at 2018/19 level.
- Coherence of programme maintained through annual reporting to Cabinet & interim to lead Members
- Possibility of extending scope of reporting to wider funding of VCS (c£60m per annum)



# Bidding Process

Concern process will exclude small orgs

- Proportionality of requirements to funding levels
- Use of streamline process
- Support & training
- Hand holding through process



# Governance & other requirements

Concern governance, management & finance requirements may exclude some orgs

- Requirements will be proportionate
- Standards for good grant making are very similar to procurement
- Broader capacity building of sector



# Local value

Concern that large national and regional orgs may be funded and provide lower quality service

- Best value for residents at heart of funding
- Local value included in specs (engagement, knowledge, presence etc.)
- Use of process where local focus is clear
- Previous experience



# Winners and Losers

## Mitigation:

- Build capacity to improve chance of success
- Early indication of bid outcomes
- Capacity building & other support to assist transition to new funding (or no funding)
- Orderly change, particularly where this involves alternative provision for service users
- VCS Grants programme
- Emergency fund





# Timescales

Nov to Jan	Prospectus development
Feb	Prospectus sign off
Mar and Apr	Bidding open
May and June	Assessment
July	Decisions made
July to Sept	Mobilisation
Oct	New services begin



# Prospectus

- Background to the programme
- Tower Hamlets Plan and LBTH Strategic Plan
- General guidance
- Assessment criteria
  - Organisational requirements
  - Quality
  - Service delivery
- Training and support
- Specifications



# Developing Specifications

- Key questions
  - How will your proposal help achieve the outcomes set out in the specification?
  - How will your proposal contribute towards community cohesion and reducing poverty?
  - How will your proposal demonstrate local value?
  - How will your proposal include further co-design with service users?



# Resources

- [Local Community Fund Programme Framework](#)
- [Tower Hamlets Plan](#)
- Community Cohesion outcomes framework



# Questions?



# Today's Tasks

Gemma Cossins

Senior Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer



# Tasks for Today

- Create detailed, specific outcomes - up to for each priority
- Can priorities can be grouped?
- Consider examples of activities which will contribute towards achieving the outcomes.



# Outcomes:

## The changes we want to create

- What is the change you want to see?
- Who will benefit?
- How will they benefit?





# Group discussion

- What are the steps on the way to the headline outcome?
- How might it be divided by beneficiary or area?
- How might it be divided over time?



## Please note:

- Shorter term, more detailed, specific outcomes
- any questions or concerns about the priorities/outcome and/or the programme overall



# Short break

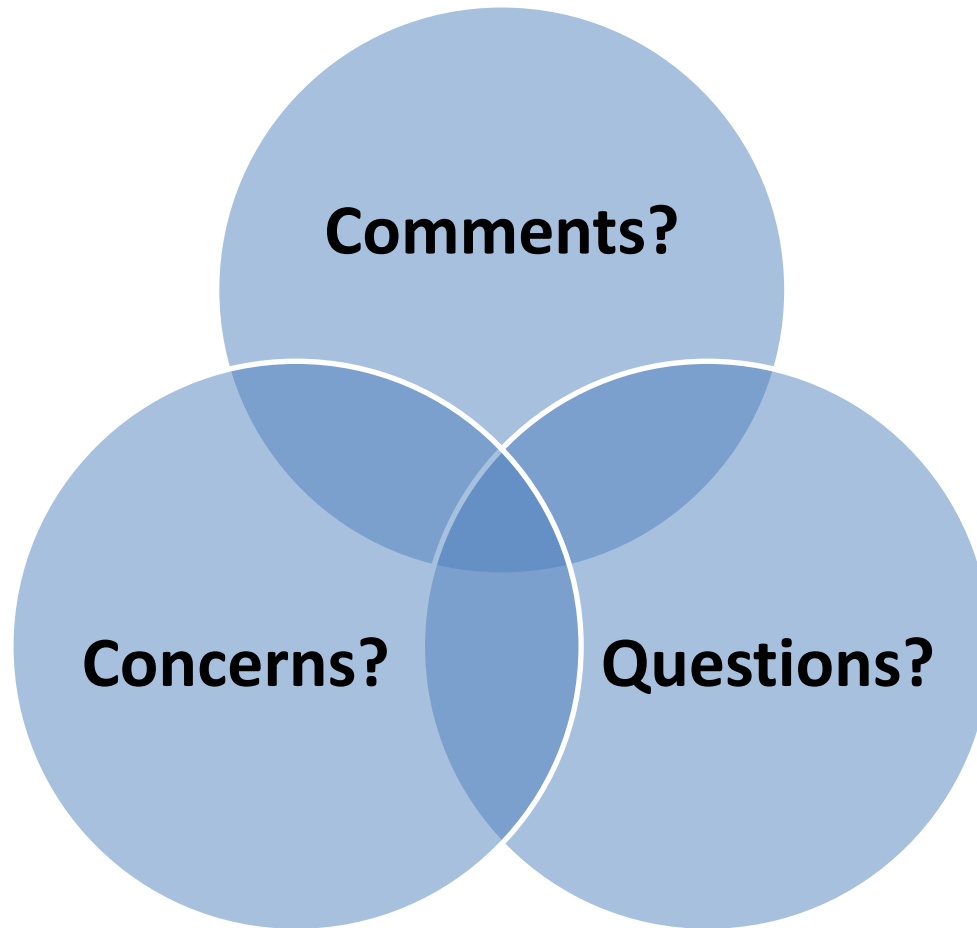


# Agreeing draft outcomes

- Feedback on outcomes
- Prioritisation (vote or consensus)
- Any additional notes?
- Summary



# Summing up



# Next Steps

- Write up
- Circulation of draft
  - Written comment invited  
([vcs@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:vcs@towerhamlets.gov.uk))
  - One to one conversations
- Second theme meeting in January
- Draft prospectus end January
- Sign off in February



# Information and support

## Council

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## THCVS

<https://thcvs.org.uk/projects/local-community-fund#overlay-context=search/node/community>

