

MEETING 26/03/2020

Ref: 15688

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions****Jewish Women's Aid****Adv: Natalie Jordan****Base: Barnet****Amount requested: £966,290****Benefit: London-wide****{Revised request: £248,791}****Amount recommended: £248,700****The Applicant**

Jewish Women's Aid (JWA) is the only specialist organisation in the UK supporting Jewish women and girls and their children who are affected by domestic and sexual violence in their intimate relationships. It emerged in the 1980s in London and Leeds, where Jewish social workers sought ways to support Jewish women affected by violence and abuse; the two merged in the 1990s. An independent charity, it is a member of and quality accredited by the national Women's Aid Network, working closely with Solace Women's Aid. It offers counselling services, a professional Domestic Abuse Service, an anonymous helpline, training and education programmes, and, most recently, the Dina Service for survivors of sexual violence.

**The Application**

JWA seeks funding for its flagship Domestic Abuse Service, available to all Jewish women, from those who self-identify as Jewish to those from Charedi (Jewish Orthodox) communities. A Domestic Abuse (DA) Worker, accredited as an Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) with SafeLives accreditation, supports women from initial contact, ensuring the client's (and any dependents') safety. Support continues through regular risk assessments, check-ins and meetings, safeguarding referrals, and a support plan that focuses on safety, physical and emotional health, housing, employment, and benefits. The DA Worker also supports the arrangement of legal advice and facilitates support at family court from trained volunteer McKenzie friends, increasing the likelihood of obtaining civil orders that secure their home.

**The Recommendation**

JWA's original application included costs attributable to the whole Domestic Abuse Service in London. At assessment, your officer encouraged JWA to submit a revised bid that was more clearly costed and commensurate with the costs directly associated with the full-time DA Worker post: related training, supervision (including clinical), and a core contribution. It is this revised proposal that informs the below recommendation:

***£248,700 over 5 years (£47,300; £48,500; £49,700; £51,000; £52,200) for a Domestic Abuse Worker (35 hpw) and associated costs for its London service.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
09/09/2010	Application declined as did not meet the funding criteria.

**Background and detail of proposal**

Perpetrators of violence and abuse will often use faith and community as a tool of abuse. The provision of a culturally specific service enables Jewish women to

access support where there is an understanding of related needs and experiences that generic programmes are not always able to address. Jewish beliefs, for instance, can include an emphasis on family life and peace in the home, which can exacerbate the difficulty faced by women in leaving an abusive home life: it is estimated that it takes Jewish women two years longer (11.5 years total) on average to take the first step in leaving an abusive home.

Barnet, where the charity is headquartered, has the proportionately largest Jewish community in the country, and 250,000 Jewish people are estimated to live in London.

### Financial Information

JWA's reserves policy does not define a specific target while the charity undergoes a period of significant expansion. However, during the assessment JWA indicated that it aims to maintain reserves in excess of six months' total expenditure.

In JWA's draft accounts for 2019, free reserves held are the equivalent to 9 months' total expenditure. Due to an increase in client base (up 50% since 2015), JWA has invested in expanding services including increasing front-line staff and office space, utilising unrestricted reserves and further deficits on unrestricted turnover are expected. In order to stem deficits, JWA is increasing fundraising activities whilst prioritising applications for multi-year funding to ensure continuity for its core services, whilst continuing to apply for some smaller grants to mitigate overreliance on few larger funders. Reserves are not expected to deplete lower than the minimum six months defined. Whilst the table shows forecasts a deficit on restricted funds, this relates to specific project funding and not core services; if funding were not secured the activities and therefore expenditure would not be made.

Year end as at July 31st	2018	2019	2020
	Signed Accounts	Draft Accounts	Budget
	£	£	£
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	705,927	1,032,482	878,042
- % of Income confirmed as at 30/11/2019	N/A	N/A	54%
Expenditure	(807,021)	(888,135)	(1,116,413)
Total surplus/(deficit)	<b>(101,094)</b>	<b>144,347</b>	<b>(238,371)</b>
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(11,610)	197,879	(137,781)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(89,484)	(53,532)	(100,590)
	<b>(101,094)</b>	<b>144,347</b>	<b>(238,371)</b>
Total expenditure	807,021	888,135	1,116,413
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	736,227	693,902	593,312
No of months of operating expenditure	10.9	9.4	6.4
Reserves policy target	403,511	444,068	558,207
No of months of operating expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	332,717	249,835	35,106