

# LB Tower Hamlets Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Programme

## Partnership Theme

**Making the sector more effective through closer partnership working within the sector and across sectors.**

This theme provides funding for organisations to come together to form networks and partnership arrangements which will,

1. Help give VCS organisations a stronger voice in borough wide discussions with other sectors particularly through the Tower Hamlets Partnership, the local strategic partnership which brings together the public, voluntary and private sectors to achieve the objectives of the Community Plan, and/or
2. Bring organisations together where they share a common purpose or deliver complementary services to share best practice or contribute in other ways to increase the effectiveness and impact of each other's work in the community.

### Rationale for grant funding

Empowerment	responsive to new and emerging needs
Innovation	provides the financial means for communities to do things for themselves
Flexibility	can adjust to meet changing needs
Reach	can be accessible to groups which would not otherwise be able to get funding through contractual arrangements
Risk	shares the risk of new innovation between the provider and the funder
Cost effective	can lever in other resources to support community activity

Meets all six criteria for grants, in particular:

- **Reach**
- **Cost effective**

### Community Plan and Corporate Plan Priorities

C1	Strong, resilient and safe communities	
C2	Better health and wellbeing	
C3	Good jobs and employment	
C4	A better deal for young people – aspiration, education and skills	
S1	Creating opportunity by supporting aspiration and tackling poverty.	
S2	Creating and maintaining a vibrant and successful place.	
S3	Working smarter together as one team with our partners and community.	

### Theme priorities

1. Improving effectiveness through peer group support, mentoring and networking (All)
2. Cross sector working - supporting the local strategic partnership (S1)
3. Partnerships in back office support and procurement (S3)

**Theme outcomes**

1. Greater meaningful engagement with strategic structures and LSP
2. Reduction of duplication of service
3. Consolidation within the sector to reduce costs and improve sustainability
4. Improved cooperation within the sector and between sectors
5. Successful and sustainable partnerships (and other collaborative arrangements) between a range of organisations

**Examples of projects and activities**

- Support for a network of community organisations to work with the local strategic partnership
- Creation and adoption of partnership related agreements
- Mediation and facilitation for partnership meetings and/or disputes
- Set up costs for a peer group support network to share best practice and improve effectiveness across a specific service area
- 'Speed dating' to improve co-operation between providers

**Eligibility**

1. There are no special restrictions on eligibility for this theme.

**Levels of Funding Available**

1. Up to £500 – one off
2. Over £500 up to £5,000 – up to one year with potential extension for second year

**Application process**

1. Up to £500  
Single stage – simplified form
2. Over £500 up to £5,000  
Single stage – standard form

**Deadlines**

1. Up to £500 – end of project report
2. Over £500 up to £5,000 – Six month progress report and annual/end of project report and visit.

**Contact details for further information**