

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Dementia Concern

Adv: Kate Moralee

Base: Ealing

Benefit: Ealing

Amount requested: £117,545

(Revised request: £81,899)

Amount recommended: £82,000

The Applicant

Dementia Concern (DC), a charity, has been providing information and support services for people living with dementia and their carers since 1982, with an aim of supporting them to live as independently as possible. Services provided include advocacy and advice including benefits advice, day centre services, call and care providing respite care for carers, a dementia café and carers information sessions.

The Application

Dementia Concern is requesting funding to support the continuation of its Community Support Service for people living alone with dementia where a carer or family member lives some distance away. The service has been delivered since 2001, though it has changed and developed throughout its 17-year history. Its aim is to support people living alone with dementia to live a better quality of life, continue to live independently, feel safer, increase community connections thus reducing feelings of isolation and reduce unplanned hospital admissions. The Community Support Workers (CSW) liaise with carers, relatives and neighbours as appropriate and provide information and referrals to other professionals and services to enable them to support its beneficiaries more effectively. To sustain the service DC is requesting a contribution to 1 fte equivalent (35 hours per week) of its current service of 96 hours per week of Community Support Worker salaries, and associated costs.

The Recommendation

DC is a trusted charity which has been working with people living with dementia for over 25 years. It is an organisation led by carers and former carers of people living with dementia, bringing extensive lived experience to the charity. Staff and volunteers are reflective of the local community with knowledge of many cultures and skills to speak many languages. Ealing CCG funds two CSW posts with Garfield Weston funding and DC fundraised income contributing to the 4th CSW post. The whole service will work with 70 people living alone with dementia every year, with the Trust funding a single post which will support 27 people living with dementia every year. After discussion with your officer, where DC was made aware that the Trust will only support 1 fte post, a revised budget was submitted reflecting 1 fte CSW and associated costs. This application fits very well with the priorities of your Older Londoners programme and funding is recommended as follows:

£82,000 over 3 years (£26,800; £27,300; £27,900) for 1 fte Community Support Worker and associated costs to provide support services to people living alone with dementia in Ealing.

Funding History

None

Background and detail of proposal

Ealing is London's second largest borough by population with approximately 2,791 people living with dementia. This number is increasing year on year and DC have experienced a 100% increase in people it works with since 2011. It is currently aware of 600 people living alone with dementia with 1/3 of those not having a carer. Intensive support is provided to the person living with dementia which includes responsive, regular, flexible visits, reminders of appointments, liaising with relatives and professionals. The support is provided until the person no longer requires it, either through death, admission to care home or interruption through admission to hospital. If admitted to hospital the service is picked up when the individual is discharged. The CSW can be providing support to a person over several years.

Your officer spoke to a CSW who gave several examples of the support given and benefit experienced during her employment, eg, supported an 86 year old woman (with this being the only care she receives) over two years. The CSW, through general conversation, picked up that the woman's vision had deteriorated quite rapidly so immediately made an appointment for an eye test. The eye test diagnosed Age Related Macular Degeneration, something which can be treated but would not have been detected without the CSW's visits. The CSW also spoke of several other examples, some involving safeguarding issues, which were dealt with appropriately.

DC is well networked with other service providers across the borough and is looking to develop 10 partnerships across the borough during the period of the grant. The partnerships will be in response to the needs of localised communities, ensuring that CSW services and dementia friendly community activities can be widely accessed.

Financial Information

The funding environment in which Dementia Concern operates has changed significantly recently with the CCG now commissioning one large single provider contract. Dementia Concern has undertaken a strategic review of the organisation and activities, developed a Fundraising Strategy which has been signed off by the Board and has planned for cutting services back if fundraising targets are not met.

Year end as at 31 March	2017 Audited Accounts £	2018 Forecast £	2019 Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	1,128,537	1,101,298	1,103,416
- % of Income confirmed as at 3/7/18	n/a	100.00%	81%
Expenditure	(1,104,893)	(1,155,199)	(1,109,819)
Total surplus/(deficit)	23,644	(53,901)	(6,403)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	14,306	12,055	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	9,338	(65,956)	(6,403)
	23,644	(53,901)	(6,403)
Cost of Raising Funds	14,124	14,517	25,000
- % of Income	1.3%	1.3%	2.3%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	708,913	761,926	695,182
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	264,254	198,298	191,895
No of months of operating expenditure	4.5	3.1	3.3
Reserves policy target	212,479	212,479	212,479
No of months of total operating expenditure	3.8	3.3	3.7
Free reserves over/(under) target	51,775	(14,181)	(20,584)