

Committee:	Date:
City Bridge Trust Court of Common Council	27/11/2014 04/12/2014
Subject: Partnership with Buttle UK	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer	For Decision
Summary	
<p>This report requests funding to continue your current partnership with Buttle UK for a further 18 months to support a hardship fund, the Anchor Project, for families surviving domestic violence in London.</p>	
Recommendation	
<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend to the Court of Common Council that it approves a grant of £634,000 over 18 months to continue the Anchor Project, supporting families in London who have experienced domestic violence to resettle and live independently. 	

Main Report

Background

1. Following your 2012/13 Quinquennial Review, you approved a number of partnership programmes, one of which was with Buttle UK. In November 2013, you approved a grant of £470,000 over 18 months to enable Buttle UK to establish a hardship fund (known as the Anchor Project) for families to help them re-build their lives following domestic violence.
2. The original proposal was for a three-year programme of work. However, as this was a completely new way of working for the Trust, officers recommended that you commit funds for 18 months initially, to enable the referral network to become established and to gauge the likely demand for the project. This paper recommends that you now approve the second tranche of funding over 18 months, making three years support in total.
4. Buttle UK has designed the Anchor Project to provide an holistic package of support for families affected by domestic violence, combining practical and emotional support provided by its network of referral agencies and cash grants of up to £2,000 administered by Buttle UK. It launched on 6th May 2014 at an event at Mansion House attended by approximately 50

organisations with expertise in domestic violence. The first grants were awarded later that month.

5. Whilst Buttle UK has a strong track record in making grants to individual families, the average size of grant from its other funds is usually around £300. However, many families escaping domestic violence have to leave the home with few, if any, personal or household items. It is hoped that the more holistic approach combined with a larger grant will help the families concerned take the all-important step of leaving an abusive relationship and successfully rebuild their lives.

Progress to date

6. The project is breaking new ground in two respects. Firstly, it is the first time that the holistic approach, outlined above, has been piloted in London. An independent evaluation is therefore to be undertaken in order to extract and embed learning from the initiative, as well as assess the impact of the approach on the lives of the families concerned. At your last meeting you approved a grant of £21,000 to enable the evaluators to be appointed.
7. Secondly, it is taking a child-centred approach and all grants must be used to meet the unmet needs of the children – be this physical, emotional, educational or recreational needs. This approach is to be welcomed. Research that you commissioned from NSPCC and Refuge (published in 2011) found significant gaps in services for children and young people affected by domestic violence. It called for children and young people's voices to be heard and for them to be consulted over services that affect them.
8. This approach is proving challenging to some of the referral agencies, however. There is often a presumption that by meeting the mother's needs, the child's needs will also have been met.
9. This means that Buttle UK has needed to work hard with the referral agencies to ensure they are gathering the right information. Whilst time-consuming in the short-term, this is ensuring that referrers are then able to make best advantage of the grant and submit an application that best meets the needs of the child.
10. Information and links to the Anchor Project is on the home page of Buttle UK's website. Going forward, it is proposed to make a 3 minute video to help referrers make the best of their application.
11. Buttle UK is in the process of inviting 15 – 20 individuals to form an advisory group, the first meeting of which is due to take place later this month.

Grant making

12. Since the project launch, Buttle UK has received 72 applications in total from 18 different referral agencies. To date, 34 grants have been awarded, totalling £53,213, making the average size of grant awarded £1,565. 21

applications are in the process of being approved which will bring the total to approximately £80,000.

13. Sixteen applications have been turned down. Of these, 10 were requests for one or two household items only and were deemed more appropriate to be supported from Buttle UK's Small Grants programme (funded from other sources) whilst six fell outside the eligibility criteria i.e. from non- London residents or from households without children. At the time of submitting its report, one application was awaiting assessment.
14. Applications have been received from 23 of the 33 boroughs and Buttle UK is beginning to develop an outreach strategy to target unrepresented areas. However, in the first months following the launch event, Buttle UK was cautious not to over-publicise the project in order to avoid creating more demand than could be met. Highest priority has been given to applications on behalf of children who have not only experienced domestic violence but who are also still deeply affected by their experience.
15. Examples of grants awarded include:
 - Household items – cookers, children's beds, washing machines, children's clothes.
 - Social needs - swimming lessons, football, drama clubs, cheerleading, karate lessons, kickboxing, Tiny Tots.
 - Educational needs - tutoring lessons, homework clubs, uniforms, educational toys, after school clubs.
 - Emotional needs - play therapy, counselling, funded places in programmes which help children come to terms with the abuse they experienced.

Emerging Impact

16. Whilst it is early days, Buttle UK has begun to see indicators that referral agencies are changing their attitude as they take a more child-centred approach. In order to try and reinforce this, Buttle UK has begun discussions with Women's Aid National Training Centre to investigate the possibility of raising awareness more widely through a training programme.
17. The benefits of the approach are illustrated in the following example.

