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| Committee: | Date: |
| City Bridge Trust | 14 th March 2018 |
| Subject: Partnership with Buttle UK (ref 14551) | Public |
| Report of: Chief Grants Officer (CGO) and Director of City Bridge Trust | For Decision |
| Report author: Jenny Field, Deputy Chief Grants Officer | |

Summary

This report requests funding to continue your current partnership with Buttle UK for a further year from April 2018 through a hardship fund, the Anchor Project, for London families re-building their lives following domestic abuse.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Approve a grant of £324,697 over one year for the continuation of the Anchor Project supporting families in London who have experienced domestic abuse to resettle.

Background

1. In November 2013, you approved a grant of £470,000 to enable Buttle UK to establish a hardship fund (known as the Anchor Project) for families to help them re-build their lives following domestic violence. A further grant of £634,000 was approved by the Court of Common Council in December 2014.
2. These grants enabled Buttle UK to design the Anchor Project to provide a holistic package of support for families affected by domestic violence, combining practical and emotional support provided by its network of referral agencies and cash grants of up to £2,000 administered by Buttle UK.
4. At the time, whilst Buttle UK had a strong track record in making grants to individual families, the average size of grant from its other funds was usually around £300. However, many families escaping domestic violence have to leave the home with few, if any, personal or household items. It was hoped that the more holistic approach combined with a larger grant would help the families concerned take the all-important step of leaving an abusive relationship and successfully rebuild their lives.

Progress to date

6. The project has broken new ground in two respects. Firstly, it was the first time that the holistic approach, outlined above, had been piloted in London. Secondly, it has taken a child-centred approach and all grants must be used to meet the unmet needs of the children – be this physical, emotional, educational or recreational needs. This approach therefore challenged the common presumption that by meeting the mother's needs, the child's needs will also have been met.
9. To date, the Anchor Project has awarded 633 grants totalling £772,387. The average value of grants has been £1,220, and 1400 children have benefitted.
10. Independent evaluation of this approach has been an important part of the project. You hosted the launch of the evaluation report at a well-attended event in November 2017. The evaluation found that the enhanced, holistic package of support meant that the grants had long-term benefits for children, beyond the immediate impact achieved when the support was delivered. By supporting the children's overall educational, emotional and social needs, as well as their practical needs, the Anchor Project has been able to build the resilience and confidence of the children concerned.
11. As well as providing very practical support, by helping to furnish and equip a new home, Anchor grants have been used to fund extra tuition, after school activities and computers, thereby improving the child's school performance, as well as therapy and after-school activities to help the child overcome the trauma of living with domestic abuse, thereby improving their emotional well-being.

Current Need

12. Domestic abuse continues to be the most frequent reason why Buttle UK receives an application. Of the 10,000 grants it made in the last year, over 28% of referrals made reference to domestic abuse, either as a main or as a contributing factor. The number of grants awarded by Buttle UK to families affected by domestic abuse has increased by 22% in the last year alone.
13. At the same time, funding for domestic abuse services is very challenging. According to the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, local authorities have already cut spending on refugees by 24% since 2010. Those refugees that were promised part of an additional £20 million fund from the Government to boost spaces have had an inconsistent experience of actually receiving it.
14. Meanwhile, Local Welfare Payments, intended to provide grants to cover emergency costs/crisis payments, are vulnerable to cuts in local authority budgets. Since 2013/14, when these payments were introduced, many local authorities have reduced their local schemes to a fraction of their original size and some have shut them down entirely.
15. With budgets likely to be more stretched than ever, the need for the Anchor Project will continue.

