

MEETING: 28/01/2016

Ref: 12862

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive

Yarrow Housing Ltd

Adv: Jenny Field
Base: Hammersmith & Fulham
Benefit: Hammersmith & Fulham, Ealing

Amount requested: £103,750

Amount recommended: £103,750

The Charity

Yarrow Housing Limited (YHL) was established as an industrial and provident society in 1988. YHL works with people with learning disabilities and those with an acquired brain injury, across 5 London boroughs. It provides housing, care and support, with the aim of increasing the independence of service users and giving them more choice and control over their lives.

The Application

YHL wishes to establish a project to increase opportunities for people with learning disabilities to participate in a wide range of activities, with a particular focus on arts and sport. It is proposed to employ a Volunteer Co-ordinator to recruit volunteers as one-to-one 'buddies' who can accompany the person with learning difficulties to their chosen activity. You are asked to support the salary of the proposed postholder, together with the associated project running costs, over three years.

The Recommendation

YHL has a strong track record of working with people with complex needs, taking a person-centred approach, in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for that person. Whilst YHL runs several small care homes, it also works increasingly in the wider community and the proposed project will be open to any adult with a learning disability.

£103,750 over three years (£33,250, £34,350, £36,150) towards the salary of a full-time Volunteer Co-ordinator, together with the associated project running costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
08/10/2009	Application declined as it sought funding to improve the access to an activities centre (which it already leases) principally for its own residents.

Background and detail of proposal

People with learning disabilities are often isolated, living solitary lives, with little access to the wealth of sporting and cultural activities that London offers. The proposed project, *Opening Doors*, aims to address this issue. It is envisaged that at least 20 people with learning disabilities will benefit from the project annually. The aim is to recruit at least 10 volunteers each year, two of whom will themselves have a learning disability. The Volunteer Co-ordinator will develop a person-centred plan for each person joining the project and a volunteer with similar interest will be matched with the person concerned. The volunteer will then work to increase the

skills, confidence, self-esteem and independence of the individuals concerned, as they participate in their chosen activity.

Financial Information

Forecast income for the current year ending 31 March 2016 is £8,284,962 of which £8,263,682 (99.8%) had been confirmed by December 2015.

YHL's reserves policy is to hold three months' worth of expenditure in reserve equating to £2.1m. As at 31st March 2015, free reserves amounted to £1,225,881 and were therefore below this target. Free reserves are forecast to remain at a similar level, and below target, at the end of the current year. YHL advises that it plans to build a 3% contribution to reserves into its tender bids in order to increase its level of free reserves.

As shown in the table below, the organisation's cost of generating funds is very low and the organisation explains that this is due to a very high proportion of its income being derived from statutory sources (99% in 2014/15), in the form of rents, contracts and spot purchasing. It has calculated its cost of generating funds as the amount of time spent on making grant applications

Year end at 31 March	2014/15 Audited Accounts	2015/16 Current Year Budget
Income and Expenditure	£	£
Income	8,529,331	8,284,962
Expenditure	8,528,707	8,302,392
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	10,473	4,913
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(9,849)	(22,343)
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	624	(17,430)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	0%	0.2%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	7,474 (0.08%)	8,000 (0.1%)
Free unrestricted reserves		
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	1,225,881	1,230,794
How many months' worth of expenditure	1.7	1.8
Reserves Policy target	2,132,177	2,064,693
How many months' worth of expenditure	3	3
Free reserves over/(under) target	(906,296)	(833,900)