TOWER HAMLETS COUNCIL SMALL GRANTS FUND
Theme 7: Loneliness Theme Guidelines

The Mayor of Tower Hamlets has established a loneliness “taskforce” that aims to reduce the impact of loneliness and social isolation on the residents of the borough. The goal of the taskforce is for Tower Hamlets to be a place that is welcoming and friendly where people of all ages and backgrounds have opportunities to connect with each other in ways that are enjoyable, fun and life enhancing.

We know that loneliness deeply affects people in Tower Hamlets and there are factors in the borough that increase vulnerability to loneliness such as low incomes and the dense urban environment. Although loneliness is commonly recognised to affect older people and can be triggered by retirement or the loss of a partner, the national statistics show that it also impacts on significant numbers of young people and young adults at the times of transition in their lives, such as leaving home or going to university.

Through the small grants we want to encourage local actions that help people to connect with each other, enjoy each other’s company and enhance their quality of life. We are particularly interested in small local actions that make a difference to people, even if it is in just one street, and we want to stimulate people to think creatively about what might make a difference.

The council recognises the far reaching impact of the current coronavirus pandemic on local communities. Organisations are actively encouraged to develop ideas for projects that respond to the specific needs that they have identified as a result of this. Furthermore, all applicants will be asked to provide a contingency plan for activities should socially distancing measures still be in place at the time of delivery.

Before applying for funding, please read the following guidance carefully.

What Funding is Available?

Small grants of up to £1,000 are available to applicants from informal or unconstituted groups, although an accountable body to hold the funds would need to be identified.

Larger grants of up to £5,000 will also be available to eligible organisations that can show how it would make a difference in a neighbourhood or to a wider group of people, as well as being innovative. There is the potential for an extension for a second year and this will be awarded following the submission of monitoring and evaluation information and the positive assessment of the project.

The total budget for this theme is £50,000 per annum and we anticipate that it will fund 20 to 30 projects with a range of annual funding levels.
£15,000 of this budget has been ringfenced to support applications for grants of £1,000 or under.

**Who Can Apply?**

Organisations with an annual turnover in excess of £250,000 are not eligible to apply to this theme.

The fund is open to voluntary and community organisations. These are defined as;

- Registered charities
- Community groups
- Community associations
- Tenants and residents’ groups
- Green spaces friends’ groups
- Co-operatives and social enterprises
- School/parent groups which are independent of the schools they work with
- Faith organisations
- Sports, environmental, arts and heritage organisations
- Grant making trusts
- Housing associations
- Un-constituted groups of residents working together to make a difference in their local communities*

*Un-constituted groups will need to identify a constituted organisation to act as their accountable body or ‘parent organisation’. For example, this could be a local charity, constituted TRA or housing association that is willing to hold the grant money on your behalf. The application form must be completed by the un-constituted group and you must have written agreement from the accountable body demonstrating they support you.

We cannot accept applications from;

- For-profit organisations
- Individuals seeking funding for personal benefit, or sole traders
- Organisations based outside the UK

If you are unclear whether your organisation is eligible to apply to the Tower Hamlets Council Small Grants Fund, please contact the EECF Grants Team on 020 7345 4444 or grants@eastendcf.org

**What We Will Fund**

Funding can be used flexibly but is primarily intended to cover revenue costs. It can be used to fund a whole project or to pay for elements of a wider project. There must be another quantifiable contribution to the proposed activity either in cash (other funding) or in kind (volunteer time, rent free premises etc). However, we do not require match funding.

**What We Won’t Fund**

- Expenditure or activities that have already taken place
- Religious or political activity (we are able to fund religious organisations if they are providing benefit for the wider community)
- Activities where a profit will be distributed for private gain or projects that have no charitable or community element
- Activity that replaces government funding or is a statutory responsibility, for example, we can only fund school activities that are addition to the curriculum
- Activities that benefit individuals, rather than a wider community
- Retrospective costs and loan repayments
- Foreign travel

What We Look for in Organisations We Support

We’re particularly interested in supporting organisations that demonstrate they are people-led, strengths-based and connected to Tower Hamlets communities or residents.

People-led - We’re looking for meaningful involvement of the people you’re working with in the development, design and delivery of your project. Tower Hamlets wants to make real its commitment to the co-production of services and projects with the people intended to benefit from those. As a result, we want to hear how the people or community you’re working with has influenced your project and will continue to shape its delivery.

Strengths based - We want to hear how you’ll be making the most of, and building on, the skills and experiences of people and what already exists within our communities.

Connected – Tower Hamlets Council does not want to duplicate what already exists and we want to ensure you have a good understanding of what others are doing. We are keen to understand how your project is connected with other relevant organisations, how your idea complements what they are doing and how you have used these relationships to develop your project.

How to Apply

- To apply for a grant of up to £1,000 please click here for the online application form
- To apply for a grant of up to £5,000 please click here for the online application form

If you would like a paper application form, please contact the EECF Grants Team on 020 7345 4444 or email grants@eastendcf.org

Supporting Documents

To enable East End Community Foundation to consider your application you must attach the relevant supporting documents to your online application. Alternatively, you can send these by email to grants@eastendcf.org. All supporting documents must be submitted by the application deadline.

If you are an informal group who is working with an accountable body all you need to provide with your application is confirmation from the constituted organisation that they agree to hold the money on your behalf. This can either be an email or a simple letter.

