

Grants Committee

13 November 2019 : 11:00 am

Agenda

At London Councils offices, Conference Suite,
59½ Southwark St., London SE1 0AL

Refreshments will be provided

London Councils offices are wheelchair accessible

Labour Group: Room 1 10:00 am

(Political Adviser: 07977 401955)

Conservative Group: Room 5 10:30 am

(Political Adviser: 07903 492195)

Liberal Democrat Room 2 10:00 am

(Political Adviser: 07858 924941)

Contact Officer: Lisa Dominic Lisa.dominic@londoncouncils.gov.uk - 0207 934 9843

A sandwich lunch will be provided in Room 1 after the meeting

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***Declarations of Interests**

If you are present at a meeting of London Councils' or any of its associated joint committees or their sub-committees and you have a disclosable pecuniary interest* relating to any business that is or will be considered at the meeting you must not:

- participate in any discussion of the business at the meeting, or if you become aware of your disclosable pecuniary interest during the meeting, participate further in any discussion of the business, or
- participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

These prohibitions apply to any form of participation, including speaking as a member of the public.

It is a matter for each member to decide whether they should leave the room while an item that they have an interest in is being discussed. In arriving at a decision as to whether to leave the room they may wish to have regard to their home authority's code of conduct and/or the Seven (Nolan) Principles of Public Life.

*as defined by the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012

The Grants Committee will be invited by the Chair to agree to the removal of the press and public since the following items of business are closed to the public pursuant to Part 5 and Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended):

Paragraph 3 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information), it being considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

Exempt item	
E1 Exempt minutes of the Grants Executive Meeting on 12 th September (for info)	1-2

LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE – AGM 10 July 2019

Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held at London Councils, 59½ Southwark Street, London SE1 0AL on Wednesday 10 July 2019

London Borough & Royal Borough:	Representative:
Barking and Dagenham	Cllr Saima Ashraf
Barnet	Cllr John Hart
Bexley	Cllr David Leaf
Brent	Cllr Tom Miller
City of London Councils	Dhruv Patel OBE
Croydon	Cllr Hamida Ali
Ealing	Cllr Jasbir Anand
Greenwich	Cllr Miranda Williams
Hackney	Cllr Philip Glanville (Chair)
Hammersmith and Fulham	Cllr Adam Connell
Harrow	Cllr Sue Anderson
Hounslow	Cllr Katherine Dunne
Islington	Cllr Una O'Halloran
Kingston upon Thames	Cllr Sam Foulder-Hughes
Lewisham	Cllr Jonathan Slater
Merton	Cllr Edith Macauley MBE
Newham	Cllr Charlene McLean
Redbridge	Cllr Helen Coomb
Richmond	Cllr Gareth Roberts
Southwark	Cllr Evelyn Akoto
Sutton	Cllr Marian James
Tower Hamlets	Cllr Asma Begum (deputy)
Waltham Forest	Cllr Louise Mitchell
Wandsworth	Cllr Paul Ellis
Westminster	Cllr Iain Bott

London Councils officers were in attendance.

1 Apologies for Absence and Announcement of Deputies

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Colin Smith (LB Bromley), Cllr Jonathan Simpson (LB Camden), Cllr Viddy Persaud (LB Havering), Cllr Anne Cyron (RB Kensington and Chelsea) and Cllr Candida Ronald (LB Tower Hamlets).

2 Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Cllr Helen Coomb declared that her sister was a trustee of Redbridge CVS.

3 Acknowledgement of new members of the Grants Committee

- 3.1 Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director: Young People's Education and Skills, Grants and Community Services at London Councils welcomed new members of the Grants Committee and welcomed back existing members.
- 3.2 Members asked for their thanks to the former members of the Grants Committee to be recorded, in recognition of all the work carried out for the Committee.

Action: The Strategy Director to write a letter of thanks to all members who have left the Grants Committee this year.

4 Election of Chair of the Grants Committee for the 2019/20 Municipal Year

- 4.1 Mayor Philip Glanville was nominated as the Chair of the Grants Committee by Cllr Paul Ellis (LB Wandsworth), seconded by Cllr Saima Ashraf (LB Barking and Dagenham).
- 4.2 There being no other nominees for the Chair, the Strategy Director declared Mayor Glanville Chair of the Grants Committee and stepped down to allow the elected Chair to preside over the remainder of the meeting.

5 Election of Vice-Chairs for the Grants Committee for the 2019/20 Municipal Year

- 5.1 The Chair called for nominations for the three Vice Chairs for 2019/20. The following members were nominated by Cllr David Leaf (LB Bexley) and seconded by Cllr Begum (LB Tower Hamlets):
 - 5.1.1 Cllr Saima Ashraf as the Labour Vice-Chair
 - 5.1.2 Cllr Paul Ellis as the Conservative Vice-Chair
 - 5.1.3 Cllr Gareth Roberts as the Liberal Democrat Vice-Chair
- 5.2 There being no other nominees the Chair declared Cllrs Ashraf, Ellis and Roberts as the Vice Chairs.

6 Election of the Grants Executive for the 2019/20 Municipal Year

- 6.1 The following members were appointed:
 - 6.1.1 **Labour** - Mayor Philip Glanville (Chair), LB Hackney, Cllr Saima Ashraf, LB Barking & Dagenham, Cllr Miranda Williams, RB Greenwich, Cllr Charlene McLean, LB Newham and Cllr Jonathan Slater, LB Lewisham. The Chair noted that there was currently one Labour vacancy on the Executive
 - 6.1.2 **Conservative** - Cllr Paul Ellis, LB Wandsworth Cllr David Leaf, LB Bexley, and Cllr Iain Bott, City of Westminster
 - 6.1.3 **Liberal Democrat** - Cllr Gareth Roberts, LB Richmond
 - 6.1.4 **City of London** - Dhruv Patel OBE.

7 Minutes of the Grants Committee AGM held on 11th July 2018 (for noting – already formally agreed)

- 7.1 Members noted the minutes of the July 2018 Grants AGM.

8 Minutes of the Grants Committee held on 20 March 2019

- 8.1 The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting which took place on 20 March 2019.

9 Minutes of the Grants Executive held on 7 February 2019 (for information)

- 9.1 Members noted the minutes of the meeting which took place on 7 February 2019.

10 Constitutional Matters

10.1 The Strategy Director introduced this item, which detailed several variations to the London Councils Constitutional documents which were agreed at Leaders Committee at its AGM on 4 June 2019. She said that all the variations in the constitutional documents were for noting, except the changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers in relation to the role of the Data Protection Officer, under Article 37 of GDPR, which members were being asked to approve.

10.2 Members:

10.2.1 approved the changes to the Scheme of Delegations to Officers in relation to the role of the Data Protection Officer and noted the remainder of the changes in Appendix 1

10.2.2 noted the changes to the other London Councils Constitutional documents in Appendix 2 (London Councils Standing Orders) and Appendix 3 (Revised Authorised Signatories).

11 Operation of the Grants Committee

11.1 The Strategy Director introduced this item and drew members' attention to paragraph 2, in which members were invited to undertake visits to partners who were delivering the projects on behalf of the Grants Committee.

11.2 The Chair invited members to inform him and the Grants team if there were any projects they wanted to visit. He said that the visits would be held on the days of the Grants Executive meetings. The Chair added that the date of the September Grants Executive meeting may need to be re-arranged due to a prior engagement, but that care would be taken that it did not clash with the Liberal Democrat conference.

11.3 Grants Committee noted:

11.3.1 the Terms of Reference for the Grants Committee and Grants Executive (Appendix 1)

11.3.2 the programme of meetings (below)

Grants Main Meeting	Time (Pre-meetings 10:00)
10 July 2019 (AGM)	11:00
13 November 2019	11:00
18 March 2020	11:00
8 July 2020 (AGM)	11:00
11 November 2020	11:00
Grants Executive	Time
12 September 2019	14:00
5 February 2020	14:00
16 September 2020	14:00

12 Performance of Grants Programme 2017-21: April 2017 to March 2019

- 12.1 The Strategy Director introduced this report, which provided members with an update on the three priorities of the Grants Programme. She said that for Priorities 1 and 2, this report presented an update for the period April 2017 to March 2019, and included information submitted by partners who were asked to identify their successes and challenges. For Priority 3, the report presented an update on delivery from October 2016 to March 2019.
- 12.2 The Strategy Director also drew members' attention to the annual update in Appendix 4, which contained information on the delivery of the different priorities broken down by borough. She added that Appendix 3, which contained the project delivery information and contact details of all the partners, was bound separately.
- 12.3 Members' attention was drawn to the fact that the format of the annual equalities report had changed from previous years', when it was presented primarily as an analytical comparative report, using demographic data. However, due to the nature of services the programme delivers, the user demographic was slightly different, and the new format better reflected the fact that services were being provided to a wide cross-section of Londoners.
- 12.4 Members were reminded that the Grants Committee pays the subscription for all boroughs' membership of London Funders. London Councils had worked with London Funders on a number of initiatives including Fair Funding, unaccompanied minors, and communications with third sector organisations. Members were invited to read the resources that London Funders had produced over the last year, which were made available for them at the meeting.
- 12.5 In relation to Priority 1, the Strategy Director noted that:
 - 12.5.1 there had been a number of successful outcomes in terms of homelessness, including advocating for clients in relation to the Duty to Refer
 - 12.5.2 the colocated services STAR partnership was now fully embedded in four local authority co-located settings including the London Boroughs of Barnet, Ealing, Haringey and Sutton, and had formed strong relationships with other boroughs
 - 12.5.3 anticipated challenges that may affect future delivery of the programme included a sharp increase in the number of individuals presenting with more complex needs, particularly mental health needs, who typically required support for longer periods – more staff also require clinical supervision because of the complex cases they are supporting
 - 12.5.4 further information relating to improving engagement in boroughs such would be shared with relevant borough officers by the Grants team.
 - 12.5.5 In response to the query from Cllr Foulmer-Hughes, the Strategy Director said that the updated report for the November meeting would contain information on the numbers of people affected by No recourse to Public Funds as well as the proportion of the programme users
 - 12.5.6 in response to a query from Cllr Leaf about whether the targets allocated were appropriate in the boroughs which showed underperformance, the Strategy Director said this are reviewed with up to date information
 - 12.5.7 In response to a query from Cllr Ellis, the Strategy Director said that borough information could be given to the Grants Committee on a quarterly basis, so that underperformance could be addressed sooner, however, the more comprehensive data would still be presented on an annual basis, as requested by the Committee

Action: The issue of quarterly reporting to be discussed more fully at the Grants Executive meeting in September.

12.6 In terms of Priority 2, the Strategy Director noted that:

- 12.6.1 London Councils administers £200,000 on behalf of MOPAC under a partnership arrangement, to complement the Grants Programme and provide additional resources to Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) for training frontline staff in statutory and voluntary services to identify harmful practices and take appropriate action
- 12.6.2 Woman's Aid were not awarded the Home Office grant relating to the National Domestic Violence helpline however, the grant had been awarded to Refuge, a current partner with Women's Aid
- 12.6.3 in response to a query from Cllr Miller about whether the Grants Committee had an effective mechanism to ensure that the overperformance in terms of volume did not impact on quality, the Strategy Director said that this was kept in check by the monitoring system, and that most of the overperformance was due to an increase in inquiries or signposting to other services. She added that this issue could potentially be examined in more detail in a thematic review.

12.7 In terms of Priority 3, members were informed that:

- 12.7.1 delivery had finished as of 30 June 2019 for Priority 3 projects
- 12.7.2 a final report on Priority 3 commissions, including an evaluation of the programme was due be presented at the November 2019 meeting of the Grants Committee
- 12.7.3 actual delivery of Priority 3 was less than half of what was originally commissioned however, it was important to acknowledge that the quality of the delivery, and the work undertaken by partners with some of the most vulnerable Londoners, was good (all the partners delivering Priority 3 have had excellent service user feedback, and this has been reflected in the additional RAG rating for participant satisfaction)
- 12.7.4 the Strategy Director reminded members that the red performance RAG rating was to ensure that the Grants Committee can hold London Councils officers to account. She added that the November 2019 report will contain more narrative information to reflect the positive quality of the delivery in Priority 3.

13 Priority 3 underspend: addressing issues related to No Recourse to Public Funds to support work to combat homelessness and tackle domestic violence

- 13.1 The Chair introduced this item and said that the Grants Executive had had extensive discussions on this issue. The consensus was to re-allocate the Priority 3 underspend to No Recourse to Public Funds, with a focus on immigration advice.
- 13.2 The Strategy Director said that lack of access to immigration advice was proving to be a significant problem, often leading to more complex cases and more families ending up in crisis. Earlier intervention would mean that there was less pressure on borough services. The Grants team has been discussing the issue with a number of relevant organisations, including the NPRF Network, the London Modern Slavery Leads Group, the Law Centres Network, London Funders the GLA, the Home Office, Trust for London, The Migration Exchange Funder Network, the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, and London Councils policy leads.
- 13.3 The Strategy Director reminded members that It is a criminal offence for a person to provide immigration advice or services in the UK unless their organisation is regulated

by or is otherwise covered by the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (members of certain professional bodies may give immigration advice without registering with OISC). Advisers must be registered with and regulated by the Institute of Legal Executives or the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner. Options were being explored about helping organisations to go through the regulation process quicker.

13.4 The Chair said that once members had expressed a preference for one of the options, the Grants Executive would discuss this issue in further detail in September, and the decision needs to be made in November. He added that he had reservations about Option 2 due to its complexity.

13.5 Members were presented with the three options:

Option 1: Commissioning advice services that help prevent destitution through either signposting to specialist advisers or resolving lower-complexity immigration issues that could develop into complex issues for statutory services, e.g.:

- change of conditions applications
- renewing Leave to Remain
- raising awareness of basic steps that need to be taken by people to address immigration status concerns
- Destitute Domestic Violence Concession applications

Option 2: Commissioning legal support to deal with complex local authority cases to reduce the caseload burden on local authorities, combined with action research (using the cases that are being resolved) into early interventions that could mitigate complexity and the strain on local authority resources. The research benefits of this option are likely to produce findings that have medium and long-term benefits to local authorities.

Option 3: Commissioning both options 1 and 2.

13.6 Members made the following comments in the ensuing discussion:

13.6.1 most members backed Option 1 but requested robust evidence that the work commissioned would not be replicating work carried out elsewhere

13.6.2 several members said that they would like Option 1 to be firmly linked with the existing services delivered through Priorities 1 and 2

13.6.3 Cllr Anand suggested that Option 1 should cover maternity services

13.6.4 Cllr Ellis said that it would be worth supporting specific issues such as modern slavery and trafficking, which was a problem in many boroughs

13.6.5 Cllr Roberts and Cllr Akoto supported Option 2, due to its long-term benefits

13.6.6 The Chair concluded by saying that Option 1 appeared to be the preferred option for most boroughs, however, Option 2 would not be closed as a possibility.

Action: For further consideration at the Grants Executive in September.

14 Grants Programme 2021-25

14.1 The Chair informed members that the Leaders' Committee had set a number of specific Pledges to Londoners, across seven key policy areas: housing, better health and care, supporting business and inclusive growth, crime and public protection, transport and environment, funding London, and new ways of working.

- 14.2 The Strategy Director noted that the Pledges to Londoners are an expression of Leaders' Committee priorities and that any new Grants Programme and its priorities would need to align.
- 14.3 The Chair then detailed the broad implementation timeline:
- *Summer/Autumn 2019:* Grants Committee recommends to Leaders' that a new Programme is established for 2021-25; Leaders' Committee approves the principles and priorities of the Programme and the budget for the Programme
 - *Autumn 2019:* Focused review of priorities to better understand borough needs and develop service specifications with the boroughs
 - *March/July 2020:* Grants Committee reviews and endorses service specifications
 - *Summer 2020:* Service specifications advertised, and bids sought
 - *Autumn 2020:* Applications assessed with boroughs and other key stakeholders
 - *November 2020:* Leaders' Committee considers the 2021-22 budget, following recommendations from Grants Committee.
 - *February 2020:* Grants Committee considers recommendations for individual applications
 - *April 2020:* New Programme starts.
- 14.4 Members suggested that other issues linked to employment should also be considered, such as the link between unemployment and crime, youth pathways into employment, mentoring, outreach. It was noted that care should be taken not to duplicate the work of MOPAC.
- 14.5 Early intervention and supporting parents were considered key as there was currently a gap in early prevention work relating to youth violence, and the funding was often unstable. The potential for holding funding in reserve during the four-year cycle, to address unexpected or emerging issues, was also discussed.
- 14.6 The Chair pointed out that paragraphs 4.3.7 and 4.3.8 contained typographical errors, and that the correct dates were February 2021 and April 2021.
- 14.7 The Strategy Director told members that although the budget setting would be agreed in December 2020 by Leaders, the detail of the programme would be decided by the Grants Committee.
- 14.8 The Chair noted the general support for a 2021-2025 Grants Programme and acknowledged the need for further detail to take any proposals forward.

Action: For further consideration at the Grants Executive in September.

15 London Councils Grants Committee Pre-Audited Final Accounts 2018-19

- 15.1 Frank Smith, Director of Corporate Resources, introduced this item and said that the figures provided were the pre-audited results. He added that Table 1 showed the actual outturn position compared to the approved budget for 2018/19 and stated that the movement between the Month 9 forecast position and the provisional outturn was marginal.
- 15.2 The Director of Corporate Resources also said that Table 5 showed the position on reserves, containing two elements: the forecast £1million likely to be available in respect of Priority 3, and the resources for Priorities 1 and 2 in excess of the Committee's benchmark, amounting to around £473,000 (subject to audit). Members were now able to decide how these funds should be spent. The Director added that London Councils consolidated position for 2018/19 had already been presented to the London Councils'

Executive in June, and it was aware of the estimated level of reserves for the Grants Committee. The Director of Corporate Resources confirmed that the existing reserves could also be rolled over into the 2021-2025 programme and potentially be used to establish a contingency to cover future emerging issues.

15.3 The Chair said that a discussion with Leaders would need to be carried out relating to the future of the Grants programme.

15.4 Members noted:

15.4.1 the provisional pre-audited outturn position and the indicative surplus of £200,000 for 2018/19, the second year of the 2017-21 programme

15.4.2 the provisional level of reserves at paragraphs 17 to 19 and the financial outlook, as detailed in paragraphs 20 to 23 of the report; and

15.4.3 that the benchmark will be reviewed by the Grants Executive and will subsequently be brought to the full Grants Committee, as part of the discussion on the use of the Committee's reserves.

The meeting finished at 13.00

LONDON COUNCILS GRANTS COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE MEETING

Minutes of the Grants Committee Executive meeting held in Room 7, London Councils, on Wednesday 12 September 2019

Members	Mayor Philip Glanville (Chair)	LB Hackney
	Cllr. Saima Ashraf (Vice Chair)	LB Barking and Dagenham
	Cllr. Paul Ellis (Vice Chair)	LB Wandsworth
	Cllr. Gareth Roberts (Vice Chair)	LB Richmond
	Cllr. Charlene McLean	LB Newham
	Cllr. Jonathan Slater	LB Lewisham
	Cllr. David Leaf	LB Bexley

London Councils officers

Yolande Burgess, Strategy Director
Frank Smith, Director of Corporate Resources
Sam Armitt, ESF Technical Adviser
Daniel Houghton, Liberal Democrat Political Advisor
Jade Appleton, Conservative Political Advisor
Mehboob Khan, Labour Political Advisor
Ana Gradiska, Principal Governance and Projects Officer

The Chair welcomed members and officers to the meeting, and said he was pleased at the high turnout.

1 Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Miranda Williams (RB Greenwich), Cllr Iain Bott (City of Westminster) and Dhruv Patel (City of London).

2 Deputies and Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 There were no deputies or declarations of interest.

3 Minutes of the Grants Executive held on 7 February 2019

- 3.1 Members agreed the minutes of the meeting which took place on 7 February 2019.

4 Minutes of Grants Committee AGM held on 10 July 2019 (for noting)

- 4.1 Members noted the minutes of the Grants Committee AGM which took place on 10 July 2019.

5 Month 3 Revenue Forecast 2019/20

- 5.1 The Director of Resources introduced this report, which outlined the actual income and expenditure against the approved income and expenditure in the budget to the end of June

2019. The report also provided a forecast of the outturn position for 2019/20 for both actual and committed expenditure. The Director of Resources added that:

- 5.1.1 at this stage, the projected surplus is £36,000 for the year, which relates to Priority 1 and 2 activities
- 5.1.2 the projected S.48 ESF programme reserves (Priority 3), which have now been audited by external auditors, is £972,000, subject to adjustment as final claims are processed
- 5.1.3 the projected £759,000 held in respect of S.48 reserves (Priorities 1 and 2) is currently c.£500,000 above the £250,000 reserves benchmark established by this committee in September 2013 - Members had expressed a wish for this benchmark to be reviewed in due course
- 5.1.4 one of the options proposed was for the Priority 1 and 2 reserves to be held as a contingency to be applied during the course of the new 2021-25 grants programme - this would be discussed further at the November grants meeting
- 5.1.5 London Councils' committee reserves are ringfenced for each of the statutory committees (e.g. Grants, TEC or the Joint Committee). In certain circumstances, reserves can be transferred between committees, subject to appropriate member approvals. In 2011, this supported in the Grants Committee work, as reserves from TEC and the Joint Committee were transferred to the Grants Committee following a judicial review on proposed reductions to the grants programme. In terms of potential future transfers required in respect of Challenge related works, it is now unlikely that there would be any call on the Grants Committee reserves for this purpose and proposed works on the Southwark Street building would likely feed through in increased central recharges.

6 Grants Programme 2021-25

- 6.1 The Chair said that the draft 2021-25 programme was received positively in his political group. He drew members' attention to the recommendations in the report, which included discussing the various options concerning priority 3, "Tackling Poverty". He added that members had expressed a wish to include emerging priorities in the programme.
- 6.2 The Director of Strategy said that the steer from the Grants Committee AGM was that priorities 1 and 2 should continue to be the core priorities, as they fit in with the Leaders' pledges to Londoners and were best carried out through a pan-London vehicle. General employment projects, delivered through Priority 3, were now mainly embedded within the boroughs.
- 6.3 Members agreed that the core aim of Priority 3, Tackling Poverty, could lead to other programmes of activity, rather than general employment projects, for example projects aimed at tackling youth violence, through relieving youth poverty. Cllr Leaf suggested that there may be gaps in borough provision in terms of young offenders work which Priority 3 could potentially fill.
- 6.4 The Chair noted that, increasingly, 16 to 18-year-olds not engaged in employment, education or training (NEETS) were falling through the net, as they were usually too young for job brokerage programmes and lacked the skills for apprenticeships.
- 6.5 The Strategy Director noted the reported problem of schools illegally off-rolling pupils, and a reported increase in parents being asked to home educate their children.

- 6.6 Cllr Leaf said that the challenge of youth obesity, food poverty, and poor health outcomes all related to Priority 3, Tackling Poverty.
- 6.7 In answer to Cllr Ashraf's question about whether there could be a priority that focused solely on young people, the Strategy Director noted that all priorities had service areas which focused on particular aspects of support/services e.g. providing refuge provision under Priority 2, tackling youth homelessness under Priority 1.
- 6.8 Cllr Ellis said that outer borough members needed assurances that the work was evenly distributed in the boroughs, as in the past, most resources were concentrated on inner London. The Chair agreed and said that the London landscape had changed in the last 10 years and that many outer London boroughs were now experiencing similar problems to those in inner London, in part due to significant numbers of Londoners being relocated from inner to outer boroughs.
- 6.9 The Strategy Director was tasked with drafting some initial proposals for Priority 3, focusing on tackling youth poverty, to present to November Grants Committee.

The meeting ended at 3.00pm

Grants Committee

Priority Two: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence – Presentation by Signhealth

Item: 5

Report by: Yolande Burgess **Job title:** Strategy Director
Date: 13 November 2019
Contact Officer: Feria Henry
Telephone: 0207 934 9529 **Email:** feria.henry@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary

Signhealth delivers DeafHope London, under Priority Two of the Grants Programme, a specialist service for deaf female survivors of domestic abuse and violence, and their children.

The service is delivered by trained deaf women. Services include specialist Independent Domestic Violence Adviser (IDVA) support, survivors' workshops and therapy for clients with complex needs. DeafHope also provides early intervention and prevention workshops in deaf schools, youth groups and other settings. Caseworkers use British Sign Language and other international sign languages.

DeafHope London is commissioned to deliver:

- Specialist Deaf referral information for all London Borough Officers and Independent Domestic Violence Advisers (IDVAs)
- IDVA and outreach 1-2-1 support for deaf women and young people
- Prevention/early intervention workshops in schools/youth groups to boys and girls (Young DeafHope)
- Psychological therapy for clients with complex needs, anxiety and/or depression
- Survivors' Workshops - Deaf-led support groups
- British Sign Language (BSL) and other accessible information about domestic abuse for Deaf community
- Deaf awareness training/support for London Borough Officers and mainstream domestic violence providers

Anticipated outcomes:

- Reduced levels/ repeat victimisation of sexual and domestic violence
- Improved wellbeing
- Increased safety and independence
- London Borough Officers and IDVAs have a quality Deaf referral route
- Multi-agency providers have a better understanding of how to meet Deaf access

Christopher Reid, Director of Operations and Marie Vickers, the Service Manager, have kindly agreed to talk about the work of DeafHope, their achievements to-date and the challenges deaf women face when accessing services such as refuge provision and housing services.

Recommendations

The Grants Committee is asked to:

- **Note** the presentation from Deafhope London.

Grants Committee

Performance of Grants Programme 2017-21 April 2017- September 2019

Item: 6

Report by: Yolande Burgess **Job title:** Strategy Director

Date: 13 November 2019

Contact Officers: Feria Henry/Joanne Watson/Marsha Henry

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Summary

At its meeting of 8 February 2017 Grants Committee agreed funding for 13 delivery partners under the following two priorities:

- Priority 1 Combatting Homelessness
- Priority 2 Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence

Grants were agreed for the period 2017 to 2021, subject to delivery, compliance with grant conditions and continued availability of resources.

At its meeting of 6 July 2016 members of the Grants Committee agreed funding to six projects under Priority 3 Tackling Poverty Through Employment. This Priority was funded by boroughs' contributions to the Grants Programme and matched from the London Councils European Social Fund Programme under an agreement with the Greater London Authority. Priority 3 completed delivery at the end of June 2019.

This report provides members with:

- an update on Priority 1 and 2, for the period April 2017 to September 2019
- a final review of Priority 3, for the period October 2016 to June 2019.

Recommendations Grants Committee is asked to note:

- a) outcomes at priority level:
 - i) Priority 1, combatting homelessness, overall is 15 per cent above profile to September 2019
 - ii) Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence, overall is marginally - one per cent - below profile to September 2019
 - iii) Priority 3, tackling poverty through employment, completed delivery -30 per cent below profile for the period October 2016 to June 2019
- b) the number of interventions delivered in the relevant periods:
 - i) Priority 1, combatting homelessness – 58,267
 - ii) Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence – 319,329
 - iii) Priority 3, tackling poverty through employment – 7,611
- c) project level performance, using the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) performance management system (explained at Appendix 1):
 - i) Priorities 1 and 2: 12 projects are rated Green and one is Amber
 - ii) Priority 3: as this priority has completed delivery, the RAG rating no longer applies
- d) that an option for using the underspend related to Priority 3 is presented to this committee under item 7
- e) the progress on administration of £200,000 on behalf of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime to enhance training to front-line professionals on identifying harmful practices (section 6)
- f) the borough maps (Appendix 2), and borough engagement activities (Section 9)
- g) the project delivery information and contact details (Appendix 3), produced as a separate resource to provide members with a directory of services, with up-to-date contact information, as well as an update on performance

Appendix 1 RAG Rating Methodology

Appendix 2 Priorities 1 and 2 Borough Maps

Appendix 3 Project Delivery Information and Contact Details

Performance of Grants Programme 2017-2019 – April 2017 – September 2019

1 Background

1.1 The 2017 to 2021 Grants Programme is focused on the following priorities:

Priority 1 - Combatting Homelessness

Priority 2 - Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence

Priority 3 - Tackling Poverty through Employment (ESF match funded) – this Priority completed delivery in June 2019.

1.2 For Priorities 1 and 2, Grants Committee agreed funding to 13 delivery partners for the period 2017 to 2021, subject to delivery, compliance with grant conditions and continued availability of resources. These awards are summarised in Table One below.

Table One: London Councils Grants Programme 2017-21 (Priority 1 and 2)

Service Area¹	Organisation	Annual Grant Amount
1.1	Shelter - London Advice Services	£1,003,495
	St Mungo Community Housing Association	£251,378
1.2	New Horizon Youth Centre	£1,008,338
1.3	Homeless Link	£120,239
	Standing Together Against Domestic Violence	£88,977
Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness		£2,472,427
2.1	Tender Education and Arts	£265,000
2.2	Solace Women's Aid	£1,425,238
	Galop	£146,318
	SignHealth	£148,444
2.3	Women's Aid Federation of England (Women's Aid)	£314,922
2.4	Ashiana Network	£840,000
2.5	Women's Resource Centre	£240,783
2.6	Asian Women's Resource Centre	£320,000
Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence		£3,700,705
Total		£6,173,132

1.3 Priority 3 projects have completed delivery and are discussed in section 7 of this report.

1.4 The London Councils Grants Programme enables boroughs to tackle high-priority social need where this is better done at pan-London level. The programme makes grants to

¹ See paragraphs 2.1 and 3.1 for a brief description of the service areas

third sector organisations to work with disadvantaged Londoners to make real improvements in their lives. This is the sixth report covering the performance of the 2017 to 2021 Grants Programme.

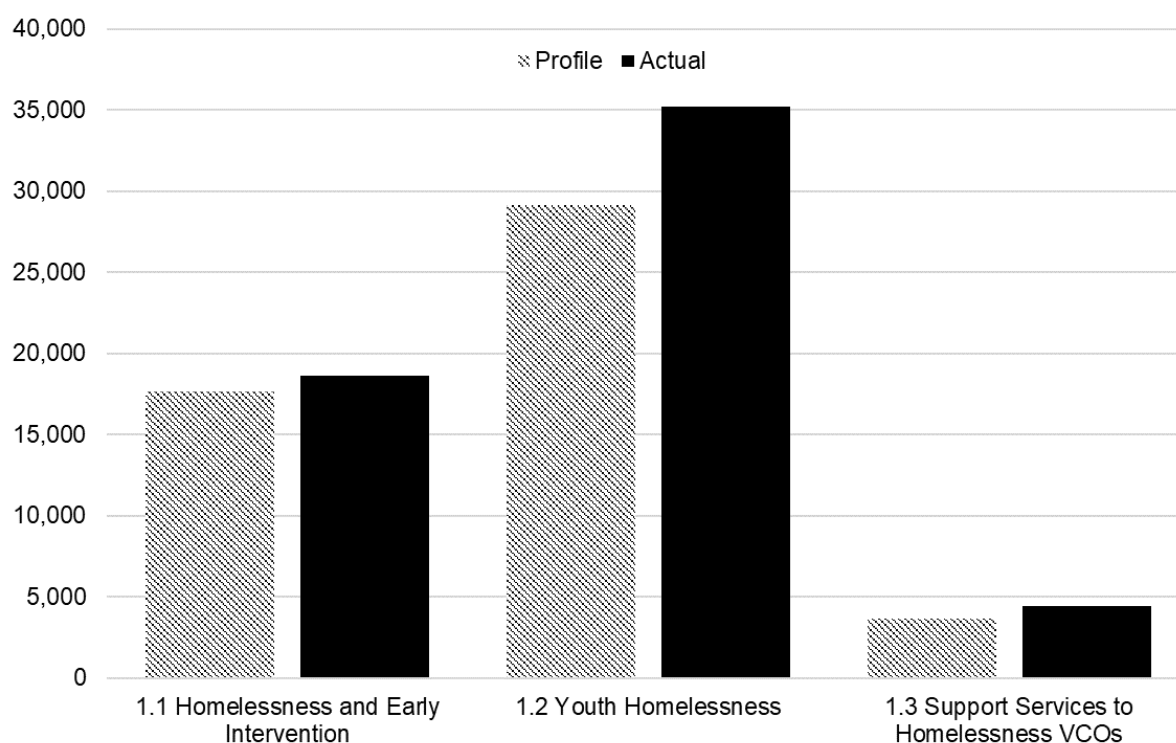
- 1.5 Appendix 3, which sets out Priority 1 and 2 project delivery information, key outcomes and contact details for lead partners, is designed for members to use as an ongoing resource.

