

CITY BRIDGE TRUST – Delegated Authority (Requests up to £250k)

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital\Arts, sports, health and/or well-being projects for older people

Abbey Community Centre

Ref: 15601

Adv: Jack Joslin

Amount requested: £250,747

Base: Camden

(Revised Budget: £249,961)

Benefit: Camden

Amount recommended: £250,000

Purpose of grant request: Supporting the well-being and independence of multiply disadvantaged older Londoners living in Kilburn by inspiring and enabling their regular active participation in stimulating daily accessible arts, sports, and health activities.

The Applicant

The Abbey Community Centre, a charity, is a multipurpose community centre established in 1976 to serve a diverse and often disadvantaged community. It runs a wide range of activities with a particular emphasis on the under 3s and older people. It has a growing focus on bringing people together through activities such as a Saturday café with arts and crafts activities, a sing along for young children and special events. As well as the centre-organised activities, evening hires provide another programme of activities such as taekwondo, chess and table tennis. Outside the centre, a voluntary befriending project takes local volunteers into the homes of their isolated neighbours. The centre has taken an active role in the local consortium of community centres. It was awarded the Queen's award for volunteering.

Background and detail of proposal

This application is to contribute to the salaries of the Project Coordinator and Community Projects Development Manager to manage a wide range of engagement projects with older people in Camden. The project will carry out the following activities:

- The Community time Camden project which encourages local people to share their interests and skills. This includes a dedicated older men's project which offers activities for men every day and encourages men to get involved in volunteering.
- Neighbours to friends – which provides activities on Saturdays and in the evenings for local older people.
- Good neighbours' scheme – matches volunteers with older people. This is mostly centred on visiting but includes some help with odd jobs. A transport grant helps volunteers bring their friend into the centre to join in centre-based activities.
- Health and well-being – daily walking group; creative activities; games groups.
- Partnerships with Camden adult learning for IT classes and with Age UK for advice including debt advice.

These activities are core to the Centre's purpose of improving the quality of life for local older people – which it sees as achieved through bringing people together to enjoy shared activities. The programme supports some 160 older people per year.

The Centre has had to close since the start of lockdown. The Charity has had to adapt many of its services to support the needs of local people. There has been a telephone and checking-in service offered throughout the period alongside signposting and referral calls. Online weekly activities over video calls have been established with help and support provided to those who have struggled with new technology. As the lockdown begins to lift the charity plans to resume some of its centre-based activities in line with government guidance. Risk assessments are taking place to see what activities can be resumed in person and what will carry on being delivered digitally.

Financial Information

The Centre has an annual core grant from Camden Council of £60,000 and an additional contract income of £40,000 annually to deliver an early year's provision. The Charity seeks funding from trusts and foundations and relies on local donations and sponsorships to maintain an appropriate level of income. The Charity holds a relatively comfortable level of reserves and designated reserves to ensure they can cover the cost of winding up if necessary. Projected Income is going to be impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic as they will not receive any rental income and reduced donations throughout the lockdown.

Year end as at 31st March	2019	2020	2021
	Signed Accounts	Forecast	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	297,676	347,631	287,572
- % of Income confirmed as at 24/06/2020	N/A	100%	62%
Expenditure	(285,952)	(316,061)	(302,482)
Total surplus/(deficit)	11,724	31,570	(14,910)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	301	24,325	27,243
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	11,423	7,245	(42,153)
	11,724	31,570	(14,910)
Operating Expenditure (unrestricted)	69,102	95,827	134,438
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	81,956	89,201	47,048
No of months of operating expenditure	14.2	11.2	4.2
Reserves policy target	17,276	23,957	33,610
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	64,681	65,244	13,439

Recommendation

The Abbey Community Centre is a long established and well used multipurpose community centre in an area of considerable deprivation. The centre has a strong ethos of inclusivity and a track record in developing activities in response to identified need. Your funding will support the ongoing costs of delivering a range of activities for older people in the area. 5-year funding will allow the organisation to offer

security to staff during uncertain times and ensure that the centre has stability going forward. This project fits well with Connecting the Capital Programme outcomes as it will continue to offer a range of health and well-being activities for older people in Camden. Funding is recommended as follows:

£250,000 over 5 years (5 x £50,000) to support the salary costs of the Project Coordinator and Community Projects Development Manager and associated project costs to deliver a range of activities for older people in Camden.

Approved.....
Chief Grants Officer /
Deputy CGO

Date.....

Approved.....
Chair

Date.....

Approved.....
Deputy Chair

Date.....