

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - English for Speakers of Other Languages**Blackfriars Settlement****Adv: Sandra Davidson****Base: Southwark****Benefit: Southwark****Amount requested: £56,250****(Revised request: £39,035)****Amount recommended: £39,000****The Charity**

Blackfriars Settlement (BFS) was originally founded as the Women's University Settlement in 1887. Women from Girton and Newham Colleges at Oxford, and Bedford and Royal Holloway Universities were offered free accommodation in Blackfriars in return for their work with the local community. Across the ensuing decades, the activities have changed and developed to meet the needs of the local community, but the ethos remains the same – to support the efforts and achievements of local people and create opportunities for them to reach their educational, social and economic potential. BFS moved in December 2013 to its long-awaited, purpose built, community hub where it continues to deliver a range of services to adult learners, people with mental health challenges, older people and children and young people.

The Application

This request seeks funding to deliver a programme of English for Speakers of other Languages (ESOL) classes to Entry-Level and Level 1 standard over two years to Latin American Women. Classes will be held at the organisation's base which is an accredited training centre.

The Recommendation

BFS's propose to improve the English language skills of Latin American women, enabling increased access to mainstream services and participation in the wider community. In 2011 research suggested there were an estimated 113,500 Latin Americans living in London ! crucially, one third could not speak English. The research is currently being updated, some of which is taking place at BFS where a number of Latin American women access a range of services. Initial findings indicate that the population of Latin Americans in London continue to grow and that poor English language skills act as a barrier to participation in wider society. The original project budget highlighted costs that your Committee could not support, hence the submission of revised costings (shown at Appendix A to the application form).

£39,000 over two years (2 x £19,500) for the staff and project management costs of delivering 216 hours per year of ESOL classes to Entry Level and Entry Level-1 standard.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
21/01/2010	£75,000 over three years (3 x £25,000) towards a community outreach project for people with mental health problems.

Background and detail of proposal

The project will build on BFS's many years' experience of providing learning and development opportunities and for people of all ages and abilities. Tutors will have a recognised qualification. 18 participants aged 30 + will be supported; the timing of the session is specifically designed to meet the childcare patterns of the target group. The project will deliver 2 classes of 3 hour duration each week, over 36 weeks per annum. Outcomes include improved English language skills and increased participation in community activities.

Financial Information

The charity forecasts income of £1,189,876 in the current year to 31 March 2016 and advises that £1,009,210 (85%) had been confirmed by October 2015.

The charity's reserves policy is to hold free unrestricted reserves of £75,000 based on three months' basic operating costs. This holding equates to 0.7 months' worth of total expenditure which is comparatively low. This was discussed with the charity which advised that its Trustees have requested a review of its free reserves position and that this will be considered at their finance sub-group meeting in February.

The charity's cost of generating funds is low and the charity has advised that this is due to staff putting in a lot of voluntary time to run fund raising events and because companies also help with fund raising for the charity.

Year end at 31 March	2014/15 Audited Accounts	2015/16 Current Year Budget
Income and Expenditure	£	£
Income	1,268,726	1,189,876
Expenditure	1,287,370	1,185,968
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(64,236)	3,908
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	45,592	0
Other recognised gains and losses	(1,231)	-
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(19,875)	3,908
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	1.6%	0.3%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	45,174 (3.6%)	21,016 (1.8%)
Free unrestricted reserves		
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	165,570	169,478
How many months' worth of expenditure	1.6	1.7
Reserves Policy target	75,000	75,000
How many months' worth of expenditure	0.7	0.8
Free reserves over/(under) target	(90,570)	(94,478)

! 'No Longer Invisible' by the Queen Mary University for the Latin American Women's Rights Service (LAWRS) and Trust for London.