

APPENDIX 1.
Southwark Council: The Community Support Commissioning Programme

Commissioning Plan 2010/11

CONTEXT

Purpose of the Programme

- 1 The overall objectives of the Community Support programme are to:
 - Provide support for disadvantaged communities of interest different in relation to age, gender, ethnicity, faith/belief, sexual orientation and disability in order to facilitate the achievement of a quality of life equal to that enjoyed by other sections of the local population.
 - Build the capacity of the voluntary sector to enable it to play a full and effective role in the development and delivery of the Community Strategy (2016).
 - Develop and sustain multi-functional resource bases aimed at tackling social exclusion in deprived areas and neighbourhoods.
- 2 These objectives fall within the council's overall objectives and priorities in the sustainable Community Strategy - *Southwark 2016*, agreed by the Executive on 11 September 2006. They support the council's Equality, Diversity and Cohesion Policy in relation to tackling discrimination and promoting positive community relations.

Needs in the borough

- 3 Key facts from the Office for National Statistics shows that in 2008 Southwark had an unemployment rate of 8.6% compared with 6.8% for London and 26.7 % economically inactive according to the Annual Population Survey. In the 2001 census, more than 38,000 people identified themselves as having a disability or life limiting illness. The population is growing at a faster rate than the national average and is getting younger with the under 14 group to increase slightly according to some estimates. There are also 12.8% lone parents in the borough with dependant children and 16.5% one person households from the 2001 census.
- 4 The profile of ethnicity shows that 62.1% of the population in Southwark is white with 36.9% of the population now made up of people from black and minority ethnic communities. The largest ethnic group is of African Origin (15.6%). 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 11% lower than for other groups. It is also estimated that the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Southwark is higher than the national average.
- 5 In terms of religion, the Christian community comprises 62% of the borough's In terms of faith, the Christian community comprises 62% of the borough's residents from the 2001 census. 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.

- 6 Inequality in educational achievement and health are very much associated with deprivation. Educational achievement at Key Stage 2 has improved but is below the national target. The GCSE achievements are also improving but remain below the national average. Southwark is aiming for at least the national average but with a relatively large number of the population being transient and significant numbers of people for whom English is a second language. This continues to present a challenge.
- 7 Southwark has high rates of teenage conceptions and sexually transmitted infections. The teenage conception rate per 1,000 female population aged 15 – 17 is 75.0% in Southwark, compared with a national average of 40.6%. Male life expectancy is well below the national average, although this gap is beginning to close. Youth involvement as both victims and perpetrators of crime is high and although falling, violent crime remains a concern.
- 8 Geographically, the borough is very diverse. Under the 2007 Communities & Local Government Index of Multiple Deprivation, Southwark is in the top 10% of most deprived boroughs, ranked 26th out of 354 local authorities in England in terms of average deprivation, (where 1 is most deprived) and 9th in London. The concentration of deprivation is in the centre and north of the borough; with pockets in the South, though locality focused work is being carried out in deprived areas to address this.

National policy that influences the Council's Community Support Programme

a) Duty to promote the well-being of communities

Councils have a duty to promote the economic, social and environmental well being of their areas and to work in partnership with others in order to achieve this. At the highest level, the council is a partner in the Southwark Alliance - the local strategic partnership, and supports the development and implementation of the Community Strategy.

b) Duties under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000 to:

- Eliminate unlawful racial discrimination
- Promote equality of opportunity
- Promote good race relations

c) Duties under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 to:

- Promote equality of opportunity for disabled people
- Eliminate discrimination against disabled people
- Eliminate harassment of disabled people that is related to their disabilities
- Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people
- Encourage disabled people to take part in public life
- Take steps to take account of a disabled person's disabilities

d) Duties under the Equality Act 2006 to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment on the grounds of sex
- Promote equality of opportunity between men and women.

e) The Equality Act 2006 and Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations 2007

- These regulations mean it is unlawful to discriminate against someone because of their religion or belief, or no belief, or their sexual orientation.