Please ensure you have the following documents ready to submit:

- Constitution or articles of association
• Approved accounts or a record of income and expenditure for the organisation
• One bank statement dated within the last 3 months
• Equality & Diversity Policy*
• Safeguarding Policy (If applicable)

* Tower Hamlets Council and East End Community Foundation are committed to equal opportunities for all, and we expect groups and organisations applying for grants to show that they are aware of equal opportunities and can demonstrate commitment to them. Accordingly, organisations applying for grants are required to submit their Equality and Diversity Policy with their application.

Application Timetable

Applications can be submitted at any time and will be considered after each deadline. Applications and supporting documents must be submitted online by the following deadlines:

• **12 noon on Monday 9th March 2020**
  If your application to this deadline is successful, your project should not start until 1st July 2020

• **12 noon on Monday 22nd June 2020**
  If your application to this deadline is successful, your project should not start until 1st October 2020

• **12 noon on Monday 28th September 2020**
  If your application to this deadline is successful, your project should not start until 1st January 2021

Project Delivery and Monitoring

If your application is successful funded projects must:

• take place over a period of no more than **12-months**

• demonstrate how the proposed activities will address The Mayor’s Task Force on Loneliness Theme priorities and have a measurable positive impact on local residents (for grants over £1,000)

• have a contingency plan should social distancing measures still be in place at the time of delivery.

• have demonstrable outcomes related to The Mayor’s Task Force on Loneliness Theme and use a simple user feedback tool (provided by Tower Hamlets Council) that enables us to assess and track the impact on residents who benefit.

You will need to keep financial records of how the grant is spent including receipts and invoices for expenditure. You will also be required to keep records how many people benefit, and the difference the project has made to them. This information must be submitted in an end of grant report.
### Theme 7: Loneliness Theme

**Reducing the Impact of loneliness and isolation**

The purpose of this theme is to support voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups to reduce the impact of loneliness and social isolation on the residents of the borough. The goal of the taskforce is for Tower Hamlets to be a place that is welcoming and friendly where people of all ages and backgrounds have opportunities to connect with each other in ways that are enjoyable, fun and life enhancing.

Through the small grants we want to encourage local actions that help people to connect with each other, enjoy each other’s company and enhance their quality of life. We are particularly interested in small local actions that make a difference to people even if it is in just one street and we want to stimulate people to think creatively about what might make a difference.

### Theme Priorities

All applications must contribute to at least one of the following themes:

- A welcoming and friendly Tower Hamlets
- Neighbourhoods that are rich in opportunities for people to enjoy each other’s company and where residents can be part of creating these opportunities
- Reducing the loneliness and social isolation experienced by Tower Hamlets residents

### Theme Outcomes

All applications must evidence how the proposed activities will achieve at least one of the following outcomes:

1. **Making it visible that Tower Hamlets is a friendly and welcoming borough.** What more can we do to show people that Tower Hamlets is a place that welcomes and embraces people regardless of their background or circumstances?

2. **People feel connected with their neighbourhood and the local community.** What can we do to make it easier for people to feel part of their local community and enhance their sense of belonging?
3. **Less people feel isolated from others or lacking regular social contact.** How can we engage the people who are most at risk of being isolated or excluded such as the housebound, people with disabilities and long term conditions, refugees and other newly arrived people?

4. **Young people and young adults have more opportunities to feel engaged with their peers and/or the local community.** Making sure that young people and young adults feel included and valued, develop positive relationships with older people and are able to play an active role in the community.

### Project Examples

These examples are provided to give you an idea of the types of activities that might be supported under this theme:

- Befriending activities such as supporting more volunteer befrienders
- Supporting access to community transport such as training for volunteer or employed drivers
- Providing tailored support to help people use the internet e.g. to engage with friends and relatives through social media
- Intergenerational activities that bring the different generations together
- Local interest groups that support more social activity
- Projects for young people that might be less confident or lack the social skills to readily join in with other people, including people with disabilities
- Training that helps people and organisations to be more dementia friendly

### Eligibility

Organisations with an annual turnover in excess of £250,000 are not eligible to apply. The theme also welcomes applications from informal and un-constituted groups of residents.

### Grants Available

Under the Loneliness Theme grants of up to £5,000 are available. The theme welcomes applications for up to £1,000 from small local organisations including informal or un-constituted groups.

### Monitoring Requirements

An end of grant report will be required for all funded projects. Organisations will also be requested to use a simple user feedback form (provided by Tower Hamlets Council) that enables us to assess and track the impact on the residents who benefit.

You will need to keep financial records of how the grant is spent including receipts and invoices for expenditure. You will be required to keep records of how many people benefit, and the difference the project has made to them. Depending on the size of your grant award, you may also be required
to monitor how your project has contributed to the outcomes identified for The Mayor’s Task Force on Loneliness Theme.

## Tower Hamlets Plan & Strategic Plan Priorities

The Loneliness Theme contributes towards the following Tower Hamlets Strategic Plan Priorities;

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<th>C1</th>
<th>Strong, resilient and safe communities</th>
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<td></td>
<td>C2</td>
<td>Better health and wellbeing</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C3</td>
<td>Good jobs and employment</td>
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<td></td>
<td>C4</td>
<td>A better deal for young people – aspiration, education and skills</td>
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<td></td>
<td>S1</td>
<td>People are aspirational, independent and have equal access to opportunities</td>
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<td>S2</td>
<td>A borough that our residents are proud of and love to live in</td>
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<td>S3</td>
<td>A dynamic outcomes-based Council using digital innovation and partnership working to respond to the changing needs of our borough</td>
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Download your application form at [www.eastendcf.org](http://www.eastendcf.org) or speak to the EECF Grants Team on 020 7345 4444