

**MEETING: 09/05/2019**

**Ref: 15186**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital**

**Evelyn Oldfield Unit**

**Adv: Sandra Jones**

**Base: Islington**

**Benefit: London-wide**

**Amount requested: £262,248  
(Revised request: £254,748)**

**Amount recommended: £254,700**

**The Applicant**

The Evelyn Oldfield Unit (EOU) was established in 1994 and has become one of the leading bodies in London providing 2<sup>nd</sup> tier support to refugee and migrant community organisations. Its work has two main strands: firstly, providing specialist assistance and support services for Refugee and Migrant Community Organisations (RMCOs) to enable them to build their capacity to govern and manage their organisations. The second strand supports the development of partnerships between RMCOs, mainstream voluntary and community organisations and statutory bodies to strategically develop joined up services.

**The Application**

The request is for a part time Co-ordinator (21 hours per week) to support 'Community Connections' which will provide second tier support to develop the voice and leadership skills of the voluntary and community sector as it relates to refugee and migrant community organisations (RMCO). This will be through networking activities, developing partnerships and collaborations, training and support and supporting RMCOs in consultations.

**The Recommendation**

EOU 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 support to local groups as well as providing capacity-building. Collaborative working between communities to enable RMCOs to have a voice in consultations will be an element, as well as work together in developing funding bids. The project will be delivered by a part time co-ordinator.

***£254,700 over 5 years (£50,300; £48,800; £52,000; £50,600; £53,000) towards the costs of a Project Co-ordinator (21 hours per week) and associated running costs.***

**Funding History**

| Meeting Date | Decision   |
|--------------|--|
| 12/02/2014   | £92,000 over three years (£31,000; £30,400; £30,600) towards the p/t (17.5 hpw) salary of a Development Worker and running costs of the 'Founding for the Future' project to enable BAMER groups to build capacity; deliver and measure quality programmes; engage in cross-sectoral partnerships; and give BAMER communities a voice. |

## Background and detail of proposal

The RMCOS sector in London is excluded from numerous opportunities for a range of reasons, e.g. language and cultural barriers, which can prevent access to mainstream capacity building. This application addresses specific needs of the RMCOS. One way is through networking activities; this enables organisations to form new networks and connect to members through quarterly meetings and seminars and through the development of a central website with regular newsletters.

Direct support to provide collaboration and develop partnership work will be offered. This will allow RMCOS to make joint funding bids, forming broader partnerships. Training and support through workshops and activities will include assisting local partnerships, forum skills development, leadership training and targeted capacity building support. Often RMCOS are not in a position to have a 'voice' as part of local consultations on issues that would affect their communities, and this project will address key issues identified by member RMCOS, producing regular reports and run workshops and meet with statutory bodies and funders to engage with them on RMCOS needs and feedback to effect strategy and ensure involvement of refugee and migrant communities.

## Financial Information

To date the organisation has not included the cost of raising funds within their accounts, with costs included in charitable activities. You officer has explained this, and they are seeking advice on how best to represent this in the future.

EOU holds reserves above its reserves policy of three months of turnover. Year on year they show an increase in income from a range of sources, with small reliance on statutory funding; this is a conscious decision made by the trustees and will continue going forward. The increase for 2018/19 has been secured, with the increase for 2019/20 from a range of grants, including CBT, all of which are in the final stage of decision. Although free reserves have decreased, this is in line with the reserves policy, a decision made by the Trustees.

| Year end as at 31 March                     | 2018                 | 2019      | 2020      |
|---|----------------------|-----------|-----------|
|   | Examined<br>Accounts | Forecast  | Budget    |
|   | £                    | £         | £         |
| <b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>            |                      |           |           |
| Income                                      | 196,129              | 250,572   | 381,017   |
| - % of Income confirmed as at 30/01/19      | n/a                  | n/a       | 68%       |
| Expenditure                                 | (169,757)            | (252,503) | (379,730) |
| Total surplus/(deficit)                     | 26,372               | (1,931)   | 1,287     |
| Split between:                              |                      |           |           |
| - Restricted surplus/(deficit)              | 24,450               | (36,931)  | (8,713)   |
| - Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)            | 1,923                | 35,000    | 10,000    |
|   | 26,373               | (1,931)   | 1,287     |
| Cost of Raising Funds                       | 0                    | 0         | 0         |
| - % of Income                               | 0.0%                 | 0.0%      | 0.0%      |
| Total expenditure                           | 169,757              | 252,503   | 379,730   |
| <b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>          |                      |           |           |
| Free unrestricted reserves held at year end | 74,012               | 109,012   | 119,012   |
| No of months of total expenditure           | 5.2                  | 5.2       | 3.8       |
| Reserves policy target                      | 42,439               | 63,126    | 94,933    |
| No of months of total expenditure           | 3.0                  | 3.0       | 3.0       |
| Free reserves over/(under) target           | 31,573               | 45,886    | 24,080    |