

MEETING: 13/05/2015

Ref: 12814

### ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Camden Cypriot Women's Organisation

Adv: Sandra Jones

Base: Camden

Amount requested: £95,368

Benefit: Camden and

neighbouring boroughs

Amount recommended: £95,400

#### The Charity

Camden Cypriot Women's Organisation (CCWO) was established in 1978 to improve the quality of life of particularly, but not exclusively, women of Cypriot / Greek origin and their families living or working in the London Borough of Camden and surrounding areas. Operating from a building leased from the council, the charity undertakes a range of services for women of all ages, such as advice and advocacy, housebound support, befriending, carers project, physical activity and health events, a volunteer scheme, library and drop-in sessions. More recently the charity has been working in partnership with a number of Somali and Asian women's organisations which operate promote participation and social cohesion and operate from the same building.

#### The Application

Funding is sought to provide advice, information and advocacy, as well as a range of opportunities for the take-up of physical activities, for BME women aged 75 years and over and who would not otherwise access these services. (An earlier application is shown elsewhere in your papers today as having been withdrawn, as the charity wished to refine its request with this application.)

#### The Recommendation

The proposal is a response to a rise in the number of Cypriot/ Greek, Asian and Somalian Women over 75 years who are marginalised and isolated due to lack of English language skills and general lack of mobility and ill health. Many live alone. Evidence from a consultation with local communities has informed this application. To assist these women, the CCWO will provide keep fit/mobility classes and organised walks. An advice, information and advocacy service in Greek will also be offered. If an Asian or Somalian woman needs advice, then workers from their community group will be available to translate if necessary.

***£95,400 over 3 years (£31,200; £31,800; £32,400) for a p/t (2 dpw) Advice/Advocacy Worker; a p/t (7hpw) Physical Activity Organiser; and associated running costs for a project working with women aged 75+.***

#### Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
03/05/2007	£90,000 (3 x £30,000) towards the development and co-ordination of projects for Cypriot elders, subject to confirmation of the receipt of core funding from the local authority.
19/06/2001	£76,990 over 3 years (£24,950; £25,640; £26,400) for the salary and on costs of a second full-time worker to support elderly Cypriot people in and around Camden.

## Background and detail of proposal

The charity is seeking to develop its support to provide services specifically to older women aged 75 years plus, from Cypriot/Greek, Asian and Somali communities and who are isolated and living on low incomes. There are similarities within these groups of women, most of whom have acute and particular needs and are at high risk of social exclusion, stress and depression due to language difficulties, cultural barriers and age.

The new services for this age group comprise of two elements, the first being advice, information and advocacy. This will enable beneficiaries to increase access to appropriate services. The second element concerns the provision of physical activities to increase health and wellbeing, keeping beneficiaries fit and independent.

Activities will include 4 advice sessions per week and 2 keep fit classes per week, along with a local walking group each week, and two group walks per month, which will be further afield.

## Financial Information

CCWO advised that the financial year 2013/14 had been difficult due to a reduction in its income, as a result of local authority spending cuts. The charity advised that during 2014/15 it changed its business model; undertaking a staff restructure, increasing earned income through renting out office space to other women's organisations and from room hire.

Forecast income in the current year is £95,636, of which £64,474 (67.4%) had been confirmed by April 2015 with the remainder pending from this application to City Bridge Trust. In addition, CCWO has advised it is working on a number of funding applications and joint bids not included in this forecast.

Year end at 31 March	2013/14 Audited Accounts	2014/15 Outturn	2015/16 Current Year Budget
	£	£	£
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>			
Income	69,923	85,244	95,636
Expenditure	105,254	96,794	80,541
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(19,295)	(22,946)	15,095
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(16,036)	11,396	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(35,331)	(11,550)	15,095
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(50.5%)	(13.5%)	15.8%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	5,593 (8%)	5,593 (6.6%)	5,593 (5.8%)
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	35,394	12,448	27,543
How many months' worth of expenditure	4.0	1.5	3.5
Reserves Policy target	26,314	24,199	20,135
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	9,080	(11,749)	7,408