2 Priority 1: Homelessness

Delivery

- 2.1 The Committee has allocated £2.47 million per year to five projects to Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness for 2017-21. Of these five:
- Two (with a total value of £1.25 million per year) are delivering against specification 1.1: Prevention and Targeted Intervention
 - One (value of £1 million per year) is delivering against specification 1.2: Youth Homelessness
 - Two (value of £0.2 million per year) are delivering against specification 1.3: Supporting the Response to Homelessness in London through Support to Voluntary Sector Organisations.
- 2.2 For the period to September 2019, performance was 15 per cent above profile. Figure 1 provides further detail across the service areas; specific information on achievement against outcomes at project level is available in Appendix 3.

Figure 1: Priority 1 Delivery against Profile by Service Area - April 2017 to September 2019



	1.1 Homelessness and Early Intervention	1.2 Youth Homelessness	1.3 Support Services to Homelessness VCOs
Profile	17,683	29,145	3,677
Actual	18,622	35,192	4,453
Difference	939	6,047	776
Variance	5%	21%	21%
Annual Value of Grants (£m)	£1.25	£1.01	£0.21
Number of Providers	2	1	2

2.3 As shown in Figure 1, performance is above profile across all service areas

2.4 Providers continue to support vulnerable and disadvantaged service users within the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. By September 2019²:

- 44 per cent were female
- 50 per cent were under 25
- seven per cent were over 55
- 83 per cent were ethnic minorities³
- 18 per cent declared a disability
- 12 per cent were LGBT⁴

² Based on self-declaration; users may declare more than one protected characteristic

³ Includes: Asian - all, Black - all, Chinese, Latin American, Middle Eastern, mixed ethnicity, white European, white Irish and white other

⁴ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, identify as trans or a person with trans history or declared other

- 946 people had no recourse to public funds (three per cent)

Policy and wider environment information

- 2.5 The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has published figures which show that an estimated 726 homeless people died in England and Wales in 2018, a 22 per cent rise from 2017. Of these deaths, 148 (20 per cent) were in London. These figures include rough sleepers and those using emergency accommodation, such as shelters and hostels.
- 2.6 A full year of Homelessness Case Level Information Collection (H-CLIC) data - 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 - has been published. The data shows that 56,800 households in London were owed a prevention duty (20.9 per cent of the total for England); 22,040 households were owed a relief duty (18.6 per cent of the total for England); and 8,920 were accepted as being owed the main rehousing duty (28.1 per cent of the total for England). 56,280 households in London were in temporary accommodation representing 66.4 per cent of the total across England. The assessments conducted by London boroughs accounted for 20 per cent of all initial assessments in England. Collection of H-CLIC data remains challenging for local authorities and its publication continues to be referred to by the government as 'experimental statistics'. Homeless Link's analysis of figures shows that since the current methodology for counting rough sleeping began in 2010, rough sleeping in England has increased by 165 per cent, and in London by 209 per cent.
- 2.7 A recently published report by LSE, commissioned by London Councils and the London Housing Directors' Group, highlights the growing cost of providing homelessness services in the capital. [The Cost of Homelessness Services in London](#) found that boroughs are spending more than £200m on homelessness from their general funds, with the costs set to increase even further as homelessness rates continue to rise. London Councils confirmed boroughs commitment to tackling homelessness and called on the government to make sure London's hard-pressed homelessness services have the resources they need.
- 2.8 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published its [call for evidence](#) on the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 in July 2019. The call for evidence seeks to gather evidence on the impact of the Act, the outcomes being achieved, how the Act has changed the approach of local housing authorities and their partners to tackling homelessness and supporting those in need, and the experience of people approaching their local housing authority for help. London Councils submitted a full

response in October 2019. This response included findings from the LSE independent research project commissioned by London Councils on the funding of homelessness services in London (see paragraph 2.7), plus comments from a survey of London Housing Directors and a roundtable discussion with London boroughs. Homeless Link also held a policy forum gathering views from London based organisations in October 2019.

- 2.9 In July 2019, Shelter published an analysis of regional affordability for low income families, [Private rents and family wages - Affordability in the Private Rental Sector](#). The research shows that for two thirds of local authority areas, the private rental sector is unaffordable to low-income renters without support from the benefit system and that private renters in England could not afford to pay their rent for more than a month if they lost their job. London Councils responded to the report calling for more powers and resources to enable delivery of new social housing on a mass scale.
- 2.10 The former CEO of Standing Together Against Domestic Violence (STADV) and co-founder of the Domestic Abuse and Housing Alliance (DAHA), Nicole Jacobs, has been appointed as the new Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales. Speaking in her new role, Nicole has already referred to the work of DAHA and the Whole Housing Approach project, which has raised the profile of this work in both the housing and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) sector.
- 2.11 Shelter is campaigning to end “DSS (Department for Social Security) discrimination”. Leading letting agents are excluding renters in receipt of housing benefit, even when they can afford the rent, pushing people closer to homelessness. As a result of campaigning several large letting agencies have made changes to address the problem.
- 2.12 Homeless Link has been awarded £2million by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to deliver the Ending Women’s Homelessness grant programme to charities working with women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in England. The programme aims to provide charities with resources to develop effective gender and trauma-informed services and encourage cross-sector working between the homelessness and women’s sectors. They have also been commissioned by Southwark Council, for a second year, to hold a set of focus groups for single homeless people and homeless families to look at their experiences of using the borough’s Housing Options.
- 2.13 Delivery partners ran various borough events and awareness raising activities as part of World Homeless days on 10 October 2019.

Service Area 1.1

- 2.14 Shelter reviewed its outreach/drop-in provision across the capital to ensure a good reach across inner and outer London boroughs. A change in the focus of referrals to the STAR partnership for those in need of help with disrepair and/or tenancy sustainment support was agreed with Ealing's co-located outreach service.
- 2.15 Shelter also report it is increasingly working with people with No Recourse to Public Funds and has focused on engaging with immigration advice services for support. This has resulted in partnership work and referrals to Migrant Help UK and Praxis.
- 2.16 St Mungo's reported a boost in referrals from the prison teams due to a recent communication instructing them to identify referrals from several boroughs, and a large increase in referrals from probation offices.
- 2.17 St Mungo's continues to highlight problems in finding private rented sector accommodation for people on benefits, which has been exacerbated due to the benefit cap and for those under 35 years of age and/or on universal credit. Rooms are extremely difficult to find for clients as rental rates are well above the Local Housing Allowance rate, leaving clients with a huge short fall. Some landlords and lettings agencies have also become more rigid in their demands for rent deposits and rent in advance. This 'cherry picking' of tenants excludes clients on benefits or clients with criminal convictions, which is a significant proportion of the client group that St Mungo's supports.

Service area 1.2

- 2.18 New Horizon Youth Centre (NHYC) report that although the Tenancy Fees Act 2019 came into force in June 2019, they are noticing that letting agents and landlords are still trying to charge upfront letting fees.
- 2.19 Across the London Youth Gateway (LYG) partnership more young people have presented who are owed a Section 21 duty under the Children's Act, particularly those who initially arrived in the UK as unaccompanied minors. In each case, partners ensure they follow safeguarding protocols and initially try to reconnect the young person to the local authority which holds the duty to re-establish them with their support structures. They have also seen several young people diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB), primarily east African young adults with refugee or asylum-seeker status, many of whom had been sleeping rough. LYG partners use related services, in particular the TB screening mobile unit of University College London Hospital to address their health needs.

- 2.20 Stonewall Housing recently received MHCLG funding to provide LGBT+ awareness training nationwide, which will further help to establish and strengthen networks.
- 2.21 New Horizon report that the closure of Lambeth Law Centre due to funding pressures will have a considerable impact on accessing migration advice for their beneficiary group. The centre also provided invaluable support through its satellite and follow up service at NHYC. They recognise that this type of advice will be incredibly difficult to access for their service users and they aim to continue to source alternative provision in anticipation that demand is likely to rise in relation to Brexit.

Service area 1.3

- 2.22 Homeless Link report there appears to be silo working between housing authorities, adult social care and children's services, which continues to be an issue, with inconsistent approaches to offering joint assessment, help and support. The PLUS project has experienced similar challenges in outer London boroughs. However, they have achieved some success in more joined up working where borough events are attended by different local authority teams.
- 2.23 The Work and Pensions Select Committee opened an inquiry in response to 'the increasing numbers of people - overwhelmingly women - [who] have been getting involved in 'survival sex' as a direct result of welfare policy changes.' Homeless Link made a response to the inquiry based on input from member organisations and the charity, Changing Lives.
- 2.24 STADV is starting to see the benefits of its engagement work over the first two years of the programme take effect. They have seen a rise in housing providers contacting them about the accreditation process and anticipate seeing a continued increase in the number of providers committing to the process.
- 2.25 STADV has reported a major success this quarter with London and Quadrant (L&Q) expressing an interest in Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) accreditation. L&Q is the second largest housing provider in the UK with over 95,000 homes nationally. It is hoped that, should L&Q commit to the accreditation process, other larger housing providers will be encouraged to sign up. Whilst this poses new challenges for a small team, STADV is reviewing the operation of the accreditation process for larger organisations to ensure they are able to adequately assess quality of responses over larger geographical areas delivered by the hundreds of staff they employ.

- 2.26 STADV highlighted the national finding that referrals from housing providers currently represents less than two per cent of referrals to Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), indicating a significantly lower referral rate than anticipated given the number of survivors living in social housing. This is a key aspect that requires improvement in the sector.
- 2.27 The Whole Housing Approach project is a new initiative created by DAHA that considers all housing tenure types and how survivors can be helped to achieve safe and secure housing. A toolkit will be produced to describe the ideal routes to safety for each tenure, the housing options available that can facilitate this, and an implementation guide based on best practice. One chapter will be dedicated to social housing providers and DAHA accreditation. This approach will be introduced throughout their funded workshops.

3 Performance management

- 3.1 **Standing Together Against Domestic Violence (STADV)** - RAG rated Green: A reporting error on one outcome was identified in quarter nine resulting in data being removed, while a further investigation of other outcomes took place, which highlighted some historic under-reporting. This has been corrected for quarter 10.

4 Priority 2: Sexual and domestic violence

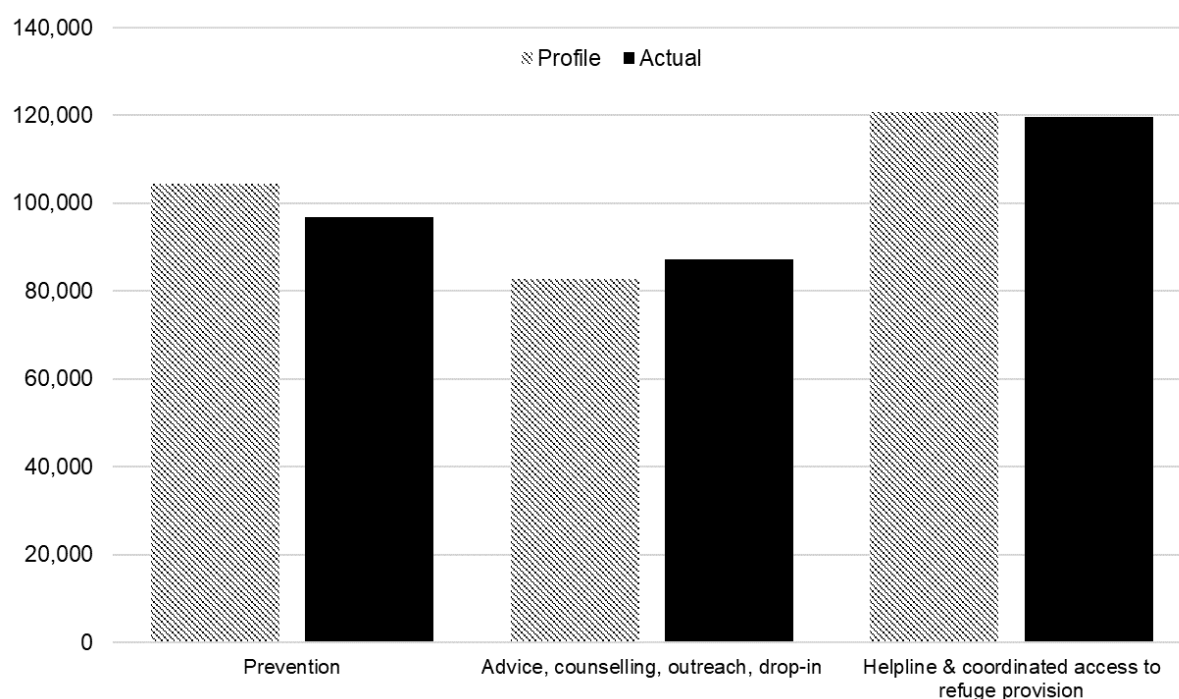
Delivery

4.1 The Committee has allocated £3.7 million per year to eight projects to Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence for 2017-21.

- One (value of £0.26 million per year) is delivering against specification 2.1: Prevention (working with children and young people).
- Three (total value of £1.72 million per year) are delivering against specification 2.2: Advice, counselling and support to access services (for medium risk post-independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) support and target groups not accessing general provision).
- One (value of £0.31 million per year) is delivering against specification 2.3: Helpline, access to refuge provision, support and advice, data gathering on refuge provision and supporting regional coordination of refuge provision.
- One (value of £0.84 million per year) is delivering against specification 2.4: Emergency refuge accommodation and support and alternative housing options to meet the needs of specific groups.
- One (value of £0.24 million per year) is delivering against specification 2.5: Strengthening support for frontline sexual and domestic violence (working with voluntary sector organisations, local authorities, and other agencies).
- One (value of £0.32 million per year) is delivering against specification 2.6: Specifically, targeted services for those affected by harmful practices (female genital mutilation (FGM), honour-based violence, forced marriage and other harmful practices).

4.2 Over the period to September 2019, overall performance was one percent below profile. Figures 2 and 3 provide further information at a service area level. Outcome targets have been met or achieved in three out of the six service areas. Service areas 2.1, 2.3 and 2.4 are within the +/-15 per cent delivery tolerance for the quarter.

Figure 2: Priority 2 Delivery against Profile by Service Area (2.1-2.3) - April 2017 to September 2019

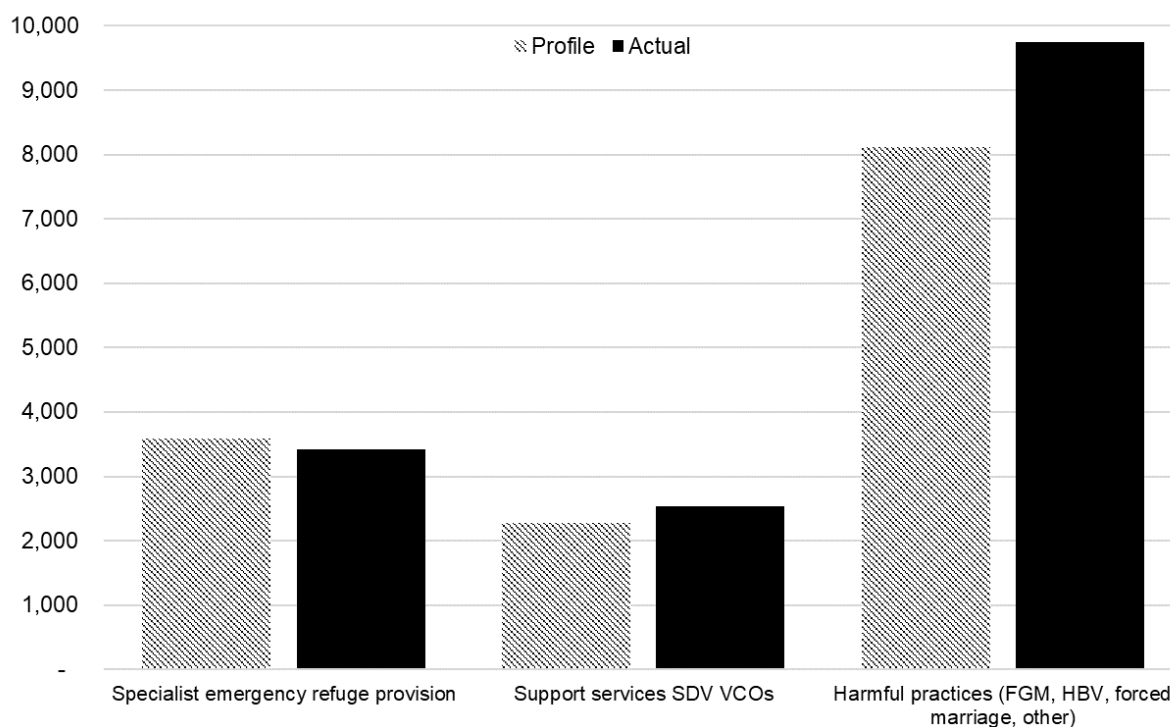


	2.1 Prevention ⁵	2.2 Advice, counselling, outreach, drop-in	2.3 Helpline and coordinated access to refuge provision ⁶
Profile	104,388	82,815	120,833
Actual	96,775	87,269	119,582
Difference	-7,613	4,454	1,251
Variance	-7%	5%	-1%
Annual Value of Grants (£m)	£0.27	£1.72	£0.31
Number of Providers	1	3	1

⁵ Tender Education and Arts (the only delivery partner in this strand) operates on a rolling programme working with three to four boroughs each quarter. As delivery is aligned to the academic year rather than the committee reporting schedule, delivery can appear to fluctuate

⁶ Women's Aid Foundation (the only delivery partner in this strand) records high numbers of callers where their borough of residence is unknown, or unreported; due to the nature of the service (domestic and sexual violence helplines) callers may be unwilling or too distressed to give this information

Figure 3: Priority 2 Delivery against Profile by Service Area (2.4-2.6) - April 2017 to September 2019



	2.4 Specialist emergency refuge provision	2.5 Support services SDV VCOs	2.6 Harmful practices (FGM, HBV, forced marriage, other)
Profile	3,591	2,280	8,116
Actual	3,423	2,535	9,745
Difference	168	255	1,629
Variance	-5%	11%	20%
Annual Value of Grants (£m)	£0.84	£0.24	£0.32
Number of Providers	1	1	1

4.3 Providers continue to support vulnerable and disadvantaged service users within the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010. By September 2019⁷:

- 77 per cent were female
- 32 per cent were under 25
- 3 per cent were aged over 55
- 84 per cent were ethnic minorities⁸
- 14 per cent declared a disability

⁷ Based on self-declaration; users may declare more than one protected characteristic

⁸ Includes: Asian - all, Black - all, Chinese, Latin American, Middle Eastern, mixed ethnicity, white European, white Irish and white other

- 5 per cent were LGBT⁹
- 2,428 people had no recourse to public funds (two per cent)

Policy and wider environment information

- 4.4 MOPAC has announced successful bids for VAWG services funded through the Mayor's VAWG Fund, which aims to provide £15million additional funding to tackle violence against women and girls. £6.8million has been awarded to five pan-London VAWG projects, aimed at increasing capacity and meeting increased levels of demand.

Four¹⁰ of the projects are led by organisations that receive funding through the London Councils Grants Programme:

- **Ascent Project**, led by Solace
- **Ending Harmful Practices Partnership**, led by Asian Women's Resource Centre
- **London Holistic Advocacy Wrap-around Service**, led by Southall Black Sisters
- **Pan-London Young Women and Girls Integrated Service**, led by Women and Girls Network

These additional resources will allow existing projects and partnerships to expand their capacity and enhance their offer to beneficiaries, such as additional awareness raising work, counselling and advocacy provision. London Councils will be working in partnership with providers and MOPAC to ensure that delivery and monitoring of service provision is aligned effectively.

Other strands of the funding have been directed towards uplifting existing MOPAC provision and scoping out further investment in innovation. MOPAC is also expected to announce a fund for grassroots community-based organisations, which will be delivered through a fund manager from the VAWG sector.

- 4.5 The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published its response to the domestic abuse services consultation, confirming its intention to introduce a statutory duty on local authorities and establish a new model for delivering funding for refuges and safe accommodation. These arrangements would take effect from April 2021. An additional £15million has been announced to fund services over 2020/21.

⁹ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, identify as trans or a person with trans history or declared other

¹⁰ Suzy Lamplugh Trust was also awarded funding for a London Stalking Support Service

- 4.6 The Domestic Abuse Bill has successfully passed its Second Reading and will now be passing to the Committee stage, where it is expected to be subject to several amendments. The government has confirmed it will table an amendment to introduce a statutory duty on local authorities to provide refuge and safe accommodation for domestic abuse survivors. Local authorities will be required to develop and publish strategies that set out the range of support services available for those fleeing violent relationships, including refuge accommodation and specialist support, from safety through to independence. The duty will be funded from April 2021 (subject to future spending reviews). The Bill will bring about the first ever statutory government definition of domestic abuse to specifically include economic abuse and controlling and manipulative non-physical abuse (see the [government press release](#) for further information).
- 4.7 Hackney and Waltham Forest councils are the first local authorities in London to adopt a new approach to working with families affected by domestic abuse. The Safe and Together model is an evidence-based approach to domestic abuse. It focuses on ensuring that, wherever possible, children are kept with the adult domestic abuse survivor to enhance the safety and wellbeing of children, and that abusive partners are held responsible for their behaviours as parents.
- 4.8 The GLA has awarded funding through the Mayor's Move-On Programme to the London VAWG Consortium - 14 members of the consortium are funded by the London Councils Grants Programme. The programme will provide accommodation and dedicated specialist support for women leaving London refuges. Solace will be coordinating the project, along with six specialist partners.
- 4.9 SignHealth was shortlisted in the Disability Category at the National Diversity Awards. The awards celebrate the inspiring achievements of positive role models and community organisations from across the UK.
- 4.10 Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) and Women's Resource Centre (WRC) report that organisations continue to be threatened by closure due to recommissioning and/or cuts in funding. Examples include the London Black Women's Project in Newham, which has provided refuge provision for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) women for 32 years, has lost its refuge contract, and Harrow Women's Centre closed after 27 years.
- 4.11 All delivery partners are reporting that clients are struggling to access mental health services. A lack of specialist tailored and appropriate mental health support, particularly for BME women, is severely hampering recovery. As the complexity of need continues

to rise, demand pressures increase on the few specialist services available and the threshold for access to those services gets higher.

Service Area Updates

Service Area 2.1

- 4.12 The Department for Education is introducing statutory Relationship and Sex Education in secondary schools and Relationship Education in primary schools from 2020. Whilst the new curriculum will be mandatory from September 2020, schools have been encouraged to adopt the new curriculum from this September. Tender Education and Arts has been working with some early adopter schools to help them develop and deliver the curriculum.

Service Area 2.2

- 4.13 Galop and Stonewall Housing have three new advocacy staff working on the Home Office National Project, which aims to increase awareness and good practice around LGBT+ domestic violence and abuse (DVA) provision.
- 4.14 Galop held its first National LGBT DVA Conference in May. Over 80 delegates attended from a wide range of statutory and voluntary organisations, including borough officers, VAWG and LGBT organisations, the Metropolitan Police, housing officers, and commissioners and grants teams. The Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP) was publicised at the conference; delegates heard about the services available through the partnership, including its achievements over the last eight years. London Councils was acknowledged for its contribution to both the continuation and development of the service.
- 4.15 Galop's continued marketing and publicity has led to a 45 per cent increase in calls to the Domestic Violence Helpline. 56 per cent of these calls were from London.
- 4.16 Galop appointed a full-time pan-London IDVA in July, to deliver services as a partner of the MOPAC Integrated Victims and Witness Service London, led by Victim Support. This has in turn increased referrals to the housing, advocacy and counselling parts of the DAP. Galop will monitor how this new service will impact on the DAP in terms of capacity.
- 4.17 Solace delivered a presentation on VAWG and Housing, to the London Housing Directors group, hosted by London Councils on 10 May. The presentation was well received.

- 4.18 Cutbacks in funding to services or recommissioning to move to different models of working in some boroughs, has meant a reduction or, in some instances, a loss of services available to women experiencing violence. Consequently, services such as Solace's advice hub are often the only source of support left in some boroughs. This increases pressure on advice hub staff and challenges capacity to the maximum, which can prevent women from getting the right level of support to meet her needs.
- 4.19 In October, Solace delivered a VAWG and Housing conference with MOPAC at City Hall, and the launched the Safe as Houses report and campaign. The report reveals that the main barrier to leaving an abuser is fear of losing a tenancy. The [executive summary](#) highlights that the prolonged period of austerity, deepening housing crisis and funding cuts to specialist services, has created a bleak landscape for women fleeing abuse in London. Solace continues to seek opportunities to innovate, educate and collaborate around better housing options for women fleeing VAWG.
- 4.20 Through its monitoring of the impact of the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA), Solace report that 'gatekeeping' and other poor practices appear to be continuing across some local authority housing services, which highlights the need for greater awareness of the statutory requirements imposed through the HRA.
- 4.21 Solace and the Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO)¹¹ have reported that some local authority social service teams are refusing to support women, with children, with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and are having to refer cases to solicitors (this has also been reported by AWRC under service area 2.6). This highlights a need for awareness of statutory responsibilities.
- 4.22 IKWRO report that a key challenge is finding safe accommodation for women with NRPF, as the majority of refuges are not able to accept these women due funding issues. IKWRO works closely with immigration solicitors to apply for a destitution domestic violence concession (DDV) to the Home Office to relieve destitution and help achieve positive immigration outcomes.
- 4.23 Universal Credit continues to be a challenge for IKWRO clients, with continued reports of delays with payments, especially where EEA family members are involved.

¹¹ A partner in the Ascent Advice and Counselling partnership, led by Solace Women's Aid

- 4.24 Solace report that some providers are concerned about taking on service users with accessibility needs, such as language support. This will be discussed with Solace to understand the issue better and try to resolve the problem.
- 4.25 SignHealth is drafting a survey for Women's Aid for inclusion in its monthly newsletter, to find out how many professionals have supported deaf women in their organisations and to find out how many refuges are accessible.

Service Area 2.3

- 4.26 In July 2019 the Home Office awarded a grant for the National Domestic Violence Helpline (NDVHL) to be run solely by Refuge, rather than in partnership with Women's Aid. London Councils funds Women's Aid and Refuge to deliver a London specific element of the NDVHL, as part of the Pan-London Domestic and Sexual Violence Helplines and Data Collection Project. Following the Home Office decision to award funding to Refuge the organisations have agreed that Women's Aid's responsibilities, in respect of running the helpline for London Councils, will be transferred to Refuge along with associated funding. Women's Aid will continue to collect, analyse and report on the demand and use of refuges in London through the data collection aspect of the project, and will also continue as the lead partner. The roles of the other organisations involved in delivering the Pan-London Domestic and Sexual Violence Helplines and data collection project will not change. The changes to the delivery of the NDVHL begun on 1 November 2019. London Councils has worked with Women's Aid to ensure that all relevant processes and procedures were adhered to for the proper transition of the NDVHL. Officers will continue to monitor the situation.
- 4.27 Officers circulated Women Aid's 2018-19 summary report of Routes to Support data to London sexual and domestic violence service providers in May. Following discussion at the Data Support Group in June, it was decided to try and broaden awareness and use of the data by circulating the summary to relevant London Council Networks. So far it has been distributed to Heads of Community Safety and the Borough Grants Officers Network.

Service Area 2.4

- 4.28 IKWRO, one of our partners providing specialist emergency refuge accommodation, is part of the Girls Not Brides global partnership, which is seeking to end child marriage. It is calling for weddings of under 18-year olds to be made illegal, because current law makes it difficult for the police and social services to protect children from child marriage within the UK, or to stop men from the UK taking a child bride from abroad. Through the

London Councils funded project, IKWRO supported a Syrian woman who was married off at age 16 to a British Syrian man 11 years her senior. She left her emotionally and physically abusive husband, fleeing to a refuge provided by IKWRO. This work was highlighted in a [Sunday Times article](#) on the global campaign to end child marriage.

- 4.29 Ashiana, the lead partner for the specialist emergency refuge accommodation project, highlighted the increasing focus on VAWG and homelessness, including women that fall into the category of hidden homeless. Ashiana has highlighted research commissioned by St Mungo's, [Women and sleeping rough](#), which reveals evidence that rough sleeping numbers are 'almost certainly being undercounted'; that women are more likely to be missed in official figures; and that 33 per cent of St Mungo's female residents said domestic abuse contributed to their homelessness. London Councils funded project helps to tackle the issues by providing support for marginalised women to access housing.
- 4.30 Solace highlights an [external evaluation of the Amari Project](#) for which London Councils provides funding as part of the specialist emergency refuge accommodation network.

Service Area 2.5

- 4.31 Imkaan, one of the partners helping to run support services to sexual and domestic violence voluntary sector organisations, reported that its member organisations continue to face the threat of closure with continued reductions and changes in funding at a time when demand for their services has grown. It reports that there has been increased hate crime, race and faith-based abuse as well as demand for food vouchers/food banks amongst women in the communities they serve.
- 4.32 Another partner, Respect, advised that, in collaboration with Rights of Women, it has produced [a briefing on Domestic Abuse Protection Orders](#), given evidence to the joint committee on the Domestic Abuse Bill, secured funding from the Home Office for its helpline and achieved reaccreditation from the helplines standard.

Service Area 2.6

- 4.33 IMECE, a partner in the Ending Harmful Practises project, led by AWRC, has secured a drop-in surgery at their premises through work with Islington Council's housing manager to provide housing advice to women.
- 4.34 As reported by Solace under service area 2.2, AWRC also report ongoing lack of support for some service users from social services. From April to September 2019, AWRC had several cases referred by social services where appropriate support had not been offered

and women were simply informed that AWRC would help them find accommodation “and everything else they need”. AWRC stated that where social services appeared to not comply with their statutory duties, partners have appropriately challenged decisions. These challenges are often successful, without having to resort to legal intervention.

5 Performance management

- 5.1 SignHealth is RAG rated Amber for the fourth quarter in succession. The project has been Amber since quarter seven, after a routine evidence check uncovered discrepancies in recording of outcomes (there was an extensive revision of reported figures in quarter seven).
- 5.2 Other factors have meant that the project's performance has not improved as much or as swiftly as officers had hoped, such as some planned activities not taking place in quarter eight due to staff vacancies and the project's remedial action plan taking time to embed. There is now a full complement of staff in post and the action plan was fully operational from August 2019.
- 5.3 Officers have met with SignHealth several times to remedy reporting issues and have worked with colleagues to improve understanding of the monitoring system and improve tracking of participants through the service. As part of the action plan, staff have recently been retrained in how to accurately record the outcomes of service users. Training continues.
- 5.4 The organisation has struggled to improve borough engagement, so officers have supported SignHealth to improve communication with boroughs and to gain more opportunities to present their services to a range of officer networks, with a view to increasing referrals from local authorities. In September they presented to the VAWG Coordinators network's quarterly meeting at City Hall and are scheduled to speak to the Borough Grants Officer network in November. The Grants team is also arranging for SignHealth to present at Housing Needs and Homelessness and Heads of Community Safety meetings.
- 5.5 SignHealth has increased its communications with boroughs by better targeting its outreach and has booked several presentations and deaf awareness sessions over the coming three months. The quieter summer period was used to increase outreach to boroughs and to hospital departments (such as A&E, maternity, audiology), and police stations and job centres. They met with new contacts, such the community midwife team in the London borough of Newham. An early achievement from this increased engagement is a new drop-in service in Kensington and Chelsea's Town Hall.

5.6 SignHealth's service is highly specialised in nature and the target group for that service is a minority community in London¹². SignHealth has highlighted achieving certain outcomes, such as securing tenancies, can be harder for deaf service users due to additional barriers deaf victims of domestic abuse have in accessing refuge provision, or making a homeless application. Access to routine services can be hampered by interpreters not being readily available or lack of alternative communication/contact methods, such as video relay services. Securing a tenancy through this project often means removing the perpetrator or installing a 'Sanctuary' in the home, through support to the household via the Sanctuary Scheme, which enables survivors to remain in their home. SignHealth has asked for the secured tenancies outcome to be reviewed considering experience from the first two years of the project. As secured tenancies was a new, untested, outcome for this project in this grants round, officers are looking at the evidence and will present any case for re-profiling to the Grants Committee should the evidence suggest that this is a reasonable course of action.

5.7 The grants team is proposing that SignHealth go on to monthly monitoring and will keep the committee informed as to progress. Recent improvements in outreach to boroughs and other agencies should lead to increased referrals over the forthcoming months. SignHealth continues to review its recording of outcomes and staff's understanding of the London Councils monitoring requirements.

