

Appendix 2 – Grants Approved 2023/24

Applying Organisation	Funding Programme	Awarded Date	Awarded Amount	Grant Description
Life Skills Education Charity	Stronger Communities	20/03/2024	£5,640	£5,640 for online resources and workbooks for four primary schools, to aid in the provision of Life Skills Education in primary schools.
Halls4Jumuah	Stronger Communities	29/02/2024	£10,000	£10,000 over 30 weeks to cover the weekly hire of the Dutch Centre in the City for Friday prayers.
Hoxton Health	Stronger Communities	11/01/2024	£11,919	£11,919 over 12 months to provide free foot health services for City of London residents.
Barbican + Golden Lane Neighbourhood Forum	Stronger Communities	14/11/2023	£9,939	£9,939 to support the initial set up and development costs of the Barbican and Golden Lane Neighbourhood Forum including the inauguration of a membership drive and two engagement events.
The Carers Centre	Stronger Communities (small grants)	29/08/2023	£3,000	£3,000 to fund Wellbeing Hubs for carers and those they care for.
City Showtunes Orchestra	Stronger Communities (small grants)	24/08/2023	£2,000	£2,000 towards the hire of rehearsal and performance space for the Orchestra and to offer membership bursaries for new and existing members.
Bloomsbury Football Foundation	Stronger Communities	20/07/2023	£6,788	£6,790 to run 2 weekly football sessions over 40 weeks on the Market Road Football Pitches, targeted at residents of the York Way Estate.
Age UK City of London	Stronger Communities	31/05/2023	£9,726	£9,726 to support health, wellbeing, and social inclusion for older BAMER women on Mansell Street estate.
Tower Hamlets Youth Sport Foundation	Stronger Communities	11/05/2023	£9,600	£9,600 to support community cricket provision for children living in the City of London, and the adjacent areas of Farringdon and Whitechapel.
Society Links	Stronger Communities (small grants)	10/05/2023	£3,000	£3,000 to create a directory of local services for the community to share information about what services and support are available.
Portsoken Activities Group	Stronger Communities	27/04/2023	£6,000	A secondary £6,000 to fund community events for residents/workers of Portsoken and nearby.
			£77,612	



Stronger Communities

Assessment Pack – 23-4

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CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Life Skills Education Charity (ref. 22915)

Amount requested: £5,640

Amount recommended: £5,640

Purpose of grant request: Life Skills Primary Resources - independently evaluated early intervention programmes teaching 'social skills' for children aged 6 - 11.

The Applicant

Life Skills Education Charity (LSEC) is a registered charitable company (charity number 1172680, company number 07742739) that provides evidence-based and professional learning programmes and resources to schools, community groups and local authorities across the UK. With over 27 years of experience, LSEC provide learning experiences which help children manage a variety of risks, including drugs, alcohol, online harms, and bullying.

Background and detail of proposal

LSEC are requesting £5,640 to provide workbooks and resources for the delivery of its various wellbeing programmes in four primary schools across the City of London. LSEC's programmes cover a variety of important risk-related topics for children and young people and aim to provide them with skills which are not usually taught in the classroom. LSEC regularly update their programmes to ensure they remain informative and relevant, and parents have been consulted and involved in the production of its programmes since their inception. The programmes take a scenario-based approach and are guided by the principles of social learning theory, in which children learn effectively by modelling the good behaviour of others.

The mission of LSEC and its programmes is aligned with the priorities outlined in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, in particular priority four of providing all children with the best start in life, and priority five of promoting healthy behaviours. By equipping children with the awareness, knowledge, and skills to deal with risks such as drugs and alcohol from primary school age, the LSEC programmes promote a healthy lifestyle and work to prevent issues such as addiction in later life.

The delivery of LSEC's wellbeing programmes will be handled by the City of London Police, who will be using their own funding for training and other delivery costs. The City of London Police received training last year in two of LSEC's programmes (Primary Programme and Online Harms) but have since requested a further round of training to be able to deliver the newly developed STaRS programme from September 2024.