- There are some exceptions which include, targeting provision for different groups on the basis of their sexual orientation and religion or belief where this meets special needs in regard to education, training or welfare.
- A religious organisation that is providing a service on behalf of the council is not exempt from restricting the provision of goods, facilities and services to someone because of their sexual orientation

9 Southwark Equalities & Human Rights Scheme 2008 – 2011 provides a framework to ensure that steps are taken to eliminate discrimination and harassment of any group, and that employment and services provided by the council are done so fairly. This framework pre-empts the anticipated requirements of the proposed Single Equalities bill.

f) Partnership working

10 Effective work to address local need is increasingly based on statutory and non-statutory agencies working in partnership arrangements. The government has made some of these arrangements mandatory. Others are discretionary. 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, which contribute to the Community Strategy.

f) National policy issues

11 Under the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 which came into force in April 2009 Local Authorities have a 'duty to inform, consult and involve'. 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. This duty is monitored under the Comprehensive Area Assessment framework and two National indicators are of particular relevance to the Community Support programme. National Indicator 4 (NI 4) measures the percentage of people who feel they can influence decisions in the locality. National Indicator 7 (NI 7) measures the contribution that local government and its partners make to the environment in which independent third sector organisations can successfully operate. The indicator is scored on a five point scale according to the number of third sector organisations who answer the following question as 'positive' or 'very positive': ***"How do the local statutory bodies in your local area influence your organisation's success?"*** Southwark has not adopted NI7 as an LAA indicator but it is included in the basket of indicators that have been agreed by the Stronger Communities Partnership. In 2008 the Government conducted a national survey for NI7 and the following responses from Southwark registered third sector organisations were received in response to the question ***"Taking everything into account, overall, how do the statutory bodies in your local area influence your organisation's success?"***

Very positive influence: 3%

Positive influence: 12%

Neither negative nor positive influence: 51%

Negative influence: 9%

Very negative influence: 4%

No answer/don't know: 22%

This gives a total NI7 baseline score of 15% rounded up and with an improvement target of 5% required for the next 2 years.

12 Additional organisational and employment data shows that Southwark VCS has the fifth highest number of registered voluntary organisations in the capital, is the fourth largest employer with 14,331 full-time equivalent employees, with 55.61 employees working for third sector organisations for every 1000 people in the borough.

13 Other key pieces of legislation and policy areas that the department for Communities & Local Government is currently rolling out are listed below.

- The Sustainable Communities Act 2007 aims to promote the sustainability of local communities. The basic principle is that local people know best what needs to be done to promote the sustainability of their area, but that sometimes they need central government to act to enable them to do so. It provides a channel for local people to ask central government to take such action. It is also a new way for local authorities to ask central government to take action which they believe would better enable them to improve the economic, social or environmental well-being of their area. Councils need to consult and try to reach agreement with the community (through a 'panel' of representative persons and under represented groups) on what proposals go forward to Government.
- There is an expectation that by 2012 all local authorities will have in place a form of participatory budgeting. In 2004 Southwark introduced a form of devolved decision making to community councils community for Cleaner, Greener, Safer (CGS) funding. Since its inception some £18 million has been disbursed under the CGS scheme.

14 Complementing the objectives of the Community Support programme, the Government Office for London established a new 'Preventing Violent Extremism'. Winning Hearts & Minds' pathfinder in 2007/8 for local authorities with sizeable Muslim communities. The fund aims to support work by local authorities and their partners, including the police, in 'winning hearts and minds' of young people and so diverting them from potential radicalisation towards violent extremism.

In July 2007 an announcement was made that this fund would total £70 million over 3 years and funding awarded to Southwark is as follows:

- 2008/9 - £145,000
- 2009/10 £175,000
- 2010/11 £193,000

For 2008/9 this funding supported various initiatives run by organisations which are currently funded through the Community Support programme. Proposals for the allocation in 2009/10 shows this trend continuing and demonstrating the ongoing commitment to community safety and cohesion in the borough.

15 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 such as the Empowerment fund, Community Builders scheme, Future Builders Investment Fund and asset transfer.

