



OUR  
DEVELOPMENT

# The Community Fund

Draft Prospectus Framework



- Introduction
- Principles
- Focus of the new fund- the outcomes
- The foundations of community empowerment and thriving community and voluntary sector
- Timetable
- Support for voluntary sector organisations
- Next steps
- Links to important information



The Community Fund will be cross cutting with an approach that builds on the assets of the VCS, promoting enterprise and social value. It will seek to remove barriers and promote diversity in the sector, allowing new approaches, particularly grass roots community responses to issues. The new programme will also aim to create a broad range of opportunities for different forms of volunteering from all parts of borough. Underpinning the new programme will be high standards of accountability, transparency and best use of resources with success being measured on improving outcomes for our residents.

The Community Fund aims to achieve clear outcomes. We expect applications to the fund to show very clearly how their proposals will help achieve the outcomes set out in this framework and how they build on the 'golden threads', the strengths of the VCS.

The Ambitious for Croydon outcomes have been endorsed as being important to the whole borough by the Local Strategic Partnership, the body which represents the public, private and voluntary sectors in Croydon. Many of you will have participated in one of the widest community conversations in any London borough, conducted by the Opportunity and Fairness Commission. We are therefore confident that the Community Fund will seek to have an impact on the most important issues facing Croydon during the next few years.

There have been a number of conversations already with the VCS about the Community Fund during its development but we would welcome further comment from the sector on the proposed programme. Details of how to do this are on the Council's website at [www.croydon.gov.uk/thirdsector](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/thirdsector) and click on 'New Funding Programme'.



- Shaped by Opportunity & Fairness Commission
- Aligned to Ambitious for Croydon
- Focus on outcomes
- Support community empowerment
- Supporting VCS strengths

## Vibrant, responsible and connected communities

- To drive fairness for all communities, people and places
- Wellbeing improved across all communities through sport and physical activity
- A place that communities are proud of and want to look after as their neighbourhood

## A connected borough where no one is isolated

- A thriving and lively cultural offer which engages communities and supports regeneration
- A place that is easy and safe for all to get to and move around in

## Supporting residents towards better times

- Families and individuals are more financially resilient and live affordable lives;
- People from all communities live longer, healthier lives through positive lifestyle choices;
- Families are healthy and resilient and able to maximise their life chances and independence

## Leaving no child behind

- Children and vulnerable adults are protected from harm and exploitation
- Domestic abuse and sexual violence is prevented where possible, victims are supported, and perpetrators held to account

## Finding homes for all

- Tackling street homelessness and destitution
- To provide a decent, safe & affordable home for every local resident who needs one

