

MEETING: 09/05/2019

Ref: 15074

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions

Pursuing Independent Paths

Adv: Sandra Davidson

Base: Westminster

Amount requested: £77,904

**Benefit: Westminster, Brent,
Islington and Kensington &**

Chelsea,

Amount recommended: £77,900

The Applicant

Established in 1984 Pursuing Independent Paths (PIP) promotes choice and opportunities for adults with learning disabilities (LDs). Person centered planning is at the core of PIPs services which are all based on achieving individual goals and developing skills. PIP facilitates the development of life and vocational skills and support networks. It offers a flexible and dynamic range of services, including accredited training and education, travel skills, independent living, employment skills, work placement, and support into mainstream education. PIP recently set up Fruitful Juice. Fruitful Juice is a Social Enterprise Juice Stall providing opportunities for twelve students to gain invaluable life and vocational skills. The charity collaborates with City Harvest London to use surplus food and reduce waste; trainees grow their own produce, pick wild fruit and make compost. More than 70 volunteers help to deliver and administer the service.

The Application

This application is for two years' continuation funding towards the salaries and related cost of delivering the successful Performing Arts Programme. Building on the work over the last three years, the charity will expand the existing programme - increasing dance and media sessions to meet the growing demand for the programme.

The Recommendation

PIP is highly regarded as a small, friendly and accessible local provider of quality social care offering exciting and innovative services to adults with learning disabilities and mental health issues. Your continuation will allow PIP to increase the number of structured arts programme and number of sessions. Your previous monitoring has delivered good outcomes for this project and evaluation has shown the positive impact on students' lives. This project fits well with your Positive Transitions programme outcomes and priorities.

£77,900 over a further and final two years (2 x £38,950) for salaries and related costs of delivering the Performing Arts project for young adults with learning disabilities.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
26/11/2015	£97,300 over three years (£32,900; £32,000; £32,400) towards salaries and related costs of delivering the Performing Arts Project for young adults with learning disabilities.

Background and detail of proposal

PIP's Performing Arts project is a development of its drama and theatre project, which has been running in some form since 2006. The proposed two-year extension of PIP's performing Arts programme will engage 56 adults with LDs. The programme will provide practical training in physical theatre, dance and digital media, with performances incorporating other aspects of the organisation's work (e.g. music and visual art). Currently, PIP delivers over 50 different life skills sessions per week (equating to 858 support hours). The Performing Arts programme uses therapeutic techniques to help learners understand themselves, others and the world around them. Supported by experienced staff and external practitioners PIP's Performing Arts project promotes the development of transferable skills through a range of creative learning/training. Developing social skills including cooperation, teamwork and self-expression is essential in enabling students to lead fulfilling, independent lives. The programme is currently at capacity with a waiting list now standing at 44 with growing demand from adults with more severe LDs. Each year the programme will deliver:

- 41, three- hour Dance/Drama sessions for up to 15 students
- 80, 1.5-hour Multimedia sessions exploring digital arts for up to 15 students
- A PIP Theatre Production, performed in public spaces (e.g. Tabernacle and V&A Museum) devised and performed by PIP students
- At least two public dance performances
- At least four trips to performance /arts venues in London, each engaging up to 15 students.

PIP regularly consult with student students through a range of mechanisms including twice- weekly student meetings; 1-1 student keyworker discussions; and an annual student survey. PIP work hard to meet the requests of students and their families.

The charity launched a major fundraising drive in 2017 under the banner of the "Beanstalk Campaign" with the aim of raising £1m to support the acquisition and fit out of new premises and to underpin additional running costs for 2-3 years. To date PIP has raised £553k towards that target, with support from the Mayor of London's Good Growth Fund, Portman Foundation, Laing Family Trust, corporates and individuals. PIP is actively seeking suitable premises to meet the demand for current and new students. PIP hope to secure a new Hub within Westminster by June 2019.

Financial Information

Student income from local authorities equate to 57% of running costs for the current financial year. PIP's income increased in 2018-19 due to funds received designated for the Beanstalk Campaign. Implementation of PIP's fundraising strategy involves an uplift in staffing numbers with the recruitment of two fundraisers underway. Going forward, the Trustees' strategy is to work to diversify the income base, from corporates, major donors, and individual giving. Several applications are in the pipeline to several trusts and foundations.

Year end as at 31 March	2018	2019	2020
	Examined Accounts	Draft	Budget
Income & expenditure:			
Income	972,465	1,187,956	1,564,000
- % of Income confirmed as at 02/04/2019	n/a	n/a	73%
Expenditure	(951,471)	(1,055,000)	(1,620,000)
Total surplus/(deficit)	20,994	132,956	(56,000)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	20,070	210,000	(94,000)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	924	(77,044)	38,000
	20,994	132,956	(56,000)
Cost of Raising Funds			
Cost of Raising Funds	46,446	51,000	80,000
- % of Income	4.8%	4.3%	5.1%
Total expenditure	768,594	889,000	1,020,000
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	257,521	180,477	218,477
No of months of operating expenditure	4.0	2.4	2.6
Reserves policy target	192,149	222,250	255,000
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	65,373	(41,773)	(36,523)

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