

MEETING: 27/7/2017

Ref: 13989

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Strengthening London's Voluntary Sector

Enfield Voluntary Action

Adv: Geraldine Page

Amount requested: £118,110

Base: Enfield

Benefit: Enfield

Amount recommended: £100,500

The Charity

Enfield Voluntary Action (EVA) is the Council for Voluntary Service for this north London borough. It provides direct support services to assist the development of the voluntary and community sector in the borough; runs the borough's Volunteer Centre; coordinates partnerships; and acts as the representative voice of the sector. EVA maintains a database of approximately 500 local voluntary and community organisations, 150 of these organisations are EVA members, including a few larger charities such as the local Age UK and CAB, but mostly comprised of smaller organisations including after school clubs, Black and Minority Ethnic organisations, faith groups, supplementary schools and an increasing number of social enterprises.

The Application

In June 2014 you awarded EVA £123,000 over three years to provide monitoring and evaluation and financial training support to voluntary and community organisations (VCOs) in Enfield. This application requests continuation funding for EVA to continue these services and in addition to facilitate development for opportunities for social enterprise and social prescribing.

The Recommendation

EVA is well run and connected; it is supportive and engaged with the Way Ahead. Staff have strong experience of the local voluntary sector and are committed to their own professional development to ensure they are able to provide the most accurate advice to organisations. The application demonstrates sufficient strategic importance to meet your policy on continuation funding. Your 2016 annual review found that Enfield had a low ranking by grant amount awarded by the Trust (27 of 33), despite a relatively high deprivation score. Your practice is to award funding for up to one full time equivalent post; however the original request from EVA exceeded this and has been revised accordingly (see appendix 1 attached to the application form).

£100,500 over two years (£50,000; £50,500) towards the salaries of a Community Accountant (21hrs) and Development and Funding Advice Manager (15hrs) and running costs, to provide monitoring and evaluation; financial; social enterprise and social prescribing training support to voluntary and community organisations in Enfield.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
19/06/2014	£123,000 over three years (£26,200; £48,200; £48,600) towards the salaries of a Community Accountant (20hrs) and Development and Funding Advice Manager (20hrs) and on-costs, to provide monitoring and evaluation and financial training support to voluntary and community organisations in Enfield.

Background and detail of proposal

EVA has delivered very well against the outcomes of the original grant, now coming to the end of its final year (Oct 2017). This application looks to continue to improve the financial management and impact reporting of VCOs for a further 2 years, as need is still very significant. In addition through learning from the original grant funded activities EVA have identified a 'restructuring strategy' essential for VCOs to continue to provide services against a backdrop of increasing demand and reducing resources. With continuation funding EVA would also provide support and training for VCOs in social enterprise skills and social prescribing. Social enterprise presents a different funding model for VCOs to adopt, that may otherwise close or fail to start due to increased competition for charitable trust funding and growing completion or withdrawal of local contracts and grants. Trading and job creation will bring benefits to deprived areas, whilst allowing emerging issues to be addressed. Social prescribing is growing in popularity with new models across the country bringing positive outcomes for patients, reducing NHS costs and sustaining much needed voluntary services. To build a strong foundation for social prescribing the voluntary sector needs to be sustainable with a diverse mix of activities, to enable them to offer a reliable and consistent service to patients. This would particularly benefit Enfield, which has a higher rate of prescribing anti-depressants, antibiotics and statins than the London average (Enfield Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, 2017), which means money could be saved and health outcomes could be improved.

Financial Information

EVA has an excellent relationship with Enfield Council who has offered EVA security in writing of funding until September 2018 and verbal reassurance until March 2019, without any further cuts and annual renewal continuing after that. EVA Trustees have consciously taken the decision to use reserves (which are in a healthy position) to further their strategic objectives, hence the unrestricted deficit in 2017 and 2018. £38,991 of reserves has been agreed for use towards this project.

Year end as at 31 March	2016	2017	2018
	Examined Accounts	Draft Accounts	Forecast
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	378,998	282,434	318,864
- % of Income confirmed as at 06/06/2017	n/a	n/a	89%
Expenditure	(374,009)	(327,909)	(371,339)
Total surplus/(deficit)	4,989	(45,475)	(52,475)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(21,234)	(29,883)	(35,465)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	26,223	(15,591)	(17,010)
	4,989	(45,474)	(52,475)
Cost of Raising Funds	43,039	25,546	28,188
- % of income	11.4%	9.0%	8.8%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	151,089	147,824	154,618
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	351,067	335,476	318,466
No of months of operating expenditure	27.9	27.2	24.7
Reserves policy target	333,798	333,798	333,798
No of months of operating expenditure	26.5	27.1	25.9
Free reserves over/(under) target	17,269	1,678	(15,332)