

MEETING: 14/11/2018

Ref: 14914

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital

Migrant & Refugee Communities Forum

Adv: Sandra Jones

Amount requested: £304,253

Base: Kensington & Chelsea

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £300,100

The Applicant

Migrant and Refugee Communities Forum, operating under the name Migrant Organise (MO), was established in 1993 as a membership organisation, to provide a platform where refugees and migrants could be supported on an individual and community basis. This is achieved through leadership development and collaborative capacity building including training, advice, mentoring, advocacy and social policy. The charity also supports vulnerable refugees and migrants suffering mental health issues. The organisation is well established and has built a good reputation across the capital and beyond for supporting small, local community organisations. The organisation, which is based in North Kensington, has been supporting several survivors of Grenfell Tower.

The Application

MO is applying for funding to provide a range of support to small local migrant and refugee organisations across London to enable them to participate fully within their local area. This will include capacity building training to organisations; leadership development through mentoring and training; and building intersectional alliances. This will be achieved through funding the CEO for 2 days per week; an Advocacy Officer 1 day per week; a toolkit and associated running costs. These postholders will be delivering the training and mentoring across London as well as developing a toolkit and supporting volunteers.

The Recommendation

MO has an excellent track record of engaging with some of the most marginalised communities in London, bringing them together to work collaboratively and training and supporting them to contribute effectively across London's civil society. This project will further this work by delivering training and mentoring to local groups as well as providing leadership mentoring and training. Collaborative working between communities as well as the wider civil society is part of the project. The project will be delivered by the CEO and Advocacy Organiser. A toolkit will be developed to be used across the sector thus supporting more organisations than those attending the training. The recommendation is slightly less than applied for as the organisation had applied a high level of inflation for salary costs, which has been reduced to 3%:

£300,100 over 5 years (£60,000; £56,700; £59,000; £61,100; £63,300) towards the costs of the CEO (2 days per week), Advocacy Organiser (1 day per week), toolkit development and associated running costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
07/09/2018	Application withdrawn in order to make a revised proposal.
28/04/2011	£75,000 over three years (3 x £25,000) towards the salary costs of a f/t Administrator/Finance Worker.

Background and detail of proposal

Through the provision of training, mentoring and infrastructure for service delivery and partnership working, MO will develop the capacity of migrant and refugee organisations and leaders to be in a position to participate effectively within civil society. By learning new skills and transferring them to other members of their community, leaders will develop social capital and share responsibility within communities, thus increasing their resilience and effectiveness.

The project will provide tailor-made participatory training to at least 10 migrant and refugee community groups annually, which will include developing infrastructure, inclusion, working effectively within civil society. In addition to this, a leadership programme will be offered which will include supporting the leaders to develop at least 5 members of their communities, to share learning. The third area of work is to work across civil society organisations to provide networking and network-building activities. A toolkit will be developed and distributed widely to ensure the learning is spread as widely as possible across London.

Financial Information

Major sources of funding are from grants and donations, with only 21-30% reliance from statutory sources. The organisation has not included the cost of raising funds in their accounts, but after discussions with your officer they will be including this in future accounts. The level of free reserves has depleted over recent years, and the trustees are currently exploring ways of turning this situation round, including concerted fundraising efforts. The deficit in 2019 is due to the charity spending against existing restricted funds.

Year end as at 31 March	2017 Examined Accounts £	2018 Forecast £	2019 Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	536,658	758,086	705,775
- % of Income confirmed as at July 2018	n/a	n/a	80.56%
Expenditure	(429,262)	(633,979)	(723,509)
Total surplus/(deficit)	107,396	124,107	(17,734)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	107,396	122,657	(19,734)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	0	1,450	2,000
	107,396	124,107	(17,734)
Cost of Raising Funds	0	41,758	26,996
- % of Income	0.0%	5.5%	3.8%
Total expenditure	429,262	633,979	723,509
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	83,731	85,181	87,181
No of months of operating expenditure	2.3	1.6	1.4
Reserves policy target	107,316	158,495	180,877
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(23,585)	(73,314)	(93,696)