6 Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) funding: Ending Harmful Practices

6.1 London Councils administers £200,000 (over two years) on behalf of MOPAC under a partnership arrangement, to complement the Grants Programme and provide additional resources to AWRC for training frontline staff in statutory and voluntary services to identify harmful practices and take appropriate action. The funding enhances London Councils' Service Area 2.6, which delivers services to those affected by harmful practices. AWRC delivers this training with nine partners who also deliver the project funded under 2.6 of the grants programme.

6.2 This report marks the first quarter of the second and final year of this project. The partnership has continued to make progress in promoting and delivering training on Harmful Practices across London. In Quarter 5, they delivered 10.5 training days to 133 professions in eleven London boroughs:

- Barking and Dagenham

¹² 8,420 People registered as deaf in London in year ending 31 March 2010, published by The Information Centre, NHS, 17 February 2011

- Brent
- Camden
- Ealing
- Hackney
- Kensington and Chelsea
- Lambeth
- Merton
- Southwark
- Tower Hamlets
- Waltham Forest

6.3 Professionals trained this quarter include staff from Department of Work and Pensions, Home Office, employment services, doctors, nurses, police officers, housing and social care and safeguarding leads. Participants are identified by VAWG coordinators and safeguarding leads; training needs, and how best to address them, are then agreed with local VAWG/community safety teams and or Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs).

6.4 Just under 70 per cent of the participants felt their understanding prior to the training had been “poor” and rated their understanding as “good/very good” post training. Participants fed back that they were better able to understand the nature of harmful practices and felt better equipped to identify different forms of harmful practices. Many participants who work in boroughs with a culturally rich population, and the police in particular, encounter harmful practice cases which they are unsure of how to navigate; these trainees responded very favourably to the training, reporting that they are more aware of the complex and private nature of these crimes.

6.5 Over the period from May 2018 to September 2019, 54 training days have been delivered to 1,109 participants. The project has far exceeded its target of 920 participants and has a further 48 training days to deliver in the final nine months of the project.

6.6 In summary, to date:

- the project has delivered a total of 54 training sessions to 1,109 participants, in 28 boroughs and the City of London
- 52 per cent of the two-year target (102) for the number of training days has been delivered
- the project has already surpassed the two-year target (920) for participants.

7 Priority 3: ESF tackling poverty through employment

- 7.1 Grants Committee agreed funding for the Poverty Programme under Priority 3, Tackling Poverty through Employment, in July 2016. The programme completed delivery in June 2019.
- 7.2 This Priority was funded by boroughs' contributions to the Grants Programme (originally £3million) and was matched by the London Councils ESF Programme, through a funding agreement with the GLA,
- 7.3 The London Councils ESF Poverty Programme aimed to support long-term unemployed and economically inactive people from specific disadvantaged target groups, including Londoners who were at risk of homelessness, or who were homeless,
- 7.4 Funding was agreed with the following providers in 2016:

Organisation and Cluster	Grant Amount
Citizens Trust (CT) Brent, Ealing, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Richmond-upon-Thames	£448,114
London Training and Employment Network (LTEN) Croydon, Kingston-upon-Thames, Lambeth, Merton, Sutton, Wandsworth	£483,211
MI ComputSolutions (MIC) Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lewisham, Southwark	£463,156
Paddington Development Trust (PDT) Barnet, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Kensington & Chelsea, Westminster	£464,409
Redbridge Council for Voluntary Service (RED AH) Enfield, City of London, Hackney, Islington, Tower Hamlets, Camden	£469,423
Redbridge Council for Voluntary Service (RED OE) Barking & Dagenham, Havering, Newham, Redbridge, Waltham Forest	£491,985
Priority 3: Tackling Poverty through Employment Total Programme	£5,640,601
London Councils Management and Administration (6 percent)	£359,399
Priority 3: Grant Funding	£3,000,000
Priority 3: European Social Funding	£3,000,000
Total	£6,000,000

- 7.5 From October 2016 to June 2019, the following activity was undertaken, and results achieved:

- Enrolments - 3,089 (target 4,500)
- Personalised support and advice - 2,965 (target 4,052)
- Volunteering/work experience - 221 (target 897)

- Progressed into education/training - 348 (target 898)
- Progressed into employment - 529 (target 1,484)
- Sustained in employment 26 weeks - 212 (target 908)

P=Profile A=Actual	CT		PDT		RED (OE)	
	P	A	P	A	P	A
Enrolment	715	313	741	765	785	480
Personalised support and advice	641	308	666	741	706	423
Volunteering/work experience	143	41	148	49	156	50
Progressed to further education/training	141	17	148	88	157	16
Progressed into employment	236	78	244	170	260	79
Sustained employment for 26 weeks	145	28	150	70	158	36

P=Profile A=Actual	RED (AH)		LTEN		MIC	
	P	A	P	A	P	A
Enrolment	749	524	771	477	739	530
Personalised support and advice	675	498	697	475	667	520
Volunteering/work experience	148	21	154	16	148	44
Progressed to further education/training	150	35	154	123	148	69
Progressed into employment	247	53	254	48	243	101
Sustained employment for 26 weeks	151	10	155	13	149	55

- 7.6 From October 2016 to June 2019, activity and results attracted £3,109,980 funding. £1,554,990.00 is attributable to the Grants Programme. The programme was originally intended to outturn at £5,640,601.

P=Profile A=Actual	CT		PDT		RED (OE)	
	P	A	P	A	P	A
Funding	£896,228	£284,260	£928,818	£858,620	£983,970	£458,630

P=Profile A=Actual	RED (AH)		LTEN		MIC	
	P	A	P	A	P	A
Funding	£938,846	£445,810	£966,422	£462,090	£926,312	£600,570

- 7.7 Providers attracted and supported disadvantaged residents, which was the aim of the programme. Of the participants engaged and enrolled onto the programme:

- 64 per cent are female
- 59 per cent were long term unemployed
- 39 per cent were economically inactive
- 53 per cent were inactive or unemployed for more than three years
- 26 per cent were over 50
- 27 per cent did not have basic skills
- 67 per cent were ethnic minorities

- 52 per cent were from a jobless household
- 22 per cent were from a single adult household with dependent children
- 14 per cent declared a disability
- 15 per cent declared a mental health condition.

Directors Commentary

- 7.8 Under the 2014-2020 ESF programme, London Councils is a 'direct bid organisation' and not a co-financer as in the previous ESF round. This places considerable additional responsibilities and risks on London Councils, primarily the requirement for a 100 per cent eligibility check against ESF requirements for all participants, for the entire duration of the programme, and the risk of failures in compliance being apportioned across the whole programme.
- 7.9 This change in status, and the more onerous requirements that come with this status, was not fully understood or considered when Priority 3 was set up and implemented. Consequently, London Councils faced considerable challenges with delivery on Priority 3 for the duration of the programme.
- 7.10 As highlighted to Grants Committee members in 2017, this was partly due to some poor advice, guidance and lack of operational management of the programme on the part of London Councils in the early months of delivery. This significantly impacted our partners; all of them were placed in the extremely difficult position of being notified that six months' worth of delivery was not compliant and, therefore, not fundable.
- 7.11 The consequent loss of confidence in London Councils by partners was unsurprising. Yet, following a significant amount of work, all partners agreed to continue with the programme, which was a testament to their values and their desire to support vulnerable London residents.
- 7.12 During 2017 and 2018 London Councils worked with partners to rebuild the programme. Resources were deployed to ensure projects met the strict compliance rules of ESF and had the required tools, guidance and support in place to effectively and successfully deliver.
- 7.13 Partners responded heroically to the changes needed to make the programme compliant and made extraordinary efforts to get projects back on track.
- 7.14 To further help recover the programme, delivery was extended to June 2019 to give partners more time to try meet the original targets, three officers were appointed to work directly with partners and provide on-site support with quality assurance and compliance,

and the funding model was adjusted to increase funding for the first paid element of the programme to acknowledge the additional work that partners needed to undertake to ensure participants were eligible. Additionally, London Councils moved from a quarterly payment model to a monthly payment model to help address the financial impact of the changes and agreed additional advances (after appropriate due diligence) with two partners.

- 7.15 Notwithstanding the efforts of our partners, the ESF compliance requirements and consequent administrative burden weighed heavily throughout the duration of the delivery and could not be entirely mitigated. Some of the incorrect assumptions that had been made in setting up the programme had a destabilising effect for the life of the programme.
- 7.16 Further, the Citizen's Trust withdrew from the programme in July 2018 (for a change of business reasons), which put additional pressure on the programme. Paddington Development Trust stepped in to cover the boroughs that the Citizens Trust previously provided a service to. This change accounts for the proportionally lower engagement from the Citizen's Trust and proportionally higher engagement by Paddington Development Trust, when comparing to the programme as a whole.
- 7.17 The programme did not meet the originally envisaged targets. 2,965 participants received personalised support and advice, 73 per cent of target. The expectation that about third of participants on the programme would gain employment was not met, with 18 per cent moving into jobs. The time that was needed to recover the programme ate into the time that would have been used to support more participants to gain work. As evidenced through the equalities data (paragraph 7.7) projects clearly worked with residents furthest from the labour market, often with complex and multiple barriers, who needed time as well as support to get a foothold in the labour market. Although it was possible to extend the programme for a further six months to continue to track and capture results, without an increase in funding for partners, which was not possible for various reasons, a further extension was not viable.
- 7.18 Partners have submitted evaluation reports to London Councils, now published on the Grants section of the website (<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/services/grants>). Unlike previous rounds of ESF, these evaluations have not been edited, approved, or signed off by London Councils. It was the Directors opinion that partners are entitled to their views, without censure, particularly considering the unprecedented challenges that they worked through.

- 7.19 It is clear from the evaluations that all partners were, understandably, unhappy with changes that impacted on delivery and that partners felt changes to compliance requirements were continual. The move from a quality monitoring approach to a compliance driven regime was viewed as a poor approach for fostering good partnership working, as it implied a lack of trust. Issues with the London Councils database were cited as causing delays with reporting and payments. The strict eligibility requirements were seen as a barrier to helping those most in need and some partners felt that these requirements were unreasonable.
- 7.20 Notwithstanding these issues, the evaluations also show some outstanding work with clients. All the reports contain participant feedback and case studies, which highlight how projects supported participants to overcome significant barriers to start work. Results from customer satisfaction surveys show very high levels of satisfaction with services, and data for the achievement of soft outcomes shows the rounded support that projects provided to participants. It is likely that many participants will see the benefit of that support well beyond the life of the projects.
- 7.21 Whilst these evaluations do not make for comfortable reading, they do provide London Councils with the opportunity to learn from mistakes and identify areas for continuous improvement. London Councils will be commissioning an evaluator to review the entire ESF programme and will make use of the feedback and commentary from the Priority 3 projects. The evaluation reports will be shared with the London Councils' ESF funder, the GLA.
- 7.22 An option for redeploying the underspend from Priority 3 is presented to this committee under item 7.

8 Risk-based performance management (RAG rating) – Project level performance

- 8.1 Project performance is measured using the programme-wide Red-Amber-Green (RAG) rating system. The RAG rating system forms part of the Commissioning Performance Management Framework agreed by members in February 2017¹³. The methodology for the system is set out in **Appendix 1** of this report. The rating system shows whether a project's performance is going up, going down or is steady across quarters.
- 8.2 The RAG ratings for quarters nine (April to June 2019) and ten (July to September 2019) are set out in the table below. The Committee will note that 12 projects in quarter 10 are rated Green and one is Amber. The direction-of-travel indicators show that the performance of most projects is steady or improved. More detailed information on the RAG scoring methodology is provided in **Appendix 1**.

¹³ Commissioning Performance Management Framework, Item 5, Grants Committee, meeting on 8 February 2017

Table Three: RAG Results (Priorities 1 and 2: April 2017 to September 2019)

Service area	Organisation (lead)	Project	Partners	RAG Rating Q9	RAG Rating Q10
1.1	Shelter	STAR Partnership (Supporting Tenancies, Accommodation and Reconnections)	Thames Reach, Stonewall Housing, St Mungo's	Green	Green ↔
1.1	St Mungo Community Housing Association	Housing Advice, Resettlement and Prevention Connect	n/a	Green	Green ↔
1.2	New Horizon Youth Centre	London Youth Gateway	Depaul UK, Stonewall Housing, Galop, Albert Kennedy Trust, Shelter	Green	Green ↔
1.3	Homeless Link	PLUS Project	Shelter	Green	Green ↔
1.3	Standing Together Against Domestic Violence	Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance	n/a	Green	Green ↗
2.1	Tender Education and Arts	London Councils pan-London VAWG Consortium Prevention Project	IMECE, Women and Girls' Network, The Nia Project, Solace Women's Aid, Latin American Women's Rights Service, FORWARD, Ashiana Network, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation	Green	Green ↔
2.2	Solace Women's Aid	Ascent: Advice and Counselling	ASHIANA Network, Asian Women's Resource Centre, Chinese Information & Advice Centre, Ethnic Alcohol Counselling in Hounslow, Iranian and Kurdish Women Rights Organisation, IMECE Turkish Speaking Women's Group, Jewish Women's Aid, Latin American Women's Rights Service, The Nia Project, Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre, Rights of Women, Southall Black Sisters, Women and Girls Network	Green	Green ↔
2.2	Galop	The LGBT DAP (Domestic Abuse Partnership)	Stonewall Housing, London Friend, Switchboard	Green	Green ↔
2.2	SignHealth	DeafHope London	n/a	Amber	Amber ↘
2.3	Women's Aid	Pan-London Domestic and Sexual Violence Helplines and Data Collection Project	Refuge, Women and Girls Network, Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre, Respect	Green	Green ↔

Service area	Organisation (lead)	Project	Partners	RAG Rating Q9	RAG Rating Q10
2.4	Ashiana Network	Specialist Refuge Network	Ashiana Network, Solace Women's Aid, The Nia Project, Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation	Green	Green ↔
2.5	Women's Resource Centre	The ASCENT project	Respect (perpetrators), Imkaan, Rights of Women, Against Violence, Abuse and Women and Girls Network	Green	Green ↗
2.6	Asian Women's Resource Centre	Ascent Ending Harmful Practices project	Ashiana Network, Latin American Women's Rights Service, Iranian and Kurdish Women Rights Organisation, IMECE Women's Centre, Southall Black Sisters Trust, Women and Girls Network, FORWARD, Domestic Violence Intervention Project	Green	Green ↔

9 Communications and borough engagement

- 9.1 Officers continue to implement the actions set out in the communications plan previously endorsed by Members including reports to the relevant borough officer networks (VAWG Coordinators Network, and Housing Needs and Homelessness Group) and creating an online directory with information on referral pathways. Discussions took place with the Chair of the Borough Grants Officers group to agree a series of presentations from the projects, with New Horizon Youth Centre presenting to the Group on 3 July. SignHealth made a presentation to VAWG Coordinators meeting in September 2019 to discuss their service and the needs of their vulnerable client group.
- 9.2 Individual reports on borough engagement by delivery partners are listed in Appendix 3. Where engagement is low in boroughs, the Grants team will speak to partners and borough officers. The Director will raise any engagement issue at the Borough Officers Grants network and the Cross-Priority meetings in November.
- 9.3 Officers have also worked closely with London Councils policy and communications teams to promote programme related issues to Members and boroughs throughout the year, particularly through Key Issues and social media.
- 9.4 Officers regularly update the borough officer contact lists to ensure information is reaching the right borough officers. It is important that boroughs support this process by keeping the members of the team at London Councils informed of changes in personnel; the team would be grateful for the support of Grants Committee members with this exercise.
- 9.5 The Strategy Director attends the quarterly partners Cross Priority meetings, where information about good contacts and outreach is shared.
- 9.6 A selection of case studies is regularly published and updated on the [London Councils website](#). The case studies illustrate the difficulties of working with a vulnerable client group and highlight partnership working to meet the multiple needs of service users, cross priority working and making links between homelessness and sexual and domestic violence services.

10 Value for Money

- 10.1 London Councils Grants Programme administers public money on behalf of, and with, the London boroughs and therefore must ensure value for money - the optimal use of

resources to achieve intended outcomes. The National Audit Office model of value for money focuses on three E's:

- **Economy:** minimising the cost of resources used or required (inputs);
- **Efficiency:** the relationship between the output from goods or services and the resources to produce them; and
- **Effectiveness:** the relationship between the intended and actual results of public spending (outcomes)

10.2 The *Commissioning Performance Management Framework* (agreed by members in February 2017) sets out the controls used to ensure value for money for the programme. This includes checks on audited accounts, a review of annual budgets and, where underspend has been identified, deductions from payments. A 15 per cent cap is in place with regards to projects' overhead costs.

10.3 London Councils has completed its consultation with groups to review targets where there is significant over-delivery to bring these more into line with actual performance and ensure projects continue to offer value for money.

10.4 London Councils operates a robust monitoring system to ensure figures reported are verifiable; the work delivery partners undertake has a far wider benefit and impact than is often shown through the figures. For example, a frontline organisation may support a service user through multiple interventions across the whole partnership. A second-tier delivery partner may record work with one organisation but provide services to high numbers of their staff across separate departments or branches and so have a much greater reach in upskilling the voluntary and community sector than the figures indicate.

10.5 Most delivery partners have performed well against targets. Where issues with delivery have arisen, officers have worked closely with the providers to ensure these were addressed. Improved partnership and cross priority working have led to better outcomes for service users. Where relevant, delivery partners work towards certain quality standards, and involve service users in the design and adaptation of the projects.

10.6 Information and data provided through the programme has been used by the policy team at London Councils, and by other stakeholders, to inform the strategic response to these priority areas.

11 Recommendations

11.1 Grants Committee is asked to note:

11.2 outcomes at priority level:

11.2.1 Priority 1, combatting homelessness, overall is 15 per cent above profile to September 2019

11.2.2 Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence, overall is marginally - one per cent - below profile to September 2019

11.2.3 Priority 3, tackling poverty through employment, completed delivery -30 per cent below profile for the period October 2016 to June 2019

11.3 the number of interventions delivered in the relevant periods:

11.3.1 Priority 1, combatting homelessness – 58,267

11.3.2 Priority 2, tackling sexual and domestic violence – 319,329

11.3.3 Priority 3, tackling poverty through employment – 7,611

11.4 project level performance, using the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) performance management system (explained at Appendix 1):

11.4.1 Priorities 1 and 2: 12 projects are rated Green and one is Amber

11.4.2 Priority 3: as this priority has completed delivery, the RAG rating no longer applies

11.5 that an option for using the underspend related to Priority 3 is presented to this committee under item 7

11.6 the progress on administration of £200,000 on behalf of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime to enhance training to front-line professionals on identifying harmful practices (section 6)

11.7 the borough maps (Appendix 2), and borough engagement activities (Section 9)

11.8 the project delivery information and contact details (Appendix 3), produced as a separate resource to provide members with a directory of services, with up-to-date contact information, as well as an update on performance

Appendix 1 RAG Rating Methodology

Appendix 2 Priorities 1 and 2 Borough Maps

Appendix 3 Project Delivery Information and Contact Details

Financial Implications for London Councils

Funding for delivery partners was agreed at the meeting of the Grants Committee in February 2017, within the budget envelope agreed at London Councils Leaders' Committee in November 2016. The London Councils Grants Committee considered proposals for expenditure in 2018/19 at its meeting on 22 November 2017. The Leaders' Committee agreed a budget at its meeting on 5 December 2017.

Legal Implications for London Councils

None

Equalities Implications for London Councils

London Councils' funded services provide support to people within all the protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010), and in particular targets groups highlighted as particularly hard to reach or more affected by the issues being tackled. Funded organisations are also required to submit equalities monitoring data, which can be collated across the grants scheme to provide data on the take up of services and gaps in provision to be addressed. The grants team reviews this annually.

Background Documents

Performance of Grants Programme 2017-21, Item 12, 10 July 2019

Grants Programme 2017-21 Update Report, Item 13, 12 July 2017

Commissioning Performance Management Framework: Grants Committee Reporting Plan 2017-18 – Grants Committee, Item 14 12 July 2017

London Councils Grants Programme 2017-21, Item 4, London Councils Grants Committee, 8 February 2017

Commissioning Performance Management Framework 2017-21, Item 5 London Councils Grants Committee, 8 February 2017

London Councils officers report quarterly to the Grants Committee on the performance of the grants programme, based on the Commissioning Performance Management Framework agreed by Grants Committee in February 2017.

The cornerstone of this at project level is a Red, Amber or Green (RAG) rating of all projects:

Green	80-100 points
Amber	55-79 points
RED	0-54 points

The RAG rating is made up of:

- Performance - delivery of outcomes, 70 per cent
- Quality - provider self-assessment and beneficiary satisfaction, 10 per cent
- Compliance - timeliness and accuracy of reporting, responsiveness and risk management, 20 per cent.

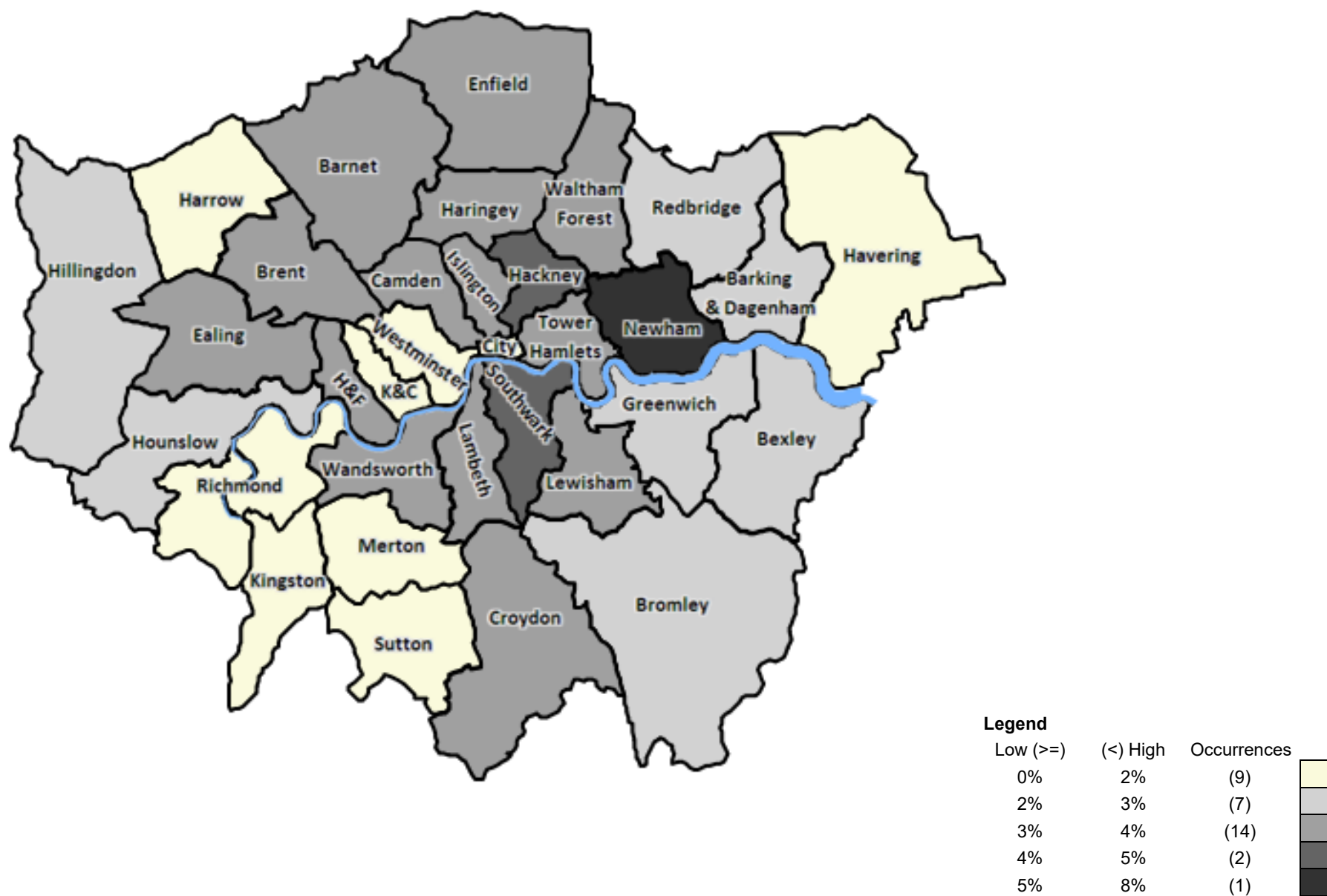
The requirement to meet at least 80 points to achieve a Green rating was agreed at the March 2018 Grants Committee, following a review by officers to ensure that the RAG rating system was appropriately highlighting performance issues.

The framework also sets out a risk-based approach to monitoring in which levels of monitoring are varied dependent on the RAG score of the project.

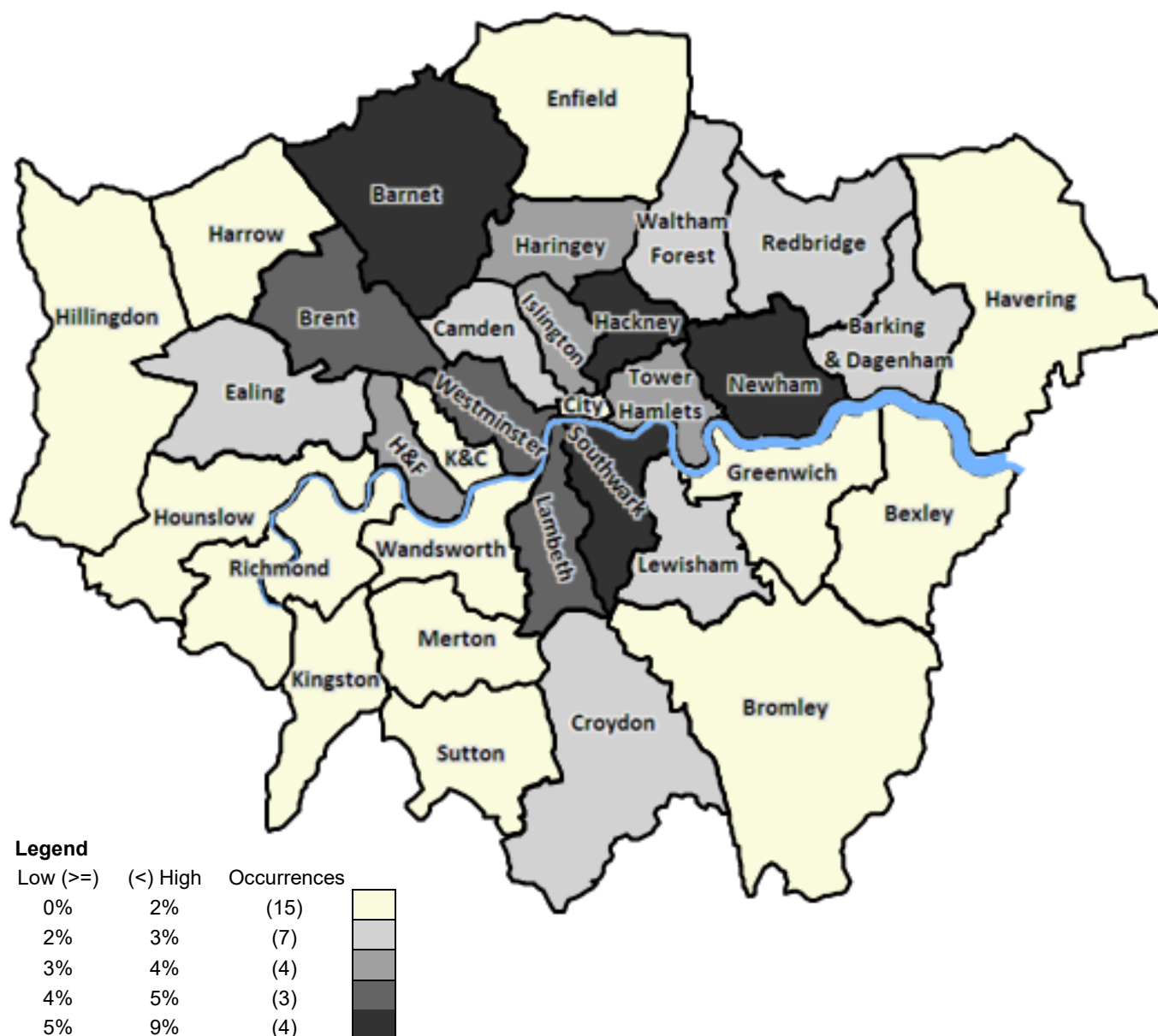
Performance change indicators (changes from one reporting quarter to the next)

↑	an increase of five or more percentage points
↗	an increase of more than two percentage points but less than five
↔	The score has remained relatively static with no significant change allowing for minor fluctuation between -two and +two percentage points
↘	a decrease over two percentage points but less than five
↓	a decrease of five or more percentage points

Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness indicative level of distribution based on need

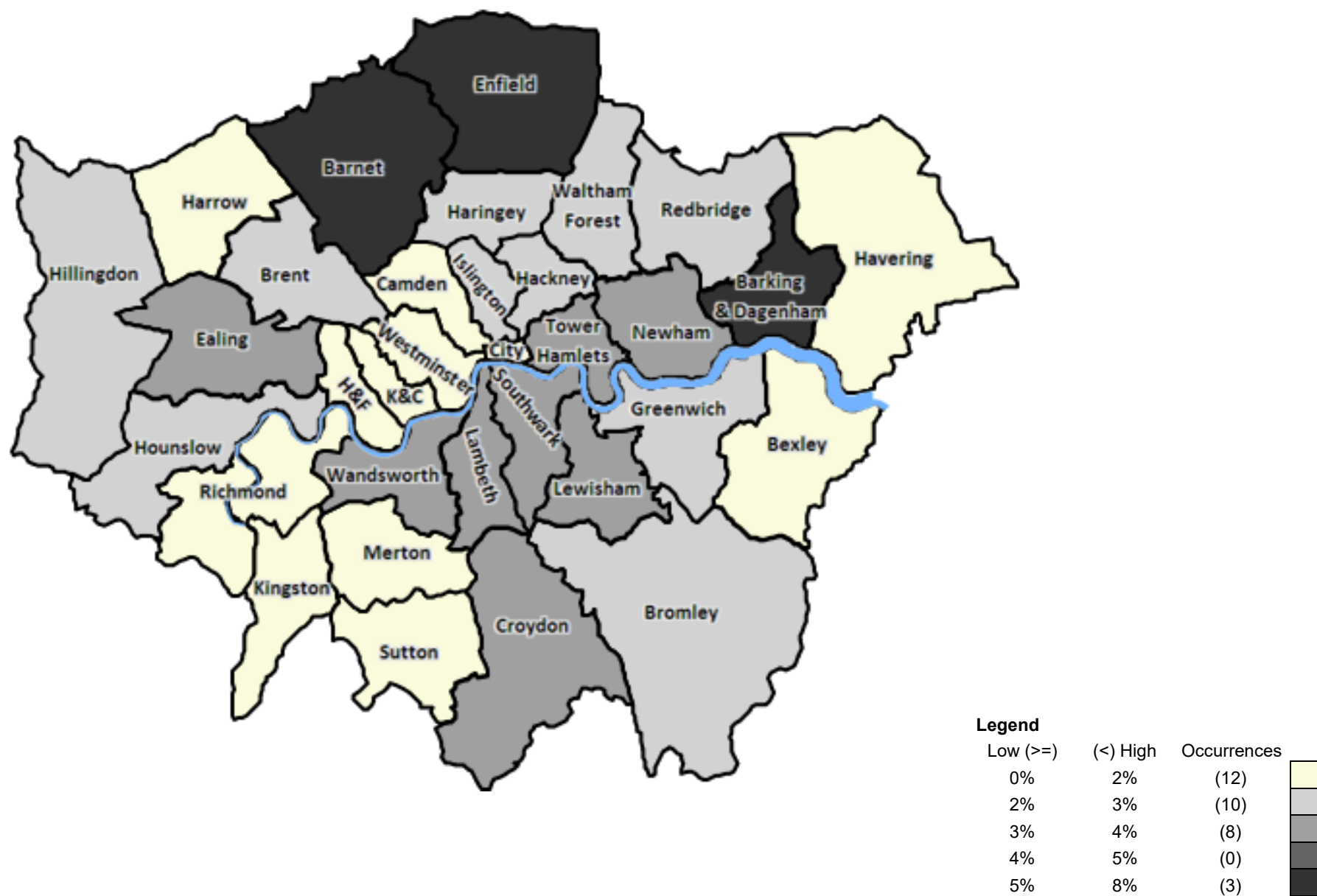


Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness actual distribution to September 2019

