

APPENDIX 2
Southwark Council: The Community Support Commissioning Programme

Commissioning Plan 2012-13

CONTEXT

Purpose of the Programme

- 1 The overall objectives of the Community Support programme are to:
 - Provide support for Southwark's diverse communities to build a fairer Southwark where people realise their potential.
 - Build capacity within the voluntary sector to enable it to play a full and effective role in the development and delivery of the priorities and objectives of the Council's Plan including the Medium Term Resources Strategy 2011/12 - 2013/14.
 - Develop and sustain multi-use facilities aimed at tackling social exclusion in deprived areas and neighbourhoods.
 - Support a sustainable and effective voluntary sector which demonstrates the capacity to modernise and innovate and to work in partnership with the council to address the needs of local communities.
 - To promote volunteering and support the development of volunteer champions within local communities.
- 2 These objectives fall within the council's overall objectives and priorities. They support the council's Equalities and Human Rights Scheme in relation to tackling discrimination, promoting positive community relations and giving due regard to inequalities of outcome which may result from socio-economic disadvantage.

Needs in the borough

- 3 Under the 2010 Communities & Local Government Index of Multiple Deprivation, Southwark improved its overall ranking at both regional and national level. Overall, Southwark ranked as 41st most deprived borough out of the 326 local authorities in England. This is a relative improvement from previous rankings when Southwark was ranked 26th in 2007 and 17th in 2004. Southwark moved from 6th most deprived borough in London in 2004, to 9th in 2007, to 10th in 2010.
- 4 Four "Lower Super Output Areas" in Southwark fell within the 10 per cent most deprived in England compared with 16 LSOAs in 2007. The remaining areas in the 10 per cent most deprived are in East Walworth, South Bermondsey, Nunhead and the north part of Livesey.
- 5 Like many London boroughs Southwark has a predominately young adult population (43% of Southwark's resident population are young adults aged 20-39 years old compared to 27% in England). Conversely, Southwark has a low proportion of its population aged 65 years and over (only 9% compared to 16% nationally). The borough has a high proportion of young children aged 0 to 4 years but relatively few older children and teenagers compared to London and England.
- 6 The population of Southwark is growing. The 'resident' population is expected to increase by more than a fifth to 355,200 by 2030.

- 7 The most recent estimates of Southwark's ethnicity from the Office for National Statistics date from June 2009 and state that only just over half of the population of Southwark is 'White British.' The largest BME group is 'Black or Black British' at 17.5% with 'Black African' at 10% and 5.5% 'Black Caribbean.' 8.4% define themselves as 'Asian or Asian British' and 4.5% as 'Chinese or Other.'
- 8 As at July 2010, 14% of pupils in Southwark's schools were Nigerian, and 12% were Black Caribbean. 22% were White British.
- 9 The figure for black and ethnic minority communities is expected to increase to 43% by 2016. In addition we have communities of interest of Caribbean and Irish origins and those who are settled Travellers. Other ethnic groups Southwark is home to are Chinese, Vietnamese, Latin American, Eastern European, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Turkish. This list is not exhaustive. The Refugee Council estimates about 11,000 refugees and asylum seekers live in the borough. Employment rates for black and ethnic minority groups are 16% lower than for other groups. The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Southwark is estimated at between 6 and 10%, higher than the national average.
- 10 Key facts from the Office for National Statistics show that in 2009-10 Southwark had an unemployment rate of 11% compared with 9% for London as a whole and 8% for England. 24% of the population were economically inactive.
- 11 There are also 13.9% lone parents in the borough with dependant children and 37.3% one person households.
- 12 In terms of faith, the Christian community comprises 62% of the borough's residents. The Muslim community forms the second largest faith community, making up 7% of the borough's residents. Just over 28% did not state their religion or said they were of no faith. Other faiths include Bahai, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Rastafarian and Sikhism.
- 13 Educational achievement in Southwark continues to improve and has exceeded national averages. Provisional 2011 results show Southwark have increased at a faster rate than the national and are above the national average in all Key Stage 2 test subjects including 2 levels progress for English and maths. In 2011 76% achieved level 4 or above in combined English and maths (2% points higher than the national average) compared to 62% in 2006. Southwark is now ranked joint 13th highest in London for Key Stage 2 in combined English and maths, compared to being 4th from the bottom in 2010. The provisional percentage of Southwark pupils achieving at least 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and maths was 57.4%, which is still higher than last year's national average of 55.3%, and a significant increase from the 2005 figure of 31.5%. These improvements have come about in the context of the continuing challenge from a relatively transient population and significant numbers of people for whom English is a second language.
- 14 In the 2001 census, more than 38,000 people identified themselves as having a disability or life limiting illness. Of these, about 9500 were permanently sick or disabled.
- 15 Life expectancy in the borough has increased significantly in the last 10 years but Southwark's early death rates from heart attack and lung disease are higher than the national average, with around 600 people a year dying before the age of 75. Southwark has among the worst rates of childhood obesity in the country and also has high rates of teenage conceptions and sexually transmitted infections. The teenage conception rate per 1,000 female population aged 15 – 17 is 67.4 in Southwark, compared with a national average of 41.3.