The applicant have historically worked with the City of London Police to deliver its programmes, with the work previously being facilitated and funded by a local charity. When this funding ended, the LSEC programme was put on hiatus in the City of

London but was successfully restarted last year after the training mentioned above. The funding requested will provide the resources to allow delivery of LSEC's programmes in City of London schools to continue into the next academic year.

Digital resources will also be provided to the City of London Police, which can be used indefinitely.

Financial Information

LSEC is a small charitable company whose income has decreased slightly in recent years, with a subsequent decrease in reserves in YE 2023. This can be attributed to inflationary pressures, as some of the schools in LSEC's clientele base were no longer able to afford its services and it became difficult to find new schools with the funds to replace them.

LSEC has been able to offset its recent reduction in income by shrinking its body of staff, and still held free reserves equating to around one month's expenditure in YE 2023.

Recommendation

The application made by LSEC aligns with the aims of the Stronger Communities programme, particularly in how it addresses priorities four and five of the health and wellbeing strategy. Based on the organisation's expertise, and the successful implementation of its programmes in City of London schools in the past, your officer is assured that LSEC's resources will be of great value to primary schools in the City of London. Your officer recommends funding as follows:

£5,640 for online resources and workbooks for four primary schools, to aid in the provision of Life Skills Education in primary schools.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Stronger Communities

Halls4Jumuah (ref. 21541)

Amount requested: £10,000

Amount recommended: £10,000

Purpose of grant request: Hiring the Dutch Centre in the City for 30 weeks for Friday prayers.

The Applicant

Halls4Jumuah is a charity (no. 1151796) set up in 2013 to assist Muslims working in the City of London to be able to perform Friday Prayers through the hiring, renting, or owning of properties, where the need arises. The group formed originally in 2005 and grew organically through personal connections, consisting of around 800 weekly attendees. During assessment the charity had three trustees, two of which are related (father and son). After discussions with me, Halls4Jumuah decided to appoint a fourth, unrelated trustee, who is a longstanding volunteer and appears on the Charity Commission as of February 2024. The charity employs two people to set up the two larger venues it hires (The Dutch Centre and Holland House), and the other four (Betty Bruncker Hall, Golden Lane Community Centre, Portsoken Community Hall, and St Vedast Hall) are set up by some of the 13 volunteers as needed. Halls4Jumuah covers the travel costs of the 13 paid speakers it works with.

Background and detail of proposal

Halls4Jumuah is requesting funds to cover the weekly rent of the Dutch Centre for around 30 weeks. Halls4Jumuah is facing rising venue costs at each of the venues it hires and wants to ensure it can continue to provide spaces for its increasing community for Friday prayer in the City.

With no mosques in the Square Mile, Halls4Jumuah was set up to ensure City workers could take part in Friday prayer. Some City workers do not have prayer rooms where they work, and/or are given little time to pray during the day, making it difficult to travel to and from venues outside of the City. On top of this, Friday prayer is regarded in the Muslim faith as weekly lesson time, hence the importance of providing spaces for people to come together and learn from leaders.

Halls4Jumuah has been renting the Dutch Centre since 2018. The Dutch Centre is one of the largest and most popular venues the charity hires, and it can accommodate separate space for men and women. It hosts 550 people across two Khutbahs (formal public preachings) there every week. Costs to hire the Centre have increased from £220 per week in March to May 2023, to £275 from June to August 2023, and £325 from January 2024 onwards.

Financial Information

Halls4Jumuah is a small charity with an annual turnover of approximately £40,000, with minimal annual profits/losses. Currently its income is solely derived from

donations. The charity holds significant reserves (over twice its annual expenditure). The applicant explained that these reserves are being held with the hope that it can rent or buy a space for the organisation itself, which could accommodate other weekday and mid-afternoon prayers. Trustees are looking into options for this but want to ensure the space is appropriate and is good value. I am not concerned about the financial viability of the organisation but am conscious that it holds significant reserves which are not formally designated in its accounts.

Recommendation

Halls4Jumuah is an important organisation providing a unique service to counter the specific problem that there are no mosques in the City. The charity brings people together to learn and practice their faith. While I have some concerns about the organisation's governance and finances, it is a small charity requesting a relatively small amount of funding as a result of rising costs for an eligible application. Funding is recommended as follows:

£10,000 over 30 weeks to cover the weekly hire of the Dutch Centre in the City for Friday prayers.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Hoxton Heath (ref. 22615)

Amount requested: £11,919.60

Amount recommended: £11,919.60

Purpose of grant request: To provide two monthly foot health clinics (Portsoken and Neaman) and carry out home visits to housebound or bedbound residents.

