

Appendix 2

Southwark Council: The Community Support Grant-Aid Programme

Commissioning Plan 2007/8

CONTEXT

1. Purpose of the Programme

1.1 The overall objectives of the Community Support programme are to:

- Provide support for disadvantaged communities of interest in relation to age, gender, ethnicity, faith, 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, ChangeUp and the Local Infrastructure Plan.
- Develop and sustain multi-functional resource bases aimed at tackling social exclusion in deprived areas and neighbourhoods.

1.2 These objectives fall within the Council's overall priorities in the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan for '*Tackling Poverty*'. They support the Council's Equality, Diversity and Cohesion Policy and Action Plan in relation to tackling discrimination and promoting positive community relations.

2. The Needs

2.1 Key facts from the Office for National Statistics shows that in June 2004 Southwark had the third highest claimant count unemployment rate (as a percentage of working age population) in London at 5.3%. 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. The population is growing at a faster rate than the national average and is getting younger with just over 60,000 children and young people. There are also more lone parent households and people cohabiting than the national average.

2.2 The profile of ethnicity shows that 63% of the population in Southwark is white with 37% of the population now made up of people from black and minority ethnic communities. The largest ethnic group is of African Origin (16.1%). 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 Vietnamese, Latin American, Eastern Europe, Turkish and others. 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. It is also estimated that the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Southwark is higher than the national average.

- 2.3 In terms of faith, the Christian community comprises 66% 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% said they were of no faith and other faiths include Bahai, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Rastafarian and Sikhism.
- 2.4 Inequality in educational achievement and health are very much associated with deprivation. In addition there are differences related to gender and ethnicity. Educational achievement at Key Stage 2 is significantly below the national average. By the end of compulsory schooling, the GCSE achievements for both white British and Afro-Caribbean boys are well below the Southwark and national averages. In 2004 achievement of 5+ GCSE grades A-C was highest for those of African origin groups. Girls outperformed boys and this pattern of performance has existed for many years.
- 2.5 Southwark has very high rates of teenage conceptions and sexually transmitted infections. 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 violent crime on the increase.
- 2.6 Geographically, the borough is very diverse. Under the 2004 ODPM Index of Deprivation, Southwark is in the top 10% of most deprived boroughs, ranked 17th out of 354 local authorities in England in terms of average deprivation, (where 1 is most deprived). The concentration of deprivation is in the centre and north of the borough; with pockets in the South, though Neighbourhood Renewal focused work is being carried out in deprived areas to address this.

3 National policy that influences the Council's programme

a) Duty to promote the well-being of communities

- 3.1 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) Partnership working

- 3.2 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.

d) National policy issues

3.3 Issues promoted at a national level include the following:

- The development of the National Compact, Codes of Practice & Compact Plus
- The Government's promotion of the third sector and volunteering
- Neighbourhood Renewal
- Reform of Charity Law
- Civic Renewal through a range of Central Government initiatives such as Connecting Communities, Future Builders Investment Fund and ChangeUp.
- The Local Area Agreement

4. Council Policy

4.1 Southwark's Draft Community Strategy, 'Southwark 2016' sets out the vision and priorities for the borough for the next ten years. 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

4.2 By November 2006 Southwark Alliance aim is to have the Community Strategy finalised, an agreed vision for Southwark and priorities that will take the borough forward until 2016. The challenge for the future will be translation of the Community Strategy and its ambitions into policy and practice.

4.3 Both national and local policy is defined in more detail through the Council's service plans and commitments. The following are of particular relevance to the Community Support Programme:

- ChangeUp, the Southwark Compact and associated guiding principles
- The Corporate Equalities Action Plan and the Race Equality Scheme
- The Older people's Strategy
- The Local Area Agreement

4.4 The Community Support Grant Aid 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 priorities.

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

5.1 In April 2006 the council commenced a strategic review of its relationship with the voluntary and community sector. The purpose of this review is to gain a better understanding of this relationship and to explore ways in which it can be strengthened and improvements made to the way in which the council allocates, manages and monitors organisations in receipt of funding.

5.2 The key objectives of the review are:

- To review the Council's strategic relationship with the voluntary sector, to make recommendations regarding how this should be in the future and to set this out in clear policy guidance.
- To explore and define the range of relationships the Council should have with the voluntary sector, and to set out this out in clear policy guidance to ensure there is transparency in our treatment of the voluntary sector across the Council.
- To explore and define the support which the Council should provide to the voluntary sector and to set this out in clear policy guidance.

5.3 To date the following progress has been made:

- 3 focus groups have taken place with VCS organisation
- 6 Local Authorities selected for benchmarking. Examples of best practice will inform the recommendations arising from the review.
- A conference took place on 6th June with the VCS to share their views on how the relationship with the VCS can be strengthened. These have been fed into the review. A further conference is due to be held in October so that we can feed back emerging recommendations.

5.4 On completion of the review a report will submitted to the Executive and it is anticipated that the outcome of the review will feed into the commissioning process for 2008/9. No impact on 2007/8 commissioning is anticipated at this stage.

6 COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAMME: PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING 2007/8.

A: Communities of interest

6.1 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 faiths, cultures, and ethnic identities. They should also seek to tackle deprivation with the objective of improving the quality of life of those communities.

The Council will provide grant-aid assistance within its budget limits that supports initiatives in relation to these communities of interest that seek to:

- Build capacity to enable full participation in public & civic life
- Act as community champions and advocates
- Mediate on behalf of and provide specific information & support to communities of interest and the wider public
- Act as agents for consultation
- Promote community cohesion, cultural interchange and mutual understanding across cultures, ethnic groups and faith

- 6.1 The Council's Corporate Equalities Action Plan identifies the following communities of interest in Southwark:

Ethnicity/cultural background
Faith
Refugees/asylum seekers
Travellers
Disability
Women
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT)
Older people.

