

MEETING: 25/09/2014

Ref: 12267

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving London's Environment

Sonshine Club

Adv: Sandra Davidson

Amount requested: £33,670

Base: Hackney

Benefit: Hackney

Amount recommended: £33,700

The Charity

The Sonshine Club was set up in 2004 by parents within the Orthodox Jewish Community of Stamford Hill to improve the education, health and well-being of all children within the community, by providing access to a number of activities. A significant factor of the charity's success to date is its steadfast ambition and ability to integrate a diverse spectrum of children and families, from 'mainstream' children, to those with a wide range of educational or social needs.

The Application

The charity is seeking funding to continue to run its 'Grow to Eat - Eat to Grow' project, encouraging children to improve their well-being by growing their own food and enjoying green eco-active activities. This will be the eighth consecutive summer running this project to meet the demand for the service. The project is targeted at children aged 8-13 from low income families living in overcrowded housing conditions and with little or no access to outdoor space.

The Recommendation

The charity has run several projects successfully since its inception, including exercise classes and motor-skills groups for children with mobility issues. The activities enable children to access outdoor green spaces where this sort of activity is not a feature of the curriculum in their schools which adhere to strict religious codes. There is limited understanding of the health benefits of exercise and the outdoors so the charity wants to ensure children understand the origin of food and the health benefits of a healthy diet and exercise.

£33,700 over three years (£9,900; £12,900; £10,900) towards the running costs of the Grow to Eat – Eat to Grow project for young people aged 8-13.

Funding History

None

Background and detail of proposal

The Sonshine Club requests salary and project costs to continue to run the *Grow to Eat – Eat to Grow* project offering 16 gardening sessions annually for 80 young people who have limited/no access to a garden. During the summer months, weekly sessions will take place in Springfield Park, Hackney where children will learn how to grow fruit, herbs and vegetables from seed. Environmental activities introducing young people to the natural world (and to the importance of using natural resources such as energy, water and waste in a sustainable way) will be incorporated into the sessions. They will learn the importance of healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle. Food grown will be eaten by young people and their families, who will be encouraged to join them in these activities as supporting volunteers. It is hoped that the project

will attract older members of the community, to encourage intergenerational work and promote health and well-being. The sessions will be led by a project manager and four team leaders. The leading trainer has a diploma in special needs and has completed training with Capital Growth and the Royal Horticultural Society.

Financial Information

Forecast income for 2014/15 is £50,000 of which £17,000 (33%) had been secured by the end of August 2014. The organisation has pending applications for the balance of £33,000.

The charity's accounts for 2012/13 reported that its 'cost of generating funds' was nil. This was queried with the charity as the majority of its income is generated from the submission funding bids which would normally incur a cost. However, the chairperson of the charity advises that all fundraising is undertaken by herself and a team of parents on a voluntary basis at no cost to the charity.

Year end at 30 th September	2012/13 Independently Examined Accounts	2013/14 Current Year Forecast	2014/15 Budget
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	48,665	45,750	50,000
Expenditure	32,451	27,250	35,000
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	1,497	1,500	2,000
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	14,717	17,000	13,000
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	16,214	18,500	15,000
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	33.3%	40.4%	30%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	0	-	-
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	3,332	4,832	6,832
How many months' worth of expenditure	1.2	2.1	2.3
Reserves Policy target	8,113	6,812	8,750
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(4,781)	(1,980)	(1,918)