

MEETING: 25/07/2019

Ref: 15330

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Advice and Support

Body & Soul

Adv: Tim Wilson

Base: Islington

Amount requested: £60,000

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £60,000

The Applicant

Body & Soul (B&S) is a registered charity working to support people who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, significant childhood adversity. This beneficiary group includes those living with HIV, children adopted from care, and young people who have attempted suicide.

The Application

This is a request for continuation funding. B&S had a three-year award from the Trust which ended in January 2019. As per the Trust's guidelines, the organisation has requested a further two-years' funding. The charity's remit has widened since the 2015 grant when B&S' work was exclusively focused on HIV. B&S believe that its model works effectively with other groups who have faced adverse experiences in childhood. This request is, however, restricted to supporting the costs of casework and advocacy services for people living with HIV, and is in line with the previous three-year award.

The Recommendation

Monitoring for the previous City Bridge Trust grant was consistently strong. The charity provided evidence of ongoing demand as well as case examples and individual testimonies from its beneficiaries. The charity's advice work is accredited, and its proposal builds on work delivered to date. City Bridge funds will be restricted to work with HIV-positive members. The charity is highly regarded, and funding is recommended as follows:

£60,000 over two further and final years (2 x £30,000) to support the costs of casework and advocacy services for Londoners living with HIV, providing advice and support on housing, benefits, immigration, employment and debt.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
24/11/2016	Withdrawn application to the Stepping Stones Fund.
26/11/2015	£86,500 over three years for a full-time Head of Casework and Advocacy, overseeing the delivery of Body & Soul's HIV support programme.
20/01/2011	£50,200 over three years towards the salary costs of a worker supporting teenagers living and affected by HIV in London.

Background and detail of proposal

B&S offers a range of one-to-one and group-based support services to its members. Work is tailored to the individual needs of the member and include therapy, advocacy, education, and employment coaching as well as arts and sports activities with a focus on wellbeing.

Work is delivered through B&S' "Stability and Success" project which is designed to enhance members' confidence, independence and life-skills. In line with the previous award, the charity would use City Bridge Trust funding to deliver 48 annual one-to-one member appointments with its Head of Casework and Advocacy, 48 annual sessions with casework interns and volunteers, 36 annual legal clinics for support from the charity's pro bono lawyers, and 6 annual living-skills workshops for people with HIV.

The charity is working to generate more of its own income through venue hire and training, and this suggests there is scope to self-sustain elements of the "Stability and Success" project at the end of any continuation funding City Bridge may provide.

Financial Information

The charity's most recent audited accounts are from 2017 and given that the majority of funds requested from City Bridge Trust will be drawn in 2020 the financial table below covers a longer period than you would usually see.

Overall, the financial picture is reassuring. Whilst B&S' free reserves are slightly above target in 2017 and 2018, they are not unreasonable so for an organisation offering such a wide range of services. Income is expected to grow in 2019 as the organisation raises new funds to cover expanded operations. This planned expansion of new services is reflected in the surpluses on restricted funds shown in 2019 and 2020. These funds will be utilised as service delivery scales up.

Year end as at 31st December	2017 Audited Accounts £	2018 Draft Accounts £	2019 Forecast £	2020 Budget £
Income & expenditure:				
Income	1,557,005	1,482,224	1,852,000	1,902,000
- % of income confirmed as at 17th April 2019	n/a	n/a	57%	19%
Expenditure	(1,482,973)	(1,539,069)	(1,728,313)	(1,780,162)
Total surplus/(deficit)	74,032	(56,845)	123,687	121,838
Split between:				
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(3,497)	(64,166)	132,434	134,183
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	77,529	7,321	(8,747)	(12,345)
	74,032	(56,845)	123,687	121,838
Cost of Raising Funds				
176,332	176,332	191,749	207,397	213,619
- % of income	11.3%	12.9%	11.2%	11.2%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	874,833	854,251	1,119,947	1,153,545
Free unrestricted reserves:				
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	344,733	352,054	343,307	330,962
No of months of operating expenditure	4.7	4.9	3.7	3.4
Reserves policy target	218,708	213,563	279,987	288,386
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	126,025	138,491	63,320	42,576