# BIG_LOCAL_logo2a small.jpgCombining Our Grants and Intergenerational Programmes – under Community & Belonging

## Executive Summary and Recommendations

## Summary

## Responses to Original Proposal

Our original proposal was circulated to the Partnership Committee on the 3rd June 2020 and received support from ten of the thirteen PC members. This amended proposal aims to address the concerns of the minority of members so that we can proceed on the basis of unanimity (See Appendix for detailed responses).

## Grants

In 2019 our Grants programme was suspended pending a review by our new Chair who now wants to see the programme directed towards the most vulnerable in our community.

## Intergenerational

After agreeing in 2017 that our Intergenerational work needed to be more strategic, in 2019 our scoping report sought to clarify what we mean by ‘intergenerational’ and concluded that there were many other kinds of ‘separation’ between parts of our community (those experiencing mental health challenges, isolated single people, ethnic groups, people with disabilities, etc) and identified up to 25 groups/organisations working to bring together different parts of the community.

## Recommendations

* + That our Grants Programme should be fully aligned with our strategic objectives but developed as a tool for engaging with the wider community by developing a partnership approach (consistent with our ‘enabling’ role); with a renewed focus on tackling Loneliness, Isolation and Mental Health.
  + That we broaden the scope of our Intergenerational work to explore other ways in which we can promote ‘belonging’ to and being part of our community.
  + That our Community and Belonging theme is reinstated with a combined grants and intergenerational budget to be jointly chaired.
  + That new resident members of the Partnership Committee are invited to fully participate in the reinstated Community and Belonging committee.
  + That the joint chars of the Community and Belonging Committee consult with stakeholders and prepare a costed Plan of Action to be considered by the PC for final approval.

## Background

Our Terms of Reference (2016) establish four themes that shape our strategy, plans and budget:

* + Everyone has the opportunity and confidence to widen their horizons and to maximise their potential for learning, working and achieving. (Achieving & Potential).
  + A community where everyone feels safe, that they belong. (Safety & Wellbeing).
  + Where everyone can have a voice, shape their future and influence the design of space and services in a way that develops ownership. (Influence & Ownership).
  + We all have the opportunity to meet and interact across the wider community, to learn and belong. (Community & Belonging).

The Community and Belonging strand evolved into ‘Community Voices’ in 2017 with oversight of our Grants Programme.

In 2018, after extensive consultation (Battersea Together events) and further research, we concluded that the most significant barriers preventing people from fully participating in work, training, volunteering or community life in BLSW11 involved Isolation, Loneliness and Mental Health (particularly Anxiety and Depression) and that our strategic themes should be adapted to reflect this.

## Our Grants Programme

Our Grants programme was developed in 2013/4 as a ‘quick wins’ project in response to extensive local consultations. In 2017 the Programme was evaluated and reviewed with substantial changes being made in key areas:

* We used the process to hold face-to-face discussions with applicants so that we can both find out more about the proposals and, where relevant, help shape the bids so that they are more closely aligned to our strategic objectives.
* We introduced a ‘pre-application’ stage, so that project ideas that are in the early stages of development can be discussed before a full application is made. This enables us to be better able to support potentially good projects, while also deterring people from undertaking unnecessary work on project that are unlikely to gain approval.
* We placed a stronger emphasis on ‘new’ initiatives or ‘seed’ projects that show potential for becoming established over time.

In 2019 the Grants programme was suspended with new Chair (Donna Barham) leading on its development.

The new Grants lead has considered the following:

* Continuation of the previous approach
* Developing a new programme in partnership with other organisations
* Reviewing the eligibility criteria to strengthen the links with our Plan and Budget
* Developing a completely new approach based on Outcomes[[1]](#footnote-1)

From this the PC is asked to agree that our Grants Programme should be fully aligned with our strategic objectives but developed as a tool for engaging with the wider community by developing a partnership approach (consistent with our ‘enabling’ role); with a renewed focus on tackling Loneliness, Isolation and Mental Health.

## Our Intergenerational Programme (IP)

Our IP was one of the first major commitments of the Partnership Committee to be developed in response to extensive consultation with residents and organisations in the BLSW11 area; building on a ‘surrogate families’ programme established by Women of Wandsworth (WoW) in 2010.

The primary focus of the IP, (delivered by WoW), has been the development of ‘surrogate’ families, bringing together young people and volunteers with residents of sheltered housing accommodation (mainly but not exclusively Haven Lodge).

