

MEETING: 31/01/2019

Ref: 14963

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions

**Kensington & Chelsea Citizens Advice Bureau
Service**

Adv: Jack Joslin

Amount requested: £337,966

**Base: Kensington & Chelsea
Benefit: London-wide**

Amount recommended: £154,450

The Applicant

Kensington and Chelsea Citizens Advice Bureau (KCCAB) has been embedded in the borough for many years with the principal object to provide centres for advice and guidance across the borough. An independent charity that is part of the Citizens Advice Network across England and Wales, it provides free, confidential and impartial advice on issues affecting people's lives. Much of its provision focuses on Benefits, Housing, Debt and Money advice across two sites. The charity also provides some specialist services across the borough including an advice service in HMP Wormwood Scrubs.

The Application

Following a grant from the Trust in 2017 the charity is looking for further funding to continue to deliver a Citizens Advice Service within HM Prison, Wormwood Scrubs. KCCAB have been delivering work with prisoners at Wormwood Scrubs since 1989. Your funding is sought to continue to support the salary of one of the advice workers and associated running costs to work with prisoners who are transitioning 'through the gates'. The worker will provide advice to prisoners before release on accommodation, employment and financial issues both preparing them as they transition back into the community but to also take practical steps to ensure they have security of accommodation on release from prison.

The Recommendation

The charity has been providing specialist advice support to prisoners in Wormwood Scrubs for many years and has a strong track record of delivering positive outcomes in this area of work. Your funding is sought to continue to support the full-time salary costs of an advice worker who has specific responsibility for working with Prisoners as they prepare for release. This is a continuation of an existing two-year grant and funding is being sought to secure the service over the next three years. Members will note the reduction in grant recommended from that requested due to the applicant requesting funding for the whole programme over three years, which is against your usual practice of funding no more than one full time equivalent post for projects of this scale. Funding is recommended as follows:

£154,450 over three years (£50,200; £51,500; £52,750) towards a full-time Advice Worker and associated running costs for a project working with prisoners in HM Prison, Wormwood Scrubs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
20/09/2017	(Grenfell funding) £50,000 towards the salary of a Response Manager to co-ordinate pro bono relationships and workforce as

	well as relationships with other local providers.
24/11/2016	£96,700 over 2 years (£48,000, £48,700) towards a full-time Advice Worker and associated running costs for a project working with prisoners in HM Prison, Wormwood Scrubs.

Background and detail of proposal

KCCAB has been delivering work in HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs since 1989. The work started as a community outreach programme but by 1994 had grown and the organisation received funding to trial setting up a CAB service within the Prison. The project aims to ensure prisoners have access to the same quality of service as any other citizens in the community. A new report from the Inspectorate of Probation has found that more than two thirds of offenders released from prison had not received enough help before release in relation to accommodation, employment and finances. Without enough preparation around these issues prisoners who are released are more likely to re-offend.

At present this project is funded in part by the Money Advice Service and a commitment to the project from the organisational reserves. Funding from the Money Advice Service is secured until the middle of 2019. The Charity is seeking funding to secure one of the advice posts at the prison for a further three years. A grant from the Trust, as advised, will provide a foundation for the project as they seek further funding from the Money Advice Service and other funders in 2019.

Financial Information

Forecast income for year ending 31 March 2020 has been 95% secured. The Charity is currently performing under target on meeting its reserves but has a new Director in post who is looking to drive up unrestricted funding in the future. The Charity is reliant on statutory funding and is not aware that this is going to significantly reduce in the short and medium term.

Year end as at 31 March	2018 Audited Accounts £	2019 Budget £	2020 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	1,496,130	1,482,229	1,483,399
- % of Income confirmed as at 10/01/2019	n/a	100%	95%
Expenditure	(1,352,836)	(1,498,067)	(1,483,399)
Total surplus/(deficit)	143,294	(15,838)	0
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	94,006	(15,838)	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	49,288	0	0
	143,294	(15,838)	0
Cost of Raising Funds	0	35,370	36,078
- % of Income	0.0%	2.4%	2.4%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	668,235	710,589	740,577
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	118,901	118,901	118,901
No of months of operating expenditure	2.1	2.0	1.9
Reserves policy target	167,059	177,647	185,144
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(48,158)	(58,746)	(66,243)