

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - English for Speakers of Other Languages

The New Cross Gate Trust

Adv: Ciaran Rafferty

Base: Lewisham

Amount requested: £64,460

Benefit: Lewisham

Amount recommended: £63,500

Purpose of grant request: To provide accessible English Language support to residents of New Cross, supporting them to access local services and participate in the local community.

Background

The New Cross Gate Trust (NXG) was set up in 2008 following on from a local New Deal for Communities regeneration programme. It aims to promote regeneration and community development in and around the New Cross area. It remains a very deprived area although physical regeneration is ongoing and active.

The Trust currently runs a range of activities including: Under 5's programmes; environmental workshops for children; and family learning activities. There are also some ESOL based conversational classes for parents of local schoolchildren. Its base, which it lets out to other local groups for meetings, etc, at zero or little cost, is within a small community garden, ideal for the environmental activity and a much-used green oasis amongst the busy roads and redevelopments.

NXG's funding model is an interesting one. Most of its income is unrestricted and comes from rents from local properties which were held by the local authority on the Trust's behalf. These properties were legally transferred over in mid-2013 and which now will show as fixed assets on future balance sheets, thereby further underpinning the organisation's finances in the future.

Funding History

None.

Current Application

This application is to provide a varied programme of ESOL for beginners and up to Level 2. There is great need in the area, as the organisation has been able to demonstrate through the enquiries it receives almost on a daily basis and through the existing conversation classes for parents where the local primary school, for example, has a large proportion of parents arriving in reception/year 1 with little or no English spoken within the home. Many of the potential beneficiaries are expected to come from French-speaking countries. Other local agencies and services (NXG is extremely well linked in to these) have also provided evidence of need. Interestingly, for example, there is currently a high demand amongst men in their late 50s and 60s who, until recent times, have been working and able to get by but are now unemployed and, as much as anything else, want to do something meaningful with their time and want better English language skills so they can volunteer and/or get more involved in the local community.

Funding, should you award it, would be used to employ a part-time (2 days per week) fully qualified ESOL tutor who, in addition to teaching, will manage a programme of outreach to ensure the project becomes known to those who need it most. Lack of English language skills has a double-whammy effect on the most disadvantaged and who need to access local services or support. Four classes per week will be provided for 39 weeks per year – one each of ESOL Entry Level; Level 1; and Level 2 plus a series of conversational classes which will also include trips to key agencies and services (eg local hospital, housing office, etc).

Financial Observations

Independently examined accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013 show a surplus of £1,504 (0.8%) on income of £179,750, all on unrestricted funds.

The charity's reserve policy is to hold 6 months' worth of running costs which the charity calculates as £84,588. At 31st March 2013 free unrestricted reserves held amounted to £319,186 which is equivalent to 22.6 months' worth of running costs (or 12.7 months' worth of total expenditure in the current year), which is considerably higher than the reserves policy target.

The charity advises that the current surplus of free unrestricted reserves of £234,598 in excess of the reserve policy level is due to accrued rental income prior to the Trust's launch. The Trust has agreed to gradually deplete this surplus by 20% per year over a 5 year period commencing in 2013/14, towards continuity of service provision. Longer term, the Trust anticipates delivery of a Healthy Living Centre from the end of 2018 which will provide additional rental income, with full-year income anticipated to be at least £100,000.

Draft figures for 2013/14 indicate income of £194,359 and expenditure of £221,027 creating a deficit of £26,668 (13.7% of turnover), comprising a deficit of £39,681 on unrestricted funds offset by a surplus on restricted funds of £13,013.

For 2014/15 income is projected to be £260,165 and expenditure £300,456 creating a deficit of £40,291 (15.5% of turnover), comprising £39,521 on unrestricted funds and £770 on restricted funds. All restricted income of £18,866 (7.2%) has been confirmed at 23rd April 2014, whilst the remaining unrestricted income comes from property rentals of £124,260 (47.8%) residential and £115,039 (44.2%) commercial, as well as £2,000 (0.8%) of donations.

