

MEETING: 22/09/2016

Ref: 13344

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive

Kith & Kids

Adv: Shegufta Rahman

Base: Haringey

Amount requested: £125,057

Benefit: Haringey

Amount recommended: £126,000

The Charity

Kith & Kids (K&K) was established nearly 50 years ago by families who had children with autism or profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD). The organisation supports families to achieve empowerment and social inclusion for children with learning disabilities, and the wider family unit. K&K provides training, social development projects and activities for children and young people who have autism or PMLD. The charity employs seven full-time and four part-time employees, but is able to support 250 families each year, due to a delivery model which encourages families using the services to put something back into the organisation. This includes volunteering at its activities and schemes, and families supporting each other.

The Application

K&K is seeking funding towards the cost of running their 'Independent Living and Social Inclusion' project for people with autism, learning disabilities and their families. You are asked to fund the salary of a full-time Adult Services Coordinator and associated project running costs.

The Recommendation

K&K has established itself as a user-led charity with a strong self-help ethos built into its services. The organisation has an impressive portfolio of 250 active volunteers who are crucial for the delivery of its services, and each member of staff started at the organisation as a volunteer.

£126,000 over three years (£41,000, £42,000, £43,000) for the full-time salary of an Adult Services Coordinator, together with associated project running costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
04/06/2009	£74,500 over two years (£37,000; £37,500) towards the costs of a service supporting young disabled people into adulthood.

Background and detail of proposal

K&K reports that around 50% of adults with autism or learning disabilities still live with their parents well beyond the age of 19; with one third living with parents aged 70+. The organisation also reports that since 2009/10 there has been a steady increase in the number of adults with a learning disability who live in their own home or with their family. Whilst living with parents can provide stable accommodation, there is a risk of the whole family becoming isolated. A shortage of suitable accommodation with the support required to live more independently becomes a more acute problem when parents start ageing and grow less able to support their children's needs. The Government's Think Autism update to its adult autism strategy in 2014 reported "Autism is neither a learning disability nor a mental health problem, although mental health problems can be more common among people with autism

and it is estimated that one in three of adults with a learning disability also have autism". The lack of social interaction and stimulation resulting from home isolation and the lack of day services often results in significant behavioural difficulties and sometimes even violence. This can often be accompanied by, or due to, depression caused by their social isolation, resulting in increased pressure on their parents.

K&K is unique in recognising the needs of people with autism or PMLD beyond the age of 25. For parents/family carers of adults wishing to access this service, there will be on-going, individual support to explore and secure Supported Living arrangements; to improve current unsatisfactory arrangements; to help older siblings to increasingly take over the care role from their parents; and to provide crisis advocacy where necessary. For parents of young people accessing the project, there will be emotional and practical support for preparing a successful transition from secondary school, followed by identifying suitable 19+ services, and agreeing the level of support and funding required.

Financial Information

Total forecast income for the current year ending 31st March 2017 is £521,550 of which £373,375 (72%) had been confirmed by 17 August 2016. The charity anticipates a significant increase in income this current year due to more grant applications submitted to funders for consideration. The cost increase in 2016/17 includes the opening of a second shop.

Unrestricted free reserves held at 31st March 2015 were £140,712, which is equivalent to 3.5 months' worth of expenditure and within 3 – 6 months' worth of total expenditure using the calculation in the table below. The charity's actual reserves policy target for 2014/15 was 3 months of 'running' costs, to be increased to 6 months running costs going forward. Therefore the reserves held are more positive than shown below.

Cost of generating funds in 2016/17 is forecast to reduce as K&K moves towards a model of income generation with less events fundraising, which has been declining.

Year end at 31 March	2014-15 Audited Accounts	2015-16 Draft Accounts	2016-17 Budget
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	491,941	488,996	521,550
Expenditure	479,545	502,090	521,400
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	4,618	(30,105)	150
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	7,778	17,011	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	12,396	(13,094)	150
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	2.5%	(2.7%)	0%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	49,737 (10.1%)	44,165 (9%)	37,000 (7.1%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	140,712	110,607	110,757
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.52	2.64	2.55
Reserves Policy target	119,886 – 239,772	125,523 – 251,046	130,350 – 260,700
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.0 – 6.0	3.0 – 6.0	3.0 – 6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	20,826-(99,060)	(14,916)- (140,439)	(19,593)- (149,943)