

MEETING: 30/01/2020**Ref: 15625****ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides – Positive Transitions****Bede House Association****Adv: Geraldine Page****Base: Southwark****Amount requested: £260,200****Benefit: Southwark****Amount recommended: £260,000****The Applicant**

Bede House Association (BHA) was founded as a Settlement in 1938 bringing people, normally from privileged backgrounds, to work alongside poor families in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe. It was part of a movement that began in 1884 with the opening of Toynbee Hall. Many universities were inspired by this idea, and the Settlement model quickly spread through Britain, Europe and North America. It provided a philanthropic, community-based response to the needs of people living in areas of poverty.

Today, BHA is a registered charity still supporting the needs of those in the local community. Despite increasing prosperity along the riverfront, the local neighbourhood is still amongst the 10% most deprived in the country. Bede believes that everyone should be able to play their part in building strong confident communities. However, factors such as financial hardship, disability, isolation and fear of violence may present barriers that hold people back. Through its work BHA aims to empower people to fulfil their potential and play a full role in community life. To do this it currently runs four main programmes: Bede Learning Disabilities' Project which provides volunteering, employment, training, social and educational services for adults who have a learning disability; Bede Youth Adventure Project which runs youth clubs and street based activities and education programmes for young people from low income families; Bede Community Engagement which provides practical support for local volunteers working to build stronger communities; and the Bede Starfish Project for those experiencing domestic violence – the focus of this application.

The Application

The Bede Starfish Domestic Abuse Project aims to build safer communities in Southwark, breaking cycles of domestic violence both day-to-day and generation-to-generation. Based in Bermondsey, it is open weekdays delivering free services across the borough. Its services include advocacy, counselling, legal advice and the Freedom Programme, a 16-week programme for women affected by male-perpetrated abuse. BHA caseworkers ensure that clients receive holistic, seamless support to meet their complex needs, both in crisis situations and in preparation for the future. The service works with between 150 and 200 clients a year (nearly all of whom are female) who have complex needs which can include a diagnosed mental health issue, having no recourse to public funds, immigration issues, being at high risk of homicide, and long histories of abusive relationships (over 10 years). This application is seeking funding for the Manager's salary and some support costs for five years.

The Recommendation

Based locally in the community it serves BHA provides vital services and connects people in a way that regional and national organisations can find difficult to match. BHA is well known and very respected in its specialist fields and has an excellent track record. Together BHAs four projects achieve an overall impact in improving life in a part of London where 44% of children grow up in poverty. In the last year the Starfish Domestic Violence Project worked with 198 clients in high risk and complex circumstances to live more safely. At BHAs core in delivery of the Starfish Domestic Violence Project and its other services, is a 'local and personalised' holistic approach which gives it a flexibility to respond creatively and for as long as necessary, to effectively help a person in complex and difficult circumstances. Its effectiveness is clearly evident with 90% of clients with closed cases recording they are significantly safer after working with BHA. The application fully meets your Positive Transitions programme and funding is recommended.

£260,000 over 5 years (£50,000, £51,000, £52,000, £53,000, £54,000) for the salary of the Starfish Domestic Violence Project Manager plus on-costs. The grant in years two to five is subject to the necessary balance in project costs being raised.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
13/03/2014	£88,000 over three years (£29,000; £29,000; £30,000) towards the salary of the Manager (11hrs/week) and Assistant Case Worker (11hrs/week) and running costs of the Starfish domestic violence project.

Background and detail of proposal

BHA Starfish Domestic Violence Project aims to help women and men who experience domestic abuse to live more safely, and to break the cycle of violence for good. The Starfish Project consists of a Manager, two Caseworks, a Project Support Worker, a part-time counsellor and trainee counsellor. It focuses support on helping clients who are in complex circumstances, for example due to a mental health issue, having no recourse to public funds or facing surveillance and restrictions in their freedom of movement by their abuser. The vast majority of clients are female (96%), nearly all of whom are either pregnant or have children under the age of 4. Most clients have suffered abuse for over five years, with 31 % of all new clients having suffered abuse for ten or more years. BHA approach uses two methods of working. The first is detailed one to one work which assesses the risk a client is facing. The nationally, recognised Safer Lives DASH risk assessment is used. Last year 27% of clients were assessed as being of high risk of homicide. A safety plan is made with suitable strategies including referral to a solicitor. BHA is proactive working alongside the client to address the complex issues that undermine their safety. This involves accompanying them to court, meetings with social services and housing officers.

The second method is group education and peer support. Once the immediate crisis has been addressed, a client may be referred to BHAs freedom programme. This 16 week course draws on tried and tested research into domestic violence and abuse in intimate relationships to enable clients to reflect on their own experience and challenge some of their own attitudes and behaviours which make them vulnerable for further abusive relationships in the future. This can be extremely influential and

help women make difficult decisions about changes they need in order to protect their own safety and that of their children.

Financial Information

BHA is on the threshold of an exciting new future. The Abbeyfield Estate where it is based is being redeveloped and BHA's existing Bede Centre will be demolished. Southwark Council have planning permission to build BHA a brand-new purpose designed centre on the same estate, which will see all BHA's services come under one roof. Work has already started, and it is hoped that the new centre will be ready in 2022. It is a fantastic opportunity and BHA is already well on the way to raising the £1.2million needed to buy the 125 year lease, equip the building and cover the cost of the move, with over 50% of the capital appeal already secured or pledged.

Income is increasing steadily, the 2021 is lower as the amount raised for the capital appeal isn't added until the end of the year. BHA continue to be robust despite the challenges in securing funds from statutory and charitable sources. The current strategy is to diversify its funding base and reduce reliance on statutory funding. BHA fundraising activity reflect the profile of the organisation's income, SLA contracts, Trusts and foundations and relationships with supporters and donors. Trustees reserves policy is to hold between 1-3 months expenditure. Reserves remain stable with funds for the capital project held in a designated fund and not included in the financial table below.

Year end as at 31 March	2019	2020	2021
	Signed Accounts	Forecast	Budget
Income & expenditure:			
Income	1,308,827	1,456,418	1,258,560
- % of Income confirmed as at 26/11/19	N/A	83%	76%
Expenditure	(1,193,477)	(1,239,658)	(1,258,560)
Total surplus/(deficit)	115,350	216,760	0
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	86,854	216,760	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	28,496	0	0
	115,350	216,760	0
Total Operating expenditure	1,193,477	1,239,658	1,258,560
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	169,419	169,419	169,419
No of months of operating expenditure	1.7	1.6	1.6
Reserves policy target	198,913	206,610	209,760
No of months of operating expenditure	2.0	2.0	2.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(29,494)	(37,191)	(40,341)