

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive****Limes Community and Children's Centre****Adv: Jack Joslin****Base: Waltham Forest****Amount requested: £119,763****Benefit: Waltham Forest****Amount recommended: £119,850****The Charity**

Limes Community and Children's Centre (The Limes) was set up in 2003 and incorporates a range of inclusive play and recreational services accessible to disabled and non-disabled children and young people in Waltham Forest. The building offers a wide variety of play experiences including a sensory room, soft-play, and an external adventure play area. The Limes delivers a full programme of services which includes: a toddler group; a parents group; holiday play schemes; trips and outings; a youth club; and a stepping into work programme. Due to cuts in local authority budgets the Limes is the only fully inclusive local service that young people with disabilities can access in the area.

**The Application**

'Friends Enterprise' is a new exploratory programme working with disabled young people to develop entrepreneurial skills and prepare them to make choices about their lives as they make the transition to adulthood. The programme will work with over 237 disabled children and young people over 3 years, aged 16-25, to develop their own business ideas and improve their independence. You are asked to support the part-time salary of the Project Manager, Sessional staff costs and associated running costs, over three years.

**The Recommendation**

The Limes has a reputation for delivering high quality inclusion programmes for young people with disabilities. Its premises are bespoke and well equipped to deliver this work and there is demonstrable need in the area for this service. Funding cuts in Waltham Forest have meant that the Limes is the only fully inclusive provision operating in the borough which has increased the need for their services. This programme will support some of the older young people they work with helping them with the transition into adult services by developing their skills and independence.

***£119,850 over three years (£39,150, £39,950, £40,750) for the salary of a part-time (21hpw) Project Manager, Sessional staff costs and associated project costs.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
10/01/2013	£24,900 for a third and final year towards the costs of delivering the Stepping into Work project.
02/12/2010	£51,000 over two years (£26,000; £25,000) towards the salary and running costs of the pre-employment skills project for young people with learning disabilities.

## Background and detail of proposal

This programme has been developed off the back of your previous funding that helped young people with learning disabilities to step into work. During the evaluation of this programme it became clear that there was a real need to develop a programme that dealt with skills for independence, especially for young people with more severe disabilities who could not access the 'stepping into work' programme.

Each young person engaged through this programme will have the opportunity to design, cook, grow or make their own products and will be supported to do so. They will then take on placements at the Limes to develop their products on a weekly basis. The young people will then have the opportunity to organise and sell their products at a Sunday Market that will take place at the Limes throughout the year. They will learn how to think creatively, manage money, cook and develop their entrepreneurial capabilities.

## Financial Information

Income for the financial year to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 is £314,303 which has all been confirmed. Budgeted income for the current year ended March 2017 is £503,000 of which £277,041(55%) of this has been confirmed. They anticipate an increase in turnover as they generate more income from personal budgets.

The charity advised that they were in the process of recruiting a fundraiser on a part-time basis and is confident that they will fulfil their projected income target. This post will allow the organisation to make more funding applications, develop relationships with major donors and deliver a range of fundraising events throughout the year.

The cost of generating funds is low due to the majority of the charity's income coming from statutory sources and direct payments which involves minimal resource.

Year end at 31 March	2014/15 Independently Examined Accounts	2015/16 Current Year Forecast	2016/17 Following Year Budget
Income and Expenditure	£	£	£
Income	282,959	314,303	503,000
Expenditure	308,118	310,500	443,832
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(29,393)	104,795	44,463
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	4,234	(100,992)	14,705
<b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(25,159)</b>	<b>3,803</b>	<b>59,168</b>
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(8.9%)	1.2%	8.5
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	5,013 (1.8%)	10,000 (3.2%)	10,000 (2.0%)
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	10,977	14,780	73,876
How many months' worth of expenditure	0.4	0.6	1.9
Reserves Policy target	51,353 – 102,706	51,750 – 103,500	73,972 – 147,944
How many months' worth of expenditure	2 – 4	2 – 4	2 – 4
Free reserves over/(under) target	(40,376)	(36,970)	(96)