

Committee:	Date:
The City Bridge Trust	28 th November 2013
Subject: Proposed Partnership with Buttle UK	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer	For Decision
<u>Summary</u>	
<p>Following your Quinquennial Review 2012/13, this paper sets out proposals to develop a hardship fund, in partnership with Buttle UK, for survivors of domestic violence in London.</p> <p>Recommendation</p> <p>That Buttle UK is awarded a grant of £470,000 from your grants budget for 2013/14 in order to establish and administer a hardship fund for survivors of domestic violence in London.</p>	

Main Report

1.0 Background

- 1.1 At your June 2013 meeting, you received a paper outlining the proposed programmes for the Trust for the next five years, following your latest Quinquennial Review. These were approved by the Court of Common Council in July 2013.
- 1.2 As well as your open programmes, *Investing in Londoners*, which were 'soft-launched' at the end of September 2013, you approved a number of partnership programmes to be developed over the coming months. One of these was a partnership with the Buttle UK to establish a hardship fund for survivors of domestic violence in London. It was envisaged that this partnership would complement the work you are funding on your new 'Safer London' programme which includes work supporting survivors of domestic violence. This paper sets out proposals for the development and resourcing of this partnership.

2.0 About Buttle UK

- 2.1 Buttle UK is a grant-making trust and a major provider of small grants to children and families living in crisis. Its charitable objective is 'the maintenance, education and advancement in life of children and young people who through poverty and family situation are in need of, and will benefit significantly from, Buttle UK's support'.
- 2.2 It has a strong track record of partnering with other funders in order to support individuals in need, including BBC Children in Need, Garfield

Weston Foundation and Comic Relief. A recent example of this is a pilot project in Scotland it is developing in partnership with Shakti Women's Aid and the Big Lottery fund to provide a package of support (advocacy, emotional and material support) for families escaping domestic violence in order to increase the chances of successfully resettling the family concerned. If you approve the proposals set out in this paper, Buttle UK will draw on this experience in developing the London project.

3.0 The Need

3.1 Domestic violence accounts for 29% of violent crime in London and 1 in 7 children and young people will have lived with domestic violence at some point during their childhood.

3.2 Despite recent initiatives designed to help women stay safe in their own homes, such as the growing number of Sanctuary Schemes in various local authorities, many victims of domestic violence find that leaving their homes is the only way to find safety.

3.3 During 2012/13, Buttle UK made 327 grants totalling £76,617 to support families in London who had experienced domestic violence. These grants were awarded using funds from BBC Children in Need and Comic Relief.

3.4 The pathways that enable women to leave abusive relationships can be complex. Research by Scottish Women's Aid and the University of Dundee in 2003, identified four key stages in this process. Buttle UK analysed the 325 London cases in order to map its grants against these stages. The results were as follows:

• The stage prior to leaving	3%	10 cases
• The leaving stage	10%	33 cases
• The re-housing stage	45%	146 cases
• Post housing stage	<u>14%</u>	<u>46 cases</u>
	72%	235 cases

3.5 The remaining 92 cases (28%) had some link to domestic violence but did not fit into the above categories, usually because the family had been able to remain in their own home but still needed support to recover from the abuse.

3.6 Referrals are made from a variety of sources including social services and specialist domestic violence agencies such as Refuge and Women's Aid.

3.7 Much of the research around the support needs of women and children escaping domestic violence focuses on personal and emotional support. However, lack of money is also a major problem and the impact of domestic violence can be financially devastating for survivors. Financial abuse can be a characteristic of domestic abuse, for example, where the

perpetrator persuades women to run up debts in the victims' name or coerces them into leaving employment. Financial dependence on the perpetrator and/or debt can be a major barrier to leaving an abusive relationship.

- 3.8 With the funds currently available, Buttle UK is rarely able to help families with more than one item. However, many families at the 'leaving' and 're-housing' stage have more acute needs, having had to leave the home with few personal or household possessions. Whilst it is early days in its Scotland pilot, experience so far suggests that a more holistic package of support that meets the financial, practical and emotional needs of the family, as well as advocates for them, can make a real difference to a family being able to successfully begin a new life.

4.0 Proposal

- 4.1 Building on its experience of the Scotland project, Buttle UK will develop a three-year London pilot to support families escaping domestic violence, in particular, those in the 're-housing' and 'post housing' stages.
- 4.2 In order to develop the proposed model of a more holistic package of support that caters for the needs of the family 'in the round', a network of referring agencies will be developed that are able to provide the requisite re-settlement work that Buttle UK's hardship fund will complement.
- 4.3 Referring agencies will be expected to have exhausted all public funding sources prior to making an application. Grants of up to £2,000 will be awarded, with the average level of grant envisaged as £1,500. The referrer will need to demonstrate that the grant will help the family to be more likely to maintain long-term secure accommodation and that it will help the child/ren's settlement in that accommodation.
- 4.4 The majority of grants are likely to be for household goods to enable the high proportion of families that have few possessions to be re-housed. However, a flexible approach is proposed to support individual circumstances, for example, a one-off supermarket shop when moving to a new home or a bridging grant to help families while their benefits are being assessed.
- 4.5 Over the years, Buttle UK has established good relationships with suppliers of household goods and is able to ensure that goods are bought at cost, delivered discretely, fitted properly and have effective warranties. This means that a high proportion of grants are made 'in kind'. Where a cash grant is required, this is paid via the referring agency.