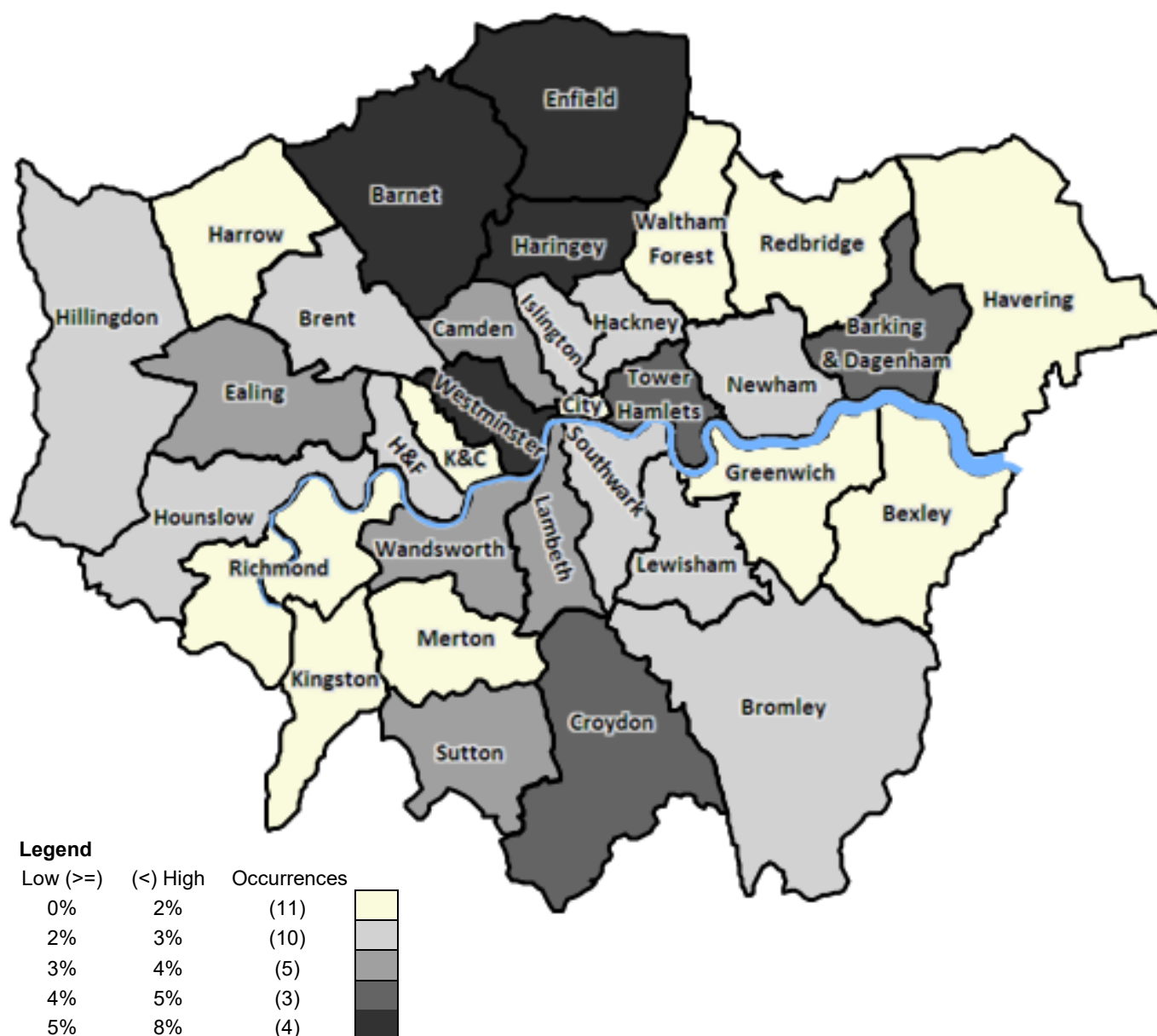
**Boroughs**

City of London	0.25%
Barking & Dagenham	2.08%
Barnet	8.15%
Bexley	1.02%
Brent	4.99%
Bromley	1.65%
Camden	2.51%
Croydon	2.33%
Ealing	2.37%
Enfield	1.92%
Greenwich	1.72%
Hackney	9.84%
Hammersmith & Fulham	3.16%
Haringey	3.14%
Harrow	1.51%
Havering	0.97%
Hillingdon	1.38%
Hounslow	1.35%
Islington	3.21%
Kensington & Chelsea	1.33%
Kingston upon Thames	0.47%
Lambeth	4.42%
Lewisham	2.73%
Merton	0.97%
Newham	8.51%
Redbridge	2.98%
Richmond upon Thames	0.59%
Southwark	7.13%
Sutton	0.68%
Tower Hamlets	3.93%
Waltham Forest	2.08%
Wandsworth	1.87%
Westminster	4.24%

Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence - indicative level of distribution based on need



Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence - actual distribution of delivery to September 2019

**Boroughs**

City of London	0.15%
Barking & Dagenham	4.36%
Barnet	7.15%
Bexley	1.69%
Brent	2.46%
Bromley	2.02%
Camden	3.06%
Croydon	4.35%
Ealing	3.79%
Enfield	6.79%
Greenwich	1.88%
Hackney	2.18%
Hammersmith & Fulham	2.19%
Haringey	6.02%
Harrow	1.46%
Havering	1.44%
Hillingdon	2.50%
Hounslow	2.16%
Islington	2.56%
Kensington & Chelsea	1.41%
Kingston upon Thames	1.20%
Lambeth	3.74%
Lewisham	2.81%
Merton	1.53%
Newham	2.50%
Redbridge	1.94%
Richmond upon Thames	0.93%
Southwark	2.78%
Sutton	3.22%
Tower Hamlets	4.51%
Waltham Forest	1.90%
Wandsworth	3.64%
Westminster	7.89%



London Councils

Grants Programme 2017 – 21

Performance of Commissions

April 2017 – September 2019

(Includes contact details for each project)

Priority 1 – Combatting Homelessness

Shelter	
Project name:	STAR Partnership (Supporting Tenancies, Accommodation and Reconnections)
Priority:	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
Specification:	1.1 Homelessness: Early intervention and prevention
Amount (1 year):	£1,003,495
Delivery partners: Thames Reach, Stonewall Housing, St Mungo's	
<p>Shelter is leading the STAR Partnership (Supporting Tenancies, Accommodation and Reconnections), a specialist partnership with Thames Reach, Stonewall Housing and St Mungo's. Through this partnership the following will be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An integrated multiple point of access for all users, enabling rapid response triage and advice. - London-wide targeted engagement and promotion to be relevant and accessible to key priority groups in all 33 boroughs. - Support for users to directly access the PRS and innovative housing solutions. - Assertive and targeted outreach direct to street homeless people especially in hotspots and encampments. - Safe and secure pathways into emergency accommodation. - Intensive support, including skills training, money management and housing advice to enable families and individuals to maintain their tenancy. - Personal resilience and independence planning to secure a long-term, healthy and happy home. - Real opportunities for work. 	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Ben Tovey, London Hub Manager ben_tovey@shelter.org.uk 0344 515 1269 / 0770273391 First Floor, 4 Garrett Street, London, EC1Y 0TY</p>	<p>https://england.shelter.org.uk/get_help/local_services/london STAR Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mT4Q-Z9yKnM&list=PLrybnVaUKJhDptYtJlckblfN77mXMyIQT&index=1</p>

Outcome	2017-2021 Q10	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new service users	12500	14985
Number assisted to obtain crisis or intermediate short term accommodation	875	1057
Number assisted to obtain suitable settled accommodation	917	1147
Number with one/more protected equalities characteristic (Equality Act 2010)	806	1353
Number of rough sleeper hotspot closures	121	151
Number with resolved landlord/accommodation service issues affecting tenancy stability (particularly in outer London) may include harassment, abandonment and behaviour issues	900	1377
Numbers with disrepair resolved and able to maintain tenancy	1000	692
Number supported to successfully sustain tenancies/accommodation for 6 months	204	298
Number supported to successfully sustain tenancies/accommodation for 12 months ¹	192	254
Number with resolved debt, benefits and financial hardship issues	1437	1514
Number with improved physical health	500	686
Number with improved mental health	1150	1174
Numbers referred successfully onto an employment project ²	425	419
Number with increased employability skills (including apprenticeships)	212	199
<i>Disrepair resolved and able to maintain tenancy – this outcome remains a challenge and numbers tend to decrease in the summer when damp and mould etc. is less obvious. Issues may also be successfully resolved and reflected in other outcomes such as obtaining suitable alternative accommodation for service users or assisting them to claim compensation.</i>		

¹ Reporting started from Q5

² London Councils Priority 3 referrals ended from Q10

St Mungo Community Housing Association	
Project name:	Housing Advice, Resettlement and Prevention Connect (HARP)
Priority:	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
Specification:	1.1 Homelessness: Early intervention and prevention
Amount (1 year):	£251,378
Delivery partners: N/A	
<p>St Mungo will deliver a Pan London Housing, Advice, Resettlement and Prevention (HARP) service to people who are or are at risk of homelessness, providing holistic intervention. Proposed activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A through-the-gate service, enabling people access to intervention and housing, promoting a smooth transition into communities. - A service which is flexible to the demand of need 'making each contact count', allocating specialist workers in each region who will work and receive referrals from probation/CRCs, local authorities, GPs and prisons in that region. - A Central Hub providing access to intervention for people through self-referral route - A Help-line for outside London Prisons and probation/CRCs discharging people returning to London. - Specialist intervention, advocacy and housing promoting the well-being and interests of individuals with protected characteristics, No recourse to public funds and complex needs inclusive of mental health and substance use. - A catalogue of services and private landlords within each borough to support better outcomes. - An emergency discretionary access fund to purchase small essential needs led resources for our clients, instigated by the project workers (such as fees relating to access to birth certificates, travel etc. - Promotion of education, employment and volunteering, inclusive of peer volunteering opportunities. 	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Samantha Cowie, Head of Criminal Justice samantha.cowie@mungos.org 020 7023 7010/ 020 3856 6000 3 Thomas More Square, 5th Floor, Tower Hill London E1W 1YW www.mungos.org</p>	<p>All referrals must be made through a secure email address. Please contact our HARP service manager Ogechi.ojihi@mungosofs.cjsm.net</p> <p>Advice line: 020 85257710 Website: https://www.mungos.org/our-services/offender-services/</p>

Outcome	2017-2021 Q10	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new users	3202	3689
Number assisted to obtain crisis or intermediate short term accommodation	1250	1334
Number of tenancies brokered	125	91
Number assisted to obtain suitable settled accommodation	750	931
Number with one/more protected equalities characteristic (Equality Act 2010)	375	613
Number reconnected with stable family/friends accommodation	500	494
Number with resolved landlord/accommodation service issues affecting tenancy stability may include harassment, abandonment behaviour issues	480	462
Number supported to successfully sustain tenancies/accommodation for 6 months	768	328
Number supported to successfully sustain tenancies/accommodation for 12 months ³	576	395
Number with resolved debt, benefits and financial hardship issues	900	784
Number with improved physical health	960	838
Number with improved mental health	525	552
Number with improved life skills (can include independent living and be measured through distance travelled tool)	960	859
Numbers referred successfully onto an employment project ⁴	125	78
Number with increased employability skills (including apprenticeships)	480	448
Number successfully obtaining work placements, volunteering opportunities	70	60
<p>Tenancies brokered – Despite ongoing difficulties reported in sourcing landlords willing to take on client on Universal Credit or without high deposits, quarterly targets are being met. Variance continues due to under-delivery in previous quarters.</p> <p>Sustained tenancies/accommodation for 6 and 12 months – A new recording process was introduced, and volunteers assist to improve monitoring of this outcome. Numbers are still affected by historic lower quarterly figures, clients who have returned to custody and those who are uncontactable following delivery of services.</p> <p>Referrals to an employment project – Due to the complex nature of clients' needs, their priority focus is on finding and/or sustaining accommodation, so many are not currently at the stage to consider employment.</p>		

³ Reporting to start from Q5

⁴ London Councils Priority 3 referrals ended from Q10

New Horizon Youth Centre	
Project name:	London Youth Gateway (LYG)
Priority:	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
Specification:	1.2 Youth homelessness
Amount (1 year):	£1,008,338
Delivery partners: Depaul UK, Stonewall Housing, Galop, Albert Kennedy Trust and Shelter	
<p>The London Youth Gateway (LYG) project will provide a youth-targeted collaborative pathway to address increasing demand and emerging needs of young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, in each London borough. The LYG project will be delivered in partnership by New Horizon Youth Centre (lead), Depaul UK (Nightstop and Alone in London services), Shelter, and LGBT Jigsaw partners Stonewall Housing, Galop and Albert Kennedy Trust.</p> <p>The joint work will provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - direct access to emergency accommodation - affordable accommodation options, delivered in innovative new partnership models, and PRS access - family mediation and reconnection support - youth-focused advice and advocacy services around housing need, eviction, welfare benefits and debts via one-to-one, telephone and online provision - youth homelessness prevention sessions in schools and colleges - outreach into Young Offender Institutes (YOIs), prisons and on the street to ensure young people are linked up early with necessary support - satellite services and a telephone advice line to reach young people across London - independent living skills and financial literacy workshops - counselling, communication and interpersonal skills support <p>7-days per week employment, education and training programme delivered in-house and in partnership, and in-depth accredited training programme</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Phil Kerry, CEO phil.kerry@nhyouthcentre.org.uk 020 7388 5560 68 Chalton St, London, NW1 1JR www.nhyouthcentre.org.uk</p>	<p>General Info. 020 7388 5560 Youth Work 020 7388 5570 Advice 020 7388 5580 http://www.londonyouthgateway.org.uk/get-help/</p>

Outcome	2017-2021 Q10	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of users	17092	17782
Number assisted to obtain crisis or intermediate short term accommodation	1092	1558
Number supported to obtain suitable safe settled accommodation	1612	1401
Number with one/more of the protected characteristics in the 2010 Equality Act (excluding age)	1414	1267
Number assisted with family mediation/reconnection leading to safe and settled reconciliation (where appropriate)	1287	739
Number supported to successfully sustain suitable safe accommodation for 6 months	304	434
Number supported to successfully sustain suitable safe accommodation for 1 year or more ⁵	79	118
Number with resolved debt, benefits and financial hardship issues	1487	2160
Number with increased knowledge of housing options	12050	16226
Number with improved mental health	3112	3573
Number completing independent living skills workshops/course (incl. budgeting/money management)	1727	1715
Number with improved interpersonal skills (incl. behaviour, conflict and relationships)	1852	2579
Number successfully obtained employment for six months (including apprenticeships)*	232	257
Number with increased employability skills	1697	1893
Number successfully obtained a training opportunity (accredited)	1200	1272
Family mediation/reconnection – This is a challenging outcome to meet due to difficulties arising in getting confirmation of final situations. Actual numbers recorded for those assisted with initial reconnection are therefore much higher. Previous under-delivery was also due to a post vacancy which has now been filled so this outcome is anticipated to continue to improve.		

⁵ Reporting to start from Q5

Homeless Link	
Project name:	PLUS Project
Priority:	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
Specification:	1.3 Support services to homelessness voluntary sector organisations
Amount (1 year):	£120,239
Delivery partners: Shelter	
<p>To strengthen the homelessness sector (voluntary, public and private) to work more collaboratively. To bring sectors together to better understand, define and identify their role in preventing homelessness. To support frontline providers and commissioners to be responsive to changing patterns of need, policy, legislation and equalities issues. To build the capacity of frontline providers to improve service delivery and effectiveness and ultimately be more sustainable. With the ultimate aim of achieving improved outcomes for those at risk of or experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing specialist advice, support, training, information, good practice spotlights and policy forums - supporting and improving working relationships between the VCS, boroughs and landlords through attendance at forums, partnership events and bespoke work with outer London boroughs. - improving collaboration and communication between the homelessness, employment, domestic/sexual violence, substance use, and health sectors through relationship brokerage, bespoke support, joint initiatives and peer networks - providing quality policy, law and research information identifying London specific impact and trends through briefings and bulletins - testing new models through special initiatives responding to the London specific context. <p>Outcomes delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Higher quality, more responsive and effective service delivery (measured against a baseline , and using an external evaluation) - More effective cross sector/priority collaboration to deliver more effective services - Improved and focussed response to prevention <p>A better equipped sector to develop creative interventions and solutions responsive to the specific London context.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Jane Bancroft - London Development Manager jane.bancroft@homelesslink.org.uk 020 7840 4460/ 079 5611 4992 2nd Floor Minorities House, 2-5 Minorities, London EC3N 1BJ</p>	<p>www.homeless.org.uk</p>

Outcome	2017-2021 Q10	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new organisations	477	493
Number with increased knowledge of changes in homelessness policy/ legislation/ benefit reforms	311	365
Number with improved working relationships with local services	284	315
Number with increased knowledge to adapt service delivery as a result of change of need across London/policy and legislative change	230	258
Number of VCS able to demonstrate that they have adapted their services and increased their links (to local authorities, providers under Priority 1, 2 and 3, and other agencies) to deliver holistic solutions for service users	144	341
Number of VCS aware of changing need in inner and outer London and able to adapt services accordingly.	255	353
Number of housing professionals with increased knowledge of changes in homelessness policy/ law/benefit reforms	100	123
Number of housing professionals who feel better informed of funded services and how they assist local delivery	145	198
Number of Landlords with increased knowledge of changes in homelessness policy/ law/benefit reforms	16	16
Number of organisations with more diverse funding streams	20	22
Number with a wider understanding of funding processes and opportunities	300	288
Number of relationships brokered between VCS and social philanthropy/ investment organisations charitable arms of businesses to increase housing opportunities.	26	29

Standing Together Against Domestic Violence	
Project name:	Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA)
Priority:	Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness
Specification:	1.3 Support services to homelessness voluntary sector organisations
Amount (1 year):	£88,977
Delivery partners: N/A	
<p>The Domestic Abuse Housing Alliance (DAHA) is a partnership between three agencies who are leaders in innovation to address domestic abuse within housing; Standing Together Against Domestic Violence (STADV), Peabody and Gentoo. DAHA's mission is to transform the housing sector's response to domestic abuse (DA) through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards and an accreditation process.</p> <p>STADV is submitting this bid on behalf of this partnership and will be solely responsible for the delivery of this grant. The key aim is to accelerate DAHA's ability to reach local authority housing and registered housing providers in London to support their standards of practice in relation to domestic abuse. This grant will enable DAHA to offer free workshops which reflect the DAHA accreditation standards, to provide training and to influence housing providers to undertake the DAHA accreditation. This ultimately will achieve early intervention for domestic abuse and better service and support to survivors of abuse and their children.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Bear Montique (interim CEO)</p> <p>b.montique@standingtogether.org.uk</p> <p>246 King Street</p> <p>Ravenscourt Park</p> <p>W6 0RF</p> <p>020 8748 5717</p> <p>www.standingtogether.org.uk</p>	<p>Saranya Kogulathas – DAHA Development Manager (London)</p> <p>s.kogulathas@standingtogether.org.uk</p> <p>0208 748 5717</p> <p>www.dahalliance.org.uk/events for general information and events details</p> <p>https://form.jotformeu.com/72763233547359 to book to attend workshops</p> <p>http://accreditation.dahalliance.org.uk/ to sign up to online self-assessment toolkit</p>

Outcome	2017-2021 Q10	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new organisations	200	117
Number of frontline organisations with increased awareness of specialist/equalities needs of clients	200	211
Number of frontline organisations adapting and or introducing services to meet the specialist/equalities needs of clients	100	156
Number of frontline organisations with increased knowledge of changes in homelessness policy/ legislation/ benefit reforms	200	186
Number of frontline organisations with improved working relationships with local services and in particular domestic abuse services	200	203
Number of housing providers acquiring DAHA accreditation	13	4
Number of VCS able to demonstrate that they have adapted their services and increased their links (to local authorities, providers under Priority 1, 2 and 3, and other agencies) to deliver holistic solutions for service users	100	178
Number of housing organisations with increased awareness of specialist /equalities needs of clients	200	210
Number of housing professionals with improved working relationships with frontline services and in particular domestic abuse services and MARAC	100	154
Number of housing professionals who feel better informed of funded services and how they assist local delivery	200	195
Number of housing providers with improved ability to form partnerships/work collaboratively	100	180
Number of housing providers supported to work together on more than one occasion related to domestic abuse provision and best practice	200	211
Number of housing providers with documented evidence that they are progressing in 4 of 8 DAHA National Standards ⁶	18	16
Number of housing providers with increased awareness of tenancy sustainment options for residents affected by domestic abuse ⁷	120	130
<p>New organisations - STADV remain above or on target for most outcomes and London Councils have agreed an engagement strategy to increase the number of new organisations.</p> <p>DAHA Accreditation – See the main report Section 3 para. 3.1 for more information.</p>		

⁶ New outcomes from Q5

⁷ As above

Tender Education and Arts	
Project name:	London Councils pan-London VAWG Consortium Prevention Project
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
Specification:	2.1 Sexual and Domestic Violence: Prevention
Amount (1 year):	£265,000
Delivery partners: IMECE, Women and Girls' Network (WGN), The Nia Project, Solace Women's Aid, Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS), FORWARD, Ashiana Network and Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO)	
<p>The Pan-London VAWG consortium prevention project is a strategic partnership of nine organisations set to deliver across 32 boroughs. Led by Tender, it presents an innovative, holistic response to gender based violence amongst young people, covering a range of VAWG themes through specialist arts and drama workshops.</p> <p>This project builds on robust foundations established by the consortium's work funded by London Councils since 2013. Building on the momentum created to date, the Project will establish a Centre of Excellence in each borough, adding an enhanced stage to the existing project through a champion school programme.</p> <p>This enables the project to reach more vulnerable young people and carry out more activities ultimately leading to whole school change. The project will work with schools to identify targeted groups of young people at high-risk of experiencing abuse due to multiple disadvantage. The consortium will provide early intervention group work with these groups to decrease their vulnerability. Each school will receive support in developing effective policies to prevent domestic abuse and sexual bullying and respond to disclosures from students.</p> <p>Outcomes: Young people warn each other of abusive relationships, more young people challenge abusive behaviour safely and have the opportunity to comment on national policy and programmes of work.</p>	

Contact Details	Resource
<p>Emily Whyte, Education Manager emily@tender.org.uk 020 7697 4249 (direct line) The Resource Centre, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA</p>	<p>www.tender.org.uk</p>

Outcome	2017-2021 Q10	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new users	43755	42353
Healthy Relationship Project participants can identify at least one warning sign of sexual and domestic violence	2695	2871
Healthy Relationship Project participants in secondary schools and out of school settings can memorise key statistics pertaining to abuse	1740	1733
Healthy Relationship Project participants state sexual and domestic violence is unacceptable	2853	2523
Children and young people report feeling confident to support a friend following school assembly	27384	28724
Children and young people feel more confident to deal with abuse and understand it is based on power inequality following school assembly	29340	25446
Children and young people can now make positive relationship choices following school assembly	31296	25821
Healthy Relationship Project participants can identify appropriate support channels and services	2853	2762
Healthy Relationship Project participants in secondary schools and out of school settings report an improvement in their peer relationships	719	1217
Professionals report positive changes in the behaviour and/or attitudes of participants following Healthy Relationships Project	100	95
Professionals in Champion Schools report increased confidence to use training in professional practice (staff training)	1536	1697
Professionals in Champion Schools report increased knowledge about the complex nature of the issue (staff training)	1344	1516
Healthy Relationships Project participants in secondary schools and out of school settings can recall criminal statistics for different forms of sexual and domestic violence against protected groups	1856	1639
Participants in Champion Schools (targeted group) are able to identify controlling behaviours in relationships	336	359
Participants in Champion Schools (targeted group) report feeling more confident to seek support	336	372
<i>Tender Education and Arts (the only commission in this strand) operates on a rolling programme working with three to four boroughs each quarter. As delivery is aligned to the academic year rather than the committee reporting schedule, delivery can appear to fluctuate</i>		

Solace Women's Aid	
Project name:	Ascent: Advice and Counselling
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
Specification:	2.2 Sexual and Domestic Violence: Advice, counselling, outreach, drop-in and support for access to services
Amount (1 year):	£1,425,238
Delivery partners: Solace (Lead Partner); Ashiana Network; Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC); Chinese Information and Advice Centre (CIAC); EACH Counselling and Support; IKWRO; IMECE Women's Centre; Jewish Women's Aid (JWA); Latin American Women's Rights Organisation (LAWRS); Nia; Rape and Sexual Assault Support Centre (RASASC); Rights of Women (ROW); Southall Black Sisters (SBS); Women and Girls Network (WGN)	
<p>The project provides support for women (age 16+) affected by DV/SV and prevents its escalation through individually tailored advice, support and therapeutic services to enable women to cope, recover and move to independence.</p> <p>The Project provides four key service areas with a holistic delivery model providing initial response to all forms of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) as well as after-care from IDVA services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advice, including legal support, through a hub and spoke model and inclusive of targeted support for BME women; those with NRPF; young women (including gang affected age 14+); sexually exploited women (including those with problematic substance use issues) and women with complex housing needs to enable them to access safe accommodation. - One to one BACP accredited counselling delivered within each borough as well as counselling in over 20 languages provided by BME led by and for organisations. - A bespoke in-borough group work programme, as well as specialist BME focused group work across the partner organisations to aid recovery, reduce isolation and increase understanding of abuse. - No Recourse fund to assist women with no recourse to public funds with essential living costs and accommodation. - Training including legal training to professionals and accredited VAWG training to volunteers and therapeutic training to clinicians. <p>The project will deliver a range of outcomes including increased safety, access to safe housing, legal support, reduced risk, improved mental/physical health and well-being, increased confidence/self-esteem and increased knowledge for service providers around DV/SV.</p>	

Contact Details	
Gill Herd, Senior Manager - Partnerships g.herd@solacewomensaid.org ascenta&c@solacewomensaid.org 020 3198 4661 Solace Women's Aid, Unit 5-7 Blenheim Court, 62 Brewery Road, N7 9NY www.solacewomensaid.org	East London (Solace Women's Aid): 0808 802 5565; advice@solacewomensaid.org West London (Women and Girls Network): 0808 801 0660; advice@wgn.org.uk London Legal Advice (Rights of Women): 0207 608 1137

Outcome	2017-2021 Q10	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new users	15575	19284
Number of service users reporting reduced fear/ greater feelings of safety	10902	11394
Number of service users reporting reduced risk, reduced repeat victimisation, prevention of escalation	8570	8892
Service users have improved self-esteem, motivation, confidence and are able to rebuild their lives, moving to independence	6010	7098
Service users have improved emotional health and wellbeing and physical health and are able to rebuild their lives, moving to independence	4450	5217
Number of service users with continuing support to sustain new lives	5340	5577
Number of service users with safety plan	6626	6606
Number of tenancies secured	2670	2052
Number of service users accessing legal advice and/or with increased understanding of the law	4672	5450
Number of service users supported to access other services including Health and Children's services.	9538	9875
Service users with increased knowledge of options to exit prostitution	75	95
People from the protected characteristics report increased safety/knowledge of their rights	6230	6706
People from the protected characteristics report satisfaction with services	7788	8366
Number of service users successfully referred from Local Authority and local IDVAs	2340	2414
Service providers are better informed of beneficiaries' needs and service users are enabled to communicate their needs and views to service providers/decision makers	1271	1349
Service providers are better equipped to support SUs with VAWG and/ or legal issues	550	632
Tenancies secured - The housing situation is very challenging for service users but Solace reports that their specialist housing caseworker is making a significant difference in this area and numbers have increased in this quarter.		

Galop	
Project name:	The LGBT DAP (Domestic Abuse Partnership)
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
Specification:	2.2 Sexual and Domestic Violence: Advice, counselling, outreach, drop-in and support for access to services
Amount (1 year):	£146,318
Delivery partners: Stonewall Housing, London Friend and Switchboard	
<p>The LGBT Domestic Abuse Partnership (DAP) will provide specialist support to over 500 LGBT victims of Domestic Violence annually. It is the only pan London multi-agency domestic violence service for LGBT people. It will deliver a joined-up service enabling vulnerable LGBT survivors, who face barriers to accessing support, to quickly access comprehensive, specialised support tailored to their needs.</p> <p>As the lead partner in the DAP, Galop will: Build links with borough based services to raise awareness of LGBT domestic abuse and improve referrals pathways; provide specialist one-to-one DV advocacy, and through the National LGBT Domestic Abuse Helpline provide specialist telephone, email advice and support to victims 7 days a week, referring London callers into the DAP. Stonewall Housing will provide housing advice and advocacy to DV victims at risk of homelessness, or with housing support needs. London Friend provides counselling and group support. Switchboard provides additional support through a helpline open 7 days per week and sign-posting into DAP services.</p> <p>The DAP has consistently delivered outcomes that improve the safety and wellbeing of LGBT survivors of domestic violence. Victims receive help navigating the criminal justice system and accessing specialist support aimed at reducing risk and repeat victimisation.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Peter Kelley, Head of Domestic Abuse Services & Deputy CEO peter@galop.org.uk 020 7697 4081 (office)</p>	<p>Survivors and professionals can refer through the DAP website using the electronic referral form: www.lgbtdap.org.uk</p> <p>Referrals can also be made via www.galop.org.uk and via email: referrals@galop.org.uk</p> <p>Clients and professionals can also self-refer or make referrals through Galop's helpline: 0207 704 2040 Or the National LGBT DV Helpline: 0800 999 5428</p>

Outcome	2017-2021 Q10	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new users	1356	1533
Number of service users reporting reduced fear/ greater feelings of safety	250	271
Number of service users reporting reduced risk, reduced repeat victimisation, prevention of escalation	167	191
Service users have improved self-esteem, motivation, confidence and are able to rebuild their lives, moving to independence	142	157
Service users have improved emotional health and wellbeing and physical health and are able to rebuild their lives, moving to independence	145	109
Number of service users with continuing support to sustain new lives	150	157
Number of service users with safety plan	120	137
Number of tenancies secured	100	104
Number of service users accessing appropriate health services or other services including children's services	200	226
Number of service users accessing legal advice	134	133
People from the protected characteristics report increased safety/knowledge of their rights	392	426
People from the protected characteristics report satisfaction with services	200	211
Number of service users successfully referred from Local Authority and local IDVAs	50	59
Service providers are better informed of beneficiaries' needs and service users are enabled to communicate their needs and views to service providers/decision makers	30	44
<i>Service users have improved emotional health and wellbeing and physical health and are able to rebuild their lives, moving to independence – the commission has found it difficult to find a successful format for the groupwork sessions; however in quarter 10 the commission made significant improvement by the whole partnership arranging two groupwork sessions and very proactively working to get people into these sessions.</i>		

SignHealth	
Project name:	DeafHope London
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
Specification:	2.2 Sexual and Domestic Violence: Advice, counselling, outreach, drop-in and support for access to services
Amount (1 year):	£148,444
Delivery partners: n/a	
<p>DeafHope is a specialist service for Deaf female survivors of domestic abuse and violence, and their children. It is delivered by trained Deaf women for Deaf women and is vastly more cost-effective than using mainstream domestic violence services with interpreters. The service also provides support to Deaf male survivors, through advice and supported signposting. Caseworkers use British Sign Language and other international sign languages.</p> <p>DeafHope London will deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Specialist D/deaf referral for all London Borough Officers and IDVAs - IDVA and outreach 1-2-1 support for deaf women and young people - Prevention/early intervention workshops in schools/youth groups to boys and girls (Young DeafHope) - Psychological Therapy for clients with complex needs, anxiety and/or depression - Survivors' Workshops - Deaf-led support groups - British Sign Language (BSL) and other accessible information about domestic abuse for Deaf community - Deaf awareness training/support for London Borough Officers and mainstream domestic violence providers <p>This will achieve all specification outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduced levels/ repeat victimisation of sexual and domestic violence - Improves wellbeing - Increases safety and independence - London Borough Officers and IDVAs have a quality Deaf referral route - Multi-agency providers have a better understanding of how to meet Deaf access <p>Supports BAMER, LGBT and Multiple Complex Needs Deaf women</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Marie Vickers – Service Manager mvickers@signhealth.org.uk deafhope@signhealth.org.uk</p> <p>020 8772 3241 (voice) 079 7035 0366 (text) The Bridge, Oakmead Road, London SW12 9SJ http://www.signhealth.org.uk/</p>	<p>https://www.signhealth.org.uk/our-projects/deafhope-projects/deafhope-service/refer-to-deafhope/</p> <p>Deaf people can self-refer through our email deafhope@signhealth.org.uk or sms number 07970 350366</p> <p>Professionals can either contact or email DeafHope to make a referral</p>