In 2017 a review of our IP work concluded that Wow’s excellent work should be built on and extended in an effort to reach more people in the BLSW11 area (in particular the most vulnerable) by developing a more strategic approach. This was done, in part, by increasing the budget (from £2,500 to £10,000 a year) and engaging with other organisations e.g., Kambala Residents Association and Thames Christian College and working with other sheltered housing in the area.

In 2018 another review concluded that this new approach should be further developed to look at the needs of the most vulnerable in our community, including those that might not be catered for in sheltered housing.

In 2019 the Chair of our IP Committee gained PC approved to commission research into Intergenerational needs in BLSW11 and who else is working in this field.

Our Intergenerational Scoping Report (2019) identified a range of needs that alongside intergenerational divisions included other examples of loneliness and isolation in the BLSW11 area (single parents, disaffected young people, ethnic minorities, people with mental health concerns, people with disabilities and those experiencing discrimination because of gender, race or sexual orientation.

The report consulted 25 organisations operating in Battersea to address loneliness and isolation and concluded that BLSW11 may have a role in bringing these together to explore the potential for developing a more joined up, strategic approach.

The conclusion and resulting recommendation is summarised by the IP Chair:

“During 2019 we commissioned a scoping report[[2]](#footnote-2) to provide evidence of who is doing what, how and where on intergenerational type work in the BLSW11 area. From this we have been able to identify a range of organisations that work to bring different parts of our community together, not just young/old, but also single parents, people with disabilities, and from different backgrounds.

## 2020 – A New Approach

Reflecting on our Plan priorities of wanting to address Loneliness, Isolation, Mental Health (Depression and Anxiety) we want to broaden the scope of our Intergenerational work to explore other ways in which we can promote ‘belonging’ to and being part of our community.

We propose to build on the knowledge gained from the scoping report, to develop a dialogue with local organisations to explore the potential for joint work.

The ‘belonging’ theme will include but not be limited to intergenerational activities but should be a useful way to also developing better links with our new grants programme and work of the BLSW11 Alliance.

As this is a new approach, it requires the endorsement of the PC, which is asked to agree that we set up a meeting with all the organisations contacted through the scoping exercise and others, to explore options for developing the ‘belonging’ approach.

Wendy Speck

Chair”

It was during this time that the Chairs of the Grants and Intergenerational committees began to look at the potential overlap in their similar focus on aligning their work streams with our strategic objectives by focussing on Loneliness, Isolation and Mental Health, and concluded that both work streams should be developed under our former Community and Belonging theme.

## Covid-19

The extraordinary examples of community engagement, volunteering and partnership work during the Covid-19 pandemic provide evidence of the potential of what could be achieved with stronger joined up partnership working to tackle loneliness and isolation.

## How will it Work?

It is proposed that the reinstated Community and Belonging committee is jointly chaired by the previous chairs of the Grants and Intergenerational committees with a combined budget (£20k + £10k = £30k) with the aim of securing match funding to double this to £60k a year.

The Community and Belonging (CB) chairs propose to ‘refresh’ the way this committee will work by encouraging the participation of newer PC members and others that are not yet part of the BLSW11 ‘family’ who may have an interest in working with us to bridge the divisions in our community.

Under this proposed arrangement the ‘grant’ and intergenerational elements of the budget will be combined to create a Community and Belonging Fund (CBF) that will be used to support initiatives that address Loneliness, Isolation and Mental Health.

A broad timeline of activities includes:

End-June The CB committee members meet to agree Terms of Reference

End -June Match Funding work begins

Mid - July A CB ‘Battersea Together’ event is held with groups and organisations identified in the Scoping Report to explore partnership working opportunities

End –July Outcome of Battersea Together Report to PC

End – July Draft CB ‘Plan’ circulated to PC for discussion

Early – Aug CB Plan Approved

Mid – Aug Battersea Together Event to launch CB programme

**Appendix**

**Responses to Original Proposal (Non-procedural)**

In broad terms there was some concern that merging Grants and Intergenerational under one committee would dilute or detract from our commitments to address Intergenerational issues, disabilities and care for the elderly.

There was also a suggestions that a Grants programme of some kind would be needed to support local groups, especially potential enterprises, and that a CB ‘pot’ would prevent this from happening.

