

## City Bridge Trust – Monitoring Visit Report

<b>Organisation:</b> Whizz-Kidz	<b>Grant ref:</b> 11260	<b>Programme area:</b> Positive Transitions to Independent Living(c) Managing independent living & personal budgets
<b>Amount, date and purpose of grant:</b> 27/09/2012: £60,000 over three years, (3 x £20,000) towards the costs of life-skills training residential camps for 12 young mobility-impaired young Londoners per annum.		
<b>Visiting Grants Officer:</b> Julia Mirkin, accompanied by Ian Seaton	<b>Date of meeting:</b> 05/03/14	
<b>Met with:</b> Kathryn Miller, Trusts, Statutory and Lottery Fundraiser Anthony Moore, Children and Young People’s Training Manager (maternity cover)		
<b>1. Introduction to the organisation:</b> Whizz-Kidz is the familiar name for the Movement for Non-Mobile Children. Its aim is to provide children and young people with specialised wheelchairs to suit their individual needs; it provides training to use this equipment and works to encourage young people to live their lives to the full. Whizz-Kidz is a well-known name in many charity circles; it was the beneficiary of a BBC Blue Peter Christmas appeal and regularly has up to 400 people running on its behalf in the London Marathon. One of the organisation’s key features is its “Kidz Board” – a shadow board of directors wholly made up of young disabled people, who help devise strategy, undertake PR/media and help to oversee the whole organisation.		
<b>2. The project funded:</b> City Bridge Trust’s funding supports residential camps for 12 mobility-impaired young people each year in connection with its life-skills training programme. The camps focus on developing skills that support progression towards independent living; they aim to develop communication, problem-solving and team-working skills. Camps offer a range of experiences from domestic tasks, such as shopping, cooking and cleaning, to practical skills for safe and independent wheelchair operation. All camps include an inspirational session, for example, demonstrations from users of specially adapted cars or talks by disabled athletes. Young people have time to socialise and work together to plan a social activity like a sporting event, a cinema trip or a meal out.		
<b>3. Work delivered to date:</b> Three camps have been delivered so far as part of the City Bridge Trust grant. All beneficiaries undergo a needs assessment prior to attendance that informs an individual needs plan. A questionnaire is completed by participants prior to attendance that establishes participants’ personal aims and interests; all participants meet with a member of Whizz-Kidz staff before attending the camp. Each camp offers 24-hour, 1-to-1 support throughout the three-day programme. One of the three camps delivered so far catered specifically for the 15-18 age-group and focussed on progression to further or higher education or employment, making links, where possible, to the Whizz-Kidz work placements programme. Whizz-Kidz is considering developing a kite mark system that would identify organisations that are committed and well equipped for accommodating disabled young people.		
<b>4. Difference made:</b> Feedback is collected from beneficiaries, using a ‘Big Brother’ style diary room during the camp and using an e-survey circulated on a six-monthly basis after the camp. Feedback from the three City Bridge Trust-funded camps show that 60% of beneficiaries stated explicitly that the camps had helped them to live more independently. Other outcomes identified by beneficiaries included: feeling less nervous around new people, making new friends and feeling more able to describe		

their care preferences. For some participants, however, simply attending the camp represents a significant achievement, and an important step towards independent living.

During the funding period, Whizz-Kidz aims to develop and expand its camp programme: it is planning to offer a more structured programme of specialised camps, for example, a programme of camps that target young people with specific interests or who are facing similar transitions, such as post-16 education choices. Once this specialised programme is established, Whizz-Kidz aims to offer more opportunities for its beneficiaries by expanding the camp programme. Whizz-Kidz introduced an accreditation scheme for the camp programme; it intends to build relationships with camp venues, allowing it to secure more economical arrangements; it is also considering the possibility of establishing its own pool of Care Assistants, who would receive specialised 'Whizz-Kidz' training – although, this is a longer-term plan, it does introduce other possibilities, for example, the possibility of Whizz-Kidz becoming a provider of specialised disability training.

#### **5. Grants Administration:**

The Trust received Whizz-Kidz's first monitoring report in October 2013 and rated it as 'good'. The organisation provided a financial report against the activity programme budget; it provided a list of all coded invoices in relation to the budget, from which three samples were selected and checked. P11 forms for all City Bridge Trust-funded posts were provided and City Bridge Trust's funding has been acknowledged in the audited accounts for 2012, the first year of grant funding.

#### **6. Concluding comments:**

Whizz-Kidz's camps offer disabled young people an invaluable experience that give them a taster of independent living and the skills required to move forward in their lives. The camps are delivered thoughtfully and with great care and preparation. Whizz-Kidz is learning from participants and parents' feedback and is using this to inform its planned expansion of the camp programme. The camps are becoming an integral part of Whizz-Kidz's service and the way it is developing the camp programme will ensure that they are fully assimilated and complementary to the rest of Whizz-Kidz activities.