

MEETING: 25/07/2019

Ref: 15230

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital

Young Brent Foundation

Adv: Jack Joslin

Base: Brent

Amount requested: £258,982

Benefit: Brent

Amount recommended: £200,000

The Applicant

The Young Brent 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 130 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

As an infrastructure organisation YBF delivers valuable capacity building services, networking and professional development. The original funding request was 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 July 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 Brent 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 Barnet. 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

YBF operates across the London Borough of Brent, one of London's most diverse but also deprived boroughs. YBF will utilise this funding to enable voluntary and community organisations in Brent working with young people to become more resilient, efficient and effective. Access to space is a key identified barrier to the sector's effectiveness in Brent. YBF will continue to develop Youth Hubs across the borough to ensure there are more spaces available for activities.

The Core funding provided will support the cost of the new CEO to implement a 5 year strategy, allow for core staff to assist the voluntary sector with fundraising and capacity building support and allow YBF to work strategically across the sector to set up consortiums and partnerships to ensure funding can be leveraged into the borough. In 2020 YBF will be working with the sector to ensure young people can engage positively and meaningfully with the London Borough of Culture activity that will be taking place across Brent.

Financial Information

YBF receives core funding from John Lyons Charity which has been agreed over the next three years. In year ending March 2019 the charity had a deficit in unrestricted funds which impacted its reserves, this can be explained by the Chief Executive leaving the charity and a lengthy period of recruitment to replace them. The charity has now recruited a new CEO and has ambitious plans in 2020. This includes an increase in turnover from a national lottery community fund bid to deliver a borough wide youth partnership and further fundraising to implement and deliver a youth hub programme across Brent. These projects will increase turnover in 2020 but the charity will be managing funds on behalf of others in the partnership rather than increasing in size itself. Cost of raising funds was not listed in the 2018 Accounts but has been included in subsequent years.

Year end as at 31st March	2018 Signed Accounts £	2019 Draft Accounts £	2020 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	341,160	430,350	1,119,137
- % of Income confirmed as at 07/06/2019	N/A	100%	47%
Expenditure	(307,381)	(473,730)	(1,010,530)
Total surplus/(deficit)	33,779	(43,380)	108,607
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	62,458	20,268	85,999
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(28,679)	(63,648)	22,608
	33,779	(43,380)	108,607
Cost of Raising Funds	0	37,000	37,000
- % of Income	0.0%	8.6%	3.3%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	273,819	313,648	314,392
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	80,584	16,936	39,544
No of months of operating expenditure	3.5	0.6	1.5
Reserves policy target	68,455	78,412	78,598
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	12,129	(61,476)	(39,054)