

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>
Bridge House Estates Grants Committee	30th September 2021
<b>Subject:</b> BHE Managing Director's report	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the <i>BHE Bridging London 2020 – 2045</i> Strategy does this proposal aim to support?</b>	1
<b>Which Bridging Divides Funding Strategy priority does proposal aim to support?</b>	Connecting the capital, Reducing inequalities, Positive transitions, Advice and support, Every voice counts.
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	No
<b>Report of:</b> Managing Director, BHE	For decision

### **Summary**

To support the BHE Grants Committee in the discharge of its duties, this regular report provides an update on key areas of activity and outlines upcoming activities for the Board to note and agree.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to:

- a) Note the report.
- b) Agree the extension to the Wembley National Stadium Trust contract until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.
- c) To nominate a member of this committee to undertake the role of LocalMotion 'Board Champion', or to agree a process to do so.

## **Main Report**

### **Wembley National Stadium Trust (WNST) Contract extension**

1. Following competitive tender and in line with the Collaborative value of City Bridge Trust (CBT), CBT has been managing and administering WNST since 2012, seconding Stewart Goshawk (a CBT Funding Director) into the role of CEO.
2. CBT has recently been approached to consider a potential two-year extension to the current contract between CBT and WNST, which is due to end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Members are therefore requested to consider approving, subject to approval from the Comptroller contracts team, a contract extension to March 2024. It had been the WNST trustees' original intention not to seek an extension to the existing arrangement. However, the pandemic has seriously impacted WNST's governance and management development plans, hence this request for time-limited continued support.
3. The arrangement has to date worked well for both organisations. The ability to share grant-making knowledge and feed into each other's work, in particular around funding marginalised communities and sport has been incredibly productive over the years. The management service is provided to WNST by CBT on a full cost recovery basis.

### **Afghanistan update**

4. The UK Government has said it will resettle up to 20,000 people under the Afghan Citizens' Resettlement Scheme following the Taliban's offensive. This number is additional to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy scheme which was launched earlier in 2021 for Afghan nationals who worked with the UK government and British military. There is no current clarity on how many people are likely to settle in London, but prior to 2021, the capital was already home to around 60% of the UK's 250,000 residents of Afghan origin, so it is reasonable to assume that many people will want to be near family and existing support networks.
5. CBT funds an extensive network of organisations providing advice and support on issues that will be relevant to new arrivals, including benefits, housing and immigration. The Trust also funds organisations supporting migrants and refugees to access mainstream services (including ESOL classes), one of which is to the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association. During the Kabul evacuation, ACAA was featured several times on BBC news, with service users speaking about family members who were looking to escape the country.
6. CBT has been in dialogue with ACAA about increased demand for services and the strains this has placed on staff and systems. We have also been looking at ways to reach community groups providing support to newly arrived people (and their families). As you would expect, other funders have also been exploring how best to respond to the situation, so in order to share intelligence

and avoid duplication London Funders, the umbrella body for statutory and non-statutory grant-makers, has been playing a convening role on this issue.

7. Given our focus under Bridging Divides, we will be prioritising advice services and access to mainstream service provision as well as ways we can strengthen those currently in our funding portfolio who are facing significant increased demand.

