

Committee: City Bridge Trust	Dated: 23 November 2017
Subject: Progress Report	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer	For Information

Summary

This is a regular report by the Chief Grants Officer (CGO). You are asked within this report to note updates on the following:

- Further Strengthening the Voluntary Sector
- Bridge to Work launch event
- Buttle UK's Anchor Project Seminar
- Co-ordinating and meeting the needs of London's Youth Sector
- Member's Away Day
- ACF Conference
- Strategic Review Implementation
- Human Resources

Recommendation

- a) That the report be noted.

Main Report

Introduction

1. You will recall that you have agreed that each of the City Bridge Trust (CBT) Committee Meetings will begin with a presentation on a particular aspect of the work you support. In 2014 the Legal Education Foundation launched the Justice First Fellowships in the UK (in partnership with the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and Unbound Philanthropy). This Committee agreed to co-fund over three years, with the Legal Education Foundation, the provision of six Justice First Fellowships across London. This first Justice First Fellowship scheme was set up to support the next generation of specialist social welfare lawyers to deliver justice in their communities. Today's speakers are Quazim Khan, a Justice First Fellow at Greenwich Housing Rights; and Matthew Smerdon, Chief Executive of the Legal Education Foundation.
2. My Friday visits to CBT funded organisations continue and provide such valuable insight into some of the extraordinary work you fund (as ever, you are very welcome to join me). Most recently Neil Robbie (Assistant Director of Bridge House Estates, City Surveyors) and I visited Noah's Ark Hospice. Your grant supports the salary of a part time Music Therapist and Drama &

Movement Therapist, plus related activity costs for work with London children with complex needs and disabilities.

Further Strengthening the Voluntary Sector

3. Your work to underpin civil society infrastructure support in London continues and an update on the specific strands of work you are supporting follows:

The Way Ahead

4. You may recall that The Way Ahead report, research funded by the Trust in partnership with London Funders and others, was launched at Guildhall in April 2016. It set out a vision for how infrastructure support for London's civil society organisations could be improved and developed in a context of scarce resources. At the heart of the research was the belief that London needs a vibrant civil society to prosper and that in order to achieve this, just as any other sector in London, civil society needs access to appropriate business, technical and enterprise support, as well as a 'voice' within the on-going debate about London, its governance and the issues it faces. The Deputy Chief Grants Officer has been leading on your engagement with the implementation of The Way Ahead. The Way Ahead was the starting point for informing how civil society infrastructure support could be reconfigured in order to be more sustainable. This led to the development of two additional funding streams, an update on current progress of these is provided below.

The Bridge Fund and the Cornerstone Fund

5. These are two funds you established to underpin the future of infrastructure support for London's civil society organisations as part of the allocation of additional funds that were approved during your 20th anniversary year.
6. The £1m Bridge Fund was to support 15 organisations, previously funded by London Councils, on its voluntary sector infrastructure support programme. The grants, awarded in March 2017, did not directly replace the London Councils funding but they provided funding of up to £50,000 to enable those organisations to engage with the implementation of The Way Ahead.
7. The Cornerstone Fund is a sum of £1.5m per annum for two years, making £3m in total, to enable the Trust to work with other funders and key stakeholders, to support the infrastructure underpinning London's civil society. A cross-sectoral reference group has been established to determine the parameters and governance of this funding which has been meeting regularly since July 2017. As a first starting point, Rocket Science was commissioned to undertake a mapping exercise of what civil society infrastructure support is already in place, to help identify gaps in provision and also to identify who is funding what in this arena. The final report has been well-received and is downloadable from the CBT website.
8. CBT and London Funders hosted a roundtable for other funders on 26th September 2017 for a discussion on the future of infrastructure support for London's civil society organisations and how they could get involved with the

Cornerstone Fund, be this directly or indirectly. A good cross-section of funders attended, resulting in a rich and useful discussion. There was strong commitment to better align how we are all working in this arena and an appetite for a follow-up meeting in two or three months' time. Officers are now involved in bilateral follow-up meetings.

9. A briefing meeting was held for the Bridge Fund grantees on 16th October 2017, whose grants are due to end in March 2018, to update them on plans for the Cornerstone Fund and to hear about their engagement with The Way Ahead. As work on the Cornerstone Fund is still under development, we trailed at your last meeting that the organisations concerned would be invited to apply for extensions to these grants, to cover the period 1st April to 30th September 2018. The grants will be for up to £50,000 again, although applicants have been advised that requests should be proportionate to the level of the previous grant. The closing date for applications was 15th November 2017. A sub-group of the Cornerstone Fund reference group will assess the applications making recommendations for decision by the CBT Committee, through the delegated authority of the Chairman, Deputy Chairman and the CGO. It is anticipated that the decisions will be made in December 2017. Whether or not an organisation is recommended for continuation funding will depend on how well they have been involved with The Way Ahead and all the organisations are aware that re-funding is not a forgone conclusion.