The Applicant

Hoxton Health is a charitable company based in St Leonard's Hospital in Hackney. The organisation was registered in 2009 to reduce inequalities and support older people by enabling them to live happier, healthier and more independent lives through low-cost and free services including foot health, acupuncture, osteopathy, massage and exercise classes. Hoxton Health works in close collaboration with social services and GP practices in both the City and Hackney and has a well-established network of patients and practitioners in the area. The charity is managed by three part-time staff, who co-ordinate eight freelance practitioners, and are supported by a group of six trustees including four ex-service users. Hoxton Health is in receipt of five-year funding (£184,863) from the City Bridge Foundation towards the salary costs of the Clinic Manager and Administrator. Annual funding for foot health services specifically for older people in the City of London has been provided through the Stronger Communities Fund since 2021 (2021 - £10,000; 2022 - £11,333).

Background and detail of proposal

Hoxton Health are seeking continuation funding to provide a foot health service to older people in the City of London for a further twelve months (ideally from late January 2024 to December 2024). The service will provide four home visits per month (48 visits/year) and monthly clinics at both The Neaman Practice and Portsoken Community Centre providing a further 144 appointments/year. Falling between health and social care, toenailing cutting is often overlooked as an essential service to maintain independence, particularly for those who live alone or whose partner may also be disabled. The only general foot health service delivered within the City of London, Hoxton Health's service supports those with arthritis, back pain, lack of strength in hands, blood clotting issues, shaky hands, eyesight issues, obesity and dementia to have their toenails cuts enabling them to put on shoes properly, improve mobility and reduce risk of falls. Thereby creating a significant impact on their wellbeing and physical health. The service, which has been running for the past two years, was originally developed in response to an identified need for foot health services that were no longer available on the NHS, except for patients considered high risk, but were expensive to pay for privately.

Through Stronger Communities funding, last year Hoxton Health extended their service to provide a new clinic at Portsoken Community Centre which has been a catalyst in bringing new users to the centre. The service has confirmed support from a number of stakeholders with Age UK City of London paying the hire fees for the Portsoken clinic and City of London Adult Social Care Team forwarding referrals for the service.

Financial Information

Hoxton Health's annual income has been growing steadily over the last two years (2021/22 £133,518; 2022/23 £126,428) with free unrestricted reserves increasing (£33,887) to meet the aspirations of their published reserves policy. Whilst Hoxton Health's funding base is diversifying with income from service fees, grants and commissioners, the City of London foot health service remains financially reliant on the Stronger Communities Fund for its delivery with the annual funding application process prone to creating a potential hiatus in service delivery.

Recommendation

Hoxton Health has a strong track record of successfully delivering foot health services in the City and Hackney with an established network of City of London based users who depend on this important service. The proposal fully meets the Strong Communities Fund's criteria to promote community health and wellbeing with Hoxton Health having specifically developed their clinic in the East of the City in response to needs identified by DCCS. A grant is recommended as follows:

£11,919 over 12 months to provide free foot health services for City of London residents.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Stronger Communities

Barbican & Golden Lane Neighbourhood Forum (ref.21351)

Amount requested: £9,735

Amount recommended: £9,939

Purpose of grant request: Barbican and Golden Lane Neighbourhood Forum – initial set up and development costs

The Applicant

The Barbican & Golden Lane Neighbourhood Forum (BGLNF) is a constituted voluntary organisation registered as a private company by guarantee without share capital. Designated in July 2023, BGLNF's primary remit is to create a shared vision for their neighbourhood and develop this into a Neighbourhood Plan. BGLNF's Neighbourhood Area covers the Aldersgate and Cripplegate wards and membership of the Forum is open to everyone living and working in the area and local councillors. BGLNF currently has 74 members including 11 Directors. The Forum aims to help enable a stronger community through neighbourhood planning processes and to engage the whole community especially underrepresented voices such as young families, carers, elderly, SMEs and sole traders to ensure underrepresented voices are heard in statutory planning and development processes.

