

**MEETING: 21/03/2019**

**Ref: 15224**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions**

**Limes Community and Children's Centre**

**Adv: Jack Joslin**

**Amount requested: £83,145**

**Base: Waltham Forest**

**Benefit: Waltham Forest**

**Amount recommended: £83,150**

**The Applicant**

Limes Community and Children's Centre (The Limes) was set up in 2003 and incorporates a range of inclusive play and recreational services accessible to disabled and non-disabled children and young people in Waltham Forest. The building offers a wide variety of play experiences including a sensory room, soft-play, and an external adventure play area. The Limes delivers a full programme of services which includes: a toddler group; a parent's group; holiday play schemes; trips and outings; a youth club; and a stepping into work programme. Due to cuts in local authority budgets the charity is the only fully inclusive local service that young people with disabilities can access in the area.

**The Application**

'Creative Journeys', originally named 'Friends Enterprise' is an exploratory programme working with disabled young people to develop entrepreneurial skills and prepare them to make choices about their lives as they make the transition to adulthood. The programme, which you have funded for the past three years, has worked with Children and Young people in Waltham Forest, aged 16-25, to develop their own business ideas and improve their independence. With your funding the project has developed and expanded, attracting interest from a range of funders which has allowed the project to develop and provide a diversity of opportunity. Your funding is requested for an additional two years to support the cost of two of the workshop coordinators, sessional staff and associated project costs.

**The Recommendation**

The Limes has a reputation for delivering high quality inclusion programmes for young people with disabilities and the existing project has had a positive impact so far. Its premises are bespoke and well equipped to deliver this work and there is demonstrable need in the area for this service. Funding cuts in Waltham Forest have meant that the Limes is the only fully inclusive provision operating in the borough which has increased the need for its services. This programme will continue to support some of the older young people they work with helping them with the transition into adult services by developing their skills and independence:

***£83,150 over two further years (£41,150; £42,000) to support the salary cost of two part time Coordinators (16hpw each), Sessional Staff and associated project costs to deliver the Creative Journeys project.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
15/06/2017	Stepping Stones request declined.
24/05/2016	£119,850 over three years (£39,150, £39,950, £40,750) for the salary of a part-time (21hpw) Project Manager, Sessional staff costs

	and associated project costs.
10/01/2013	£24,900 for a third and final year towards the costs of delivering the Stepping into Work project.
02/12/2010	£51,000 over two years (£26,000; £25,000) towards the salary and running costs of the pre-employment skills project for young people with learning disabilities.

### Background and detail of proposal

Over the last three years this project has developed and expanded to cater for the needs of disabled young people in Waltham Forest. The Limes is one of the only inclusive providers in the area and has therefore found the project has developed and expanded to meet demand. Over the last three years the project has formed three specific strands, they Zest Kitchen, Edible Forest and Make & Create. The staff on these projects work with young people teaching them new skills and developing entrepreneurial and creative approaches to working. Young people are then given work opportunities at the Limes, within local businesses or can sell their products at a monthly Market the Limes host. Alongside this project The Limes offer a host of wrap around support services assisting young people and their families to navigate through the care system to give the young person control over their lives.

### Financial Information

The Limes has a blended income model receiving income from Short Breaks, Individual plans as well as grants. The Charity is forecast to increase its reserves over the next two years to ensure that it is comfortably within its reserves policy of 2 to 4 months of running costs. The Limes is in negotiations with Barnardo's over an asset transfer of its premises and are in ongoing discussions about the feasibility of this.

Year end as at 31 March	2018 Audited Accounts	2019 Forecast	2020 Budget
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	536,824	612,889	588,431
- % of income confirmed as at 17/01/2018		95%	79%
Expenditure	(527,500)	(588,093)	(576,486)
Total surplus/(deficit)	9,324	24,796	11,945
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(16,177)	0	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	25,501	24,796	11,945
	9,324	24,796	11,945
Cost of Raising Funds	5,520	9,480	9,880
- % of income	1.0%	1.5%	1.7%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	208,112	210,095	224,113
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	21,343	46,139	58,084
No of months of operating expenditure	1.2	2.6	3.1
Reserves policy target	34,685	35,016	37,352
No of months of operating expenditure	2.0	2.0	2.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(13,342)	11,123	20,732