Key building blocks  
for the a new deal  
with the community

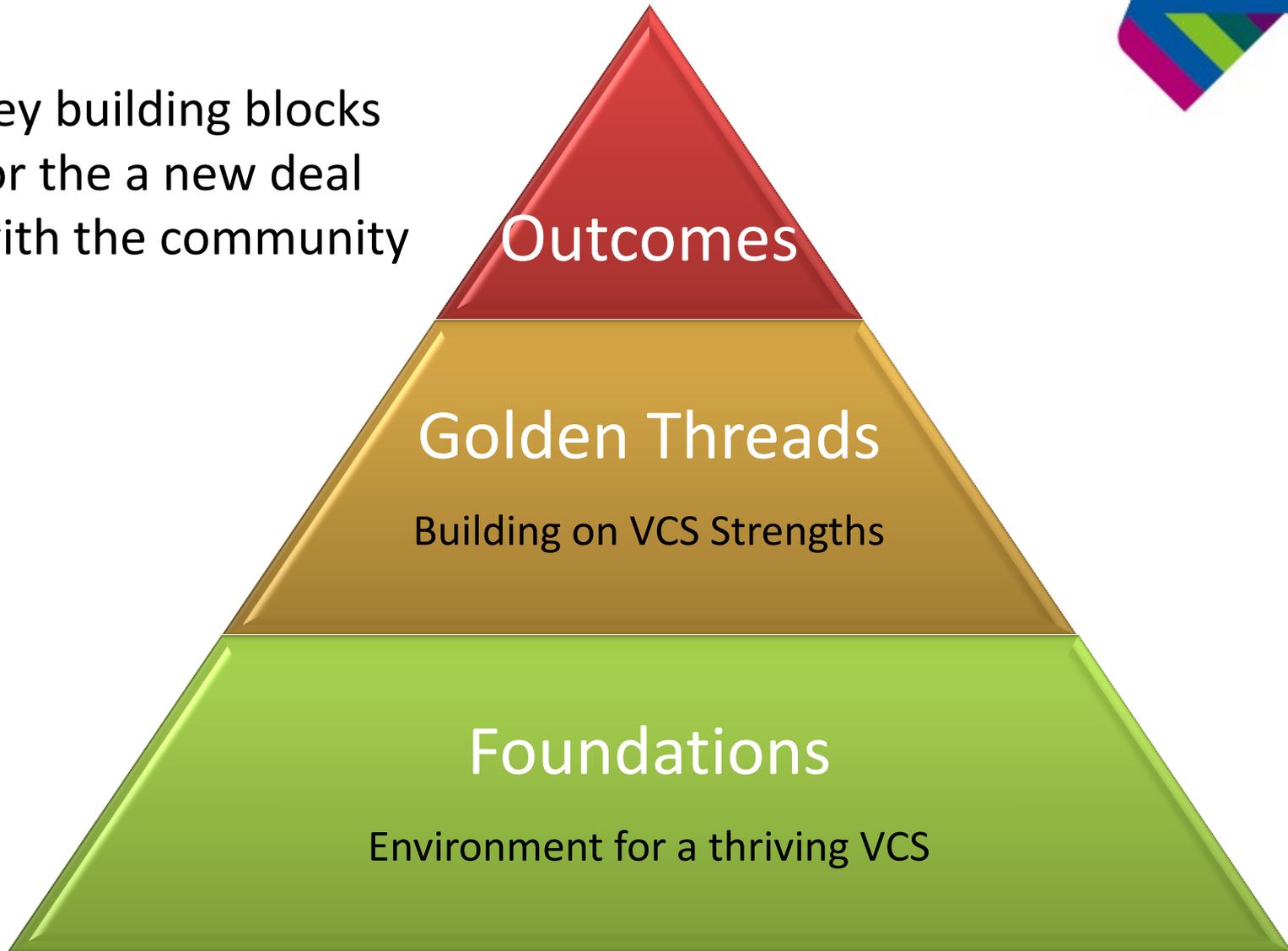
Outcomes

Golden Threads

Building on VCS Strengths

Foundations

Environment for a thriving VCS



Quality and  
Governance

Foundations

Environment for a thriving  
VCS

Financial  
resilience

Peer to Peer  
support

Promoting  
volunteering

Advancing  
equality

Grass roots  
responses

Golden  
Threads  
Supporting VCS  
Strengths

Partnership  
working

Asset based  
methodology

Date	Action
4 Feb	Draft Framework published
Various	Focus groups (including Carers, DASV, disability, BME communities, youth and HIV)
3 Mar	Public meeting (CVA Resource Centre)
4 Mar	Consultation closes
21 Mar	Cabinet decision on priorities and outcomes
22 Mar	Prospectus published
Mar/Apr	Training sessions
23 May	Bids close
w/b18 July	Offers published
July/Sept	Implementation
1 Oct	New arrangements commence

- Support and engagement sessions-
  - Focusing on Outcomes
  - Bidding process
  - Bid writing
  - Partnership and collaboration
  - Presenting financial information
- Support to seek alternative funding and improve financial resilience
- Early informal discussions with most affected organisations
- Clear decommissioning support programme

## [Ambitious for Croydon](https://www.croydon.gov.uk/democracy/dande/policies/corpplans/corpplan)

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## [Opportunity and Fairness Commission Final Report](http://www.opportunitycroydon.org/resources/get/eb5ffb9c-6127-4f34-b7b4-0e0a9b487b95.pdf/cofc-final-report-lores)

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## [Community Fund Web Page](https://www.croydon.gov.uk/community/advice/tsfunding/new-voluntary-sector-funding-programme)

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## [Community Fund Frequently Asked Questions](https://www.croydon.gov.uk/sites/default/files/articles/downloads/VCS%20Commissioning%20FAQs.pdf)

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## [Croydon Observatory](http://www.croydonobservatory.org)

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The Council is keen to get your feedback on this draft framework. Set out below are four key questions which we are asking stakeholders to consider. There are a number of focus groups and a public meeting on 3 March which will look at these and any other questions people wish to raise. If you would like to make an individual response, please email your feedback to [thirdsector@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:thirdsector@croydon.gov.uk). Thank you.

1. What are the highest priority areas where the VCS can make a real difference in achieving the strategic priority?
2. How should the programme be focused, eg grass roots organisations developed through ABCD schemes, established service providers working in partnership with smaller 'niche' providers?
3. The programme is being designed to encourage transformational change. How could it be different from more traditional funding programmes?
4. The programme will be outcomes focused. What should the Council do to support groups which are not familiar with this approach to funding?