

Committee(s):	Date(s):
City Bridge Trust	13/03/2014
Subject: Strategic Initiative – London Youth Inclusion Project	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer	For Decision
Summary	
<p>This report requests funding over three years to enable London Youth to support its membership of 400+ youth clubs to better accommodate and provide for young disabled people.</p>	
Recommendation	
<p>Members are asked to:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Approve a grant to London Youth for £216,000 over three years (£68,000; £112,000; £36,000) from your Strategic Initiatives allocation for the revenue costs of delivering the Inclusion project.</p>	

Main Report

Background

1. London Youth (LY) is the working name of the charity that is The Federation of London Youth Clubs. It grew out of the Ragged Schools' movement of the nineteenth century and, today, is the principal membership body for youth organisations across Greater London (currently 400+ in number).
2. As an organisation it has history and experience in abundance and has a long and supportive association with the City and, in particular, with the Livery Companies. HRH The Duke of Edinburgh has been its (very active) Patron since 1946 – since before he married, in fact.
3. Your Committee has been a regular supporter of London Youth's work over the years, valuing it as a very important and capable instigator of positive change and support for young people. You are currently funding it £55,000 for the third and final year of a project (Urban Nature) supporting young people to become local environmental champions. This grant is due to end in March 2014. All grants previously awarded have been delivered to a high standard.
4. London Youth is also your partner agency in your current programme supporting youth organisations to achieve an accredited Quality Mark (the London Youth Quality Mark Awards).

Current Position

5. London Youth supports a network of over 400 diverse community youth organisations where young people choose to go. With unique reach to over 75,000 young Londoners it delivers programmes with and through this network in every London Borough and at its two residential learning centres outside the capital. Its mission is to support and challenge young people to be the best they can be.
6. Whilst aiming to work with all young people LY places a particular emphasis on those who wouldn't otherwise have access to the opportunities on offer. This proposal (called ***Inclusion***) is targeted at establishing and delivering a clear offer to young people with disabilities, with the aim of maximising their inclusion in all aspects of LY's work.
7. Recognising that every young disabled Londoner has individual needs, LY wants to be able to offer all of them more opportunity to build their confidence, character and skills by accessing a member club and/or LY's own programmes. It would do this through creating change in 4 key strands of its work:
 - a. *Membership development*. Supporting member organisations, through a dedicated learning network, to share learning and best practice on working with disabled young people and on integrated work. Knowledge and expertise would also become embedded within the training and quality assurance programmes offered to members.
 - b. *Opportunity*. Last year London Youth worked directly with 22,000 young people through its own sport, youth action and employability schemes. Inclusion will improve access to these programmes for groups of disabled young people.
 - c. *Voice*. This will aim to ensure that disabled young people will continue to be represented on Dare London (LY's youth advisory board) and on its Trustee Board.
 - d. *Best we can be*. This involves establishing and training 14 existing LY staff as Inclusion Champions. The Champions, working across all of the organisation's programme areas, will have a two-year mandate to ensure LY delivers on these strategic goals and that young Londoners with disabilities have the opportunity to boost their confidence, character and skills.
8. This 3-year project has come directly from London Youth's inclusion strategy which, itself, arose from a major review of its work with young disabled Londoners in the first half of 2013. Without additional funding as recommended this important work would not happen to the scale required.
9. The All Party Parliamentary Group for Young Disabled People provided a thorough and up-to-date audit of the practical issues faced by disabled young people in its report published at the end of 2012 "Removing barriers, promoting independence". In tandem with difficulties of transport, access and similar issues there are also more emotive forces at play, with disabled young

people twice as likely to be bullied and four times less likely to find work than their non-disabled peers.

Timeframe and Costs

10. This three year project would commence in April 2014. Annual costings against programme strands (as identified in 2.3) are shown, as requested, in Table 1 below:

Table 1

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Membership Development				
1. Inclusion network	£7,250	£14,500	£14,500	£36,250
Opportunity				
2. Sports development	£15,000	£15,000		£30,000
3. Centre Inclusion Officers		£16,283	£16,772	£33,055
4. Accessibility improvements		£35,000		£35,000
Voice				
5. Communications improvements		£20,000		£20,000
Best we can be				
6. Staff training	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£15,000
7a. Inclusion champions	£32,776	£33,639		£66,415
7b. Inclusion champions budget	£7,500	£7,500		£15,000
	£67,526	£146,922	£36,272	£250,720

11. Members will note the sum of £35,000 requested in year 2 for accessibility improvements to some of the residential/training centres. As it is unusual for you to make grants for both revenue and capital at the same time the organisation has confirmed that it will meet these costs from elsewhere. This sum is not included, therefore, in the overall sum recommended.
12. The Centre Inclusion Officers (on 6-month secondments) will operate at the two LY residential/activity centres – Hindleap in year 1 and Woodrow in year 2 – whilst the Inclusion Champions’ costs are calculated on the equivalent hourly rates for existing staff (eg Senior Instructors, Youth Involvement Officers).

Financial observations

13. Audited accounts for the year ended 31st August 2012 show an operating deficit of £102,471 (2.4% of turnover), comprising a deficit of £131,088 on unrestricted funds, partially offset by surpluses of £51,277 on endowment funds and £28,617 on restricted funds. An unrealised gain on investments of £40,631 and a realised gain on disposal of investments of £10,646 resulted in an overall deficit of £51,194.
14. The charity’s reserves policy does not give a target figure but states that “Trustees seek to retain a prudent level of reserves free from unrestricted

income.” The policy states “Trustees believe unrestricted reserves stand at a satisfactory level in light of the adopted policy but will aim to increase unrestricted reserves where possible to improve the ratio to annual planned expenditure”. At 31st August 2012 free unrestricted reserves stood at £711,299, which equates to 1 months’ worth of 2013/14 expenditure.

15. Draft accounts for the year ended 31st August 2013 show an operating deficit of £381,063 (7.8% of turnover), comprising a deficit of £397,530 on unrestricted funds partially offset by a surplus of £16,467 on restricted funds. An unrealised gain on investments of £91,631 resulted in an overall deficit of £289,432. At 31st August 2013 free unrestricted reserves are expected to be £587,299, which equates to 26 days’ worth of 2013/14 expenditure.
16. The latest forecast for the current year to 31st August 2014 shows an overall surplus of £150,380 (1.8% of turnover), comprising a deficit of £17,282 on unrestricted funds offset by a surplus of £167,662 on restricted funds. Total forecast income amounts to £8,346,124, of which £5,494,833 (65.8%) has been confirmed. This latest unrestricted deficit should see free reserves fall to £570,017, equating to 25 days’ worth of expenditure.

Conclusion

17. As well as being the lead membership body for London’s youth organisations London Youth has itself a full and important range of direct services and activities. It recognises and upholds its responsibility at the forefront of representing, developing and advocating for the capital’s young people. It knows it has a duty to lead by example and to encourage and embed good practice. It is appropriate, therefore, that it should now take a lead in developing youth services for young people with disabilities – hence the *Inclusion* project.
18. The success of *Inclusion* will mean that the member clubs, centres and programmes will be a positive experience in the life of young disabled Londoners. The organisation has a robust outcomes and evaluation approach developed with support from the Young Foundation and based on their Outcomes Framework.
19. A grant to London Youth of £216,000 over three years (£68,000; £112,000; £36,000) for the *Inclusion* project is recommended to enable a significant and lasting impact on the opportunities for young Londoners with disabilities to be supported and challenged to become the best they can be.

Ciaran Rafferty
Principal Grants Officer

T: 020 7332 3186
E: Ciaran.rafferty@cityoflondon.gov.uk