

MEETING: 11/05/2017

Ref: 13535

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London Safer

Parent Abuse and Reconciliation Service

Adv: Shegufta Rahman

Base: Enfield

Benefit: Enfield

Amount requested: £98,909

{Revised request: £108,209}

Amount recommended: £108,200

The Charity

Parent Abuse and Reconciliation Service (PAARS) was established in 2012 to provide support lacking from other agencies for parents and carers abused by their adolescent children. It was set up by three founders with over 25 years' experience between them of supporting children with emotional and behavioural issues.

The Application

You are asked to fund the salary of a full-time Project Manager over three years for the Under 10's Children DART service. The post-holder would be responsible for delivering this project which provides holistic support to families and children under 10 where domestic violence is a past or present issue, as well as recruiting, training and managing the DART volunteers. The total cost of the project is c£450,000 with the balance secured from the Tudor Trust, The Henry Smith Charity and Big Lottery Fund (BLF).

The Recommendation

PAARS have been successful in continuing the delivery of their services through difficult times. Towards the end of 2016 the lease on its premises was coming to an end, and it lost out in tendering a bid to the local council for Albany Park Hub. The charity has now identified suitable premises in Enfield Town and expects to move operations to this location in four to six weeks. At the time of applying, the organisation was awaiting the outcomes of a number of funding applications. Due to the high levels of unconfirmed income and lack of premises, your officer recommended PAARS await the outcome of the application for £500,000 over five years from BLF. In March the charity received confirmation that this application was successful, as well as additional funding from The Henry Smith Charity, putting PAARS in a much more favourable financial position. You are recommended to agree the revised request and higher level of grant enabling PAARS to recover associated project costs. A revised budget has been provided (Appendix A).

£108,200 over three years (£37,100, £35,100, £36,000) for the salary of a full-time Under 10's Children DART Project Manager and associated project costs, conditional on confirmation of securing new premises in Enfield Town.

Funding History

None

Background and detail of proposal

The three founders of PAARS were employed at the same secondary school; one as a Parent Support Advisor, and the other two as Learning Mentors. The Parent Support Advisor came across a case where the child refused to attend school and on further investigation it was discovered that the child was being physically abusive towards his mother. She was unable to get him to school, and he would threaten,

punch and kick her. When the Parent Support Advisor tried to support the mother, it was discovered that Social Services would not get involved as the mother was not abusing the child, and when the police were called the child was asked to stop the abusive behaviour. As the police did not arrest the child, he felt more empowered as nothing further was done. The three colleagues, identifying this gap in support, decided to launch PAARS to meet this unmet need.

From the outset, the founders decided to provide holistic and practical support to the whole family. At the time of set up, there was limited information available on the number of families affected as incidents of parent abuse reported to the police would be recorded as assault or criminal damage. The DART programme allows work with multiple families simultaneously allowing survivors of domestic violence to build support networks. This service was evaluated by the NSPCC in March 2016 and the findings showed that after the intervention families were more confident in their parenting, more control in their children's behaviour, and children experienced fewer emotional and behavioural difficulties. DART also provides practical advice and support including financial/benefits advice, careers advice, education support, support groups, involvement in positive activities and professional counselling.

Financial Information

PAARS has struggled with building its reserves position, ending 2014/15 at a negative level. The financial years 2015/16 and half of 2016/17 have primarily been focussed on securing suitable premises. In this time, the PAARS Project Manager worked on a voluntary basis to ensure a level of reserves was maintained in the short term. In 2016/17 the charity has been steadily growing its income stream from schools and training delivered to other agencies. This will remain a key area of growth for the organisation in order to build its reserves position and future sustainability. The organisation has not allocated any staff time to cost of generating funds as the Project Manager has not drawn a salary. With grant funding now secured from other funders, the PAARS Project Manager will start drawing down a salary from June this year. BLF funding includes £15,000 for Building Capabilities which will enable the organisation to review its governance with appropriate policies, processes and procedures, including its reserves policy.

Year end as at 31st October	FY 14/15 Examined Accounts £	FY 15/16 Examined Accounts £	FY 16/17 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	102,567	112,127	129,800
- % of Income confirmed	n/a	n/a	100%
Expenditure	(96,920)	(109,430)	(129,800)
Total surplus/(deficit)	5,647	2,697	0
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	2,589	(2,308)	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	3,058	5,005	0
	5,647	2,697	0
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	(1,111)	6,137	6,137
No of months of expenditure	-0.1	0.7	0.6
Reserves policy target	48,460	54,715	64,900
No of months of expenditure	6.0	n/a	91.6
Free reserves over/(under) target	(49,571)	(48,578)	(58,763)