

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital**Chinese Community Centre****Adv: Sandra Davidson****Amount requested: £98,916****Base: Westminster****Amount recommended: £81,000****Benefit: London-wide****The Applicant**

The Chinese Community Centre (CCC) was established in 1980 and is based in the heart of Chinatown in Soho. The charity supports the disadvantaged, isolated or vulnerable within the Chinese community. It works with the community to develop and facilitate services that improve the quality of life for its members and local people. The Centre meets the diverse needs of beneficiaries through the provision of welfare, educational and cultural services that welcome everyone.

The Application

CCC is seeking funding to sustain and enhance its activities to improve the quality of life of its ageing membership. Many Chinese people aged 65 or above have poor English language skills and are of limited financial means. The request is towards the salary and running costs of the luncheon club at the Centre and to develop health awareness initiatives for older people, including those with mental health concerns.

The Recommendation

CCC has a 39-year history of playing a vital role in improving the lives and welfare of the Chinese community in London. It is an established and trusted organisation within the community and well positioned to provide this service. The project costs appeared to have been generously costed and a reduced amount is advised as follows:

£81,000 over three years (£27,000 x 3) towards the salary costs of a full-time Health and Wellbeing Project Co-ordinator (15hpw), 2x cooks' wages and associated costs of wellbeing activities for older people.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
06/09/2007	£90,000 over three years (3 x £30,000) for the salary of a full-time Health Improvement Officer and associated running costs.

Background and detail of proposal

The Centre attracts visitors from all parts of London, partly because its location is well-served by public transport but also because it allows people to visit local Chinese shops and restaurants and to be in an area where Cantonese and Putonghua are spoken freely – an important consideration for the older clients. The Centre has been running activities for older people for many years and is seen as a social hub for older people providing a welcoming space for members to access cultural and well-being opportunities. Figures from the census for 2011 show the

Chinese population in the UK to be 433,150. This represents 0.7% of the national population. Of this total Chinese population, over 124,250 live in London. Research by the Chinese Welfare Trust (Sept 2018) suggests:

- Increasing demand for health-related and well-being recreational activities to tackle isolation. Mental health support is an emerging area of service need, as well as advice and support.
- General advice services and luncheon clubs are underfunded. Some centres resort to self-financing these services to keep them accessible to older people and the most vulnerable.
- Chinese migrants who came to the UK in the 1960s-1970s are now ageing. Many of this older generation are less able to communicate in English. Current provision of social and support services that cater for their cultural needs is inadequate and demand is expected to rise, as people live longer with conditions such as dementia.

This application builds on work delivered by CCC and aims to strengthen and increase its reach to older people 65+ by providing exercise classes (at a level suitable for older people and including traditional exercises such as Tai Chi), and regular programme of talks and exchanges on health-related topics (provided by specialists advisors where appropriate). The lunch club service caters for an average of 35 people twice a week. CCC has strategic links and partnerships with other providers in the local area including Age UK, Chinese National Healthy Living Centre, Chinese Mental Health Association and Notre Dame Refugee Centre. The project will be developed in consultation with people using the service and the wider community.

Financial Information

The growth in income for 2020 is due to an increase in grants applied for as well as planned room hire and activity increases. The charity holds reserves over its reserves policy of six-eight months operating expenditure. Unrestricted funds will be used to cover restricted deficit in 2020.

Year end as at 31st March	2018 Signed Accounts £	2019 Draft Accounts £	2020 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	199,388	220,136	256,475
- % of income confirmed as at 25/07/2019	N/A	N/A	77%
Expenditure	(222,759)	(269,994)	(263,330)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(23,371)	(49,858)	(6,855)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)		7,327	(7,186)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(23,371)	(57,185)	332
	(23,371)	(49,858)	(6,854)
Cost of Raising Funds	12,681	11,556	18,757
- % of income	6.4%	5.2%	7.3%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	201,759	238,733	174,078
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	165,899	108,714	109,046
No of months of operating expenditure	9.9	5.5	7.5
Reserves policy target	50,440	59,683	43,520
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	115,459	49,031	65,527