

**MEETING: 28/11/2019**

**Ref: 15417**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Advice and Support**

**CARIS Haringey**

**Adv: Natalie Jordan**

**Base: Haringey**

**Amount requested: £110,915**

**Benefit: Haringey**

**Amount recommended: £111,000**

**The Applicant**

CARIS Haringey (Christian Action and Response in Society) is a non-proselytising registered charity working with homeless families from all faith backgrounds in Haringey. Through advice and advocacy on housing, benefits and immigration, weekly social drop-ins, ESOL classes, summer activities and other practical support services, it aims to improve health and wellbeing for homeless families, reduce homelessness, and improve housing conditions, as well as policy and practice relating to homelessness.

**The Application**

The charity seeks funding towards its advice service and provision of emergency food parcels for destitute families in Haringey. Support is predominantly delivered through casework by face-to-face appointment at its office in Tottenham, and through advice and information workshops in local settings such as schools and children's centres. Food is distributed to parents and children who have no immediate recourse to public funds (NRPF).

**The Recommendation**

The application fits your priorities for Advice and Support services, reaching families facing multiple and complex needs including immigration, housing and benefits advice, and addressing immediate needs relating to food poverty. Funding will support the administrative mechanisms behind the supply of emergency food parcels, and not direct purchase of food, in line with your policy. CARIS Haringey carries Advice and Quality Standard certification for General Help and Case Work, and is registered with the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner (OISC) at Level One, which covers basic immigration advice within Immigration Rules. It is well linked in with relevant local services, receiving the majority of its referrals due to case complexity from social services and Haringey Migrant Support Centre, alongside schools and health visitors, and other voluntary organisations.

**£111,000 over five years (£21,800; £21,900; £23,000; £21,500; £22,800) for the advice service and emergency food parcel administration, including a Senior Advice Worker (14hpw) and related running costs.**

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
20/10/2011	£62,500 over three years (£21,250; £21,250; £20,000) towards salary and running costs of CARIS Haringey's pre-entry and level 1 ESOL classes for women.

**Background and detail of proposal**

CARIS has worked in Haringey for over twenty years. The borough has one of the highest rates of homeless families of any in the UK in the top 25 of all local authorities. This includes 3,000 families (including over 5,300 children) in Haringey in

temporary accommodation. In the year 2018-2019, CARIS Haringey saw a significant increase in demand on its services, including 100 new referrals from external agencies. The expectation is that factors such as Brexit, Universal Credit (introduced in the borough in October 2018) and the lack of legal aid will continue to drive demand yet further.

The support provided is long-term and wrap-around. It aims to increase clients' understanding of welfare options, housing rights and options, where possible empowering them to take action for themselves.

CARIS is also part of the No Recourse to Public Funds Network, where the issues faced by service users and the impact felt as a result of NRPF are discussed, best practice shared, and views are represented to the Home Office and other government departments.

Unlike through food banks, the provision of food support to service users is normally longer term rather than short-term emergency-based, as clients who have an NRPF condition imposed on them due to their immigration status are often destitute with no likely reprieve unless the condition is lifted.

### Financial Information

The forecast dip in turnover for CARIS' current year, ending in 2020, is in part a result of salaries not paid due to the long term absence of the CEO/Director (now returned), and the vacancy in a second Senior Advice Worker post not covered in this application for which the charity was actively recruiting at the time of assessment. Reserves are currently below policy, but in assessment CARIS highlighted that it has demonstrated its ability to build on this, successfully doubling the levels held between 2018 and 2019 having strengthened fundraising skills in the team.

Year end as at 31st March	2018 Signed Accounts £	2019 Draft Accounts £	2020 Forecast £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	208,570	266,987	225,137
- % of Income confirmed	N/A	100%	89%
Expenditure	(214,893)	(243,261)	(213,904)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(6,323)	23,726	11,233
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	770	4,084	4,012
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(7,093)	19,642	7,221
	(6,323)	23,726	11,233
Cost of Raising Funds	5,696	5,592	6,000
- % of Income	2.7%	2.1%	2.7%
Operating expenditure	177,000	191,600	178,000
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	14,748	34,390	41,611
No of months of operating expenditure	1.0	2.2	2.8
Reserves policy target	37,500	48,000	45,000
No of months of operating expenditure	2.5	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(22,752)	(13,610)	(3,389)