

Committee:	Date:
The City Bridge Trust Committee	16 July 2014
Subject:	Public
Strategic Initiative: Youth Offer mid-term learning event	
Report of:	For Information
Chief Grants Officer	
Summary	
<p>This paper proposes that you organise a mid-term learning event to form part of the wider Youth Offer Evaluation.</p>	
Recommendation	
<p>That you approve a budget of up to £10,000 towards the cost of a mid-term learning event to be held in November 2014, to be charged against the City Bridge Trust Strategic Initiatives allocation for 2014/15.</p>	

Main Report

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In September 2012 you approved a new initiative “Get Young People Working – The Youth Offer”, to help tackle the growing problem of rising numbers of young people not in employment, education or training (NEETs). Following concurrence of the Finance Committee and the Court of Common Council, a budget of £3.28m was approved from income in Bridge House Estates additional to your usual grants-making budget. Each of the 32 London local authorities was invited to apply for a grant of up to £100,000 over a 2 year period to support the costs of a voluntary sector partner with experience of working with the most disadvantaged young people. Between April 2013 and July 2013 you approved 31 grants to all London Boroughs, including a joint bid between Haringey and Enfield. Programmes are to be delivered over a maximum of 2 years and most projects are now approaching the end of their first year of delivery.
- 1.2 Alongside this, your officers, in consultation with colleagues from London Councils and the City of London’s Economic Development Office, drew up an Evaluation brief to ensure that as a major initiative this work was independently evaluated. Following a competitive process, the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion was appointed as the evaluator for a total budget of £45,901. The winning bid included a range of methods to test the success of the Youth Offer including quarterly collection of monitoring information; telephone interviews with partnerships; online surveys with young people; and case studies. Inclusion were also invited to attend and support City Bridge Trust at a briefing meeting, mid-term and final event for the programme.
- 1.3 The briefing meeting took place on 23rd July 2013 as Youth Offer partnerships were beginning their projects. The meeting was well attended with all projects

represented and in many cases both the Local Authority and voluntary sector partner present. Attendees were able to learn about the development of the Youth Offer; London policy and practice of working with NEET young people; the Youth Offer communications strategy; grant management details; and details of the evaluation. Feedback from the day was good. Many commented on how useful it was to meet the other projects and were keen to contribute to the programme evaluation.

2.0 Mid-term learning event – the proposal

2.1 In view of the success of the briefing meeting officers have developed this proposal for a mid-term learning event which would:

- Bring together Youth Offer projects to share experiences/learning.
- Showcase examples of good practice.
- Share emerging evaluation findings.
- Inform evaluation and programme management.

2.2 Given their position as external evaluator, and limited capacity within the City Bridge Trust team, it is proposed that the Centre for Economic Inclusion takes the lead role in planning, organising and running the event – with City Bridge Trust input. The event would take place in November 2014 and run for ½ a day. Local authority and voluntary sector representatives would be invited from all Youth Offer partnerships. The event would take place at a central London location to facilitate attendance from all London boroughs.

2.3 The learning event would include:

- ‘Speed dating’ to help the projects get to know each other
- Presentation of interim findings from the evaluation
- Facilitated small group discussions on different approaches of working with young people not in education, employment or training (i.e. delivery models such as mentoring/early intervention/apprenticeships/work placements/self-employment or different groups supported). This would identify why different approaches have been chosen and what has been successful.
- Facilitated small group discussions on the partnership between local authorities and voluntary sector organisations to establish what has worked well and less well.
- Evaluation next steps.
- Networking lunch.

2.4 The event would result in two key outputs:

- An event report to be shared with all Youth Offer partnerships. This will be particularly helpful in informing projects as they start their final year of delivery.
- Findings from the day will be analysed and used in the final evaluation report (due December 2015)

3.0 Cost

3.1 The cost would be as follows:

Area of activity	Description	Cost (£)
Venue	Half day room hire main room	900
	Half day room hire breakout room	300
		1200
Catering	Lunch & 2 tea & coffees	1240
	based on £20 per person	0
		1240
Design	Invitation e-flyer	50
	Final Programme	75
		125
AV/Staging/Equipment	AV	400
		400
Sponsorship Materials	Badges based on 40p per badge x65	26
		26
Staff	Events manager, Events executive, Director and Researcher	6050
		6050
Misc	Freight	30
		30
Contingency	Normal Contingency	100
		100
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		9171

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 A mid-term learning event would provide an opportunity to not only to better understand progress, success and challenges of the Youth Offer programme, but also to support Youth Offer partnerships and City Bridge Trust staff to make adjustments to increase the impact of the programme.
- 4.2 Working with the Centre for Economic and Social Inclusion would complement the wider evaluation process and by having using an external agency would encourage more open and honest discussion at the event. Furthermore, without the support, limited staff capacity within City Bridge Trust would make the successful organisation of such an event difficult.

Recommendation

That you approve a budget of up to £10,000 towards the cost of a mid-term learning event to be held in November 2014, to be charged against the City Bridge Trust Strategic Initiatives allocation for 2014/15.

Jemma Grieve Combes, Grants Officer (Monitoring and Evaluation)

020 7332 3174

jemma.grievcombes@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Report written: 30th June 2014