

**MEETING: 25/07/2019**

**Ref: 15062**

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

**Islington Mind**

**Adv: Kate Moralee**

**Base: Islington**

**Amount requested: £181,175**

**Benefit: Islington**

**Amount recommended: £181,200**

**The Applicant**

Established in 1982, Islington Mind (IM) delivers recovery oriented services through social inclusion, access to mainstream services, Education/Training/Employment opportunities, individual support plans and self-management skills development, alongside community leisure and social activities, enabling service users to live full and enriching lives. IM offers immediate access to integrated recovery pathways as well as access to training, workshops and advice, with the aim of raising mental health awareness and tackling stigma.

**The Application**

The Trust is asked to support a p/t project co-ordinator, a sessional companion support worker, p/t psychotherapist, clinical supervision, volunteer support costs and other associated costs to deliver the "Freedom from Fear to Love" project providing mental health and wellbeing support for LGBTQ+ Asylum Seekers and Refugees living in London. The project will provide one-to-one support during the seeking of asylum and move-on including companion support to attend key appointments, expert by experience peer support groups and an individual psychotherapy service.

**The Recommendation**

Islington Mind is well placed to deliver this work as it currently delivers Outcome - a pan-London provision providing support to the most vulnerable groups within the LGBTQ+ community including asylum seekers and refugees, trans individuals, people with learning difficulties and LBT women experiencing domestic violence. Outcome involves service users in the planning and delivery of all services, is beneficiary led with user participation at its heart, including coproducing services. This project builds on established research, was developed in consultation with service users from a small project funded through Awards for All and has benefitted from an intensive development phase funded by National Mind. This project is currently part funded by Lloyd's Bank Foundation until December 2021. This proposal fits well with your Positive Transitions programme, specifically your support for migrants and refugees to access mainstream services and widen participation in the community in which they live priority area and funding is recommended:

**£181,200 over 5 years (£27,450; £27,700; £41,750; £42,000; £42,300) for the p/t project coordinator, sessional companion support, psychotherapist and other associated project costs.**

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
02/05/2018	Withdrawn as the organisation has already secured all funding required for year 1 of the project.

26/11/2015

Application declined as was for very specialised work but was not clear from the application that the organisation had the specialist skills required for delivery or at the scale proposed.

### **Background and detail of proposal**

IM has experienced a growing number of new referrals from the most vulnerable groups within the LGBTQ+ community such as Trans individuals, LGBTQ+ people from BME communities, and LGBTQ+ asylum seekers and refugees in severe and acute support needs. This demand has increased since the closure of PACE, the only dedicated LGBTQ+ service providing practical support to LGBTQ+ individuals, including a specialist LGBT Advocacy Service, meaning that advocacy support tailored to the needs of LGBTQ+ people has not been available since 2016.

Outcome welcomes 1 or 2 new referrals of LGBTQ+ asylum seekers and refugees in acute need every week. The service receives referrals from Asylum Aid, Migrant Help, The Refugee Council, Freedom from Torture, the Refugee Therapy Centre, Hestia (DV and trafficking support agency) and from various solicitors.

Service users shared their issues which include:

- living in fear and having to hide a significant part of one's identity impacting on mental health, self-acceptance, self-esteem and confidence
- imprisonment without trial and near death in prison, rape in prison, rape by neighbours, rape by husband's family, being forced to be part of painful rituals, beating by members of family, beating in prison and near death and children being taken away
- persecution impacting on capacity to trust others
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms
- feelings of shame, guilt and experiencing suicidal and self-harming tendencies and thoughts
- screening interviews, substantive interviews and court hearings being overwhelming, daunting and retraumatising
- isolation, rejection and marginalisation making transitioning to settling in the UK difficult
- feeling unsupported, misunderstood, undermined and judged by heterosexuals when seeking legal advice etc.
- being unaware of any appropriate support sensitive to LGBTQ+ issues

Service users requested a combination of emotional and advocacy support in one to one and group settings; help with gathering documents, help with communication with Home Office and solicitors, practical support in accessing housing, benefits and employment, support in attending key appointments, therapy sensitive to LGBTQ+ issues, peer support, opportunities to socialise with other LGBTQ+ people.

The proposed project responds to the needs identified and the solutions proposed with the aim of preserving and strengthening the mental health of LGBTQ+ asylum seekers and refugees whilst supporting them to be better able to settle in the UK and contribute to their communities.

### **Financial Information**

IM has recently secured a large contract for LB Islington, previously four contracts now rolled into one, with IM predicting that expenditure in year 1 of the contract will be higher due in part to implementation of the new contract, TUPE and possible redundancies. The SMT and Trustees have adopted a worst case scenario budget for year 1 of the contract to take into account any exceptional expenditure. However the Trustees are confident of a return to unrestricted surplus in year 2 and beyond,

as the organisation has a history of unrestricted surplus (2018 and 2019) and effective contract management. The organisation has robust mechanisms in place to monitor contract delivery (service and financial), has an Implementation Plan and Steering Group in place with representation from London Borough Islington and Commissioners, and will be able to respond to any deviation from the contract delivery as appropriate.

In addition IM has a funding strategy which includes increasing the amount of income from non-statutory sources by submitting 4 applications to Trusts and Foundations per month. It has recently been successful in securing income from London Catalyst, Santander, Active London and Big Lottery, and has further applications to Trusts and Foundations identified.

<b>Year end as at 31st March</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>Signed Accounts</b>	<b>Draft Accounts</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	907,759	1,062,611	1,361,657
- % of Income confirmed as at 30/5/19	N/A	N/A	96%
Expenditure	(855,336)	(1,006,741)	(1,352,884)
Total surplus/(deficit)	<b>52,423</b>	<b>55,870</b>	<b>8,773</b>
<b>Split between:</b>			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	11,665	27,696	42,896
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	40,758	28,174	(34,123)
	<b>52,423</b>	<b>55,870</b>	<b>8,773</b>
<b>Cost of Raising Funds</b>	<b>16,913</b>	<b>17,964</b>	<b>18,323</b>
- % of income	1.9%	1.7%	1.3%
<b>Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)</b>	<b>798,187</b>	<b>811,158</b>	<b>1,124,547</b>
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	161,330	189,504	155,381
No of months of operating expenditure	2.4	2.8	1.7
Reserves policy target	427,818	405,579	562,274
No of months of operating expenditure	6.4	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(266,488)	(216,075)	(406,893)