## **LocalMotion**

8. On 28<sup>th</sup> July the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Bridge House Estates board agreed via the urgency process to allocate £485,000 towards the next phase of the LocalMotion funder collaboration (as reported to the BHE Board). LocalMotion is the collective endeavour of six leading UK foundations to deeply impact six local places with funding support (both monetary and otherwise) over ten years. Funding and decision-making is being co-designed by and with places themselves rather than directed by funders. Your contribution is towards the London element of this work (based in Enfield) and a portion of central costs.
9. It was also agreed that one grants committee member would be nominated to act as a LocalMotion “board champion” attending two to six cross-initiative learning meetings per year to increase understanding of the work at board level and foster connections directly between places and board members.
10. It has since been established that there will be two such meetings per year, however these will be full day meetings (10am to 4pm). It is requested that members agree during the meeting to either nominate a member to undertake this role, or to agree a process to do so. The first meeting is currently scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021, with subsequent meetings scheduled on Tuesday 7 June 2022 and Thursday 24 November 2022.
11. Meetings are currently scheduled online only but this may change over the course of the year. As the only regional funder, it would be acceptable and reasonable for the CBT “board champion” to attend London meetings only (whilst continuing to be welcome to join meetings outside of London should they wish to and have availability). The “board champion” may also choose to attend only a part or part(s) of the meetings, once agendas are available, should scheduling conflicts prevent full participation. Please contact your officer Sam Grimmett Batt (Funding Director) for further details [sam.grimmett-batt@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:sam.grimmett-batt@cityoflondon.gov.uk).

## **CBT Linked-in profile**

12. CBT has set up a dedicated Linked-In page. Members and Officers are encouraged to follow the page and share content to help promote the page in these early days to boost its reach. <https://www.linkedin.com/company/city-bridge-trust>

## Learning Case Study

13. A learning case study is provided at appendix 1 about SafeLives (<https://safelives.org.uk/>) a current grant holder that exists to end domestic abuse. The grant funds SafeLives' Whole Health London project, which aims to increase provision for domestic abuse survivors and perpetrators across London. This case study aims to understand the challenges SafeLives has faced during Covid-19, how they have adapted and what CBT and others can learn from their example. It draws on information provided in SafeLives' Impact and Learning report and an interview with their Director of External Relations Liz Thompson, their Head of Public Affairs Jess Asato and their Trust and Grants Manager Tasha Mason

Scott Nixon

Head of Director's office

020 4526 1213, [Scott.nixon@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:Scott.nixon@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

## Appendix 1: Learning Case Study - SafeLives

1. This is the sixth learning case study demonstrating the issues faced during Covid-19 by organisations you support and highlighting ways they are adapting their services and approaches. The purpose of these case studies is to identify good practice that CBT, and others, can learn from during this crisis period and as the sector starts to rebuild.
2. This case study focuses on SafeLives, which you awarded £100,500 over three years in April 2020 under Bridging Divides. This grant funds SafeLives' Whole Health London project, which aims to increase provision for domestic abuse survivors and perpetrators by mapping domestic abuse services and survivors journeys within health settings, using this research to influence NHS London and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime. SafeLives also received £42,120 in Wave 3 of the London Community Response Fund, to hire a coordinator to support the operations of the Croydon Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Panel.
3. The case study draws on information provided in SafeLives' Impact and Learning report and an interview with their Director of External Relations Liz Thompson, their Head of Public Affairs Jess Asato and their Trust and Grants Manager Tasha Mason. SafeLives' website is <https://safelives.org.uk/>, their address is Office 5.04, Floor 5, HubHub, 20 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4EN and their BBGM reference is 15611.

## What made SafeLives unique before the crisis?

4. Since 2004 SafeLives has been working to end domestic abuse through policy influencing, supporting frontline organisations and coproducing solutions with survivors. As their Director of External Relations explains, *"We bring together research, data and evidence, the voice of the survivor because they're the people who know best ... and then practice expertise so working with*

*organisations across the UK to make sure the response to domestic abuse is as good as it possibly can be."*

