

Committee(s)	Dated:
City Bridge Trust	20th September 2017
Subject: Extension of support for young people and families in the North Kensington area	Public
Report of: David Farnsworth, Chief Grants Officer	For Decision

Summary

This report summarises the recent support you gave to provide a summer programme of activities for young people and their families living in and around the Grenfell Tower area and requests your agreement for funds to be made available to continue that support through to September 2018.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Agree to earmark up to £100,000 from your Investing in Londoners grants budget to enable the Trust to join in a consortium of funders providing grants to local organisations to provide year-round out-of-school activities and support to young people and their families in the Grenfell/North Kensington area.

Main Report

Background

1. In late July a consortium of funders (including the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea) came together under the direction of the John Lyon's Charity (JLC) to consider urgent funding to provide positive summer activities for young people living in and around the Grenfell area.
2. Within a matter of days a common application form was devised for local organisations to apply. These were pre-assessed by JLC and posted on a closed portal constructed by London Funders through which individual funders could select which, if any, they wished to support.
3. Your Trust was one of the first to award grants under this process – making 18 grants for a total sum of £114,840 – and in time for the start of the holidays. Early

reports on some of these grants highlight how valuable they were and how, in some instances, they have really helped people to cope.

Current Position

4. Your involvement in this consortium was extremely timely and effective and, from views taken “on the ground” by John Lyon’s charity, very much appreciated by the beneficiaries. The speed with which you made decisions and then communicated with groups was exemplary. It was also rewarding for the Trust to be part of a consortium of like-minded funders working within a common framework.
5. Now that the summer school holidays have ended the consortium of funders met again to review the processes that were used and to consider a more planned approach to supporting children & young people in that area over the year ahead, to next September. There was full agreement that regular, supportive, activities should be provided across the wider area on an ongoing basis but that these should be set against more fully assessed need and organisational capacities.

Proposal

6. The consortium is due to meet again on 19th September to finalise the criteria for ongoing funding and the application and assessment process. It is likely that the target for support will be defined under three categories: young people’s mental health; positive activities in out of school hours; and support for families with young children. Groups will be given a brief period in which to apply – again using a common application form and closed portal process – although there will now be time for the funders to sit around a table to discuss applications and share information. This process will also consider other Grenfell-related funding which the applicant organisations may have received.
7. As with the process for the summer holiday funding, it will be for each individual funder within the consortium to decide which, if any, of the applications it wishes to support. As no single grant is likely to be above £50,000 in total (and many will be for much less) individual grants deemed suitable for City Bridge Trust would then be considered under your delegated authority process.
8. In this regard it would greatly help your officers, when taking part in the panel discussions and decisions over the next few weeks, to know how much the Trust could contribute to the overall sum. It is recommended, therefore, that you make available a total sum of £100,000 for this purpose. Individual grant recommendations would, in due course, be presented under delegated authority and reported back to your Committee in the usual way. Given that some of the projects proposed for funding may not fit fully within your standard Investing in Londoners criteria it is advised that any grants made be considered as “Exceptional”.¹

¹ Your policies allow you to make grants (deemed “Exceptional”) outside your published priorities to enable the Trust to respond to new needs and circumstances which have arisen since you fixed your priorities.

Conclusion

9. The Trust made a significant and effective contribution to supporting young people over the summer holidays in the wake of the Grenfell fire. Nevertheless, the particular circumstances at the time meant that that process was weighted towards speed of distribution of funds. Now, however, there is an opportunity to take a little bit more time to give applicants more guidance and support; and to assess bids in a more complete context and with an emphasis on funding high-quality and sustainable activity.

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