

MEETING: 08/07/2020

Ref: 15865

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital**Inclusion Barnet****Adv: Ciaran Rafferty****Base: Barnet****Amount requested: £296,504****Benefit: Barnet****Amount recommended: £284,000****The Applicant**

Inclusion Barnet, a charity established in 2014 and led by disabled people, is the association of disabled people and centre for independent living serving LB Barnet. It's key services and programmes include: Touchpoint – information, signposting and peer support to people who don't qualify for statutory support, but struggle to get enough support from universal services; Barnet Well-Being Hub partner - our Barnet Voice for Mental Health team provides peer support to people leaving hospital; People's Choice – a self-advocacy group for people with learning difficulties, most recently delivering a disability hate crime project (merged with us 2012); VCS support: providing capacity-building and representation to the local voluntary sector in collaboration with Young Barnet Foundation and Groundwork London/Volunteering Barnet. The organisation also runs two local libraries in a contractual partnership with Barnet Council.

The Application

This application is focused on giving local disabled people and organisations their voice, advocating for them where necessary, so that they are heard and positive change can result. Funding is requested for a Peer Advocacy Lead, Project Worker and related costs to strengthen the charity's ability to engage and increase contact with the two main constituencies – disabled individuals and disability organisations.

The Recommendation

The project will provide a significant increase in the ability for disabled people to have their say in how they live their lives, how services are provided that suitably meet their needs and how, hopefully, wider society can be more inclusive and present fewer barriers. Inclusion Barnet, as a disabled-led organisation and one which is very much a trusted partner of the local authority, is the right organisation to lead on this work and to ensure good outcomes are achieved whilst the proposal fully meets your priority of supporting voice and leadership. The budget presented includes some items which you do not support (eg contingency costs) and some which are quite high. Once these adjustments have been made the following grant is advised:

£284,000 over five years (£55,000; £55,000; £57,000; £57,000; £60,000) for the salary costs of a p/t (3dpw) Peer Advocacy Lead; the CEO as sector representation lead (1 dpw); a Project Co-ordinator (1 dpw); and management and related costs of a project supporting voice for disabled people and disability organisations.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
24/05/2016	£23,800 towards the development of a new local giving scheme

Background and detail of proposal

This project is focused on provide greater levels of representation and voice for disabled people and the organisations that work with them. The charity is led by disabled people and its mission is to help disabled people be leaders in their community and not just recipients of services. The work will have two strands – one to work with individuals and one to work with local disability organisations. Most of the charity’s funding is for frontline services but this project, should you support it, will provide the resources needed to engage with disabled people and to do the underlying work that makes those services relevant, inclusive and effective – to underpin the ethos of “*nothing about us without us*” ie providing services by co-designing them with disabled people, not to them. Disabled people will also be supported to monitor and comment on services they receive, whether from the charity itself or other agencies, statutory and voluntary.

The Covid-19 pandemic has meant that Inclusion Barnet has moved quite a lot of its services to online and remote delivery, which has been largely effective; whilst new services have arisen from particular new needs such as mental health peer support and food delivery.

Financial Information

The charity has recently secured several 3-year contracts and grants for its projects (including a contract from LBB to run two libraries) which provides some financial security into 2021 and beyond and a . The level of earned income relied upon by the organisation is negligible so Covid-19 will have no impact on that aspect of its finances, whilst its core projects have funding in place for at least the next 18 months. Donations are anticipated to fall but these represent a very small proportion of overall income. Whilst free reserves are a little short of the policy to hold three months’ worth of expenditure they are still sufficient to provide a reasonable buffer if needed.

Year end as at 31st March	2019	2020	2021
	Signed Accounts	Forecast	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	426,350	524,975	671,602
- % of Income confirmed as at June 2020	N/A	100%	82%
Expenditure	(423,569)	(505,808)	(664,000)
Total surplus/(deficit)	2,781	19,167	7,602
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	5,409	0	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(2,628)	19,167	7,602
	2,781	19,167	7,602
Operating Expenditure	425,569	505,808	664,000
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	99,411	118,578	126,180
No of months of operating expenditure	2.8	2.8	2.3
Reserves policy target	106,392	126,452	166,000
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(6,981)	(7,874)	(39,820)