

MEETING: 13/05/2015

Ref: 12363

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving Londoners' Mental Health

Freedom from Torture

Adv: David Farnsworth

Amount requested: £113,442

Base: Islington

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £75,000

The Charity

Freedom from Torture (FFT - formerly, the Medical Foundation for Victims of Torture) is a national charity, established by the late Helen Bamber OBE, which provides free, tailored, therapeutic and practical support to torture survivors in the UK.

The Application

The application is to contribute to the salaries and related costs of two psychological therapists who will provide specialist, high-quality, tailored, multidisciplinary therapeutic and practical support to young people, up to age 26, who have experienced torture and are claiming asylum in the UK: to ensure their mental health improves.

The Recommendation

FFT has an excellent reputation as a leading provider of specialist support to survivors of torture. Whilst it is a national organisation, the majority of its clients are London based. This application is to support this existing work, with a particular focus on young people, up to the age 26. As such, it sits squarely within the Improving Londoners Mental Health strand of your programme. Funding is recommended at a level lower than that requested as the organisation has a healthy level of free reserves and is very well networked to tap into other potential funders. If agreed, your Chief Grants Officer would then determine, in consultation with the organisation, the most effective weighting of the grant in each of the three years.

£75,000 over 3 years towards the costs of therapeutic and other support to young people in London, with the annual sum determined by the Chief Grants Officer in consultation with the organisation.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
21/01/2010	£96,000 (3 x £32,000) towards the core costs of multi-disciplinary therapy for adults in London who have survived torture.
25/01/2001	Insufficient information about access requirements. Has not addressed new priorities sufficiently -

Background and detail of proposal

Children and young people that have experienced torture are one of the most multiply disadvantaged, vulnerable groups in London today. They must deal with severe psychological problems while negotiating a plethora of practical problems. This project will build on the experience and practice of FFT and:

- enable 70 young torture survivors to experience improved mental health through receiving specialist trauma-focused therapy and practical support;
- establish a children and young people's service user involvement panel to shape the 3 year project;
- enable the development and implementation of a specialist Outcome Tool to enable young torture survivors to shape their treatment by year 3 of the project.

Financial Information

As can be seen in the table below, the charity held £2.7m in free unrestricted reserves at 31st December 2014, which equates to 4.1 months' worth of total expenditure. The charity has set a target holding of between £1.3m - £2.6m, which equates to between two and four months' worth of total expenditure.

Forecast income in the current year 2015-2016 is £7,599,800, of which £6,245,408 (82.2%) was secured by March 2015.

Year end at 31 December	2013 Audited Accounts	2014 Outturn	2015 Current Year Budget
Income and Expenditure	£	£	£
Income	7,759,137	8,193,542	7,599,800
Expenditure	7,693,391	7,782,830	7,996,641
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	324,907	410,712	(396,842)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(259,161)	-	-
Gain/ (loss) on investments	1,783	-	-
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	67,529	410,712	(396,842)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	0.9%	5.0%	(5.2%)
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	2,114,255 (27.2%)	2,152,742 (26.3%)	2,220,947 (29.2%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	2,265,055	2,675,767	2,278,925
How many months' worth of total expenditure	3.5	4.1	3.4
Reserves Policy target	1,282,232 – 2,564,464	1,297,138 – 2,594,277	1,332,774 – 2,665,548
How many months' worth of total expenditure	2.0 – 4.0	2.0 – 4.0	2.0 – 4.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	982,823 – (299,409)	1,378,629 – 81,490	946,151 – (386,623)