Background and detail of proposal

BGLNF are seeking a start-up contribution over an initial four-month period, from December 2023 to the end of March 2024, to create and install organisational infrastructure (digital and design), to inaugurate a membership drive and deliver two engagement events for an estimated 600 attendees. To grow its membership and fully represent community voices, the Forum needs to ensure that its infrastructure and internal processes are safe, secure and fit for purpose. By growing its membership BGLNF seek to create a diverse and inclusive community with a real say in the development of its neighbourhood. To achieve this the Forum intends to hold two engagement events during the start-up phase shaped, timed and located to accommodate local needs. During the start-up phase the Forum intends to develop its safeguarding policy and procedures in anticipation for engaging with more vulnerable groups in the future. No funding has been set aside in the budget for this or related safeguarding training, but BGLNF hope that support could be made available through Funder Plus options available to the Central Grant Unit.

Financial Information

Funding requested has been increased to address a negative cashflow in the original submission and is split across design, website and membership platform (£1,959), engagement events and evidence gathering (£3,500), annual licences and fees (£1,890) and admin support and costs (£2,590). BGLNF is newly formed has no unrestricted reserves or history of City of London funding, however it is well known to the Planning Department. BGLNF has been awarded £10,000 from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities specifically towards policy development and is seeking Culture Mile BID funding to identify and map sole traders and

microbusinesses. BGLNF has presented a deficit budget for its first year's operation but can scale back its activity if it is unable to raise additional income. The re-presented cashflow forecast indicates a positive balance throughout the period of this grant funding.

Recommendation

Support for initial set-up will create the essential infrastructure required to enable BGLNF to build and diversify its membership. As such, the proposal meets the Stronger Communities Fund's aim to enable more people to become involved in their communities. The proposal also actively encourages a broader understanding of the diverse needs of these communities and gives them a voice. Funding is recommended as follows:

£9,939 to support the initial set up and development costs of the Barbican and Golden Lane Neighbourhood Forum including the inauguration of a membership drive and two engagement events.

STRONGER COMMUNITIES – SMALL GRANTS

Organisation: The Carers Centre

Request ID: 21480

Previous requests: 19853

Amount Requested: £3,000

Amount Recommended: £3,000

Category: Small Grants

Organisation Profile: Company limited by guarantee

Request: Wellbeing Hubs for carers and those they care for - specialist massage therapy (pain management); Qi-Gong; healthy refreshments, healthy cooking sessions, crochet, enabling social connections and reducing social isolation.

Staff: THOLMES

Assessment Summary:

Carers Centre, Tower Hamlets (CCTH) is an organisation that provides specialist support to unpaid carers. CCTH offers services including opportunities to meet other carers through social activities, counselling, and other therapies as well as signposting to community partners. The City of London commissions CCTH to provide The Carers Connection Service for carers living or working in the City. The Service includes advice, 1:1 support and weekly drop-in sessions. The Central Grants Unit awarded CCTH a Warm Winter Spaces grant in 2022, which was used to help design monthly Wellbeing Hubs for carers and those they care for. In response to requests from service-users, CCTH is applying for a further grant to continue providing the hubs, which it envisages resuming in October 2023 and running twice per month through to the end of January 2024.

CCTH has found the Wellbeing Hubs to be popular as carers reported that they appreciate being able to build supportive relationships with others in the same profession. CCTH is applying for funds for a massage therapist with a specialism in pain management, activities (Qi-Gong, crochet, and healthy cooking), healthy refreshments, project management, monitoring and evaluation, publicity, outreach, and travel. CCTH understands that being a carer can be a psychologically and emotionally demanding job and have designed its offer to ensure carers have respite from their work. The activities help carers and those they care for take control of their health and wellbeing and reduce the stigma around discussing mental wellbeing. The hubs will be held in Portsoken Community Centre and the Golden Lane Community Centre. Based on participation in the previous Wellbeing Hubs, CCTH anticipates that around 60 people will benefit from this funding.

