

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Reducing Poverty**St Hilda's East****Adv: Sandra Jones****Amount requested: £117,000****Base: Tower Hamlets****Benefit: Tower Hamlets****Amount recommended: £117,000****The Charity**

St Hilda's East (SHE) has been providing a range of services to the local community since 1889 having evolved into a Centre providing fifteen different projects to a diverse community - from crèche and under 5's provision, to youth work, and day-centre/older people's provision. There is also a domiciliary care service funded by the local authority and specific services for young people with physical or learning disabilities. Services are provided at the Centre's main building in Shoreditch and also at a satellite centre in Shadwell.

Its high-quality work has been officially recognised with a number of awards; it's legal advice service (which it provides in partnership with two leading law firms who operate pro bono) won a national award; whilst its work with Bangladeshi elders won the Queen Mother's Care of Older People Award.

The Application

Funding is sought to continue and expand a Community Food Project including an element of money and debt advice for those using the project. The funding will cover the costs of 2 part time posts(a 4 day per week Project Co-ordinator and a 1 day per week Advice Worker), volunteer expenses and training and associated running costs. The application meets your programme outcomes of *fewer Londoners experiencing food poverty and more people accessing debt and legal services.*

The Recommendation

SHE has an impressive history of supporting local people through neighbourly action and projects responding to local needs in Shoreditch and the surrounding area. The proposed project offers cheap, fresh, produce to local people, the opportunity to volunteer, and debt and benefit advice.

£117,000 over three years (£39,000 pa) towards the costs of a 4 day a week Project Co-ordinator, 1 dpw Advice Worker, and associated running costs.

Funding History

| Meeting Date | Decision |
|--------------|--|
| 18/03/2010 | £93,000 over three years (3 x £31,000) for the salary costs of an Older People's Project Co-ordinator. |

Background and detail of proposal

The area surrounding St Hilda's faces exceptional challenges, including high unemployment and overcrowded housing, with economic poverty affecting all ages. Many in work are on low income, and older people who live on their own with increasing ill health and isolation. In order to combat poverty and promote healthy living, the St Hilda's Food Co-op was established in 2005. In 2011 the charity were

awarded a three year grant from Big Lottery Fund to develop further, making links with local food producers and source fruit and vegetables directly and increase the number of low income households accessing cheap fresh produce. A small one-off grant from the East End Community Foundation allowed the project to continue, albeit on a smaller scale, delivered by a sessional Co-ordinator and 5 regular volunteers. The produce is sold at cost, making it affordable and allowing people to purchase fresh fruit and vegetable that they would otherwise not have. Quarterly healthy cooking and eating workshops will be run to support this.

Funding will enable the project to expand the number of sessions per week, to include an evening session for those people on low income who work during the day. The advice worker, currently employed part time, will be available at 48 additional sessions per annum for those in need of debt and benefit advice. This expansion will be made possible by increasing the number of volunteers and offering them training around induction to the project, food safety and emergency first aid.

Financial Information

Forecast income for the current year to 31st March 2017 is £1,792,361, of which £1,674,782 (93%) had been confirmed as at 22nd March 2016.

The cost of generating funds is low, which the charity advises is due to the majority (66%) of its income being derived from service agreements

| Year end at 31 March | 2014/2015 Audited Accounts | 2015/2016 Current Year Forecast | 2016/2017 Budget |
|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Income and Expenditure | | | |
| Income | 1,825,123 | 1,871,002 | 1,792,361 |
| Expenditure | 1,796,760 | 1,878,025 | 1,828,955 |
| Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit) | 63,480 | 299,719 | 238,160 |
| Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit) | (35,117) | (306,742) | (274,754) |
| Total Operating Surplus / (Deficit) | 28,363 | (7,023) | (36,594) |
| Unrealised Gains on Investments | 5,498 | 0 | 0 |
| Total Surplus / (Deficit) | 33,861 | (7,023) | (36,594) |
| Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover | 1.9% | (0.4%) | (2%) |
| Cost of Generating funds (% of income) | 25,326 (1.4%) | - | - |
| Free unrestricted reserves | | | |
| Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End | 461,681 | 486,765 | 450,171 |
| How many months' worth of expenditure | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.0 |
| Reserves Policy target | 449,190 | 469,506 | 457,239 |
| How many months' worth of expenditure | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Free reserves over/(under) target | 12,491 | 17,259 | (7,068) |