- 16 Recorded crime in Southwark has been decreasing from 2004 to 2011 – in particular, Most Serious Violence, and Gun Crime. The statistics also report a decrease in domestic violence, but it is known that domestic violence is under-reported, and it remains a serious concern. There have been increases in some types of crime, including Personal Robbery, Knife Crime and Serious Acquisitive Crime (offences such as robbery, residential burglary and vehicle crime), Youth Violence and Serious Youth Violence. Young people are a particular concern as both perpetrators and victims of crime: just over 50% of knife crime victims are aged 10-24 and around 40% of those accused of knife crimes are aged 10-17 and a further 25% are 18-24. Similarly, young people are disproportionately victims of robbery. (From Community Safety).

National policy that influences the Council's Community Support Programme

- 17 The government's localism agenda is about devolving power as much as possible from the centre to the local as far as even the neighbourhood level. The vision is for local communities to be empowered to tackle problems for themselves. Local councils are to be given a general 'power of competence' which will give them greater freedom to act independently of central government. The Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) will take on greater responsibility for delivering public services.
- 18 The new **Equality Act 2010** brings together all the existing strands of equality and discrimination legislation, with the aim of clarifying existing law, extending it to cover some anomalies in existing discrimination law, and creating a stronger set of obligations on public bodies to promote equality. There are nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The Act sets out the principles that will apply in considering whether one or more of the protected characteristics apply to an individual or group.
- 19 A public sector Equality Duty (PSED) (section 149 of the Equality Act) came into force in April 2011. The public sector Equality Duty requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day to day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. Under the PSED, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act
 - Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it
 - Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
- 20 The Council is currently developing a new Equality and Human Rights approach, to deliver on the Council's ambition around a fairer future for all and to reflect the changing legislative requirements for public sector organisations.
- 21 Welfare Reform will have a significant impact on Southwark residents. In the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR), the Chancellor announced that £2bn has been set aside to cover the costs of the implementation of a new Universal Credit – a means-tested benefit that will replace most benefits and tax credits for those of working age.

- 22 Current cuts will make the transition period difficult for some of our residents, causing hardship for many. Interim arrangements will add to the complexity of the benefit system in the short term, as well as creating a range of problems for government agencies trying to manage the changes.

