

MEETING: 25/07/2019

Ref: 15076

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital

Young Westminster Foundation

Adv: Jack Joslin

Amount requested: £295,625

Base: Westminster

Benefit: Westminster

Amount recommended: £200,000

The Applicant

The Young Westminster Foundation (YWF) 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, YWF 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 75 voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in membership.

The Application

YWF delivers four main areas of work: it raises and distributes grants for local organisations; it fosters cross-sectoral partnerships between groups to support smaller organisations in the borough; it matches organisations with space to those needing space; and it strengthens its member organisations' monitoring and evaluation practice. It also runs a Young Ambassadors programme that has trained up a group of young people who are consulted on a range of issues, to ensure that the voice of young people is included in local decision making.

The Recommendation

As an infrastructure organisation YWF 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 previous support for YWF (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 YWF 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 Westminster Foundation's work in support of voluntary sector organisations working with children and young people.

Funding History

The Trust supported YWF in 2018. A grant of £50,000 was awarded via a joint grant through the John Lyon's Charity to the three original YPF boroughs in Brent, Barnet and Harrow as well as new young people's foundations in Westminster, Camden and Hammersmith and Fulham.

Background and detail of proposal

YWF is based in the heart of Soho and although similar to the other YPFs they have unique access to a range of businesses in the heart of London. Westminster is also quite a unique borough, covering large amounts of Central London, including some of the most affluent parts. However, there are also parts of Westminster that are highly deprived where the disparity in wealth is significant. For YWF this provides a unique opportunity to link businesses with the voluntary sector and provide a wealth of opportunities for young people in the borough. YWF works closely with One Westminster, the infrastructure body in the borough, to ensure there is joined up working, partnership and collaboration across the sector. YWF also deliver a small grants programme for both the John Lyons Charity and the Mercers Company's Charitable Trust.

Your funding will underpin the provision of support to voluntary sector providers working with children and young people in Westminster. A core grant will offer stability over a five-year period to the charity as it develops its projects across the borough, forging new relationships and partnerships between business and the sector.

Financial Information

As a relatively new organisation YWF have relied on the initial start up funding from John Lyons and the Trust to establish themselves in the borough. Further funding over the next three years has been confirmed by the John Lyon's Charity. YWF will look to work in partnership with local business in Westminster, as well as apply to a range of different Trusts and Foundations to support the work. Your funding will help to underpin that by providing Core support over a 5-year period. Over this period the Charity, through the taper, will be able to seek additional resources to sustain its work.

Year end as at 31 March	2018 Accounts £	2019 Draft £	2020 Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	200,339	322,812	438,500
- % of Income confirmed as at 08/04/2019		100%	71%
Expenditure	(115,378)	(373,030)	(367,536)
Total surplus/(deficit)	84,961	(50,218)	70,964
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	33,984	(5,508)	26,000
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	50,977	(44,710)	44,964
	84,961	(50,218)	70,964
Cost of Raising Funds	0	5,000	5,000
- % of income	0.0%	1.5%	1.1%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	106,380	174,339	189,036
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	54,961	10,251	55,215
No of months of operating expenditure	6.2	0.7	3.5
Reserves policy target	26,595	43,585	47,259
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	28,366	(33,334)	7,956