

MEETING 30/10/2019

Ref: 15307

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions**Children and Families Across Borders****Adv: Sandra Jones****Base: Westminster****Amount requested: £104,278****Benefit: London-wide****Amount recommended: £99,800****The Applicant**

International Social Service of the United Kingdom (CFAB) is an independent charity which is part of a wider international network of agencies. It was established in 1955 to promote and protect the rights and welfare of children and families whose personal circumstances require inter-country liaison. Most cases involve children who are separated from one or both parents and for whom alternative care plans must be made. CFAB works specifically to support children who fall into one or more of the following categories: the victims of child trafficking; unaccompanied asylum seekers; those separated from parents by family conflict; and those resulting from private fostering arrangements. CFAB does not deliver a statutory service but greatly enhances the quality of such services to very vulnerable children.

The Application

In March 2016 your committee agreed a three year grant towards the costs of providing specialist information, advice, advocacy and casework services for some of London's most vulnerable children who are victims of child abuse, victims of neglect and children who have been trafficked or are at risk of being trafficked. This figure was towards 14% of the social and case work team, which covers the work undertaken with children based in London and equates to 1 FTE post. The organisation is requesting a further two years funding to continue this project.

The Recommendation

Your grant has enabled the organisation to deliver good outcomes for the beneficiaries of this project and the monitoring highlighted the impact of the work undertaken with an extremely vulnerable client group. A further two years funding will enable CFAB to continue to provide a high-quality service to vulnerable young people. The application was for considerably more than an inflationary increase; this was discussed with the applicant who recognised this and stated that the grant level now recommended would not adversely affect services.

£99,800 over two further and final years (£49,200; £50,600) to cover the costs of a FTE Social Worker and Caseworker and associated programme and running costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
18/03/2016	£135,000 over three years (£45,000 each year) to cover the costs of FTE Social Worker and Caseworker and associated programme and running costs.
28/01/2016	Application withdrawn.

Background and detail of proposal

CFAB works with children with international families and this creates a particular set of challenges which the traditional mix of national charities and local authority-based child protection services find it difficult to deal with. Using long-established networks in other countries, CFAB can research and present background information on Black and Minority Ethnic children who are outside their country of origin and looked after by a local authority in London. These children are extremely vulnerable as, for many, one or both parents may remain overseas. CFAB works with charities, the police, courts, social service providers and individuals. Over the years the charity has built up a network across 120 countries giving them access to high quality and locally appropriate child protection and family services.

The demand for services working with these vulnerable children has been increasing, and if funded the charity will be working with 465 children, often presenting with complex cases involving children at risk of abuse, being abused or victims of trafficking. The work will be carried out through the charity's social work team and casework team, of which 14% of their time will be dedicated to working with children based in London. This equates to a full time post, as is recommended.

Financial Information

The organisation had a small deficit on restricted funds in 2018/19 but is anticipating a surplus for 2019/20. The reserves policy is for 3-6 months and the organisation seek to maintain it at the higher level, i.e 6 months.

Year end as at 31 March	2018 Independent Examination £	2019 Draft Independent Examination £	2020 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	824,321	762,977	789,299
- % of Income confirmed as at 18/12/2018	n/a	n/a	24%
Expenditure	(698,671)	(778,001)	(724,080)
Total surplus/(deficit)	125,650	(15,024)	65,219
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	238,410	(20,519)	31,879
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(112,760)	5,495	33,340
	125,650	(15,024)	65,219
Cost of Raising Funds	142,267	140,978	97,145
- % of Income	17.3%	18.5%	12.3%
Total expenditure	698,671	778,001	724,080
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	382,275	388,345	421,685
No of months of total expenditure	6.6	6.0	7.0
Reserves policy target	349,336	389,001	362,040
No of months of total expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	32,940	(656)	59,645