

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners**Green Candle Dance Company****Adv: Tim Wilson****Base: Tower Hamlets****Amount requested: £177,837****Benefit: Several London****Amount recommended: £105,000****boroughs****The Charity**

Established in 1987, Green Candle (GC) is a community dance company based at Oxford House in Bethnal Green. The charity operates primarily in East and North East London, but is also active across the capital. GC seeks to improve access to dance, reflecting the organisation's ethos that dance can improve well-being and health. In recent years much of GC's work has been with older Londoners.

The Application

GC's Dance for Health and Wellbeing Programme for Older People began in 2003 as an Oxford House-based activity for people with minor circulatory and muscular-skeletal conditions. Since then, the charity has taken its programme to day care centres, hospitals, community centres and lunch clubs across London. This application is to extend the current programme to new users and to develop further GC's formative work on dance with dementia patients.

The Recommendation

Building on existing services and funded to date by statutory and charitable donors, GC seeks to expand its Dance for Health and Wellbeing Programme to more residential care homes and to extend the service to a greater number of dementia sufferers. The programme will seek to achieve a range of outcomes relating to improved health, memory, confidence and socialisation. Some of the proposed activities fall outside your funding priorities, and in some instances the Health and Wellbeing Programme works with the under 75s. As a result, it is recommended that you award a proportion of the funding sought, and at a level equivalent to that which is being sought from other Trusts. Funding is advised, therefore, as follows:

£105,000 over three years (£35,000 x 3) towards the costs of the Dance for Health and Wellbeing Programme on condition that funding is used for activities with the over 75s only.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
04/10/2007	£84,000 (3 x £28,000) towards the costs of an older people's community dance worker.

Background and detail of proposal

Run in a range of care settings, GC's work for older people has been successful in engaging both men and women. Sessions are designed to work with participants of all abilities and, where required, great physical frailty. There is no expectation that participants will have a performing arts background. Monitoring to date shows improved health and wellbeing outcomes for participants, including reduced isolation, enhanced psychological resilience and improved mental capacity. GC seeks to support over 250 participants each year, mainly in Tower Hamlets but with activities

taking place in several other boroughs. In addition to sustaining the level of service GC provides in residential homes, the proposed City Bridge Trust grant will enable GC to expand its work with dementia sufferers. GC has built a strong network of partner charities and NHS agencies to support the delivery of the programme, and the activities are well-promoted through local advertising and word of mouth, particularly within minority ethnic communities.

Financial Information

GC achieved a surplus of £29,160 on unrestricted funds in 2012-13 as a result of successful fundraising from several organisations which had not previously supported the charity.

The free reserves at 31st March 2013 are £66,548 which is slightly above the reserve target. Members will note that the forecast outturn for 2013-14 and the current year budget both show reserves remaining slightly above target, but this can be viewed as reasonable given the organisation's relatively low turnover.

As of 1st September 2014 the charity had confirmed £99,791 (45%) of its income for the current year of 2014-15. A further £113,639, representing 52% of forecast income is being considered by funders, and this sum includes the application to City Bridge Trust. The balance is expected from earned income.

The 'cost of generating funds' in 2012-13 was £43,381 and relates to work done by staff to raise income from a wide range of Trusts, Foundations and statutory sources. The 'cost of generating funds' is usually prepared as part of the charity's year-end final accounts is therefore unavailable at this time for 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Year end at 31 March	Notes	2012/13 Independently Examined	2013/14 Forecast Outturn	2014/15 Current Year Budget
		£	£	£
Income and Expenditure				
Income		209,199	154,295	219,730
Expenditure		180,039	160,731	214,730
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)		29,160	(7,124)	4,262
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)		0	688	738
Total Surplus / (Deficit)		29,160	(6,436)	5,000
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover		13.9%	(4.2%)	2.3%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)		43,381 (20.7%)	-	-
Free unrestricted reserves				
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End		66,548	59,424	63,686
How many months' worth of expenditure		4.4	4.4	3.6
Reserves Policy target		45,010	40,183	53,683
How many months' worth of expenditure		3	3	3
Free reserves over target /(under target)		21,538	19,241	10,003