



Local Community Fund Theme Workshops

Digital Inclusion

14 November 2018



Overview

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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
- Coproduction 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
- Co-produced
- 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 |
|-------|----------|---------|----------|
|-------|----------|---------|----------|



Shape of Local Community Fund

| Theme | Funding | Priorities | Workshop details |
|----------------------------------|---------|------------|--|
| Inclusion, Health and Wellbeing | £990k | 10 | Fri 23 rd Nov AM |
| Digital Inclusion and Awareness | £60k | 4 | Weds 14 th Nov PM Christian St Hub |
| Information, Advice and Guidance | £980k | 1 | Mon 26 th Nov PM |
| Employment and skills | £435k | 7 | Fri 30 th Nov AM |
| Community safety | £195k | 3 | TBC |



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

- To draft detailed, specific outcomes linked to the priorities and high level outcomes set out in the LCF programme framework;
- Consider whether (for larger themes) priorities can be grouped with a common set of outcomes;
- Agree up to three detailed outcomes for each priority;
- Consider examples of activities which will contribute towards achieving these outcomes.



Group discussion

Pick priorities to focus on

- Discuss each briefly
 - What else would need to happen in order to achieve this outcome? What are the steps on the way?
 - How might outcome be divided into either smaller groups of people (e.g. by age group, need, circumstances)
 - How might it be divided over time (e.g. short term changes, medium term changes)
- Note
 - Shorter term, more detailed, specific outcomes
 - any questions or concerns about the priorities/outcome and/or the programme overall



Group discussion

Feedback

- How was the task? Issues/difficulties?
- Summary of suggested outcomes under priorities



Short break



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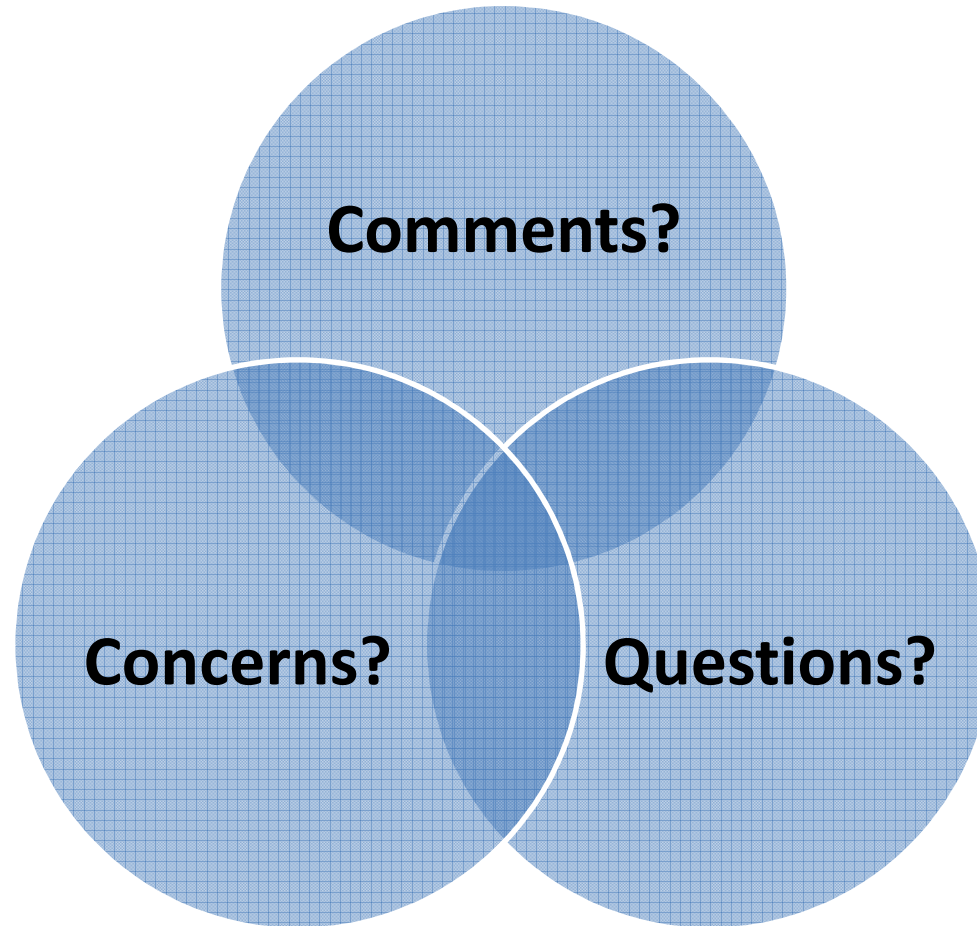


Agreeing draft outcomes

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



Summing up



Next Steps

- Write up
- Circulation of draft
 - Written comment invited
(gemma.cossins@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>