Partnership working

- 23 Effective work to address local need is based on statutory and non-statutory agencies working in partnership arrangements. Partnerships exist across many areas of service including community safety, health and education. These partnerships lead on the development and implementation of a range of strategies.
- 24 Under the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 which came into force on April 2009 Local Authorities have a 'duty to inform and consult.' The duty requires authorities to take those steps to involve representatives of local persons in the exercise of any of their functions, where they consider it is appropriate to do so.
- 25 The act also has an emphasis on improving community engagement in local decisions, particularly the duty on councils to involve local people in all their functions where it is relevant.
- 26 Other issues promoted at a national level include the following:
- The Compact, Codes of Practice & Compact Plus and proposals for the development of specific powers in relation to its implementation.
 - Civic Renewal through a range of central government initiatives. Continuation of these will be subject to budget reductions imposed on the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Council Policy

- 27 In July 2011, the Council agreed a new Council Plan. This outlines a new relationship between the council and residents, built on trust, openness and transparency. Underpinning the Council Plan is the Council's ambition to create a fairer future for all in Southwark by: 'protecting the most vulnerable; by looking after every penny as if it was our own; by working with local people, communities and businesses to innovate, improve and transform public services; and standing up for everyone's rights.'
- 28 The Council agreed ten fairer future promises through the plan:
- Provide improved value for money and keep council tax increases below inflation.
 - Work with residents and the police to make the borough safer for all by cracking down on antisocial behaviour and implementing our new violent crime strategy.
 - Deliver the first three years of our five year plan to make every council home warm, dry and safe.
 - Improve our customer service with more online services, including delivery of a better housing repairs service, independently verified by tenants.

- Introduce free healthy school meals for all primary school pupils, and champion improved educational attainment for our borough's children.
- Support vulnerable people to live independent, safe and healthy lives by giving them more choice and control over their care.
- Encourage healthy lifestyles by transforming Burgess Park, opening a new swimming pool at Elephant and Castle and awarding £2m to local projects to leave a lasting Olympic legacy.
- Open Canada Water library in autumn 2011, open a library in Camberwell and conduct a thorough review of the library service.
- Bring the full benefits and opportunities of regeneration to all Southwark's residents and build new family homes on the Aylesbury Estate and at Elephant and Castle.
- Double recycling rates from 20% to 40% by 2014 and keep our streets clean.

29 In September 2010 the Cabinet agreed seven principles which would underpin the council's budget for 2011-12. These principles sought to limit the impact of budget cuts on the most vulnerable people.

30 The principles are:

- i. At a time of unprecedented cuts proposed by central government, the 2011 Southwark budget should continue to prioritise the commitments made by the cabinet at its first meeting as a new administration in June 2010 and its vision to create a fairer future for all by promoting social and economic equality in an economically vibrant borough.
- ii. We recognise that some services currently provided by the council may be lost, and some may change. However, we will do all that we can to protect our front-line services and support our most vulnerable residents.
- iii. We will ensure that the services which the council delivers provide value for money, value for council tax payers and contribute towards delivering our vision of creating a fairer future for all in Southwark.
- iv. We will explore alternative ways of providing a service prior to proposing any cut or reduction. This will include talking to partner organisations, the voluntary sector, the trade unions, the business community and other local authorities.
- v. We will be transparent with any specific group or groups of users who may be affected by any cut or reduction in service provision as soon as possible and explore with them other ways to provide the service. We will conduct an equalities impact assessment for our budget proposals.
- vi. Before proposing any cut or reduction we will have a clear and comprehensive explanation for why that service should be cut, reduced or no longer provided by the council, and this explanation should be capable of being subject to robust challenge.
- vii. Budget proposals should be based on a three year approach and should have regard to innovative ways of providing services and maintaining employment in the borough.

- 31 In the wake of the disturbances in various parts of the borough in August 2011, the council conducted 'Community Conversations' with residents. Councillors and officers met with local residents and business owners to discuss how they were affected, what they thought the causes might have been and how to move forward positively. The findings will inform future council policy.
- 32 The Health and Social Care Bill sets out an aim to strengthen local democratic legitimacy in the NHS. One of the ways that it is envisaged that this will be achieved will be through the establishment of Health and Wellbeing Boards. The development of these will be a significant opportunity in Southwark to develop improved joined up health and social care services for the borough. The VCS will be part of this process and represented on the Board.
- 33 The Council's Medium Term Resources Strategy (MTRS) agreed in June 2011 has a greater breadth than in previous years. It recognises the important role of the VCS as a resource in the development and delivery of local services. It also recognises the VCS as a key resource that is independent and diverse which the council must work in collaboration with, to shape the services that residents use and to support the local community in improving lives in the borough.

