

MEETING: 28/11/2019

Ref: 15501

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital**Clinks****Adv: Kate Moralee****Base: Camden****Benefit: London-wide****Amount requested: £250,000****(Revised request: £271,400)****Amount recommended: £271,400****The Applicant**

Clinks is a Company and Registered Charity established in 1998. It is the umbrella body for voluntary sector organisations working in the criminal justice space. Its mission is to support, represent and advocate for the VCS by giving voice to the sector and influencing stakeholders and by informing and communication with the sector and stakeholders.

The Application

Clinks is requesting funding for a London Development Officer to develop expertise on the voluntary sector working in London. The Development Officer will work with London Plus, who support organisations working with victims of crime (funded by MOPAC)

The Recommendation

Clinks has a long history of supporting voluntary sector organisations working within the criminal justice system, ensuring amplification of voice to influence policy. The Development Worker will sit within the Area Development Team (ADT) providing support and information and developing better partnership and joined up working for the sector. It will specifically develop expertise on the sector in London including strengths, weaknesses and challenges, providing a range of support and programme of information. Clinks submitted a revised budget as it is moving offices soon and has requested increased costs to cover the increased rent and has now included inflation costs as advised by your officer. This proposal meets the criteria of your Connecting the Capital programme and is recommended:

£271,400 over 5 years (£54,000; £54,100; £54,250; £54,300; £54,750) for the salary and associated costs of a London Development Worker to provide support to voluntary sector organisations working in the criminal justice sector in London.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
14/10/2010	£100,000 (£51,000, £49,000) over two years for continuation funding towards the salary and running costs of a London project supporting voluntary and community groups working with offenders and their families, focussing on sustainable local partnerships in boroughs with high offending rates in London.

Background and detail of proposal

Research indicates that Clinks members are seeing an increase in both quantity and complexity of need with more than 820,000 crimes recorded in London over the last

year. Most recent national data shows crime in the Met Police area equates to 17% of recorded crime in England and Wales. London also accounts for almost 20% of offenders and re-offenders with re-offending costing the criminal justice service approximately £2.2m per year.

200 Clinks member organisations in London contribute to supporting and rehabilitating those in the CJS. However, this work is often challenging, poorly funded and politically sensitive. Clinks is engaging with the devolution agenda and represents the sector on key bodies, currently with no dedicated resource. MOPAC has recognised the need for a single point of contact, better support for the CJ sector, better representation with stakeholders and support for organisations working with victims. With dedicated resource for a London Development Officer Clinks could increase its knowledge of the sector and its specific challenges, better identify the impact of national policy on the local area and develop stronger links with stakeholders.

Clinks is implementing a new strategy from April 2019 focussing on specific priority areas of work responding to need in the sector as well as policy developments to change the context in which our beneficiaries work. It will particularly focus on smaller specialist organisations who often deliver innovative work led by people with lived experience and struggle to secure funding and have their voice heard.

Financial Information

Clinks reports a slightly increasing income producing differing levels of unrestricted surplus and deficit, it carried forward £53,000 restricted reserves in 2019 which will partly cover the restricted deficit, with the remainder being covered by unrestricted surplus/reserves. It has diverse income streams with approximately £1m restricted income and generating £100k from trading activities. It has recently updated its reserves policy adopting a prudent approach to risk based on the scenario of Clinks losing critical funding and based on a transition period to allow Clinks to reassess and plan an alternative direction and income streams. It reports requiring £486,000 based on current level of expenditure.

Year end as at 31st March	2018 Signed Accounts £	2019 Draft Accounts £	2020 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	1,283,097	1,303,780	1,385,372
- % of Income confirmed as at 1/04/19	N/A	N/A	79%
Expenditure	(1,230,140)	(1,348,191)	(1,455,645)
Total surplus/(deficit)	52,957	(44,411)	(70,273)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(69,439)	(11,800)	(87,985)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	122,396	(32,611)	17,712
	52,957	(44,411)	(70,273)
Total Operating expenditure	1,230,140	1,348,191	1,455,645
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	553,166	520,555	538,267
No of months of operating expenditure	5.4	4.6	4.4
Reserves policy target	486,000	486,000	486,000
No of months of operating expenditure	4.7	4.3	4.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	67,166	34,555	52,267