

**MEETING: 23/03/2019**

**Ref: 14982**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Advice and Support**

**New Horizon Youth Centre**

**Adv: Gilly Green**

**Base: Camden**

**Benefit: London-wide**

**Amount requested: £150,000**

**(Revised request: £250,000)**

**Amount recommended: £250,000**

**The Applicant**

New Horizon Youth Centre (NH), a charity, was established in 1967 and aims to support homeless and highly vulnerable 16-24 year olds to make a smooth transition into adulthood by enabling them to be healthy, enjoy and achieve and stay safe. It provides an open access day centre, advice and guidance, employment and training, resettlement support and targeted outreach work.

**The Application**

Every year thousands of young people across London become homeless often precipitated by family breakdown, domestic abuse, poverty, mental health, gang violence or war and persecution in their home country. Every young person who attends NH is initially assessed by the advice and support team and referrals are made into hostels, shelters and other accommodation, along with providing benefits and debt advice, budgeting support and resolving problems such as lack of ID for claimants. Follow up appointments are usually offered along with referral into other NH projects such as the employment and training hub or onto external specialist agencies when additional support is required. Approximately 1200 young people come into the advice and support service each year. The original request to support the salary and on costs of an advice worker over 3 years has been increased to 5 years following consultation with your officer.

**The Recommendation**

NH has a solid track record of working with some of the most vulnerable and marginalised young people in the capital. It leads the London Youth Gateway Partnership – a collaboration of 5 homelessness agencies in London - which ensures that young homeless people are directed to the right service first time. The advice team is highly experienced and delivers non-judgemental, skilled and sensitive advice and support to help vulnerable young people resolve their housing issues, access debt and legal services before they hit crisis point and maximise their incomes. The advice team has been a core part of the service for over 50 years and this service will run into the long term. Your support over 5 years, should you agree it, would provide a significant source of stability. Funding is recommended:

**£250,000 over five years (5 x £50,000) for the salary, support and on costs of a full-time Advice and Support Worker.**

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
15/06/2017	Stepping Stones application declined
09/07/2015	£100,000 over two years (2 x £50,000) for the salary costs of a p/t Project Leader and two Lifeskills Workers

18/07/2012

£135,000 over three years (£44,000; £45,000; £46,000) for the salary costs of a p/t Project Leader and two Lifeskills Workers.

### Background and detail of proposal

NH understands that the biggest cause of youth homelessness is a lack of affordable and supported housing. This is a worsening situation as youth homelessness rises and combined with the move to Universal Credit which is paid monthly, NH predicts seeing more destitute young people. Whilst it has a long history of delivering direct services to homeless people, in its strategic review in 2018 it identified opportunities for the organisation to utilise its front-line experience more effectively in its influencing work - initially focusing on rough sleeping. This is a shift for the organisation but going forward there is a clear vision that whilst front line services will always be its central offer, its policy work as increased numbers of young people become vulnerable and homeless will have greater visibility.

### Financial Information

NHYC is funded by a mix of statutory and charitable grants and donations at a ratio of 40:40:20 statutory, charitable and corporate respectively. 80% of its statutory income comes from London Councils and NH is in year 2 of a 4-year agreement. Its Big Lottery funding ends in March 2019 but has been replaced by a grant from the Mayor's Young Londoners Fund at approximately £250,000 per year for the next 3 years. It should be noted that the restricted surplus is before depreciation charges of approximately £77,000 per annum. Overall general funds have been steadily growing from £481,785 in 2013 to £634,705 in 2018, albeit not in a linear way.

Year end as at 31 MARCH	Audited accounts 2018	Forecast 2019	Budget 2020
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	1,909,175	1,776,426	1,939,377
- % of income confirmed as at 5th Feb 2019	N/A	96%	57%
Expenditure	(1,870,821)	(1,843,930)	(1,934,518)
Total surplus/(deficit)	38,354	(67,504)	4,859
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	119,010	58,544	146,030
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(80,656)	(126,048)	(141,171)
	38,354	(67,504)	4,859
Cost of Raising Funds	36,227	25,312	25,200
- % of income	1.9%	1.4%	1.3%
Total expenditure	1,858,875	1,843,930	1,934,518
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	634,705	508,657	367,486
No of months of operating expenditure	4.1	3.3	2.3
Reserves policy target	464,718	460,982	483,629
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	169,987	47,675	(116,143)