Recommendation:

CCTH provides a valuable service to a group requiring specialist support. This proposal aligns with the Stronger Communities criteria as well as the City of London Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy, which identifies that carers are particularly vulnerable to mental health issues.¹ Funding is recommended as follows:

£3,000 to fund Wellbeing Hubs for carers and those they care for.

¹ Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2020, City of London Corporation

STRONGER COMMUNITIES – SMALL GRANTS

Organisation: City Showtunes Orchestra

Request ID: 21327

Previous requests: None

Amount Requested: £2,000

Amount Recommended: £2,000

Category: Small Grants

Organisation Profile: Unincorporated Association

Request: Hire of rehearsal and performance space for the orchestra and to offer membership bursaries for new and existing members.

Staff: THOLMES

Assessment Summary:

City Showtunes Orchestra (CSO) is an Unincorporated Association with around thirty members set up in 2012. CSO does not formally collect data on where participants live and work but are aware that many in the group live and/or work in the City of London. It hires St Mary Aldermary Church for rehearsals on Monday evenings, and twice-yearly free concerts for the local community. Each of its last four concerts has seen 80-125 audience members, with approximately 200-250 people attending each concert pre-Covid. The orchestra is inclusive of players of all levels, and plays music from musicals, TV, and films. CSO provides opportunities for the group to bond outside of rehearsing and performing, hosting tea breaks and other socials throughout the year.

St Mary Aldermary Church's operating costs are rising, and it will have to start increasing hiring costs as a result—rising to 150% of the 2022 rate by Autumn 2024. As a result, CSO's membership fees would have to increase, which may mean that some current members would have to leave, and new players may be discouraged from joining the group. Membership costs are already 30% higher than pre-covid, and this year five players have asked to delay their payment by until they have the funds available to pay. The orchestra consists of players in retirement, parents of young children, students, and early career professionals – CSO seeks to remain open to players regardless of income.

CSO are applying for £1,770 towards the hire of rehearsal and performance space and £230 towards subsidising membership fees for eight players with lower disposable incomes. CSO will spend the money across a year, during which time the orchestra will hold 24 rehearsals, two free concerts and at least two social events.

Recommendation:

CSO is an organisation that brings the local community together through music, as locals comprise both the performers and the audience. This grant will support CSO weather rising costs, preventing the group from having to pass these to its players and helping maintain that participating in CSO is accessible to those of all incomes. Funding is recommended as follows:

£2,000 towards the hire of rehearsal and performance space for the Orchestra and to offer membership bursaries for new and existing members.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Stronger Communities

Bloomsbury Football Foundation (ref. 21039)

Amount requested: £6,788.00

Amount recommended: £6,790.00

Purpose of grant request: Changing the Game for young people on York Way Estate.

The Applicant

Bloomsbury Football Foundation (BFF) is a CIO that was set up in 2018 to make football affordable for Londoners. It recognises that joining football clubs is expensive, which can price young people out of play. BFF believes that football can be a powerful tool for improving physical and mental health, strengthening community cohesion, and improving soft skills, such as communication. BFF currently runs free or subsidised (on a case-by-case basis) football sessions for children between the ages of eighteen months and eighteen years. BFF works with schools, local community groups and housing estates, engaging with young people to encourage them to attend its sessions. It currently works across 5 boroughs in London, with the ambition to run sessions in eighteen boroughs by 2028.

Background and detail of proposal

BFF is proposing to run 2 weekly football sessions over 40 weeks on the Market Road Football Pitches, targeted at residents of the York Way Estate. One of the weekly sessions will be for children between the ages of 3 and 6, and the others will be for children between the ages of 7 and 10. BFF estimates fifteen children will attend each group, based on attendance of its other sessions. BFF have not discussed this figure with the estate team. BFF have proposed that twenty of the total thirty participants will not pay to attend, and ten from the nearby area will pay a full/subsidised rate. This will provide an environment for children living on the estate to meet other children not living there. However, BFF will not turn a child away if they are unable to pay, and so if there is demand from the estate from thirty participants, it will cover any additional costs from its unrestricted reserves.

BFF has had some engagement with the York Way Estate team about the proposal. The York Way Estate team are positive about the idea, given that children on the estate lack a space to play due to ongoing construction. BFF will continue to work with the team to ensure residents are aware of the opportunity and are supported in registering for sessions online. York Way Estate residents will be given a code when signing up which will make their attendance free.

