

MEETING 26/03/2020

Ref: 15919

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions**Alliance for Inclusive Education****Adv: Sandra Jones****Base: Lambeth****Amount requested: £109,661****Benefit: London-wide****Amount recommended: £109,700****The Applicant**

Alliance for Inclusive Education (ALLFIE), a charity established in 1990, works on education issues, engaging mainstream stakeholders in the education sector and supporting young disabled people and their families to enable the young people to build their aspirations and meet their full potential. Activities include: regular production of Inclusion Now magazine; awareness briefings on 'the case for inclusive education' and the effects of education legislation on disabled people; supporting disabled pupils and students; working with parents of disabled students; facilitating the Inclusion Champions Consortium; working to raise awareness of inclusive education with Disabled Person-led Organisations (DPOs).

The Application

ALLFIE seeks continuation funding for 2 years for their Inclusion Champions project to strengthen the ability of DPOs to provide services and support to young disabled people and improve DPO voice, advocacy and representations skills to at least 20 DPOs across London. This will extend their existing community offer to young disabled people and their families. This will be achieved by employing a part time Inclusion Champion (2.5 days per week) and Policy Co-ordinator (0.5 days per week), and a proportion of the time of the existing the Director (5 hours per week) and the Communications Officer (1 day per month).

The Recommendation

ALLFIE has a solid track record of advancing educational opportunities for young disabled people through its different projects and works closely with other disability organisations such as Inclusion London to achieve its aims. Over the last three years, your grant has allowed ALLFIE to successfully deliver a project that has proven to increase the support to young disabled people and their families. A further two years' funding is advised as it will enable the organisation to continue to provide and expand this work:

£109,700 over two further and final years (£54,400; £55,300) towards an Inclusion Champion post (2.5 days per week), the Policy Co-ordinator (0.5 days per week) and a proportion of the Director's time (5 hours per week) and the Communications Officer (1 day per month), as well as the costs of developing the e-hub, and training and capacity building costs.

Funding History

| Meeting Date | Decision |
|--------------|--|
| 20/03/2017 | £166,300 over three years (£55,900; £55,700; £54,700) towards an Inclusion Champion post (2.5 days per week), the Policy Co-ordinator (0.5 days per week) and a proportion of the Director's time (5 hours per week) and the Communications Officer (1 day per month), plus related costs. |
| 28/01/2016 | Application declined as did not meet the criteria for support |

Background and detail of proposal

This project came out of work undertaken by ALLFIE with their New Voices group of disabled young people which identified the need for better links with empowered disabled adults and to have a better understanding of their rights. Prior to this project very few DPOs work with disabled children and young people and their families because traditionally it has been the preserve of the larger non user-led disability charities. This project has been able to train and strengthen DPOs to work with this cohort of people, with 20 DPOs becoming Inclusion Champions (for young people). This has achieved by identifying the capacity building needs of the DPOs, and by providing support and training, including training the trainers which has enabled the DPOs to cascade the learning. An e-hub has been established and is well used, and will be further developed.

Financial Information

The charity has a successful track record of raising charitable funds to sustain activity levels and does not rely on any statutory funding. ALLFIE has a steady growth in income year on year due to donations and grant income. There will be a deficit on unrestricted reserves in 2020 whilst the organisation has been restructuring. This position will reverse for 2021, with a slight increase on the amount of unrestricted reserves, although it does show a decrease in the number of months of free reserves due to an increase in income and expenditure. The organisation has indicated that they will be increasing unrestricted reserves going forward as they have a donor who has promised funding for the next three years.

| Year end as at 31 March | 2019 Independent Examination £ | 2020 Forecast £ | 2021 Forecast £ |
|---|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Income & expenditure: | | | |
| Income | 180,235 | 206,874 | 250,312 |
| - % of Income confirmed as at 24/02/2020 | n/a | n/a | 76% |
| Expenditure | (171,157) | (178,715) | (243,007) |
| Total surplus/(deficit) | 9,078 | 28,159 | 7,305 |
| Split between: | | | |
| - Restricted surplus/(deficit) | 11,641 | 43,206 | 4,006 |
| - Unrestricted surplus/(deficit) | (2,563) | (15,047) | 3,299 |
| | 9,078 | 28,159 | 7,305 |
| Total expenditure | 171,157 | 178,715 | 243,007 |
| Free unrestricted reserves: | | | |
| Free unrestricted reserves held at year end | 72,477 | 57,430 | 60,729 |
| No of months of totalled expenditure | 5.1 | 3.9 | 3.0 |
| Reserves policy target | 57,052 | 59,572 | 81,002 |
| No of months of total expenditure | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Free reserves over/(under) target | 15,425 | (2,142) | (20,273) |