Officer's Appraisal

NXG is very rooted in, and knowledgeable of, its community and of the various needs which exist. Its board is strong and comprises a wide range of skills and knowledge. This proposal has been carefully constructed and seeks to present a pragmatic and targeted service to meet the particular needs of local people. The tutor will hold the necessary teaching qualification whilst the project will also seek to engage the learners in volunteering and to help them become more active members of the community. The grant advised is slightly less in year 1 as your officer feels that the sum requested for recruitment is not essential as the organisation has sufficient funds within its budget for this purpose, if required.

Recommendation

£63,500 over three years (£22,000; £21,000; £20,500) for salary costs of a part-time (2dpw) qualified ESOL Tutor plus running costs of a programme of ESOL classes up to and including Level 2.

The City Bridge Trust

Investing In Londoners: Application for a grant



About your organisation

Name of your organisation: The New Cross Gate Trust	
If your organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name? n/a	
In which London Borough is your organisation based? Lewisham	
Contact person: Mrs Jenny Couper	Position: Strategy and Partnerships Manager
Website: http://www.nxgtrust.org.uk	
Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity	Charity, Charitable Incorporated Company or company number: 1118010
When was your organisation established? 04/01/2008	
<p>Aims of your organisation:</p> <p>Our vision is that New Cross Gate should be a place where people are able to live happy, healthy, stable and fulfilled lives. We work to support people of New Cross to achieve their full potential.</p> <p>Our mission is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide access to high quality life-long learning opportunities, while encouraging people to value the importance of education and learning for themselves and those around them - Provide services which support local people into sustainable employment, tackle barriers into employment, and support them to manage their personal circumstances - Support local people to be healthy, and understand the benefit of a healthy lifestyle - Support local people to understand, respect, protect, develop and enjoy their local environment <p>We also aim to build partnerships with local organisations who share our vision, to develop our joint capacity, sustainability and quality of service, and to develop volunteering opportunities, and through this build a stronger local community.</p>	
<p>Main activities of your organisation:</p> <p>We provide activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - under 5s stay and play - environmental learning programme for school groups - annual summer theatre school for 9-14 yr olds including Junior English Speaking Board exam - Evening 'Glee Club' Choir for 9-14 year olds - Wider health and education based summer activities through partner organisations - Homework Club - family learning activities - ESOL based conversational class for parents of local school children incorporating parenting/education support 	

- sewing and creative learning activities
- First rung adult learning programme, including Food, Health and Hygiene, First Aid At Work, ESB Communication and Presentation Skills. We are registering with National Open College Network to expand our offer.
- Open access job search sessions through partner organisation
- Health activities, gardening club, and bee-keeping courses
- Capacity building support and training for partner organisations who share our objectives

Number of staff

Full-time:	Part-time:	Management committee members:	Active volunteers:
1	4	14	20

Property occupied by your organisation

Is the main property owned, leased or rented by your organisation?	If leased/rented, how long is the outstanding agreement?
Leased	24 years

Grant Request

Under which of City Bridge Trust's programmes are you applying? English for Speakers of Other Languages
Which of the programme outcome(s) does your application aim to achieve? More people with improved English language skills More people participating in the wider community
Please describe the purpose of your funding request in one sentence. To provide accessible English Language support to residents of New Cross, supporting them to access local services and participate in the local community.
When will the funding be required? 09/01/2014
How much funding are you requesting? Year 1: £22,820 Year 2: £20,820 Year 3: £20,520 Total: £64,460
Do you plan to continue the activity beyond the period for which you are requesting funding? If so, how do you intend to fund it? YES - a GP surgery and community facility is due to be built in New Cross. This will be owned by the Trust and provide a long term rental income stream which will support services in the long term. Proposal will go to developers within the next quarter.
If you need any planning or other statutory consents for the project to proceed, what stage have the applications reached? Not applicable

Summary of grant request

New Cross Gate has an incredibly diverse population, with 30% of the population born outside of the EU. The predominant ethnic group is Black / Black British (36%), with significant representation from Eastern Europe, Chinese/Vietnamese, Sri-Lankan and Latin American backgrounds. 15% of households have no-one in the household with English as a main language. Only 56% of reception children have English as a main language (Autumn School Census 2012). Ourselves and other local charities consistently encounter residents seeking ESOL support, with insufficient affordable provision locally.

