

**MEETING: 09/05/2019**

**Ref: 15288**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions**

**Independent Living Agency (ILA)**

**Adv: Sandra Jones**

**Amount requested: £66,742**

**Base: Barking & Dagenham**

**Benefit: Barking & Dagenham**

**Amount recommended: £66,800**

**The Applicant**

Operating since 1997, ILA provides support to disabled people by raising awareness of the options available to them regarding their care needs, and then working towards ensuring that they have the choice on how these are managed. This is done through five services. These are: the 'Choices' project, which provides advocacy, support, information and assistance with finding accommodation and training on daily living skills; financial management services facilitating the management of direct payments of individual budgets; a payroll service to support disabled people who employ their own staff as part of their personal budget management; accessible transport; and an equipment service providing aids for daily living for disabled people.

**The Application**

The application is for two years' continuation funding for ILA's 'Peer Support Brokers' project that you initially funded for three years in 2016. This project trains disabled people to assist other disabled people to manage their personal budgets. The brokers also provide disabled people with a short consultancy to research the best local service providers, help them choose the most appropriate ones and develop personalised plans on how their personal budgets can be spent.

**The Recommendation**

Your previous funding has delivered excellent outcome for the beneficiaries of this project and the monitoring highlighted the impact of the work that they undertake with a vulnerable client group. During 2018/19 a learning visit was undertaken which confirmed the high level of impact of the project to the beneficiaries. The request fits closely with your areas of interest under positive transitions, i.e. enabling disabled people to live independently. The funding is for a part time Project Co-ordinator (21 hours per week) over two years, with associated running costs.

***£66,800 over two further and final years (£33,100: £33,700) for a part time Project Co-ordinator (21 hours per week) and project costs for delivering the Peer Support Brokers programme for Londoners.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
18/03/2016	£106,600 over three years (£42,000; £35,300; £29,300) towards a part time Project Co-ordinator (21 hours per week) and associated running costs.

**Background and detail of proposal**

Under the Care Act, local authorities have a legal obligation to offer personal budgets and to conduct a care and support plan, which was previously stated only in

guidance as part of the Personalisation agenda. However, whilst the local authority should now provide advocacy support if necessary, there is no requirement to offer support to disabled people to manage their personal budgets. ILA offers support to individuals who had been given a personal budget (typically between £5,000 to £10,000) to plan out their year and to make most effective use of their personal budget to assist them with their own health, welfare, development and independence. Disabled people are trained to offer this service. Participants were able to access activities such as attending college, engaging in sport and art to improve their health, and cooking healthier meals. In addition, individuals are able to run their own personal care rather than leaving it to their family. All participants appreciate the service and the independence which it offers.

By using peer brokers, i.e. disabled people to broker for other disabled people, there is the addition that the brokers would be given training which would lead to employment opportunities in the future as they became qualified personal budget brokers. This is reflected in the budget.

### Financial Information

The accounts show a stable level of income and expenditure year on year. The charity holds just over its reserves policy of three months of its charitable expenditure, as this gives a realistic position.

To date the organisation has not included the cost of raising funds within their accounts, including this within charitable expenditure. Your officer has discussed this with the organisation, and they are looking at how best to represent this in the future. This is included in the 2020 budget.

Year end as at 31 March	2018 Examined Accounts £	2019 Forecast £	2020 Budget £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	644,196	647,993	654,828
- % of Income confirmed as at 30/01/19	n/a	n/a	1%
Expenditure	(655,986)	(653,558)	(651,268)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(11,790)	(5,565)	3,560
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	0	0	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(11,790)	(5,565)	3,560
	(11,790)	(5,565)	3,560
Cost of Raising Funds	0	0	1,500
- % of Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.2%
Direct charitable expenditure	268,074	270,614	274,537
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	81,100	75,535	79,095
No of months of direct charitable expenditure	3.6	3.3	3.5
Reserves policy target	67,019	67,654	68,634
No of months of direct charitable expenditure.	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	14,082	7,882	10,461