

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners****Elders Voice****Adv: Shegufta Slawther****Base: Brent****Benefit: Brent****Amount requested: £143,154****{Revised request: £105,517}****Amount recommended: £103,500****The Applicant**

Elders Voice (EV), a registered charity, has been working with older Londoners for 25 years. The organisation provides a variety of services to older people in Brent, including: Day Centres specifically for older people with dementia; advice and support services; yoga, singing and creative expression, movement to music chair-based exercises, and Zumba classes; and Dementia cafes offering creative and art-based activities for older people with dementia and their carers.

**The Application**

Based on its extensive experience of delivering specialist support and services to Brent's older population, the charity has identified a need for dedicated LGBT services for this particular demographic. EV is seeking funding for a new 'Older and Prouder' project which will support older LGBT people in Brent with Monday coffee mornings, monthly social meetings, telephone befriending service developing into a befriending service where users visit each other, as well as involvement in the established services already on offer. Funding is requested for two years to pilot this new service.

**The Recommendation**

With a strong track record of supporting the local older community, EV is well positioned to deliver this new, specialist service. With the recognition that the experiences of older LGBT people differ greatly from those of younger LGBT people, the charity is also mindful of the many factors that distinguish older LGBT people as unites them as a group. The original request included the salary for two posts which equated to more than one FTE.

***£103,500 over two years (£50,050, £53,450) for the PT "Older and Prouder" Project Manager (30 hpw) and associated project costs.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
04/07/2013	£86,000 over three years (£27,800; £28,700; £29,500) for the salary of a p/t (2.5dpw) Volunteer Development Manager plus associated running costs for the volunteering programme.

**Background and detail of proposal**

Through its own research and knowledge of Brent, the charity has identified that there are no dedicated services in Brent for LGBT older people. There is significant research that evidences that social isolation is a significant concern for older people and has negative impacts on an individual's health and wellbeing. The Brent Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2016 found that the older population in Brent has higher instances of long-term illness and chronic conditions, and these older people

are likely to be at greater risk of social isolation as a result of impeded mobility, which may impact on their ability to access services or support networks in the community. Social isolation and exclusion is likely to be exacerbated for LGBT older people, and there is a general lack of sufficient information of what is available for this group of people in Brent.

The project will be delivered by a project manager and outreach worker, both of whom will have experience of working with older LGBT people and of developing and delivering services. The project will ensure that older residents of Brent will widen their social networks, lead more active lives by having new opportunities to get out and about, meet people and take part in new activities. This will improve their emotional and physical wellbeing. The information sessions will ensure that people are increasingly aware of the benefits they may be entitled to, as well as address issues around housing. Where appropriate, individuals can be linked into the charity's existing support services.

### Financial Information

The charity has significant funding from Brent Local Authority for its Older Adults Floating Support and Accident Prevention Handyperson services. The total local authority funding the organisation receives is a mix of some short term and a long-term contract. The main long-term contract was awarded in September 2017 for a five-year period. Based on the high demand for these services, should the local authority wish to renew the contract, EV feels it is well-placed to secure such future contract. The organisation also offers its services to those individuals that are not eligible through Adult Social Care and wish to pay a fee for access. This is a growing source of income for the charity, which accounts for some of the increase in income from 2018 to 2019.

Year end as at 31 March	2018 Examined Accounts £	2019 Forecast £	2020 Budget £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	532,626	709,752	742,002
- % of Income confirmed as at 18/12/18	n/a	75%	69%
Expenditure	(571,892)	(686,226)	(735,887)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(39,266)	23,526	6,115
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	1,476	0	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(40,742)	23,526	6,115
	(39,266)	23,526	6,115
Cost of Raising Funds	642	246	0
- % of Income	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	542,621	627,309	628,641
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	114,072	137,598	143,713
No of months of operating expenditure	2.5	2.6	2.7
Reserves policy target	173,291	156,827	157,160
No of months of operating expenditure	3.8	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(59,219)	(19,229)	(13,447)