

Item No.	Classification: Open	Date: 1 June 2023	Decision Taker: Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing
Report title:		More Vim, More Life Project Grant	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		North Walworth	
From:		Strategic Director of Children and Adult Services	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing approve the allocation of £4,950 to Southwark Black Parents Forum via a one-off grant fund. This grant will part-fund the delivery of their More Vim, More Life Project in Southwark over two dates in June 2023.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Southwark Black Parents Forum (SBPF) are a newly established organisation operating in Southwark since January 2023. SBPF engage specifically with black parents, guardians and carers to empower them to be more proactive in tackling health inequalities, improving health and wellbeing and championing active involvement in their children's education and health.
3. The More Life, More Vim (MVML) project proposes two one-off community events for parents, guardians, carers and their families focusing on health, wellbeing and fitness/physical activity. This will be supplemented by the presence of the health promotion van at one of the events.
4. SBPF completed a formal grant application which was received and reviewed by Public Health, who are now recommending providing funding to support the MVML project.
5. Since their establishment, SBPF have delivered five forums reaching over 1,300 people and recruited 30 volunteers. Alongside the MVML project, SBPF continues to deliver forums within the borough, engaging with black communities. However, as a newly formed organisation, they are yet to secure ongoing funding streams to support growth, maximise impact and ensure sustainability.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing is asked to approve the one-off transfer of £4,950 to Southwark Black Parents Forum to support

the More Vim, More Life Project delivery.

7. The total cost of the MVML project for 2023-24 is estimated at £18,600. The budget allocation includes venue hire, catering, administrative and project management staff, communication, marketing, and fitness trainers.
8. SBPF is a unique organisation within Southwark working to specifically engage with parents, guardians and carers from black communities. The MVML project can be used as an opportunity to engage with and support black communities who are at a higher risk of health inequalities. SBPF can also support engagement with families who are less likely to engage with current Council services.
9. The most significant risks are:
 - i. That SBPF fails to gain sufficient funds to meet the project's total estimated cost, resulting in the inability to deliver the MVML project. However, SBPF have been signposted to other grant opportunities on the Southwark Council's grants webpages and Grant Manager platform, Community Southwark's Find Funding webpage and newsletter, and other relevant local funding bodies, and SBPF have indicated that they will run the two events regardless of funding decisions.
 - ii. The MVML project fails to reach the audience outlined in its proposal. However, SBPF previously indicated that previous events have exceeded the target audience reach. Additionally, Southwark Council can promote the event via the Community Health Ambassadors Network and other relevant networks.

Policy implications

10. SBPF and the MVMLML project will contribute to Southwark Council's Fairer Future Commitment to tackling health inequalities.
11. Providing support to SBPF also directly contributes to Southwark Stands Together (SST) pledges, including championing organisations that address racial injustices and organisations that promote equality and diversity.
12. The MVML project contributes to the Southwark Healthy Weight Strategy, which aims to increase the provision of health information within black, Asian minority ethnic communities.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

13. The MVMF project intends to provide targeted support to parents,

guardians, and carers from black backgrounds and their families. It will provide an opportunity for community members to join two events which aim to increase understanding of how individuals and families can be proactive in managing their health and wellbeing, take part in fitness activities suitable for the whole family and open the conversation around health.

14. Southwark’s Childhood Obesity JSNA identified that in Southwark, children from black ethnic groups are more likely to be obese than other ethnic groups. These trends continue into adulthood. Over 60% of adults in Southwark with Type 2 Diabetes identify as black, Asian and minority ethnic, yet account for less than half of the population.
15. The SBPF team and MVML also provide value by partnering with community-led organisations such as Active Communities Network, Fight4Change and Brandon Estate TRA. SBPF leaders and volunteers are also Southwark residents who are representative of the target audience.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

16. The project aims to provide residents with an opportunity to tackle health inequalities. The project will be delivered to residents free of charge and suitable for the whole family, ensuring those on low incomes or with parental/caring responsibilities can participate in health and wellbeing and physical activity events. The project’s target audience is disproportionately affected by many health inequalities such as living in deprivation, the effects of the cost of living crisis, obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Health impact statement

17. The MVML project will provide parents, guardians and carers from black communities with the opportunity to be involved in discussions and practical activities to educate and empower them to improve their health and wellbeing.

Climate change implications

18. There are no apparent climate change impacts arising from this decision.

Resource implications

19. The costs of this grant fund can be met using Public Health Reserves. As a grant fund, VAT does not apply:

	Cost excluding VAT
Annual cost	£4950
Total cost	£4950

20. The grant fund will be monitored by the COVID-19 Programme Officer. A Memorandum of Understanding will be established between Southwark Council and SBPF, which will clearly state the one-off nature of the grant due to it being funded from non-recurrent Public Health reserves.
21. The COVID-19 Programme Officer and Public Health Policy Officer – Workplaces and Communities will work with SBPF to provide relevant health and wellbeing information and future opportunities for development such as training or future grant projects.

Legal implications

22. Please see the supplementary advice of the Assistant Chief Executive (Governance and Assurance) below.

Financial implications

23. Please see the supplementary advice of the Director of Finance below.

Consultation

24. No consultation has taken place for this report. However, consultation with residents is planned during the events to measure impact and engage with residents on future health events and projects SBPF plan to deliver.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive - Governance and Assurance

25. This report seeks the cabinet member's approval to making a grant to the Southwark Black Parents' Forum to assist it in delivering its MVML project engaging with parents, guardians and carers from black communities. The project focusses on health, wellbeing and fitness/physical activity. The following provisions are relevant to this grant.
26. Section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006 places a duty on the council to take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area. The steps that may be taken include providing grants or loans (on such terms as the local authority considers appropriate).
27. The provision of the grant set out in the report assists the council in carrying out this duty.
28. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, in making this decision, the Cabinet member must comply with the public equality duty which requires there to be due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or

under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

29. Comments about the intended impact of the grant on those with protected characteristics are set out in the community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts section above. These are all relevant matters that the Cabinet member should give due regard to, in considering this report.

30. The making of this grant is an executive function which is reserved to the Cabinet member in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000 and Part 3D of the council's Constitution.

Strategic Director of Finance REF: [06PHAS2023-24]

31. This is a non-recurrent grant initiative amounting to £4,950 and there is sufficient funding within the General Public Health Reserve to cover the grant.

Other Officers

32. There were none.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark's Healthy Weight Strategy For All: Improving Health Together 2022-2027	Public Health Directorate, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Rachel Isted 020 7525 7479
Link: https://www.southwark.gov.uk/assets/attach/145709/Healthy-weight-strategy-refresh-2022-2027-overview-25.10.22.pdf		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	David Quirke-Thornton, Strategic Director of Children and Adult Services	
Report Author	Akeema Paul, COVID-19 Programme Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	1 June 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Strategic Director of Finance	Yes	Yes
Assistant Chief Executive - Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		1 June 2023