

MEETING: 28/01/2015

Ref: 12319

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive

Deafax

Amount requested: £25,793
{Revised request: £46,357}
Amount recommended: £46,500

Adv: Joan Millbank
Base: Outside London
Benefit: London-wide

The Charity

Deafax develops solutions and opportunities for deaf people in order to empower and enhance their lives. It delivers specialist visual and inter-active deaf-friendly training and resources, which can also be used by those who require a highly visual means of learning. Established in 1985, Deafax operates as a small, specialist charity working with and through a wide network of deaf clubs, schools and colleges.

The Application

Deafax seeks funding towards the costs of its Life Control project, which aims to support young deaf people in London through their transition into adulthood and independent living. Life Control offers a rolling programme of information and discussion workshops examining issues and topics delivered in a manner to address the particular needs of deaf young people and deaf young adults.

The Recommendation

Deafax has a proven reputation for using face-to-face, technology-based and online opportunities for deaf and hard of hearing people of all ages to access training, information and resources. This application builds on the charity's earlier work in sex education, national research and consultation with deaf young people and their parents. Following discussion with your officer the charity has revised its request to provide for a two year delivery period (the initial request was for 18 months) and to reflect all costs including the value of in-kind support from free venues and volunteer time.

£46,500 over two years (£23,500; £23,000) towards the cost of Life Control project for deaf young people living in London.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
02/12/2010	£80,000 over two years (2 x £40,000) towards a programme of training in sexual health for Deaf young people in London.
02/03/2006	£120,000 over three years (3 x £40,000) towards an Information and Communications Technology project for young Deaf people from Black and Minority Ethnic communities in London.

Background and detail of proposal

One in six of the British population has some form of deafness. Deafness can lead to delay in developing independent living skills for deaf young people and poor access to information can make the choices they make more risky. The Life Control project has been informed by findings from Deafax's national research including collaboration with the British Pregnancy Advisory Service in 2013-14, which identified large gaps in provision for deaf young people when accessing sexual health and pregnancy related information and services.

Over two years, the project will provide a series of workshops (6 sessions per programme x 6 cohorts) to deaf young people aged 16 to 24. Topics will include identity and aspirations, healthy living, sexual health, money management, internet safety, and street safety. The project will work through Deafax's established links with the eighteen secondary schools and colleges in London that provide hearing support units to their students and London-based deaf clubs. At least 225 young deaf Londoners are expected to participate. Benefits include increased awareness and confidence. Support will continue through social media.

Working in partnership with Intermedia Solutions, the charity has developed the app known as Signly, which uses smart technology to enable deaf and hard of hearing people to access information through British Sign Language. A prototype has been trailed in the Roald Dahl Museum, which has been very successful.

Financial Information

Income in 2013/14 fell by 45% compared to 2012/13 which the charity advises was due to a loss of grant funding. Free unrestricted reserves were reduced by the trustees to allow investment in new services and research, including the development of the Signly app, which is currently being marketed.

The trustees' funding strategy is to move away from a dependency on grants by focusing on marketing and fundraising, the delivery of major donor and legacy programmes and an expansion of trading initiatives. Total forecast income in 2014/15 is £154,357 of which £138,741 (89.9%) had been secured by December 2014.

Year end at 31 March	2013/14 Independently Examined Accounts	2014/15 Current Year Budget
	£	£
Income and Expenditure		
Income	83,908	154,357
Expenditure	129,801	109,859
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(65,217)	(13,599)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	19,324	58,097
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(45,893)	41,163
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(54.7%)	26.7%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	20,266 (24.2%)	25,000 (16.2%)
Free unrestricted reserves		
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	45,364	31,765
How many months' worth of expenditure	4.2	5.3
Reserves Policy target	32,450 – 75,717	27,465 – 64,085
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.0 - 7.0	3.0 – 7.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	23,674 – (18,311)	4,300 – (32,320)