

MEETING 26/03/2020

Ref: 15673

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions**Spinal Injuries Association****Adv: Kate Moralee****Base: Outside London****Amount requested: £235,660****Benefit: London-wide****Amount recommended: £248,200****The Applicant**

Spinal Injuries Association (SIA) was founded in 1974 by Baroness Masham of Ilton, who became spinal cord injured in 1958. SIA is a National Charity that supports anyone affected by spinal cord injury. It offers a range of support including advice and advocacy; peer support; Nurse Specialist input; and telephone counselling. It uses evidence from the support it offers and feedback from its members/beneficiaries to campaign for better services and to influence policy. SIA is user led with a requirement being that 75% of trustees must be spinal cord injured.

The Application

SIA is seeking your support to employ a Peer Support Officer (PSO) and associated costs to provide support, advice, guidance and advocacy for people experiencing spinal cord injury in London. The peer support worker will provide inspiration, motivation, hope and real-life experience of adjusting to life after spinal cord injury to approximately 100 of the 600 people who are newly diagnosed every year.

The Recommendation

SIA is a user led organisation (staff and trustees) and is the national voice of people with spinal cord injuries and a leading source of expert guidance for healthcare and legal professionals. The PSO complements the work of clinicians and other health care professionals involved in a person's care. The PSO will work in partnership with a Nurse Specialist to visit patients in the London Spinal Cord Injury Centre in Stanmore, district hospitals, trauma centres and rehab clinics. The PSO has the greatest impact when supporting individuals from hospital/health care setting to home where the greatest challenge is moving from a safe environment to the unknown. Your practice is to award funding for maximum 1fte post, however the original request from SIA exceeded this. The original request has been revised to include on-costs and inflation and allocate the project running costs to CBT, with other staff costs allocated to other fundraised income.

£248,200 over 5 years (£48,300; £49,000, £49,600, £50,300, £51,000) for a f/t Project Support Officer and associated running costs to provide support, advice and advocacy for people experiencing spinal cord injury in London.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
06/07/2018	Application declined due to organisation holding high level of free reserves.
22/09/2016	Application declined as was of a poor quality.
14/07/2016	Application withdrawn.

Background and detail of proposal

Approximately 600 new people experience spinal cord injury every year in London and there are approximately 6,000 people currently living with the condition in London. There is only one SI centre in London (Stanmore) with 50% of those newly diagnosed receiving treatment and rehab at Stoke Mandeville.

SIA is the leading voice on spinal cord injury in the country. Its offer is a holistic service led by users for users, with a PSO in every region. The model offers support from a Spinal Cord Injury Specialist Nurse, a Peer Support Officer and access to an Advocacy team. The model is going through some change currently, with the aim of recruiting more Peer Volunteers to allow the PSO's to focus on building networks with other organisations, employers and medical staff and to offer more specialist and expert advice and support.

The PSO seeks to empower newly injured people to lead an independent life, offering emotional support providing reassurance and demonstrating that a fulfilled life is still possible. Leaving hospital and returning home can present many difficulties as well as being a scary time. For example one person told your officer of his own experience of his first night at home, where he had transferred from wheelchair to bed then realised the light was still on! This simple task presented a significant challenge for the person concerned – as he had never transferred from his own bed (soft sprung mattress) to his wheelchair before and was not able to do so. To solve the challenge, he had to throw his shoes at the light switch...successfully. Sharing these stories with people returning home enables them to understand that everyone experiences difficulties, however there is support to overcome them.

Financial Information

SIA has benefited from funding of £890,000 from the October Club in 2019/20, with £600,000 of the reported unrestricted reserves designated for the specific purpose of expanding the Specialist Nurse Service, which it will spend over three years, 2019/20 to 2021/22. This "one off" fundraising activity explains the free reserves over target in 2019/20 and 2020/21. The increase in expenditure and associated unrestricted deficit is attributable to the expansion of the Specialist Nurse Service and funds raised through the October Club for this purpose.

Year end as at 31/3	2019 Signed Accounts £	2020 Forecast £	2021 Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	2,129,307	2,991,926	2,640,112
- % of Income confirmed as at 19/2/2020	N/A	78%	13%
Expenditure	(2,189,700)	(2,254,806)	(2,789,039)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(60,393)	737,120	(148,927)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	87,406	4,231	45,500
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(147,799)	732,889	(194,427)
	(60,393)	737,120	(148,927)
Operating Expenditure (unrestricted)	1,824,573	2,025,172	2,489,039
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	816,714	1,549,603	1,355,176
No of months of operating expenditure	5.4	9.2	6.5
Reserves policy target	912,287	1,012,586	1,244,520
No of months of operating expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(95,573)	537,017	110,657