This list is not exhaustive.

- 6.2 Organisations will be expected to achieve the following outcomes and proposals will need to demonstrate how these will be measured:

- i) **Increased involvement of communities in public & civic life**
- ii) **Reduction of community tension**
- iii) **Improved integration**
- iv) **Secure community rights**
- v) **A better informed public**

Funding will be prioritised to areas/communities of greatest need and targeted to those communities that are currently unsupported.

Funding will not normally be provided for activities that fall directly within one of the Council's thematic grant-aid programmes (listed in Annex).

B: Capacity Building and Infrastructure

- 6.3 Currently discussions are taking place regarding a merger between Southwark Action for Voluntary Organisations (SAVO) and Southwark Community Care Forum. This merger could have significant implications for the way in which infrastructure support is delivered in the future. Funding of this provision will therefore need to take the outcome of these discussions into account.
- 6.4 A vibrant voluntary sector capable of sustaining long-term service delivery and support to excluded communities has a critical contribution to make towards improving the borough. The Council 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.
- 6.5 Within budget limitations, the Council will support via grant-aid services that:
- Provide legal, financial, IT, business planning and management development support to voluntary organisations

- Provide borough-wide infrastructure support that builds the capacity of the voluntary sector within a specific geographical area or in relation to specific communities of interest.
 - Develop infrastructure capacity – the provision of borough-wide mechanisms for consultation and engagement between statutory bodies and the voluntary and community sector.
- 6.6 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).
- 6.7 Organisations will be expected to achieve the following outcomes and proposals will need to demonstrate how these will be measured:
- i) **Strengthened local community structures**
 - ii) **Increased capacity & organisational strength of voluntary & community sectors**
 - iii) **Improved performance & organisational effectiveness**
 - iv) **Improved co-ordination, collaboration & networking between members in line with ChangeUp**
 - v) **A strengthened BME sector able to influence the policies & plans of decision-making bodies in relation to BME communities**

Funding will be targeted at those aspects of capacity-building and infrastructure support that cannot be funded through other sources, 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

- 6.8 The Council aims to make a contribution through grant-aid 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. Organisations seeking funding should:
- Act as a focus for and be proactively involved in community engagement within a part of the borough, working directly with local residents
 - Engage and involve marginalized communities within their 'catchment' area
 - 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

- 6.9 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).
- 6.10 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**
Increased effectiveness of and engagement with local neighbourhood regeneration and renewal initiatives
 - ii) **Increased community activity & involvement as measured by the range and take-up of users.**

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 grant-aid programmes (listed in Annex)

7. Premises

In the Community Support programme, a number of organisations receive grants, which incorporate a rent element where the Council is the landlord. In line with the corporate policy on voluntary sector grants, the Community Support programme will continue to include the option of grants for rents plus operational costs.

8. Deadline for submissions.

- 8.1 Applications will be sought from all currently funded organisations together with new applications. The deadline for receipt of applications is due to be agreed shortly with Departmental Grants Officers.

9. Funding Agreements

- 9.1 It is not proposed to enter into any new three-year SLA agreements for the year 2006/7. This is to enable full account to be taken of the recommendations of the VCS strategic review in time to inform the 2008/9 cycle.

10. Available Resources

- 10.1 The Council's total resources to fund the Community Support Grant Aid programme in 2006/7 are up to a maximum of £1,332,224 plus inflation. This figure is provisional and subject to the annual budget-setting processes.

Annex:

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:

- Advice Services (Strategic Services Department)
- Children's Services – Early Years (Education Department)
- Mother tongue & Supplementary Education (Education Department)
- After-school, Play & Holiday Playschemes (Education Department)
- Arts and Culture (Environment & Leisure Department)
- Community Safety (Strategic Services)
- Economic Development (Regeneration Department)
- Ecology & Environment (Environment and Leisure Department)
- Sports (Environment Department)
- Social care (Social Services Department/PCT)
- Youth provision (Education Department).

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 Grant-Aid programme, contact:

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Community Support Grants 2006/7

ORGANISATION
<i>Communities of Interest</i>
AAINA
AAWAZ
Aylesbury Somali Women's Health Group
Blackfriars Settlement (Older People's Club)
HornAfrik
Org. Blind African Carribeans
Rockingham Somali Support Group
South East Muslim Association
Southwark Somali Refugee Council
Southwark Somali Women's Group
Southwark Vietnamese/Chinese Association
Southwark Cyprus Turkish Group
Southwark Muslim Women's Association
Southwark Refugee Project
Southwark Day Centre for Asylum Seekers
Southwark Pensioners Centre
Time & Talents over-60'2 group
Vietnamese Women's Group
<i>Area Based Resources</i>
Bede House Core costs
Beormund Community Centre
Bermondsey Village Hall
Blackfriars Settlement Core Costs
Cambridge House Core Costs
Charterhouse in Southwark
Clubland
Copleston Centre Core Costs
Elephant Jobs Ltd – Aylesbury Access Centre
Peckham Settlement
St Faiths Community Centre
St Judes Community Centre
St Mathews Community Centre
Time & Talents Core Costs
Wickway Community Centre
<i>Capacity Building & Infrastructure Support</i>
Local Accountancy Project
SAVO (including Service Agreement for training)
Peckham Settlement (Hourbank)
Peckham Voluntary Sector Forum
Volunteer Centre Southwark
<i>Earmarked Resources</i>
Rockingham Estate (administered by Elephant Links)