

**MEETING: 09/05/2019**

**Ref: 14741**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London Safer**

**St Michael's Fellowship**

**Adv: Shegufta Slawther**

**Base: Lambeth**

**Amount requested: £140,778**

**Benefit: Lambeth**

**Amount recommended: £140,800**

**The Applicant**

Founded in 1903, St Michael's Fellowship (SMF) registered as a charity in 1994, working with young parents and their children in London. Safety and wellbeing of children is central to delivery whilst recognising that everyone has the capacity for change. Working with young parents through tailored, holistic support in residency and the community, SMF supports transformation in the most unlikely places.

**The Application**

Funding is requested as a contribution towards the DiVa 360 project; breaking cycles of domestic abuse in young families, working with young mothers, their children and ex-partners. Some funding has been secured from various trusts and foundations as well as committing the charity's own unrestricted funds towards this service.

**The Recommendation**

The charity has demonstrated the effectiveness of this service with strong outcomes linked to a family-wide approach towards supporting young people and their families. A grant is advised:

***£140,800 over three years (£46,000, £46,900, £47,900) for the full-time salary of a Young Parent Practitioner and associated on-costs.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
23/11/2017	£39,000 to scope and test the feasibility of social investment.
18/03/2016	£3,400 to provide an eco-audit.

**Background and detail of proposal**

The charity will deliver evidence-based programmes to mothers, fathers and children, all aimed at helping participants to exit a lifecycle of domestic abuse as victims or perpetrators. DiVa 360 is made up of five programme components. The first is facilitated peer support group for young mothers in Lambeth in abusive relationships; a weekly group running 46 weeks out of the year. 30 young mothers attend during the year. Meeting at a children's centre, it offers the young mother's a confidential, safe space whilst the children attend creche. Positive outcomes include mothers moving into counselling support, children de-registered from Child Protection Plans, mothers obtaining non-molestation orders, as well as some attending training courses and securing employment. The second component is the Children's Community Group Programme; a 12-week psycho-educational, groupwork programme that takes place three times a year. Eight children aged four to six who have experienced domestic abuse take part, alongside their mothers affected by, but no longer living with, domestic abuse. The support focusses on improving the child's ability to cope with common social situations, reducing social-

behavioural problems associated with witnessing violence, helping children understand they are not responsible for parents' fighting, working towards sufficient change to prevent violence in the child's future and ensuring children learn safety skills. SMF has seen that bonding with the mother and longer-term educational achievements improve as a result. The third component is Caring Dads; an evidence-based 17-week programme for young fathers in abusive relationships. If the man has abused one woman, he is unlikely to change his behaviour towards his next partner, unless there is some intervention.

The fourth component is 1-2-1 practical, emotional and therapeutic support for 50 young mothers and 40 young fathers a year through a well-developed keyworker model that encourages a supportive, open relationship where problems, challenges and setbacks are discussed honestly, including the real difficulty of not returning to an abusive partner for various practical and emotional reasons. The final component is supervised and supported family contact for 36 families a year; enabling children to build or maintain safely a loving relationship with a non-residential parent or, when fostered or adopted, maintain contact with birth parents and sibling. The complexity of most cases requires a bespoke nature of interventions to effect real change; entrenched, complex issues rarely have simple solutions and therefore require manpower and personalised support to address them, which is the basis of the design of the DiVa 360 programme.

#### **Financial Information**

Although contract income from Lambeth Council will continue for another year having received an extension, the Local Authority has indicated its intention to prioritise support to young parents over the next few years. In 2018 there was a reduction in residential income due to building issues in one of its residential family assessment centres. Whilst the housing association in question provided some compensation towards this deficit, the remainder was covered from £210,000 held in designated reserves. These designated funds were also utilised for capital expenditure on IT, staff development and investment. The year-on-year planned spend against designated funds brings the charity closer to its reserves target. 15% income confirmed for 2020 is based on 80% of income is spot purchased by different Local Authorities (24 in the last two years) with Outstanding Ofsted grading this year. As such, anticipated income is realistic, with reserves commensurate with 80% of services being spot purchased.

<b>Year end as at 31 March</b>	<b>2018 Accounts</b>	<b>2019 Forecast</b>	<b>2020 Budget</b>
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	2,580,798	2,330,924	2,638,276
- % of income confirmed as at 04/04/2019	n/a	100%	15%
Expenditure	(2,400,071)	(2,442,850)	(2,648,660)
Total surplus/(deficit)	<b>180,727</b>	<b>(111,926)</b>	<b>(10,384)</b>
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(4,614)	93,296	(15,024)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	185,341	(205,222)	4,640
	<b>180,727</b>	<b>(111,926)</b>	<b>(10,384)</b>
<b>Cost of Raising Funds</b>			
- % of income	3.5%	8.2%	12.5%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	2,017,813	2,105,138	2,132,266
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	1,132,158	926,936	931,576
No of months of operating expenditure	6.7	5.3	5.2
Reserves policy target	672,604	701,713	710,755
No of months of operating expenditure	4.0	4.0	4.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	459,554	225,223	220,821