Bridge to Work launch event

10. Your Bridge to Work programme, supporting young disabled Londoners into and in employment, was officially launched at The Speaker's House in Westminster on 19th October. It was a very well attended event with representation from across sectors. The Speaker himself welcomed the initiative and mentioned how the Parliament estate was itself doing more in this arena and referenced the important role which the City Bridge Trust has played as a funder.
11. The Chairman and the CEO of Leonard Cheshire Disability formally announced the opening of the Bridge to Work bursary scheme (called ChangeLondon) which will provide financial support for SMEs and eligible charities to employ young disabled people on internships.
12. The event served as a great engagement platform and interest has already been shown from many of the big names in attendance (KPMG, Procter and Gamble, Transport for London, Channel 4) but also from many of the SMEs in attendance who we were keen to reach. We have also seen information about Bridge to Work start to cascade out through the networks of those in attendance. For example, we are currently helping Channel 4 to promote this programme across their supply chain of independent production companies to open up opportunities for many more young disabled people.

Buttle UK's Anchor Project Seminar at the Livery Hall, Guildhall

13. On 2nd November 2017, a joint event was held at the Livery Hall with Buttle UK. In November 2014 you awarded Buttle UK strategic grants totalling

£634,000 over three years for the Anchor Project. This project has been supporting families in London who have experienced domestic abuse to resettle and live independently. To date, the Anchor Project has awarded nearly 500 grants to families affected by domestic abuse, to a value of over £500,000.

14. The seminar was held to present the findings of an independent evaluation of the project. The research demonstrates that Anchor grants provide a new beginning that is more dignified than it would have been; reduction in tension within the family, improving family functioning; reduction in parental stress linked to household and financial management and an improvement in parenting capacity; and reduction in mother's isolation, improving support networks and resources she can draw on. It also highlighted the importance of paying for after-school activities which help to improve children's behaviour at, and engagement with, school.
15. The event was well attended, with over 80 attendees representing the youth and domestic abuse sectors, as well as referral agencies. Your Chairman Alison Gowman introduced the event, followed by informative presentations and a screening of a short film on the Anchor Project. Your CGO chaired an insightful panel discussion, which highlighted a strong sense amongst those present that the grants have helped make services more child-centred, by encouraging support services to think about the children's needs as part of their on-going evaluation of families' needs. This was followed by a networking lunch which allowed the discussion to continue.

Co-ordinating and meeting the needs of London's Youth Sector

16. Arrangements are in hand for a half-day seminar on 15th January to look at how best to match the increasing needs of the youth sector in London with established and potentially new providers and supporters. The event will contribute to your wish to encourage more collaboration between charities. An audience of up to 40 key providers, policy makers and funders will be invited.

Member's Away Day

17. The CBT Committee Members half away-day took place on 31st October 2017 at Tower Bridge. The main purpose was to further deepen Members' engagement with CBT's new funding strategy for 2018 to 2023: Bridging Divides; and how the Committee could be involved, shape priorities and work towards the strategy's aims during its implementation.
18. We would like to thank the Members of this Committee that gave their time to attend the half away-day and provide feedback. The notes of the day will be circulated to members in due course.

ACF Conference

19. The annual Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF) conference took place on 8th November 2017. The conference provided an opportunity for foundations large and small, from across the country and with a wide variety

of charitable aims, to come together and consider the implications of the current context: not only for their own organisations, but for the collective role of philanthropic funding in both driving social change and preserving social good.

20. Your Chairman was in attendance as well as 14 members of staff from the CBT staff team.

Strategic Review Implementation

21. An update of the Strategic Review implementation plan and overview for the Bridging Divides Strategy can be found at Appendix 1. This document is being updated and provided for Members information at every Committee meeting, until the Strategy goes live next year.
22. A separate report on the Bridging Divides proposed funding programmes is to be presented to Members of this Committee at today's meeting for discussion.

Human Resources

23. Carolynne Worman has been recruited on a temporary basis to provide EA support to David Farnsworth, Fiona Rawes (Head of Philanthropy Strategy) and Jenny Field until the end of March 2018. This role has been delivered by Scott Nixon (Head of Projects) until now, and will now free Scott up to deliver more tasks relating to the Strategic Review implementation.
24. Venla Freeman has been employed by Prince's Trust (PT) as their new Head of Projects to manage the strategic grant: She will capitalise on the opportunities presented through the Corporation, PT and CBT for partnership working and collaboration, for the ultimate benefit of some of the most disadvantaged young people in London. Venla was recruited from within PT and started in her new post on 8th November.
25. Rosemary Powell, an accountant, has been recruited via Chamberlain's for a period of 3-6 months to provide additional support during the Strategy implementation phase, working for the Head of Charity and Social Investment Finance.

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