

MEETING: Delegated Authority**Ref: 15924****ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital****Standing Together Against Domestic Violence****Adv: Gilly Green****Base: Hammersmith & Fulham****Amount requested: £277,600.00****Benefit: London-wide****Amount recommended: £180,000****The Applicant**

Standing Together Against Domestic Violence's (STADV's) ambition is to eradicate domestic abuse by transforming the way organisations and individuals think about, prevent and respond to it. Through partnership working with the Police; social justice organisations; healthcare workers; and charities its work is focused on achieving safety for survivors and accountability for perpetrators.

The Application

Poor communication and gaps between services can put survivors at risk. This second-tier organisation has pioneered the well-known Co-ordinated Community Response to domestic abuse which brings together the different services involved to ensure local systems can deliver best practice. Joint working has improved significantly but elements of the community response are not as embedded as they could be. This application is to build on the work of SAFE, a project initiated by STADV and previously funded by Esmee Fairbairn Foundation to tackle the limited engagement between faith-based organisations and domestic abuse specialists. Last year SAFE brought together over 100 experts, practitioners, professionals and grassroots community activists to identify what was needed to develop closer relationships and better joint working. Lots of ideas were generated and a formal coalition comprising 12 representatives from faith-based bodies and leading specialist domestic abuse agencies was launched on 6th March 2020. The coalition, supported by STADV has identified targeted workstreams to develop accredited national training on faith and "Violence Against Women and Girls" (VAWG) and set up referral pathways to specialist agencies from community organisations within faith and BAME communities. The work also aims to ensure that issues around domestic abuse and faith are better heard and better represented in the policy arena, leading to better decision making at national and local level. The application is to support a dedicated post to deliver this work in London and provide a contribution to project and management costs.

The Recommendation

This is slow, sensitive and skilled work but the project has begun to gain a trusted and credible reputation amongst the VAWG and faith-based sectors and with local authorities in London including in Waltham Forest, Haringey and Islington. The opportunity to engage more faith-based organisations through a rolling programme of dialogue, training and capacity building will mean that more women of colour can be reached and supported. The budget includes two posts (manager and administrator), an annual conference (which in 2020 will need to be re-thought) and management costs which appear high. Your officer therefore recommends a reduced grant as a contribution towards the project as follows:

£180,000 over 3 years (3 x £60,000) towards the project manager salary, overheads, management contribution and project costs.

Funding history

None

Background and detail of proposal

Traditionally relationships between some feminist women's organisations and faith-based groups have been hard to establish but this Coalition is modelling cross sector working by including Anglican, Catholic and Islamic contributors alongside established VAWG organisations such as Respect, Women's Aid, Jewish Women's Aid and Forward. With deep relationship building and meaningful connections, there is a real opportunity to reach women in ways that matter to them. This work is critical if women of colour and faith communities are to be better supported. It will ensure earlier interventions for survivors by raising awareness within communities, highlighting and dismantling the barriers and improving access to support. In year 1 the project will develop and test comprehensive training resources, followed by the delivery of 6 training programmes per year to specialist organisations and/or faith groups. Whilst a face to face annual conference planned for this year to share best practice, learning and innovations will likely need to be adapted, STADV believes there is still considerable appetite for this work, despite the challenges of Covid 19.

Financial Information

STADV has a very diverse range of funding sources from national and local government, Trusts and Foundations. 2018-19 was a year of exceptional growth and STADV saw an increase in income of 53%. This was due to nationally funded pioneering work to the value of around £1m around domestic abuse, health and housing. The project came to an end in 2019. There was a further rise in 2020 but a lack of central government initiatives this year has seen income and expenditure drop considerably. The budget for 2021 shows a deficit of £80K but STADV has several emergency and other applications in the pipeline and hopes this will plug the gap. Expenditure will be reduced if funds are not forthcoming. Since the pandemic struck, most STADV funders have shown flexibility around delivery times and 100% of income secured for 2021 has been confirmed by funders. The general fund is very low at £14K, but Trustees have confirmed that they could free up a proportion of the designated funds currently set aside for loss of income or orderly wind up if required.

Year end as at 31 MARCH	2019	2020	2021
	Signed Accounts	Forecast	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	2,412,983	3,123,132	1,491,618
- % of Income confirmed as at 24TH April 20	N/A	100%	100%
Expenditure	(2,439,023)	(3,086,523)	(1,562,454)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(26,040)	36,609	(80,836)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(855)	0	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(25,185)	36,606	(80,836)
	(26,040)	36,606	(80,836)
Operating Expenditure (unrestricted)	535,615	741,109	721,816
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	214,924	251,530	170,694
No of months of operating expenditure	4.8	4.1	2.8
Reserves policy target	133,903	185,277	180,423
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	81,021	66,253	(9,729)