Council Policy

- 16 The Sustainable Community Strategy, *Southwark 2016*, was adopted by the Southwark Alliance in December 2006, following endorsement by the council's Executive in September 2006. This sets out an agreed vision for the borough for the period to 2016. The objectives of *Southwark 2016* are also reflected in the key corporate planning documents and processes of the council and its partners.
- 17 Through the Community Strategy the council has defined 3 key objectives:
- Improving individual life chances
 - Making the borough a better place for people
 - Delivering quality public services
- 18 Within these objectives there are specific priorities that are aimed at reducing inequality and bringing about change. So, for example, in the **Improving Life Chances** objective, there is a specific priority to value diversity and be active citizens. Within the **Making the Borough a Better Place for People** objective, there is a commitment to making Southwark a place where we have localities of mixed communities. Our **Delivering Quality Public Services** objective has a priority to ensure that our services are customer focused.
- 19 The Local Area Agreement is a three-year agreement based on the council's Community Strategy and sets out its social, economic and environmental priorities. A new LAA for Southwark was negotiated for the period 2008/11. The outcomes in the LAA are aligned with the objectives and priorities contained in the Community Strategy and are broken down into four blocks:
- **Children & Young People**
 - **Safer & Stronger Communities**
 - **Healthier Communities & Older people**
 - **Economic Development & the Environment (including transport, culture and sport).**
- The LAA for Southwark has involved an intensive consultation process with the thematic partnerships and statutory and voluntary sector organisations resulting in the development of LAA indicators, targets and funding priorities. The Southwark Alliance, as the local strategic partnership for the borough brings together the main agencies with a responsibility for and an influence on the public policy and services that shape the future of the borough. It also incorporates voluntary sector organisations as partners on both the local strategic partnership and the Stronger Communities Partnership. Decisions on service delivery and resource allocation to deliver against the LAA targets are part of the council's broader policy and resources strategy and budget process.
- 20 Both national and local policy is defined in more detail through the council's service plans and commitments.
- 21 The community support commissioning programme seeks to promote and target those voluntary sector organisations whose core business cuts across or falls outside of the individual themes and services within the Community Strategy and LAA priorities.

Strategic Review of the Council's Relationship with the Voluntary Sector

- 22 From April 2006 to April 2007 the council undertook a strategic review of its relationship with the voluntary and community sector. The findings and recommendations of the review were set out in the Council/Voluntary Sector Framework, which was agreed by the Executive on 24 April 2007. This document sets out the policy and principles governing the council's arrangements for partnership with, support to and resourcing of Southwark's voluntary and community sector (VCS).
- 23 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 2009/10 within the community support programme all successful applicants were awarded grant aid, with the exception of the new borough Council for Voluntary sector, Community Action Southwark. This organisation is now in year two of a 3 year contract jointly managed by health & social care, children's services and community support.

Feedback from Community Councils

- 24 The views of community councils were sought in 2007/08 and informed the Community Support programme. These views are outlined in Annex B of the commissioning plan.

PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT VOLUNTARY SECTOR FUNDING PROGRAMME 2009/10

A: Communities of interest

- 25 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.
- 26 In addition initiatives which seek to:
- Promote community cohesion, cultural interchange and mutual understanding across cultures, ethnic groups and faith
 - Build capacity to enable full participation as citizens` in public & civic life
 - Act as community champions and advocates
 - Mediate on behalf of and provide specific information & support to a range of communities of interest and the wider public
 - Act as agents for consultation
- 27 The council's corporate Equalities Action plan identifies the following communities of interest in Southwark:
- Ethnicity/cultural background
 - Faith/belief
 - Refugees/asylum seekers
 - Travellers
 - Disability
 - Women

- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LBGT)
- Age

This list is not exhaustive.

28 **Organisations will be expected to achieve the following outcomes, which flow from the Community Strategy, 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) **Valuing diversity**
- iv) **Provision of services that are customer focused**
- v) **Delivery of user-led services tailored to respective community needs.**

Funding will be prioritised to areas/communities of greatest need.

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

B: Specialist Capacity Building

29 A vibrant voluntary sector which is capable of sustaining long-term service delivery and support to excluded 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 Community Strategy.

30 Within the community support programme, a new CVS for the borough, Community Action Southwark has been contracted for 3 years to provide general and borough-wide capacity building and infrastructure support. Other VCS organisations should apply against the criteria set out in paragraphs 30, 31 and 32 and the box which follows.

