

MEETING: 14/07/2016

Ref: 13456

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London Safer

Tender Education and Arts

Adv: Tania Bronstein

Base: Islington

Amount requested: £100,559

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £100,560

The Charity:

Tender Education and Arts uses the arts to educate children and young people about healthy relationships with the aim of preventing domestic abuse and sexual violence in their lives. It also trains professionals to identify and support young people who have suffered from, or are at risk, of intimate partner violence (IPV). Tender has delivered drama-based workshops, assemblies and projects to over 100,000 children in schools, alternative education settings, youth offending teams and youth services in London.

The Application:

Tender seeks three-year funding for an arts project to work with 150 young people aged 13-25 who are or have been in the care system. Workshops in community settings would support groups of up to 10 young people in identifying, avoiding and escaping IPV. These would culminate in resources, campaigns and performances devised by workshop participants to spread violence prevention messages to at least 450 of their peers. Tender would also train 60 professionals and carers to build their skills in supporting young people who may be experiencing, or have experienced, IPV.

The Recommendation:

Independent evaluations highlight that Tender provides safe and creative learning environments that succeed in prompting young people to challenge violence and adopt protective behaviours. As Tender has raised £49,768 for the project's first year and £13,674 for the second, the recommendation is for a contribution towards the balance needed in year 1, while in years 2 and 3 the grant is towards specific budget headings.

£100,560 over three years (£17,880; £40,020; £42,660) to support young people in care and care leavers in avoiding or escaping abusive relationships as follows: (a) year 1: a contribution to the programme; (b) years 2 and 3: towards 0.7FTE salary costs of a Youth Engagement Manager, running costs and overheads

Funding History

No grants since 2006.

Background and detail of proposal

There is growing evidence that violence in teen relationships is highly prevalent; that teenagers have surprisingly tolerant attitudes to IPV; and that young people who have grown up in unstable or violent environments are at heightened risk of IPV (NSPCC 2009, 2011). This project would use creative arts to enable small groups of young people with experiences of care to explore issues of healthy/unhealthy relationships, understand their vulnerabilities, and avoid and/or escape IPV. It would ensure that young people in violent relationships and those close to them (e.g. frontline workers) are aware of remedies and sources of support and how to access these.

Tender has a team of very experienced artists trained to work with young people; good systems to support workshop facilitators; and thorough safeguarding protocols. It has extensive contacts with local authorities and youth settings that would facilitate processes such as participants' recruitment and finding workshop venues. The charity is well networked within the "Violence Against Women and Girls" voluntary sector in London and is able to connect young victims with specialist services.

Evaluations by Project Oracle (Children and Youth Evidence Hub) in 2014 and University of Middlesex in 2015 note that this work effectively engages young people and increases their skills and ability to avoid victimization and to practice safety planning to leave or help their friends to leave abusive relationships. These highlight that, often, participants' projects tend to profoundly impact upon their peers.

(A more informative breakdown of costs and the request to the Trust is appended to the application form.)

Financial Observations

Forecast income in 2016/17 is £700,000 of which £424,306 (60.61%) was secured as at 16th May 2016. Income totalled £960,549 in 2013/14 and has been reducing in the past two years mostly as a result of diminishing funding from local authorities whose budgets to commission young people's services have contracted.

The free unrestricted reserves target is set at 9 months' worth of "basic operating costs". These costs comprise permanent staff costs and overheads, and represent c48% of annual expenditure (the remaining are projects employing free-lance staff, which do not entail on-going commitments to the charity). The table below provides the target free reserves holding based on this policy, but analyses performance in the usual manner i.e. with reference to total annual expenditure.

The "cost of generating funds" has been traditionally under-estimated in the annual accounts. The figure for 2016/17 below is estimated, and the charity advises that it intends to ensure that future accounts provide accurate information on this heading.

Year end at 31 March	2014/15 Audited Accounts	2015/16 Draft Accounts	2016/17 Budget
Income and Expenditure			
Income	782,168	628,306	700,000
Expenditure	779,870	624,783	699,000
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(3,269)	16,624	1,000
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	5,567	(13,101)	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	2,298	3,523	1,000
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of Income	0.3%	0.6%	0.1%
Cost of Generating Funds (% of Income)	18,194 (2.3%)	12,790 (2.0%)	59,246 (8.5%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	221,912	242,477	243,477
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.4	4.7	4.2
Reserves Policy target	281,000	242,366	269,250
How many months' worth of expenditure	4.3	4.7	4.6
Free reserves over/(under) target	(59,088)	111	(25,773)