

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Anniversary Programme

Kingston Voluntary Action

Adv: Jenny Field

Amount requested: £303,619

Base: Kingston

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £303,600

The Partnership

This partnership is led by Kingston Voluntary Action (KVA) on behalf of the CVS network across London. The principal partners in this proposed project are London Plus¹, HEAR Network², Coalition for Efficiency, DataKind UK, Makerble and the GLA.

The Lead Organisation

KVA is well-known to the Trust and currently holds a CBT grant on behalf of Love Kingston, a place-based giving scheme in the Royal Borough of Kingston and part of London's Giving which will become an independent charity during 2019-20.

KVA is host to the Superhighways project which works across several south London boroughs and which provides technical and digital support and development services for the voluntary and community sector. Superhighways supports voluntary and community organisations to build their ICT capacity, enabling more efficient and effective service delivery in the community.

The Proposal

Superhighways has been supporting small voluntary and community groups and social enterprises use digital technology as an enabler for greater efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability since 1998. Nevertheless, the need to build digital skills within the voluntary sector has long been recognised and the need to make more intelligent use of data and other digital resources was a key finding of The Way Ahead report³.

Working with its partners, Superhighways will bring together the London CVS network and other local infrastructure bodies, as well as pan-London and specialist civil society support organisations (e.g. Advice UK and Small Charities Coalition) with the aim of embedding data and digital skills within their constituencies.

During the development phase, Superhighways held a series of workshops engaging 35 organisations to map existing digital provision and to build the partnership. For stage two, it is proposed to co-design a digital skills and digital maturity programme that is accessible for groups working at the hyperlocal level. As well as harnessing

¹ London Plus is the new key co-ordinating body for London's civil society which you currently support. An application for continuation funding is included in your papers for today's meeting.

² HEAR Network is the London Equalities and Human Rights Network and is part of the cohort of 11 second-stage Cornerstone Fund applicants/grantees. Its second-stage grant has been approved by the National Lottery Community Fund.

³ The Way Ahead is a collaboration which aims to improve, and secure the future of, civil society support by putting London's communities at the heart of what we do.

the expertise of its partners, this will build on Superhighway's 'Impact Aloud' project (funded by CBT over a five-year period ending January 2019) which supported hundreds of small charities and community groups to better capture and communicate their impact using free and low-cost digital tools.

The programme will be designed with differing entry points, to enable organisations to join regardless of their level of competency and will also include some short-term modules. Training will be delivered by both Superhighways and its approved delivery partners.

Cornerstone Outcomes

The programme will aim to meet the following outcomes of the Cornerstone Fund Outcomes Framework in the short-term:

- Improved understanding of how to access and use research and data to provide more responsive services.
- High quality services are co-designed with the community, drawing on the strengths and assets of all communities.
- Improved co-ordination between support organisations and improved cross-sector networking.

Leading in the longer-term to:

- Community and voluntary groups effectively supported to deliver their mission and goals, improved use of civil society assets and resources.

The Recommendation

Superhighways has established a good reputation for the quality and the reach of its work. It led The Way Ahead Task and Finish Group on data and intelligence and is working in collaboration with a number of the other Cornerstone Fund partnerships. Through its ability to reach at the hyper-local level, this proposal complements a Strategic Initiative that is before you today from the Centre for the Acceleration of Social Technology (CAST) and Superhighways is one of the delivery partners for CAST's 'Design Hop' workshops.

The proposed programme also complements the work being done on your Funder Plus offer (an update on which can be found in the Chief grants Officer's Progress Report) with Superhighways and its delivery partners potentially forming part of the pool of providers.

£303,600 over two years (2 x £151,800) towards a project increasing and embedding digital skills amongst small voluntary organisations across London.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
07/09/2018	£17,000 towards the co-design and testing of a project to build data literacy and digital skills in small local charities and community groups. (Cornerstone Stage 1 grant)
14/03/2018	£25,950 towards the salary and associated running costs of a part-time (0.6 FTE) High Net Worth Fundraiser who, as well as raising funds for Love Kingston, will add valuable learning to the wider London's Giving movement. (Love Kingston)
24/11/2016	£136,000 over two years (£67,000; £69,000) to fund the salary costs of a 0.4 FTE Superhighways manager, one project worker

	(0.8FTE) and associated running costs, for the continued delivery of the Superhighways Project.
03/10/2013	£195,000 over three years (3 x £65,000) towards Superhighways, an ICT project supporting voluntary and community organisations in six boroughs in South London.
28/07/2011	£140,000 over three years (£47,000; £47,000; £46,000) towards the salary and associated running costs of a Capacity Building Manager subject to the receipt of satisfactory account for 2010/11.

Financial Information

KVA's audited accounts for 2017-18 do not show the cost of fundraising. This has been raised with the organisation which says this will be included in the 2018-19 accounts.

Its income in 2018-9 reduced significantly compared with the previous year mainly as a result of losing its contract for its volunteering service to Groundwork London during a competitive tendering process.

Free reserves are forecast to remain slightly below target as at 31st March 2019. It is currently working with the Cranfield Trust to develop a 5 year business plan which will include building its capacity to generate earned income and if the surplus on unrestricted income budgeted for in 2019-20 is achieved, this will result in free reserves being slightly above the target.

Year end as at 31st March	2018 Examined	2019	2020
	Accounts	Forecast	Budget
Income & expenditure:			
Income	784,905	640,753	603,766
- % of Income confirmed as at 22/02/19	n/a	100%	100%
Expenditure	(875,759)	(756,972)	(709,103)
Actuarial gains/(losses) on defined benefit pension schemes	1,147	n/a	n/a
Total surplus/(deficit)	(89,707)	(116,219)	(105,337)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(58,259)	(61,979)	(123,952)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(31,448)	28,233	18,615
	(89,707)	(33,746)	(105,337)
Operating Expenditure	375,324	398,416	391,401
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	64,659	92,892	111,507
No of months of operating expenditure	2.1	2.8	3.4
Reserves policy target	93,831	99,804	97,850
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(29,172)	(6,712)	13,657