Outcome	2017-2021 Q10	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new users	373	693
Number of service users reporting reduced fear/ greater feelings of safety	250	238
Number of service users reporting reduced risk, reduced repeat victimisation, prevention of escalation	250	147
Service users have improved self-esteem, motivation, confidence and are able to rebuild their lives, moving to independence	250	203
Service users have improved emotional health and wellbeing and physical health and are able to rebuild their lives, moving to independence	250	199
Number of service users with continuing support to sustain new lives	225	130
Number of service users with safety plan	225	154
Number of tenancies secured	225	31
Number of service users accessing appropriate health services or other services including children's services	225	97
Number of service users accessing legal advice	225	58
People from the protected characteristics report increased safety/knowledge of their rights	373	696
People from the protected characteristics report satisfaction with services	373	696
Number of service users successfully referred from Local Authority and local IDVAs	157	58
Service providers are better informed of beneficiaries' needs and service users are enabled to communicate their needs and views to service providers/decision makers	675	614
<p>For further information, please see the main report, Section 5, para. 5.1</p> <p>Number of tenancies secured – in Quarter six, the commission revised previously submitted figures for this outcome (and others) following an evidence check. There appeared to be a misunderstanding of London Councils' methodology for counting outcomes.</p> <p>Self-referrals - The commission receives more self-referrals rather than referrals from IDVAs/Las. In Quarters nine and ten Signhealth have substantially increased their outreach and marketing to boroughs and IDVAs and are following up links to increase awareness of their services across London as opposed to relying on boroughs where they have historically had good links</p> <p>Legal support –Deaf women often struggle more than hearing women to understand the court process; it takes them longer to fully understand the information being given which in turn means the legal support is often complex and prolonged, meaning the capacity for the commission to take on large numbers of legal advice is lessened.</p> <p>The grants team are currently reviewing a number of these targets as part of an ongoing review of Signhealth's performance as well as supporting them to improve their outcome monitoring..</p>		

Women's Aid	
Project name:	Pan-London Domestic and Sexual Violence Helplines and Data Collection Project
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
Specification:	2.3 Helpline and coordinated access to refuge provision
Amount (1 year):	£314,922
Delivery partners: Refuge, Women and Girls Network (WGN), Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre (RASASC) and Respect	
<p>This project will work to ensure that people affected by all forms of domestic and sexual violence receive the non-judgmental, confidential support that they need, and access to emergency refuge provision when they need it, and to assist commissioners and strategic stakeholders to effectively coordinate refuge provision based on robust data:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expert Pan-London telephone, email and online support to victims of domestic and/or sexual violence and those supporting them; - Comprehensive data on London services facilitating immediate refuge referrals; - Collection, analysis and dissemination of data on the nature and usage of refuge and other provision and needs in London. <p>The project will assist London boroughs directly through a dedicated refuge referral mechanism, plus informative data for improving services and better understanding needs, including provision of a 'heat map'.</p> <p>Routes to Support (formerly known as UK Refuges On Line [UKROL]) is an integral part of this project, and the project will work with London Councils,</p> <p>MOPAC⁸ and borough stakeholders to ensure the maximum benefit is achieved from the range of data collected through the improved data analysis tools and resources that the project will implement going forward.</p> <p>The project will be committed to impactful liaison with London boroughs and promoting its services to all those who might benefit</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Nicki Norman, Director of Services n.norman@womensaid.org.uk 011 7983 7135 www.womensaid.org.uk</p>	<p>The Freephone 24 Hour National Domestic Violence Helpline: 0808 2000 247 helpline@womensaid.org.uk www.nationaldomesticviolencehelpline.org.uk Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre Helpline: 0808 802 9999 Women and Girls Network Dedicated Sexual Violence Helpline: 0808 801 0770 Respect Men's Advice Line: 0808 801 0327</p>

⁸ MOPAC – Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime

Outcome	2017-2021 Q10	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new users	51258	52237
Number of service users with reduced level of risk	43750	36655
Number of service users referred to a refuge	5000	5454
Survivors of rape and sexual abuse accessing Helpline	11250	9919
Quarterly report on refuge referrals (successful and non-successful) by London borough, with particular categories including equalities sent to all borough officers and other key stakeholders ⁹	10	10
New data on housing status of service users on entry and exit is included in quarterly reports	9	8
Reports and heat maps used by borough officers and other key stakeholders (including MOPAC) to coordinate refuge provision; plan strategically and improve responses to domestic and sexual violence	64	64
Number of successful referrals into counselling or other specialist service provision	3750	3,870
People with the protected characteristics (Equalities Act 2010) are able to access support that meets their needs	400	466
Service users reporting their needs were adequately addressed when utilising the Helpline service (according to age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage & civil partnership, pregnancy & maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation).	1000	1100
Service providers (including boroughs and refuges) report being able to respond to service users' needs	200	211
Professionals report having the relevant and required information they need to support service users affected by sexual and domestic violence	200	208
Number of logins to Routes to Support (formerly UKROL [UK Refuges online]) from services in London	55000	61381
Referrals to ISVA and sexual violence-specific support services	200	236
<i>For further information regarding this commission please see the main report, Section 4, para. 4.27</i>		

⁹ The Routes to Support reports (formerly UKROL) are quarterly reports on refuge data across London provided to boroughs and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. The categories of the data gathered are monitored by a steering group of relevant stakeholders (boroughs, MOPAC/GLA and providers)

Ashiana Network	
Project name:	Specialist Refugee Network
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
Specification:	2.4 Emergency refuge accommodation that offers services to meet the needs of specific groups
Amount (1 year):	£840,000
Delivery partners: Ashiana Network, Solace Women's Aid, Nia project, Iranian & Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation (IKWRO)	
<p>London Specialist Refugee Network seeks to continue to provide a unique and innovative Pan-London service through specialist refuge accommodation and targeted support to high-risk women/children affected by domestic and sexual violence (DSV) with complex needs. The Network will provide specialist refuge, targeted support and outreach and second stage accommodation. The project works intensively with women to assess/address needs, improve safety/health/wellbeing enabling women to exit violent/abusive relationships/situations. The services comprise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Programme of group-work/workshops to enhance health/wellbeing/living-skills/resilience - Resettlement programme to support independence/longer lasting outcomes - Outreach service supporting/enabling women to access alternative refuge accommodation/be supported in independent living - Training/awareness raising workshops for professionals to remove barriers/widen access - Housing advocacy securing/maintaining referral pathways with housing providers to secure alternative accommodation for women at risk and unable to access refuge - 38 specialist 24-hour refuge and second-stage accommodation bed spaces and package of intensive targeted support to enhance safety and remove barriers: - 6 (24-hour) bed spaces: Problematic substance use - 5 (24-hour) bed spaces: Sexually exploited women (including prostitution and trafficking) - 8 (24-hour) bed spaces: Women with mental health/problematic substance use - 7 second-stage bed spaces: Trafficked women - 6 bed spaces: Middle Eastern and North African women fleeing harmful practices including forced marriage - 6 bed spaces: South Asian, Turkish and Iranian women with NRPF experiencing DV/SV and harmful practices <p>Within the existing 38 bed spaces, the project will allocate an additional 3 bed spaces for women with NRPF 10, particularly for trafficked women and 2 bed spaces for women with mobility related disabilities.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
Shaminder Ubhi, Director shaminder@ashiana.org.uk info@ashiana.org.uk 020 8539 0427 www.ashiana.org.uk	Nia - 07590 712872 (24 hours); 0207 683 1270 info@niaendingviolence.org.uk The Emma Project: 07590 712872 (24 hours) Solace Women's Aid - 0207 328 9117 info@solacewomensaid.org (The Amari Project): 020 3874 5027 amari@solacewomensaid.org IKWRO 07846 275 246 (Arabic/Kurdish)-24 Hours 07846 310 157 (Farsi/Dari/Turkish)-24 Hours 020 7920 6460- info@ikwro.org.uk

¹⁰ No recourse to public funds

Outcome	2017-2021 Q10	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new users	1789	1407
Numbers not returning to a perpetrator	83	96
Numbers with increased awareness of safety planning	438	343
Engagement with in-house and external specialist support and culturally specific provision, (such as drug and alcohol support, support with mental health, support to exit prostitution, harmful practices, immigration and NRPF	348	316
Numbers supported to successfully apply for indefinite leave to remain under the Destitution Domestic Violence (DDV) concession or refugee status under an asylum application	72	82
Numbers of women that demonstrate reduced harmful substance use	112	87
Number of women involved in prostitution and trafficking reporting increased awareness of options to exit prostitution and with personalised action plans	83	53
Numbers demonstrating an increased understanding of sexual and domestic violence/prostitution/trafficking as a form of violence against women	315	310
Number of users demonstrating an increased understanding and stabilisation in their mental health	164	139
Number of users with increased understanding of impact of mental health and substance misuse on their children	38	38
Service users moved on in a planned way	65	79
Service users with increased living skills	150	152
Service users with more stabilised immigration status	101	125
No of people prevented (where appropriate) from unnecessary refuge admission through support to alternative housing options that enable them to stay safe. Support provided to service users for whom specific refuge provision does not exist / scarce / do not wish to access (LGBT)	112	77
Number of referral pathways agreed with registered social landlords and other housing providers	13	14
Number of service users gaining/maintaining tenancies	74	84
Number of professionals with increased knowledge of sexual and domestic violence aimed at increasing clients' access to services	1068	989
Removal of barriers in accessing services for people with the protected characteristics of the 2010 Equalities Act	191	270
Number of users with disabilities accessing the service	164	169
<p>Number of new users – Solace and Nia both had staff vacancies in Q9 that negatively impacted on the number of new users. In Q10, however, the project secured an increased number of new users.</p> <p>Numbers with increased awareness of safety planning – The reduced number of users entering the project due to staff vacancies impacted the number of women recorded as having an increased awareness of safety planning.</p> <p>Numbers of women that demonstrate reduced harmful substance use – The number of women worked with in Q9 was less than profiled. The targets were met in Q10.</p> <p>Number of women involved in prostitution and trafficking reporting increased awareness of options to exit prostitution and with personalised action plans - Nia have had fewer referrals for women involved in prostitution.</p> <p>No of people prevented (where appropriate) from unnecessary refuge admission through support to alternative housing options that enable them to stay safe. Support provided to service users for whom specific refuge provision does not exist / scarce / do not wish to access (LGBT) – Not all outreach clients required support around alternative housing. Some clients have needs that initially take priority to their housing need for which support might be given in a later quarter.</p>		

Women's Resource Centre	
Project name:	The ASCENT project (Amplifying, Supporting, Capacity building, Engaging, Networking, Training)
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
Specification:	2.5 Support services to the sexual and domestic violence voluntary sector organisations
Amount (1 year):	£240,783
Delivery partners: RESPECT (perpetrators), Imkaan, Rights of Women, Against Violence and Abuse and Women and Girls Network	
<p>Ascent is part of the Pan London VAWG Consortium project and will specifically address the long term sustainability needs of the provision of services to those affected by sexual and domestic violence (S&DV).</p> <p>It will improve the quality of such services across London, by providing a variety of services that includes sustainability, expert-led and accredited (assured) training, seminars and special events, best practice briefings, newsletters, and online 'sector conversations' for front-line staff from both voluntary and statutory services to improve service provision and ensure it meets the needs of service users. The Ascent project has a strong focus on borough spread as well as cross-priority work.</p> <p>Ascent will also draw on the wide and varied expertise of all its partners, and of those within the wider Pan London VAWG Consortium in order to meet the requirements of the Equality Act 2010. As a partnership, ASCENT will both model and promote the value of partnerships to service users, funders and commissioners.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
<p>Ms Vivienne Hayes, CEO vivienne@wrc.org.uk 020 7697 3451 Project Lead – Nour Gazarin United House, North Road, London, N7 9DP www.wrc.org.uk</p>	<p> www.imkaan.org.uk www.respect.uk.net www.avaproject.org.uk www.wgn.org.uk www.rightsofwomen.org.uk </p>

Outcome	2017-2021 Q10	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new organisations	309	487
Frontline services/organisations have an increased level of knowledge and ability to run services/organisations effectively and efficiently	190	321
Frontline services/organisations reporting increased ability to be more financially sound and efficient	100	92
Frontline services/organisations with an increased level of knowledge in areas such as financial management, governance, recruitment/workforce; ICT, premises management and income diversification	100	107
Frontline services/organisations report greater ability to work in partnership	250	282
Frontline services/organisations express interest in forming partnerships with other services/providers including LGBT and homelessness services	250	255
Frontline services/organisations able to collaborate with other services such as local authorities, health services, housing providers and homelessness services	100	130
Frontline organisations able to deliver improved services to meet their clients' needs and in line with relevant quality standards (deliver, monitor, evaluate and adapt)	370	381
Frontline services/organisations better able to monitor and evaluate impact of services	150	171
Frontline organisations/services with increased ability to meet their service users' needs	370	431
Borough officers, health professionals, social housing landlords, housing officers, homelessness/hostel staff and other key professionals more aware of key issues, services available and referral pathways.	50	60
Frontline services/organisations with increased ability to meet the three aims of the Equality Act 2010	300	260
Frontline organisations with increased diversification of boards of trustees	50	45

Asian Women's Resource Centre (AWRC)	
Project name:	Ascent Ending Harmful Practices project
Priority:	Priority 2: Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
Specification:	2.6 Specifically targeted services FGM, Honour based violence (HBV), forced marriage and other harmful practices
Amount (1 year):	£320,000
Delivery partners: Ashiana Network, Latin American Women's Rights Service, IKWRO, IMECE Women's Centre, Southall Black Sisters Trust, Women and Girls Network, FORWARD and Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP)	
<p>The partnership will provide intensive support to women and girls from BMER communities, across London affected by Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), 'Honour' Based Violence (HBV), Forced Marriages (FM), and other harmful practices within the spectrum of domestic and sexual violence, annually.</p> <p>Activities will include: 1) 1:1 advice and information on rights and entitlements: 2) casework and advocacy support which will include accompanying women to report crimes of violence to the police and housing departments, as well as accompanying women to court and advocating their needs to social services 3) therapeutic support groups and a counselling provision to 66 women 4) raising awareness of the impact of HBV, FM and FGM within communities and other voluntary and statutory agencies (not only BMER communities) through delivering workshops, training and presentations and 5) specific work with young women through the delivery of workshops to support peer mentoring and youth advocacy.</p> <p>These activities aim to improve service users' safety, self-esteem, confidence and wellbeing, as well as improving understanding of rights and options and uptake of other services in the domains of criminal justice, health, housing and employment training.</p>	

Contact Details	Referrals
Sarbjit Ganger, Director sarbjit@asianwomencentre.org.uk info@asianwomencentre.org.uk 020 8961 6549 http://asianwomencentre.org.uk/	Ascent: 0208 961 6549 0208 961 5701 referrals@asianwomencentre.org.uk

Outcome	2017-2021 Q10	
	Profile	Delivered
Number of new users	1556	1507
Service users have improved self-esteem, confidence and emotional health and well being	1204	1243
Service users have improved mental health	168	307
Service users have a better understanding of the support options available to them and are more aware of their rights and entitlements	1142	1429
Service users have an increased ability to communicate their needs and views to service providers	482	790
Number of professionals with improved understanding of harmful practices and the barriers faced by BAMER women in accessing services	323	518
Service users report increased feelings of safety	1204	1264
Service users have an increased level of understanding regarding options available to help their decision making	1204	1247
Service users have enhanced coping strategies	742	859
Service users make changes to their living situations and exit violence	783	805
Service users have improved life skills to help them rebuild their lives and move to independence: service users attending ESOL classes	169	246
Service users have improved life skills to help them rebuild their lives and move to independence: service users attending ICT classes	169	181
Service users have improved life skills to help them rebuild their lives and move to independence: service users attending other employment skills workshops	169	195
Local authority officers are able to access support to wrap around existing support or make referrals into the service.	153	262
Referrals from IDVAs and sexual health clinics	102	145
Service users accessing other support	102	254

Grants Committee

Month 6 Revenue Forecast 2019/20 Item no: 7

Report by: Frank Smith **Job title:** Director of Corporate Resources
Date: 13 November 2019
Contact Officer: Frank Smith
Telephone: 020 7934 9700 **Email:** Frank.smith@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary

This report:

- Outlines actual income and expenditure against the approved income and expenditure in the budget to the end of September 2019 for the Grants Committee;
- Provides a forecast of the outturn position for 2019/20 for both actual and committed expenditure on commissions, including:
 - Those matched funded ESF commissions that are within the Grants Programme (i.e. excluding borough specific ESF projects); and
 - London Councils' administration of all these commissions.

Members are reminded that the position reported in this report is at the end of the second quarter of 2019/20, which is the third year of the current four-year programme of commissions. At this stage, a surplus of £40,000 is forecast over the approved budget.

Recommendations

The Grants Committee is asked to :

- Note the projected surplus of £40,000 for the year; and
 - Note the projected level of Grants Committee reserves, as detailed in paragraph 9 of this report and the commentary on the financial position of the Grants Committee included in paragraphs 10-11.
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Month 6 Revenue Forecast 2019/20

Introduction

1. This is the second budget monitoring report to be presented to the Executive Committee during the current financial year and therefore includes half-year figures.
2. The London Councils Grants Committee's income and expenditure revenue budget for 2019/20 was approved by the Leaders' Committee in December 2018, following recommendations by the Grants Committee.

Variance from Budget

3. Table 1 below summarises the forecast outturn position for the Grants Committee:

Table 1 –Summary Forecast

	M6 Actual	Budget	Forecast	Variance
Expenditure	£000	£000	£000	£000
Employee Costs	149	328	288	(40)
Running Costs	11	19	19	-
Central Recharges	133	227	251	24
Total Operating Expenditure	293	574	558	(16)
S.48 Commissioned services	3,064	6,173	6,151	(22)
S.48 ESF Commissioned services	822	102	822	720
London Funders Group	60	60	60	-
Total Expenditure	4,239	6,909	7,591	682
Income				
Borough contributions towards commissioned services	(3,438)	(6,173)	(6,382)	(209)
Borough contributions towards the administration of commissions	(209)	(495)	(495)	-
ESF Grant	(430)	(58)	(431)	(373)
Interest on Investments	(6)	-	(12)	(12)
Other Income	-	-	-	-
Transfer from Reserves	-	(183)	(311)	(128)
Total Income	(4,083)	(6,909)	(7,631)	(722)
Net Expenditure	156	-	(40)	(40)

4. The projected surplus of £40,000, which is explored in more detail in the narrative below, is broadly split between the following:
 - A projected underspend of £22,237 in respect of 2019/20 S.48 borough funded commissioned services which largely relates to St Mungo Community Housing Association (paragraph 5);
 - An underspend of £40,000 in respect of employee costs due to vacancies within the team and an underspend on the maternity provision, although partly offset by a reduction in draw down from ESF reserves, therefore net underspend of £30,000;
 - A net increase in central recharges of £24,000 made up of:

- £39,000 in additional costs which are attributed to members of staff working on Grants related activities, which previously were not being fully passed on to Grants; and
 - £15,000 reduction in central recharges as a result of the s.48 ESF scheme coming to an end in June 2019;
- An additional sum of £12,000 from investment income is forecasted to be received on Committee reserves, not previously budgeted for; and
 - There is also projected planned overspend in respect of anticipated payments made in respect of the S.48 ESF programme largely due to the timing and slippage of the programme. The S.48 ESF programme was completed by 30 June 2019 and the additional expenditure above the approved budget is met by accumulated ESF reserves and ESF grant. (see paragraph 7).

Payments to Commissions – London Councils Borough S.48 Programme

5. Table 2 below outlines the actual spend for the period 1 April to 30 September 2019 for the borough funded commissions, covering priorities 1 and 2.

Table 2 – Actual Spend 1 April to 30 September 2019 – Priorities 1 and 2

2019/20 budget (£)	Forecast payments 1 April to 30 September 2019 (£)	Actual Payments (£)	Projected Underspend (£)	Balance (£)
6,173,132	3,086,566	3,064,329	22,237	-

6. As part of the approved monitoring arrangements, officers will continue to review financial information relating to each project during the year and the audited accounts at the end of the year. It is possible that further underspends will be identified as the year progresses, which will be reflected in the further monitoring reports scheduled to come before the Committee during 2019/20.

Payments to Commissions – ESF Programme

7. Due to the payment structure for ESF projects, higher levels of spend are recognised in the account towards the latter stages of projects, when outcomes (job entries and sustained jobs) can be verified. The current S.48 ESF programme concluded on 30 June 2019 and the final expenditure to providers in 2019/20 is £822k, plus administration costs of £129k. Based on this expenditure, accumulated ESF reserves of £311k will be applied during the current financial year to jointly fund the residual programme with ESF grant.

Administration of Commissions

8. It is projected that non ESF related salaries expenditure will underspend by £30,000 due to vacancies within the team. Should staff changes occur this forecasted surplus may reduce, a further update will be provided during the month 9 forecast report. Projected investment

income on Committee reserves of £12,000 and additional recharges costs of £24,000 as described in paragraph 4 have been recognised in the forecast.

Committee Reserves

9. Table 3 below updates the Committee on the revised estimated level of balances as at 31 March 2020, if all current known liabilities and commitments are considered:

Table 3 – Analysis of Projected Uncommitted Reserves as at 31 March 2020

	Borough	ESF	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Audited reserves as at 1 April 2019	721	1,330	2,051
Transfer from reserves in respect of ESF payments	-	(311)	(311)
Projected surplus/(deficit) for the year	40	-	40
Projected reserves as at 31 March 2020	761	1,019	1,780
Indicative total expenditure 2019/20	6,668	241	6,909
Forecast reserves as a % of indicative expenditure	11.44%	94.35%	22.91%

Conclusions

10. Projected total reserves of £1,780,000 are forecast at the year-end, after considering the projected surplus of £40,000 for the year. After applying £311,000 from reserves to cover the final ESF expenditure in the current year, a sum of £1,019,000 remains that relates to residual borough contributions towards the funding of the ESF commissions (Priority 3) collected between 2015/16 and 2017/18. The residual contributions held in reserves are subject to a decision made by members at this meeting with respect to item 8.
11. In addition, a projected residual sum of £761,000 held in reserves relates to the S.48 borough funded commissions (Priorities 1&2), which equates to 11.41% of the £6.668 million commissions budget. This figure exceeds the benchmark of £250,000 or 3.75% established by the Grants Executive Committee in September 2013 by some £511,000. The excess reserves held in respect of Priorities 1&2 will be subject to further discussion by members and there remains the option of carrying forward such amounts to the planned new grants programme covering the period 2021-2025. The current position on reserves is fully reflected in the budget proposals for 2020/21, which is subject to a separate report on this agenda.

Recommendations

12. Members are asked to:

- note the projected surplus of £40,000 for the year; and
 - note the projected level of Grants Committee reserves, as detailed in paragraph 9 of this report and the commentary on the financial position of the Grants Committee included in paragraphs 10-11.
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Financial Implications for London Councils

As detailed in report

Legal Implications for London Councils

None

Equalities Implications for London Councils

None

Background Papers

London Councils Budget working papers 2019/20

London Councils Income and Expenditure Forecast File 2019/20

Grants Committee

Addressing issues related to No Recourse to Public Funds to support work to combat homelessness and tackle domestic violence

Item: 8

Report by: Yolande Burgess **Job title:** Strategy Director
Date: 13 November 2019
Contact Officer: Yolande Burgess
Telephone: 020 7934 9739 **Email:** yolande.burgess@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary

The Priority 3 strand of the 2017-21 Grants Programme, which completed delivery at the end of June 2019, will under-deliver against the original targets set. The programme is projected to create an underspend of £1,019,000, which will be returned to the Grants Programme.

At the July 2019 AGM, Grants Committee members requested information about the supply and demand for immigration advice following a discussion about options for redeploying the Priority 3 underspend to reduce the impact of No Recourse to Public Funds on individuals and boroughs.

This paper sets out known information about supply and demand for immigration advice in London and the impact on boroughs of No Recourse to Public Funds and sets out a proposal to deploy the Priority 3 underspend with existing Priority 1 and 2 grant holders.

Saira Grant (solicitor and research consultant, and formally the Chief Executive of the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants) has been working with the Paul Hamlyn Foundation to better understand the demand for immigration advice services; her work, which will be published in January 2020, has informed this report. Ms Grant will be presenting the findings from her research to Grants Committee, along with information about the pressures that London faces regarding immigration advice.

Recommendations

Grants Committee is recommended to:

- agree that £1,019,000 Priority 3 underspend is used to increase Priority 1 and 2 grants for the sole purpose of increasing immigration advice for service users with No Recourse to Public Funds.
- agree that the terms of the funding agreements with current Priority 1 and Priority 2 partners are re-negotiated to include the provision

of immigration advice services, through appropriately qualified organisations, for users with No Recourse to Public Funds; these terms to be negotiated and agreed with the Director responsible for the Grants Programme

- agree that the grant values agreed with current Priority 1 and Priority 2 partners are increased, where appropriate, and in line with renegotiated terms to enable the provision of immigration advice services to users with No Recourse to Public Funds; these grant values to be negotiated and agreed with the Director responsible for the Grants Programme.
- to provide some oversight and scrutiny, agree that negotiated terms are discussed with the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Grants Committee prior to sign-off.

Addressing issues related to No Recourse to Public Funds to support work to combat homelessness and tackle domestic violence

1 Background

- 1.1 The Priority 3 strand of the 2017-2021 London Councils Grants Programme – *Tackling poverty through employment* – completed delivery at the end of June 2019.
- 1.2 The programme is funded by the Grants Committee and is match-funded by European Social Funds (ESF). The programme will under-deliver against the original targets set. Based on the final delivery information, it is projected that £1,019,000 will be returned to the Grants Programme.
- 1.3 Grants Committee Executive first discussed options for redeploying the Priority 3 related underspend in February 2019 and took options to full Grants Committee in March 2019. Additional support for those with NRPF, particularly considering the growing numbers of those with NRPF being supported under Priority 1 and 2, was taken forward for further investigation. Following more detailed discussion in July 2019, Grants Committee members requested information about the supply and demand for immigration advice to inform their decision to redeploy funds. Following discussion of a detailed report in September 2019, Grants Committee Executive members provided a steer for recommendations to Grants Committee.

2 The impact of NRPF

- 2.1 The cost to local authorities in London of providing statutory support to people with NRPF is in excess of £50 million a year.
- 2.2 Through the Grants Programme, delivery partners are currently supporting 450 to 500 vulnerable people with NRPF every quarter, and the number is increasing. Many of the people our delivery partners support face challenging personal circumstances, which are compounded by their NRPF status. One delivery partner working to tackle sexual and domestic violence took on a solicitor, full-time, to deal with the increasing volume of complex cases.
- 2.3 The issues of NRPF, homelessness and domestic violence are interrelated. Shelter has estimated that up to 20 per cent of Grants Programme beneficiaries have NRPF or complex problems with immigration status. Over 600 women a year with NRPF are affected by domestic violence, including women who have been trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation. There are also links to other forms of modern slavery and exploitation, where insecure immigration status and NRPF can act as a barrier to accessing help and support, placing potential victims at further risk of exploitation.

- 2.4 A recent report¹ shows the disproportionate effects of NRPF policy on women, low-income families, disabled people, pregnant (and maternity stage) women, and black and minority ethnic British children - groups that are targeted for support through the Grants Programme.
- 2.5 The report establishes that those with protected characteristics are worse affected by the NRPF condition than those without. It draws out the extent to which people are impacted by the NRPF condition and highlights the experience of individuals in destitution, with a particular reference to inadequacy of accommodation and the risk of falling into dangerous and exploitative living conditions, including street homelessness.
- 2.6 Considering that all the respondents had children, this raises safeguarding concerns. The Association of Directors of Children's Services' 2018 research report into safeguarding pressures identifies the growing group of families who have NRPF as one of the top pressures on children's services budgets. The cost of both providing Section 17 (Children Act 1989) support and the time required by social workers to undertake assessments is not included as part of the local authority funding formula.

3 Key issues related to NRPF

- 3.1 To establish the key issues and explore possible interventions and actions to relieve the impact of NRPF on individuals and boroughs, expert advice was sought from a variety of stakeholders. Discussions have taken place (and/or are on-going) with:
- 3.1.1 borough officers
 - 3.1.2 the NRPF Network - a network of local authorities and partner organisations focusing on the statutory duties to migrants with care needs who have no recourse to public funds
 - 3.1.3 the London Modern Slavery Leads group - a network of borough and CCG officers
 - 3.1.4 the Law Centres Network - which supports a national network of Law Centres that work with some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in society
 - 3.1.5 London Funders - a membership network for funders and investors in London's civil society
 - 3.1.6 the Home Office - the Modern Slavery Unit

¹ Woolley, A, 2019. *Access Denied: the impact of no recourse to public funds policy*. London: The Unity Project

- 3.1.7 Trust for London - an independent charitable foundation tackling poverty and inequality in London
- 3.1.8 the Greater London Authority - the Senior Policy Office for Migration and Refugees
- 3.1.9 the Migration Exchange Funder Network - an informal network of independent funders, which aims to improve the lives of migrants and receiving communities in the UK.
- 3.1.10 the Paul Hamlyn Foundation - an independent grant-making foundation in the UK that aims to help people overcome disadvantage and lack of opportunity
- 3.1.11 London Councils Principal Policy and Project Officers - policy leads for Violence Against Women and Girls, Female Offending, Modern Slavery, Migration, Social Integrating, Equalities and Civil Society
- 3.1.12 The Advice Services Network - the umbrella body for independent advice services in the UK, supporting national networks of not-for-profit organisations providing advice and help on the law, access to services and related issues
- 3.1.13 Refugee Action - provides support and resources for organisations working with refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants across the UK.

4 Immigration advice and lack of capacity

- 4.1 The stand-out issue that all stakeholders raised was lack of capacity to meet demand for immigration advice.
- 4.2 Several stakeholders noted that lack of funding for individuals to access immigration and legal advice was an issue. The removal of legal aid for immigration cases means that migrants who are unable to make their immigration applications alone have no option but to either turn to private solicitors, that may charge unaffordable fees, or attempt to complete complex immigration applications themselves.
- 4.3 Stakeholders also noted that there has been a significant increase in individuals presenting with NRPF and complex circumstances – both in immigration terms and personal circumstances, invariably destitution.
- 4.4 Grants Programme delivery partners, through discussions for the mid-programme review, also highlighted the increasing number of people presenting with complex and enduring issues.

- 4.5 The lack of capacity to meet demand for immigration advice has the two-fold impact of placing individuals at increased risk of becoming destitute, which in turn puts greater pressure on local authority resources.
- 4.6 Organisations delivering support services to immigrants were surveyed for the *Access Denied: the impact of no recourse to public funds policy*² report. Responses to the surveys illustrated that "...lack of organisational capacity poses an, at times unassailable, primary barrier to accessing help".

5 Immigration advice – supply and demand

- 5.1 The Paul Hamlyn Foundation has commissioned a report that examines the level of unmet need for immigration legal advice and representation and to look at impending immigration status issues for European Union (EU)³ citizens, across England and Wales. The report assesses if the evidence shows a need to increase free immigration legal provision to support vulnerable migrants (the report focuses solely on immigration law and not asylum law).
- 5.2 The report looks at the difference between the two main types of immigration advisers; solicitors and Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) registered advisers and looks at the areas of immigration law they can practice in, as understanding who can provide legal immigration advice and to what extent is a significant factor when thinking about immigration capacity. The report also provides a brief overview of the current immigration landscape to contextualise the difficulties migrants without regularised immigration status face.
- 5.3 The report also looks at Legal Aid provision for immigration advice in England and Wales and the effect this has had on the number of providers and on access to justice (where data is available for London, this is highlighted in the paper). Legal Aid provision for immigration advice is an important part of the supply and demand picture, so is included in this paper to ensure that all the pressures on the immigration advice system are included. It is not intended that redeployed funds are used to make up for budget reductions/eligibility changes with Legal Aid.
- 5.4 The report also looks at the EU Settlement Scheme for EU migrants, which originates from the Brexit Withdrawal Agreement and assesses the types and numbers of individuals who are unlikely to qualify under the Scheme and therefore have the potential

² Woolley, A, 2019. *Access Denied: the impact of no recourse to public funds policy*. London: The Unity Project

³ European Economic Area (EEA) and Swiss nationals will also qualify for the scheme

to become undocumented (the number and types of existing undocumented migrants estimated to be in the UK is also considered).

