

CITY BRIDGE TRUST – Delegated Authority (Requests £50k to £100k)

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Advice and Support\Provision of advice and support

Just For Kids Law

Ref: 15459

Adv: Julia Mirkin

Amount requested: £100,000

Base: Islington

Amount recommended: £100,000

Benefit: London-wide

Purpose of grant request: We are seeking a contribution towards the core costs of our holistic casework model, which combines legal advice and representation with direct advocacy and development opportunities.

The Applicant

Just For Kids Law (JFKL), founded in 2006, works with vulnerable children and young people in London, who have multiple and interrelated issues: 68% of JFKL's beneficiaries are from BAMER communities and 24% have a disability. JFKL's vision is for the legal rights and entitlements of all children and young people (CYP) to be respected and for the voices of CYP to be heard and valued. JFKL engages deeply with its beneficiaries, gaining their trust to ensure they are comfortable discussing challenging and personal issues. The holistic casework model, for which funding is requested, involves Youth Opportunities Workers and Youth Advocates working closely with the charity's legal team to provide a joined-up package of support and personal development opportunities in addition to legal representation. An analysis of comparable organisations nationally, carried out last year by the Boston Consulting Group, on a pro-bono basis, found the JFKL is the only organisation that combines advocacy and legal representation for CYP. JFKL has 22 full-time and 19 part-time staff; is supported by 40 volunteers and is based in Islington. It is also in receipt of funding through the Responding to the Resilience Risk initiative.

Background and detail of proposal

The 'Children and Young People's Services: Funding and Spending 2010/11 to 17/18' report, published by Action for Children, Barnardo's and the NSPCC, 700,000 children (37%) live below the poverty line. Centrepoin data shows that 250,000 under 25s in London have stayed in an unsafe place with nowhere to call home. The five highest cuts to children's services nationally are in London, all of which are between 45 – 52%. 89% of the young people supported by JFKL in 2018 felt more positive about their futures afterwards. JFKL will support 950 CYP in London during the proposed 3-year funding period.

Youth Advocates work alongside young people, acting on their instruction and at their pace to design individual support packages, also informed by the legal team. JFKL's Youth Advocates encourage and support CYP to learn about their rights and entitlements and gain the confidence required to engage with authorities and the legal system. Legal representation is offered for issues involving benefits; housing; the duty of care and immigration. Youth Advocates offer CYP support with issues of school exclusion and access to medical treatment and learning support. Once stable, JFKL's Youth Opportunities Worker helps young people into employment and/or training, moving beneficiaries from surviving to coping and towards thriving. JFKL

also undertakes strategic work, involving youth-led campaigning; strategic litigation and policy influencing work, which is enriched by its direct work with beneficiaries.

Financial Information

JFKL receives less than 10% of its turnover from statutory sources and has a diverse range of funders, including the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation; Trust for London; BBC Children in Need; Henry Smith and Lloyds Bank Foundation. A healthy surplus was achieved in 18/19. Forecasts for 2020 and 2021 have adopted a prudent and cautious approach, however, the organisation is aiming to secure unrestricted income from legal aid, training and donations, all less predictable than grant income. JFKL currently has a capacity-building grant from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation for £125K per year, which comes to an end in 20-21. JFKL's reserves are currently above their target, enabling it to cover any fluctuations in income in future years.

Year end as at 31 May	2019	2020	2021
	Signed Accounts	Forecast	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	1,895,092	1,941,019	1,769,819
- % of Income confirmed as at	N/A	90%	60%
Expenditure	(1,718,919)	(1,838,778)	(1,761,200)
Total surplus/(deficit)	176,173	102,241	8,619
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	91,925	46,227	17,406
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	84,248	56,014	(8,787)
	176,173	102,241	8,619
Operating Expenditure (unrestricted)	710,040	871,620	743,787
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	402,716	458,730	449,943
No of months of operating expenditure	6.8	6.3	7.3
Reserves policy target	300,000	300,000	300,000
No of months of operating expenditure	5.1	4.1	4.8
Free reserves over/(under) target	102,716	158,730	149,943

Recommendation

JFKL holds the Halsbury Legal Award for Law in the Community; it is a London Legal Support Trust Centre of Excellence and is Organisation of the Year for the Howard League for Penal Reform's Community Awards. A reference has been taken from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, which awarded JFKL five years of funding. The holistic approach at the heart of JFKL's ethos renders elements of its support beyond your specifically stated funding priorities; however, it is precisely this breadth and flexibility, in your officer's opinion, that makes JFKL effective in supporting vulnerable young people, meeting your stated aim of 'address[ing] inequalities by funding good quality advice and support'.

£100,000 over three years (£45,000; £35,000; £20,000) of core support for JFKL's holistic casework in London, including rent and core expenditure.

Approved.....
Chief Grants Officer

Approved.....
Chair

Approved.....
Deputy Chair

Date.....

Date.....

Date.....