We have tried to capture and respond to these concerns as follows:

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| --- | --- |
| Question/Issue | Response |
| We must have a Small Grants budget to help new businesses and charity enterprises.  There will still be a need to have a Grants pot or some ability for grant funding. | The proposed Community and Belonging Fund would not exclude the possibility of supporting new enterprises but would give us the flexibility to respond to circumstances on the ground. It may not be in the form of a ‘grant but rather an investment in the Community.  Historically, our Grants Programme struggled to get beyond the ‘usual suspects’ to reach parts of our community that were the most vulnerable.  Changes to our Grants Programme in 2017-18 sought to address this by introducing a ‘pre-application stage, a dialogue between us and the applicants; this proposal takes this a stage further in creating a space where we can ‘listen’ to local people and providers to develop a coordinated response. |
| If Intergenerational project disappears into a big pot, we will lose all the good work we have done so far | The ‘belonging’ theme will include but not be limited to intergenerational activities but should be a useful way to also developing better links with our new grants programme and work of the BLSW11 Alliance.  We are not proposing to withdraw from our Intergenerational work but to establish it on a more strategic basis, taking into account what else in happening in the area. |
| I am insisting on Disabilities project to finally start after a big delay. That will fund all mental health problems and give us the chance to properly help the local residents with their problems, rather than mix it (and water it down) with business and elderly. | Our Intergenerational Scoping Report (2019) identified a range of needs that alongside intergenerational divisions included other examples of loneliness and isolation in the BLSW11 area (single parents, disaffected young people, ethnic minorities, people with mental health concerns, people with **disabilities** and those experiencing discrimination because of gender, race or sexual orientation. |
| As it is a substantive change in the BLSW11 make-up, I do think for the sake of due diligence and governance, I would like to see a full meeting formally minuted that examines this proposal and takes full account of members concerns, queries or suggestions. | We do not see this as a ‘substantive change’. Community and Belonging was one of our founding themes which ran the Grants Programme; Intergenerational did not belong to a themed Committee. This proposal brings consistency. |
| For the new members we had lots of consultations in various parts of the patch and one of the major things that the residents wanted was for us to focus on intergenerational issues.  This has now evolved as things like loneliness, mental health and well being have come to the fore, we also now need to consider social isolation which Covid-19 highlights.  These were not a focus as these were all hidden at the time of our initial consultations and we are learning more daily.  We need to discuss how we will encompass all of these items and the best way to do so and it is only when we have discussions that we can decide how we can include all of these major things into a project and then formulate how we go forwards. | For new members: our original consultations raised a huge variety of issue/concerns that residents wanted us to address. For full details go here:  <https://www.biglocalsw11.co.uk/what-weve-heard-so-far/>  This proposal precisely recognises these changes and is a direct result of our looking at how we can use our limited resources to best effect in a way that is consistent with our Plan and Budget and is response to these new circumstances.  The need for a coordinated approach to tackling ‘Social isolation’ has been a key driver of our thinking.  This proposal is suggesting ‘how we go forward’! |
| I still think that we need to use completely separate pot designated for disabilities, to tackle mental health. Not all elderly have mental health issues. They just need to be involved into community events. Whereas some young people , for instance , self- harming or suffering  from dyslexia need completely different care., etc. | Since 2016 we have aimed to move away from direct delivery towards influencing and enabling others. Tackling Isolation, Loneliness and Mental Health gives us the scope to look at all areas in our community where there are divisions between people.  Small, separate ‘pots’ of money, make securing match funding much more challenging; and having discrete specialist themes would limit our ability to influence others strategically. |
| “There is no rush...” | Although the idea for this proposal was being developed before Covid-19 recent events have created an even greater sense of urgency!  We know that covid-19 has significantly increased pressure on mental health services; we know that the BME community has been disproportionately affected and we know that many local community organisations are facing decline or even closure. |
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Essentially, this proposal is asking the PC to endorse an approach that seeks to engage with local people and stakeholders on how to use our limit resources to tackle Isolation, Loneliness and Mental Health (Depression and Anxiety) in a coordinated rather than piecemeal way that might attract new funding and garner support of those in positions of influence.

At this stage we are seeking unanimity from the PC for approval in principle to combine Grants and Intergenerational under the Community and Belonging theme, so that we can start the stakeholder engagement and match funding processes now and report back to the PC for approval on any spending decisions.

Donna Barham – Chair BLSW11 Grants Committee

Wendy Speck – Chair BLSW11 Intergenerational Programme

1. This could mean, for example, funding one or two larger projects that directly address mental health [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Full details of the commissioning process and the Scoping Report (Intergenerational Projects in Battersea) can be accessed here: <https://www.biglocalsw11.co.uk/key-documents-and-summaries/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)