

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving Londoners' Mental Health****CHANCE UK****Adv: Jemma Grieve Combes****Base: Islington****Benefit: Lambeth****Amount requested: £91,000****Amount recommended: £91,000****The Applicant**

Chance UK is an early intervention charity that empowers children aged 5-11 who exhibit challenging behaviour and emotional difficulties. It was established in 1995 by a policeman who noticed that the teenagers he was arresting had first come to police attention for their behaviour when they were children. He believed that with role models to nurture and believe in them children's lives could be very different. Chance UK is now a well-established specialist mentoring organisation. It works across several London boroughs and has social franchises in Liverpool and Wales.

**The Application**

Chance UK is requesting funding towards a Programme Manager to support its work in Lambeth. 75 children a year will be matched with 75 volunteer mentors each year for a programme of year-long mentoring. Mentors will meet with children for a least 35 weeks of the year for 2-4 hour sessions. In addition Chance UK will run 6 child and mentor group sessions and 6-8 Parenting Programme sessions a year with 56 parents. The Programme Manager recruits children and volunteer mentors, trains and supports mentors, coordinates with other professionals working with children, monitors progress and manages any safeguarding concerns.

**The Recommendation**

Chance UK is a well-respected specialist organisation. In the short-term its work has shown an 88% reduction in children's behavioural and emotional difficulties. In the longer term, Chance UK believes that by intervening early they can prevent later poor outcomes including anti-social behaviour, gang activity and involvement in the criminal justice system. Using volunteer mentors sends a strong message to children, who might not engage well with professionals, that the mentor wants to be there. For many, it is the first time they have discovered their strengths and celebrated achievements.

**£91,000 over 3 years (£27,700; £30,300; £33,000) towards the salary of a f/t Programme Manager to deliver a mentoring programme and parenting support for children aged 5-11 in Lambeth. Funding for the third year of the project is conditional on sufficient funds being raised to make the project viable.**

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
22/09/2016	Stepping Stones application declined as insufficient link to social investment.
22/01/2009	£119,500 over 3 years towards ParentPlus Manager's salary working with families of primary school children in Hackney and Islington.

**Background and detail of proposal**

Chance UK has worked in Lambeth since 2009 and has built good relationships with Lambeth CAMHS, the pupil referral unit and local schools who refer children to the

charity. Children will typically show signs of hyperactivity, anxiety and poor social skills. Most children will face difficulties at home such as poverty, parental conflict, domestic violence and parental mental ill health. Volunteer mentors are recruited through an application, interview and reference process. They receive 2 days of training and ongoing support from the Programme Manager.

Mentoring focuses on building the skills, confidence and resilience of children. Weekly activities typically involve trips to the park, creative activities, museum visits and cafes. Sometimes mentors arrange special events such as backstage tours of theatres and tickets to Wembley. Mentors are encouraged to support children outside their comfort zones. For example, some children don't know how to use the Tube so sessions will build up their confidence. Children and mentors can also attend group sessions which have previously included drama, arts, and even a dog workshop with the Dog Trust! 3 months after mentoring starts the mentor, child and parent meet and set goals for the child and mentor. The mentoring relationship ends with a graduation ceremony, usually in the Town Hall, attended by the Mayor.

The Parenting Programme provides non-judgmental support and advice to mentee's parents. Support is delivered through group and 121 sessions and includes topics such as behaviour management, as well as referrals to other specialist support.

### Financial Information

2017/18 saw a significant drop in income due to the end of two large funded projects, difficulties in securing recommissioned funding and the transition period between the outgoing and incoming CEO. Expenditure remained steady, largely due to continuing staff costs. The organisation has now completed a restructure to consolidate resources and focus on the new strategic plan. 2018/19 will see a stronger focus on income generation including seeking funding from Clinical Commissioning Groups. It has already secured funding from Lambeth CCG. It has appointed a new Corporate Partnership Manager who will help generate unrestricted income, including working with the Alumni Network of former mentors.

Year end as at 31 March	2017 Audited £	2018 Draft £	2019 Forecast £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	1,056,479	836,514	684,300
- % of Income confirmed as at 16.05.18	n/a	n/a	73%
Expenditure	(994,868)	(933,709)	(675,000)
Total surplus/(deficit)	61,611	(97,195)	9,300
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	1,708	(3,383)	9,274
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	59,903	(93,813)	26
	61,611	(97,196)	9,300
Cost of Raising Funds	54,438	58,638	56,527
- % of Income	5.2%	7.0%	8.3%
Operating expenditure (total funds)	994,868	933,709	675,000
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	252,113	151,582	151,608
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	1.9	2.7
Reserves policy target	248,717	233,427	168,750
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	3,396	(81,845)	(17,142)