Developing Chances for Children Grants

16. Establishing the Anchor Project has supported Buttle UK's wider strategic direction. It now forms part of its Chances for Children strategy. Historically, the average grant from Buttle UK had been around £300 which typically paid for basic household items such as cookers, fridges, washing machines and children's beds. Through the Anchor Project, Buttle UK has learned that a grant of between £1,000 and £2,000, tailored to the specific needs of the grantee, could have a much greater impact by going beyond merely meeting material needs and could help children and young people over a longer period.
17. Therefore, it decided to develop the concept of 'enhanced grants' – now referred to as Chances for Children grants – and test it across a range of groups to which it traditionally made the most grants: families affected by domestic abuse (i.e. Anchor Project grants); young people estranged from their families; and struggling families. To date, the results have been very positive across all three groups.
18. In 2016, Buttle UK set itself the ambitious role of raising an additional £10 million to enable it to make more of these 'enhanced' grants and has so far raised £2 million towards this target.
19. As a result of this changed strategy, Buttle UK decided to stop running the BBC Children in Need (BBC CIN) Emergency Essentials programme, having done so for 14 years. It had carried the financial cost for delivering this contract because it supported Buttle UK's broader organisational work supporting children and young people in need. Although there is an unquestionable need for Emergency Essentials, Buttle UK's Trustees agreed in September 2017 that it would not re-tender for the contract at this time, so that resources could focus on delivering Chances for Children grants. The contract with BBC CIN comes to an end at the end of March 2018, although it will work closely with both BBC CIN and the new provider to ensure a seamless transition.
20. Buttle UK plans to roll out the Anchor Project to other parts of the UK, depending on availability of funding. Comic Relief, for example, has awarded £100k to deliver the Anchor Project in the West Midlands over the next two years. It expects to spend more than half of the £1.5m it has available for grants next year (2018/19) on Anchor grants across the UK.
21. The work you have funded in London over the past four years has been key to this growth and Buttle UK is keen to maintain the momentum in the capital. From a slow but steady start in 2014, it expects to award over 200 Anchor Project grants in the 2017/18 financial year alone. It has developed a network of over 100 referral agencies in London from the voluntary and statutory sectors and has made some critical strategic partnerships in this time, which it proposes to use as a platform for developing the next phase of the funding, if you approve a grant today.

Anchor Project Budget

| Budget Item | Cost |
|---------------------------|----------------|
| Grants | 252,000 |
| Salaries | 37,500 |
| In-house evaluation | 4,000 |
| Marketing & Dissemination | 4,000 |
| Total | 297,500 |

22. You will see that the amount recommended (£324,697) is slightly above the sum in the budget. Officers are of the view that the Anchor Project is delivering such important outcomes for some of our most vulnerable children and young people that an increased amount will be put to very good use and is possible within the total funding available for grants at today's meeting.

Financial Information

23. The income reported in the accounts to 31 March 2017 is not comparable to that shown in the forecasts in the table below as the former includes investment income (£1.1m) and the latter includes the value of transfers from the endowment (£3.8m in 2018 and £2.4m in 2019) rather than investment income.
24. The reduction in income forecast for 2018/9 is largely due to the loss of income from BBC CIN as explained in paragraph 19 (£2,750,000 in 2017/18).
25. Whilst Buttle UK's unrestricted funds are comparatively low relative to turnover, it has considerable endowment funds. The Charity Commission granted the charity a total return order in 2006, which permits it to spend the unapplied total return of its endowment, provided this is balanced against its current and future commitments to beneficiaries. The trustees review this policy annually. Officers are satisfied that it has access to sufficient funds to meet any future financial obligations.

| Year end as at 31 March | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Audited Accounts | Forecast | Budget |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Income & expenditure: | | | |
| Income | 4,574,000 | 7,550,000 | 3,936,000 |
| - % of Income confirmed as at 19/02/2018 | n/a | 100.00% | 92% |
| Expenditure | (6,043,000) | (7,413,000) | (3,927,000) |
| Net surplus/(deficit) | (1,469,000) | 137,000 | 9,000 |
| Net gain on Investments | 10,288,000 | 0 | 0 |
| Actuarial gain/(loss) on pension scheme | (274,000) | 0 | 0 |
| Total surplus/(deficit) | 8,545,000 | 137,000 | 9,000 |
| | | | |
| Cost of Raising Funds | 986,000 | 632,000 | 507,000 |
| - % of Income | 21.6% | 8.4% | 12.9% |
| | | | |
| Total Funds | 57,469,000 | 57,606,000 | 57,615,000 |

Conclusion

26. The Anchor Project has complemented your 'Making London Safer' programme of your current Investing in Londoners programmes by providing the total package of support needed for a family escaping domestic violence re-settle and live independently. It will also complement the new Positive Transitions strand of your new Bridging Divides programmes, whose priorities include support for children and young people affected by domestic abuse, as well as support for survivors of domestic abuse.
27. This has been a successful partnership which has delivered some very positive outcomes for a highly vulnerable group of children whose needs are all too often overlooked.
28. Your funding has enabled Buttle UK to test and evaluate a new approach to grant-making which has had a significant impact on the strategic direction of Buttle UK and enabled it to lever in additional funds.

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