The referrer had many applications to Buttle UK and three in particular to the Anchor Project. She told Buttle UK that the Anchor Project had been a really positive experience for her clients. She feels the grants are child-focused and have a real long-term impact, helping them to grow and develop in ways that will stay with them throughout their lives. She told Buttle UK that whilst it could be a time-consuming process in the short-term, it was worth it because it was so beneficial to her clients which makes her job easier in the long run.

Evaluation

18. An independent evaluator has just been appointed to evaluate this initiative over its three-year duration. The evaluation will measure the outcomes for the

participating children, consider the relationship between the child's outcomes and the support they have received via the project. It will take a particular focus on the role of the financial/material support combined with the multi-agency support.

19. It is proposed that once the evaluation has been completed at the end of the three years, Buttle UK and City Bridge Trust hold a joint conference to share the evaluation findings, with the expectation that a new model of support for children and their families affected by domestic abuse can be presented.

The future

20. Having got off to a steady start, Buttle UK will aim to increase the rate of grant-making over the coming months to achieve the following:
 - Grants to at least 350 families (and therefore estimated reach of over 600 children)
 - Completion of the external evaluation to understand and illustrate the impact of Anchor grants on children's social, emotional and behavioural wellbeing.
 - Work on a programme of dissemination activities to share what has been learned to change long term practice around how the needs of children in these circumstances are both assessed and how they are met. This would be in conjunction with the Trust.
21. The current grant is due to end in October 2015 by which time Buttle UK anticipates it will have awarded £400,000 in grants. The grant-making rate during the first six months has, of course, been slower than would be required to achieve this target. However, this is due to the start-up phase and gaining an understanding of the barriers to a referral agency making a successful application. With the benefit of what has been learnt so far, together with targeted outreach, Buttle UK is confident of achieving this target.

Cost

22. The budget overleaf sets out the total cost of this project over three years. You received a similar table when you approved the first tranche of funding in November 2013 but the figures have now been revised to reflect adjustments in the programme delivery. The total funding requirement is now £1,086,375 rather than the sum of £1,104,125 that was estimated at your November 2013 meeting. It is recommended that you approve 50% of the funding requirement for Year 2 (£209,969) plus the total amount requirement for Year 3 (£423,688) making a total of £634,000.
23. As the recommended sum is over £500,000, it will need to be approved by the Court of Common Council.

<u>Costs</u>	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Total
	No	£	No	£	No	£	£
Salary Costs		22,438		49,600		49,000	121,038
Project Costs, including evaluation		41,796		8,480		15,890	66,166
Grants @ £1,600	130	208,000	240	384,000	240	384,000	976,000
Grants @ £250	300	75,000	300	75,000	300	75,000	225,000
Grand Total		347,233		517,080		523,890	1,388,203
<u>Buttle Contribution</u>							-
Salary Costs		3,688		13,663		13,063	30,414
Project Costs		4,796		8,480		12,140	25,416
Grants (estimated)	300	75,000		75,000		75,000	225,000
Total Buttle Contribution		83,483		97,143		100,203	280,829
CBT funded evaluation		21,000					21,000
Additional Funding requirement		242,750		419,937		423,688	1,086,375

Financial Information

24. The table overleaf records an unrestricted fund deficit of £2,368,000 in 2013/14 and a further projected deficit of £2,691,000 in the current year. The charity advises that these deficits are due to unprecedented calls to support children and families in need. Given this situation, trustees have agreed to utilise part of the charity's endowment funds (which amounted to £47,641,000 at 31 March 2014) in order to enable it to respond to the increased demand. The Charity Commission granted the charity a total return order in 2006, which permits it to spend the unapplied total return of its endowment, provided this is balanced against its current and future commitments to beneficiaries. The trustees review this policy annually and recognise that it cannot maintain such a policy indefinitely. The total transfer from endowment funds to meet operational needs amounted to £2,250,000 in 2013/14 and a transfer of the same sum is forecast in the current year to 31 March 2015.

Year end at 31 March	Notes	2013/14 Audited Accounts	2014/15 Current Year Forecast
Income and Expenditure		£	£
Income		4,299,000	4,399,000
Expenditure		5,511,000	5,942,000
Unrestricted Funds Deficit		(2,368,000)	(2,691,000)
Restricted Funds Surplus		149,000	58,000
Endowment Funds Surplus		1,007,000	1,090,000
		(1,212,000)	(1,543,000)
Gain on investments		1,868,000	-
Actuarial gain on pension scheme		47,000	-
Total Surplus / (Deficit)		703,000	(1,543,000)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover		16.4%	35%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)		£606,000 (14.1%)	£539,000 (12.3%)
Funds			
Unrestricted		120,000	(321,000)
Restricted		1,110,000	1,168,000
Endowment		47,641,000	46,481,000
Total Funds		48,871,000	47,328,000

Conclusion

25. The Anchor Project is complementing your 'Making London Safer' programme by providing the total package of support needed for a family escaping domestic violence re-settle and live independently.
26. The project has got off to a steady start and plans are underway to now accelerate the rate of grant-making.
27. The Deputy Chief Grants Officer will attend the Advisory Group. It is proposed that a progress report on the Anchor Project is brought to this Committee in 6 months' time.

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