

Committee:	Date:
City Bridge Trust	26 th September 2019
Subject: Partnership with Buttle UK (ref 15580)	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer (CGO) and Director of City Bridge Trust	For Decision
Report author: Jenny Field, Deputy Director	

Summary

This report requests funding for a final year in 2020-21 towards the Anchor Project, a joint initiative of City Bridge Trust (CBT) and Buttle UK, which supports the resettlement of families in London who have experienced domestic abuse.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Approve a grant of £88,900 as a final year's contribution towards the Anchor Project supporting families in London who have experienced domestic abuse to resettle.

Background

1. In November 2013, you approved a grant of £470,000 to enable Buttle UK to establish a hardship fund (known as the Anchor Project) for families to help them re-build their lives following domestic violence. A further grant of £634,000 was approved by the Court of Common Council in December 2014, whilst in April last year, you approved a grant of £324,697 over one year towards this initiative. These grants amount to a total of £1,428,697.
2. These grants enabled Buttle UK to design and deliver the Anchor Project to provide a holistic package of support for families affected by domestic violence, combining practical and emotional support provided by its network of referral agencies and cash grants of up to £2,000 administered by Buttle UK.

4. The average size of grant from Buttle UK to individual families is usually around £300. However, many families escaping domestic violence have to leave the home with few, if any, personal or household items. It was hoped that the more holistic approach of working closely with referral agencies, combined with a larger grant would help the families concerned take the all-important step of leaving an abusive relationship and successfully rebuild their lives.

Progress to date

5. The project has broken new ground in two respects. Firstly, it was the first time that the holistic approach, outlined above, had been piloted in London. Secondly, it has taken a child-centred approach and all grants must be used to meet the unmet needs of the children – be this physical, emotional, educational or recreational needs. This approach therefore challenged the common presumption that by meeting the mother's needs, the child's needs will also have been met.
6. Up until March 2019, the Anchor Project has awarded 882 grants totalling £1,077,474, with more grants being awarded in 2018/19 (221) than in any of the previous four years. The average value of grants has been £1,222. It has worked with some 200 referral agencies. £351,223 of the total funding awarded was towards Buttle UK's support costs.
7. At the time of assessment, £147,032 remains to be drawn down for further grant-making during 2019-20.
8. As well as providing very practical support, by helping to furnish and equip a new home, Anchor grants have been used to fund extra tuition, after school activities and computers, thereby improving the child's school performance, as well as therapy and after-school activities to help the child overcome the trauma of living with domestic abuse, thereby improving their emotional well-being.
9. An independent evaluation of the Anchor Project, undertaken during 2017, found that the grants had:
 - Helped children overcome trauma.
 - Directly supported children's key transitions.
 - Improved their behaviour and self-esteem.
 - Helped them to make new friends (through involvement in out of school activities) and therefore improved inclusion.
 - Helped restore their childhood to them.

The next phase (2019-21)

10. As a result of the success of the work in London, Buttle UK began to offer grants early in 2018 to support children affected by domestic abuse in Birmingham and the West Midlands, with an initial grant of £100,000 from Comic Relief.
11. Demand in this part of the country proved exceptionally high, and in November 2018, Buttle UK secured funding of £491,318 from the National

Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) to further develop the project over the next two years.

12. During this year and next, Buttle UK plans to both complete the expansion of its work in the West Midlands, while maintaining the level of support offered in London where there is now ongoing demand.

Developing Chances for Children Grants

13. Establishing the Anchor Project has supported Buttle UK's wider strategic direction. It now forms part of its Chances for Children strategy whereby it has learning from the Anchor Project to develop the concept of 'enhanced grants' across its support for families that are struggling.
14. In 2016, Buttle UK set itself the ambitious role of raising an additional £10 million to enable it to make more of these 'enhanced' grants and has so far raised £4.5 million towards this target.

