

MEETING: 16/07/2014

Ref: 12230

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - English for Speakers of Other Languages

Translating & Interpreting Service (TIS)

Adv: Sandra Davidson
Base: Barking & Dagenham
Benefit: Barking & Dagenham &
surrounding areas

Amount requested: £102,317
{Revised request £40,712}

The Charity:

Translating and interpreting Service (TIS) was set up in 1994 to provide bilingual support to members of Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee communities (BAMER). It runs its activities from a council owned building, mainly serving the poorer and minority residents of the dense social housing of the locality.

The Application:

TIS currently provides face-to-face community interpreting, most of which takes place at health care centres, local schools, and within the local voluntary sector. It also provides advocacy support to people with mental health issues on a voluntary basis at present. A drop-in service is available to clients to access bi-lingual support and for translating various documents. This application is towards running ESOL Entry Level 1-3 classes so that people can better speak for themselves in future.

The Recommendation:

TIS has a strong commitment to engaging a wide range of communities. In common with many similar charities, it faces challenges in keeping its head above water, financially. It made a large initial request, subsequently revisiting this after the assessment meeting. A revised budget has been submitted and this is appended at Appendix A and forms the basis of the recommendation:

£40,800 over two years (£20,200; £20,600) towards the costs of providing Entry Level 1-3 provision.

Funding History

None

Background and detail of proposal

This proposal has grown out of a successful pilot with funding from Lloyds TSB Foundation for ESOL Entry level 1. The course had a take-up of 20 participants with 12 achieving the standard required. The sessions focussed on building verbal confidence and addressing everyday needs. There is a now waiting list for the classes to continue. The intension now is to deliver Entry level courses which will offer 4 hours tuition x 2 days per week over 20 weeks covering the core language skills of speaking and listening, reading and writing. 60 new beneficiaries will be recruited annually, with exception to year one which will see 5 participants from the previous cohort complete the course. The sessions will be taught by an accredited ESOL teacher, supported by three bilingual volunteers. The programme will be managed by a full time Project Manager. The project aims to reduce isolation amongst BAMER groups and boost confidence and independence. It also aims to equip participants with skills to access services, for instance, to seek employment or further education and to engage more fully in community life.

Financial Information

The deficits shown are due to a reduction in the overall level of core interpreting work being commissioned/funded as a result of increased competition. The charity is reducing its expenditure and is underway with an active fundraising programme to engage new funders. The cost of generating funds is not specified in the independently examined accounts.

Year-end at	2012/13 Audited/Examined	2013/14 DRAFT	2014/15 Current Year Forecast
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	327,789	197,962	146,887
Expenditure	312,447	228,547	196,477
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	8,530	(28,220)	(45,880)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	6,812	(2,365)	(3,710)
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	15,342	(30,585)	(49,590)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	4.7%	(15.4%)	(33.8%)
Generating funds as % of income	-	-	-
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	109,571	81,695	35,815
~ how many months' worth of expenditure	4.2	4.3	2.2
Reserves Policy target (£)	72,527	52,057	39,888
~ how many months' worth of expenditure	2.8	2.8	2.4
Free reserves over target / (under target)	37,044	29,638	(4,073)