

MEETING: 25/07/2019

Ref: 15017

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital

Irish Elderly Advice Network

Adv: Jack Joslin

Amount requested: £150,000

Base: Camden

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £150,000

The Applicant

The Irish Elderly Advice Network (IEAN) is a registered charity supporting older Irish people throughout London. The charity was originally established in 1993 following the death of three isolated older people in Camden. These tragedies shook the Irish Community and a group was formed to ensure that this would not happen again. The charity now works across London providing professional and cultural services that address poverty, isolation and distress in the older Irish Community. They provide welfare advice and run a cultural programme of events including an Older Irish Choir.

The Application

The Irish Elders Culture Office aims to enrich the lives of older Irish people, as well as any other older person, through engagement with music, song, theatre, literature, history and heritage. This application is seeking support towards the cultural work with Older Irish people across the two hubs in Camden and Hackney. Funding will contribute to the Head of the Culture Offices salary to underpin the cultural activity at the charity over the next 5 years. The project will deliver the Irish Pensioners' Choir, Irish Elders Theatre, Poetry and Literacy projects throughout the year.

The Recommendation

IEAN is a grass roots organisation working with the isolated older Irish Community across London. They are embedded in the community and deliver a range of services across London that cater to the needs of older Irish people. This application meets the outcomes of the Connecting the Capital programme as it will work with isolated and disadvantaged older people to help them access the arts, cultural and health and well-being opportunities. As the charity relies so heavily on funding from the Irish Government, which is agreed annually, funding each year should be subject to confirmation of this ongoing support. This will be monitored annually. Funding is recommended as follows:

£150,000 over 5 years (£30,000 X 5) to contribute to the salary cost of the Head of Culture and associated office costs. Funding each year is conditional on written confirmation from the Irish Government of IEANs core funding.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
06/07/2018	As the project changed significantly during assessment, the applicant decided to withdraw the application and will re-apply under our new programme.
19/05/2011	£13,183 over three years (£5,000; £4,300; £3,883) towards the running costs of the Irish Pensioners' Choir.

Background and detail of proposal

The Irish Elders Culture Office was founded in 2015 and dedicated to celebrating the cultural legacy of older Irish emigrants in London. The Cultural Office work across the charity's community settings to offer a range of cultural programmes for, but not exclusive to, older Irish people in North London. The charity has an office in Camden and have recently acquired a community hall on the border of Haringey and Hackney, close to Manor House. The new centre will allow the charity to increase its cultural offer to the community.

IEAN started delivering more cultural activity after receiving a legacy from a former beneficiary of the charity. The legacy allowed the charity to develop the cultural offer and set up the theatre and Choir programmes. In order to sustain this work the charity needs to underpin the Cultural programme on an ongoing basis, the additional funds will come from the annual grant received by the Irish Government and other planned fundraising. This grant will underpin the work of the Charity, allow them to increase the Cultural provision and ensure that there is better access to the arts and culture for the older Irish people they serve.

Financial Information

IEAN receive a significant portion of their income from the Irish Government as part of their Emigrant Support Programme. Funding for this is agreed on an annual basis and the Charity have received verbal confirmation of the funding for 2019/20. At assessment your officer asked about the charity's history of overspending. This relates to a significant legacy that was received in 2016. This income was used to set up and imbed new projects to diversify the cultural offer over a two-year period.

IEAN currently have a significant deficit in its restricted reserves, which is covered by its unrestricted funds, this leaves only a small amount remaining as free reserves, which are under target. Low free reserves and the over reliance on funding from the Irish Government put the charity in a position of risk, which was discussed at assessment. Funding should therefore be conditional on written confirmation of support on an annual basis from the Irish Government, with payments released quarterly subject to the production of management accounts. By managing the grant in this way your officer will have regular touch points to discuss fundraising progress, identify capacity support and engage the charity with the Trusts funder plus offer.

Year end as at 31 March	2018 Accounts £	2019 Draft £	2020 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	151,202	152,630	180,000
- % of Income confirmed as at 21/02/2019		100%	5%
Expenditure	(153,449)	(152,581)	(171,204)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(2,247)	49	8,796
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	172	(25,081)	(11,204)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(2,419)	25,130	20,000
	(2,247)	49	8,796
Cost of Raising Funds	0	500	500
- % of Income	0.0%	0.3%	0.3%
Total Expenditure	153,449	152,581	171,204
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	14,184	14,233	23,029
No of months of operating expenditure	1.1	1.1	1.6
Reserves policy target	25,575	25,430	28,534
No of months of operating expenditure	2.0	2.0	2.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(11,391)	(11,197)	(5,505)