

MEETING: 22/09/2016

Ref: 13458

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - English for Speakers of Other Languages

Afghan Association Paiwand

Adv: Ciaran Rafferty

Base: Harrow

Amount requested: £89,823

Benefit: Barnet, Harrow

Amount recommended: £90,000

The Charity

Afghan Association Paiwand (commonly known as Paiwand) was established in 2002 and aims to support the refugee and asylum-seeking community in the UK through reducing poverty and suffering and by advancing education. Currently it assists over 2,000 people from all backgrounds, not solely Afghan, offering: mental health support; supplementary schools; information and advocacy; and a Supported Accommodation Service for unaccompanied minors aged 16-18. Annual turnover is a little short of £500k and the charity has an impressive cohort of 150 volunteers.

The Application

This application is to support the delivery of ESOL classes over three years to benefit 100 people per year, particularly women refugees and migrants, to enable greater community involvement. Many participants will be parents of children who attend the supplementary schools and, in recent times, a large number have been from Somali, Syrian or Iraqi ethnicity. Classes will offer ESOL pre-entry levels 1 and 2, with each student attending 2.5 hours per week, during term time. All tutors will be suitably qualified, whilst over the period of the grant the charity will become a City & Guilds accredited ESOL centre.

The Recommendation

Paiwand is an established charity in north west London with a proven track record in reaching disadvantaged refugee and migrant communities and a demonstrable track record in delivering high quality services to people of all ages. This project will provide an important and logical piece in the jigsaw of "whole-community" support, with parents of children who attend the supplementary schools developing their English language skills so that they can take a fuller part in the wider community and in their children's education and development.

£90,000 over three years (3 x £30,000) for the costs of ESOL pre-entry level 1 and 2 classes and including the costs of achieving City & Guilds accreditation.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
12/01/2012	£90,000 over three years (3 x £30,000) for the salary and related costs of a f/t Community Mental Health Advocate.
08/07/2010	Declined as the organisation's rate of growth in the preceding period was deemed to be too high.
01/02/2007	Declined as the organisation's income had trebled within a 12 month period.

Background and detail of proposal

The two boroughs to benefit from this project, Barnet & Harrow, have large numbers of people for whom English is not their first language. Many of the intended clients live in poorer wards, such as Colindale in Barnet where 2013/14 statistics show that 38% of children are living in poverty. The charity estimates that at least 75% of the beneficiaries will be female and will come from a variety of ethnic groups. The classes will help them, as much through the activity itself as through the learning, to be less isolated and more able to join in wider society. They will be able to help with their children's homework; to be more at ease when attending the GP or hospital; and to have more opportunity to volunteer at their children's school. Paiwand expects demand for the classes to be great and will, therefore, assess and group people carefully so that those with similar needs and abilities can be taught together.

Financial Information

Forecast income in the current year is £714,941 of which £420,000 (59 %) is confirmed as at 17th August 2016.

Income in 2015/16 increased significantly over that in 2014/15 due to new funding received from the Lottery; John Lyons Charity, and some additional earned income.

The cost of generating funds is low, partially because the sum shown does not include any time spent by the Director or other staff on making funding applications, etc. The sums shown are for the cost of publicity and marketing only.

The organisation's free reserves have diminished over the past few years due to covering the cost of some unfunded core posts and currently equate to c.1 month's expenditure. To rectify this the charity's new social enterprise will commence in September from which all surpluses will go to free reserves, whilst funding is being sought to cover unfunded posts.

Year end at 31 March	2014/15 Independently Examined Accounts	2015/16 Draft Outturn	2016/17 Current Year Forecast
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	470,384	684,539	714,941
Expenditure	468,263	656,760	701,941
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(8,695)	6,732	(18,248)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	10,816	21,047	31,248
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	2,121	27,779	13,000
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	0.5%	4.1%	1.8%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	3,067 (0.7%)	2,418 (0.4%)	2,500 (0.4%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	89,069	95,801	77,553
How many months' worth of expenditure	2.3	1.8	1.3
Reserves Policy target	117,065	164,190	175,485
How many months' worth of expenditure	3	3	3
Free reserves over/(under) target	(27,996)	(63,389)	(97,932)