

MEETING: 26/09/2019

Ref: 15019

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions

Share Community

Adv: Shegufta Slawther

Base: Wandsworth

Amount requested: £130,460

Benefit: Wandsworth

Amount recommended: £130,500

The Applicant

Founded in 1972, the charity Share Community (SC) works to transform the lives of disabled people in London by providing a wealth of opportunities from employability schemes and accredited vocational training, through arts, sports and recreational services that promote health, wellbeing and independence.

The Application

Funding is sought for a project that will provide crucial training, employability and independence support to 200 disabled people over the three years. The project will help people to live more independently, through access to life skills training, employability training, voluntary and paid employment, support to transition into independent living, and activities that promote self-advocacy and increase the level of choice and control that disabled people have over their lives.

The Recommendation

The charity has demonstrated a strong track record of supporting disabled people across London and the proposed project builds on their near 50 years of experience. Funding has been secured from three other sources; the balance is requested in this application.

£130,500 over three years (£43,500, £43,500, £43,500) for two PT Job Coaches (14 hpw each) and associated project costs

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
09/07/2015	The application was to develop more robust evaluation systems to better evidence the progress of its students. The organisation was vague about how social investment could benefit it and seemed more focussed on being in a stronger position to win contracts.
13/03/2014	£130,000 over three years (£43,000; £43,000; £44,000) towards the salaries of a p/t (17.5 hpw) Development Worker and 17.5 hpw of the HR Administrator, plus running costs of the "Go anywhere, do anything" Project.

Background and detail of proposal

Disabled people in the UK frequently face loneliness and isolation with reduced access to opportunities, which has a negative impact on their mental and physical health and on social integration. Cuts to vital services and benefits have left disabled people with less support. In 2015 Scope conducted a national study which revealed that the care packages of 55% of disabled people were failing to support them to live independently.

The project will offer Life Skills Development, including digital skills, which will teach disabled people about keeping healthy, positive relationships, social interaction, being a citizen, and specific health and wellbeing concerns. There will be opportunities to practise cooking in domestic scale kitchens and learn about healthy eating. Digital skills training will maximise autonomy and independence and help manage behaviour. Employability training and job coaching will be offered through workshops alongside small group and one-to-one coaching to develop career plans, action plans and CVs. The two Job Coaches will help disabled people to develop the skills they need to move into paid or voluntary employment, or to contribute consistently to Share's social enterprises. Support to help disabled people transition to independent living will be supported by the use of the Outcomes Start; a participatory tool to help achieve goals. Through SC's 'Student Voice' group and 'Spectrum' (specifically for autistic beneficiaries) it will promote self-advocacy. Allied to these groups are the 'Women's Group' and 'Man Club' where people can explore gender-specific issues in a safe and confidential space. The project will also build and maintain strong working links with stakeholders and partners, including social workers and social services department, advocates, service brokers, health agencies, and others.

Financial Information

SC has a steady growth in income year on year based on growth in its social enterprise projects, as well as funding from various trusts and foundations. The reserves policy in 2018 was set as a range between £280,000 to £310,000 and is reviewed annually. The reserves policy for 2019 draft accounts states a target of holding 26% of current expenditure, and the charity has clarified that four months operating expenditure would likely fall within its target range.

Year end as at 31st March	2018 Signed Accounts £	2019 Draft Accounts £	2020 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	1,090,628	1,184,859	1,231,709
- % of Income confirmed as at 28/06/2019	N/A	N/A	87%
Expenditure	(1,015,730)	(1,121,461)	(1,163,509)
Total surplus/(deficit)	74,898	63,398	68,200
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(4,056)	8,657	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	78,954	54,741	68,200
	74,898	63,398	68,200
Cost of Raising Funds	42,052	30,225	32,750
- % of Income	3.9%	2.6%	2.7%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	855,747	963,293	990,509
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	287,086	341,827	410,027
No of months of operating expenditure	4.0	4.3	5.0
Reserves policy target	280,000	321,098	330,170
No of months of operating expenditure	3.9	4.0	4.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	7,086	20,729	79,857