

Committee	Dated:
City Bridge Trust	14 th November 2018
Subject: Strategic Initiatives – monitoring reports	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer & Director of City Bridge Trust (CGO)	For Information
Report author: Ciaran Rafferty, Principal Grants Officer	

Summary

This report provides a monitoring report for a current Strategic Initiative. It is intended to provide two such reports to your Committee whenever possible. This written report on the LGBT Consortium is provided alongside an update on the Participatory City Foundation strategic initiative, which is being presented verbally at this meeting by your guest speaker.

Recommendation

Members are asked to receive this report and note its contents

Main Report

1. You have asked to receive reports on the various Strategic Initiatives currently operational. These are in addition to the reports you receive from learning visits to organisations funded through your standard programmes – which are elsewhere in your papers.
2. A report on the Participatory City Foundation’s work in Barking & Dagenham will be presented verbally by the organisation itself at the beginning of your meeting. The written report here is an update on the LGBT Consortium initiative – which was one of three agreed by your Committee following the LGBT network event held at the Guildhall in August 2016.

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CITY BRIDGE TRUST – Strategic Initiative progress report

LGBT Consortium

Ref: 13987

Grant Amount:

£217,000 over three years (£80,000; £69,000; £68,000)

Purpose of grant:

To create and manage an online directory/mapping tool of services in London and to provide capacity-building and general support to the LGBT third sector.

Project Start Date:

September 2017

Projected End Date:

August 2020

Summary of progress to date:

Mapping & website

To date, 500 groups and services have been mapped across the capital. The response by the sector to requests for information has been very positive and supportive. The organisation, *Outlife*, has been commissioned to host the mapping tool and they are currently designing and developing the interactive website. (*Your officer has had a n early-stage demonstration of the website and it is impressive, very user-friendly and with a good range of information.*) It is envisaged that the website will be finalised and ready for a public launch in July/early summer 2019.

Training & networking

In the past year 6 events were held, attended by 78 organisations, with events covering a range of topics from fundraising to signposting and campaigning.

Engagement work & capacity building

This is an area that has flourished, to the point that the capacity of the Engagement Officers is now quite limited and struggles to meet demand from groups. Those officers supported by the Trust have sometimes been augmented by the national team (the LGBT Consortium is a national organisation). 1:1 support has been delivered on subjects such as: start-ups; creating physical LGBT spaces; partnership building; capacity building; improving governance; funding; media and campaigning; volunteers; etc.

Hosted visits

There have been three hosted visits, involving seven groups. LGBT groups have been slow to take up these hosted visits but the three that have happened in the first year have had sustainable outcomes (eg Stonewall Housing and the Outside project who participated have now set up a formal partnership agreement for a project and have entered into a joint contract delivering support). We will be using these to encourage more uptake. Four more hosted visits are currently in progress.

Key outcomes

- There is improved knowledge of the range, scope and limitations of services for LGBT people across London

- Gaps in services have been identified which will make it easier to target areas in need of greater support
- More groups are better connected – both geographically and thematically.
- More groups are collaborating
- Groups have increased their understanding of a range of issues and have gained new skills and access to knowledge
- The mapping exercise has identified gaps in services and/or support.

Key plans for year 2:

The mapping exercise/interactive website has taken longer than expected as the initial platform development has been more complex and time consuming than originally envisaged. However, what has been developed will be future-proofed and can easily be sustained/updated by volunteers in the long term if necessary. It is intended to have a soft/trial launch of the website in April 2019 with a full, public, launch in late June/July 2019. Initially it was thought that there would be in the region of 1,000 individual projects/organisations to map though latest analysis suggest this will probably be closer to 700. Gathering the necessary information and verifying it has taken longer than originally expected but is worth doing well. Gaps in services identified by the mapping exercise will start to be made known to providers, funders and commissioners.

The key areas of work in year 1 will continue in year 2. More of the round-table/networking sessions will be organised on a borough basis so that people can share information and develop clearer understanding of local needs. There will still be pan-London events to increase engagement across all boroughs. The Consortium will also engage with The Way Ahead programme. There will be Thematic Taskforces created to lead on key strategic pieces of work. There will be targeted work with the Trans community in response to their needs.