We will employ a 0.4 part-time Esol teacher to deliver 4 sessions each week. Conversational, entry, level 1 and level 2. Integrated through all sessions will be opportunities that encourage engagement with local services such as schools, courts, hospitals/health centre, post office, bank, housing office, advice centre and others. There will be a strong focus on supporting students to develop their language and general knowledge about services they can access. There will also be some emphasis on developing skills and knowledge around employment, adult education and training.

The NXG Trust has a strong track record of delivering high quality, well respected family learning and adult learning activities, from sewing classes, community events to First Aid at Work, Food Health and Hygiene, and English Speaking Board Communication and Presentation Skills. We are currently working to expand adult learning provision through the National Open College Network (NOCN). We host a community garden, environmental sessions for schools, and under 5s stay and play sessions. There are a variety of volunteering opportunities. We also fund activities through partner charities locally, such as a homework club and job search support. Our emphasis is on supporting the social regeneration of New Cross, and we recognize that building language skills and connecting new entrants to available services is a vital step in this ambition. We will encourage ESOL participants to make full use of what the centre has to offer.

We already deliver a conversational ESOL class within the local primary school (since April 2013), targeted at parents of new reception children and aimed at building confidence and social networks of parents who do not speak English, while developing their understanding of the English educational system, so they can better support their children with learning. There has been significant demand from participants for a progression route.

- Our Board comprises 14 trustees, 8 are local residents selected to reflect the diversity and needs of the local community, drawn from our service users and by advert from the wider community.
- our users are very reflective of the diverse community. User monitoring and feedback is constantly used to develop our services offered.
- We offer a variety of volunteering opportunities including gardening, maintenance, office work and more. We discuss goals and interests with our volunteers, we encourage them to use our wider services and signpost to wider opportunities and services. We host an annual 'thank you' party for our volunteers. Volunteers comprise a key part of our organisation and we treat them all as individuals, giving wider support, signposting and advice where relevant.
- We are taking steps to reduce our carbon footprint, through for example, composting and recycling waste, turning off electrical equipment, and are keen to look at further options. We teach primary classes on this subject as well as broader environmental issues such as bee keeping, pond life, and food growing.

Outputs and outcomes

What are the main activities or outputs you want to deliver? Please include no more than 5. By activities or outputs we mean the services, products or facilities you plan to deliver. If you plan to deliver work over more than one year you should include activities over the full grant period requested. Try to be specific.

ESOL Entry level, Level 1 and Level 2, each class delivered one session per weekly, term time (39 weeks per annum).

ESOL conversational class combined with discussions/ visits to mainstream/charitable services including the local hospital, GP surgery, school, FE college, housing office, courts, police station, local charities specialising in benefit and employment advice, youth services, supermarkets etc, or visits from services such as Community Safety, Stop Smoking service, Carers Lewisham etc.

What main differences or outcomes do you hope the activities you have described above will achieve? Please include no more than 5. By differences or outcomes we mean the changes, benefits, learning or other effects that result from the work your project would deliver. These might be for individuals, families, communities or the environment.

Participants will demonstrate improved English language skills along a continuum from Entry to Level 2. Classes will be certificated.

Participants will develop stronger social networks, make new friends, and feel able to come out of the house more, and try out new activities.

Participants will develop the confidence and understanding of how to access local services, such as health services, employment support, benefit advice, council services, further education or even employment.

Families will have a better understanding of the school system, and what is expected of parents to support their child's learning journey.

Who will benefit?

About your beneficiaries

How many people will benefit directly from the grant per year?

