

MEETING: 13/05/2015

Ref: 12793

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Strengthening London's Voluntary Sector**

**Federation of London Youth Clubs**

**Adv: Ciaran Rafferty**

**Base: Hackney**

**Amount requested: £103,163**

**Benefit: London-wide**

**Amount recommended: £103,000**

**The Charity**

London Youth is both the common and operational name for the Federation of London Youth Clubs – the umbrella body and key support agency for more than 400 community organisations working with over 75,000 of London's young people. Its Patron – and a very active one – is HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. London Youth's aim is to help young people be the best they can be and they do this by focusing on three key factors: development, opportunity and voice. Its programmes and activities are delivered to and through its member organisations and cover: youth action and youth leadership, sports development, employability, the London Youth Quality Mark (in partnership with City Bridge Trust)), and environmental work. It also runs two residential centres – Woodrow High House and Hindleap Warren – which offer unique opportunities for young Londoners to experience life outside the city.

**The Application**

Whilst the charity currently is in receipt of Strategic Initiative funding for targeted work on developing services for disabled young people, it does not hold an Investing in Londoners grant and so is eligible to make this application. This proposal is to work with a targeted cohort of member clubs as a first stage in the development of effective monitoring and evaluation systems for all voluntary managed youth groups.

**The Recommendation**

This project will work intensively with 20 youth projects in order to develop their capacity to evidence and advocate for the value of their work with young people. Acting as somewhat of a pilot, the project will identify systems and processes which, then, can be adopted by all the member organisations. This, in turn, will help them deliver better services to young people and increase their ability to attract funds. A grant is advised:

***£103,000 over two years (£51,000; £52,000) for the salary and support costs of a project to develop the capacity of London's voluntary youth sector to evidence and advocate for the value of its work.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
13/03/2014	£216,000 over three years as a Strategic Initiative to develop youth services in London for disabled young people.
18/04/2013	£55,000 for a third and final year's support of the Urban Nature initiative.
18/03/2010	£100,000 over two years (2 x £50,000) for the salary of a Project Co-ordinator and associated running costs of the Urban Nature project to engage, educate and support young people as environmental champions.

## **Background and detail of proposal**

In times of decreasing funds and increasing needs, it is essential that service providers are able to capture and demonstrate the value and impact of their work. However, as many groups are unsure of how to do this effectively, training, guidance and support is needed. With this project, better determination of impact will:

- Improve outcomes for young people who attend youth services, through the providers being better able to understand, measure and evaluate what works
- Increase the sustainability of youth organisations by their being better able to articulate their impact to funders and stakeholders
- Enable youth providers to communicate the distinctive contribution of their work to local education, health and community cohesion strategies
- Ensure that London Youth learns from what works on the ground and can share this practice across its membership and with the wider youth sector.

The charity will work with a minimum of 20 organisations to develop theories of change, models of interventions, evaluation plans, and common data frameworks, and to be validated by Project Oracle. (Project Oracle, developed by the GLA, is London's children and youth evidence hub). Knowledge and practice developed from this project will be applicable throughout the London Youth membership.

## **Financial Information**

At 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014 free unrestricted funds stood at £605,527 which is equivalent to 1.1 months' worth of expenditure. The charity's reserves policy does not give a target figure but states that "Trustees seek to retain a prudent level of unrestricted income." The policy states "Trustees believe unrestricted reserves stand at a satisfactory level in light of the adopted policy but will aim to increase unrestricted reserves where possible to improve the ratio to annual planned expenditure". The charity has advised that its Trustees are aware of the need to agree a reserves target and plan to do so over the next six months.

At 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015 £3,288,457 (44%) of the total forecast income in the current year had been confirmed. The charity advises that it has experienced growth over the last few years as a result of the three factors; securing Talent Match London, increasing unrestricted funding and development of programmes and centres.

The charity's cost of generating funds was £164,663 (2.5%) in 2013/14 and relates to fundraising activities. The charity explains that this is low as nearly 40% of the charity's income is generated by its residential centres through fees charged to schools and youth groups.

<b>Year end at 31 August</b>	<b>2013/14 Audited Accounts £</b>	<b>2014/15 Current Year Forecast £</b>
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>		
Income	6,621,799	7,877,166
Expenditure	6,869,316	7,827,957
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(250,978)	(342,821)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	3,461	293,612
Unrealised gains on investments	72,981	-
<b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(174,536)</b>	<b>(49,209)</b>
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(2.6%)	(0.6%)
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	164,663 (2.5%)	-
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>		
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	605,527	702,769
How many months' worth of expenditure	1.1	1.1
Reserves Policy target	-	-
How many months' worth of expenditure	-	-
Free reserves over/(under) target	-	-