Current need

15. Support for victims of domestic abuse continues to be the most frequent reason for an application to its Chances for Children grants across the UK, with 59% of these grants being awarded to families affected by domestic abuse. In London alone, this figure stood at 70%.
16. The latest figures from the Crime Survey for England and Wales show that in the year ending March 2018, an estimated two million adults aged between 16 and 59 years experienced domestic abuse in that year. Research from NSPCC and Refuge states that one in seven children and young people will have lived with domestic violence at some point in their lives. 90% of domestic violence incidents occur in households with children in the same or next room.
17. The Anchor Project in London is now well-established amongst the support network for those affected by domestic abuse, resulting in a greater scale of support provision for the families concerned.
18. You are asked to make a final one-year contribution towards the Anchor Project for 2020-2021 at the end of which Buttle UK aim that it will be funded in full through the Chances for Children Campaign.
19. The NLCF grant includes funding for an external evaluation will include a more systematic investigation into how the holistic, child-centered approach can be used to change practice in domestic abuse support agencies. The previous evaluation found anecdotal evidence of the longer-term benefits for children and young people but it is hoped that a more robust evidence base could have a lasting impact on the way services are delivered.

Anchor Project Budget

Budget Item	2019-20 £	2020-21 £	Total £
Grants	276,000	276,000	552,000
Staffing & contribution to overheads	69,675	70,517	140,192
Total Expenditure	345,675	346,517	692,192
Buttle UK Contribution (salary & overheads)	51,218	70,517	121,735
Remaining CBT grant to be drawn down	147,032		147,032
Individual donor	45,000	-	45,000
NLCF ¹	12,425	11,152	23,577
Buttle UK fundraised income	90,000	180,000	270,000
Total income raised	345,675	261,669	607,344
Shortfall (requested from CBT)	0	84,848	84,848

Financial Information

20. Whilst Buttle UK's unrestricted reserves appear to be very low relative to turnover, its principle asset is its endowment fund which on the 2018 balance sheet showed a value of £54million. In 2006, the Charity Commission granted Buttle UK a total return order, which permits it to spend the unapplied total return of its endowment, provided this is balanced against its current and future commitments to beneficiaries.
21. Historically, its reserves policy was to hold six months' unrestricted expenditure in free reserves. This policy took account of the need to be able to continue grant support, in particular for the education programmes, should there be unexpected reduction in income. Buttle UK calculates that if all the children and young people supported through its education programmes as at 31st March 2019 were to complete their anticipated period at school or college, the total grants due to be paid out over the next six years would be £4.2million. Its trustees are of the view that the total return on investment policy renders the need to hold six months' unrestricted expenditure in free reserve unnecessary. Officers are satisfied that it has access to sufficient funds to meet any future financial obligations.

¹ National Lottery Community Fund

Year end as at 31 March	2018	2019	2020
	Audited Accounts	Draft Accounts	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	5,822,000	3,345,000	2,850,000
- % of Income confirmed as at 19/02/2018	n/a	100.00%	38%
Expenditure	(6,997,000)	(5,106,000)	(4,786,000)
Net surplus/(deficit)	(1,175,000)	(1,761,000)	(1,936,000)
Net gain on investments	847,000	3,276,000	0
Total surplus/(deficit)	(328,000)	1,515,000	(1,936,000)
Cost of Raising Funds	1,022,000	705,000	811,000
- % of income	17.6%	21.1%	28.5%
Total Funds	57,141,000	58,656,000	56,720,000

Conclusion

22. The Anchor Project has been a very successful partnership which has delivered some very positive outcomes for a highly vulnerable group of children whose needs are all too often overlooked.
23. It has also encouraged domestic abuse support agencies to take a more child-centred approach to supporting families. It is hoped that over the next two years, a more robust evidence base can be provided in order to bring about more systematic change in the way that domestic abuse support services are delivered.
24. Your funding has enabled Buttle UK to test and evaluate a new approach to grant-making which has had a significant impact on the strategic direction of Buttle UK and enabled it to lever in additional funds.

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