

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions**Albert Kennedy Trust****Adv: Samantha Grimmatt-Batt****Amount requested: £60,000****Base: Hackney****Benefit: London-wide****Amount recommended: £57,500****The Applicant**

Albert Kennedy Trust (AKT, the Trust) has been providing housing, information, advice and advocacy services in London since 1995. The charity was founded in 1989 in Manchester and is named after a 16-year-old who tragically died after falling from a car park roof following homophobic abuse. The Trust works with young people aged 16-25 who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. In 2017/18 4,153 nights of safe accommodation were provided by the charity and it also undertakes prevention work. Services are delivered via their support staff, mentors, carers, and online programmes including non-housing support around healthcare; financial assistance; education; training and work. AKT has offices in Newcastle, Manchester, Bristol and London, where the HQ is based.

The Application

The request is for two further years of funding towards the salary costs of the London Service Manager (LSM). This is a key post; their role is to assess the needs of young LGBT people who are homeless or vulnerably housed and oversee placements into safe housing and eventually to independent living. The LSM also oversees mentor relationships and provides external training in best practice in meeting the needs of LGBT young people.

The Recommendation

Of the estimated 150,000 young people at risk of homelessness in London, 1 in 4 identifies as LGBT. The charity is one of only two providers of accommodation support to homeless LGBT young people in the country and it bridges the gap between age 16 and 17, where young homeless people often face barriers to accessing services. It successfully engages with diverse groups, with 23% of service users identifying as trans, 48% as BAME and 43% as disabled. The application fits your Positive Transitions programme well and the organisation is well-run, working closely with other key voluntary sector organisations including Galop and Stonewall Housing. The balance of funding is being provided by the Goldsmiths' Company and, as the grant awarded by them was higher than expected, your grant recommendation has been slightly reduced. Funding is recommended:

£57,500 over two further and final years (£27,500, £30,000) towards the salary costs of the f/t post of London Service Manager. The grant is conditional upon receipt of the year 3 monitoring report.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
18/03/2016	£90,000 over three years (3x £30,000) towards the salary costs of the f/t post of London Senior Practitioner.
12/09/2000	£46,000 over three years (£23,000; £15,000; £8,000) towards a housing service for homeless LGBT young people.

Background and detail of proposal

In 2015 AKT commissioned a national review which found that LGBT young people are over-represented among the homeless population and at a higher risk of becoming homeless due to suffering familial abuse, violence or rejection because of their gender identity or sexual orientation. Once homeless, they are more likely to experience targeted violence, discrimination and hate crime and they often present with complex needs including poor mental health, sexual exploitation, substance misuse and domestic abuse. When they seek help, limited understanding by housing service providers puts them at greater risk of discrimination and harassment. AKT supports young people through a short-term crisis, or for up to 24 months. The Trust worked with 300 young people in London in 2018 of which 89% felt more positive about their situation following support.

The London Service Manager oversees accommodation placements and, with the support worker, helps young people to develop the skills required to maintain a tenancy. They provide gateways into participation in employment, education and training, and oversee mentor relationships.

Financial Information

AKT has a diverse funder profile and recorded significant non-grant income in 2017/18, particularly corporate giving and event income. Further increases are expected in community and individual giving. The charity is taking steps to ensure sustainability including undertaking a governance review and a scoping exercise to inform decision making about the growth of the organisation. The Trust is holding free reserves at a level above its published policy however, relative to other organisations operating in the homelessness/accommodation field, the actual reserves held are justified and prudent. The policy is due to be reviewed by the board later in the year.

Year end as at 31st March	2018 Signed Accounts £	2019 Draft Accounts £	2020 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	1,323,244	1,483,076	1,306,463
- % of Income confirmed as at 18/06/2019	N/A	N/A	60%
Expenditure	(1,105,543)	(1,314,792)	(1,384,797)
Total surplus/(deficit)	217,701	168,284	(78,334)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	470	3,401	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	217,231	164,883	(78,334)
	217,701	168,284	(78,334)
Cost of Raising Funds	245,683	279,120	295,000
- % of Income	18.6%	18.8%	22.6%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	820,260	1,069,792	1,184,797
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	633,228	798,111	719,777
No of months of operating expenditure	9.3	9.0	7.3
Reserves policy target	368,514	356,597	394,932
No of months of operating expenditure	5.4	4.0	4.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	264,714	441,514	324,845