Voluntary and Community Sector Strategy

- 34 The Framework sets out the council's commitment to regular and effective engagement with the VCS. The primary vehicle for this is quarterly liaison meetings between the council and VCS representatives. In order to facilitate dialogue between the VCS and the council, Community Action Southwark facilitates two 'engagement structures'. Southwark Voice is a regular meeting of VCS infrastructure representatives to discuss key issues and concerns. Southwark Forum is a regular meeting of all local community and voluntary groups, as well as active citizens, to meet and discuss issues.
- 35 In 2010 a set of high level principles and proposals for future ways of working were developed to build on the existing framework. These principles are listed below as follows:
- The Council recognises the importance of the relationship with the VCS and of the Southwark Compact which provides a code of conduct for the Council and the VCS.
 - The Council wishes to coordinate commissioning of VCS organisations more effectively in order to provide better value for money and better performance.
 - There needs to be clarity about the difference between grants and contracts and which most appropriately apply.
 - There should be transparent criteria for the evaluation of all grants and contracts and fairness of distribution across functions and geographically.
 - There should be consistency of both standards and processes in managing performance across the Council.
- 36 In relation to commissioning and funding the VCS, the Framework sets out that the council will operate a mixed economy of grant aid and contracts and will where possible, operate on a three-year cycle. For 2011/12 within the Community Support Programme all successful applicants were awarded grant aid. The Council for the Voluntary Sector, Community Action Southwark sits within the Community Support programme budget but is funded through a separate funding mechanism in the form of a 3 year contract. This is to ensure that longer term strategic objectives to develop and support the capacity of the VCS can be delivered.

37 The Medium Term Resources Strategy sets out that:

In the coming years the role of VCS organisations will be increasingly important to ensure that our most vulnerable residents are not left behind. To do this in the current financial climate the Council and the VCS will together have to change and modernise the way we work and draw upon the expertise and experience that exists across all our partners. Work will continue on the key principles of the relationship between the Council and VCS to ensure that they are fit for purpose and robust. Keeping the principles under review will assist in the delivery of activities involving partnership working between the Council and the VCS.

The MTRS adds some further key principles underpinning the council's approach to the VCS, to strengthen the resilience of the sector in the context of budget reductions. These can be summarised as:

- Work in partnership to reconfigure and redesign public services to meet the needs of the most vulnerable
- Reduce the burdens imposed by commissioning relationships by streamlining processes so as to minimise transaction costs
- Promote the sharing of back office costs, and collaboration and merger, where appropriate
- Better understand the overall funding landscape and how council funding helps the VCS lever in funds from other sources
- Support VCS organisations to access new sources of funding and resources
- Support the VC in developing effective and best-value-for-money services
- Support VCS engagement with the personalisation agenda
- Support the VCS to innovate and develop new models of service delivery.
- Find ways of supporting the VCS in ways other than financial.

38 As part of ongoing efforts to improve the effectiveness of the council's relationship with the VCS, in April 2011 a Task and Finish group was created to look at VCS commissioning processes and propose improvements. The final recommendations of the group will be presented in a report to CMT.

39 The Council's Policy and Resources Strategy 2011-12 included a £1.5m Transition fund over 2011/12 and 2012/13 to provide interim support in helping VCS organisations make the changes necessary to meet the challenges from reduced public sector funding and in order to develop a more sustainable sector. As at October 2011 two rounds of the Transition Fund had been run and just over £500,000 awarded to 40 organisations. A third round is currently open.

PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING PROGRAMME 2011/12

A: Supporting Diverse Communities

40 The council aims to support organisations that promote specific cultural, social, faith and personal identities in ways that contribute to the development of confident communities able to play a full role in civic and public life. Funded organisations should contribute to building mutual understanding and shared ways of working across different faiths, cultures, and ethnic identities. They should also seek to tackle deprivation with the objective of improving the quality of life of those communities.

