

MEETING: 25/07/2019

Ref: 15066

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital

Young Harrow Foundation

Adv: Jack Joslin

Amount requested: £299,888

Base: Harrow

Benefit: Harrow

Amount recommended: £200,000

The Applicant

The Young Harrow Foundation (YHF) is one of seven young people's foundations (YPF) 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, YPFs are borough-specific infrastructure bodies working with voluntary sector organisations. Particularly concerned with support to smaller organisations, YHF 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 90 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 YHF 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 YHF (see '*funding history*' below) and in recognition of other applications from YPFs 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 significant 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 YHF 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 Harrow Foundation's work in support of voluntary sector organisations working with children and young people.

Funding History

The Trust supported YHF's initial development via John Lyon's Charity (an independent grant-making trust) in September 2015 and March 2018. In September 2015 YHF 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 YPFs in Brent and Barnet. The 2018 grants included the three original boroughs as well as new YPFs in Westminster, Camden and Hammersmith and Fulham.

Background and detail of proposal

YHF has been operating since 2015 and has made significant progress since its inception. YHF is an infrastructure support body focusing on organisations working with and for young people. The Charity delivers three key programmes to its members of Partnership, Fundraising and Development. It has a strategic oversight of the sector and promotes partnership working to deliver greater outcomes for young people in Harrow. The Charity has helped raise an additional £2.2 million for Charities in Harrow through a variety of support. As a member of YHF Charities receive annual visits and are regularly surveyed to ensure YHF are offering services that meet the needs of the sector. YHF have been busy setting up a bespoke CRM system for the wider YPF network as well as setting up online tools that can be replicated across the YPF movement.

YHF were instrumental in the setup of the Harrow HeadsUp Partnership, delivered by Harrow Mind and supported by your committee in 2017 to provide a consortium model to offer bespoke Mental Health services to young people across the borough. This is a good example of the difference an infrastructure body can make, acting as a conduit for change and helping organisations navigate a difficult funding landscape.

Financial Information

YHF receive a substantial grant of £150,000 from John Lyons Charity each year, which is unrestricted. Funding has been confirmed on a taper over the next three years. As the funding from John Lyons Charity is unrestricted YHF uses this funding to cover its restricted deficits. In 2018 the Charity did not spend all its unrestricted income due to the timing of some of its planned projects, which meant there was a planned deficit in 2019.

Year end as at 31 March	2018 Examined Accounts	2019 Draft	2020 Budget
Income & expenditure:			
Income	246,968	239,842	346,000
- % of Income confirmed as at 08/04/2019		100%	62%
Expenditure	(204,216)	(296,051)	(357,065)
Total surplus/(deficit)	42,752	(56,209)	(11,065)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	6,100	(211,116)	4,000
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	36,652	154,907	0
	42,752	(56,209)	4,000
Cost of Raising Funds	4,394	4,000	4,000
- % of Income	1.8%	1.7%	1.2%
Total expenditure	204,216	296,051	357,065
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	115,917	59,708	59,708
No of months of operating expenditure	6.8	2.4	2.0
Reserves policy target	51,054	74,013	89,266
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	64,863	(14,305)	(29,558)