5.5 The report includes information and data for the UK and covers:

- immigration advice and regulation
- brief overview of immigration policy and rules
- Legal aid, sentencing and punishment of offenders Act 2012 (LASPO) and immigration legal aid: the effect of LASPO and access to justice
- migrant population mapping and the groups needing legal assistance
- the lack of immigration status and the wider costs to society
- increasing immigration provision

5.6 This paper focusses on information on supply and demand (LASPO 2012 and immigration legal aid: the effect of LASPO and access to justice, and Migrant population mapping and the groups needing legal assistance).

5.7 The report author, Saira Grant, will be attending Grants Committee to present her findings.

6 LASPO 2012 and immigration legal aid: the effect of LASPO and access to justice

6.1 The report shows that the changes brought about following the commencement of LASPO 2012 have impacted on the supply and availability of free legal help, especially for access to advice delivered through legal practices and the not-for-profit sector.

6.2 The amount of legal aid provided for both advice and representation has reduced significantly since LASPO came into effect; the number of cases where legal aid was provided for initial advice has fallen by more than 75 per cent compared with pre-LASPO levels, and the number of grants of legal aid for representation⁴ has fallen by 30 per cent.

6.3 Specifically, in immigration over the last five years, new cases (referred to as 'matter starts') fell by 70 per cent. This sharp decline has stabilised, but new matter starts in immigration stood nine per cent lower in January to March 2018 than in the same quarter of the previous year.⁵

6.4 Over the last five years since LASPO came into force the number of civil legal aid providers has also nearly halved, falling from 4,253 providers in 2011-12 to 2,824 in 2017-18, including law firms and not-for-profit organisations.

⁴ Cases in front of the immigration and asylum tribunals

⁵ Ministry of Justice Immigration Statistics Jan-March 2018

- 6.5 The Children's Society found that in the two years after LASPO came into force there was at least a 30 per cent cut in regulated immigration advice services across the country and a decrease of almost 50 per cent in regulated non-fee charging services to deal with appeals and representation in court.⁶
- 6.6 The overall number of providers that have completed immigration (non-asylum) work has decreased from the pre-LASPO levels of 249 to 160 in 2018; this is a 64 per cent fall (see Table 1).

Table 1: Legal aid providers

Number of provider offices completing work in Legal Help and Controlled Legal Representation

	Immigration – Asylum	Immigration - Nationality & Visit	Total
2011-12	256	249	257
2012-13	234	235	240
2013-14	348	276	360
2014-15	310	257	319
2015-16	274	204	276
2016-17	234	170	237
2017-2018	225	160	228

Data includes solicitors and not-for-profit organisations (excludes community legal advice centres)⁷. The numbers do not add up as providers can be the same in both categories.

- 6.7 The reduced number of legal aid providers has meant those still providing legal aid are at capacity. For example, recent figures show that less than half of people in detention have a legal representative and just over half have a legal aid solicitor.⁸
- 6.8 The Law Centres Network informed the House of Commons Justice Committee in 2014-15 that nine law centres had shut down, which was one in six of the network's members.
- 6.9 Centres reported a surge in enquiries in areas out of scope for legal aid, primarily family, immigration and employment law. For example, Hackney Community Law Centre reported that in winter 2013 it saw a 200 per cent increase in people looking for immigration help.

⁶ This was through a series of Freedom of Information requests which formed part of their research. H Connolly (2015). *Cut Off from Justice: The impact of excluding separated migrant children from Legal Aid*. https://www.childrenssociety.org.uk/sites/default/files/LegalAid_Summary_0.p

⁷ MOJ, Legal Aid Statistics Tables Jun - Sep 2018 Table 9.3 <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/legal-aid-statistics-july-to-september-2018>

⁸ Article in Law Society Gazette May 2018

- 6.15 The fees paid to practitioners for legal aid work have not been increased in line with inflation since 1998-99; this equates to a 34 per cent real-terms reduction. As part of LASPO, the Ministry of Justice reduced fees by 10 per cent without carrying out a sustainability assessment on the market of those reduced fee levels.
- 6.16 It is reported that low fees make it hard for specialist immigration lawyers to be properly remunerated, creating a financial disincentive for younger members joining the profession. A recent study by the Young Legal Aid Lawyers¹³ interviewed 200 lawyers with less than 10 years post qualification experience and found that more than half earned less than £25,000 a year (the New Law Journal¹⁴ summarised this by its headline, 'Legal Aid Lawyers are Undervalued, Underpaid & Under pressure').
- 6.17 Recruitment of specialist immigration lawyers is difficult. A small immigration specialist provider in London with expertise in highly complex cases has struggled to recruit a Legal Aid specialist despite a higher than average salary. They simply could not find lawyers with the right experience to meet their clients' complex immigration needs.¹⁵
- 6.18 Pre-LASPO legal aid firms managed financially through the volume of casework across a breadth of areas. Evidence shows there has been a significant drop post-LASPO - 64 per cent fewer legal aid providers and a 70 per cent fall in new immigration cases being opened.
- 6.19 The reduction in law firms, not-for-profits, charities and law centres providing legal immigration assistance has a two-fold impact: vulnerable clients are left without legal representation and specialist immigration advisers are lost.
- 6.20 Refugee Action recently mapped legal aid provision for asylum seekers. Their report Tipping the Scales: Access to Justice in the Asylum System¹⁶ found that between 2005-2018:
- 56 per cent of immigration and asylum providers were lost
 - 64 per cent of not for profit providers were lost
- 6.21 The research highlights that organisations working with vulnerable people are facing barriers to finding government-funded legal assistance, with 76 per cent of respondents finding it 'very difficult' or 'quite difficult' to refer people to legal representatives and 87 per cent of respondents finding it harder to refer than six years ago (pre-LASPO). Respondents said even where legal provision exists referrals are hard due to a lack of

¹³ <http://www.younglegalaidlawyers.org>

¹⁴ <https://www.newlawjournal.co.uk/content/dark-days-legal-aid>

¹⁵ Information from two interviews carried out with solicitors for the unpublished PHF paper

¹⁶ <https://www.refugee-action.org.uk/tipping-scales-access-justice-asylum-system/> Chart on page 11 of report

capacity within law firms and the difficulty of taking on time consuming, complex cases which cost more than the remuneration offered by the Legal Aid Agency. These findings are repeated by providers in non-asylum cases.

- 6.22 Legal Aid Agency data (all immigration legal aid providers in England and Wales October 2018) shows that post the issue of new legal aid contracts in September 2018 there are currently 314 organisations with immigration and asylum legal aid contracts.

Table 2: Organisations with immigration and asylum legal aid contracts

Legal Aid Agency: immigration legal aid providers in England and Wales October 2018

Region		
North East	17	5%
North West	34	11%
East Midlands	7	2%
West Midlands	49	16%
East of England	0	0%
London/Greater London	134	43%
Barking	1	
Croydon	7	
Edgware	2	
Brentford	1	
Bromley	1	
Harrow	7	
Hayes	2	
Hounslow	5	
Ilford	4	
London (unspecified)	90	
Morden	2	
Pinner	1	
Slough	1	
Southall	3	
Thornton Heath	2	
Wallington	1	
West Croydon	1	
Wembley	2	
Watford	1	
South East	24	8%
South West	12	4%
Wales	15	5%
Total	314	

- 6.23 From Table 1 (paragraph 6.6) Ministry of Justice data shows that only 160 providers have completed immigration work (non-asylum) in 2017-18. The Legal Aid Agency data shows the number of providers, whilst the statistics produced by the Ministry of Justice show the number of providers that are actually undertaking immigration work.

6.24 *Droughts and Deserts: A report on the immigration legal aid market* (Wilding, J., 2019) concludes that:¹⁷

- the overall market of providers fluctuates in size, composition and distribution over time but appears to be following a general trend towards fewer providers, with not-for-profits' market share declining markedly
- there is a mismatch between supply and demand, but this is difficult to quantify due to lack of effective data collection on demand
- there is a difference between notional supply, or the number of matter starts available in an area, and functional supply, or the actual capacity of providers to take on new clients.

6.25 A similar picture of lack of providers emerges when the number of people registered with the Office of Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) to provide immigration advice nationwide is considered.

Table 3: OISC Registered Non-Fee Charging Providers

From FOI a Regional Breakdown of OISC Advisors FOI/AH/17/08 17 March 2016

Region	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Total	
O = Organisations I = Individuals	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I
All Regions	487	543	67	125	69	90	623	758
London	68	195	21	43	33	44	122	282
East Midlands	28	12	2	4	1	2	31	18
East of England	45	24	6	5	1	3	52	32
North East	16	8	2	2	0	0	18	10
North West	42	27	3	16	4	9	49	52
Northern Ireland	20	5	0	0	2	0	22	5
Scotland	64	25	4	7	1	0	69	32
South East	73	115	6	12	5	5	84	132
South West	35	13	1	1	3	3	39	17
Wales	22	17	1	0	1	4	24	21
West Midlands	34	32	8	14	6	6	48	52
Yorkshire	26	49	7	14	10	14	43	77
Other	14	21	6	7	2	0	22	28

¹⁷ Wilding, J., *Droughts and Deserts: A report on the immigration legal aid market*. Brighton, Jo Wilding

Table 4: OISC Registered Fee Charging Providers

From FOI a Regional Breakdown of OISC Advisors FOI/AH/17/08 17 March 2016

Region	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Total	
O = Organisations I = Individuals	O	I	O	I	O	I	O	I
All Regions	560	1684	100	222	429	485	1089	2,391
London	274	723	58	140	215	243	547	1,106
East Midlands	25	97	3	5	18	19	46	121
East of England	29	93	4	11	24	26	57	130
North East	6	25	1	2	10	9	17	36
North West	41	110	4	10	30	42	75	162
Northern Ireland	3	3	1	1	0	0	4	4
Scotland	18	69	1	3	10	8	29	80
South East	51	187	9	13	30	26	90	226
South West	13	62	2	5	6	11	21	78
Wales	9	38	1	1	5	7	15	46
West Midlands	26	82	5	18	31	30	62	130
Yorkshire	23	88	4	8	31	40	58	136
Other	42	107	7	5	19	24	68	136

6.26 In order to provide specialist legal advice an OISC registered individual needs to have at least a level 2 qualification, but this does not allow them to run appeals or take on certain types of complex cases. Only level 3 registered advisers can provide a full range of advice barring Judicial Reviews. To identify Judicial Reviews and instruct a barrister an OISC level 3 adviser will also need to complete Judicial Review Case Management accreditation.

6.27 Data from 2016 shows that there are 90 level 3 registered individuals in the UK in 69 non-fee charging organisations. Most providers across all levels are in London, with 44 individuals at level 3. The total number of fee charging individuals at level 3 is much higher nationally at 485, with 243 in London.

6.28 The Ministry of Justice's Post Implementation Review (PIR) on LASPO¹⁸ acknowledges that whilst immigration provision has decreased this is deemed to be an intended consequence of the original scope changes brought about by LASPO.

7 Migrant population mapping and groups needing legal assistance

7.1 Between January 2017 and December 2017 there were approximately 6.2 million people with non-British nationality living in the UK and 9.4 million people who were born abroad.

¹⁸ Post-Implementation Review of Part 1 of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 (LASPO) Feb 2019

- 7.2 The UK's migrant population is concentrated in London; around 36 per cent of people living in the UK who were born abroad live in the capital city.
- 7.3 Whilst not all 6.2 million people with non-British nationality living in the UK will need immigration advice or legal assistance (e.g. people not intending to seek permanent settlement; those with indefinite leave to remain with no intention to seek British citizenship; straightforward entitlement and citizenship applications without the need for legal assistance) and assuming that over half of this number are EU citizens, a broad brush snapshot of the potential volume of people who may need advice is approximately 2 million, with about half potentially needing legal advice.
- 7.4 The 2 million figure is illustrative only to demonstrate potential scale and has not been obtained through statistical analysis - data is not available to make accurate predictions. Research would be needed to try and quantify and disaggregate this cohort.

EU migrant population

- 7.5 EEA nationals - which includes all EU nationals - do not have the NRPF condition imposed. Whilst those with NRPF are the primary consideration for investment from the Grants Programme, information about the EU migrant population is included in this paper as EU migrants form part of the demand picture.
- 7.6 The estimated resident population for 2018 shows that there are approximately 3.8 million EU nationals in the UK¹⁹ of which 1.221 million are in London (32 per cent).
- 7.7 Here for Good, an organisation set up to provide free advice for EU migrants trying to navigate the Settlement Scheme has mapped free legal provision for EU migrants regionally and has concluded that there is a major problem facing EU citizens looking for legal advice.
- 7.8 The Greater London Authority has also produced an EEA hub which provides information on free legal advice.²⁰ The list of immigration advice providers is limited to 16 London law firms and organisations. The list is also caveated with the following: *'Please note that many of these services are charities and civil society organisations that are doing what they can to fill the gaps in advice and information provision.'*
- 7.9 Whilst it is anticipated that the vast majority of EU migrants will be able to obtain settled status, vulnerable groups may struggle to navigate the system. Additionally, people who

¹⁹<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/internationalmigration/datasets/populationoftheunitedkingdombycountryofbirthandnationality>

²⁰ <https://www.london.gov.uk/node/47913#acc-i-54618>

will require legal assistance will logically not have straight forward cases and not many lawyers specialise in the area of EU law.

EU Settlement Scheme

7.10 EU, EEA or Swiss citizens (and family members) can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021. All EU nationals will need to apply under the Settlement Scheme if they are to continue to live lawfully in the UK after that date.

7.11 The Migration Observatory, having analysed data on EU migrants, concluded in April 2018, that for the vast majority of EU migrants the application will be straight forward and simple:

“The large majority of EU citizens should not have difficulty making an application. EU citizens in the UK have high average levels of education, a large majority are working, most are relatively young, and most do not report any problems such as low language ability or poor health. The share of EU citizens who are not internet users is low, so most should be in a good position to navigate an online application system.”²¹

7.12 The only grounds for refusal, if people are deemed eligible to apply for settled status is serious criminality or on security grounds.

7.13 Assurances that most EU nationals will be granted permanent settlement under the new Scheme and that only serious criminals will be refused is articulated in the EU Withdrawal Agreement.

7.14 However, it is the view of Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants (JCWI) that there is likely to be a sizeable group of EU nationals who are not serious criminals, but may mandatorily be found to be ineligible for the scheme (under EU15(c)) because they²²:

- have been issued with a removal notice, or notice of liability to be removed, from the UK for non-exercise, or ceasing to exercise Treaty rights (e.g. someone who had been told they were going to be removed because they weren't working or didn't have a genuine prospect of work if they were job-seeking, or didn't have comprehensive sickness insurance)
- have been issued with a removal notice, or notice of liability to be removed, from the UK for misuse of Treaty rights (for example, on the grounds of a supposed 'sham')

²¹ Unsettled Status: Which EU Citizens are at Risk of Failing to Secure their Right after Brexit <https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/reports/unsettled-status-which-eu-citizens-are-at-risk-of-failing-to-secure-their-rights-after-brexite/> s.4 conclusion

²² Broken Promise: EU Nationals Facing Removal, JCWI, Oct 2018 <http://www.jcwi.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-10/Broken%20Promises%20EU%20Nationals%20Facing%20Removal%20After%20Brexit%20Briefing%20JCWI.pdf>

marriage or perhaps under the Home Office's previous unlawful policy of treating rough sleeping as an abuse of rights)

- are victims of trafficking with criminal convictions.

7.15 The Migration Observatory²³ estimates the number of non-Irish EU citizens²⁴ above the age of 18 who have been economically inactive for five years or more to be 213,000 people. JCWI argues that some of these individuals may have permanent residence status and a small number may have comprehensive health insurance allowing them to be lawfully here. However, many will not and would be liable to be removed were they to come to the attention of the Home Office.

EU Citizens likely to need legal advice and assistance

7.16 The categories listed and statistic quoted below are from the Migration Observatory's report *Unsettled Status? Which EU Citizens are at Risk of Failing to Secure their Rights after Brexit?*²⁵.

7.16.1 **People who do not realise that they need to apply.** Although applicants in this group may not necessarily require a lawyers' assistance, it will depend on their individual circumstances. Many people could unintentionally become undocumented after the EU Settlement Scheme comes to a close and therefore be unlawfully here and liable to removal if their status is not regularised. Many people may not apply because they incorrectly believe they do not need to, for example, people with very long residence - by 2017, 92,000 EU citizens had lived in the UK for at least 40 years, 146,000 for at least 30 years, and 284,000 for at least 20 years.

7.16.2 **People with existing permanent residence documents.** This group may not realise they need to reapply. Since 2004, 146,000 non-Irish EU citizens have been granted permanent residence but do not have British nationality.

7.16.3 **Children.** People who do not apply may not realise that their children also need to apply. Many may mistakenly believe that because their children are UK born, they will automatically be British citizens. Nationality law is complicated and unless a child is born to a British or EU parent who has permanent residence, they do not automatically acquire citizenship.

²³ <https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/resources/reports/unsettled-status-which-eu-citizens-are-at-risk-of-failing-to-secure-their-rights-after-brexite/>

²⁴ Irish citizens will automatically have rights and do not need to apply for settled status

²⁵ Broken Promise: EU Nationals Facing Removal, JCWI, Oct 2018 <http://www.jcwi.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-10/Broken%20Promises%20EU%20Nationals%20Facing%20Removal%20After%20Brexit%20Briefing%20JCWI.pdf>

In 2017, there were an estimated 727,000 children reported to be non-Irish EU citizens. Among them, 442,000 were born outside of the UK and thus would either need to apply for settled status or naturalise with their parents (if the parents are eligible to do so).

A further 116,000 were born in the UK but their parents had not been in the UK for five years or more therefore the parent would not be able to acquire permanent residence and the children would not automatically get British citizenship.

A further 239,000 UK born children had parents who were EU nationals, but they were reported by their parents to be British. But as the EU parent requires permanent residence, which can only be achieved after 5 years continuous residence in the UK, it is possible to look at the available data and conclude that 55,000 of these children did not have a parent who had been in the UK for longer than five years.

Home Office data suggest that only about 29,700 EU (including Irish) citizens under the age of 18 have been granted UK citizenship²⁶. The Migration Observatory argue that possibly tens of thousands of children of EU citizens have parents who do not realise that they are not automatically UK citizens, and so are unlikely to register them for settled status.

7.16.4 Victims of Domestic Violence. In the year ending 2017, it was an estimated that there were 53,000 female EU victims and 34,000 male EU victims who had suffered domestic violence.²⁷ Such victims are usually controlled by their partners and may fail to produce documentary evidence of their residence especially if they rely on their partner for it. It is very hard to gauge the exact circumstances of the cases and whether any such individual would seek independent help.

7.16.5 Victims of exploitation or trafficking. Similarly, are unlikely to have evidence of their residence or pay. Working unlawfully would also be a crime which could bar individuals from a settlement grant even if they did manage to apply.

²⁶ HO immigration statistics, table cz_05, excluding 16-17-year olds registering before 2015 who would have been 18 or more by 2017

²⁷ Source: data provided by ONS from Crime Survey of England and Wales, Year ending March 2017; population estimates from Migration Observatory analysis of Labour Force Survey for Q1 2016 – the mid-point of the period during which crimes reported in YE March 2017 would have occurred. Note: This measure of any domestic abuse experienced in the last year relates to adults aged 16 to 59 only and is taken from the self-completion section of the survey which is designed to reduce the extent of underreporting for sensitive issues that respondents may not want to discuss openly with an interviewer. Full details of the offences included are provided in ONS (2018b, p52). All figures include Irish nationals.

Individuals in this category will have multiple issues to resolve in order to regularise their status will need legal and professional assistance. Numbers are very hard to predict. The Home Office estimated the number of victims at 10,000-13,000 of any nationality as of 2013. The 'duty to notify' introduced by the Modern Slavery Act 2015 requires public bodies such as the police, the National Crime Agency and local authorities, to report to the Government all potential adult victims of modern slavery encountered in England and Wales. Between November 2015 and June 2017, agencies under the 'duty to notify' (Modern Slavery Act 2015) reported 746 cases of potential victims in England and Wales who were from an EEA country.

- 7.16.6 **People with mental health issues and other disabilities.** People in this situation may struggle to understand both the need to apply and the process. They may not be able to show continuous residency documentation. It has not been possible to obtain data for this cohort. However, with regard to mental health, 45,000 non-Irish EU citizens reported a mental health issue. About half said that this condition limited their daily activity 'a little' and a further quarter said that it limited their daily activity 'a lot'.²⁸
- 7.16.7 **Third-country family members.** People who suffer from any of the above or whose partner has died and are reliant on their partner or family member for their status may have even more difficulties as they have no right to apply in their own right. Existing EU law does allow for retained rights of residence in these circumstances.
- 7.16.8 **The Elderly.** Many will be long term residents as noted above. Older residents may also have limited information on their past immigration status. Those who have family members to help will be less at risk than those who are more isolated or in care homes. The 2011 Census included 5,600 non-Irish EU born people age 75 or older who were living in communal establishments such as care homes.²⁹ Older foreign-born residents were also among those more likely to report not having a passport in the 2011 census. On-line literacy is also a further barrier for this cohort as the application process is electronic.
- 7.16.9 **People with chaotic lives.** This group will struggle to provide evidence of residence in order to obtain to settled status easily. For example, rough

²⁸ Source: Migration Observatory analysis of LFS, 2017. Note: respondents select from list of possible health problems and are included here if they both select 'depression, bad nerves or anxiety' or 'mental illness or suffer from phobias, panics or other nervous disorders' and if they report that this is their main health problem and that it has lasted or is expected to last at least 12 months.

²⁹ Census Table DC2118EW1a

sleepers; the Housing, Communities and Local Government (2018) estimate said there were 760 EEA national rough sleepers in England during the Autumn of 2017, but the Combined Homelessness and Information Network (CHAIN) counted 3,000 EEA national rough sleepers in London alone between April 2016 and March 2017. People from Roma communities who move about frequently may suffer. In the 2011 census³⁰, 59,000 people reported their ethnicity as Gypsy or Traveler.

- 7.17 As the above information shows it is very difficult to predict the numbers of EU migrants who may struggle to secure settled status. Here for Good has stated that even if 10 per cent of the EU migrants currently in the UK are vulnerable or have difficulties with their applications this would amount to 380,000 people (122,000 in London). The figure of 10 per cent is reiterated by many immigration lawyers as a conservative rule of thumb.

Estimated Numbers of Undocumented Migrants

- 7.18 Undocumented migrants have NRPF.
- 7.19 In 2005 the Home Office commissioned a study on the numbers of undocumented migrants. (Woodridge)³¹. The overall estimate was presented as a range of between 310,000 and 570,000 with a central estimate of 430,000, as at census day 2001. The London School of Economics, commissioned by the Mayor of London, did a further study in 2007³²; it updated the Woodridge study and added in the children of undocumented migrants which Woodridge had not included. Its range was 417,000 to 863,000, with a central estimate of 618,000 at the end of 2007. About 70 per cent of all irregular migrants are estimated to be in London. There has not been a comprehensive study since then.
- 7.20 Calling for regularisation or trying to map provision to assist undocumented migrants requires a disaggregation of these numbers. Using London School of Economics data and official statistics from 2001 it is possible to draw some rough numerical estimates. There are many statistical caveats and the purpose of these numbers is illustrative at best.
- 7.21 Most irregular migrants are asylum seekers. For this category there is statistical data. In 2001, there were 286,000 failed asylum seekers. Considering removals and voluntary departures it is estimated that there was a resident population of 219,000 failed asylum

³⁰ Census table CT0769

³¹ Woodbridge J (2005) Sizing the unauthorised (illegal) migrant population in the United Kingdom in 2001 <https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/transparencyandgovernance/freedomofinformationfoi/illegalimmigrantsintheuk> [PDF link to report on web page]

³² Economic impact on the London and UK economy of an earned regularisation of irregular migrants to the UK, LSE, May 2009

seekers as at 2007 (almost two-thirds of the Home Office's estimate of total 'illegal' migrants).

- 7.22 Children who are UK born to undocumented migrant parents have been estimated to be between 44,000 - 144,000.
- 7.23 The remaining figure is made up of illegal entrants and overstayers and whilst it is very difficult to disaggregate this category it is a widely held assertion that the majority of this category is likely to be overstayers, many of whom will have been in the UK for lengthy periods of time.

8 Increasing immigration provision

- 8.1 The report concludes that the evidence demonstrates it is imperative to increase the number of specialist immigration advisers as need significantly outstrips supply. The report suggests that increasing legal provision could provide an opportunity to create a more strategic immigration legal sector which could have a strong national voice, the ability to meaningfully assist vulnerable clients and to reform immigration law over the long term.
- 8.2 The final section discusses:
 - 8.2.1 increasing the number of specialist immigration lawyers and OISC level 3 providers (ideally with understanding of EU regulations and directives) who are able to provide free immigration legal advice and representation to vulnerable clients
 - 8.2.2 increasing free legal advice through the existing exceptional case funding framework which has been simplified and is proving successful in many immigration cases - this is an area where peer learning, information and training in making applications would assist in increasing take up
 - 8.2.3 assessing why providers who apply for legal aid Contracts but fail to use their 'matter starts' or leave the scheme to better understand and address the difficulties with legal aid
 - 8.2.4 harnessing existing private and pro bono provision and encouraging more private immigration solicitors to undertake work for vulnerable groups
 - 8.2.5 undertaking detailed research on regional need and provision.
- 8.3 The report highlights that although London has the most immigration providers it also has the most vulnerable migrants in need of legal assistance: 70 per cent of the 618,000

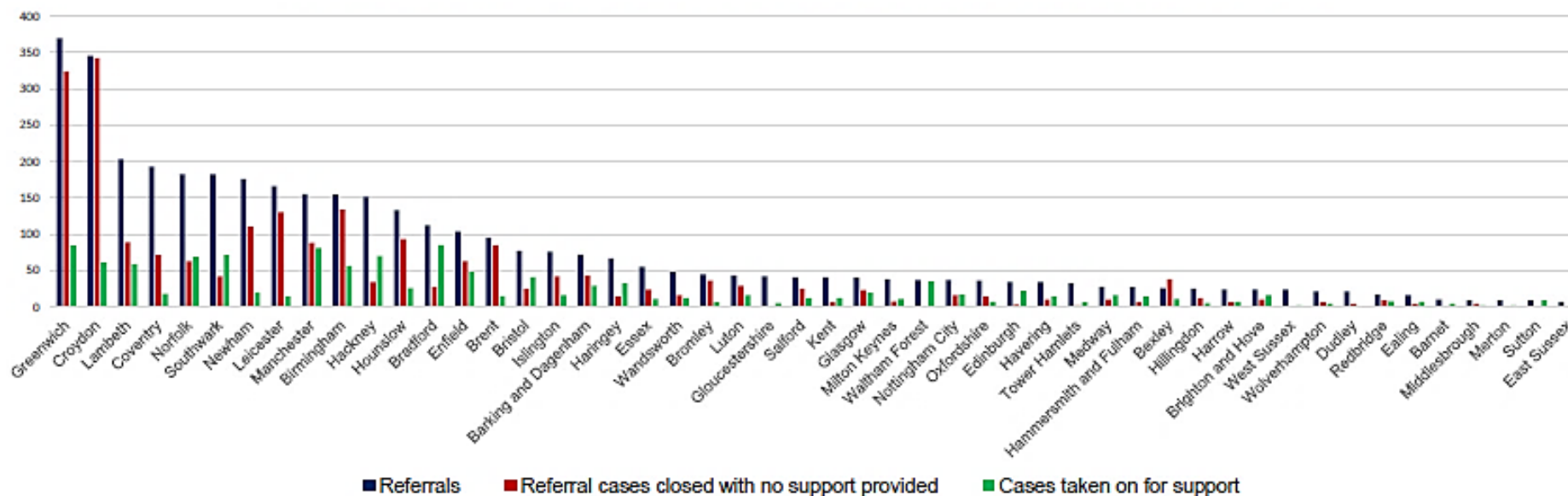
undocumented migrants identified by the London School of Economics in 2007 are in London (432,600) and the majority of EU migrants live in London (1,221,000).

9 Current NRPF demands and pressures

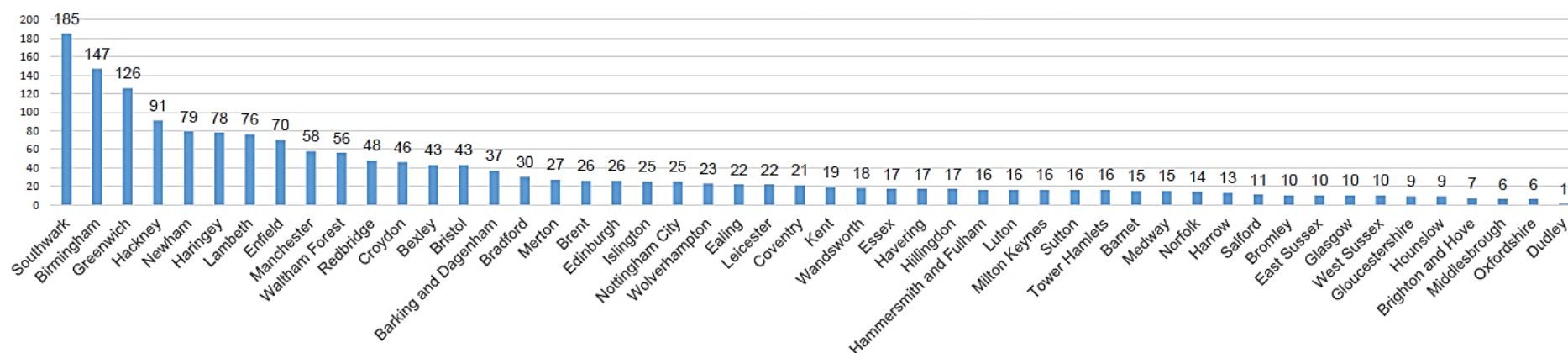
- 9.1 There is not enough quantitative data available to accurately establish a financial return on investment figure (see paragraph 9.3.2), however; available research does show that the lack of capacity to meet demand for immigration advice places individuals at increased risk of becoming destitute, which in turn puts greater pressure on local authority resources.
- 9.2 An increase in advice services, particularly in services that can resolve lower-complexity immigration issues, has the potential to make a significant impact. *Access Denied: The cost of the 'no recourse to public funds' policy*, A. Woolley (2019) highlights the work of a small project, based in Southwark, that supports people with NRPF through the change of circumstance (CoC) process (to remove the NRPF condition). Since the project's inception in May 2017, it has received referrals for over 300 individuals and families and has an 86 per cent first CoC application success rate, or 98 per cent if counting successful challenges. The Home Office response to a Freedom of Information request indicated that between April 2015 and December 2018 they accepted 55 per cent of applications.
- 9.3 The NRPF Network collects and publishes data from 59 local authorities using the NRPF Connect database. This database provides information about the households that requested, and were provided with, social services' support in the financial year 2018-19. Key findings from the data include:
 - 9.3.1 59 local authorities supported 2,658 households at an annual cost of £47.5 million (at year end)
 - 9.3.2 local authorities saw an overall reduction of £100,000 week (10 per cent over the year) due to a decrease in the number of households receiving support by the year end
 - 9.3.3 requests for support increased by 17 per cent compared to 2017-18
- 9.4 The data clearly shows that local authorities are facing an increasing number of requests for support. It demonstrates that there continues to be a significant number of people unable to access mainstream services due to their immigration status and who need to navigate complex rules regarding their entitlement to services.

- 9.5 The average time that households were provided with support increased to 820 days throughout the year. With 80 per cent of households leaving the service following a grant to leave to remain with recourse to public funds, any barriers that delay achieving this outcome lead to increasing costs for local government. Additionally, being excluded from employment and mainstream benefits for lengthy periods of time negatively impacts on the wellbeing and integration of children and adults who have a future in the UK.
- 9.6 Of the 59 local authorities that used NRPF Collect in 2018-19, 27 are London local authorities:
- 9.6.1 Barking & Dagenham, Barnet, Bexley, Brent, Bromley, Croydon, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hackney, Hammersmith & Fulham, Haringey, Harrow, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Islington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Merton, Newham, Redbridge, Southwark, Sutton, Tower Hamlets, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth
- 9.6.2 Camden and Westminster subscribed to the database after March 2019.
- 9.7 Borough data from NRPF Collect is presented below. The first graph shows referrals and cases over a 12 month period; the remaining graphs provide a snapshot of caseload activity at the end of a quarter. Whilst activity related to NRPF is not equally dispersed across local authority areas, all but one of the reporting London boroughs were dealing with cases. Using data made available through NRPF Collect, the NRPF Network has calculated that the average annual cost per case (providing accommodation and subsistence) was £17,094
- 9.8 NRPF Collect caseload data indicates that the majority (67 per cent) of households receiving financial support were families supported under S17 of the Children Act 1989, 19 per cent of households were vulnerable adults supported under the Care Act 2014, and 14 per cent were unaccompanied migrant children or care leavers.

