



PROCEEDS OF CRIME ACT

Assessment Pack

James Lee

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Safer Business Network

Amount requested: £25,000

Amount recommended: £25,000

Purpose of grant request: Preventing and reducing sexual offences and violence against women and girls in the City of London by developing a 'Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement' (WAVE) e-learning tool.

Type of cost: Revenue

The Applicant

Safer Business Network (SBN) is a Community Interest Company established in 2011. SBN coordinates and administers several award-winning business crime reduction partnerships (BCRPs) across some of London's most challenging and diverse boroughs. BCRPs are private membership schemes which bring businesses together, with the police, council and other interested stakeholders to reduce crime, violence and anti-social behaviour that have negative impacts on profitability of businesses and the 'look and feel' of town centre environments. In 2019 the SBN achieved accreditation from the National Association of Business Crime Partnerships (NABCP) to the Business Crime National Standards.

Background and detail of proposal

The applicant is seeking funding of £25,000 to develop and introduce the first ever Highfield accredited WAVE e-learning tool. The e-learning modules will be interactive and involve an assessment at the end to ensure learners meet a basic standard before a certificate is issued.

In 2021, sexual assault reports in London's nightlife reached a six-year high. There is a clear need to respond to this issue: SBN are well-placed and have many years of experience in delivering work that targets this issue. In 2021, SBN was commissioned by the Greater London Authority and The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime to carry out a scoping exercise on the Women's Night Safety Charter. SBN identified the need for greater campaigning, better training, and best practice sharing: this e-learning tool is intended to meet some of those identified needs. It will build upon the applicant's current delivery of in-person training for staff and security that SBN have delivered to 3,000 personnel from across London in the last 9 months. Whilst the in-person training delivered by SBN has received positive feedback, the applicant cites their community of partners who have requested the availability of e-learning to allow for more staff and security to be trained in this important work.

The intention is for SBN to offer the training to all hospitality venues such as bars, pubs, clubs and hotels in the first 6 months. It will then be offered to late night establishments and buildings. SBN has good evaluation processes in place to prove the efficacy of their work and they have received positive feedback about the benefit

of their existing training, with 95% of participants stating they have learnt a significant amount of new and helpful knowledge that they will incorporate into their future working practices. SBN has existing, positive links into the business community in the City and across London: they are well placed to engage with hospitality and late night venues and promote the benefits of this new e-learning tool.

Whilst SBN require all of their staff to be DBS checked, they do not have a separate safeguarding policy beyond what is mentioned in their data protection and processing document. If this grant is approved, we would require SBN to put a more robust safeguarding policy in place that focussed on any safeguarding issues that may arise during the delivery of training.

Financial Information

SBN is in a strong financial position: they have steadily grown their income over the last few years and have a very secure level of reserves. Once available, the e-learning would be provided to organisation at a cost to generate income that will be re-invested by SBN back into its Vulnerability Campaign to ensure the sustainability of the whole project for the future, including all administration.

Year end as at 31 March	2020	2021	2022
	Signed accounts	Management accounts	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	601,526	850,787	1,220,003
- % of Income confirmed as at	100%	100%	92%
Expenditure	(575,442)	(721,733)	(994,125)
Total profit/(loss)	26,084	129,054	225,878
Operating expenditure	546,858	694,848	964,125
Balance sheet:			
Net assets/(liabilities)	391,162	520,216	746,094
<i>Of which:</i>			
Share capital / share premium	0	0	0
Profit & loss reserves	391,162	520,216	746,094
	391,162	520,216	746,094
Months' expenditure covered by reserves	8.583478709	8.984111633	9.286273046

Recommendation

This application represents a good use of POCA funds to tackle a growing problem in the City by providing valuable training to a range of organisations. SBN have a credible track record of delivering work that improves safety for women in the City and their plans to monitor the impact of this e-learning tool are robust.

£25,000 for preventing and reducing sexual offences and violence against women and girls in the City of London by developing a 'Welfare and Vulnerability Engagement' (WAVE) e-learning tool.