

MEETING: 26/09/2019

Ref: 15516

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions

Centre 404

Adv: Sandra Davidson

Base: Islington

Amount requested: £84,779

**Benefit: Islington, Camden,
Hackney & Haringey**

Amount recommended: £84,800

The Applicant

Centre 404 offers friendly, reliable and person-centred support to people with a learning disability and their families in North London. Founded in 1951 by carers of children with learning disabilities, the charity continues to work towards building a society where people with learning disabilities are valued and involved. Over the years, Centre 404 has built vital services in Islington and across north London to enable children and adults with a learning disability and their families to have a voice and access to activities and support. Centre 404 offers a range of services including family support; carers' support group; a learning and leisure service and various social and recreational events. It also runs safe, supported housing for 135 people with learning difficulties, and additional outreach support for people living in the community. The organisation has a rich diversity of families accessing services with 71% from BAME backgrounds.

The Application

In May 2016 you awarded Centre 404 £119,800 over three years for the salary cost of a full time Case Worker - Older Carers and associated running costs to develop its work with older carers (ie aged 65+) of people with learning disabilities. As a result of the success of the project over the last three years, the charity is seeking two-year continuation funds to build on and develop a dedicated support service for older carers through a range of services.

The Recommendation

Over three years of operation the project delivered good outcomes and positive impact for older carers accessing the activities, and exceeded outcomes originally set for the project. Your continuation funding, if agreed, will allow the charity to provide a flexible, responsive and holistic service for older carers, enabling them to take more control of their caring role. This proposal fits well with your Positive Transitions theme, supporting older people to increase choice and control in their lives. Funding is advised:

£84,800 over two further and final years (2 x £42,400) for the salary of a full-time Older Carers Outreach and Engagement Co-ordinator and associated running costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
23/11/2017	£3,200 (8 days @ £400) to provide an eco-audit.
24/05/2016	£119,800 over three years (£38,700; £39,900; £41,200) for the salary of a full-time Case Worker and associated running costs.
28/07/2011	£50,000 towards the costs of an accessible lift at 404 Camden Road.

Background and detail of proposal

Islington is the 24th most deprived borough in England with 34% of families living in low-income households (Islington Strategic Needs Assessment). Research shows that families with an adult with a learning disability are significantly more likely to be living in hardship or fall into hardship. As parents and carers grow older, caring responsibilities become more arduous, particularly where a parent or carer has a mobility problem, long term illness or disability themselves. The 'Speak Up for Older Carers campaign 2016' led by the Carers Trust surveyed 422 older carers and published Retirement on Hold. This report highlights the challenges faced by older carers and makes recommendations to improve their experience now and in the future. The report explores the stress and anxiety older carers face, the impact of poor physical and mental health, lack of respite opportunities and pressure to fill the gap left by cuts in services. Through an extensive outreach programme, Centre 404 offers carers access to help and support in a variety of community settings as well as office-based appointment and home visits. Carers report they feel safe, secure and more confident to access services. User feedback is crucial to service delivery and the voice of carers is at the centre of the charities plans and projects. Two part time workers (17.5hpw) with complimentary skill sets run the project. One focuses on engaging carers not previously known to the Centre and the other offers in depth advice, information and support. To promote the service, flyers and leaflets are widely distributed in community venues, local statutory and voluntary sector organisations, health practices and at Centre 404's own activities and events. As a result, the project has reached older carers from a variety of diverse communities. Centre 404's main offices have temporarily relocated until March 2020 due to building works being carried out. Following the move, the project continues to run smoothly in local community venues enabling older carers to attend meetings and activities close to their homes.

Financial Information

Centre 404 receives 90% of its income from statutory sources. Overall, the financial position is reassuring. Income increased in 2018/19 due to support from The National Lottery Community Fund towards the development of the building and extending services to provide more activities for the community. The increased unrestricted income for 2018 & 2019 has in turn increased the level of free reserves. The reserves are higher than the targeted amount due to planned capital expenditure over the next twelve months.

Year end as at 31st March 2018	2018	2019	2020
	Signed Accounts	Draft Accounts	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	4,770,484	5,300,303	5,906,402
- % of Income confirmed as at 8/7/19	N/A	100%	100%
Expenditure	(4,476,383)	(4,974,144)	(5,817,546)
Total surplus/(deficit)	294,101	326,159	88,856
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(16,350)	(12,172)	(16,929)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	310,451	338,331	105,785
	294,101	326,159	88,856
Cost of Raising Funds	9,256	8,003	8,000
- % of Income	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	4,051,544	4,519,896	5,389,127
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	1,754,640	2,092,971	2,198,756
No of months of operating expenditure	5.2	5.6	4.9
Reserves policy target	1,012,886	1,129,974	1,347,282
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	741,754	962,997	851,474