- 41 The council aims to support organisations which are focused on delivering the following:
- Enhanced community cohesion, unity between communities, mutual interchange and understanding across cultures, ethnic groups and faith
 - Full participation of citizens in public and civic life including refugees and asylum seekers
 - Increased range and quality of volunteering opportunities for residents providing routes into employment, increased wellbeing, community cohesion and sustainable organisations
 - Effective community advocacy
 - Effective mediation between communities and public services including information provision, initial advice and signposting services
 - Facilitating effective consultation between communities and public bodies
- 42 **Organisations will be expected to achieve the following outcomes and proposals will need to demonstrate how these will be measured:**
- i) **Reduction of community tension, and improved integration and community cohesion**
 - ii) **Increased involvement of communities in public & civic life (active citizens)**
 - iii) **Respect and value the diversity of communities and harness the strength inherent in this diversity**
 - iv) **Provision of services that are customer focused**
 - v) **Delivery of user-led services tailored to respective community needs.**

Funding will be prioritised for those organisations who are meeting multiple needs.

Funding will not normally be provided for activities that fall directly within any of the other departmental commissioning programmes (listed in Annex A).

B: Specialist Capacity Building / Infrastructure Support

- 43 A vibrant voluntary sector which is capable of sustaining long-term service delivery and support to diverse communities has a critical contribution to make towards improving the borough. The council, therefore, seeks to support organisations that build the capacity of the voluntary sector to enable it to play a full and effective role in the development and delivery of the Council Plan.
- 44 Within the community support programme, the CVS for the borough, Community Action Southwark has been contracted for 3 years to provide general and borough-wide capacity building and infrastructure support.
- 45 Within budget limitations, the council will support specialist services which provide:
- Legal, financial, IT, business planning, fundraising and management development support to voluntary organisations.
 - Infrastructure support that builds the capacity of the voluntary sector within a specific geographical area, or in relation to specific communities of interest, for example, refugees or volunteers.
 - A voice for the VCS on the above and other national/local issues.

46 **Organisations will be expected to achieve the following outcomes, and proposals will need to demonstrate how these will be measured:**

- i) **Strengthened capacity of the VCS as part of the Localism agenda to deliver citizen-led services and solutions through enhanced support services and training.**
- ii) **Strengthened capacity of voluntary and community organisations to work in partnership with statutory and private sector partners and to be a partner and influence policy development.**
- iii) **Encouragement and support of self-help and community-led activities that help create safer, stronger communities and which improve quality of life and community cohesion.**
- iv) **Support for the Council Plan aim to develop active citizenship and volunteering.**
- v) **A strengthened VCS sector, able to influence the policies & plans of decision-making bodies as part of the Localism agenda in relation to the diverse communities of Southwark.**
- vi) **To develop the capacity of the sector to meet the challenges of changing local and national agendas e.g. personalisation and community volunteering.**

Funding will be targeted at those aspects of capacity-building and infrastructure support that cannot be funded through other sources, that demonstrate added value, and which can provide evidence of effectiveness in supporting the smaller voluntary sector organisations to fulfil their own objectives

C: Area Based Community Development

47 The council aims to make a contribution through funding to organisations that provide a core resource base for work that tackles social exclusion in the deprived areas and neighbourhoods in Southwark. It seeks to support a geographical spread of community resource bases within localities in the areas of greatest deprivation.

48 Organisations seeking funding should:

- Engage in, and contribute to local area and neighbourhood partnerships including forums and community councils
- Influence and contribute to developing communities at a neighbourhood level
- Promote relationships across diverse communities
- Provide capacity-building support for area and neighbourhood activities run directly by and for residents, and by smaller organisations

49 **Organisations will be expected to achieve the following outcomes, and proposals will need to demonstrate how these will be measured:**

- i) **Strengthening local area & neighbourhood partnerships between agencies and with local people**
- ii) **Increased effectiveness of and engagement with local neighbourhood regeneration and renewal initiatives**

- iii) **Increased community activity & involvement as measured by the range and take-up of users and the development of cross community relationships.**

Funding will be targeted at contributing to core costs that enable organisations to act as a local focus for the community and to lever in funds from other sources.

