

First 1000 Days of a Child's Life Consultation Report August 2019

This report is a summary of the results of the consultation carried out by Manchester City Council concerning proposals for the Population Health Targeted Fund -First 1000 Days of a Child's Life Fund

The aim of the consultation was to gather feedback from voluntary and community groups (and other key stakeholders) to improve and build on the draft proposals for the grant fund.

The consultation consisted of a central event attended by individuals/organisations and 22 individual responses to an online survey.

The central event focused discussions on each element of the proposals for the grant fund. The online survey produced a combination of statistics and detailed comments and provided feedback along with making suggestions for how to improve the proposals. It is these comments that form the bulk of this report.

Every attempt has been made to include key points and themes but some comments have been left out in consideration of the timing and length of the report. Many of the comments included were made by one or a small number of respondents. Where there was a large number of comments making the same point this has been reflected in the themes.

Thank you to everyone who contributed and our apologies to anyone whose comments are not featured in this report.

This report is structured in the same order as the central event and online consultation.

First 1000 Days of a Child's Life Fund

As stated in the introduction, the consultation for the First 1000 Days of a Child's Life Fund consisted of an:

- a Central consultation event - held at Manchester Art Gallery on Thursday 25 July 2019. In total 14 people, from 10 organisations attended the central event, and an
- Online consultation

In total **22 responses** were received for the on-line consultation.

The make-up of the respondents for the online consultation were as follows:
(A respondent may have ticked more than one box e.g a resident may also work for an OMVCS funded organisation).

Resident	23%
OMVCS funded organisation	41%
Young Manchester (Youth and Play) funded organisation	14%
Cultural Partnership Agreement funded organisation	0%
VCS organisation not funded by OMVCS	23%
Manchester City Council Employee	9%
Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC) employee	14%
Councillor	0%

Of the voluntary and community sector (VCS) groups that responded, the size of their organisation was as follows:

Micro (under £10k income)	0%
Small (£10k - £100k income)	27%
Medium (£100k - £1m income)	36%
Large (more than £1m income)	23%
Not Applicable	14%

The following information provides a breakdown of the online consultation and responses and key themes. This is then supported by additional commentary from the central engagement event.

Aims

Respondents were asked about the following aims of the fund

The primary aim of the funding programme is:

- To improve the health and wellbeing of children in their first 1000 days of life as it is crucial to their longer-term health and wellbeing.

The funding programme aims to do this by funding organisations to work with women and families to:

1. Increase, in a sustainable way, their support networks in their community and their use of voluntary and statutory sector support services
2. Increase the quality and quantity of social and family connections in a sustainable way

95% of the respondents said that the aims were clear.

The responses on whether these were the right aims were as follows:

Strongly Disagree	0%
Disagree	0%
Neither agree or disagree	5%
Agree	59%
Strongly Agree	36%

95% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that these were the right aims.

The key themes emerging were:

- Men and partners was a recurring theme with the suggestion that the aims could be made more inclusive.
- Role between voluntary and statutory organisations and whether there was an opportunity to build on this.
- Suggestion to include a 3rd aim - Promote partnerships and networks to support the above approaches.
- Request to simplify the language.

This reflected the discussion and feedback from the central event where the following additional comments/suggestions were made

- Need for women to know where to access services - local information is important.
- Focus on mums and dads - recognition that if support is provided to mums and dads then this by default gives support to children.
- Deprived families can't afford to access services - should not miss out on opportunities.
- The aims are not measurable on children and parents - is this purposeful
- Provides an opportunity to extend what groups are already doing.

Priorities

Respondents were asked about the following priorities for the Fund:

It is not intended that the grant programme should solely focus on these priorities but they should be met across the grant programme

The Key priorities for the grant programme are:

1. People over the age of 65
2. People from BAME communities
3. People who are lonely and/or isolated

100% of the respondents said that the priorities were clear.

The responses on whether these were the right priorities were as follows:

Strongly Disagree	5%
Disagree	5%
Neither agree or disagree	18%
Agree	46%
Strongly Agree	27%

73% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that these were the right priorities.

The key themes emerging were:

- Be more specific around communities of identity, geographical priorities, BAME etc.
- Men and inclusivity came up again.
- Need to be creative and think of all the ways groups can target other communities from a diverse background.
- Need to explain priorities and where they have come from.

- Need to be clearer that we welcome grants that will cover other parts of the city not just north Manchester.

