

MEETING: 27/11/2014

Ref: 12387

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Strengthening London's Voluntary Sector

Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service

Adv: David Farnsworth

Amount requested: £179,336

Base: Tower Hamlets

Benefit: Tower Hamlets

Amount recommended: £180,000

The Charity

Tower Hamlets Council for Voluntary Service (the Charity) was established in 2010. Its particular focus is to build the capacity of community and voluntary sector organisations, and provide them with the necessary support, information and services to enable them to pursue or contribute to their charitable causes.

The Application

The application is for the salary and related costs of a Development Worker who will deliver support and training on finance, monitoring, and impact reporting.

The Recommendation

The organisation is well networked locally and has good first-hand experience of the needs of local organisations. It demonstrates a willingness to both respond to those needs, learn from the work it is doing, and to work collaboratively with others to deliver better outcomes: for example its partnership with the local volunteer bureau.

£180,000 over three years (£68,000; £56,000; £56,000) towards the salary of a f/t Development Worker to deliver support and training on finance, monitoring, and impact reporting.

Funding History

None

Background and detail of proposal

The Charity has considerable experience of working with many different not-for-profit organisations. Through this work, in particular its recent European Social Fund Technical Assistance programme, it has recognised that there are skills deficits in many of these organisations in relation to finance, monitoring, and impact reporting. This has been particularly apparent in relation to organisations in transition: for example, moving from volunteer led work to employee led work; or from small grants funding to larger funding.

Through funding for this post, the charity will be able to deliver:

- At least 30 surgeries on financial management and systems;
- Specialist monitoring, evaluation, and impact reporting training for 64 participants and in depth support for 8 organisations;
- 4 workshops per annum on the quality assurance standards of managing money, resources, monitoring and evaluation, and results;
- in partnership with the local volunteering bureau, 3 trustee training course training up to 30 residents and placing them as trustees within 15 organisations.

Financial Information

Total forecast income for the current year is £310,507, of which £237,503 (76%) had been confirmed by September 2014.

The charity's income and expenditure has reduced in this financial year as a consequence of the ending of restricted grants from the European Social Fund and the Big Lottery.

The cost of generating funds is low as the charity does not have any dedicated fundraising staff. All grant applications and tender documents are prepared by the team as a small part of their roles. For the current year, the cost of generating funds will be identified as part of the year end process.

Year end at 31 March	2013/14 Audited Accounts	2014/15 Current Year Budget
Income and Expenditure	£	£
Income	453,972	310,507
Expenditure	481,048	334,139
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(888)	(23,632)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(26,188)	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(27,076)	(23,632)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(6.0%)	(7.6%)
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	1,715 (0.4%)	-
Free unrestricted reserves		
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	111,951	88,319
How many months' worth of expenditure	2.8	3.0
Reserves Policy target	120,262	83,535
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(8,311)	4,784