

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London Safer

Kiran Project

**Adv: Tania Bronstein
Base: Waltham Forest
Benefit: Waltham Forest**

Amount requested: £104,289

Amount recommended: £102,500

The Charity

Kiran Project (KP) supports Asian women experiencing gender-based violence (GBV). Its services include a refuge providing temporary accommodation and support for women and children who have fled abusive relationships, and also an outreach project. The latter assists women in the community at risk of, or experiencing, GBV, and helps former refuge residents as they resettle in the community. KP directly helps an average of 250 women and 400 children every year.

The Application

KP seeks three-year funding to employ a full-time Outreach and Advocacy Worker. The worker would run a drop-in service to offer practical and emotional support to women experiencing GBV, and to link them with services to assure their safety and wellbeing. In addition, the worker would: support former refuge residents to settle into new homes and communities; organise delivery of life and vocational skills courses; run peer support groups; and facilitate workshops to acquaint women with services.

The Recommendation

KP is a well-managed charity whose high quality individualised and culturally sensitive services enable Asian women and children to flee harmful and life threatening situations and rebuild their lives.

£102,500 (£34,000; £34,200; £34,300) towards a full-time salary and on-costs to support BME women who have survived, or are at risk of, domestic abuse

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
07/05/2009	£96,400 over 3 years (£32,200; £31,600; £32,600) towards the salary and related costs of children's support services.

Background and detail of proposal

KP offers services that are typical of those provided by Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) charities supporting women at risk of, or who have survived, GBV. Managed and staffed by women from the communities served, they are uniquely equipped to understand their users' needs, to offer culturally sensitive services, and to provide strong role models critical to the transition from victimhood to violence-free, autonomous lives. However, because these charities tend to be small and specialist, they are at a disadvantage in competitive tendering driven chiefly by cost-saving concerns. Recently, several BME women's services have closed or have drastically reduced services, and some are under threat. According to London Councils, 733 BME women sought refuge services in London in 2015. Only 154 of them were successful.

The situation facing KP reflects this trend. Last year, Waltham Forest put refuge services out to tender and awarded a single contract to a large provider able to show economies of scale. As a consequence, from 2016/17 KP will no longer receive the annual grant it has been receiving in the past, worth £82,274 in 2015/16. Since then, KP has taken a number of measures described under "financial observations" below, and is receiving support from a consultant funded by Lloyds Bank Foundation expressly to help trustees plan how best to manage the challenges ahead.

If the requested grant were approved, the balance to be raised in 2016/17 would reduce to just under £30K. A grant would not replace statutory funds because this is sought for outreach, not for refuge services.

Financial Observations

All forecast income of £229,388 in the current year 2015/16 has been confirmed. Budgeted income in 2016/17 totals £233,779, of which £170,364 (72.9%) was secured as at 18th February 2016. The budget includes this pending application to CBT.

The charity advised that its operations have significantly decreased (i.e. income in 2013 was £433k), and that the deficit in 2014/15 was due to a number of funding streams simultaneously coming to an end. As the charity will no longer receive an annual subsidy from LB Waltham Forest from 2015/16, it has been seeking grants to make up the funding gap and has restructured its staff. However, during the years in which a local authority subsidy was received, the charity was able to build free unrestricted reserves, which are forecast to exceed the upper end of the policy level at the year ending 2016/17. The charity advised it may need to draw upon these reserves to sustain its services during the further challenges ahead.

The cost of generating funds was not disclosed in the audited accounts for 2014/15. The charity has provided an estimate, which includes a fundraiser's fees and also 40% of the salary costs of the Director. The charity has confirmed that it will disclose the cost of generating funds in its accounts in the future.

Year end at 31 March	2014/15 Audited Accounts	2015/16 Current Year Forecast	2016/17 Next Year Budget
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	242,620	229,388	233,779
Expenditure	287,290	225,240	235,077
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(32,844)	15,404	(1,298)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(11,826)	(11,256)	-
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(44,670)	4,148	(1,298)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	18.4%	1.8%	0.5%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	-	-	20,515 (8.8%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	129,788	145,192	143,894
How many months' worth of expenditure	5.4	7.7	7.3
Reserves Policy target	71,822-143,645	56,310-112,620	58,769-117,538
How many months' worth of expenditure	3-6	3-6	3-6
Free reserves over/(under) target	57,966-13,857	88,882-32,572	85,125-26,356