

MEETING: 31/01/2019

Ref: 14980

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions

SurvivorsUK (s/c)

Adv: Julla Mirkin

Amount requested: £120,000

Base: Tower Hamlets

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £120,000

The Applicant

SurvivorsUK (SUK) is the only organisation in London that specifically targets male-identifying victims of sexual abuse. Founded in 1986, it is the longest standing specialist provider and is one of only two non-statutory organisations offering support to male victims in London. A distinguishing feature of SUK's therapeutic service is that it is long-term: clients can access therapy for up to a year. Under the leadership of its new Director, SUK is implementing a new staffing structure that will afford greater flexibility through the provision of telephone as well as face-to-face treatment.

The Application

This application is to continue a previous CBT grant, to support one-to-one therapy and telephone support for male survivors of sexual abuse. Although part of the existing grant, this request for continuation funding does not include group therapy as funding for an expansion of this work is being sought from another funder. Alternatively, the applicant requests a contribution towards the new Director's salary (see recommendation below).

The Recommendation

SUK has overcome operational challenges during the existing grant and now has a new Director (previously SUK's Director of Clinical Services, funded by CBT); a five-year organisational strategy; an updated staffing structure and replenished reserves. During this period of considerable change, services have been delivered to a high standard, meeting project targets and receiving excellent feedback from beneficiaries. This request includes funding a new permanent post of Counsellor, removing SUK's high dependence on sessional staff. It is hoped that a permanent position will allow the post-holder to work more flexibly with beneficiaries.

Members may recall that during 2017 an 'exceptional' grant was awarded to SUK to support the new Director through mentoring provision, which enabled the organisation to stabilise and strengthen. To embed developments to its therapeutic offer and staffing structure, this request includes a contribution to the Director's time, which with the 0.8 Counsellor's salary, exceeds your policy to fund only one full-time equivalent post. Given the development your funding has underpinned to date, it is your officer's recommendation that any grant be awarded at the level requested. Your support has fostered a strong relationship with SUK and if awarded, this grant will augment achievements and help SUK to realise its new strategy.

£120,000 over two further years (2 x £60,000) for 0.8 FTE Counsellor's salary; 0.35 FTE Director's salary; supervision, rent and a contribution to core costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
14/03/2018	£2,000 over 1 year for mentoring support for the Acting CEO.
23/09/2015	£180,000 over three years (3 x £60,000) towards the f/t salary of the Director of Clinical Services; therapeutic programme and other costs to support adult male survivors of sexual abuse.

Background and detail of proposal

From a snapshot of 25 of SUK's clients, all report relationship difficulties and self-esteem issues; 24 suffer with depression; 20 have PTSD, sexual health problems and/or severe anxiety; 17 have drug, alcohol and/or anger management issues; 15 have chronic, debilitating health problems; 10 experience disassociation and/or suffer insomnia; 6 gave a declared mental health diagnosis. One person took his life.

Currently, SUK has 190 people on its waiting list for counselling, the majority of which are based in London. On average, SUK receives 28 new referrals each month. This proposal is to fund counselling for up to thirty individuals per year, which would amount to approximately 828 counselling sessions annually, approximately 27 sessions per client over a year. Feedback from SUK's clients report: 80% with improved ability to express and explore feelings; 67% with improved ability to plan and make decisions; 70% with improved day-to-day functioning and 68% with improved mental health and wellbeing.

SUK is transitioning from an operating model that drew heavily on sessional therapists to one that is based on employed staff. It is hoped that this change will allow SUK to respond more flexibly to its clients, avoiding missed appointments and wasted time. Otherwise, project delivery is unchanged: clients self-refer to the service, are assessed and attending counselling in 12-week blocks for up to a year.

Financial Information

Implementation of SUK's five-year strategic plan involves an uplift in staffing numbers, a potential relocation to a new and larger office, and the development and expansion of operations, some of which will be self-funded: Trustees have committed to the following expenditure from reserves: c.£20K to maintain groupwork services during a gap in funding. £15K on ITC infrastructure; and fundraising and relocation costs as well as higher anticipated office rental charges.

SUK's Trustees increased the organisation's reserves target from £60K to £100K during 17-18 and there is a plan to revisit this at the end of 18-19 when a clearer picture of the organisation's future annual expenditure is known.

Year end as at 31 MARCH	2017	2018	2019
	Audited Accounts £	Draft £	Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	486,340	519,912	516,012
- % of income confirmed as at 04/12/18	n/a	n/a	95%
Expenditure	(412,925)	(412,418)	(572,959)
Total surplus/(deficit)	53,415	107,494	(56,947)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(5,415)	10,250	2,920
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	58,830	97,244	(59,867)
	53,415	107,494	(56,947)
Cost of Raising Funds	14,870	40,079	2,400
- % of income	3.2%	7.7%	0.5%
Total expenditure	412,925	412,418	572,958
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	150,194	245,048	185,179
No of months of total expenditure	4.4	7.1	3.9
Reserves policy target	60,000	100,000	100,000
No of months of total expenditure	1.7	2.9	2.1
Free reserves over/(under) target	90,194	145,048	85,179