

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving Londoners' Mental Health**Greenwich and Lewisham Young People's Theatre****Adv: Sandra Davidson****Amount requested: £90,981****Base: Greenwich****Benefit: Greenwich****Amount recommended: £90,900****The Charity**

Greenwich & Lewisham Young People's Theatre (GLYPT) has been providing Theatre in Education and youth work for over 40 years (including 15 years' experience of working with young people with Special Educational Needs). It has established a reputation for delivering high-quality work with young people and addressing relevant issues for disadvantaged young people. Based in Greenwich, it also delivers work in Lewisham, offering a service in the most deprived areas of the borough such as Bellingham, Downham and Whitefoot.

The Application

GLYPT seeks funding over three years towards the costs of the 'Whatever Youth Theatre' (WYT) - a pioneering arts programme designed to improve the mental health and well-being of young people aged 8-18 years old. GLYPT currently co-ordinate this successful programme in Greenwich in partnership with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS of Oxleas NHS Trust (funded by BBC's Children In Need) and have identified the need to extend provision into the neighbouring borough of Lewisham. The rate of young people with mental health problems in Lewisham is twice the national average.

The Recommendation

GLYPT is well-known for its quality and innovation and has been acclaimed for its work on inclusion and diversity. The organisation strives to ensure it find ways of using the arts to support the most vulnerable in society. GLYPT develops new artistic techniques and creating new cross-sector partnerships to meet the needs of young people who 'fall through the gaps' in mental health provision.

£90,900 over three years (3 x £30,300) towards the costs of the 'Whatever Youth Theatre' arts programme for young people.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
25/09/2003	£23,300 towards the 'Voices' theatre project, payable in two instalments (£11,650 in August 2003; £11,650 in March 2004)

Background and detail of proposal

Building on the success of the Greenwich programme, working with the Horniman Museum, GLYPT proposes to extend the project to Lewisham. A group of young people with mild learning difficulties (MLD) will establish a weekly programme. Participants will have access to weekly drama and creative arts workshops giving crucial opportunities for them to have fun, make friends, express themselves in a safe environment, gain a sense of achievement and develop their confidence. All of these factors will support good mental health. The project will be delivered as a combination of a 'safe space' creative drop-in, followed by a structured drama workshop. The Horniman Museum is keen to work in partnership, in particular with

the Community Engagement Team. As a result, unique workshops will be delivered by a drama tutor and a trained therapist, providing an extra means of support for young people. The Museum has committed significant in-kind support to the programme including staff costs, learning assistants, curatorial staff and training for GLYPT staff, venue hire and marketing/digital activities.

Funding will enable GLYPT to provide targeted support for three groups each of 15 young people in various age groups, meeting 33 weeks per year, for three years. Up to 240 young people are expected to benefit over the three year period. It is envisaged that some young people will remain with the programme for a longer period than others due to greater individual needs. Overall, GLYPT anticipates the programme will be very popular and will require the establishment of a waiting list.

Financial Information

Total forecast for the current year is £525,074, of which £199,363 (38% had been confirmed by March 2015). GLYPT advised that the increase in operations from 2013-14 is due to the receipt of two significant funds, the Monument Trust (£45k per year over three years); and the Lewisham Youth Service contract, as well as this pending application from the Trust in 2015/16.

GLYPT advised that it plans to increase its holding of free reserves towards its target over a two year period, through a fundraising strategy that includes launching a friends' scheme and sourcing corporate sponsorship. In addition, GLYPT advised that a 30 year lease has been agreed by Greenwich Council and the charity has embarked on a capital appeal to raise approximately 2million to raise building into 'fit for purpose' state.

The cost of generating funds is not disclosed in the 2013/14 audited accounts, however GLYPT has provided an estimate and has advised it will review the disclosure of the cost of generating funds as part of its year end process.

Year end at 31 st March 2014	2013/14 Audited Accounts	2014/15 Forecast Outturn	2015/16 Current Year Budget
Income and Expenditure	£	£	
Income	389,982	467,171	525,074
Expenditure	366,530	471,152	522,074
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(20,815)	(3,891)	3,000
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	44,267	0	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	23,452	(3,981)	3,000
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	6.0%	(0.9%)	0.6%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	21,000 (5.4%)	-	-
Free unrestricted reserves			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	53,908	50,017	53,017
How many months' worth of expenditure	1.8	1.3	1.2
Reserves Policy target	73,000	73,000	73,000
How many months' worth of expenditure	2.4	1.9	1.7
Free reserves over/(under) target	(19,092)	(22,983)	(19,983)