BFF will measure improvements to physical and mental health, strengthened community cohesion, and improvements in soft skills, via its usual process of surveying participants and parents. BFF follow Sport England metrics to collect and analyse the data. Data from its current programmes shows that 93% of players have

said BFF has made clear improvements to their confidence and ability to speak in a group setting.

BFF has robust safeguarding policies, and two coaches lead every session to mitigate against safeguarding risks. Coaches have regular Continuous Professional Development training on and off the pitch, addressing issues like trauma-management and working with refugees. The trainings are all accredited by The Football Association.

Financial Information

BFF has grown from a small to a medium-sized CIO since 2018, with most of the funding now coming from donations (donors include Nike). BFF hired its first full-time fundraiser in July 2021. For the year end June 2022 BFF was significantly under its reserves policy target of 3 months of running costs. This was partially due to the pandemic and BFFs response, where BFF prioritised hiring to support the key functions of the CIO. To date, BFF are meeting that target and are looking to increase it to 5 months of running costs, as the applicant believes the fundraising pipeline is promising. There are no concerns about the financial viability of BFF for the duration of this proposed grant.

Recommendation

BFF is proposing to deliver a project that will be to the benefit of residents living in one of the City of London's housing estates, York Way Estate. The estate team feel that this will be a good opportunity for children to have a space for physical activity, given construction-related disruptions on the estate. BFF seem not to have engaged with the team regarding the number of beneficiaries proposed, although this figure is based on usual BFF session participation. BFF highlighted that the estate team's involvement in engaging residents will be key to the project's success. Data suggests initiatives such as this have positive impacts for the young people involved, and I am confident that BFF coaches will be well-equipped to deliver successful sessions throughout the year. The funding recommended reflects an updated request in light of the organisation reviewing its project budget. Funding is recommended as follows:

£6,790 to run 2 weekly football sessions over 40 weeks on the Market Road Football Pitches, targeted at residents of the York Way Estate.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Stronger Communities

Age UK City of London (ref. 20135)

Amount requested: £9,726

Amount recommended: £9,726

Purpose of grant request: Health, wellbeing, and social inclusion for older BAMER women on Mansell Street estate.

The Applicant

Age UK City of London (AUKCL) is an independent charity. Having previously been linked with Age UK London, it has moved to sit as a subsidiary organisation to Age UK Camden. During Covid, it became apparent a new approach to delivery had to be shaped, due to Age UK London's focus on campaigning they were unable to provide the practical support needed. Age UK Camden is a large, well-established organisation and are equipped to provide AUKCL with IT support and volunteer DBS checks. AUKCL has its own board, remains a separate company, limited by guarantee that produces separate company accounts and has its own bank account.

AUKCL works with older people who live, volunteer and study in the Square Mile, with a primary focus on health, wellbeing, maintaining networks and building friendships.

Background and detail of proposal

AUKCL is seeking to continue its existing successful work with older women from the Bengali community on Mansell Street Estate. Funding is requested to run social afternoons supporting health and wellbeing, women-only Zumba sessions, trips/outings, digital inclusion sessions and a scams awareness session.

AUKCL has had a successful year so far working with the Women's Group, having taken residents on trips to pick fruit and vegetables, to visit Brighton and to visit Cambridge Mosque. It also hosted an end-of-year meal and a cooking lesson about nutrition in later-life. Participants have provided positive anecdotal feedback to the bilingual support worker, for whom funding is also sought. AUKCL's relationship with its service-users continues to grow, with residents' views directly informing plans for this year. Zumba has been extremely popular—even attracting residents beyond the group—so funding is sought to continue to offer 36 sessions. AUKCL hopes to expand and formalise its existing IT support, aiming to offer eleven one-to-one digital inclusion sessions and a scams awareness session. The Volunteer Co-ordinator has reduced the ask for their salary from two days/month to one/month this year, as they feel being able to fund the bilingual support worker and provide activities for the group is the priority. The Co-ordinator is proud to say they feel the women have gelled to become a cohesive group.

