

MEETING: 14/07/2016

Ref: 13205

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Reducing Poverty

The Hackney Foodbank

**Adv: Jack Joslin
Base: Hackney
Benefit: Hackney**

Amount requested: £163,280

(Revised request: £114,950)

Amount recommended: £114,950

The Charity

Hackney Foodbank (HFB), a registered charity affiliated to the Trussell Trust, launched in 2012 to help local residents in crisis with the provision of emergency food supplies. The foodbank provides a coordinated response to food poverty and operates in partnership with local churches, the public, private and voluntary sector. In 2015, HFB estimated that it fed 3,200 individuals, worked with more than 170 local agencies, and mobilised over 150 volunteers. It currently distributes food 3 days a week across 4 different sites in Hackney.

The Application

HFB is looking for your support to allow it to expand its provision. HFB plans to increase the number of foodbank centres in Hackney to five, with a new centre opening on Fridays in one of the most disadvantaged and isolated wards in the borough. Your funding will also allow it to roll out a training programme for its volunteers to allow them to signpost clients to advice and support services which will allow them to tackle the underlying causes of their crisis and end the social isolation that many experience as a result of poverty. HFB is requesting funding for the full time salary of its Project Manager and associated running costs.

The Recommendation

HFB is a relatively new organisation delivering an essential service to the residents of Hackney. It is seeking funding to increase and improve the quality of its service as it looks to cater for the needs of people in crisis across the borough. The work HFB does fits with your priority of Reducing Poverty by delivering services that ensure fewer Londoners are experiencing food poverty. The amount recommended is less than the amount requested after a discussion at assessment around sustainability. A revised project budget, submitted by the organisation, has been included in Appendix A to the application form. Funding is advised as follows:

£114,950 over three years (£37,450; £38,550; £38,950) for a full time Project Manager and associated costs.

Funding History

None

Background and detail of proposal

Hackney Foodbank has operated since 2012 to help support local residents who are in crisis. 95% of the food that is distributed by HFB is donated by local people through churches, schools, businesses, community groups and seasonal events. It operates a warehouse in Stoke Newington and has 3 drop-in sessions across the borough each week. It has a network of partners across Hackney who distribute vouchers to people in crisis and, once presented, the client receives a nutritionally balanced pack that is tailored to their household's needs. The day to day operations

of the organisation are overseen by a Project Manager (who is currently working part-time) and a large team of volunteers.

The charity is requesting your funding to expand the work that it does and ensure the organisation's sustainability for the future. It wishes to increase the hours of the Project Manager from three days a week to a full time post to oversee the expansion of its service. HFB is planning to open a new drop in service in the Hackney Wick/ Homerton area of the borough with the ambition to be delivering a fifth drop-in service by the end of the 3 year grant period. Your funding will also allow it to roll out a training programme for its volunteers to allow them to signpost clients to advice and support services which will allow them to tackle the underlying causes of their crisis and end the social isolation that many experience as a result of poverty.

Financial Information

Forecast income for 2016/ 17 is £139,450, of which 43% is confirmed. This represents a 61% increase on 2015, comprising mostly of the CBT grant of £37,450 and £25,600 of income recorded on a cash basis which relates to 2017.

Unrestricted reserves are above their reserves policy as the organisation was preparing for a potential move of premises which would have seen their rent increase. The move has been put on hold and they plan to invest this money into the expansion of the Foodbank service.

Draft Accounts for 2015 are still cash based, HFB have confirmed they are seeking approval from the Charity Commission for this and moving to an accruals basis going forward.

Year end at 31 December <i>Please note: cash based accounts</i>	2014 Independently Examined Accounts	2015 Draft Accounts	2016 Budgeted
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	105,373	86,188	139,450
Expenditure	75,553	88,168	113,075
Other Recognised Gains/ (Losses)	(7,348)	7,123	0
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	29,820	(1,980)	10,775
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	0	0	15,600
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	22,472	5,143	26,375
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	21.3%	6.0%	18.9%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	0 – 0%	8,052 – 9.3%	9,000 – 6.5%
Free unrestricted reserves			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	51,691	56,834	67,609
How many months' worth of expenditure	8.2	7.7	7.2
Reserves Policy target	18,888 – 37,777	22,042 – 44,084	28,269 – 56,538
How many months' worth of expenditure	3 – 6	3 – 6	3 - 6
Free reserves over/(under) target	32,803 - 13,915	34,792 – 12,750	39,340 – 11,702