

MEETING: 14/11/2018

Ref: 14966

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital

Bonny Downs Community Association

Adv: Rebecca Green

Base: Newham

Amount requested: £172,938

Benefit: Newham

Amount recommended: £100,700

The Applicant

Bonny Downs Community Association (BDCA) was established in 1998 and forms a central part of the East Ham community. An active community centre and charity, BDCA works across all ages and members of the community and provides targeted projects, including its elders' community group. It delivers its wide range of services through previously derelict local spaces that it has brought back into community use: The Well Community Centre and Flanders Playing Field.

The Application

The charity is requesting funding towards its existing Active and Connected Elders Project, which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of local older people by delivering a wide range of social groups, exercise classes, educational activities and support services.

The Recommendation

The request is for a contribution towards the salary of a Project Coordinator to lead delivery of new and existing Active and Connected Elders activities. In addition, older people can access advocacy support providing help with benefits, bereavement, housing, health and transport issues, and this service forms a part of this request. The initial proposal included some elements which fall outside of your priorities, however an updated proposal and outputs include delivery of activities falling squarely within your Connecting the Capital programme, supporting older people with opportunities to increase health and wellbeing. Funding towards this work is recommended for 3 years, to give the opportunity to monitor development of the organisation and project in the coming years as the charity grows, develops new income streams and builds robust processes alongside this.

£100,700 over 3 years (£32,400; £33,200; £35,100) towards a Project Coordinator (0.5FTE) for its Active and Connected Elders Project, an Advocacy Manager (8hpw), and a contribution to project costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
14/11/2018	£44,400 (over 18 months) towards research on income generation options and to develop capacity and knowledge in the organisation.
07/09/2018	Proposal withdrawn.
24/11/2016	Application declined due to financial inconsistencies; it also does not currently have a lease for the site on which the proposed activities are to take place.
22/09/2016	£3,000 (7.5 days @£400 per day) to provide an eco-audit.
19/05/2011	A grant of £101,900 over three years (£33,250; £34,000; £34,650) towards the Fit & Healthy Project Co-ordinator.

Background and detail of proposal

BDCA is based in Newham, where the Department for Communities and Local Government's English Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015 report that 41% of older people live in income deprived households, the 3rd highest proportion in the country. Many suffer poor health, and Age UK report that East Ham South has a 'very high risk' of loneliness amongst people aged 65+.

BDCA has run its Active and Connected Elders Project for 15 years, delivering a daily programme of activities and services that help protect vulnerable elderly residents from suffering preventable illness, isolation and hardship. Last year there were more than 10,700 project attendances and 464 unique project users, and a team of nearly 50 volunteers including an active Steering Group of elders. An external project evaluation (February 2018) concluded it is a 'well-established, well-respected and effective initiative'. In addition, changes to welfare entitlement and online application systems have left elderly people vulnerable to poverty, and access to targeted advice and advocacy services is increasingly important. Being part of a larger community association means the elders' work includes the most disadvantaged, through links with BDCA's foodbank, and it links older people with the wider community through intergenerational events.

Some elements of the Active and Connected Elders Project are currently funded by the Big Lottery Fund (the end of a tapered 5-year grant), and the request to City Bridge Trust forms approximately a quarter of the total project costs.

Financial Information

BDCA has a reserves policy of 6 months running costs to 'cover the orderly winding down of activities should future funding be withdrawn'. It has been increasing its levels of earned income, which was more than 50% of its income in 2018. The charity has been making steps to develop its income streams going forwards, to increase unrestricted income and become more sustainable.

Year end as at 31 March	2017 Audited Accounts £	2018 Draft Accounts £	2019 Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	771,719	750,613	858,157
- % of Income confirmed as at 24/08/2018	n/a	n/a	51%
Expenditure	(724,759)	(777,393)	(856,317)
Total surplus/(deficit)	46,960	(26,780)	1,840
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(35,048)	140	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	82,006	(26,920)	1,840
	46,960	(26,780)	1,840
Cost of Raising Funds	17,432	22,244	34,333
- % of income	2.3%	3.0%	4.0%
Total expenditure	724,759	777,393	856,317
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	211,016	185,134	186,974
No of months of total expenditure	3.5	2.9	2.6
Reserves policy target	362,380	388,697	428,159
No of months of total expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(151,364)	(203,563)	(241,185)