

MEETING: 25/09/2014

Ref: 12293

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London Safer

National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

Adv: David Farnsworth

Amount requested: £180,000

Base: Hackney

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £180,000

The Charity

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) is a national charity whose vision is to end cruelty to children in the UK. The organisation's aim is to be there for every child whenever they need help, and to transform society so that no child ever suffers abuse.

The Application

This application is to contribute to the NSPCC's 'Protect and Respect' service to provide a range of preventative and protective initiatives for young victims of sexual exploitation, or those vulnerable to this form of abuse, with a particular focus on minority ethnic children.

The Recommendation

The NSPCC is one of the leading organisations working in this area of work. The development of the 'Protect and Respect' project was informed by listening to the experiences and ideas of young people. It has received recognition from the Children's Commissioner as an example of good practice in tackling child sexual exploitation. The grant is recommended at the level requested:

£180,000 over two years (£90,000; £90,000) towards the salary costs of two of the Protect and Respect case-workers.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
26/03/2009	£50,000 over 2 years (£25,000, £25,000) towards the costs of a practitioner supporting young people involved in gangs or victims of domestic violence and anger management in Tower Hamlets.
22/04/2005	£99,000 over 3 years (£32,000; £33,000; £34,000) for salary costs of work with vulnerable young people in Tower Hamlets.
27/02/2003	£150,000 towards the refurbishment costs of the London Young People's Centre in Tower Hamlets.

Background and detail of proposal

During 2010-2012, over 16,500 children in England were identified as being at risk of sexual exploitation, and 2,409 children were confirmed as victims of sexual exploitation (Office of the Children's Commissioner). In reality, NSPCC estimate these figures to be much higher as the vast majority of such cases never come to the attention of the police.

The Protect and Respect project builds on 15 years' experience of the NSPCC's work delivering similar services, particularly in East London. Demand for the service has been so high in East London that the team have started to provide training for

external agencies. The effectiveness of the service has also resulted in local authorities seeking the NSPCC's support in dealing with child sexual exploitation.

In terms of preventative work, the project team work with young people to provide information on the risks of sexual exploitation. They also aid the police with the prosecution of those who sexually exploit children, and ensure that local communities are informed about the risks of sexual exploitation, and are equipped to identify any suspected cases.

At the protective end, the project team develop tailored intervention plans. This may include one-to-one therapeutic work, group work with other service users, and ongoing practical support with issues including accessing safe housing.

Financial Information

Audited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013 show a strong balance sheet with total funds amounting to £75.5m (2012: £67.3), representing a net increase of £8.2m over the prior year (2012: net decrease of £4.1m). The draft accounts for 2013/14 and budget for the current year 2014/15 show a broadly break-even position over the period.

At 31 March 2013 available free reserves totalled £49.5m, which represents 4.9 months' worth of expenditure and is in-line with the charity's reserves policy target to hold 3 to 5 months' worth. The cost of generating funds in 2012/13 amounted to £25.1m or 19.4% of total income (2012: £29.1m or 21.4% of total income).

Year end at 31 March	2012/13 Audited Accounts £	2013/14 Draft Accounts £	2014/15 Current Year Budget £
Income and Expenditure			
Income	129,432,000	125,878,000	126,836,000
Expenditure	121,890,000	124,528,000	127,435,000
Gains/ (Losses) on investment assets	848,000	1,000,000	(1,055,000)
Actuarial losses on defined benefit pension scheme	(201,000)	Not available	Not available
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	8,600,000	Not available	Not available
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(411,000)	Not available	Not available
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	8,189,000	2,350,000	(1,655,000)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	6.3%	1.9%	(1.3%)
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	25,101,000 (19.4%)	26,713,000 (21.2%)	29,364,000 (23.2%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	49,525,000	51,875,000	50,220,000
How many months' worth of expenditure	4.9	5.0	4.7
Reserves Policy target	30.5m – 50.8m	31.1m – 51.9m	31.9m – 53.1m
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.0 – 5.0	3.0 – 5.0	3.0 – 5.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	Within target range	Within target range	Within target range