

MEETING: 25/07/2019

Ref: 15071

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Advice and Support

CLIC Sargent

**Adv: Geraldine Page
Base: Hammersmith & Fulham
Benefit: London-Wide**

Amount requested: £260,206

Amount recommended: £254,000

The Applicant

CLIC Sargent (CS) is the UK's leading cancer charity for children and young people and their families. It was formed in 2005 after a successful merger between CLIC (Cancer and Leukaemia in Childhood) founded in 1976 and Sargent Cancer Care for Children founded in 1968. CS supports children and young people from diagnosis onwards and aims to help the whole family deal with the impact of cancer and its treatment, life after treatment and, in some cases, bereavement. Services provided include: specialist nurses and social care professionals; free accommodation in Homes from Home close to specialist cancer hospitals which allow families to stay together while their child is being treated; welfare grants and advice on finances and benefits; youth and play activities; and campaigning on issues which children and families say are important to them. The charity also undertakes research into the impact of cancer on children and young people. It uses this evidence to raise awareness and to seek to influence government and policy-makers, and those who provide public services across the UK.

The Application

CS care teams provide specialist clinical, practical, financial and emotional support across the UK. This application seeks funding towards its Cancer Costs programme delivered by its Cancer Care team at University College London Hospital (UCLH), including an advice helpline (in partnership with Hammersmith and Fulham Citizen's advice bureau), information resources and participation (a young person's reference group). Cancer Costs helps the families of children with cancer and young people (16-25) with a cancer diagnosis to cope with the financial burden of their illness. The Cancer Care team, including qualified social workers and young people community workers, act as a key source of support, advice and sign-posting. The team at UCLH enable families to access grant-funding as well as providing advice and support around benefits, bills, employment, housing and other interconnected issues. The team also help liaise with young people's employers and sort out housing issues to keep families together, because day-to-day life doesn't stop when you have cancer.

The Recommendation

The work of the CS Social Workers in providing non-medical, 'soft' advice and support does not fall under any statutory responsibility. It is, though, extremely important and valuable to the many young Londoners and their families learning to live and cope with cancer. The work provides children and young people and their families access to financial advice and support before they hit crisis point and help families avoid falling into unnecessary and unmanageable debt, which can add huge stress on top of diagnosis and affect a young person or families ability to cope. The project fits well with your Bridging Divides - Advice and Support Programme and funding is recommended:

£254,000 over 5 years (£48,800, £49,800, £50,800, £51,800, £52,800) towards the running costs of the Cancer Costs programme for Londoners, run by the CLIC Sargent UCLH cancer care team.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
31/10/2012	£139,000 over three years (£46,000; £46,000; £47,000) towards the salary and related costs of a Social Worker in each of the Royal Marsden and University College Hospital treatment centres for young people.

Background and detail of proposal

Undergoing cancer treatment is a difficult and isolating time for young cancer patients and their families, with their ability to cope often seriously affected by the financial pressures of a diagnosis. CS's report on Cancer Costs (Sept 2016) found 61% of parents accumulated debt as a result of their child's illness, with 17% of those borrowing over £5,000. 19% of parents, employed at the time of diagnosis, took over a year of unpaid leave during their child's treatment. 75% of parents and 54% of young people said managing their finances during treatment caused them additional stress and anxiety. The average family spends an additional £600/month on costs such as travel, overnight accommodation near hospitals, food and childcare for siblings. Lasting effects of cancer, such as mobility issues, create costs such as home modifications and on-going transport needs. As costs go up, incomes often go down. Many parents need to take unpaid leave from work or stop working altogether to care for their child. When young people cannot work due to treatment, their inability to pay bills puts them at risk of losing their homes and independence. In London, the high costs of travel and accommodation compound the problem. Some families and young people must engage in the challenging process of applying for benefits for the first time. 84% of parents and 73% of young people needed help to complete the forms.

The Cancer Costs programme provides the following advice and support to young people and children and their families to help limit the damage cancer causes beyond their health; Prompt information about benefit entitlements and support through the application process; Sign-posting/applying for grants from other organisations; Liaising with employers to secure sick pay, flexible working etc; Advocacy: arrange cheaper tariffs/more flexible payment plans with banks and utility companies during the treatment period; Applying for Blue Badges to reduce parking costs. By proactively supporting and advising families straight after diagnosis, CS Social Workers will ensure more Londoners have improved economic circumstances during and after treatment for childhood cancer. Following discussions with your Funding manager about which costs are eligible under your Bridging Divides programme, a revised grant request budget has been submitted and as a result the request has reduced slightly. The request includes a contribution towards staffing costs of the large Social Care team at UCLH, the total request for this element is no more than the equivalent of a FT post.

Financial Information

CS does not receive government funding for its core services. Income is raised through a variety of means including trusts and foundations, individual giving, corporate partnerships, selling products in its shops and online and the people's postcode lottery. The accounts presented are Group accounts which include CLIC Sargent and its active trading subsidiaries, CLIC Sargent

Promotions Limited, CLIC Sargent Developments Limited and CLIC Sargent Lottery Limited. Income and expenditure remain stable and reserves are within Trustees target of between £4.8 and £6m. The restricted deficit in 2019 relates to the spend of restricted funds on the purchase and construction of Homes from Home (free accommodation for children and young people and families close to principal treatment centres). The cost of development has been transferred to the designated fixed asset reserve.

You will observe from the financial table that the costs of raising funds is on the high side. CS have been investing in increasing the number of regular givers, whilst this provides long-term financial stability it is expensive in the short term. Additionally, the impact CS has on the families it supports means that they often want to 'give back' after treatment, usually in the form of local fundraising events or challenges. CS are incredibly grateful for the support families give it in return, however, the costs of community and challenge events fundraising are higher than other forms of fundraising. CS is currently developing its new corporate strategy and over the next three years, it plans to increase its reach, so that it can be there for every young person who needs support, this will mean a greater demand for its advice and support services.

Year end as at 31st March	2018 Signed Accounts £	2019 Draft Accounts £	2020 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	28,884,000	29,549,000	30,356,000
- % of Income confirmed as at 20/06/19	N/A	100%	14%
Expenditure	(25,557,000)	(27,624,000)	(28,800,000)
Total surplus/(deficit)	3,327,000	1,925,000	1,556,000
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	1,173,000	(2,016,000)	60,700
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	2,154,000	3,941,000	1,495,300
	3,327,000	1,925,000	1,556,000
Cost of Raising Funds	11,901,000	12,969,000	13,109,000
- % of income	41.2%	43.9%	43.2%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	23,478,000	25,492,000	28,800,000
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	3,801,000	3,249,000	4,744,300
No of months of operating expenditure	1.9	1.5	2.0
Reserves policy target	4,800,000	4,800,000	4,800,000
No of months of operating expenditure	2.5	2.3	2.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(999,000)	(1,551,000)	(55,700)