5. They take a 'whole picture' approach, working across national and local government, the voluntary sector and businesses to provide training and improve policies in any organisation that may come into contact with or affect survivors. *"We can't do it on our own and we work very hard at building networks and partnerships and trying to influence the bigger picture. Look at the whole person, look at the whole family, and then how do we get the whole community to lean in and look at domestic abuse."* (Director of External Relations)
6. They also look at every stage of the abuse cycle, including helping people escape dangerous situations, working with perpetrators to change their behaviour, early intervention and supporting survivors' recovery after the abuse has stopped. *"We've run innovative programmes ... which work with perpetrators to get them to change their behaviour, but we also look at the very beginning of the cycle, prevention and early intervention to stop domestic abuse before it happens."* (Director of External Relations)
7. Although they are not a frontline organisation, SafeLives still work very closely with survivors and make sure that survivors' lived experience expertise and views are at the heart of everything they do. This includes co-creating surveys to ensure they are accessible and meaningful to survivors, using the responses to inform an evidence-based approach to policy influencing, working with survivors to write reports and influence policymakers and supporting them to co-create services with other organisations.
8. Their Head of Public Affairs explains what this means in their Whole Health London project, which CBT funds: *"We worked with survivors to write our survey, we always try to make sure that anything we produce for survivors is produced by survivors ... We made sure that all the language was accessible but also non-traumatic ... We also worked really closely with one survivor; she told her story as part of the launch event for the report but she also critiqued the report, she read the whole thing, she commented on it, she added some sections, and she also added some really key recommendations that we are now taking forward. It's about survivors truly co-creating policy, not just consulting them or surveying them, but saying yes you've got a stake in this because of your experience but also saying all the skills and understanding that you've gained from that experience can be brought into this policymaking process."* (Head of Public Affairs)
9. Centring lived experience has been key to SafeLives' success at influencing policy, as their Director of External Relations highlights: *"We were able to get a survivor and an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor to open the Hidden Harms Summit last year ... The Prime Minister wrote afterwards to thank them for their input. There's no question that that moment is connected to the £40*

*million that was then allocated by the government earlier this year towards Independent Domestic Violence Advisors.” (Director of External Relations)*

### **How has Covid-19 affected SafeLives?**

10. During the pandemic there has been a significant rise in domestic abuse, with calls to helplines and demand for services increasing dramatically. Lockdown has made it harder for people experiencing abuse to access support networks and in-person services, and it is likely that there are many people in abusive situations who have not been able to get help. Many services across the sector are facing a loss of funding and increased instability, and these factors combined have made SafeLives’ work more important than ever.
11. Their Director of External Relations explains: *“For anyone experiencing domestic abuse it’s been a really terrifying time ... helpline calls have risen, services have reported significant increases in caseloads but we know there will be lots of people who haven’t been able to reach out for support, so we’re expecting there will be a big rise in demand for support [as lockdown ends].”*
12. Lockdown also made it harder for SafeLives to reach survivors to input into their surveys and policy influencing, due to the reduction in face-to-face services and increased need for crisis support. As their Head of Public Affairs says: *“The thing that proved a real challenge to us was the lack of face-to-face meetings with survivors ... because services weren’t working directly [in person] with survivors and the calls that they were making were very much about their immediate safety concerns, it wasn’t the sort of situation where you could ask them to do a survey ... We didn’t get as a high a response rate for the survey as we initially anticipated.”*

### **How did SafeLives adapt its provision?**

13. SafeLives adapted quickly, identifying their key priorities when lockdown began: *“We asked ourselves, how do we make sure families are safe in this difficult time, how do we support the frontline services who are supporting them, and then what about the long term, what does this mean for the sector as a whole and us as an organisation?” (Director of External Relations)*
14. Recognising the increased risk and difficulty in accessing support that people in abusive households faced, SafeLives persuaded the Home Office to launch a code word scheme called ‘Ask for ANI’ (Action Needed Immediately), whereby anyone experiencing abuse can go into a participating pharmacy, ask for ‘ANI’ and be helped to call the police or the National Domestic Abuse Helpline in a safe confidential space. Launched in January 2021, the scheme has already been used by 70 people in its first four months. *“It was an idea suggested by survivors ... We’re hearing that a lot of people who have used it*

*haven't sought help before, so it is making a substantial difference.” (Director of External Relations)*

