

MEETING: 25/07/2019

Ref: 15317

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital

Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust

**Adv: Sandra Davidson
Base: Camden
Benefit: Several London
Boroughs**

Amount requested: £65,972

Amount recommended: £66,000

The Applicant

The Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust (CGDHT) was established in 2005 to provide a community facility in the heart of Covent Garden and Holborn. It is a forward thinking, collaborative, charitable organisation serving the needs of local residents, communities and the wider public. With a focus on children, young people and older residents at risk of social exclusion and isolation, CGDHT provides opportunities for social, educational and creative engagement. The charity provides a safe and supportive environment with activities designed by local people. All are encouraged to build on their talents, passions and abilities. Current services include: under 5's drop-in; play work; youth work; and a range of activities to improve the health and well-being of older people.

The Application

In March 2016 you awarded CGDHT £87,000 over 3 years for the salary costs of a Community Development Worker and associated project costs to develop and deliver a range of activities for older people. This application is for a further 2 years' continuation, funding which is allowed under your Bridging Divides programme.

The Recommendation

CGDHT recent 3-year grant which has just ended has been very successful and exceeded its original targets. It has established an excellent reputation of providing services for older people and working in partnership with other local providers. This project fits well with your Connecting the Capital programme outcomes and priorities. Funding is recommended as follows:

£65,970 over two further and final years (2x £33,000) for a full time Community Development Worker (35hpw) to develop and deliver services working with older people aged 75+ and carers aged 65+.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
18/03/2016	£87,000 over three years (£29,600; £28,700; £28,700) for the salary of a full-time Community Development Worker and associated project costs working with older people aged 75+ and support to carers 65+.

Background and detail of proposal

CGDHT covers a large geographical area from Russell Square in the north to the Thames in the south, and from beyond Grays Inn Road in the east to Soho in the west. Since its inception, the charity has focused on providing high quality, efficient and innovative services driven by the needs of local people. Current activities for

older people include an art class, chair yoga, bridge club, line dancing, Pilates, and a monthly tea dance. Your continued support will allow CGDHT to grow and develop while allowing the charity to find funding to ensure the project is sustainable after the five-year period. This project has delivered significant outcomes for the beneficiaries it has worked with. Camden's older population (65+) is expected to rise to 29,280 by 2023, an increase of 15.7% from 2013 while those aged 75+ are projected to increase by approximately 41%. The postholder has been able to engage isolated older people using outreach techniques, working with volunteers to help manage the delivery of the activities. Service users are encouraged to engage in leading activities or giving talks and workshops on a range of different subjects. The activities take place in 5 different venues in the area including a new community centre in Kings Cross.

Financial Information

The reserves policy states that the charity aims to hold free unrestricted funds of 4 months' worth of expenditure. The charity has a contract with Islington Council to run Soapbox – a youth centre which has seen an increase in income as shown below. Due to the contract for Soapbox being retendered there is no guarantee the charity will be taking the project forward next year. The costs of generating funds were not disclosed in the 2018 Accounts but were low. The charity now estimated they will spend £9,600 on fundraising using a consultant.

Year end as at 31st March	2018 Signed Accounts £	2019 Forecast £	2020 Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	569,324	656,517	590,623
- % of Income confirmed as at 3 June 2019	N/A	N/A	71%
Expenditure	(440,104)	(510,173)	(559,661)
Total surplus/(deficit)	129,220	146,344	30,962
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	108,815	40,256	105,512
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	20,405	106,088	(74,550)
	129,220	146,344	30,962
Cost of Raising Funds	5,518	9,600	9,600
- % of Income	1.0%	1.5%	1.6%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	195,706	106,088	229,550
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	65,052	171,140	96,590
No of months of operating expenditure	4.0	19.4	5.0
Reserves policy target	65,235	35,363	76,517
No of months of operating expenditure	4.0	4.0	4.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(183)	135,777	20,073