Financial Information

AUKCL has been identified as a going concern in its 2022 accounts, although with a mention of material uncertainty. AUKCL's income is mainly derived of restricted income. In 2022, the organisation accounted for an overspend in unrestricted funding due to an audit view to move salary costs into unrestricted expenditure as opposed to restricted, along with high management costs levied by Age UK London - the Charity has since moved to be a subsidiary of Age UK Camden. The organisation has plans to rebuild free reserves through a fundraising campaign in Spring, as well as looking to diversify income funding partners. Moving to Age UK Camden enables the organisation to benefit from the experienced senior management team, along with access to a fundraising consultant.

Recommendation

AUKCL is running a successful scheme of projects working with women from the Bengali community from Mansell Street Estate. AUKCL has a good relationship with the group it works with and seeks to concentrate resources where participants get the most value. Your Officer is confident the charity will provide a worthwhile scheme that continues to promote community health and well-being as well as strengthen bonds within and beyond the group. Funding is recommended as follows:

£9,726 to support health, wellbeing and social inclusion for older BAMER women on Mansell Street estate.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Stronger Communities

Tower Hamlets Youth Sport Foundation (ref. 19941)

Amount requested: £9,600

Amount recommended: £9,600

Purpose of grant request: Community cricket provision for children living in the City of London, and the adjacent areas of Farringdon and Whitechapel.

The Applicant

Tower Hamlets Youth Sport Foundation (THYSF) was formed in 2012 to continue the work previously developed and provided under the School Sport Partnerships in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. THYSF continued to deliver sports activities in the borough's schools, working in partnership with the council. In 2018/19 the Trustees opted to bring these activities to a close, as they were no longer financially viable. Since 2018 the charity has run the Platform Cricket programme for children in Tower Hamlets and other inner London boroughs. As well as seeking to improve young people's health and fitness, it also works to indirectly support educational attainment, social cohesion and reductions in anti-social behaviour. An essential part of THYSF's mission is to address the under-representation of state-educated, BAME and economically disadvantaged people in cricket.

Background and detail of proposal

THYSF seeks funding to run its Platform Cricket programme for disadvantaged children in the City and Tower Hamlets. The programme has two main aims: to improve the lives and prospects of young people through sport, and to contribute to the diversification of UK elite cricket, in which state educated and BAME players are underrepresented. Drawing on THYSF's experience delivering sports activities in inner London boroughs, THYSF replicates youth cricket teams whilst removing some of the key barriers to participation in cricket such as cost, distance to travel to the activity and clashes with religious commitments (e.g. attending mosque).

THYSF seeks funding for its 'Whitechapel Wolves' and 'Farringdon Phantoms' hubs. THYSF was awarded funding for both these hubs from the Stronger Communities strand in 2020. The 'Whitechapel Wolves' continued to thrive in 2022, sustained by alternative funding, but the charity could not secure further funding for the 'Farringdon Phantoms,' which they hope to now revive. THYSF originally applied to revive the Phantoms and start a new hub in Holborn, however after discussions with Your Officer, decided to amend their proposal. It hopes to divert existing funding from the Wolves to their hub in Wapping and Shadwell, freeing up some funds to start a Holborn hub. THYSF plan to work with year four cohorts from the same schools as it did in 2020, with whom they have good relationships. Hub supervisors and some sessional employees recently received a training session from staff at a school THYSF work with in Southwark on working with children with autism. THYSF is keen to continue developing THYSF staff knowledge around working with children with disabilities.

If awarded, the grant will cover coaching costs and venue hire for the hubs in the winter and summer months. THYSF's Platform Cricket will cover the initial school programme and festivals to engage participants, and their competitive programme in the summer. THYSF evaluate their outcomes based on how demographically reflective hubs are of the communities they operate in, multi-stage fitness tests, Warwick-Edinburgh mental health assessments and feedback from teachers and parents.

Financial Information

THYSF are a small-medium sized charity with an annual turnover of approximately £300k. Covid had a negative impact on THYSF's income and reserves in 2021, but THYSF projects higher turnovers and more healthy reserves in 2022 and 2023, having appointed a full-time fundraiser who aims to shift their focus from fortifying the existing hubs to securing some core funding (which can contribute towards specific projects if necessary). There are no concerns regarding the financial viability of THYSF for the duration of this grant.