15. Despite the added barriers to reaching survivors, SafeLives managed to collect valuable insights from those who could respond to surveys and used these as part of their CBT-funded Whole Health London project. As their Head of Public Affairs describes, *“The 74 survivors who did input into the survey gave us a richness of content that, even though we missed our target it actually doesn't seem to have impacted at all the quality of the research that we've been able to do ... the fact that we got a policy report out in the first six months and we helped to then influence the mayoral elections, we managed to achieve a huge amount.”*
16. SafeLives also carried out rolling surveys with domestic abuse services throughout the pandemic, providing up to date insights into how it was affecting them and what support they needed. They also created networks for smaller and specialist organisations to share what they were seeing and struggling with, developed a coalition to look at the long term sustainability of the sector and acted as a conduit between frontline services and government. They used their insights from the surveys and networks to inform their policy work with government; for example, persuading ministers to repeat the message that people could leave home to escape abuse and encouraging greater government support for domestic abuse services.
17. As their Director of External Relations explains, *“We reached out to partners and specialist organisations to say ‘what's happening for you on the frontline?’ which was a really important litmus test for what was happening for survivors but also what was happening for them in terms of service delivery. They were really pleased to be able to speak to each other and also to feed back to us, who could then feed back to government. Lots of those services are very small, they weren't in a position to ring up Number 10 and say ‘look this is not helping’ or ‘you need to mention this’, so it was very valuable.”*

### **What made SafeLives particularly resilient during Covid-19?**

18. SafeLives seized the opportunity the pandemic presented to raise awareness of domestic abuse amongst government, the public and employers, and to improve support for the sector. *“We've been very successful securing emergency funding, not just for us but for the sector, whether that's from government or trusts and foundations. We've been able to raise the profile of domestic abuse in a way that just wasn't in the ether before ... for lots of employers they've suddenly gone ‘oh my god we've got 30,000 people working from home, what if home isn't a safe place?’ ... We've had a huge increase in employers getting in touch wanting support on developing policies and training, both in terms of dealing with employees and also thinking about customers.” (Director of External Relations)*

19. In addition, SafeLives moved their training for businesses and frontline services – which accounts for approximately one third of their income – online. This led to increased participation and income, as smaller and non-London based organisations who were previously unable to attend in person could now join. As well as benefitting them financially, the move to online has also helped further raise awareness of their work and what needs to change. As their Head of Public Affairs says, *“it means that your message and any of the practice advice that you’re giving is reaching far far further than it would otherwise do ... yesterday we held a seminar that had 500 people on it, that just wouldn’t have been possible before.”*

### **What can City Bridge Trust learn from SafeLives?**

20. SafeLives’ holistic work dealing with all aspects of domestic abuse, from prevention to recovery, and its success at influencing national and local policy changes, highlights the importance of funding organisations which not only provide crisis response but also work towards systemic change. CBT could learn from their successes at achieving policy change and could consider funding similar approaches in future.
21. SafeLives’ participatory approach based on lived experience is a positive example of how to create activities, processes and policies in partnership with the people affected by them; there is a lot to learn from this approach and CBT could consider incorporating some of it into its own work.
22. SafeLives pointed out the value of funders working in partnership with funded organisations, connecting them with relevant contacts, reducing reporting requirements and supporting them as a critical friend to help them in their mission. CBT could build on its progress during the pandemic in this area by continuing to review and reduce reporting requirements, building closer relationships and more frequent catch-ups with funding partners, expanding its Funder Plus offer and developing more systematic ways to connect grantees with relevant organisations.
23. SafeLives is now, like many other organisations, grappling with how to adapt as lockdown restrictions lift and there is a potential for both online and in-person events and ways of working. CBT could consider exploring how best to support organisations through this next transition period.
24. Lastly, SafeLives highlighted that reaching and supporting particular groups experiencing domestic abuse – such as older people, Black, Asian and minoritised people and LGBTQ+ people – is an ongoing challenge, partly due to under-resourcing of specialist services for these groups. CBT could consider funding specialist organisations in this area, sharing good practice across the sector and facilitating opportunities for organisations to work together to improve their reach.

**Jen Durrant**

Impact and Learning Officer, City Bridge Trust



E: [jen.durrant@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:jen.durrant@cityoflondon.gov.uk)