

MEETING: 27/07/2017

Ref: 13996

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Offenders

Carney's Community

Adv: Jack Joslin

Base: Wandsworth

Amount requested: £69,654

Benefit: Wandsworth

Amount recommended: £69,600

The Charity

Carney's Community (CC), a registered charity, was set up to help get disadvantaged and excluded young people off the street and away from criminal activity by giving them skills, discipline and self-respect. The Charity was set up and inspired by the late Mick Carney, a local community hero who turned around many lives through boxing. CC provides services in Wandsworth and Lambeth and aims to reduce offending, re-offending and anti-social behaviour whilst improving social mobility and community cohesion. CC provides long-term, consistent mentoring and boxing training to disadvantaged young people aged between 10 and 30. Boxing sessions are delivered at their base in Battersea or at the Fitzroy Lodge Boxing Club in Lambeth.

The Application

CC is looking for your support to provide long-term mentoring for young people they work with who are currently serving community sentences, to ensure they reduce their likelihood of re-offending. Mentors will be employed on a sessional basis and your funding will specifically cover the costs of the sessions that are targeted at young people who are serving community orders or engaged with probation services. The budget has been amended since the application was submitted after discussion with your officer at assessment. The original figure did not take into account a management fee or the potential increase in the London Living Wage over the period of the project. A revised budget to more accurately reflect this has been included at Appendix A on the application form. The slight reduction each year reflects the more accurate cost of sessions working with at risk young people that had changed since the original application had been submitted.

The Recommendation

This project is looking to work with young people who are either serving community orders or are on probation and at risk of re-offending. CC has a good track record of delivering positive interventions for at risk young people through the medium of boxing and mentoring. This project fits well with the outcomes of your Resettlement and rehabilitation of offenders programme as it will work with young people leaving custody or serving community orders to help them resettle back into the community and prevent re-offending. Funding is recommended based on the revised budget:

£69,600 over three years (£22,800; £23,200; 23,600) to cover the cost of mentoring sessions and associated management costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
18/03/2016	Declined as was for both capital and revenue, whilst the capital element was not supported by an independent access audit.

Background and detail of proposal

The Borough of Wandsworth combines areas of affluence with areas of severe poverty with research showing clear links between social exclusion and crime. Wandsworth experiences issues with youth offending. Whilst 10 to 17 year olds account for 10% of the population, they account for 15% of all arrests. Young people who offend are likely to re-offend with youth re-offending in Wandsworth sitting at 35 – 40%. The work of CC looks to break this cycle and help young people transition into more positive directions. Using a combination of boxing training and mentoring they work with young people to improve their discipline, self-respect and improve their emotional well-being. This project is focused on the young people who attend CC's boxing sessions who are currently serving community orders and are at risk of re-offending. Most of the young people they work with have very troubled pasts and complex needs which have led them into a life of crime and offending.

Mentoring is offered in two ways and always focused on the young person and their needs. First of all mentoring sessions will be offered during the boxing training sessions. Mentors will develop trust with young people during boxing sessions and will encourage them to enter into the one-to-one mentoring programme where more intensive work can be done. CC do not put a timeframe on mentoring and find that being available and consistent has proved to be beneficial for the young people they work with who lead chaotic lives. Your funding will allow for CC to continue to target the most at risk young people providing them with new opportunities and a way out of a cycle of offending. The projects outcomes aim to reduce re-offending but also provide the young people they engage with a more positive future as they transition from their community orders back into society.

Financial Information

CC did not have a reserves policy listed in their accounts ending 31 January 2016. After discussion with your officer at assessment the Trustees have now agreed on a suitable reserves policy.

Year end as at 31 January	2016	2017	2018
	Examined Accounts	Forecast	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	211,610	182,930	195,800
- % of Income confirmed as at 26/06/2017	n/a	%	51%
Expenditure	(207,299)	(212,932)	(181,700)
Total surplus/(deficit)	4,311	(30,002)	14,100
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	7,116	(46,360)	(20,850)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(2,805)	16,358	34,950
	4,311	(30,002)	14,100
Cost of Raising Funds	28,898	7,541	5,700
- % of income	13.7%	4.1%	2.9%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	137,490	61,712	44,200
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	72,913	42,911	57,011
No of months of operating expenditure	6.4	8.3	15.5