31 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.

32 Organisations will be expected to demonstrate how any core funding through the community support programme adds value to and supports leverage from other funding programmes (within the council and externally).

33 **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 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 in 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 Community Strategy aim to develop active citizenship.**
- v) **A strengthened VCS sector, able to influence the policies & plans of decision-making bodies in relation to the diverse communities of Southwark.**

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 resource bases for tackling social exclusion

- 34 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.
- 35 Organisations seeking funding should:
- Engage in, and contribute to local area and neighbourhood partnerships
 - Influence and contribute to increased community involvement
 - Engage and involve marginalized communities within their 'catchment' area and promote cross-community relationships.
 - Provide a physical base and capacity-building support for area and neighbourhood activities run directly by and for residents, and by smaller organisations
 - Proactively engage, build relationships with and provide regular information to the relevant Community Council for their area.
- 36 Organisations will be expected to demonstrate how any core funding through the community support programme adds value to and supports leverage from other funding programmes (within the council and externally).
- 37 **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
- iv) Providing relevant community facilities that work for the specific area in which they are based.

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 normally be provided for activities that fall directly within one of the Council's thematic commissioning programmes (listed in Annex).

Premises

- 38 In the community support programme, a number of organisations receive grants, which incorporate a rent element where the council is the landlord. This rent element is withheld at source and is payable to the councils' property division.

Deadline for submissions.

- 39 Applications will be sought from all currently funded organisations together with new applications. The deadline for receipt of applications is October 2009.

Funding Agreements

- 40 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 £139,893 agreed which is line with the European Union threshold. The next steps will involve the development of guidance notes for both council officers and the VCS and a programme of training for officers and VCS organisations in using it.

Available Resources

- 41 The council's budget for funding the Community Support Grant Aid programme in 2009/10 was £1,313,066 including £140,000 contract per annum from 2008-2011 for Community Action Southwark. The 2009/10 budget will be agreed within the context of tight financial constraints of the 2008/11 local government settlement 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)
- Arts and Culture (Environment and Housing)
- Community Safety (Environment and Housing)
- Ecology & Environment (Environment and Housing)
- Sports (Environment and Housing)
- Economic Development (Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)
- Advice Services (Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)
- Social care (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 Councils suggested that the following activities should be undertaken by area based resources (community centres and settlements). The following sets out either where these have been incorporated, or why they have not.

- *Activities which enable cross-community links.* This has been reflected in the outcomes which area based resources should achieve, in Part C of the Community Support Commissioning Plan.
- *Activities for older people.* It is not a requirement that area based resource centres should deliver, or provide space for delivery of, services/activities for older people; however the majority of those funded do so. We do require that area based resources are accessible to all sectors of the community.
- *Support for new and emerging groups to help them access council & other funding.* This activity is reflected in the outcomes which area based resources should achieve, in Part C of the Community Support Commissioning Plan.
- *Enabling VCS organisations to respond quickly to and support volunteers.* This activity is included within Part B - Specialist Capacity Building of the Community Support commissioning plan.
- *Provision of after-school activities.* This activity is funded separately through the Play and After School Programme. Many area based resources centres deliver, or provide space for delivery, of after school provision through this programme.
- *Focus on improving quality of premises.* The Community Support programme provides revenue funding through grant-aid. Area based resource centres may be able to apply for capital funding from organisations such as the Big Lottery or the Heritage Fund.

Annex C: Community Support Commissioning 2009/10

ORGANISATION	
<i>Communities of Interest</i>	<i>Funding 2008/9</i>
AAINA	32,073
Blackfriars Settlement (Older People's Club)	10,496
HornAfrik	10,000
Latin America 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	61,295
<i>Capacity Building & Infrastructure Support</i>	
Local Accountancy Project	47,232
Community Action Southwark	143,500
Southwark Refugee Communities Forum	25,625
Peckham Settlement (Hourbank)	34,951
Peckham Voluntary Sector Forum	41,051
Volunteer Centre Southwark	51,839
<i>Overall Total</i>	1,313,066