

**MEETING: 24/11/2016**

**Ref: 13505**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - English for Speakers of Other Languages**

**BritSom**

**Adv: Sandra Davidson**

**Base: Barnet**

**Amount requested: £59,380**

**Benefit: Barnet & Surrounding areas**

**Amount recommended: £59,400**

**The Charity**

BritSom was established in 2008 and aims to support disadvantaged Somalis and other Black, Minority, Ethnic and Refugee (BMER) communities of all ages in Barnet and neighbouring boroughs. With over 400 members registered with the charity, it offers a range of services for children and their families; older people; and newly-arrived communities. BritSom operates from the Eversfield Centre in the heart of Barnet and its principal aims are to promote health and wellbeing and encourage support members to play an active role in the wider community.

**The Application**

BritSom is seeking three years funding to meet the cost of providing ESOL classes to Entry-level and Level 1 standard for local women with school aged children. Classes are designed for recent arrivals and asylum seekers to encourage greater involvement and access to mainstream services.

**The Recommendation**

BritSom is firmly established in the London Borough of Barnet, with a proven track record of working with women from all cultural backgrounds. It has a strong commitment to engaging a wide range of communities by providing high quality services accessible to those from all backgrounds and ages. The organisation has a history of providing ESOL classes, and these were previously supported by the North London Community Foundation, Lloyds Bank Foundation and the Mercers' Company. This proposal will enable the charity to offer ESOL classes to Entry-Level and Level 1 during term time, with each participant able to have 4 hours tuition per week. All tutors will be suitably qualified.

**£59,400 over three years (£19,600; £19,800; £20,000) for the employment of a part-time Women's Support Worker (15hpw) and for the costs of delivering ESOL Classes to Entry-level and Level 1 standard.**

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
12/03/2015	Organisation appears to have no track record in mental health work, whilst the annual grant as requested would exceed 50% of turnover

**Background and detail of proposal**

The London Borough of Barnet has large numbers of people for whom English is not their first language. BritSom has run ESOL classes for a number of years providing culturally specific learning and development opportunities for women, many of whom are vulnerable and isolated. Most of the organisation's clients live in poorer wards in

the Borough with high levels of social housing and crime; particularly along the A5 corridor. The most recent population projections indicate that the number of BMER communities is set to increase from 38.7 to 43.6% of the total Barnet population. The request includes the recruitment of a Women's Support Worker to ensure the smooth running of the ESOL programme to help engage women who are not accessing mainstream services and activities. The majority of the participants will be newly-arrived refugees. The project will help improve women's language skills and increase their confidence to participate in the wider community. This proposal will build on the successful Family Learning Support programme funded by the Big Lottery and BBC Children in Need.

### Financial Information

Forecast income in the current year is £121,700 of which £118,700 (97.5%) is confirmed as at 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The cost of generating funds is reported as nil due to Board Members undertaking the fundraising. The charity has advised that such costs will be classified appropriately in future. The Trustees recognise the need to generate increased income to build up unrestricted free reserves. Future plans include introducing membership fees and working more closely with local stakeholders.

Year end at 31 March	2015/16 Independent Examination	2016/17 Forecast
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income	95,806	121,700
Expenditure	78,072	121,700
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	0	0
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	17,734	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	17,734	0
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	18.5%	0
CoGF (% of income)	0	0
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>		
Unrestricted free reserves at Year End	16,000	16,000
Months' worth of expenditure	2.46	1.57
Reserves Policy target	16,000	16,000
<b>3 months' worth of operating running expenditure</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
Free reserves over/(under) target	0	0