This reflected the discussion and feedback from the central event where the following additional comments/suggestions were made:

- Cultural barriers within communities.
- Single women lonely and isolated, especially with disabled children, no one to help - need to engage them.
- To include that the funding is for groups across the city, even though north Manchester and BAME are the priorities.

Objectives

Respondents were asked about the following objectives for the Fund:

We want grant applicants to demonstrate how they will support women and families to:

- Increase, in a sustainable way, their support networks in their community and their use of voluntary and statutory sector support services
- Increase the number and/or quality of their friendships and familial relationships, in a sustainable way,

Through supporting women

1. To build a positive and good quality relationship with their child in early childhood and in pregnancy.
2. To maintain and improve their health and well-being when they are pregnant
3. To improve their familial relationships

95% of the respondents said that the objectives were clear:

The responses on whether these were the right objectives were as follows:

Strongly Disagree	0%
Disagree	5%
Neither agree or disagree	0%
Agree	73%
Strongly Agree	23%

96% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that these were the right objectives.

The key themes emerging were:

- Men and inclusivity was raised again.
- Be very clear that this is about being from 'conception to the age of 2'.
- A question arose as to whether something could be included about environment, ie if you live in an unhealthy or chaotic environment this will impact on development and health.
- Need for examples of the type of activity groups could focus on e.g. breastfeeding.

This reflected the discussion and feedback from the central event where the following additional comments/suggestions were made

- Services need to be sustainable- set up services and then reduce funding would be an issue.
- Disabled children discriminated against - more support required for this group.
- Inclusivity - More and more men and dads needing support - mothers with postnatal depression. Need more support.

- Heavy focus on women is potentially excluding work with fathers. More work needed around the fathers' role, or lack of, build networks for fathers/father figures. Also the environment, helping to prepare / support the family.

Funding Proposal

Respondents were asked about the proposal to split the fund into the following grant sizes. The following amounts are over 2 years e.g. £200k over 2 years or £100k a year.

- A grant of £200k for a project working with women and families living in north Manchester
- A grant of £200k for a project working with women and families from BAME communities
- 2 grants of £100k for projects working with women and families living in north Manchester
- 2 grants of £100k for other projects
- 3 grants of £50K for projects working with women and families living in north Manchester
- 3 grants of £50K for other projects

95% of the respondents said that the funding proposal was clear

The responses on whether this was the right funding proposal were as follows:

Strongly Disagree	0%
Disagree	0%
Neither agree or disagree	32%
Agree	46%
Strongly Agree	22%

68% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that this was the right funding proposal.

The key themes emerging were:

- Partnership working - suggestion that smaller grants be made available for local smaller grassroots groups.
- Community of identity and interest and prioritisation within this.
- Interest and capacity - will we have enough groups bidding ie enough groups with the skills/knowledge and capacity to deliver on the bigger grants.
- Rationale for tiered allocation of amounts needed.

This reflected the discussion and feedback from the central event where the following additional comments/suggestions were made

- 200K - Lack of applications for this amount.
- 200K - Is this about/could this be about partnership development over the 2 years which includes delivery of activities.
- Has to have impact on individuals, families and first 1,000 days (health) priorities.
- If we did not receive enough applications for the larger grants, would the amounts be filtered down into the other funding proposal amounts?

Application Process

Respondents were asked about the application process

All applications will have to have a lead organisation currently funded via the following grant programmes

- Our Manchester Voluntary and Community Sector (general fund)
- Young Manchester (Youth and Play Fund)
- Council's Cultural Partnership (Grant Agreement)

The application process will be a one stage process based on Manchester City Council's standard application process as co-designed with Manchester's VCSE sector.

100% of the respondents said that the application process was clear:

The responses on whether this was the right application process were as follows:

Strongly Disagree	0%
Disagree	5%
Neither agree or disagree	18%
Agree	59%
Strongly Agree	18%

77% of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that this was the right application process.

The key themes emerging were:

- Process is OK but groups need help to access 'partners'.
- Why are only groups from the 3 grant programmes eligible to apply? Must be open to groups not funded by existing council grants.
- Will organisations be expected to work in collaboration with others? Will that be made clear and also will that mean that the partners are eligible to apply for future OMVCS funding?
- Request for bid scenarios.

This reflected the discussion and feedback from the central event where the following additional comments/suggestions were made

- Support/development of applications really valuable -Will there be any available (as previously done with OMVCS).
- A possibility that there might be a need to do some more development work to generate bids.