Recommendation

THYSF is a well-connected charity with sophisticated monitoring and evaluation to ensure it continues to have a positive impact. Its national mission makes the City an ideal place for the charity to work in, with around 50% of children in Banglatown, Portsoken and Whitechapel; and around 15% in Aldersgate and Cripplegate, entitled to Free School Meals. This project promotes health and wellbeing, and will allow young people to develop stronger bonds in their local communities. As such, funding is recommended as follows:

£9,600 to support community cricket provision for children living in the City of London, and the adjacent areas of Farringdon and Whitechapel.

STRONGER COMMUNITIES – SMALL GRANTS

Organisation: Society Links

Request ID: 19891

Amount Requested: £3,000.00

Amount Recommended: £3,000.00

Category: Small Grants

Organisation Status: Registered Charity

Request: To create a directory of local services for the community to share information about what services and support are available

Staff: THOLMES

Assessment Summary:

SocietyLinks (SL) is a registered charity located on the Whitechapel Peabody estate, providing opportunities and activities to address the needs of underprivileged people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets. SL currently provides youth and resettlement services for Afghans newly arrived in the City of London. SL also delivers the City of London Youth and Play Service—running twice weekly youth sessions at the Golden Lane Community Centre and Portsoken Community Centre. Through working closely with residents, SL identified the need for a directory of local services (mapped out, with a brief description and contact details) for the community. The directory will be categorised by service type, using imagery and symbols in order to be accessible to those with limited English language skills. SL has produced a similar information directory about the Shadwell area funded by the Mayor of London's Young Londoners' Fund, which was very well received by residents.

SL will spend the initial phase of the project supplementing their existing knowledge of service providers conducting desk-based research. SL will contact organisations asking if they would like to be part of the directory. SL will focus on long-term projects, and add a disclaimer that programmes are active at the point of printing. The directory will be available online and in hard copy. SL aims to deliver the directory within 12 weeks of receiving funding, from May through to July 2023, so they can distribute it at a time when communities will need it most—while schools are closed during the holidays. SL will distribute the directories as part of its existing outreach work, and also plan to leave copies in local libraries etc as appropriate. SL will evaluate the success of the project by collecting feedback from the community members it continues to have sustained contact with, and maintain contact with service providers to learn about how the directory has impacted their work.

Recommendation:

SL has good connections with communities most in need in the City and has created a successful directory in the past, which will allow it to create and distribute a useful resource. Your Officer recommends funding as follows:

£3,000 to create a directory of local services for the community to share information about what services and support are available.

CENTRAL GRANTS PROGRAMME

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Stronger Communities

Portsoken Activities Group (ref. 20149)

Amount requested: £6,000

Amount recommended: £6,000

Purpose of grant request: Community events for residents/workers of Portsoken and nearby.

The Applicant

Portsoken Activities Group (PAG) is a constituted voluntary organisation that provides social activities for people living and working in the ward of Portsoken and surrounding areas. The organisation received previous funding from the City Corporation in 2019, 2020, and 2022 to hold community events such as the successful BaLaCo festival.

Background and detail of proposal

PAG is a small group of volunteers who put on events for the local people in Portsoken, and these events form a key aspect of community life. PAG are seeking funding for six events: The Big Lunch to celebrate the Coronation (based on the BaLaCo festival), a Podium Party to celebrate Middlesex Street Estate's gardens, a Family Fun Day, a Kid's Halloween Party and two coach trips to the seaside in the summer. The events will be open to all but will focus on ensuring residents from the estates in Portsoken take part and benefit.

Financial Information

PAG has received grants from the Stronger Communities strand since 2019 and has consistently delivered community projects during this time. Your officer feels the organisation has an appropriate level of experience to deliver a grant of the requested size. There are no concerns about the financial viability of PAG for the duration of this grant.

Recommendation

PAG's application meets key aspects of the Central Grants Unit's Stronger Communities funding strand, enabling people to become involved in the Portsoken community by ensuring locals have opportunities to come together and celebrate both national and hyper-local events. Funding is recommended as follows:

A secondary £6,000 to fund community events for residents/workers of Portsoken and nearby.