Funding will NOT be provided for activities that fall directly within one of the Council's themes and services (listed in Annex A).

In addition to the above ALL organisations will be expected to demonstrate evidence of fundraising efforts; how they add value including partnership activity; value for money; innovation/ transformation; a reduction of back office costs; potential to meet new and emerging needs; fitness for purpose and how they build social capital.

Premises

- 50 For organisations in occupation of Council Property to be considered for Community Support Fund you must have a formalised and agreed occupation (such as a lease or tenancy agreement).

Deadline for submissions

- 51 Applications will be sought from all currently funded organisations together with new applications. The deadline for receipt of applications will be 16th December 2011.

Funding Agreements

- 52 The council voluntary sector framework sets out that there should be a mixed economy of grants and contracts for funding the VCS. The simplified contract has been finalised and a threshold of £156,442 agreed which is line with the European Union threshold.

Available Resources

- 53 The council's budget for funding the Community Support Grant Aid programme in 2011/12 totals £1,198,196. The 2012/13 budget will be agreed within the context of tight financial constraints of the local government settlement 2011-14 and through the council's annual Policy and Resources process.

Annex A:

The Community Support grant aid programme will **NOT** consider applications for funding for organisations whose main activities fall within the following theme/service-based programmes:

- Children's Services – Early Years (Children's Services)
- Youth provision (Children's Services)
- Mother tongue & Supplementary Education (Children's Services)
- After-school, Play & Holiday (Children's Services)
- CAHMS (Children's Services)
- Arts and Culture (Environment and Housing)
- Community Safety (Environment and Housing)
- Ecology & Environment (Environment and Housing)
- Economic Development (Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)
- Advice Services (Communities, Law & Governance)
- Social Care - Universal (Health and Social Care)

Each of these Council programmes has its own arrangements and timetables for commissioning from voluntary sector providers, including through formal tendering.

For more information on these programmes, and on the commissioning process for the Community Support commissioning programme, contact:

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Annex B: Community Support Commissioning 2011/12

ORGANISATION	
<i>Communities of Interest</i>	<i>Funding 2011/12</i>
AAINA	32,073
Blackfriars Settlement (Older People's Club)	10,496
HornAfrik	10,000
Latin American Disabled People's Project	20,000
Org. Blind African Carribeans	20,421
Rockingham Somali Support Group	11,000
South East Muslim Association	18,792
Southwark Somali Refugee Council	61,500
Southwark Vietnamese/Chinese Association	39,539
Southwark Cyprus Turkish Group	7,803
Southwark Muslim Women's Association	63,646
Southwark Refugee Project	68,747
Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers	53,319
Southwark Pensioners Centre	132,888
Time & Talents over-60's group	5,339
Vietnamese Women's Group	11,308
<i>Area Based Resources</i>	
Bede House Core costs	17,378
Beormund Community Centre	92,999
Blackfriars Settlement Core Costs	17,378
Cambridge House Core Costs	17,378
Clubland	28,456
East Dulwich Community Association	8,700
Elephant Jobs Ltd – Aylesbury Access Centre	27,485
Peckham Settlement	17,378
St Faiths Community Centre	27,281
St Judes Community Centre	42,724
St Mathews Community Centre	26,167
Time & Talents Core Costs	17,378
Wickway Community Centre	61,925
<i>Capacity Building & Infrastructure Support</i>	
Local Accountancy Project	47,232
Southwark Refugee Communities Forum	25,625
Peckham Settlement (Hourbank)	34,951
Peckham Voluntary Sector Forum	41,051
Volunteer Centre Southwark	51,839
Earmarked for Equalities & Human Rights	28,000
<i>Overall Total</i>	1,198,196