Requirements

Respondents were asked about the Fund Requirements. Please note the reference to older people was an error and should not have been listed within the requirements. The focus for this fund is on children and families.

Key requirements for groups applying for funding are:

- Strong emphasis on partnership working (formal and Informal)By formal partnership, we mean that a significant part of the funding goes to a partner through any suitable funding mechanism eg partnership agreement, service level agreement etc
- Every lead organisation will be expected to work with at least one formal partner unless there is clear reasons not to
- All formal partnerships will be expected to take part in the due diligence process pending confirmation of award of a grant
- High level of linkage with organisations and amenities with some or whole of the neighbourhood
- Demonstrate evidence of running activities that help older people
- Demonstrate links with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) older people

82% of the respondents said that the application process was clear

The responses on whether these were the right requirements were as follows:

Strongly Disagree	0%
Disagree	5%
Neither agree or disagree	36%
Agree	36%
Strongly Agree	23%

36% of the respondents neither agreed nor disagreed that these were the right requirements. **59%** of the respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that these were the right requirements.

The key themes emerging were:

- Take out reference to older people
- Include more about the style of delivery e.g co-production
- The prospectus should make reference to experience of running activities that help children and families - again reference to older people

This reflected the discussion and feedback from the central event where the following additional comments/suggestions were made

- Need to add in requirements around numbers/expectations of partners and money being passported.
- Balance between being open and being more prescriptive in the requirements.

General Comments

- Ensure grants are spread fairly in wards where there is evidence of high need and support required to local organisations in central Manchester. Various wards asked to be prioritised.
- The grant is unique in terms of strong emphasis on partnership. It is good to encourage big organisations to form partnerships with grassroot organisations to deliver the desired outcomes as a large organisation may take the money and not deliver a lot themselves.

The feedback from this consultation is being used in the development of the prospectus, guidance and application documents for this grant fund and will also be addressed in an updated Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document that will be made public to groups and other stakeholders.

First 1000 Days Grant Fund Consultation Response

You Said	We Did
<p>Generally, you told us that the aims, objectives and priorities made sense and could be strengthened with some more clarity and some tweaks to the language.</p>	<p>We have taken this forward into the development of the prospectus, application form and guidance documents that will be launched for the fund and have responded to some of the specific feedback themes below.</p>
<p>You told us that there needs to be more explicit mention and inclusion of work with men, partners, grandparents and wider family and community connections.</p>	<p>We have included this in the documentation that will be launched for fund reinforcing the whole family approach including fathers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and the wider community.</p>
<p>A suggestion that a third aim be included – Promote partnerships and networks to support the approaches below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase, in a sustainable way, their support networks in their community and their use of voluntary and statutory sector support services 2. Increase the quality and quantity of social and family connections in a sustainable way 	<p>This has been added and will be reflected in all of the documents (e.g prospectus, guidance, application form) when the fund is launched</p>
<p>Can some of the language be simplified and examples of the type of activities be added?</p>	<p>We have tried to simplify the language where possible across all of the documents that will be launched for the fund and have added examples in the prospectus document.</p>
<p>The grant needs to be clear that this is about conception to age 2</p>	<p>We agree and this will be made clear in all of the documents when the fund is launched.</p>

Objective 1 - To build a positive and good quality relationship with their child in early childhood and in pregnancy. - remove the word 'good'	This has been actioned and will be reflected in all of the documents when the fund is launched
Objective 3 - To improve their familial relationships. – Replace the word improve with promote and to also include family / friend and community relationships	This has been actioned and will be reflected in all of the documents when the fund is launched
Need to make it explicitly clear that the grant is not just about north Manchester.	We will state which grant amounts are open across the city in all in all of the documents when the fund is launched
Need to make clear that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) work can be across the city	We will state which grant amounts for BAME are open across the city in all in all of the documents when the fund is launched. Equalities/equality impact more broadly, is also an area that we are asking organisations to consider across all of the bid.
Need to make it clear that the grant is inclusive and can respond to aims and objectives from different perspectives i.e. mums, dads, communities of identity, age groups e.g young parents.	We agree and work with fathers and grandparents, as well as mothers will be included in the documents when the fund is launched

The detailed FAQs have been circulated separately with this report and will also be available via <https://www.mhcc.nhs.uk/news> and www.manchestercommunitycentral.org and by request to omfunds@manchester.gov.uk