

MEETING: 18/03/2016

Ref: 13076

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London Safer

Albert Kennedy Trust

Adv: Olivia Dix

Amount requested: £90,000

Base: Hackney

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £90,000

The Charity

The organisation was founded in 1989 in Manchester and is named after Albert Kennedy, a 16 year-old who died after falling from a car park roof following homophobic abuse. The Trust (AKT) provides support, advice and guidance to young people aged 16-25 who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender and who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. AKT helps prevent these young people becoming homeless and, if homeless, offers them a range of support services through the 'Purple Pathway' including access to: housing; healthcare; finance support; education; training and work. The charity has offices in Newcastle, Manchester and London and the overall operations are run from London, where the CEO is based.

The Application

The request is for funding towards the salary costs (including NI and Pension) of the London Senior Practitioner. This is a key existing post, whose role is to assess the needs of young LGBT people who are homeless or vulnerably housed and oversee their placement into safe housing and eventually to independent living. The staff member also oversees mentor relationships and trains local authority staff in best practice in meeting the needs of LGBT young people.

The Recommendation

Homelessness in young people is a significant problem nationally, and is worse in London because of housing costs. Young LGBT homeless people have often suffered abuse, violence or rejection because of their gender identity or sexual orientation and are more at risk on the streets. AKT is one of only two providers of accommodation support to homeless LGBT youths in the country. The application fits the Making London Safer criteria by providing appropriate services that understand and meet the needs of LGBT survivors of domestic violence accessing appropriate services, and making them, as victims of hate crime, more aware of their rights and empowered. The organisation is well-run, with a clear sense of purpose and a focus on performance, with quarterly targets monitored through KPIs. If you agree the grant requested, the balance needed to fully fund the post has been secured already.

£90,000 over three years (3x £30,000) towards the salary costs of the f/t post of London Senior Practitioner.

Funding History

None.

Background and detail of proposal

In 2014 AKT commissioned a national review into the experience of homelessness for young LGBT people aged 16-25 in the UK. This found that they are grossly over-represented within youth homeless populations (24%) and are at higher risk of becoming homeless due to parental rejection; familial physical, sexual and emotional abuse; and/or familial violence. Once homeless, LGBT youth are more likely to experience targeted violence, discrimination and hate crime. When they seek help, limited understanding by housing service providers puts them at greater risk of discrimination and harassment. AKT provides advice, support and housing referrals. Young people are supported in the short-term through a crisis, or up to 18-24 months. In 2013/14 AKT provided a total of 7,879 nights off the streets compared to 3,013 the previous year. It anticipates helping 450 young LGBT people in London in 2015. Between April and June 2015, it was contacted by 148 young people and provided 559 nights of accommodation. The proposal aims for 75% of the young people assessed to: be placed in safe homes where they no longer face harm or risk; achieve sustainable futures through securing employment, education or training; and that 90% show a positive improvement in their outcome scores in emotional/sexual wellbeing, physical health, social networks, drug and alcohol misuse, managing money, self-care and living skills, keeping safe and personal relationships.

Financial Information

All forecast income in the current year 2015/16 of £1,012,352 has been secured. Total budgeted income in the following year 2016/17 is £1,152,538, of which £841,000 (73%) had been confirmed by February 2016. This pending application to CBT is not included in the table below.

| Year end at 31 March | 2014/15 Audited Accounts £ | 2015/16 Forecast Outturn £ | 2016/17 Following Year Budget £ |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Income and Expenditure | | | |
| Income | 1,013,225 | 1,012,352 | 1,152,538 |
| Expenditure | 1,022,833 | 952,403 | 1,104,847 |
| Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit) | 54,136 | 58,479 | 46,491 |
| Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit) | (63,744) | 1,470 | 1,200 |
| Total Surplus / (Deficit) | (9,608) | 59,949 | 47,691 |
| Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover | (0.9%) | 6.0% | 4.0% |
| Cost of Generating funds (% of income) | 162,527 (16.0%) | 172,100 (17%) | 172,881 (15%) |
| Free unrestricted reserves | | | |
| Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End | 279,411 | 337,890 | 384,381 |
| How many months' worth of expenditure | 3.3 | 4.3 | 4.2 |
| Reserves Policy target | 340,944 | 317,468 | 368,282 |
| How many months' worth of expenditure | 4.0 | 4.0 | 4.0 |
| Free reserves over/(under) target | (61,533) | 20,422 | 16,099 |