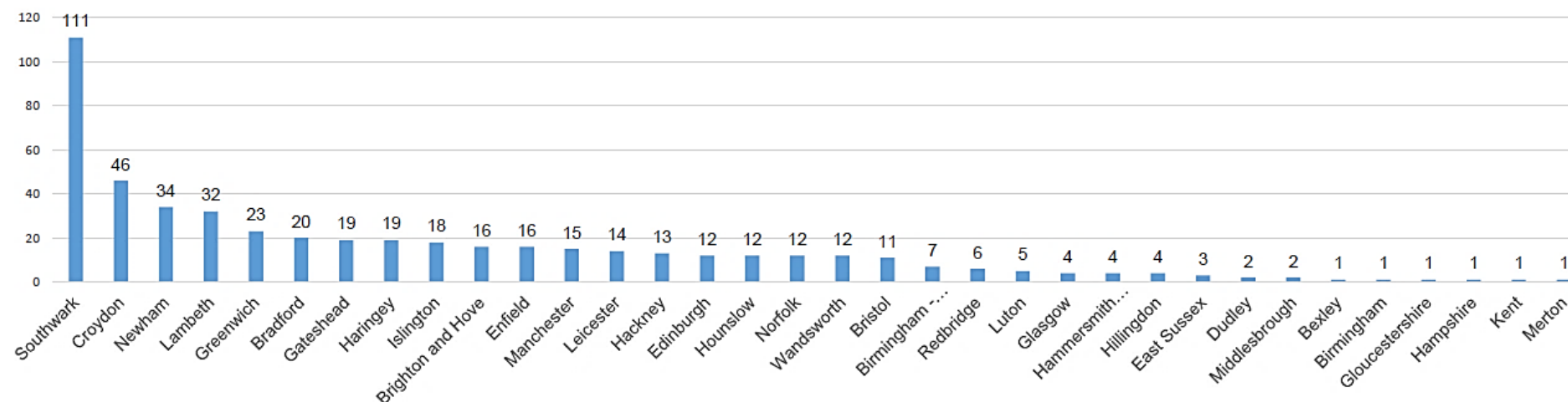
All households - Referrals received compared to cases financially supported and cases closed with no support provided (Q3 17/18 to Q2 18/19)



Total Number of Family Cases Supported as at End of Q2 18/19 by Local Authority

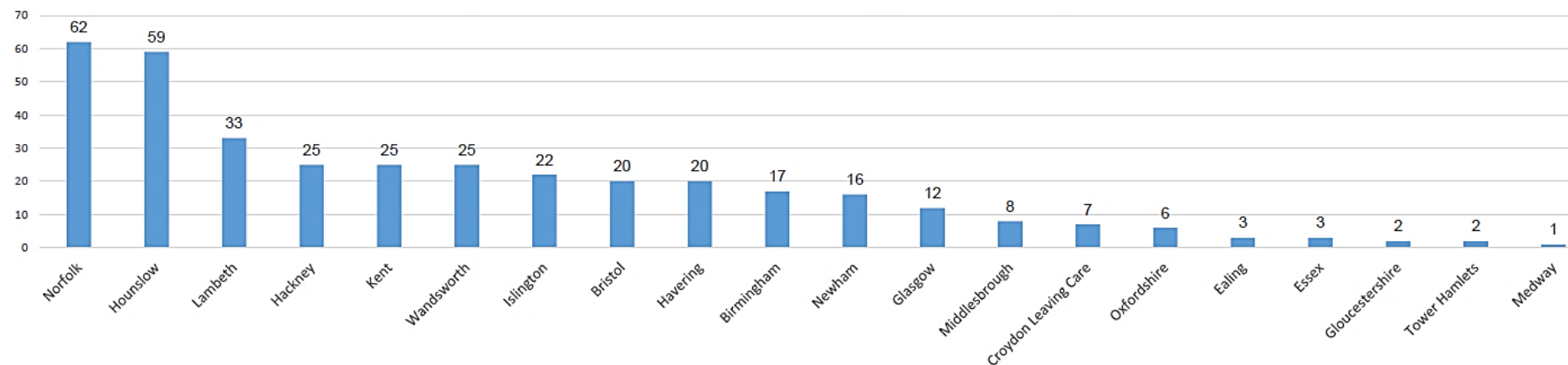


Total Number of Single Adults Cases Supported as at End of Q2 18/19 by Local Authority



When compared to family caseloads, it is expected that the overall number of single adult cases will be significantly lower on account of the higher threshold to engage the local authority 'safety-net'. A single adult must have an assessed care and support need - over and above destitution - in order to qualify for accommodation under governing legislation. Adult cases are particularly complex for local authorities to resolve.

Total Number of Leaving Care Cases financially supported as at End of Q2 18/19 by Local Authority



10 Awarding Grants

- 10.1 Legal advice has been sought to ensure the proper management of the funds discussed in this paper. The following approach was discussed with London Councils' solicitors and, based on the information provided – information about current Grants programme performance, Section 48 grant making powers, the examination of demand for immigration advice services for users with NRPF, consultation with partners through the mid-programme review, consultation with boroughs through the NRPF Network, the Modern Slavery Network, Borough Grants Officers and Grants Committee members - was confirmed as a reasonable and proportionate way forward (see also 'Legal advice for London Councils' below, which summarises the legal requirements of good decision-making by public authorities).
- 10.2 To ensure that additional provision of immigration advice services is locked into Priority 1 and Priority 2 activity, and to enable the swift release of funding, the grant agreements that are in place with existing Priority 1 and Priority 2 delivery partners can be renegotiated to include this additional provision.
- 10.3 Under the existing agreements, lead partners make sub-partner arrangements that include terms and financial agreements. London Councils will expect that arrangements made with lead partners will include further sub-partner arrangements with appropriately qualified organisations for the delivery of immigration advice services for users with NRPF.
- 10.4 Negotiations with lead partners will take account of the current size of delivery networks, the nature of the service provision already in place, and the type of immigration advice services that users are likely to need. For example, partners delivering services to users fleeing sexual and/or domestic violence are far more likely to need immigration advice that addresses complex issues. Consequently, there will not be a 'one size fits all' approach to the negotiations.
- 10.5 London Councils will also expect lead partners to work with each other to agree good referral pathways between immigration advice services, to ensure that the current problem of lack of higher-level advice (OISC Level 3 (and above) - conduct of specialist casework, preparation of cases at the First-tier and Upper Tribunal, representing clients before the First-tier and Upper Tribunal, instructing barristers or members of the Faculty of Advocates) can also be addressed for service users.

11 Recommendations

11.1 Grants Committee is recommended to:

- 11.1.1 agree that £1,019,000 Priority 3 underspend is used to increase Priority 1 and 2 grants for the sole purpose of increasing immigration advice for service users with No Recourse to Public Funds.
- 11.1.2 agree that the terms of the funding agreements with current Priority 1 and Priority 2 partners are re-negotiated to include the provision of immigration advice services, through appropriately qualified organisations, for users with No Recourse to Public Funds; these terms to be negotiated and agreed with the Director responsible for the Grants Programme
- 11.1.3 agree that the grant values agreed with current Priority 1 and Priority 2 partners are increased, where appropriate, and in line with renegotiated terms to enable the provision of immigration advice services to users with No Recourse to Public Funds; these grant values to be negotiated and agreed with the Director responsible for the Grants Programme.
- 11.1.4 to provide some oversight and scrutiny, agree that negotiated terms are discussed with the Chair and Vice Chairs of the Grants Committee prior to sign-off.

Financial Implications for London Councils

As detailed in the month 6 forecast report which is a separate item on this agenda, the Director of Corporate Resources reports that there is £1,019,000 of Borough contributions remaining following the completion of the Priority 3 programme. These funds are held in Committee reserves and are subject to a Member decision on their future application.

Legal Implications for London Councils

London Councils manages the London Councils Grants Programme on behalf of all the boroughs and the City of London. The Programme makes grants to voluntary organisations to deliver improved outcomes for Londoners.

The Programme operates within a scheme made under Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985. It is a collective scheme i.e. all the boroughs fund the Programme, through a levy contribution based on the boroughs proportion of the capital's population. Boroughs must exercise their functions in respect of the scheme 'with due regard to the needs of the whole of Greater London'.

Leaders' Committee determines the principles and priorities of the Programme and the overall budget of the Programme. The Grants Committee commissions services, makes awards of funding, manages projects' performance and may advise Leaders' Committee on the Programme.

The legal requirements of good decision-making by public authorities, in summary, require the following:

1. **Declaration of interests:** The principle being, a decision maker should not be a "judge in his own cause". Where a decision-maker has an interest in the subject of a decision he is making it is likely to preclude his participation in the decision where – the decision will affect a friend or relation, the decision-maker has a financial interest in its outcome, the decision-maker is a director of an organisation affected by the outcome of the decision, the decision-maker is a member of group campaigning for one outcome or another, the decision maker's spouse, civil partner or other close family member has an interest in the outcome. Although a close connection with the subject of the decision will automatically disqualify a person from making a decision, declaration of a less direct interest before a decision is made may permit them to take part. In the latter circumstances the person concerned and any colleagues participating in the decision-making process must decide whether the connection would lead a fair-minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility that the decision-maker would be biased if they took part. London Councils has policies and procedures to assist in managing these matters, with Members being required to comply with their own authority's Code of Conduct.
2. **Following correct procedure:** A decision-maker will often be required to follow a set procedure for making its decisions, whether set out in statute or set by the decision-maker itself. Any such procedures are usually drafted with the purposes of both ensuring the decision-maker takes into account all relevant considerations as well as ensuring procedural fairness for those affected by the decision. In taking decisions which engage consideration of specific duties, such as the equalities duties, any process must ensure that those duties are also met. In your case, this will ensure that you turn your mind to, and can evidence that you have had due regard to the public sector equality duty in taking the

decision. As you know this does not necessarily require a formal public consultation or EIA (but see below). Examples of prescribed procedures for decision-makers include express duties to: consult, give reasons for decisions, be informed of a right to appeal (if there is one), etc. NB: Whilst it is necessary for a public body making decisions to follow a set procedure that will not of itself render the procedure fair, and in certain circumstances it may also be appropriate/fair to depart from the published procedure.

3. **Consultation:** Public bodies are required by law to consult before making decisions, particularly in the context of making policies or issuing guidance. In some cases, there is an express duty to consult and a statutory process which must be followed. There is no express statutory requirement to consult under the Grants Scheme, although in having due regard to the needs of the whole of Greater London in making the scheme and exercising the relevant functions under section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985, and specifically in meeting the duty under subs 48(10) to keep the needs of the whole of Greater London under review, one must have regard to the general public law principles and requirements relating to consultation. There is published government guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>) and London Councils should have regard to this guidance
4. **Rational and evidence-based:** A public body must take rational decisions. An irrational or unreasonable decision is one that was not objectively rational and reasonably open to the decision-maker. Evidence-based decisions help to ensure that decisions are objectively reasonable.
5. **All relevant considerations:** A decision maker must ensure that it takes into account all relevant considerations in reaching a rational and evidence-based decision. The subject matter of the decision will inform what is relevant. EG: the proposal, response to consultation, guidance on parameters for decision, costs of decision, effects of the decision on others (including, for example, having due regard to the decision-makers' public sector equality duty), advice from officers, etc.
6. **Proper purpose:** A public body must act for a proper purpose and in taking their decisions decision-makers must apply their minds to the correct statutory objective. A public body must act in good faith.
7. **Proportionate:** Public decision-makers should act in a way that is proportionate. Proportionate decisions are also likely to be rational, evidence-based and reasonable.
8. **Properly reasoned:** Procedural requirements on public decision-makers require that reasons must be given for their decisions. Reasons do not need to be excessively detailed, but do need to be adequate. Adequate decisions – deal with all the substantial points that have been raised; are sufficient for the parties to know whether the decision-maker has made an error of law; set out and explain key aspects of the decision-maker's reasoning in coming to its conclusion; include all aspects of reasoning that were material to the decision; but do not need to set out in detail all the evidence and arguments referred to by the decision-maker. The reasons for decisions should be recorded at the time the decisions are made.
9. With reference to the above, the standard grounds for judicial review are on the basis that a decision: was unlawful/ultra vires; was irrational; or was procedurally unfair - in that the decision-maker has not properly observed the relevant procedures (whether set by statute or by itself) e.g. it has failed to consult or give reasons for its decision, or there has been a

failure to observe the principles of natural justice in the decision-making process e.g. evidence of bias.

Further, a public authority should also be careful not to raise a further ground of challenge if, through their own conduct or statements, they have established a legitimate expectation as to how the public body will act. A legitimate expectation may arise exceptionally in three cases – where the decision-maker has made a clear and unambiguous representation that it will adopt a particular form of procedure above and beyond that which it would otherwise been required to adopt; where the claimant has an interest in some ultimate benefit that it hopes to attain or retain fairness may require the claimant to be given an opportunity to make representations; and where the decision-maker has a substantive right on which it was reasonable for the claimant to rely. Public bodies may change their policies or depart from them (and so not fetter their discretion), and so a legitimate expectation will only arise if departure from the existing policies was an abuse of power.

Equalities Implications for London Councils

London Councils' funded services provide support to people within all the protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010), and targets groups highlighted as particularly hard to reach or more affected by the issues being tackled. Funded organisations are also required to submit equalities monitoring data, which can be collated across the grants scheme to provide data on the take up of services and gaps in provision to be addressed. The grants team reviews this data annually.

Background documents

Grants Committee Executive, 7 February 2019 Item 4 - ESF Match Funded Priority 3: Tackling Poverty Trough Employment

Grants Committee, 20 March 2019, Item 6 - Priority 3: Options for anticipated underspend

Grants Committee (AGM), 10 July 2019, Item 13 - Priority 3 Underspend: addressing issues related to No Recourse to Public Funds

Priority 1: Combatting Homelessness - Shelter, STAR Project

I came to the UK from Bangladesh on a student visa to study. My wife and two children (aged 3 and 4) joined me shortly after. When my student visa expired, I applied for a Family visa. This was rejected five times as I was unable to afford the fee to pay for the application to be submitted. I finally managed to borrow some money to do this, but it was rejected once more.

Whilst I was studying, I was working in Asda until my contract ended. Since then I have been relying on friends and family for financial support. We have had a very unsettled housing situation and frequently have had to move to different properties, relying on friends for help. We are now living in one room in a shared house and share a kitchen and bathroom with other people. My family and friends have been helping me pay the rent, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to rely on this. This summer, the landlord decided to not renew our tenancy and we are now facing eviction. We couldn't afford to find somewhere else to live and so our landlord has been harassing us continuously to encourage us to leave. He most recently has removed the front door to the property in an effort to get us out quicker. I have had to use the door to our room to replace the front door leaving my family and I without privacy.

Since getting help from Shelter things are getting better for my family and I. Shelter contacted the environmental health department at our council, and the private housing team about my landlord. They discovered that the landlord did not have the correct licence to rent the property as a housing in multiple occupation (HMO) and have been to inspect the property. They have said that they will take action against the landlord.

Most importantly, we are now at risk of homelessness and I am still having to borrow money from family and friends to afford rent and food. Shelter have helped me get assistance from the no recourse to public funds team at my council and children's services have said that they will help accommodate myself and my family when we finally are lawfully evicted and have to leave this property. In addition, they have helped me to get support from an organisation called RISE who help people in my situation find work and they have provided me with foodbank vouchers.

Shelter has also made sure that I am getting the proper immigration advice and have linked me in with a pro bono solicitor who has taken on my appeal against the Home Office.

Shelter is still working with my family and myself to help us through this situation.

Priority 2: Solace Women's Aid - Ascent Housing Project

I first called the Advice line with the help of my friend who speaks English, as my English is very limited. I called after I had just fled from my husband who had locked me in the house for three days with no food. I managed to leave by threatening to call the police, he then left the keys, and then I managed to make my escape.

I had suffered verbal, emotional, financial and physical abuse from him, and he was very controlling, not allowing me to learn English or work in my profession as an artist. After I fled, I was staying with a friend but had to leave due to overcrowding, I was then having to sleep outside in the park and on the night bus. I had support from an IDVA then I was referred to the Housing Project to work with a worker around housing support. I had previously approached several councils who found me not eligible for housing support due to having no recourse to public funds. I was also found to be not meeting the threshold for support from Adult Social Care, even though I am disabled and 62 years old. I was due to have a heart operation and an

operation on my arm and couldn't recover from the operations having nowhere to live. I was so sad to become homeless as previously I had worked for over 40 years as an art lecturer and artist, now the only place I had to stay was the streets.

When I was referred to the Housing Project, the worker set up an appointment with a solicitor who took on my case with legal aid. He suggested that I could make a homelessness application as I would be eligible as a self-employed EU National. The worker managed to secure the Ascent No Recourse Fund run by Southall Black Sisters for my accommodation and I was able to stay for 6 weeks in basic hotel accommodation with some subsistence paid for, so I no longer had to sleep on the night bus and in airports. Then the worker supported me to apply as homeless to the council, who accepted interim duty and housed me in a self-contained flat.

Grants Committee

Grants Programme 2021-25

Item: 9

Report by: Yolande Burgess **Job title:** Strategy Director
Date: 13 November 2019
Contact Officer: Yolande Burgess
Telephone: 020 7934 9739 **Email:** yolande.burgess@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary

The current Grants Programme is a four-year programme that is due to complete at the end of March 2021. The programme operates across three priority areas:

- Priority 1 - Combatting Homelessness
- Priority 2 - Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence
- Priority 3 - Tackling Poverty through Employment

Grants Committee members, in July 2019, supported the idea of a 2021-25 Grants Programme. Grants Committee agreed that the current principles remained fit for purpose and that a review of the programme should take account of the priorities - the Pledges to Londoners - that Leaders had already committed to.

This paper builds on discussions with Grants Committee members, and sets out a timeline of activities that will need to be achieved to develop and deliver a 2021-25 Grants Programme, including governance requirements to enable:

- Leaders' Committee to determine the principles and priorities of the Programme and the overall budget of the Programme
- Grants Committee to commission services, make awards of funding, manage projects' performance and advise Leaders' Committee on the Programme.

For consideration

Grants Committee is asked to:

- agree that a 2021-2025 Grants programme is established based broadly on the current programme Priorities and level of funding, subject to consultation, and final approval of Leaders' Committee
- consider, contribute to and agree the consultation questions (Annex 2) that will be used with stakeholders to inform the 2021-2025 programme

- agree that the consultation is used to better understand whether Priority 3 should be refocussed on youth poverty
- agree to propose to Leaders' Committee that reserves be used flexibly as a response fund throughout the 2021-2025 programme and agree any additional principles that should be applied to a response fund (section 3)
- agree the timetable of activity proposed to establish a 2021-2025 Grants programme (section 4).

Grants Programme 2021-25

1 Background

- 1.1 London Councils manages the London Councils Grants Programme on behalf of all the boroughs and the City of London. The Programme makes grants to voluntary organisations to deliver improved outcomes for Londoners.
- 1.2 The Programme operates within a scheme made under Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985. It is a collective scheme i.e. all the boroughs fund the Programme, through a levy contribution based on the boroughs proportion of the capital's population. Boroughs must exercise their functions in respect of the scheme 'with due regard to the needs of the whole of Greater London'.
- 1.3 Leaders' Committee determines the principles and priorities of the Programme and the overall budget of the Programme. The Grants Committee commissions services, makes awards of funding, manages projects' performance and may advise Leaders' Committee on the Programme.
- 1.4 The principles under which the Programme operates are:
 - 1.4.1 Commissioning services that deliver effectively and can meet the outcomes specified by London Councils, rather than funding organisations
 - 1.4.2 Commissioning services where there is clear evidence of need for services that complement borough and other services to support organisations that deliver services
 - 1.4.3 Commissioning services where it is economical and efficient to deliver services on a London wide basis or where mobility is key to delivery of a service to secure personal safety
 - 1.4.4 Commissioning services that cannot reasonably be delivered locally, at a borough or sub-regional level
 - 1.4.5 Commissioning services that work with statutory and non-statutory partners and contribute to meeting the objectives of the Equality Act 2010.
- 1.5 Grants Committee, at its 2019 AGM, did not propose any amendments to the principles.
- 1.6 The Programme priorities were agreed by Leaders in 2016 following an extensive review of the Grants Programme in 2015, which included a wide-ranging public consultation. The current Programme priorities are:
 - 1.6.1 Priority 1 - Combatting Homelessness
 - 1.6.2 Priority 2 - Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence

1.6.3 Priority 3 - Tackling Poverty through Employment

2 Establishing Priorities and agreeing a course of action

- 2.1 As noted in paragraph 1.6, an extensive public consultation in 2015 reconfirmed that tackling homelessness, combatting sexual and domestic violence and addressing poverty, should remain priorities for the Programme. These priorities were then formally agreed by Leaders' Committee.
- 2.2 London Councils' Leaders' Committee has published a series of Pledges to Londoners¹, which the Leaders and Mayors of all 32 London boroughs and the City of London have jointly agreed to work together to deliver. Spread across seven policy areas, the Pledges represent a comprehensive set of plans for joint action that will improve life for Londoners by 2022. The themes and pledges are connected by the common thread of how local borough leadership integrates public services to deliver against the big challenges facing communities across London.
- 2.3 There are 46 specific pledges to all Londoners, across seven key policy areas:
- 2.3.1 housing
 - 2.3.2 better health and care
 - 2.3.3 supporting business and inclusive growth
 - 2.3.4 crime and public protection
 - 2.3.5 transport and the environment
 - 2.3.6 funding London
 - 2.3.7 new ways of working.
- 2.4 Housing, crime & public protection, and supporting business & inclusive growth demonstrate a continued commitment to the current Grants Programme priorities.
- 2.5 At Grants Committee AGM, Committee members were supportive of continuing with priorities that focussed on tackling homelessness and addressing sexual and domestic violence.
- 2.6 Grants Committee members accepted that a targeted, focused review of the service areas for Priority 1 and 2 - with Grants Committee members, borough officers and appropriate stakeholders - would be an efficient and effective way to undertake the

¹ <https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/who-we-are/pledges-londoners>

review of the current Grants programme, taking into account the much-reduced resources at the disposal of the boroughs and London Councils.

- 2.7 In September 2019, Grants Committee Executive discussed further options for Priority 3. Whilst tackling poverty remains a priority, Grants Committee had already decided not to pursue further general employment projects in the current programme as the wider welfare landscape had changed significantly over the past few years and most (if not all) boroughs have their own local programmes of activity. This is unlikely to change in the short to medium term.
- 2.8 In response to issues surrounding youth violence, Priority 3 could be re-focussed to specifically tackle youth poverty.
- 2.9 Research from the Child Poverty Action Group shows:
 - 2.9.1 there were 4.1 million children living in poverty (after housing costs) in the UK in 2017-18 - 30 per cent of all children
 - 2.9.2 London has the highest rate of child poverty of any English region
 - 2.9.3 there are 700,000 children - or 37 per cent of all children in London - living in relative poverty after taking housing costs into account
 - 2.9.4 while poverty rates are higher for everyone in London than nationally, this gap is larger for children than for any other group
 - 2.9.5 43 per cent of children in inner London and 34 per cent of children in outer London are living in relative poverty, after taking housing costs into account.
 - 2.9.6 two thirds of children living in poverty in the UK are in working households (or where at least one adult is in work).
- 2.10 In terms of impact:
 - 2.10.1 children who have lived in persistent poverty during their first seven years have cognitive development scores on average 20 per cent below those of children who have never experienced poverty
 - 2.10.2 gifted children from the most deprived families begin school on a par with gifted children facing least deprivation, but their performance falls away by the age of 16.
- 2.11 Department for Education statistics show that:
 - 2.11.1 young people living in the 25 per cent most deprived areas, have a higher prevalence of not engaging in education, employment or training (NEET) at age 15 when compared to the national average
 - 2.11.2 in 2018, 40 per cent of pupils receiving free school meals obtained a grade 4/C or above in English and maths GCSEs, compared with 68 percent of all other pupils
- 2.12 16 to 18-year-olds who are NEET are often left outside the scope of traditional youth programmes as they are usually too young for job brokerage programmes and lack the skills needed for apprenticeships.

- 2.13 It is recommended that consultation with boroughs and stakeholders is used to determine whether refocusing Priority 3 on youth poverty would meet borough needs at a pan-London level.

3 Responsive Funding

- 3.1 A sustained four-year grant period was agreed as positive by Grants Committee, particularly in the current financial climate, as this helps to maintain support for very vulnerable residents and the boroughs and can leverage in other funds.
- 3.2 However, Grants Committee would like the ability to respond to changing needs in London during a four-year programme cycle. This could be achieved through use of reserves.
- 3.3 A response fund would need to operate within the agreed Priorities set by Leaders' Committee. Outside of this, Grants Committee determines the services it wishes to fund and the award of grants
- 3.4 Additional principles (in addition to those stated at paragraph 1.4) that may support a response fund could include:
- 3.4.1 response funds to be made available to (for example):
 - 3.4.1.1 meet identified short-term needs only (e.g. in response to a specific event or emergency)
 - 3.4.1.2 undertake pilots and test/trials to develop strategies for, and inform services for London residents
 - 3.4.1.3 undertake research to better inform the Grants Programme
 - 3.4.2 response funds to be made available through open calls for proposals (this may have resource implication for the Grants team, depending on how often this might occur) AND/OR through existing grants recipients.

4 Timetable of action

- 4.1 The following timeline is based on the supposition that the high-level Priorities remain the same, but the detail of how they will be delivered will adapt in response to consultation findings.

Date	Activity
July 2019	Grants Committee (AGM) - Consider report on developing a 2021-25 Grants Programme
Sept 2019	Grants Executive Committee Meeting - Consider and shape report on proposed approach
Sept 2019	London Councils - Strategy Director takes legal advice regarding consultation and developing a new programme
Nov 2019	Grants Committee - Consider consultation questions for boroughs and stakeholders - Recommend to Leader's Committee a 2021-25 Programme
From Nov 2019 to Jan 2020	London Councils - Consultation launched - Research of external context (policy, need, current borough provision) - Equalities impact assessment completed
Dec 2019	Leaders' Committee - Consider Grant Committees' recommendations for 2021-25 programme
Jan-Mar 2020	London Councils - Develop specifications with borough officers and stakeholders
Feb 2020	Grants Executive Committee - Consider draft specifications
Mar 2020	Grants Committee Meeting - Consider draft specifications
Apr-Jul 2020	London Councils - Finalise specifications
July 2020	Grants Committee (AGM) - Agree specifications
Aug 2020 to Oct 2020	London Councils - Undertake open and competitive process to award grants for 2012-2025
Nov 2020	Grants Committee Meeting - Agree awards and recommend budget to Leaders' Committee
Dec 2020	Leaders' Committee - Agree budgets
March 2021	Grants Committee Meeting
April 2021	New projects start

5 Recommendations

5.1 Grants Committee is asked to:

- 5.1.1 agree that a 2021-2025 Grants programme is established based broadly on the current programme Priorities and level of funding, subject to consultation, and final approval of Leaders' Committee
- 5.1.2 consider, contribute to and agree the consultation questions (Annex 2) that will be used with stakeholders to inform the 2021-2025 programme
- 5.1.3 agree that the consultation is used to better understand whether Priority 3 should be refocussed on youth poverty
- 5.1.4 agree to propose to Leaders' Committee that reserves be used flexibly as a response fund throughout the 2021-2025 programme and agree any additional principles that should be applied to a response fund (section 3)
- 5.1.5 agree the timetable of activity proposed to establish a 2021-2025 Grants programme (section 4).

Financial Implications for London Councils

A decision on the funding for any future programme will need to be agreed by Leaders' Committee.

Legal Implications for London Councils

London Councils manages the London Councils Grants Programme on behalf of all the boroughs and the City of London. The Programme makes grants to voluntary organisations to deliver improved outcomes for Londoners.

The Programme operates within a scheme made under Section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985. It is a collective scheme i.e. all the boroughs fund the Programme, through a levy contribution based on the boroughs proportion of the capital's population. Boroughs must exercise their functions in respect of the scheme 'with due regard to the needs of the whole of Greater London'.

Leaders' Committee determines the principles and priorities of the Programme and the overall budget of the Programme. The Grants Committee commissions services, makes awards of funding, manages projects' performance and may advise Leaders' Committee on the Programme.

The legal requirements of good decision-making by public authorities, in summary, require the following:

1. **Declaration of interests:** The principle being, a decision maker should not be a “judge in his own cause”. Where a decision-maker has an interest in the subject of a decision he is making it is likely to preclude his participation in the decision where – the decision will affect a friend or relation, the decision-maker has a financial interest in its outcome, the decision-maker is a director of an organisation affected by the outcome of the decision, the decision-maker is a member of group campaigning for one outcome or another, the decision maker’s spouse, civil partner or other close family member has an interest in the outcome. Although a close connection with the subject of the decision will automatically disqualify a person from making a decision, declaration of a less direct interest before a decision is made may permit them to take part. In the latter circumstances the person concerned and any colleagues participating in the decision-making process must decide whether the connection would lead a fair-minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility that the decision-maker would be biased if they took part. London Councils has policies and procedures to assist in managing these matters, with Members being required to comply with their own authority’s Code of Conduct.
2. **Following correct procedure:** A decision-maker will often be required to follow a set procedure for making its decisions, whether set out in statute or set by the decision-maker itself. Any such procedures are usually drafted with the purposes of both ensuring the decision-maker takes into account all relevant considerations as well as ensuring procedural fairness for those affected by the decision. In taking decisions which engage consideration of specific duties, such as the equalities duties, any process must ensure that those duties are also met. In your case, this will ensure that you turn your mind to, and can evidence that you have had due regard to the public sector equality duty in taking the decision. As you know this does not necessarily require a formal public consultation or EIA (but see below). Examples of prescribed procedures for decision-makers include express duties to: consult, give reasons for decisions, be informed of a right to appeal (if there is one), etc. NB: Whilst it is necessary for a public body making decisions to follow a set procedure that will not of itself render the procedure fair, and in certain circumstances it may also be appropriate/fair to depart from the published procedure.
3. **Consultation:** Public bodies are required by law to consult before making decisions, particularly in the context of making policies or issuing guidance. In some cases, there is an express duty to consult and a statutory process which must be followed. There is no express statutory requirement to consult under the Grants Scheme, although in having due regard to the needs of the whole of Greater London in making the scheme and exercising the relevant functions under section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985, and specifically in meeting the duty under subs 48(10) to keep the needs of the whole of Greater London under review, one must have regard to the general public law principles and requirements relating to consultation. There is published government guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultation-principles-guidance>) and London Councils should have regard to this guidance

In summary: a public authority has a wide discretion in choosing the options upon which to consult; consultation may be an iterative process; consultation must be lawful (and therefore fair), and such consultation must also be adequate; consultation should be proportionate to the potential impact of the proposal or decision being taken; it should be undertaken at a formative stage in developing the proposals; the timeframe for any consultation should be proportionate and realistic to allow stakeholders an adequate time

to consider and respond; the information provided as part of the consultation should be useful and accessible, the objectives of the consultation clear, and the public authority must give sufficient reasons for any proposals being consulted upon to allow for intelligent consideration and response; those consulted should be aware of the criteria that will be applied by the public authority when considering proposals and which factors will be considered decisive or of substantial importance at the end of the process of consultation, such as in evaluating the consultation responses or in taking the decisions informed by the consultation; consultation need not be formal and in writing, and there are a number of ways of engaging with stakeholders which may be appropriate e.g. by email or web-based forums, public meetings, working groups, focus groups and surveys; etc.

If a public authority has promised it will engage in consultation before making a decision it would normally be unfair not to do so. Public bodies should be mindful of any public statements/guidance that may have issued promising consultation e.g. where decisions engage equalities issues. Past practice may imply a promise to consult again on the same type of decision - fairness generally requiring that the practice of consultation is continued. Even if there is no promise or past practice of consultation, the nature and impact of the decision may mean that fairness requires it.

Measures of the severity of a decision's impact include - the extent to which it unexpectedly alters the existing position or legitimate expectations of the affected individuals/groups; or the severity of consequences of the decision on the affected individuals/groups; etc. The product of the consultation must be conscientiously taken into account in finalising proposals.

