

MEETING: 13/05/2015

Ref: 12676

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Age UK Sutton

Adv: Sandra Jones

Base: Sutton

Amount requested: £72,476

Benefit: Sutton

Amount recommended: £72,500

The Charity

Age UK Sutton (AUKS), previously Age Concern Sutton, has been providing a wide range of services to older people for 25 years. Its mission is to promote the wellbeing of older people and to help make later life a fulfilling and enjoyable experience. Currently its main activities include: an advice and information service; money management; befriending service; handyperson service; gardening service; Home from Hospital support service; various bespoke services commissioned by the NHS.

The Application

Funding is sought to develop further an outreach and mobile information and advice service "Advice on the Road" from its current 1 day per week to 3 days per week for older people over 75 years and carers over the age of 65 years. The service will operate from various targeted sites across the borough, where these groups of people live. The project will also undertake home visits to those older people and carers who are housebound.

The Recommendation

The majority of AUKS' clients face poverty, poor physical health, isolation, and mental distress, particularly those who are aged 75+ years. Most lack knowledge about their entitlements. This project takes the advice service to this group of older people, increasing AUKS' capacity to address the needs of those least able to access the headquarter service. You are asked to support the part-time salary of an Advice on the Road – Information and Advice Project Manager who will recruit, train and support a team of volunteers to provide advice sessions across the borough, plus associated running costs

£72,500 over three years (£24,300; £23,900; £24,300) towards the salary and associated running costs of a part time (22.5 hours per week) Advice on the Road - Information & Advice Project Manager and associated running costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
22/01/2009	£126,000 over three years (£41,000; £42,000; £43,000) for an assessment and support service 'navigator brokerage' for older people in Sutton.

Background and detail of proposal

AUKS has consulted with older people in the borough and local stakeholders, and analysed its service delivery. The results of the consultation identified that many older people struggle to access information and advice as they are already isolated, with no access to the internet, and /or find travel difficult. This is particularly the case

as people get older. There are 13,500 people aged 75 or older living in the borough, of which 6,770 live alone. The charity is able to identify where the older people live, for example St Helier ward, Sutton Central, Wandle Valley and Beddington South (Sutton JSNA figures) enabling geographic targeting. The charity developed a one day per week pilot project running an outreach service from a van which enables the service to be delivered from anywhere across the borough. This proved to be extremely successful. The charity has now applied to the Trust to expand the service specifically for those over 75 years and carers aged 65 or more, as these two groups are those least likely to be in a position to access advice and information. The Project Manager will identify sites for delivering the service, which will operate from the charity's purpose-built van or a venue where people meet (e.g. local hairdressers) and delivered by 10 trained and experienced volunteers.

Access to good quality advice and information plays a vital role in older people's health and well-being, and with recent changes in benefits and entitlements, is needed now more than ever. Your funding will enable AUKS to expand the availability of its outreach advice service and provide an advice and information for three days per week in over 100 sites around the borough. It will also make home visits to those unable to leave their homes.

Financial Information

AUKS advised it has expanded its current operations through contracts for its chargeable services and grants towards its programmes. Forecast income for 2015/16 is £969,910, of which £911,010 (94%) had been confirmed by March 2015.

The estimate for the cost of generating funds shown in the table is low, which AUKS explains is because a large proportion of its income comes from service contracts.

Year end at 31 March	2013/14 Audited Accounts	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Current Year Budget
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	706,881	896,510	969,910
Expenditure	611,541	827,606	943,821
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	44,247	101,600	38,057
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	51,093	(32,696)	(11,968)
Net unrealised gains on investments	5,361	-	-
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	100,701	68,904	26,089
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	14.2%	7.7%	2.7%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	25,915 (3.7%)	41,700 (4.7%)	43,170 (4.9%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	306,936	408,536	446,593
How many months' worth of expenditure	6.0	5.9	5.7
Reserves Policy target	305,771	413,803	471,910
How many months' worth of expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	1,165	(5,267)	(25,317)