

MEETING: 25/07/2019

Ref: 15285

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital

Claremont Project (Islington)

Adv: Samantha Grimmett-Batt

Amount requested: £98,816

Base: Islington

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £98,800

The Applicant

Claremont Project (Claremont) was founded in 1907 and became a registered charity in 1998. It provides isolated and marginalised older Londoners, living in Islington and neighbouring boroughs, with a range of aspirational, creative and stimulating opportunities. It has over 800 active members and runs more than thirty-five regular classes a week, based on member interest, rather than 'age appropriate' stereotyping. The focus is on personal development, creativity and co-creating a progressive community of equals.

The Application

The Flourishing Lives project was developed in response to commissioned research produced in 2015 and aims to improve Day Centre provision in London dramatically. Claremont seeks two further years of funding for this collaborative project, which it leads from its base in Islington. This innovative project supports the day centre sector to provide higher quality, better tailored services by developing and disseminating best practice models and fostering an intergenerational exchange of ideas, knowledge, and inspiration. The work is strongly linked with creativity and the arts and aims to celebrate the contribution that older people make to both art and society.

The Recommendation

The project has proven successful in delivering popular, high quality professional development training for professionals; sessions are always fully booked with waiting lists. This organisation has a dynamic and forward-looking approach to working with older people, and has pushed the sector forward, moving from a practice-based evidence approach to an evidence-based practice approach. Funding is advised:

£98,800 over two further and final years (2 x £49,400) for the salary of a f/t Flourishing Lives Project Co-ordinator plus project running costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
18/03/2016	£143,850 over three years (£49,300, £46,900, £47,650) for the salary of a f/t FL Project Co-ordinator plus project running costs.
15/04/2010	£99,000 over three years (£32,000; £33,000; £34,000) for the salary and some operational costs of a full-time Creative Director.

Background and detail of proposal

Supported by your previous grant, Claremont created the Charter for Outstanding Day Services, and implemented an ongoing needs analysis of service provision. This provided a baseline from which to develop services and begin recruiting members

and planning sessions. By the end of the third year there were 271 member organisations, all recruited through face to face meetings. These memberships represent genuine connections, rather than simply registrations on a website, and the success of the project has hinged on these meaningful interactions. Claremont has staged a series of sold-out free workshops and launched a CPD accredited Relational Training package as well as hosting symposia and conventions at the British Museum and Tate Modern, among others. The charity proposes to continue this work, which includes a central hub for providers, linking 271 coalition members across 29 boroughs, many of which have never connected before. After the grant period has ended, Claremont Trustees have agreed a plan to spin-out Flourishing Lives as a separate charity, whilst still providing incubation space and non-financial assistance at the Claremont centre. The funding strategy will likely follow a membership model, allowing FL to develop and maintain a suitable level of independence.

Financial Information

The reserves policy is to hold 6 months expenditure after designated funds, which stood at £80,580 at 31 March 2018. Reserves are therefore under target, however, as the policy is generous, your officer is still confident of the charity's financial stability. Claremont receives a mix of restricted and unrestricted grants from a range of funders and enjoys significant lettings income. Planned income diversification strategies include new legacy and digital fundraising programmes. The charity is embarking on a £750,000 renovation project, for which full funding has been secured; the expenditure will be capitalised and has not been included in the table, alongside the related income.

Year end as at 31st March	2018 Signed Accounts £	2019 Budget £	2020 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	463,685	490,055	486,015
- % of income confirmed as at 04/06/2019	N/A	N/A	70%
Expenditure	(459,920)	(499,287)	(484,164)
Total surplus/(deficit)	3,765	(9,232)	1,851
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	0	(11,570)	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	3,765	2,338	1,852
	3,765	(9,232)	1,852
Cost of Raising Funds	33,590	38,752	29,480
- % of income	7.2%	7.9%	6.1%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	328,767	393,520	382,978
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	122,359	124,697	126,549
No of months of operating expenditure	4.5	3.8	4.0
Reserves policy target	164,384	196,760	191,489
No of months of operating expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(42,025)	(72,063)	(64,940)