

**MEETING: 07/09/2018**

**Ref: 14600**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive**

**Icandance**

**Adv: Sandra Davidson**

**Amount requested: £51,302**

**Base: Camden**

**(Revised request: £53,718)**

**Benefit: Camden**

**Amount recommended: £53,700**

**The Applicant**

Founded by Juliet Diener (Dance Movement Psychotherapist, Ballet and Special Needs Teacher) icandance's vision is to make dance accessible for all. Children and young people aged 4 to 25 years old with complex, profound and multiple disabilities take part in weekly dance and performance opportunities. A registered charity, its classes take place on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings across two sites and during the day at SEN schools in Camden, Barnet and Lambeth. Each year dancers work towards an annual performance for family and friends in a North London theatre. Over 70 children and young people with disabilities participate on a regular basis. Icandance provides each child with a specialist support worker and guarantees that no child is 'left behind' and all are included at their own pace. Children and young people with disabilities are nurtured and grow in confidence within a creative, supportive environment.

**The Application**

This application seeks funding to meet the costs of six sessional specialist support workers to engage with users on a 1:1 or 2:1 basis. Many of the children and young people are non-verbal and the organisation uses alternative methods of communication such as Picture Exchange Communication (PECS), Makaton, and ipads to create relationships which enhance learning, develop creativity and a sense of wellbeing. Classes have become increasingly popular and the desire is to build long-term sustainability by consolidation of funding to continue high quality of weekly activities for children and young people with disabilities.

**The Recommendation**

icandance actively builds partnership in the wider community including the local authority, Camden Dance Development group, the Jewish Museum, the Southbank Centre and The BalletBoyz. Following the assessment meeting with icandance it became clear that the original budget provided did not include the correct hourly pay rate for staff. The updated budget can be viewed at Appendix A to the application form. Funding to reflect the revised request is recommended as follows:

**£53,700 over three years (£17,000; £17,900; £18,800) to meet the costs of six sessional support workers fees.**

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
31/01/2018	Application withdrawn in order to revisit for the organisation to submit a revised proposal.
17/03/2011	£16,200 over three years (£4,200; £6,000; £6,000) towards the costs of developing and expanding weekly dance opportunities for disabled young people, subject to receipt of a satisfactory budget for 2011/12.

## Background and detail of proposal

All icandance's users are children and young people with physical and/or learning disabilities. The organisation considers its approach to be unique, integrating specialised educational methods, developmental movement, expressive dance, therapeutic interventions and ballet techniques to create a safe inclusive space for young people that are often excluded or isolated because of their needs. Dance sessions allow each child to have fun, increase physical strength and improve their health alongside peers in a safe space. Young people develop friendships and social skills in a non-threatening environment supported by experienced staff. Icandance values volunteers who work directly with dancers and experienced staff to gain new skills as part of a supportive diverse team. Classes cost £12.50 per child but the real cost is closer to £65 due to bespoke client support and high staffing ratios. Approximately 10% of participants use their personal budgets for the activities.

## Financial Information

The cost of raising funds in 2018/19 increased following the appointment of a fundraiser. The organisation is committed to raising sufficient funds to build firm financial foundations to continue current services and to offer additional activities such as a young ambassadors programme for gifted dancers. There are several applications in the pipeline to other Trust's and Foundations.

Year end as at 31st July	2017 Examined Accounts £	2018 Forecast £	2019 Budget £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	147,244	152,860	171,000
- % of Income confirmed as at 26/7/18	n/a	99%	22%
Expenditure	(140,895)	(156,493)	(171,000)
Total surplus/(deficit)	6,349	(3,633)	0
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	0	0	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	6,349	(3,633)	0
	6,349	(3,633)	0
Cost of Raising Funds	607	2,229	19,500
- % of Income	0.4%	1.5%	11.4%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	86,163	111,580	130,912
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	52,636	49,003	49,003
No of months of operating expenditure	7.3	5.3	4.5
Reserves policy target	21,541	27,895	32,728
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	31,095	21,108	16,275