

Committee(s)	Dated:
Community and Children's Services Committee	13/02/2015
Subject: Community Small Grants Scheme Review 2013/14	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Information

Summary

This report highlights to members the support the City of London gives to community groups within the Square Mile and is a celebration of the diversity of projects and activities which have been recipients of a small grant in 2013/14.

The appendix was written by our voluntary sector partners Community Service Volunteers (CSV), who manage the Small Grants Scheme on the City of London Corporation's behalf. The Community Small Grants Scheme has a budget of £20,000 per annum, and has been supporting the community since 2012.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to: note the report.

Main Report

1. The aim of the City of London Small Grants Scheme is to support local community projects within the Square Mile through the provision of small (less than £2,000) grants to local voluntary and community groups. It is expected that the projects will enable more people to become involved in their communities. It is also hoped that local groups will encourage a broader understanding of some of the needs and opportunities people have in those communities. The Small Grants Scheme has the City of London's Health and Wellbeing Strategy's aims and key priorities as its core. These are:

- Start well
- Develop well
- Learn well
- Live well
- Work well
- Age well
- End well.

2. The evaluation panel is chaired by the Volunteering Service Manager for Community Services Volunteers. Other members of the panel are as follows:
 - a Member of the Community and Children's Services Committee
 - a Commissioning and Performance officer
 - a representative from the Adult Social Care team
 - two volunteers and residents of the City of London.

Department of Community and Children's Services key priorities

- Improving the health and wellbeing of communities and individuals.
 - Protecting and safeguarding vulnerable people through better prevention and early intervention.
 - Promoting independence and choice for service users.
 - Supporting and empowering our communities and enabling people to make a positive contribution.
 - Making the best use of our resources and improving the way we work
3. The Care Act 2014 states that a local authority must promote wellbeing when carrying out its support functions. This is referred to as the wellbeing principle. The wellbeing principle applies in all cases where a local authority is carrying out its support function. Wellbeing is a broad concept and it is described, among other ways, as relating to the following areas in particular:
 - personal dignity
 - physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing
 - protection from abuse and neglect
 - control by an individual over day-to-day life
 - participation in work, education and leisure activities.

The Small Grants Scheme is an example of the way in which a local authority can promote a person's wellbeing in many ways.

4. In 2013, a wide-ranging number of local organisations were supported. There were 15 projects supported with details highlighted in the appendix. These ranged from older people's support and social groups, dancing and gardening projects, to support for internet access or substance misuse. The projects evenly covered the whole of the City of London geographically and many residents have benefited. Members are asked to view Appendix 1.

Conclusion

The City of London Small Grants Scheme is now in its third year, and it has supported 43 organisations during this period.

This report highlights those organisations and community groups that benefited from the scheme in 2013/14. It is a celebration of those groups supported, with commentary from those who have benefited from the grants awarded.

A further report will be made available highlighting those groups supported in 2014/15 later on this year.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Small Grants Scheme 2013 – Community Service Volunteers.

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