

MEETING: 28/01/2015

Ref: 12457

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive**

**Caxton Youth Organisation**

**Adv: Ciaran Rafferty**

**Amount requested: £103,918**

**Base: Westminster**

**Benefit: Westminster**

**Amount recommended: £90,000**

**The Charity**

Caxton Youth Organisation (CYO), established in 1948, began as a provider of generic youth club services though now its focus is on working with disabled young people in Westminster. It is highly regarded by the local authority. The organisation also owns a tranche of land in Ripley, Surrey, which it uses for residential, outdoor, activities with small groups. Its small team of staff is augmented by volunteers whilst it often encourages older club members to mentor and support the younger ones.

**The Application**

CYO is applying for the costs, including salary, of a project helping disabled young people develop their independent living skills. Many of the young people the charity works with have multiple disabilities, both mental and physical. Some of the common day-to-day tasks that many of us take for granted (such as planning and executing a journey around London; or making hot drinks) are not easy for them to master and so this project will work both on a one-to-one and on a group basis to improve each individual's capacity to do more things for themselves.

**The Recommendation**

CYO is regarded by young people, families and funders as an organisation which knows its client group very well and which provides services which meet their needs. Disabled young people want to do the same things as their non-disabled peers and CYO aims to support them in this. Indeed, and to its credit, the clubhouse in Victoria looks like any other generic youth club. This project takes that philosophy a step further, so that young people can learn to do more "everyday" things for themselves and be comfortable and confident in so doing. A smaller grant than that requested is advised as the organisation holds free reserves significantly higher than its policy level and could be expected to make some contribution to the cost of this project:

***£90,000 over three years (3 x £30,000) for the salary of a f/t Youth Worker (Independence Programme) plus a contribution to its operational costs.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
05/11/2009	£79,050 over three years (3 x £26,350) for a Youth Worker to promote young disabled people's participation in arts and sports.
10/09/2009	The applicant took your officer's advice to withdraw having understood that the request did not meet your current criteria.

**Background and detail of proposal**

CYO has many years' experience of working with disabled young people. It understands what they need in order to develop into independent adults, and how to navigate the, sometimes tricky, relationship between a parent who wants to "protect" their child and the child who wants to become an adult, to make their own decisions

and plot their own course. This project focuses on the core skills needed by young disabled people to support their progress to independence. Examples include: understanding money values; being able to manage a bank account; having strategies for staying safe at home/online/in the street; being able to cook healthy meals; being able to plan a journey to arrive on time.

The programme will incorporate a tailored plan for each individual, followed by a combination of tutoring, mentoring and group work. The charity will make use of its outdoor centre in Surrey where it can accommodate groups of up to 8 young people at a time. The attraction of going offsite is that the young people can get out of the city and away from their parents and can be pushed a little bit harder. The programme will also use the expertise of a cohort of young adults who have been previous users of CYO and who can now mentor the younger ones.

### Financial Information

The table below shows that income and expenditure both reduced by approximately 30% in 2013/14, which was largely due to the ending of previous specific grant funding. However, the forecast for the current year 2014/15 shows income increasing by £22,863 to £123,142, of which £111,816 (91%) had been confirmed as of 5<sup>th</sup> November 2014.

Your grants officer has recommended a grant £14k less than that requested, with the expectation that the charity should use part of its excess free unrestricted reserves to fund this project. However, free reserves would remain ahead of the charity's policy target and the charity has advised that this is preferable as it is going through a period of transition with the Borough moving from grants to contracts, so it will have to bid competitively for its annual funding in future. Rather than reducing services suddenly if their core funding ended, they would use their excess reserves to buy time to either seek other funding or to find alternative provision for its recipients.

The charity has not previously identified its cost of generating funds in its accounts, but for the current year estimates that this will include registration fees for a fundraising platform and 10% of one employee's salary costs. It has advised that it will review the disclosure of these costs in future with its accountant, as part of its year end process.

Year end at 31 March	2012/13 Independently Examined Accounts	2013/14 Draft Outturn	2014/15 Current Year Forecast
	£	£	£
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>			
Income	155,328	100,279	123,142
Expenditure	156,868	114,429	111,993
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(2,163)	15,490	13,679
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	623	(29,640)	(2,530)
<b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(1,540)</b>	<b>(14,150)</b>	<b>11,149</b>
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(0.1%)	(14%)	10%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	-	-	3,216 (2.6%)
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	81,897	97,406	108,555
How many months' worth of expenditure	6.3	10.2	11.6
<b>Reserves Policy target</b>	<b>78,434</b>	<b>57,214</b>	<b>55,997</b>
How many months' worth of expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	3,463	40,192	52,558