30

In which Greater London borough(s) or areas of London will your beneficiaries live?

Lewisham (90%)

Southwark (10%)

What age group(s) will benefit?

All ages

What gender will beneficiaries be?

All

What will the ethnic grouping(s) of the beneficiaries be?

A range of ethnic groups

If Other ethnic group, please give details:

What proportion of the beneficiaries will be disabled people?

1-10%

Funding required for the project

What is the total cost of the proposed activity/project?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Part time staff member (£250 * 14hours)	18,200	18,200	18,200	54,600
Oncosts (10%)	1,820	1,820	1,820	5,460
Teaching resources (includes interactive screen in year 1)	1,500	500	500	2,500
Utilities, room hire (£32 per session, 4 per week)	4,862	4,862	4,862	14,586
Laptop/admin resources for staff member	500	100	100	700
Cost of trips and visits to local services	300	300	300	900
Accreditation/certification	0	0	0	0
Marketing and advertising	250	250	250	750
recruitment	1,000	0	0	0

TOTAL:	28,432	26,032	26,032	80,496
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What income has already been raised?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
NXG Trust -utilities room hire	4,862	4,862	4,862	14,586
NXG Trust - office space and equipment	500	100	100	700
NXG Trust - Marketing and advertising	250	250	250	750
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	5,612	5,212	5,212	16,036
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What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Source	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
None at present	0	0	0	0
	0	0	0	0

TOTAL:	0	0	0	0
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How much is requested from the Trust?

Expenditure heading	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Part time staff member	18,200	18,200	18,200	54,600
Oncosts	1,820	1,820	1,820	5,460
Teaching resources	1,500	500	500	2,500
Accreditation/certification	0	0	0	0
cost of trips to local services	300	300	300	900
recruitment	1,000	0	0	0

TOTAL:	22,820	20,820	20,820	64,460
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Finance details

Please complete using your most recent audited or independently examined accounts.

Financial year ended:	Month: March	Year: 2013
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Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	174,033
Activities for generating funds	668
Investment income	5,049
Income from charitable activities	0
Other sources	0
Total Income:	179,750

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	145,671
Governance costs	14,165
Cost of generating funds	0
Other	18,410
Total Expenditure:	178,246
Net (deficit)/surplus:	1,504
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses):	0
Net Movement in Funds:	1,504

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	0
Investments	0
Net current assets	322,831
Long-term liabilities	0
*Total Assets (A):	322,831

Reserves at year end	£
Endowment funds	0
Restricted funds	3,645
Unrestricted funds	319,186
*Total Reserves (B):	322,831

* Please note that total Assets (A) and Total Reserves (B) should be the same.

Statutory funding

For your most recent financial year, what % of your income was from statutory sources?
1-10%

Organisational changes

Describe any significant changes to your structure, financial position or core activities since the date of your most recent accounts:

none applicable

Previous funding received

Please list the funding received by your organisation from the following statutory sources during the last THREE years.

	2010 £	2011 £	2012 £
City of London (except City Bridge Trust)	0	0	0
London Local Authorities	0	13,400	10,541
London Councils	0	0	0
Health Authorities	0	5,248	0
Central Government departments	0	0	761
Other statutory bodies	5,751	0	0

Previous grants received

Please list the grants received by your organisation from charitable trusts and foundations (other than City Bridge Trust) during the last THREE years. List source, years and annual amounts. Please include the 5 largest only.

Name of Funder	2010 £	2011 £	2012 £
Capital Community Foundation	20,000	0	0
Capital Community Foundation	20,670	17,770	0
RSA	0	5,700	0
Mercers	0	0	500
	0	0	0

Declaration

I confirm that, to the best of my knowledge, all the information I have provided in this application form is correct. I fully understand that City Bridge Trust has zero tolerance towards fraud and will seek to prosecute and recover funds in every instance.

Please confirm: Yes Full Name: **Jenny Couper**

Role within **Strategy and Partnerships Manager**
Organisation: