

MEETING: 21/03/2019

Ref: 14941

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions

Safer London Foundation

Adv: Jack Joslin

Amount requested: £174,179

Base: Southwark

(Revised request: £296,184)

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £296,200

The Applicant

Safer London (SL) is the leading London Charity working to prevent and address gang violence, vulnerability and exploitation among young people. SL was founded in 2005 with a grant from the Metropolitan Police Authority to support young people at risk of crime and to fund projects across London that worked to reduce crime and violence, promote gender equality and healthy relationships, and seek to find young people genuine alternatives to gangs and crime. Following the riots of 2011, SL changed its model of operation and stepped down as the Met's charitable arm and moved to become a service-delivery charity. Today SL delivers a wide range of programmes for young people tackling youth violence, violence in young relationships as well as delivering the London Gang Exit programme for the GLA. SL also has a wide-reaching training and consultancy programme providing expert safeguarding training for voluntary sector organisations across London.

The Application

SL has been delivering The Harmful Sexual Behaviours Project in Croydon and Brent for the last two years. The first project of its kind in London, The Harmful Sexual Behaviours Project, works with boys and young men who display or are at risk of engaging in Harmful Sexual Behaviours, such as sexual preoccupation, sexist banter, sexual bullying, sexual violence, use of hard-core pornography, possession of indecent images/content, inappropriate touching and sexually explicit threats. The project offers one-to-one intensive support for young men aged 11-18, and provides them with the knowledge, skills and confidence to challenge their own and the views of those around them, and to empower them to make positive choices. Funding is being sought for the Young Men's Service Project Manager on a full-time basis to continue delivering the work and expand it into other boroughs over the course of the project.

The Recommendation

SL are at the forefront of delivering work with extremely at-risk young people and have established themselves as the leading charity in London working to prevent and address gang violence, vulnerability and exploitation among young people. This project is at the forefront of innovative solutions to working with boys and young men who exhibit harmful sexual behaviours, acting early to tackle these behaviours and to empower the young men to make more positive choices. This application upholds the values of Bridging Divides as it provides early action that will ultimately help vulnerable boys and young men to be more resilient and empowered to make positive choices. At assessment your officer discussed with SL staff about extending this project to a full 5 years from the three originally requested. Providing funding over a longer period for the Project Manager role will underpin this work and allow for it to expand across London, while seeking additional funding to expand the work further. A project like this is of strategic importance to London and is tackling difficult

but very real issues. The need for this work is unfortunately only going to get greater and it is essential to provide stability for this project at this time. A revised budget is included at Appendix A in the application pack. Funding is recommended as follows:

£296,200 over five years (£56,900; 58,100; £59,200; £60,400; £61,600) to fund the Young Men's Service Project Manager full-time (35hpw) and associated project costs and management overheads to deliver and expand The Harmful Sexual Behaviours Project In London.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
02/05/2018	Withdrawn: The applicant withdrew the application in order to submit one with a different focus at a later date.
22/09/2016	Stepping Stones application declined.
28/11/2013	Declined as the proposal was over-generous in its costings, while the organisation had very healthy levels of unrestricted reserves.

Background and detail of proposal

SL developed this project out of the work that the charity delivers with girls and young women who experience sexual exploitation. There is a pressing need to support victims but also to address the reasons why young men have harmful sexual attitudes and behaviours. SL established that there were not any dedicated services for young men that looked at the family context, their welfare needs, whether they had been victims of or witnessed abuse, or the effect of peer pressure and media influences.

The project currently works in Croydon and Brent where staff are imbedded in Children and Social care teams. The young people the project works with are between 11 and 18 years old and are referred to the service from Social Care Teams, Youth Offending Teams, Pupil Referral Units, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), schools, parents and voluntary organisations. Following a holistic assessment, each young person works with a Specialist Young Men's Support Worker on an intensive one-to-one basis, with a minimum of two contacts and at least one face-to-face session a week. Using a range of practical exercises and multimedia tools the Support Worker will spark discussions around identity, gender dynamics, healthy relationships, attitudes to sex, consent and the law, influences (e.g. cultural, media, peer), self-esteem, body image, and positive support networks. Progress is regularly reviewed, and the intensity of the intervention reduces as young men reduce their risky behaviours and make positive decisions for themselves.

The project has attracted interest from the child sexual exploitation, violence and trafficking research unit at the University of Bedfordshire who will be seconding a staff member into SL to research and evaluate this intervention. Your funding will underpin this work over a long period to allow it to expand and build an evidence base for the intervention which will allow for it to be replicated elsewhere.

Financial Information

SL anticipate an ambitious period of growth in year ending March 2020 where they anticipate an increase in turnover of 40%. SL have several commissions being considered for pan-London prevention work which if successful will increase the charity's provision significantly. Growth has been underpinned by a period of

consolidation and investment in organisational structure to ensure the Charity is prepared for any increase in service and capacity. SL have a strategy in place to increase unrestricted income to ensure that a sufficient level of reserves is maintained as the charity expands.

Year end as at 31 March	2018	2019	2020
	Audited Accounts	Forecast	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	3,157,936	3,076,364	4,851,432
- % of Income confirmed as at 25/01/2019	n/a	100%	51%
Expenditure	(3,036,435)	(3,144,887)	(4,842,894)
Total surplus/(deficit)	121,501	(68,523)	8,538
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(7,120)	(124,054)	(36,462)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	128,621	192,577	45,000
	121,501	68,523	8,538
Cost of Raising Funds	40,623	55,000	55,000
- % of Income	1.3%	1.8%	1.1%
Total Expenditure	3,036,435	3,144,887	4,842,894
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	351,754	544,331	589,331
No of months of operating expenditure	1.4	2.1	1.5
Reserves policy target	759,109	786,222	1,210,724
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(407,355)	(241,891)	(621,393)