4.6 Based on its 2012/13 London statistics, Buttle UK will aim to support up to 250 families annually, with a particular focus on those in the 're-housing' and 'post housing' stages.

5.0 Network of Referring Agencies

5.1 Working closely with City Bridge Trust, Buttle UK will bring together a Pan-London network of agencies providing services for those living with domestic violence and which are willing to be partners in delivering this project.

5.2 An agreement will be drawn up between Buttle UK and the partners, setting out the criteria for referring families to the hardship fund and setting out expectations of the agency in supporting the families' resettlement. The broad criteria for referral will be:

- There is evidence that the child/dren's development is being impaired by their current circumstances
- Children can be up to the age of 18, or single women up to the age of 20.
- Families must be experiencing financial hardship
- Possible support from public funds must have been exhausted.

5.3 Buttle UK staff will provide training to the partners on the application process and evaluation requirements and the partners will be expected to collect data in order to support the monitoring and evaluation of the project.

6.0 Monitoring & Evaluation

6.1 Buttle UK propose to evaluate the project to determine its success in making a positive difference to the lives of children recovering from domestic abuse and the role of the combination of financial support with that of the partner referring agency in bringing about that change. Any evaluation will need to take account of child protection issues.

6.2 An external evaluator with expertise in domestic violence will be commissioned and managed by Buttle UK's Monitoring and Evaluation Manager. The cost of this has been included in the table set out in paragraph 7.3 below.

6.3 It is envisaged that the evaluation will provide an evidence base on how the model can improve outcomes for children in these families and how the support can increase the likelihood of the family sustaining independent accommodation.

7.0 Cost

- 7.1 Buttle UK has submitted an indicative three-year budget which includes the salary of a full-time Senior Caseworker to build, co-ordinate and support the relationships with the referral agencies that are essential to the holistic model outlined. It also includes the cost of commissioning an external evaluation by an evaluator with expertise in the domestic violence sector, overseen by Buttle UK's Monitoring and Evaluation Manager.
- 7.2 As this is a new way of working for the Trust, it is recommended that you commit funds for 18 months initially. This will enable the referral network to be established and sufficient activity to have taken place to be able to compare the actual demand with the demand as forecast in Buttle UK's proposal. A re-assessment of the likely funding requirement for the remaining 18 months will be presented to your Committee during 2014/15.
- 7.3 The level of funding recommended is therefore the total of Year 1's funding requirement (£264,000) plus 50% of the funding requirement in Year 2 (£206,000) making a total of £470,000.

	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Total
<u>Costs</u>	No	£	No	£	No	£	£
Salary Costs		49,000		49,600		49,000	147,600
Project Costs, including evaluation		19,800		18,490		35,900	74,190
Grants @ £1,500	150	225,000		375,000		375,000	975,000
Grants @ £250	300	75,000		75,000		75,000	225,000
Grand Total		368,800		518,090		534,900	1,421,790
<u>Buttle Contribution</u>							-
Salary Costs		20,875		21,475		20,875	63,225
Project Costs		8,800		8,490		12,150	29,440
Grants (estimated)	300	75,000		75,000		75,000	225,000
Total Buttle Contribution		104,675		104,965		108,025	317,665
Additional Funding requirement		264,125		413,125		426,875	1,104,125

6.0 Consultation

- 6.1 The Chamberlain has been consulted in the drafting of this paper and comments:

Accounts for Buttle UK for the year ended 31 March 2013 indicate a surplus for the year of £6,736,000 (146% of turnover), comprising a surplus for the year of £6,498,000 on Endowment Funds, a surplus of £178,000 on Restricted Funds, a surplus of £166,000 on General Funds and a deficit of £106,000 on Pension Funds.

The reserves policy states that the organisation aims to hold free unrestricted reserves equivalent to six months' expenditure on unrestricted funds which, based on current year expenditure equates to £1,054,000. Free unrestricted reserves held at 31 March 2013 were £778,000 equating to four months' worth of current expenditure.

The latest filed accounts for Buttle UK are for the year ended 31 March 2013. Based on these accounts, the charity appears financially satisfactory to administer the above funding.

7.0 Conclusion

- 7.1 The proposed partnership with Buttle UK is intended to complement your new 'Making London Safer' programme by providing the total package needed for a family escaping domestic violence re-settle and live independently.
- 7.2 The development of a referral network of agencies with expertise in the domestic violence field means that the families concerned can be offered an holistic package of support that caters for their emotional and materials needs as well as advocating on their behalf.
- 7.3 As this is a pilot, it is recommended that you commit funds for 18 months initially, with a decision regarding the level of future funding based on an evaluation of the first 18 months.

8.0 Recommendation

That Buttle UK is awarded a grant of £470,000 from your grants budget for 2013/14 in order to establish and administer a hardship fund for survivors of domestic violence in London.