

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital

Young Barnet Foundation

Adv: Tim Wilson

Amount requested: £313,992

Base: Barnet

Benefit: Barnet

Amount recommended: £200,000

The Applicant

The Young Barnet Foundation (YBF) is one of seven young people's foundations established in Greater London to develop and strengthen the provision of voluntary sector services for children and young people. Initiated by the John Lyon's Charity and developed in response to the diminution of services for children and young people, young people's foundations are borough-specific infrastructure bodies working with voluntary sector organisations. Particularly concerned with support to smaller organisations, YBF is a registered charity acting as an infrastructure body for a membership of groups working with those aged 0-25 in the borough. It has over 160 voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in membership.

The Application

YBF delivers four main areas of work: it raises and distributes grants for local organisations; it fosters cross-sectoral partnerships between groups in support of smaller organisations in the borough; it matches organisations with space to those needing space; and it strengthens its member organisations' monitoring and evaluation practice.

The Recommendation

Still a relatively young organisation, YBF has made considerable progress since it started work in 2015. It has a small staff team led by a Chief Executive who has worked in Barnet's local infrastructure and funding community for many years, and who therefore knows the borough and the challenges the sector faces well. YBF has built a membership of small to medium sized charities who are typically stretched and struggling to do more than service delivery. As an infrastructure organisation YBF delivers valuable capacity building services, networking and professional development. The original funding request was a large request for core funding with the annual award growing year on year. Given the Trust's founding support for YBF (see '*funding history*' below) and in recognition of other applications from young people's foundations to this May Committee, officers believe it is fair to provide a core award on the basis that funding is tapered as it would be with other core grants. Since the organisation has strategic value as an infrastructure body, officers recommend that the Trust waive its usual requirement that core funding be no more than 10% of turnover. The level of funding has been discussed with YBF and the organisation understands the Trust's rationale. Funding is advised as follows:

£200,000 over five years (£50,000; £45,000; £40,000; £35,000; £30,000) as core funding to support the Young Barnet Foundation's work in support of voluntary sector organisations working with children and young people.

Funding History

The Trust supported YBF's initial development via John Lyon's Charity (an independent grant-making trust) in September 2015 and March 2018. In September 2015 YBF received £100,000 (this amount was matched by John Lyon's Charity) and in September 2018 £50,000. Similar awards were made in 2015 to young people's foundations in Harrow and Brent. The 2018 grants included the three original boroughs as well as new young people's foundations in Westminster, Camden and Hammersmith and Fulham.

Background and detail of proposal

Borough infrastructure services are stretched and likely to remain so as the local authority has announced that it will provide no further funding for this function from 2021. In response, YBF has formed a partnership with two other local umbrella bodies to share skills, cross-refer and ensure efficient delivery. Unlike some other London boroughs with young people's foundations, Barnet does not have a significant private sector presence and so needs to make better use of existing resources rather than accessing new input. The YBF has facilitated networking activities and is building relationships of trust between its members. It has deployed an excellent monitoring system to capture what its member organisations deliver and can use this data to advocate for the sector.

Financial Information

The 2019 forecast includes provision for a grant from City Bridge Trust at the proposed level of grant recommended by your officer. The organisation does not yet have a budget for 2020.

YBF has explained that the 2018 cost of raising funds was relatively low because it was without a dedicated fundraiser for half the year.

Year end as at 31st December	2017	2018	2019
	Examined Accounts £	Draft accounts £	Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	325,037	348,013	321,986
- % of Income confirmed as at 28th February	n/a	100%	82%
Expenditure	(266,573)	(294,991)	(321,986)
Total surplus/(deficit)	58,464	53,022	0
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	9,941	7,811	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	48,523	45,211	0
	58,464	53,022	0
Cost of Raising Funds	17,035	11,618	28,500
- % of Income	5.2%	3.3%	8.9%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	216,573	151,226	207,000
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	56,130	101,341	101,341
No of months of operating expenditure	3.1	8.0	5.9
Reserves policy target	108,287	75,613	103,500
No of months of operating expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(52,157)	25,728	(2,159)