

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Strengthening London's Voluntary Sector

StreetGames

Adv: Jemma Grieve Combes

Amount requested: £148,057

Base: Lambeth

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £123,170

The Charity

StreetGames was set up in 2006 to change the lives of disadvantaged young people through sport. It supports a network of 650 organisations that provide 'doorstep sport': a local multi-sport offer delivered in the right time, right place, right price and right style to reach those who might not access more formal sporting opportunities. Members range from charities to informal sports groups to local authorities. All members complete the 'Streetmarked' quality mark and have access to training through the StreetGames Training Academy. StreetGames has focused on encouraging uptake amongst groups with lower participation rates through all its work as well as specific programmes such as its 'Us Girls' programme.

The Application

The application seeks the costs of a part time Project Field Worker to provide volunteer management support to 60 community based Doorstep Sport organisations across London.

The Recommendation

This project would meet a niche need for volunteer management support reaching small community sports clubs who may not access traditional support structures. It has the potential to create networks that last beyond the length of the project and to make connections with other capacity building bodies for future support needs. If successful, StreetGames hopes to extend the programme across the UK. StreetGames is acknowledged as a core support organisation in the sports voluntary sector and Sports England use it as a trusted conduit to direct significant amounts of funding directly into doorstep sports clubs.

The original request for funding included the costs for volunteer clothing and rewards at a total cost of £18k which is outside of the scope of your funding. The cost of only one volunteer training conference (in year 2) has been included as this is considered sufficient for the project purposes. However, following discussion with the organisation, the costs of the Activator training courses (training and qualifications) have been included as these are part of the core offer of the programme and would have otherwise been covered by the organisation's (low) reserves.

£123,170 (£38,750, £45,550, £38,870) over 3 years towards the costs of a part time (3 d/p/w) Project Field Worker and on-costs for a volunteer management support programme for 60 Doorstep Sport organisations across London.

Funding History

None

Background and detail of proposal

Doorstep sports organisations support disadvantaged young people to access sport and in doing so achieve other social outcomes such as improved physical and mental health, resilience, and employability skills. StreetGames members' have

identified a need for support with recruiting, managing and retaining volunteers. The groups are often not linked into traditional support structures and their young volunteers see themselves as 'helping out' rather than volunteering. This application aims to fill this gap through a programme volunteer management support directly tailored for doorstep sport clubs.

Street Games will employ a Project Field Worker who will identify and recruit 60 small, community based organisations. They will work with each organisation to complete a needs analysis (the 'Zebra') to check their suitability and match them to the right support. Each organisation will be offered:

- Volunteer Leaders Training: 1 day training for 2 adult leaders on how to recruit and upskill volunteers, deliver employability skills and increase youth-led activities.
- Peer to peer volunteering: training for 2 adult leaders to support 5 young volunteers in their organisation to mentor their peers. The young volunteers will also be offered placement opportunities across the network.
- Activators: 1 day training for 3 young people or adults in how to run a session on a specific sport such as table tennis or basketball.

To have a long-lasting impact, StreetGames will develop a network across the 60 organisations and encourage them to work together. This could be through shared events such as coaching. They will also encourage organisations to link in with other support such as football clubs, local authorities and the local CVS.

StreetGames have recently been funded by the John Lyons trust to carry out a programme of capacity building support including volunteer management with its members in 9 London boroughs. To avoid any overlap, the City Bridge Trust funding would be applied in different boroughs.

Financial Information

Forecast income for the current year ending 31st March 2017 is £6,280,850, of which £5,581,069 (88.9%) had been confirmed as at 13th April 2016.

Whilst the organisation has grown over the last few years due to a 5 year Sports England grant awarded in 2012, which accounted for £5.9m in 2014/15 and £6.2m in 2015/16, it reduced to £4.2m in its final year 2016/17. Income has further reduced in the current year by approximately £685k due to the end of large time-limited programmes such as the ASF/Co-op funded volunteering and the US Girls programme. The 2016/17 budget is a conservative budget based only on confirmed income and contractual requirements and the organisation expects other funding streams to develop during the year.

The cost of generating funds appears low, but this is largely due to the Sport England grant detailed above being the largest single source of income. If this grant is excluded, the cost of generating funds accounts for 7.4% of income. The cost of generating funds has not yet been calculated for the 2015/16 and 2016/17 forecasts, but the organisation expects it to be in line with previous years.

The organisation's reserves policy is to hold 3 months core services expenditure, which amounted to £766k in 2015/16. The organisation's reserve holding at 31 March 2016 fell short of this at £522k and it is expected to decrease further in 2016/17 to £228k. This organisation advises that this is partly due to the difficulty it has experienced with persuading funders to fund the full costs of projects and due to this it has needed to use its unrestricted funds to cover restricted deficits. It is also

partly due to it being an organisation with one large grant, giving it limited capacity to build reserves. It is hoped that this will change in the future as a wider funding base is sought.

Trustees are aware of the low reserves situation and are keeping the position under close and regular scrutiny. The organisation's Audit Committee is reviewing both the application of the organisation's existing reserves policy and any potential need to revise this and aims to complete this work by December 2016. The organisation now makes sure it includes core and management costs in funding bids as standard practice. It plans to increase its unrestricted funding by focusing on public and commercial partnership fundraising. This includes a corporate income target of £75k. It also aims to increase its trading income which it hopes will achieve £403k in 2016/17, up from £144k in 2015/16.

Year-end 31 March	2014/15 Audited/Examined £	2015/16 DRAFT £	2016/17 Current Year Forecast £
Income and Expenditure			
Income	9,231,050	8,965,665	6,280,850
Expenditure	9,227,996	8,916,455	6,574,922
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	31,219	160,684	184,216
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(28,165)	(111,474)	(478,288)
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	3,054	49,210	(294,072)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	0.03	0.5	(4.68)
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	248,124 (2.7%)	Not yet calculated	Not yet calculated
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	473,199	522,409	228,337
~ how many months' worth of expenditure	0.6	0.7	0.4
Reserves Policy target	797,000	765,804	577,456
~ how many months' worth of expenditure	3 month's budgeted core expenditure	3 month's budgeted core expenditure	3 month's budgeted core expenditure
Free reserves over target / (under target)	(323,801)	(243,395)	(349,119)