

MEETING: 13/05/2015

Ref: 12590

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Henna Asian Women's Group

Adv: Sandra Jones

Base: Camden

Amount requested: £72,998

Benefit: Camden, Brent and City of Westminster

Amount recommended: £73,000

The Charity

Henna Asian Women's Group (HAWG), a charitable company limited by guarantee, was set up in 1998 to promote the benefit of Asian women resident or working in Camden and neighbouring boroughs by advancing education, and providing facilities in the interest of social welfare or recreation. The charity provides befriending services for isolated older Asian women, exercise classes throughout the week, ESOL classes, and a Monday Club aimed at improving health and mental wellbeing.

The Application

HAWG is seeking funding to expand the befriending service to cover older carers, older Asian women living outside the London Borough of Camden, as well as some isolated Asian men. The project will make beneficiaries more aware of NHS and other agencies that can support their various needs and advocate on their behalf. For those with caring responsibilities they will be identifying key issues affecting their day to day wellbeing and offer activities, signposting to other organisations and, where appropriate, assisting carers obtain a carer's assessment, which has become a statutory right from April 2015.

The Recommendation

The charity has strong links locally, with a good track record of delivering a range of high quality services to older Asian women. Evidence from their own database, feedback from users, and waiting lists, has informed the proposal. The request will be for a volunteer co-ordinator to recruit, train and support volunteers to run a befriending service

£73,000 (£24,500; £24,000; £24,500) over three years towards the salary of a part time (21 hpw) Volunteer Co-ordinator and associated running costs for a project targeting those aged 75 or over and carers aged 65+.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
14/02/2008	Application is for a grant to replace time-limited lottery funding and would make you by far their largest funder which is contrary to your usual policies.
24/10/2002	£4,600 to fund additional administrative support.

Background and detail of proposal

HAWG is seeking to develop its support to Asian women and men over 75years as well as older carers. Currently they have 25 Asian women of this age who have shown an interest in the befriending service, with this figure continuing to increase as GPs and other agencies have been contacting the charity to refer clients. These

women are mainly isolated, with ill health and in need of support. In the last few months there has also been a number of older Asian men who have made contact with the centre, either personally or referred, as there is nowhere else for them to get support. The need to support older carers has also been identified by HAWG, with over 15 currently identifying as being in need of befriending. This will be achieved by providing a befriending service to visit and support those over 75 years to access appropriate services, and in the case of the women to be encouraged to attend current activities that take place at the organisation's premises.

Over the three years, volunteers who can speak various languages will be recruited and trained to befriend 105 older people. Weekly home visits by volunteers and a 'telephone befriending' service will be offered. Activities for the men will be established as the organisation has identified that there is a gap locally. The charity will also signpost and refer members to other organisations and support them in accessing other services and keep active throughout the week. Carers will be offered support and respite in order that they can establish friends outside the home and take part in activities regularly.

Financial Information

The forecast for 2014/15 shows increased income of 44% and expenditure of 48% compared to 2013/14; which the charity advised was due to the receipt of new grants from the Big Lottery Fund towards a current Health agenda, London Borough of Camden towards a befriending service and the People's Health Trust towards wellbeing activities.

Total forecast income for the current year is £119,913, of which £119,053 (99.3%) had been confirmed by April 2015. The figure for cost of generating funds is an estimate based on 50% of the Co-ordinators posts.

Year end at 31 March	2013/14 Audited Accounts	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Current Year Budget
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	102,966	148,347	119,913
Expenditure	90,209	133,611	114,480
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	20,137	3,610	160
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(7,380)	11,126	5,273
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	12,757	14,736	5,433
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	12.4%	9.9%	4.5%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	19,000 (18.5%)	19,000 (12.8%)	19,000 (15.8%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	18,018	21,628	21,788
How many months' worth of expenditure	2.4	1.9	2.3
Reserves Policy target	15,000	15,000	15,000
How many months' worth of expenditure	2.0	1.3	1.6
Free reserves over/(under) target	3,018	6,628	6,788