

**MEETING: 11/05/2017**

**Ref: 13983**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY – Anniversary Programme – Bridge to Work**

**Whizz-Kidz**

**Adv: Ciaran Rafferty**

**Base: Westminster**

**Amount requested over 5 years: £386,212**

**Benefit: London-wide**

**Amount recommended: £384,000**

**The Charity**

Whizz-Kidz, a well-known name in charity circles, is the familiar name for the Movement for Non-Mobile Children. Its aim is to support disabled young people to become confident and independent young adults and to live their life to the full. The charity is particularly known for its work in providing equipment to young people (especially wheelchairs) and the skills to use them but a large element of its work is in providing supported work experience opportunities with a range of employers.

**Recent Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
27/9/2012	£60,000 over three years for life-skills training for young people.

**The Proposal**

Whizz-Kidz has identified that disabled young people within mainstream education provision are leaving it without having had the chance to fully consider their future options or how their skills and experiences fit with opportunities in the jobs market. They are missing out on vital work placement experience as schools and colleges are ill prepared to source and provide adequate placements, with the right support on hand. Critically, these young people are not given the same first experiences of work that education provides for their non-disabled peers.

Over the past 2 years the charity has piloted a partnership approach with Tower Hamlets to develop pathways for these young people to access specialist work skills opportunities and engage in work placements with employers who understand their impairment. Alongside the brokerage and training provided to employers, the charity delivers non-intensive preparation sessions with the young people, as well as on-the-job support including Health Care Assistants where necessary.

The proposal is to replicate this partnership model further across London, with an aim to work with 18 local authorities by the end of 5 years and to have supported up to 120 disabled young people into work placements by the end of three years. The scale and scope of the project is envisaged to increase markedly in the third year and sustained for years four and five.

**Principal Outcomes**

1. Disabled young people will be better equipped to apply for jobs and to attend interviews.
2. They will have more confidence.
3. They will have an increased awareness of the services available to support them into employment.

4. More employers will have an increased understanding of the needs of wheelchair-using employees.
5. The charity will have piloted accreditation for employability skills days in participating local authorities.

### Recommendation

This would be a very valuable component within the overall Bridge to Work programme as it targets those young disabled people who are in mainstream education but are left behind by their peers when it comes to experiencing the world of work. The full project costs have been provided (see form in Applications Annex) and the project will benefit from external funds being provided. The scale of the activity – and the impact/benefit – is forecast to increase significantly after the first two years, hence the recommendation:

***£384,000 over 5 years (£49,000; £52,000; £91,000; £96,000; £96,000) for the salary and operational costs of the Bridge to Work project. The grant in years 4 and 5 is subject to the project achieving satisfactory progress in the first three years.***

### Financial Information

The charity has been reviewing its reserves policy over recent months, alongside addressing the low level of reserves previously held. Cost of raising funds consists mainly of staff costs and costs for one-off fundraising events, matching the nature of their fundraising model.

Year end as at 31st December	2015 Audited £	2016 Draft £	2017 Forecast £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	7,931,000	7,836,000	7,869,000
- % of Income confirmed as at 01 March 2017	n/a	n/a	61%
Expenditure	(7,535,000)	(7,813,000)	(7,687,000)
Total surplus/(deficit)	<b>396,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>182,000</b>
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	224,000	(151,000)	20,000
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	172,000	174,000	162,000
	<b>396,000</b>	<b>23,000</b>	<b>182,000</b>
<b>Cost of Raising Funds</b>	1,987,000	2,036,000	1,872,000
- % of income	25.1%	26.0%	23.8%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	3,964,000	4,061,000	3,942,000
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	535,000	733,000	944,000
No of months of operating expenditure	1.6	2.2	2.9
Reserves policy target	991,000	1,015,250	985,500
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(456,000)	(282,250)	(41,500)