

**MEETING: 26/09/2019**

**Ref: 15553**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital**

**Noah's Ark Children's Hospice**

**Adv: Claran Rafferty**

**Amount requested: £85,905**

**Base: Barnet**

**Benefit: Barnet, Enfield,  
Haringey, Camden, Islington**

**Amount recommended: £86,000**

**The Applicant**

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice was established in 1999 as a "hospice at home" service – providing clinical, emotional and practical care and support to children with life-limiting or life-threatening conditions and their families in their homes and in the community in the absence of a physical hospice building. Its current work is still provided in clients' homes although a major fundraising campaign over the past 3+ years has enabled the charity to build a brand new hospice, called The Ark, which is due to open later in 2019.

**The Application**

This application is to continue, for a further two years, your three-year funding of a p/t Drama & Movement Therapist and a p/t Music Therapist to support disabled children within the overall family context. The work delivered over the past three years has been exceptional, thanks in no small part to the skills and expertise of the two postholders and to the level of support given by the charity to them and their work.

**The Recommendation**

Each child, when first embarking on these specialist therapy programmes, undergoes an assessment of their current needs and abilities from which a specialist programme can be constructed. This programme will be delivered for as long as the child needs it and, in those sad occasions when the child dies, the Therapists can assist the family with appropriate measures to help them grieve and to remember the child in the way they may wish (eg by memory-making). Their work with the children has greatly increased their quality of life and there are many examples of where children have flourished due to their interventions. A grant is advised:

***£86,000 over two further and final years (2 x £43,000) for the salary of a p/t (3dpw) Music Therapist plus 2 dpw of a Drama & Movement Therapist, plus related activity costs for work with London children with complex needs and disabilities.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
22/09/2016	£120,000 over three years (3 x £40,000) for the salary of a p/t (3dpw) Music Therapist plus 2 dpw of a Drama & Movement Therapist, plus related activity costs.

## Background and detail of proposal

Approximately 70 seriously ill and/or disabled children will benefit from the Music or Drama/Movement therapy sessions each year. Where demand exceeds capacity prioritisation is done through the initial assessment process. The new building, when it fully opens in a few months, will greatly enhance the service as there will be dedicated space for the Therapists to work, though they will still need to support some of the children at home. Their sessions can be delivered as one-to-one or in groups, whichever is best for the child. At times of crisis and in bereavement the Creative Therapies Team is a fantastic resource and support for the whole family and represent the charity's most in-demand service for the past three years.

## Financial Information

At the end of 2018, and while the new building was still being constructed, the charity held £871,633 of funds which were deemed as restricted to support the Capital Appeal but which could also be used as a "service sustainability fund" to enable services to continue in the event of a major disruption to the building schedule (this usage was made clear to donors). With the building now completed in mid-2019 those funds, which are still contained within the restricted surplus shown for 2019 in the table below, can be considered as being available to offset the deficit in unrestricted reserves forecast for the year and which would bring the level of free reserves to approximately £600,000 at the year end and close to the policy target. With the building now complete the restricted funds invested in its construction will show on future balance sheets as fixed assets.

Year end as at 31st December	2017 Audited Accounts £	2018 Audited Accounts £	2019 Forecast £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	4,521,120	4,731,338	5,431,112
- % of Income confirmed as at 30/8/2019	N/A	100%	87%
Expenditure	(2,534,727)	(2,822,628)	(3,286,088)
<b>Total surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>1,986,393</b>	<b>1,908,710</b>	<b>2,145,024</b>
<b>Split between:</b>			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	2,285,368	2,948,349	2,659,432
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(298,304)	(998,511)	(514,408)
Endowment Fund surplus/(deficit)	(671)	(41,128)	0
	<b>1,986,393</b>	<b>1,908,710</b>	<b>2,145,024</b>
<b>Cost of Raising Funds</b>	<b>1,092,610</b>	<b>1,101,504</b>	<b>1,008,582</b>
- % of Income	24.2%	23.3%	18.6%
<b>Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)</b>	<b>1,887,846</b>	<b>2,139,565</b>	<b>2,766,852</b>
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	517,148	227,944	(286,464)
No of months of operating expenditure	3.3	1.3	-1.2
Reserves policy target	472,000	534,000	691,713
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	45,148	(306,056)	(978,177)