

**MEETING: 25/07/2019**

**Ref: 15187**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions**

**Embrace CVOC (Child Victims of Crime)**

**Adv: Sandra Jones**

**Base: Camden**

**Amount requested: £58,784**

**Benefit: London-wide**

**Amount recommended: £48,800**

**The Applicant**

Embrace Child Victims of Crime (ECVOC) is a national charity providing a range of practical and emotional support for young victims. Since it was established in 1994 the organisation has developed a range of practical, emotional and specialist support services for children and their families. In 2017/18 ECVOC supported 2,070 child victims and their families, with the demand for the charity's services increasing year on year. Services provided include information, advice and guidance; practical support in the form of grants, shopping vouchers, family breaks and peer group support; one-to-one counselling for those young people who have been traumatised as a result of life changing serious crime.

**The Application**

Funding is sought for a further two years' extension of their current CBT grant to provide counselling and support to young people aged 12 to 18 years who are victims of crime. Specifically, the application requests funding for the salary of a London Counselling Service lead (one day per week) and counselling sessions.

**The Recommendation**

ECVOC's recent three-year grant has been very successful and the service is in increasing demand. All targets have been fully met in the duration of the grant and as such a further two years grant is recommended. The amount recommended is less than that requested. This is because the request included funding towards an additional Lead Therapist which was not in the original application and no justification was given for this additional amount. A grant is advised:

***£48,800 over two further and final years (2 x £24,400) towards the salary cost of a London Counselling Service lead (one day per week), 500 counselling sessions per annum and management costs.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
23/09/2015	£68,000 over three years (£22,650; £22,650; £22,700), towards the salary cost of a London Counselling Service lead (one day per week) and 500 counselling sessions per annum.

**Background and detail of proposal**

The charity commissioned research in 2013 to investigate the future opportunities for ECVOC and two gaps in provision were highlighted; a national counselling service for traumatised young victims of crime to offer specialist support; and the offer of emotional support through a school-based befriending/peer support service for young people. Following on from a counselling pilot project the charity has rolled out this service across the UK. CBT funded this for London which enabled ECVOC to match child victims of crime in London (aged between 12 and 18) with specially

trained counsellors. Up to 10 counselling sessions for 50 child victims of crime were provided per annum over the last three years, with support to young people who have become victim to a wide range of crimes; the majority of which are sexual assault, murder or child cruelty. Almost 50% of referrals related to sexual abuse or assault, with domestic violence accounting for nearly 16% of the organisation's beneficiaries. In 2017/18 the CBT grant enabled ECVOG to support 106 young victims in London across all crime types, with 150+ referrals for 2018/19.

The Counselling Services Clinical lead dedicates one day per week to the project in London alongside the cost of counselling sessions for 50 child victims per year. This member of staff is responsible for developing the local counselling project across London. Working closely with police forces and voluntary support organisations, the role involves screening, recruiting and training a bank of counsellors who are specially trained to deliver counselling to child victims of crime.

Office costs were at a minimal as the CEO worked from home, using the offices of donors and Board members for meetings. In July 2019 the organisation move into premises in Peterborough rent free which will house their local, regional and national offices including training facilities. This is within a building where a range of organisations working with domestic violence, victims of crime are based.

### Financial Information

The majority of the organisation's funding currently comes from charitable donations and a sponsored dinner in the City. With the move to offices, there will be the opportunity to increase funding through work with partners, contracts and grants. Although funding for 2018/19 increased, the Board agreed spending to reduce its reserves which were considered too high. Figures for the current year show a surplus. It is anticipated reserves will increase in the current year, which is considered by ECVOG's Board to be prudent whilst they move into premises in case their budget for the full year is not accurate. In 2018 the organisation adopted a policy of holding 6 months free reserves.

Year end as at 31 March	2018 Examined Accounts £	2019 Draft Examined Accounts £	2020 Forecast £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	539,566	636,340	826,000
- % of income confirmed as at 22/02/2019	n/a	n/a	47%
Expenditure	(498,130)	(831,232)	(775,000)
Total surplus/(deficit)	<b>41,436</b>	<b>(194,892)</b>	<b>51,000</b>
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	23,145	(64,564)	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	18,291	(130,328)	51,000
	<b>41,436</b>	<b>(194,892)</b>	<b>51,000</b>
Cost of Raising Funds	105,386	160,597	107,000
- % of income	19.5%	25.2%	13.0%
Unrestricted expenditure	245,505	503,593	474,000
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	291,606	161,278	212,278
No of months of unrestricted expenditure	14.3	3.8	5.4
Reserves policy target	122,753	251,797	237,000
No of months of total expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	168,854	(90,519)	(24,722)