

Committee:	Date:
The City Bridge Trust Committee	12 March 2015
Subject: Youth Inclusion Event	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer	For Decision
Summary	
<p>This report informs Members of an event planned for May 2015 on the subject of supporting greater inclusion of disabled young people in voluntary-managed youth services in London and requests a sum to be allocated for staging the event.</p>	
Recommendation	
<p>That a sum of up to £24,000 be allocated to support a Youth Inclusion event at Mansion House in May 2015. The event will form part of the Trust's 20th Anniversary celebrations.</p>	

Main Report

1. The Trust has long taken an active role in the two principal professional networking agencies for funders – London Funders; and the Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF). These and other networks have been crucial to our engagement in issues and to providing opportunities to learn and to inform.
2. One of your officers has chaired the London Funders' Children & Young People interest group since late 2013. Meeting quarterly, this group comprises representatives from independent trusts and foundations; all the London local authorities; London Councils; and the GLA. It is charged with seeking and circulating the latest information affecting the capital's young people and, in this respect, regularly invites key agencies to present. The aim is that funders and commissioners become better informed of good practice, gaps in provision, and future needs.
3. Currently, three major factors are having a significant impact on the range and quality of youth services available to young people in London. The first of these is the considerable reduction in funding for youth work from local and central government which has left many organisations operating with reduced staffing and/or having to call on their reserves.
4. The second involves the shift of statutory funders from supporting such services through grants, to commissioning. In itself this is not necessarily a problem - the difficulties arise because there is no universal model of commissioning (some commission outcomes; others activities for example) nor is there a national/universal framework for how these services should look and operate. This makes it especially difficult for organisations which are

small and/or specialist; and for those which operate across borough boundaries.

5. The third factor is the implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014 (which became law in September 2014) and is a good thing. At its heart it stipulates that services must meet the needs of disabled children and young people in relation to their education, welfare and health (rather than young people having to “fit in” to what was already set up); and that service providers consult and co-produce with young people. As a model of approach it is to be commended and the philosophy behind it could and should be implemented across all services for young people.

Proposal

6. In discussing these and other issues within the London Funders network it became apparent that there was a need, and appetite, to help voluntary-managed youth services learn from each other how to become more inclusive and to better provide for disabled young people.
7. Three other organisations in addition to City Bridge Trust have driven this debate: *BBC Children in Need* (which annually commits c£7m to London & the South East); the *John Lyon’s Charity* (which funds services for young people in 8 London Boroughs and the City); and *London Youth*, the umbrella body for this sector with a membership of over 400 organisations.
8. We four organisations have formed a working Alliance to help the sharing of good practice on inclusion. As part of this we are planning a seminar whereby organisations which are already exemplars in this subject can showcase their methodologies to those who would like to do more. Whilst “inclusion” could potentially cover a range of issues (eg girls and young women; ethnic minorities) the seminar will focus on disability and on highlighting practical steps which providers can take to make their services more accessible to disabled young people. The event, for 250 delegates, will also provide a much-needed, but rare, opportunity for youth workers from projects across London to network and to establish peer relationships.
9. A tentative approach to the Mansion House as a possible venue for this was greeted with much enthusiasm and they have kindly offered to host the event – which will be on Wednesday 6th May (1 - 6pm). The Lord Mayor has expressed his willingness to say a few words of welcome to delegates, whilst it is hoped to gain some coverage of the issue through the BBC.
10. Whilst the venue is to be provided at no cost; and the delegate-management functions to be provided at no cost by others in the Alliance, a budget is necessary to cover a number of costs connected with the seminar. These include: catering; event-management (incl chairing, recording, etc); and PA/audio visual hire.
11. It is also hoped to have some short films made with and by young people which can be shown at the event to illustrate good practice and to give them

their own voice on the subject. Given the short timeframe for these to be made (though the Easter Holidays will offer a good opportunity to engage) your officers would like to commission the Media Trust for this element.

12. Whilst the seminar will be extremely valuable in itself, the learning and sharing of good practice will continue beyond the event, with networks and peer relationships encouraged and supported. A report of the key issues and guidance for practitioners will be produced and disseminated and also shared with other funders and commissioners through London Funders and ACF.

Costs

13. Officers have estimated that a budget of up to a maximum of £23,000 is needed to deliver the seminar and follow-up work as outlined:

	<u>£</u>	
Catering (for 250):	12,000	
Media Trust:	7,000	
Audio/visual:	2,000	
Event management	<u>3,000</u>	(including post-event reports, etc)
	24,000	

14. In the final reckoning some of these costs may come in less than estimated but it is prudent to identify a maximum limit at this stage.

Conclusion

15. This event will form part of the 20th Anniversary Year and will be branded as such. It builds upon the Trust's position as a key supporter of inclusion since its inception in 1995.
16. The Alliance between the Trust, BBC Children in Need, the John Lyon's Charity, and London Youth powerfully reflects the value and spirit of partnership and collaboration and sends an important message on this to the sector and beyond.
17. Being able to hold the event at Mansion House, as guests of the Lord Mayor, is also significant. Most of the delegates (who will include young people) would never otherwise have an opportunity to experience this amazing institution. The unique venue (including the provision of high quality catering) is intended to show the Alliance's high regard for those working in the youth sector and our commitment to supporting greater inclusion for disabled young people.

Recommendation

That a sum of up to £24,000 be allocated to support a Youth Inclusion event at Mansion House in May 2015. The event will form part of the Trust's 20th Anniversary celebrations.