

MEETING 26/03/2020

Ref: 15674

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital**St Paul's Church West Hackney****Adv: Sandra Davidson****Base: Hackney****Amount requested: £105,000****Benefit: Hackney****Amount recommended: £105,000****The Applicant**

St Paul's Church West Hackney (SPCWH) is an Anglican parish church located between Stoke Newington and Dalston in the London Borough of Hackney. The church plays an important role in addressing the needs of marginalised groups. Long-standing partnerships with many local charities enable delivery of essential services onsite. The church runs an active community programme including projects of its own and those delivered by key stakeholders. 25+ groups regularly use the church hall and over 700 users access the facilities on a regular basis. Activities open to all include: an award-winning food poverty project; a unique, alternative, social club for older people featuring cabaret with a Chinese Elvis and a foul-mouthed vicar; singing groups and several young people's projects. Specialist projects include: a winter night shelter and year-round support and drop-in centre for homeless people; support and advice for those working in the sex industry; a luncheon club for African Caribbean people living with mental health problems; and support for those living with addiction.

The Application

SPCWH seeks funding towards 'The Posh Club' (TCP) providing a weekly social and entertainment club for adults 65+ who are experiencing or at risk of social isolation. The weekly four-hour event is styled as a tongue-in-cheek 'posh' 1940's afternoon tea with live performances, volunteer waiters in black tie, vintage crockery and decorations. SPCWH has been running the Posh Club in partnership with arts company Duckie since 2015. The club is successfully breaking down barriers between groups and promoting social connections, reducing isolation and improving health and wellbeing.

The Recommendation

Since 2015, SPWH and Duckie have run 60 TPC events, each full to capacity with waiting lists. Co-designed with a group of working-class elders in Crawley in 2013, TPC has been refined, and adapted. TCP has been delivered at over 250 events, mostly in London and the South East, for an average audience of 100 guest. TPC has proved very successful encouraging older people to make friends and become more physically active.

This proposal meets the criteria of you connecting the Capital programme and is recommended:

£105,000 over 3 years (3x35,000) towards the Posh Club Co-Ordinator's salary (3.5dpw), Kitchen Manager's salary (1dpw) and towards associated running costs to deliver 30 x 4-hour TPC events per annum for older people.

Funding History

| Meeting Date | Decision |
|--------------|--|
| 18/03/2016 | £52,250 towards the redevelopment of the church hall to accessible standards to provide stair lifts and an accessible WC and shower/ wet room. |
| 12/03/2015 | Since submitting the application the organisation has decided to fund the cost of the audit from its own reserves in order to meet a planning application deadline. A bid for capital is expected in due course. |

Background and detail of proposal

According to Age UK, there are over 2.4 million people 50+ living in London and more than 1 million people aged over 65. That number is expected to grow to 1.2million by 2024 - an increase of 22% of people aged 65+ in 10 years. Created to help older people get out and have fun, The Posh Club is an older peoples' service disguised as high tea at the Ritz. Specifically designed to reach older people struggling to stay active and maintain social contact by encouraging greater community interaction. Designed to appeal specifically to elders from traditional working-class backgrounds, most guests come from this demographic. Participants to TPC face a range of issues leading to feelings of loneliness and isolation. Loss of friends and family due to advancing age, mobility issues, or feelings of exclusion from community activities due to low income are common challenges. TPC uses high quality art and performance, hospitality, tongue-in-cheek glamour and an ongoing programme of assertive outreach to entice service users from their homes to the events. All events are heavily subsidised to ensure they are accessible to people on low incomes. Participants pay a nominal fee for entry for the event. Over 500 older people are expected to benefit p.a. The Posh Club Hackney's Co-ordinator works closely with Community Partner Network liaising with a number of organisations including, Action on Hearing Loss, Age UK East London, Claremont project, and Contact the Elderly to name a few. TPC also engage volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds, many of whom are often facing disadvantage or vulnerabilities of their own. Monitoring of the service after 3 months reportedly showed 85% of participants had made a new acquaintance /friend. TPC has also developed a series of satellite dance projects where guest meet outside of TPC and work with choreographers to devise and rehearse a performance, which they perform on stage to an audience of their peers.

The Posh Club secured funding from the Arts Council to run a longitudinal research project delivered in partnership with Queen Mary University, the results will be launched alongside a national campaign in May 2020.

Financial Information

Forecast free reserves of £24,655 (budget 2020) are above the target reserves policy of three months' worth of expenditure. Forecast shown for 2019 does not include unrestricted income of £16,150 which has not yet materialised. The PCC of St Paul's is aware of the depleting unrestricted reserves and deficits. The charity plans to diversify their unrestricted income streams including revamping their planned giving programme to improve the current position.

| Year end as at 31st December | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
|---|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Signed Accounts | Forecast | Budget |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Income & expenditure: | | | |
| Income | 231,567 | 150,803 | 144,391 |
| - % of Income confirmed as at 17/01/2020 | N/A | N/A | 56% |
| Expenditure | (241,520) | (133,370) | (135,376) |
| Endowment Gains/losses | (13,225) | | |
| Total surplus/(deficit) | (23,178) | 17,433 | 9,015 |
| Split between: | | | |
| - Restricted surplus/(deficit) | (38,589) | 42,450 | 29,720 |
| - Unrestricted surplus/(deficit) | 15,411 | (25,017) | (20,705) |
| | (23,178) | 17,433 | 9,015 |
| Operating Expenditure (unrestricted) | 147,454 | 102,101 | 104,135 |
| Free unrestricted reserves: | | | |
| Free unrestricted reserves held at year end | 96,411 | 71,394 | 50,689 |
| No of months of operating expenditure | 7.8 | 8.4 | 5.8 |
| Reserves policy target | 36,864 | 25,525 | 26,034 |
| No of months of operating expenditure | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Free reserves over/(under) target | 59,548 | 45,869 | 24,655 |