4. **Rational and evidence-based:** A public body must take rational decisions. An irrational or unreasonable decision is one that was not objectively rational and reasonably open to the decision-maker. Evidence-based decisions help to ensure that decisions are objectively reasonable.
5. **All relevant considerations:** A decision maker must ensure that it takes into account all relevant considerations in reaching a rational and evidence-based decision. The subject matter of the decision will inform what is relevant. EG: the proposal, response to consultation, guidance on parameters for decision, costs of decision, effects of the decision on others (including, for example, having due regard to the decision-makers' public sector equality duty), advice from officers, etc.
6. **Proper purpose:** A public body must act for a proper purpose and in taking their decisions decision-makers must apply their minds to the correct statutory objective. A public body must act in good faith.
7. **Proportionate:** Public decision-makers should act in a way that is proportionate. Proportionate decisions are also likely to be rational, evidence-based and reasonable.
8. **Properly reasoned:** Procedural requirements on public decision-makers require that reasons must be given for their decisions. Reasons do not need to be excessively detailed, but do need to be adequate. Adequate decisions – deal with all the substantial points that have been raised; are sufficient for the parties to know whether the decision-maker has made an error of law; set out and explain key aspects of the decision-maker's reasoning in coming to its conclusion; include all aspects of reasoning that were material to the decision;

but do not need to set out in detail all the evidence and arguments referred to by the decision-maker. The reasons for decisions should be recorded at the time the decisions are made.

9. With reference to the above, the standard grounds for judicial review are on the basis that a decision: was unlawful/*ultra vires*; was irrational; or was procedurally unfair - in that the decision-maker has not properly observed the relevant procedures (whether set by statute or by itself) e.g. it has failed to consult or give reasons for its decision, or there has been a failure to observe the principles of natural justice in the decision-making process e.g. evidence of bias.

Further, a public authority should also be careful not to raise a further ground of challenge if, through their own conduct or statements, they have established a legitimate expectation as to how the public body will act. A legitimate expectation may arise exceptionally in three cases – where the decision-maker has made a clear and unambiguous representation that it will adopt a particular form of procedure above and beyond that which it would otherwise been required to adopt; where the claimant has an interest in some ultimate benefit that it hopes to attain or retain fairness may require the claimant to be given an opportunity to make representations; and where the decision-maker has a substantive right on which it was reasonable for the claimant to rely. Public bodies may change their policies or depart from them (and so not fetter their discretion), and so a legitimate expectation will only arise if departure from the existing policies was an abuse of power.

Equalities Implications for London Councils

In reaching decisions for the implementation of any future grants programme, the Committee is required to have due regard to its obligations under the Equalities Act 2010, particularly the Public Sector Equalities Duty.

London Councils' funded services provide support to people within all the protected characteristics (Equality Act 2010), and targets groups highlighted as particularly hard to reach or more affected by the issues being tackled. Funded organisations are also required to submit equalities monitoring data, which can be collated across the grants scheme to provide data on the take up of services and gaps in provision to be addressed. The grants team reviews this data annually.

Background Documents

Grants Committee (AGM), 10 July 2019, Item 14 - Grants Programme 2021-25 (G10/19)

This consultation exercise will help London Councils shape recommendations to Leader' and Grants Committee on a future grants programme, from April 2021 to March 2025.

This consultation will also inform an Equalities Impact Assessment. The Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to tackle disadvantage and discriminationⁱ. London Councils must consider the potential equalities effects of decisions on the nine protected equalities groups (protected characteristics):

- Age (including both children, young persons and those over 50)
- Disability
- Gender reassignment
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and maternity
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Sexual Orientation

Equalities considerations are central to London Councils' grants programme and underpin the priorities, which focus on creating opportunities for all Londoners and addressing inequality.

An outline of the current programme is provided at Annex x.

The timetable for this consultation is as follows: *(dates to be confirmed)*

- Launch of consultation:
- Close of consultation:
- Evaluation of the consultation responses:
- Initial equalities impact assessment:
- Recommendations to Grants Committee and the Leaders' Committee on future programme:
- Advise Grants Committee on activities within any new priorities and the service specifications needed to secure delivery:
- Invite proposals to deliver services that are set out in the specifications:
- Assess proposals for services based on new service specifications, subject to agreement of resources and recommendations to members:
- New services to start:

Priorities for a pan-London Grants Programme 2021-2025

The current Grants Programme priorities are:

- Combatting Homelessness
- Tackling sexual and domestic violence
- Tackling poverty through employment

We would like to ask you for your views on each of the current London Councils priority areas in more detail. When responding to the questions, please consider:

- current and emerging needs of London's residents
- provision and services that boroughs already provide
- the context that local government is working in e.g. financial pressures, changes in legislation, unique London factors

An outline of the grants programme and priorities is provided in **Annex x**.

Combating Homelessness

A range of services support the prevention of homelessness, and support people (including young people) who are homeless due to, for example, low income, unemployment, a history of offending, drug or alcohol misuse, mental ill-health and fleeing from violence.

Q-. How important would a pan-London programme aimed at combatting homelessness from April 2021 be in terms of meeting the needs of London's residents and supporting and complementing the services that boroughs currently provide?

Very Important	
Important	
Quite Important	
Not important	

Q-. If you think that it is very important, important or quite important, should the funding continue to focus on the following strands of activity?

	Yes	No	Comment
Early intervention and prevention			
Youth homelessness			
Support services to homelessness voluntary sector organisations			

Q-. Are there other activities that a pan-London programme designed to combat homelessness should focus on? Where possible, please provide some evidence (e.g. a link to a research report, finding from a project) for your recommendation(s)

--

Q-. What impact do you think a pan-London homelessness programme would have for people with the following characteristics?

	Positive	None	Negative
Age			
Disability			
Gender identity			
Pregnancy and maternity			
Race			
Religion or belief			
Sex			
Sexual Orientation			

Q-. Please tell us in what way you consider that a focus on homelessness impacts on people with specific characteristics.

--

Tackling Sexual and Domestic Violence

A range of services support victims of sexual and domestic violence. Additionally education sessions are delivered to young people about the importance of healthy relationships and sessions for frontline workers are run across London to help them identify the signs of abuse and refer people for support.

Q-. How important would a pan-London programme aimed at tackling sexual and domestic violence from April 2021 be in terms of meeting the needs of London's residents and supporting and complementing the services that boroughs currently provide?

Very Important	
Important	
Quite Important	
Not important	

Q-. If you think that it is very important, important or quite important, should the funding continue to focus on the following strands of activity?

	Yes	No	Comment
Prevention			
Advice, counselling, outreach, drop-in			
Helpline and coordinated access to refuge provision			
Specialist emergency refuge provision			
Support services for VCOs			
Ending harmful practices			

Q-. Are there other activities that a pan-London programme designed to tackle sexual and domestic violence should focus on? Where possible, please provide some evidence (e.g. a link to a research report, finding from a project) for your recommendation(s)

--

Q-. What impact do you think a pan-London tackling sexual and domestic violence programme would have for people with the following characteristics?

	Positive	None	Negative
Age			
Disability			
Gender identity			
Pregnancy and maternity			
Race			
Religion or belief			
Sex			
Sexual Orientation			

Q-. Please tell us in what way you consider that a focus on tackling sexual and domestic violence impacts on people with specific characteristics.

Tackling Poverty

A programme focussed on tackling youth poverty could aim to address social and economic issues, including lack of opportunities, and poor educational achievement and long-term unemployment.

Q-. How important would a pan-London programme aimed at tackling youth poverty from April 2021 be in terms of meeting the needs of London's residents and supporting and complementing the services that boroughs currently provide?

Very Important	
Important	
Quite Important	
Not important	

Q-. If you think that it is very important, important or quite important, what strands of activity should the funding focus on? Where possible, please provide some evidence (e.g. a link to a research report, finding from a project) for your recommendation(s)

--

Q-. Are there other activities that a pan-London programme designed to tackle sexual and domestic violence should focus on?

--

Q-. What impact do you think a pan-London tackling youth poverty programme would have for people with the following characteristics?

	Positive	None	Negative
Age			
Disability			
Gender identity			
Pregnancy and maternity			
Race			
Religion or belief			
Sex			
Sexual Orientation			

Q-. Please tell us in what way you consider that a focus on tackling youth poverty impacts on people with specific characteristics.

--

Other priorities

Q-. Please tell us about other issues that you believe should be considered as a priority for pan-London Grant funding. Please take account of London's Leaders' Pledges to Londoner's when considering other possible priorities. For any new priority you propose, please explain why you believe this is important, highlight the unmet needs of London residents and note gaps in local

Other potential priority	
Why this is important	
Unmet needs of London residents	
Gaps in local provision	

Equality Implications

Q-. London Councils has worked to identify the groups which currently benefit from each priority area within its grants programme, in order to assess the equality implications of any changes to the programme. Do you agree with our summary of the groups which currently benefit from each priority area within the grants programme? See Annex x.

Yes	
No	

Q-. If you have answered 'No', please tell us why do you not agree with our summary of the groups which currently benefit from each priority area?

--

Q-. The current programme meets the needs of protected groups. If a 2021-2025 programme did not go ahead, what impact do you think this would have with respect to any of the following characteristics?

	Positive	None	Negative
Age			
Disability			
Gender reassignment			
Marriage and Civil Partnership			
Pregnancy and maternity			
Race			
Religion or belief			
Sex			
Sexual Orientation			

Q-. Please tell us in what way you consider that a pan-London programme not going ahead impacts on people with specific characteristics.

--

Q-. Considering the groups that currently benefit from each priority area of the grants programme, please comment on how changing any of the priorities would impact on equalities, with reference to the following characteristics.

	Comment
Age	
Disability	
Gender reassignment	
Marriage/Civil Partnership	
Pregnancy and maternity	
Race	
Religion or belief	
Sex	
Sexual Orientation	

Other comments

Q-. Do you have any other comments on a future London Councils grants programme?

--

About you (optional)

All of the following questions are optional:

Q-. Contact information

Name	
Email address	

Q-. Please tell us about your role and responsibilities (tick all that apply):

An elected member/councillor	
Employed in local government	
Employed by a funder	
A management member of a voluntary organisation	
Employed by a voluntary organisation	
A volunteer in a voluntary organisation	
A member of another group (eg, government department)	
A user of a service provided by a voluntary organisation	
Other -	

Q-. Is this response:

Your personal view?	
The view of your organisation/body?	

Q-. If you are responding as an individual, please tell us which borough you live in.

DROP DOWN

Q-. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please tell us the name of the organisation.

--

Q-. Please tell us about the type of organisation you are responding on behalf of.

Local or Central Government	
Funder	
Voluntary or community organisation	
Other (please specify)	

Q-. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, in which borough does your organisation operate (pick all that apply)?

MULTI DROP-DOWN

Equalities monitoring (voluntary)

We would be grateful if you would take a few more minutes to help us with our equalities monitoring. The information we are asking you for is confidential and is used to ensure the consultation has reached, and been responded to, by a broad section of the London family.

If you are responding as an individual, please answer for yourself. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please respond in a way that best represents the organisation (for example, if you are aged 35 but work for an organisation representing older people please tick 65+).

Q-. Ethnicity

Asian Bangladeshi	
Asian British	
Asian Indian	
Asian Pakistani	
Asian Other	
Black African	
Black British	
Black Caribbean	
Black Other	
Chinese	
Latin American	
Middle Eastern	
Mixed Ethnicity	
White British	
White Irish	
White European	
White Other	
Prefer not to say	

Q-. Do you have a disability?

Yes	
No	

Q-. If you consider yourself to have a disability, please tick all that apply:

Blind or visual impairment	
Deaf or hearing impairment	
Learning difficulties	
Poor mental health	
Limited mobility	
Other disability	

Q-. Your gender

Female	
Male	
Transgender	
Other	
Prefer not to say	

Q-. Your sexuality

Bisexual	
Gay man	
Heterosexual	
Lesbian	
Other	
Prefer not to say	

Q-. Religion/belief

Agnostic	
Atheist	
Baha'i	
Buddhist	
Christian	
Hindu	
Humanist	
Jain	
Jewish	
Muslim	
Rastafarian	
Sikh	
Zoroastrian	
None	
Other	

Q-. Age

Under 16	
16-17	
18-24	
25-34	
35-44	
45-54	
55-64	
65+	

Q-. Are you -

Married	
In a civil partnership	
Living with a partner	
Single	
Other	

ⁱ Equality Act 2010 and <https://www.gov.uk/equality-act-2010-guidance>

London Councils Grants Committee

London Councils Grants Scheme - Item no: 10 Budget Proposals 2020/21

Report by: Frank Smith **Job title:** Director of Corporate Resources
Date: 13 November 2019
Contact Officer: Frank Smith
Telephone: 020 7934 9700 **Email:** Frank.smith@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Summary	This report considers the proposed budget for the Grants Scheme for 2020/21 and makes a recommendation to the Committee on the appropriate level to recommend to constituent councils for approval, subject to the agreement of the overall budget by Leaders' Committee.
Recommendations	<p>Subject to the agreement of London Councils Leaders' Committee on 3 December 2019, that the Grants Committee agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• an overall level of expenditure of £6.668 million for the Grants Scheme in 2020/21;• borough contributions for 2020/21 to fully cover the scheme should be £6.668 million;• that further to the recommendations above, constituent councils be informed of the Committee's recommendation and be reminded that further to the Order issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 48 (4A) of the Local Government Act 1985, if the constituent councils have not reached agreement by the two-thirds majority specified before 1 February 2020 they shall be deemed to have approved expenditure of an amount equal to the amount approved for the preceding financial year (i.e. £6.909 million);• that constituent councils be advised that the apportionment of contributions for 2020/21 will be based on the ONS mid-year population estimates for June 2018;• that subject to the approval of an overall level of expenditure, the Committee agrees to set aside a provision of £435,000 for costs incurred by London Councils in providing staff and other support services to ensure delivery of the Committee's "making of grants" responsibilities; and• that a decision on options over the level of reserves going forward should be deferred until the meeting of the Executive Committee in February 2020, with proposals being brought back to a later meeting of this Committee for approval.

London Councils Grants Scheme - Budget Proposals 2020/21

Introduction

1. This report details the indicative overall budget requirement for the London Boroughs Grants Scheme for 2020/21 of £6.668 million, a reduction of £241,000 on the total programme of £6.909 million for 2019/20, comprising:
 - The cost of borough pan-London commissioned services of £6.668 million, covering priorities 1 and 2 plus the cost of administering the scheme, equating to £435,000 or 6.5% (4% excluding central recharges of £159,000) of the proposed programme. This sum includes of the membership subscriptions for boroughs for London Funders of £60,000; and
 - A reduction of £241,000 in expenditure following the completion of the ESF programme which ended in June 2019. In the 2019/20 budget this included £139,000 administration costs, offset by ESF grant of £58,000, and a drawdown of £183,000 from accumulated reserves.
2. The proposed total expenditure budget of £6.668 million will be fully funded by borough contributions of £6.668 million.
3. The Committee will need to reach a view on both the appropriate overall level of expenditure and to recommend the budget to constituent Councils, subject to approval of the overall budget by the Leaders' Committee on 3 December 2019.
4. The financial year 2020/21 represents the final year of the four-year programme of commissions provided by the Grants Committee under S.48 of the Local Government Act 1985, as recommended by the Grants Committee and approved by the Leaders' Committee in March 2016.

Approval of Expenditure

5. The statutory basis of the Grants Scheme is Section 48, Local Government Act 1985. Constituent councils agreed to some changes to the operation of the Scheme as part of the establishment of the new ALG on 1 April 2000: these changes mean that the budget for the London Councils Grants Scheme must be approved by the London Councils Leaders' Committee. This will need to happen before any budget that is recommended to constituent councils by the Grants Committee can be formally referred to them as a basis for consideration in their respective councils.
6. The recommendations of the Grants Committee will be reported to Leaders' Committee, which will be considering the budget for the London Councils Grants Scheme for 2020/21 at its meeting on 3 December 2019. If Leaders do not accept the recommendations of the Grants Committee, and instead agree to recommend a different budget figure to Boroughs, the Grants Committee will need to meet urgently to consider the implications for the Grants programme.
7. Section 48(3) of the Local Government Act 1985 requires that at least two-thirds of the constituent councils in Greater London must approve the proposed overall level of expenditure on grants to voluntary organisations and other costs incurred in "the making of grants". This is not a decision that can be delegated to the Grants Committee although that Committee is able to make decisions with regard to allocation of that expenditure once overall expenditure has been approved. This means that when the Committee decides on an overall level of expenditure, subject to the agreement of the Leaders' Committee, it will recommend it to the London Boroughs and the Cities of London and Westminster and at least 22 of them must agree through their respective decision-making arrangements to ratify and give effect to that overall level of expenditure. Once 22 councils have given their approval, the overall level of expenditure and contributions to it are binding on all constituent councils.

Timing of Decisions

8. The Committee needs to make its recommendation in good time so that constituent councils are able to consider the budget proposal within their own decision-making arrangements and make a response within the timescales laid down for the Scheme. The Scheme approved by the boroughs provides that constituent councils shall be asked to agree to the Committee's recommended level of overall expenditure not later than the third Friday in January, in this case 17 January 2020. All constituent councils will have received copies of this report and will be informed of the Committee's recommendation as to overall expenditure for next year, once the decision has been taken.
9. The City of London Corporation has been the Designated Council for the Scheme since 1 February 2004. Bearing in mind the issues raised above, it is essential for the Committee make a recommendation today, to provide sufficient time for constituent councils to consider the matter before the 1 February deadline, and enable the City of London Corporation to approve the levy on constituent councils by the deadline of 15 February 2020.
10. In the event that constituent councils are unable to reach agreement by the two-thirds majority required on an overall level of expenditure before 1 February 2020 the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government has powers to intervene and set the budget at the same level as the preceding year. Section 105 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 inserted a new sub-section (4A) into section 48 of the Local Government Act 1985 which states that:

"4A. The Secretary of State may by order provide that if -

- *a scheme requires the total expenditure to be incurred under the scheme in any financial year _*
 - *in the making of grants; and*
 - *in the discharging by the designated council of its functions under the scheme, to be approved in accordance with the scheme by some or all of the constituent councils; and*

- *the total expenditure to be incurred in any financial year is not approved as required by the scheme before such date as may be specified in relation to that financial year in the order, the constituent councils shall be deemed, subject to any order which has been or may be made under subsection (5) below, all to have given their approval for that financial year to total expenditure of an amount equal to the amount that was approved or, as the case may be, deemed to have been approved for the preceding financial year".*

Contributions by constituent councils

11. Section 48(3) of the 1985 Act provides that the amount of contributions to the London Councils Grants Scheme shall be determined so that expenditure is borne by constituent councils in proportion to the population of their respective areas. Section 48(4) of the 1985 Act states that the population of any area shall be the number estimated by the Registrar-General and certified by him to the Secretary of State.
12. Under The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992, arrangements made under section 48 of the 1985 Act (and also section 88) use total resident population as the means of apportionment and it is no longer necessary for the Registrar General to certify the estimates. The Regulations came into force on 11 December 1992. Regulation 6(8) is of particular importance, stating that:

"A levying body shall secure that the expenses to be met by levies issued by it under these Regulations by reference to the relevant precepting power conferred by section 48 or 88 of the Local Government Act 1985 are borne by the relevant authorities in a proportion calculated by reference to the total resident population of the area of each relevant authority on 30th June in the financial year beginning two years before the beginning of the financial year in respect of which the levy is issued, as estimated by the Registrar General."

13. The Designated Council is defined as a levying body further to Sections 74 and 117 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, which means that the levy will have to be approved formally at a meeting of the Court of Common Council of the Designated Council before the payment requests are sent to constituent councils. The Court of Common Council will consider this matter before the deadline of 15 February 2020. The Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992 then require the approved levy to be sent out to constituent councils by 15 February in any year. The term levy refers both to the total contributions from constituent councils and to the apportionment of that total between them.

Summary Timetable

14. To summarise, the timetable for the approval of the budget for 2020/21 is expected to be as follows:

Date	Action
13 November 2019	Grants Committee considers proposed budget and borough contributions for 2020/21 detailed in this report and makes recommendations to Constituent Councils, subject to approval of Leaders' Committee
3 December 2019	Leaders' Committee is asked to approve the level of budget and borough contributions for 2020/21, as recommended by the Grants Committee on 13 November
4-6 December 2019	Constituent Councils formally notified of the approved level of budget and borough contributions for 2020/21
09 December 2019 – 31 January 2020	Constituent Councils to individually ratify the overall level of expenditure for 2020/21 through their respective decision-making arrangements
1-15 February 2020	The City of London Corporation, as the Designated Councils for the Grants Scheme, approves the levy for 2020/21 on Constituent Councils
15 February 2020	Constituent Councils informed of level of approved expenditure and borough contributions for 2020/21

Budget Proposal for 2020/21

15. Appendix A to this report sets out detailed information relating to the proposed budget for 2020/21. The budget assumes:

- A core, pan-London scheme of services to meet agreed service priorities 1 and 2 of £6.233 million, which includes the membership subscriptions for boroughs for London Funders of £60,000;
- Therefore, an indicative gross commissioning budget of £6.233 million, a reduction of £102,000 on the equivalent figure for the current year. This relates in full to the priority 3 ESF programme which ended in June 2019; and

- In addition to the indicative gross grant payments budget of £6.233 million, the proposal includes a provision for grants administration of £435,000 which amounts to 6.5% (4% excluding central recharges) of the boroughs grants budget of £6.668 million.

Administration of Commissions

16. The staffing costs figures within the proposed 2020/21 budget options reflects direct staffing costs delivery the S.48 Priority 1 and 2 programme, together with the apportionment of time spent on Grants Committee activities by other London Councils staff, such as Grants Committee servicing and Public Affairs. The staffing budget also includes a £10,000 provision for maternity cover and the vacancy level of 2%.
17. In addition, an apportionment of time spent by Corporate Resources, Corporate Governance other than Committee Servicing, the Chief Executive's office, and London Councils Political Advisors are included in the central recharges figure for supporting the Committee's functions, as well as a notional rental figure for office space occupied at Southwark Street.
18. All estimates of administration expenditure levels have previously been based upon a threshold of 5% of the budget for payments to commissions in respect of the borough funded S.48 scheme, as agreed by Grants Committee in the review of non-grants expenditure levels conducted in early 2009. However, with recent cost pressures, it continues to be challenging to contain all administrative costs within the 5% envelope, especially after the introduction of the new monitoring arrangements in April 2013 and the increase in central costs following the review of the recharge model during 2013/14 following an objection to London Councils accounts. The recharges model has been further developed in 2019/20 to take account of some central overheads which were previously not being charged to Grants. Administrative expenditure for the S.48 commissions, therefore, now equate to 6.5% (or 4% excluding central recharges) of the boroughs S.48 budget of £6.668 million, amounting to £435,000 in total for 2020/21.

ESF Grant Reserves position

19. Following the closure of the ESF programme in June 2019, accumulated reserves in relation ESF remain at approximately £1,019 million, subject to finalisation of final payments to providers. This is due to an overall underspend on the programme and is subject to a decision made by members at this meeting with respect to item 8.

2019/20 Outturn Projections

20. The Month 6 forecast report is included as a separate report on this agenda and highlights projected surplus of £40,000 in total for 2019/20, reflecting:

- A projected underspend position of £22,000 in respect of S.48 borough funded commissioned services relating to 2019/20;
- An increase in Central Recharges of £24,000 reflecting the net impact of a correction to the recharges model and reduction in costs associated with the ESF programme which finished in June 2019;
- A projected surplus of £30,000 on staffing budgets, net of a reduced drawdown from ESF reserves; and
- An additional sum of £12,000 from investment income on Committee reserves, not previously budgeted for.

Use of Reserves

21. Table 1 below updates the Committee on the revised estimated level of balances as at 31 March 2020, if all current known liabilities and commitments are considered, plus the projected underspend of £40,000 for 2019/20, highlighted in paragraph 20 above:

Table 1 – Estimated Uncommitted Reserves as at 31 March 2020

	Borough	ESF	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Audited reserves as at 1 April 2019	721	1,330	2,051
Approved for use in 2019/20	-	(311)	(311)
Projected surplus/(deficit) for the year	40	-	40
Projected reserves as at 31 March 2020	761	1,019	1,780

22. At its meeting in September 2013, the Grants Executive agreed that it would be appropriate to retain a minimum level of reserves equating to 3.75% of the S.48 borough programme. Based on a proposed borough programme of £6.668 million, this equates to £250,000 for 2020/21. If the recommendations contained in this report are agreed by this Committee and approved by the Leaders' Committee on 3 December, the revised projected position on reserves is detailed in Table 2 below:

Table 2 – Estimated Uncommitted Reserves as at 1 April 2020

	Borough	ESF	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Projected reserves as at 31 March 2020	761	1,019	1,780
ESF commitments 2020/21	-	-	-
Projected reserves as at 1 April 2020	761	1,019¹	1,780
Indicative total expenditure 2020/21	6,668	-	6,668
Forecast reserves as a % of indicative expenditure	11.41	-	26.69

23. The projected residual level of S.48 reserves of £761,000, or 11.41%, of the £6.668 million S.48 programme, therefore, is in excess of the 3.75% benchmark. In addition, residual S.48 ESF reserves of £1,019,000 are subject to a separate report and member decision of this meeting following the end of the programme in June 2019.

Borough Contributions

24. Paragraphs 11 to 13 of this report set out the legal position relating to contributions payable by constituent councils to the London Councils Grants Scheme. Contributions for 2020/21 have been calculated using the ONS mid-year population estimates for June 2018 and are set out in Appendix B.

Summary

25. This report considers the proposed budget for the Grants Scheme for 2020/21 and makes a recommendation to the Committee on the appropriate level to recommend to constituent councils for approval, subject to the agreement of the overall budget by Leaders' Committee. Specifically, the report proposes to continue with an overall level of expenditure in 2020/21 of £6.668 million, which requires borough contributions of £6.668 million (refer to Appendix B), the same level of contribution as for the current year.

¹ subject to a decision made by members at this meeting with respect to item 8.

26. The financial year 2020/21 represents the final year of the four-year programme of commissions provided by the Grants Committee under S.48 of the Local Government Act 1985, as recommended by the Grants Committee and approved by the Leaders' Committee in March 2016.

Recommendations

27. Subject to the agreement of London Councils Leaders' Committee on 3 December 2019, that Members agree:

- an overall level of expenditure of £6.668 million for the Grants Scheme in 2020/21;
- borough contributions for 2020/21 should be £6.668 million to fully cover the cost of the scheme;
- that further to the recommendations above, constituent councils be informed of the Committee's recommendation and be reminded that further to the Order issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment under Section 48 (4A) of the Local Government Act 1985, if the constituent councils have not reached agreement by the two-thirds majority specified before 1 February 2020 they shall be deemed to have approved expenditure of an amount equal to the amount approved for the preceding financial year (i.e. £6.909 million);
- that constituent councils be advised that the apportionment of contributions for 2020/21 will be based on the ONS mid-year population estimates for June 2018;
- that subject to the approval of an overall level of expenditure, the Committee agrees to set aside a provision of £435,000 for costs incurred by London Councils in providing staff and other support services to ensure delivery of the Committee's "making of grants" responsibilities; and
- that a decision on options over the level of reserves going forward should be deferred until the meeting of the Executive Committee in February 2020, with proposals being brought back to a later meeting of this Committee for approval (subject to a member decision on the S.48 ESF programme underspend).

Appendices

Appendix A – Proposed revenue income and expenditure budget 2020/21;

Appendix B – Proposed borough subscriptions 2020/21;

Background Papers

Grants Committee Budget Working Papers 2019/20 and 2020/21;

Grants Committee Final Accounts Working Papers 2018/19;

Grants Committee Revenue Budget Forecast Working Papers 2019/20; and

London Councils Consolidated Budget Working Papers 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Grants Committee Income and Expenditure Budget 2020/21

Expenditure	Revised Budget 2019/20 £000	Developments £000	Inflation £000	Original Budget 2020/21 £000
Payments in respect of Grants				
London Councils Grants Programme	6,173	0	0	6,173
Membership Fees to London Funders (for all boroughs)	60	0	0	60
European Social Fund Co-Financing	102	-102	0	0
Sub-Total	6,335	-102	0	6,233
Operating (Non-Grants) Expenditure				
Contractual Commitments				
Maintenance of GIFTS Grants IT system	10	0	0	10
	10	0	0	10
Salary Commitments				
Officers	299	-75	4	228
Members	19	0	0	19
Maternity provision	10	0	0	10
	328	-75	4	257
Discretionary Expenditure				
Staff training/recruitment advertising	7	0	0	7
Staff travel	2	0	0	2
	9	0	0	9
Total Operating Expenditure	347	-75	4	276
Central Recharges	227	-68	0	159
Total Expenditure	6,909	-245	4	6,668
Income				
Core borough subscriptions				
Contribution to grant payments	6,173	0	0	6,173
Contribution to non-grants expenditure	495	0	0	495
	6,668	0	0	6,668
Other Income				
ESF Grant Income	58	-58	0	0
	58	-58	0	0
Transfer from Reserves	183	-183	0	0
Central Recharges	0	0	0	0
Total Income	6,909	-241	0	6,668
Net Expenditure	0	4	-4	0

Borough Subscriptions 2020/21

ONS Mid-2017 Estimate of Population ('000)	%	2019/20 Base Borough Contribution (£)		ONS Mid-2018 Estimate of Population ('000)	%	2020/21 Base Borough Contribution (£)	Base Difference from 2019/20 (£)
253.36	2.84%	191,438	Inner London	262.23	2.94%	196,291	4,853
7.65	0.09%	5,780	Camden	8.71	0.10%	6,520	740
282.85	3.18%	213,721	City of London	286.19	3.21%	214,227	506
275.93	3.10%	208,492	Greenwich	279.67	3.14%	209,346	854
183.00	2.05%	138,274	Hackney	185.43	2.08%	138,803	529
235.00	2.64%	177,565	Hammersmith and Fulham	239.14	2.68%	179,007	1,442
155.74	1.75%	117,677	Islington	156.20	1.75%	116,923	-754
324.05	3.64%	244,851	Kensington and Chelsea	325.92	3.66%	243,966	-885
301.31	3.38%	227,669	Lambeth	303.54	3.41%	227,214	-455
314.23	3.53%	237,431	Lewisham	317.26	3.56%	237,484	53
307.96	3.46%	232,694	Southwark	317.71	3.57%	237,821	5,127
323.26	3.63%	244,254	Tower Hamlets	326.47	3.66%	244,378	124
244.80	2.75%	184,970	Wandsworth	255.32	2.87%	191,119	6,149
3,209.14	36.02%	2,424,817	Westminster	3,263.79	36.64%	2,443,099	18,283
210.71	2.37%	159,212	Outer London	212.00	2.38%	158,692	-520
387.80	4.35%	293,021	Barking and Dagenham	392.14	4.40%	293,535	515
246.12	2.76%	185,968	Barnet	247.26	2.78%	185,086	-882
329.10	3.69%	248,667	Bexley	330.80	3.71%	247,619	-1,048
329.39	3.70%	248,886	Brent	331.10	3.72%	247,844	-1,042
384.84	4.32%	290,784	Bromley	385.35	4.33%	288,453	-2,331
342.74	3.85%	258,973	Croydon	341.98	3.84%	255,988	-2,985
332.71	3.73%	251,395	Ealing	333.87	3.75%	249,917	-1,477
271.22	3.04%	204,933	Enfield	270.62	3.04%	202,572	-2,361
248.88	2.79%	188,053	Haringey	250.15	2.81%	187,249	-804
256.04	2.87%	193,463	Harrow	257.81	2.89%	192,983	-480
302.34	3.39%	228,447	Havering	304.82	3.42%	228,172	-275
269.10	3.02%	203,331	Hillingdon	270.78	3.04%	202,691	-640
174.61	1.96%	131,935	Hounslow	175.47	1.97%	131,348	-587
206.05	2.31%	155,691	Kingston upon Thames	206.19	2.31%	154,343	-1,348
348.00	3.91%	262,948	Merton	352.01	3.95%	263,496	548
301.79	3.39%	228,032	Newham	303.86	3.41%	227,453	-578
195.68	2.20%	147,855	Redbridge	196.90	2.21%	147,389	-466
203.24	2.28%	153,568	Richmond upon Thames	204.53	2.30%	153,100	-467
275.51	3.09%	208,175	Sutton	276.70	3.11%	207,123	-1,052
5,615.87	63.04%	4,243,335	Waltham Forest	5,644.34	63.36%	4,225,053	-18,283
8,825.01	99.07%	6,668,152	Totals	8,908.13	100.00%	6,668,152	0