

MEETING: 28/11/2019**Ref: 15318****ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions****Lambeth Elfrida Rathbone Society****Adv: Gilly Green****Base: Lambeth****Amount requested: £101,665****Benefit: Lambeth****Amount recommended: £101,700****The Applicant**

Set up in 1967 Lambeth Elfrida Rathbone Society (Rathbone), a charity, aims to support people with learning disabilities to live safe, healthy and fulfilled lives. It does this by promoting independence and life skills, supporting young people to try new things and creating opportunities for people to come together with non-disabled people. Activities for young people with learning disabilities include an open access youth club, a specialist youth service, homework clubs and school holiday provision, trips and residential.

The Application

For many young people with learning difficulties having to stop attending a youth club at aged 25 means an end to long term friendships and to attending a regular activity that provides them with a sense of belonging, community and develops independent living skills. They are therefore at increased risk of becoming socially isolated, withdrawing from friendship groups and community life and/or becoming long term unemployed. The application for a new post of Transitions Worker will help young people aged 15 and upwards attending Rathbone's youth clubs, as they transition into adulthood. Working closely with Rathbone's outreach team, the worker will support individuals to develop a pathway plan towards accessing skills and opportunities that will help people meet identified goals, using a model of supportive engagement and enablement. This will include employment, volunteering and leisure activities.

The Recommendation

Rathbone has a long history of working with young people with a learning disability but retains an openness for innovation. With the recent closure of the local Mencap it is now the only specialist provision in Lambeth. Its youth work services are framed to deliver better career prospects, improved physical and mental health and increased independent living skills. The charity has strong links across the borough and beyond both with statutory and voluntary organisations with established pathways and information sharing systems. It recognises that it needs to do more to improve its diversity on the board to reflect the local population. The application will meet your programme outcomes of increasing choice and control for disabled people. A grant is recommended:

£101,700 over 3 years (£33,500, £33,700, £34,500) to cover salary costs of the Transitions worker, additional youth work hours, youth committee costs and project activities.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
11/05/2017	Application withdrawn.

Background and detail of proposal

The organisation has a strong commitment to integration and its open access youth club has a mix of disabled and non-disabled young people. Within this environment, the work aims to provide young people with learning disabilities additional support to encourage them to think about their aspirations for life after school. The project will also work with older young people, no longer in school who are not participating in any meaningful activities during the day. Some young people have higher level needs and are supported in specialist youth provision. Almost all will come from low income families with a high proportion of BAME participants, some recently arrived in the UK who are unfamiliar with the services available. A youth-led approach is core to the delivery of the work – there is a youth management committee, currently comprising ten members, four of whom have a learning disability. A subcommittee for the transitions work will be established.

Financial Information

In 2016 the organisation experienced financial difficulty and put in place cost saving measures to manage a large deficit of £234,932. This has been partially successful and in 17/18 the charity reduced its costs by 14% and reduced the deficit to under £40,000. It receives nearly two thirds of its income from contracts for its adult social care. Whilst heavily dependent on these contracts (and therefore identified as a risk), the charity does not expect major changes to this funding in the foreseeable future and is moving from spot to block contracts to minimise this risk.

At March 2018 the reserves position fell short of the 3-month policy and the Trustees put in place a fundraising plan to address this. The position for 18/19 is improved in part due to the organisation receiving a legacy of £100,000 but the projected year end for 2020 shows a small deficit. This will be covered from reserves. The budget for 2021 has not yet been signed off by trustees set but the CEO confirms it will not carry a deficit.

Year end as at 31st March	2018 Signed Accounts £	2019 Draft accounts £	2020 Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	1,447,898	1,658,458	1,911,862
- % of Income confirmed as at 9th Sept 2019	N/A	100%	100%
Expenditure	(1,487,484)	(1,462,752)	(1,917,872)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(39,586)	195,706	(6,010)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	0	47,081	(63,572)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(39,586)	148,625	57,562
	(39,586)	195,706	(6,010)
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	1,381,739	1,236,431	1,576,948
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	190,772	341,855	399,417
No of months of operating expenditure	1.7	3.3	3.0
Reserves policy target	345,434	309,107	394,237
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(154,662)	32,748	5,180