

MEETING: 31/01/2019

Ref: 14937

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital

Brentford FC Community Sports Trust

Adv: Jack Joslin

Base: Hounslow

Amount requested: £86,500

Benefit: Hounslow

Amount recommended: £63,500

The Applicant

Established in 1987 as Football in the Community, Brentford FC Community Sports Trust (BFCCST) began its life working to improve the image of football at a time of public concern over hooliganism. In 2006 the charity significantly expanded its professional sports coaching services in local schools and communities. Today BFCCST offers sporting activities for disabled and non-disabled participants, providing a range of activities across West London including some contracted work on behalf of local authorities and with young carers and young offenders.

The Application

The charity seeks two years' further funding for a programme that will increase deaf people's participation in sport. BFCCST has created a West London Hub for Sports providing information on local deaf-friendly activities and will continue to provide deaf awareness courses to increase the number of coaches with basic British Sign Language. In addition to the work with mainstream sports providers, BFCCST will also run its own activities including programmes for deaf children, extra-curriculum coaching at schools, and the formation of new sports clubs and competitions for deaf people across West London. The work is led by a profoundly deaf coach who is qualified to coach across a range of sports and is one of the first profoundly deaf coaches to deliver mainstream coaching in schools.

The Recommendation

BFCCST is a well-established community sports trust that delivers a range of programmes across London. Your officer recently attended a learning visit to see this project in action and it was evident that the work is well received and provides opportunities for profoundly deaf children to access a range of sports. This work already ensures that mainstream sport providers are more deaf friendly and will continue to improve awareness throughout the two year grant extension should you agree it. The funding request has been reduced since assessment as BFCCST was requesting funding towards a fundraising and marketing post to work alongside this project, a post that could be covered by the organisation from its reserves. Funding is recommended as follows:

£63,500 over two further years (2 x £31,750) for a part-time coach (3dpw) and running costs for Brentford FC Community Sports Trust's deaf project.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
23/09/2015	£96,250 over three years (£33,500; £32,250; £30,500) for a part-time coach (three days per week) and running costs for Brentford FC Community Sports Trust's deaf project.

Background and detail of proposal

BFCCST began coaching disabled people through its work with special educational needs children in schools. Eight years ago, the charity recruited a new coach who is himself deaf. This individual started developing activities for deaf children, discovering that participants would travel some considerable distance to take part due to the lack of local provision. At the same time, the coach was funded to research the barriers facing deaf sports participants, with findings highlighting the issues of poor communications, a lack of deaf-aware and deaf-friendly environments, and very few positive deaf role-models in the sports community.

Funding for an additional 2 years will enable this programme to grow and develop while allowing the Trust to find funding to ensure the project is sustainable after the five-year period. The work will benefit children, young people and adults, with activities taking place in schools and mainstream clubs. This work has already delivered significant outcomes for the beneficiaries it has worked with but has also made a profound difference on the culture at the organisation. Many of the staff at the Trust are in the process of learning British Sign Language or have attended Deaf awareness courses. This will continue and become part of staff inductions.

Financial Information

The Charity holds reserves just over its reserves target of three months but below 6 months of turnover. The Charity will be moving premises once the Brentford Football Club refurbishment has been completed and funding is being retained to ensure adequate funds is available for the move.

Cost of generating funds were not disclosed in the 2018 Accounts but were very low. The Charity has now estimated they spend in the region of £50,000 on fundraising split across managers time spent on funding bids and a Corporate events and fundraising post.

Year end as at 31 March	2018 Audited £	2019 Budget £	2020 Forecast
Income & expenditure:			
Income	1,931,250	1,970,000	2,202,820
- % of Income confirmed as at 10/01/2019	n/a	97%	80%
Expenditure	(1,886,643)	(1,990,276)	(2,140,680)
Total surplus/(deficit)	44,607	(20,276)	62,140
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	36,659	(24,548)	58,320
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	7,948	4,272	3,820
	44,607	(20,276)	62,140
Cost of Raising Funds	0	50,000	50,000
- % of Income	0.0%	2.5%	2.3%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	961,504	971,533	1,120,680
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	361,122	365,394	369,214
No of months of operating expenditure	4.5	4.5	4.0
Reserves policy target	240,376	242,883	280,170
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	120,746	122,511	89,044