

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London Safer**Why me? Victims for Restorative Justice**

Adv: Rebecca Green
Base: Southwark
Benefit: London-wide

Amount requested: £120,537
(Revised request: £56,959)
Amount recommended: £57,000

The Applicant

Why me? is a national charity which was established in 2009 to drive a more creative and positive response to crime in order to support victims and give them a voice. It campaigns and advocates for greater access to Restorative Justice (RJ) for victims of crime in England and Wales, by working with victims, offenders, statutory services, voluntary organisations and Criminal Justice agencies to promote RJ and influence policy and legislation to widen access to it. In 2015, Why me? launched its own Restorative Justice Service to increase access to RJ for victims of crime.

The Application

The charity is requesting funding for a project to increase access to Restorative Justice for victims of hate crime who belong to the LGBTQ community in London. It will do this by raising awareness of RJ as well as working in the criminal justice sector across statutory agencies, voluntary sector and RJ practitioners to increase knowledge and skills in working with hate crime victims from the LGBTQ community.

The Recommendation

This charity, with experience of delivering and promoting Restorative Justice across London, has links with organisations in the sector and is well placed to deliver its work to a targeted audience. It has already carried out significant work on hate crime in other areas of the UK and this project will benefit from the learning and research carried out. Following discussion with your officer, the charity reduced the request, removed ineligible aspects from its budget and decreased planned expenditure. A 2-year grant is recommended in order to monitor the rate of growth of the organisation and to allow the funded project to develop before planning a potential next phase.

£57,000 over 2 years (£28,400; £28,600) towards a Policy Development Officer (1.5 dpw), a RJ Service Coordinator (1 dpw) and associated project costs, for work to enable hate crime victims from the London LGBTQ community to access restorative justice. This grant is conditional on confirmation that a dual authorisation process is operational for online banking. The second year of this grant is conditional on 2018 accounts being fully SORP compliant.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
06/07/2018	Stepping Stones application declined as link with social investment insufficiently clear.

Background and detail of proposal

Restorative Justice is a victim/ survivor focused response following a conviction where the victim and perpetrator meet under carefully managed and facilitated conditions. The process is voluntary and gives victims the chance to meet or communicate with their offenders to explain the real impact of the crime. It also holds

offenders to account and helps them to take responsibility and make amends. A Ministry of Justice evaluation of Restorative Justice in 2001 demonstrated an 85% victim satisfaction rate, and a 14% reduction in the frequency of reoffending.

Why me? has led a project in Lancashire on enhancing restorative justice services for victims of hate crime and has significant knowledge in supporting marginalised groups experiencing hate crime, noting the specific needs of the LGBTQ community. Galop's Hate Crime Report 2016 states that, nationally: 4 in 5 LGBTQ people had experienced hate crime; a quarter had experienced violent hate crime; a third online hate crime; and a tenth experienced sexual violence as part of a hate crime.

In this project, Why me? aims for survivors of hate from the LGBTQ community to be made aware of their right to ask for RJ and know how it might help their recovery, through learning about others' experiences and the process involved. In addition, it will convene, facilitate and deliver RJ for survivors of hate crime from the LGBTQ community in London. Work will take place to inform policymakers and increase awareness of RJ and encourage steps to embedding RJ as a central option for cope and recovery for victims of LGBTQ hate crime in criminal justice and victim policy and practice. This will include awareness-raising sessions with the police, probation officers and victim support groups to enhance skills in working with victims of hate crime from the LGBTQ community and providing RJ.

Financial Information

Why me? has planned significant growth over the coming years, due to increased demand and need. Whilst they will commit to project expenditure once income is confirmed, to minimise risk, a grant is recommended for 2 years in order to monitor this rate of growth. Historically, the charity has accounted for some grants based on year of receipt rather than when they become entitled to the income and as such its historic income levels appear to fluctuate. This will be amended for their 2017/18 accounts in order to be fully SORP compliant. The deficits which appear in 2017/18 and 2018/19 are partly due to these calculations based on timing of income and are partly deficits in restricted funds which are carried forward from previous years.

Year end as at 31 August	2017 Examined £	2018 Forecast/Draft £	2019 Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	124,250	168,513	238,509
- % of Income confirmed as at 8 August 2018	n/a	92%	21%
Expenditure	(146,632)	(173,118)	(262,846)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(22,382)	(4,605)	(24,337)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	16,908	(36,739)	(20,458)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(39,290)	32,134	(3,879)
	(22,382)	(4,605)	(24,337)
Cost of Raising Funds	7,262	33,129	59,028
- % of Income	5.8%	19.7%	24.7%
Total expenditure	146,632	173,118	262,846
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	43,906	76,040	72,161
No of months of total expenditure	3.6	5.3	3.3
Reserves policy target	36,658	43,280	65,712
No of months of total expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	7,248	32,761	6,450