

MEETING: 14/03/2018

Ref: 14321

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving Londoners' Mental Health

BANG Edutainment Ltd

Adv: Shegufta Rahman

Base: Brent

Benefit: Brent

Amount requested: £91,172

{Revised Request: £119,599}

Amount recommended: £120,000

The Applicant

BANG Edutainment Ltd (BANG) is a community-led organisation that was set up in 1999 by a group of people who wanted to support young people at risk of experiencing negative outcomes or on the pathway to offending. Registered as a charity in 2001, BANG has supported thousands of young people in Brent to build resilience, self-esteem and improve academic achievements.

The Application

BANG is seeking funding for its NoLimitz programme; a 16-week structured, person-centred programme that combines group activities with transformational 121 support. The programme has a core emphasis on emotional resilience with young people being taught the skills to manage challenging situations and emotions. Having delivered NoLimitz with the support of volunteer therapists, the charity is seeking funding for a part-time therapist to meet the growing demands of this project.

The Recommendation

The charity has established itself in the heart of the community in Brent. It has strong referral partnerships with many schools, and sister organisation The Beat 103.6 FM (The Beat), a community-radio station based out of the same premises, is a unique draw for young people to engage with NoLimitz through the Radio Skills element of the programme. Embedding a therapeutic component into the programme will allow the charity to address the growing cases of mental health problems such as depression and conduct disorder. During assessment it was clear the level of need for this therapeutic service was higher than the original request for a part-time role at 2.5 days per week. A revised budget with an additional day costed into the project has been submitted (Appendix A to the application form).

£120,000 over three years (3 x £40,000) for the NoLimitz PT therapist (3.5 dpw) and associated project costs, conditional on quarterly management accounts to be provided for 2018/19.

Funding History

None.

Background and detail of proposal

NoLimitz currently has four main components: the HUB/HUB Plus which addresses emotional wellbeing; Learning Zone with academic support to improve attitudes to learning; Radio Skills which improve communication skills, and Healthy Start which is a sports programme with the whole family to improve relationships. Alongside this, a Parent HUB is available to support parents overcome challenges they may face with their child. Currently, the HUB component is made up of facilitated workshops to build emotional resilience using a comic book of eight superheroes who each have a power (skill) in the key evidence-based areas of emotional and social wellbeing; self-

esteem, confidence, communication, empathy, identifying feelings, emotional regulation, problem-solving, and managing conflict and stress. Facilitators use arts, media, drama, games and stories to teach the young people the same skills/powers as the superheroes. Facilitators also work with parents to build their capacity to support children outside workshops and post-project, by teaching them skills to use fun tools to be used between and after sessions. Evaluation of NoLimitz has shown young people engage exceptionally well with the superhero concept. However, an increasing number of young people are presenting with mental health problems, with needs more extensive and falling outside the current sphere of capability of NoLimitz. Embedding therapy into the HUB will give BANG the capacity to work intensively with at least 30 young people each year with an average of 20 hours of specialist support per young person. This will strengthen BANG's core outcomes of reducing behaviour/conduct problems; increasing from the current baseline of 45% to 60% of beneficiaries, and enhancing educational attainment; increasing from the current baseline of 55% to 70% of beneficiaries.

Financial Information

BANG is building its reserves position to bring it closer to target by exploring opportunities to licence NoLimitz to providers further afield where transport logistics make direct outreach delivery untenable. A licence has already been confirmed with the Harrow Club, which will bring in additional unrestricted income. Sister organisation, The Beat provides unrestricted income each year as a contribution to overheads. Although the forecast and budget are below its reserves policy, this is a worst-case scenario as the charity expects to secure additional unrestricted income from further licensing of NoLimitz and launching a crowdfunding campaign next year.

The long-term loan of £75,000 shown in the 2017 accounts was converted by Social Investment Business Ltd to a non-repayable grant in June 2017 with £5,000 paid in full and final settlement. The accounts state that '£70,000 conversion will be treated as income in the accounts next year' but this income has not been included in the forecasts below.

Year end as at 31 March	2017 Examined Accounts £	2018 Forecast £	2019 Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	272,294	284,648	313,973
- % of Income confirmed as at 06/02/18	n/a	97%	61%
Expenditure	(268,331)	(274,648)	(302,641)
Total surplus/(deficit)	3,963	10,000	11,332
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	3,944	0	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	19	10,000	11,332
	3,963	10,000	11,332
Cost of Raising Funds	1,000	4,800	5,000
- % of Income	0.4%	1.7%	1.6%
Total operating expenditure	268,331	274,648	302,641
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	1,261	11,261	22,593
No of months of operating expenditure	0.1	0.5	0.9
Reserves policy target	67,083	68,662	75,660
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(65,822)	(57,401)	(53,067)