

MEETING: 09/07/2015

Ref: 12777

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving Londoners' Mental Health

Child Bereavement UK

**Adv: Joy Beishon
Base: Outside London
Benefit: Newham**

Amount requested: £103,145

Amount recommended: £103,000

The Charity

Child Bereavement UK (CБУK) supports families and educates professionals when a baby or child dies or is dying, or when a child is facing bereavement. CBUK offers, nationally: direct face-to-face bereavement support; a website giving information, guidance and support to more than 140,000 users annually; and a range of leaflets and publications and training for 6,000 professionals, support staff and volunteers each year. In London, CBUK has built a strong community partner base in Newham, established an active local bereavement advisory group and embedded services in local communities to support children and young people who are most in need.

The Application

CBUK is seeking funding to deliver a bereavement service for children, young people and families in Newham, following a DoH funded project where the charity identified a lack of coordinated and/or open access support for bereaved children and young people. Services will include both fixed and drop-in sessions, community outreach, support groups, mentoring, peer-support and increased awareness of the bereavement support needs of children and young people. The project will seek to improve the mental health outcomes for more than 350 bereaved children and young people (aged 4 – 25). As a result, bereaved young people and their families will gain greater resilience and confidence when communicating emotions; and the opportunity to reduce isolation through sharing experiences in support groups. Parents/carers will gain new skills to support, more fully, bereavement in the family.

The Recommendation

The charity has good links locally and a track record of delivering good quality bereavement support to children, young people and families. Evidence from an earlier DoH funded project, discussions with local social and health care professionals and feedback from community groups and residents has informed the proposal. The request will fund a Bereavement Support post in Newham.

£103,000 over three years (£33,000; £34,000; £36,000) for the salary and on-costs of a f/t Bereavement Support Team Lead in Newham.

Funding History

None.

Background and detail of proposal

The link between bereavement and deprivation has been set out in a number of publications, most notably by the National Children's Bureau in 2005. The literature review highlighted the particularly harmful implication for the lives of young people who are already vulnerable. Mortality rates vary strongly by social class and geography therefore young people's likelihood of experiencing bereavement will vary accordingly. Those living in disadvantaged circumstances are most likely to

experience serious and multiple losses, whilst these are the young people least likely to have access to services. Those who experience multiple bereavements, or bereavement alongside other difficulties, are statistically 'at risk' of experiencing negative outcomes (in areas such as education, depression, self-esteem and risk-taking behaviour) later in life. Understandably, there are challenges in assessing long-term impact of intervention. This is exacerbated by cognitive and developmental changes in a child's understanding of death through childhood. Moreover, every child will grieve in an individual way based on the circumstances of the death, relationship to the person who died, culture, previous experience of loss and the degree of support available. CBUK will focus on improving resilience, confidence, reduced isolation and communication as short-term outcomes, however the extent to which these gains are sustained or contribute to positive longer-term gains is unknown.

Financial Information

Total forecast income in the current year is £3m, of which £2.2m (73%) had been confirmed by February 2015. This includes an exceptional one off donation of £850k from the Ivy Restaurant which is restricted towards CBUK's capacity building work. Budgeted income in 2015/16 is £2.8m, of which £0.4m (13%) had been confirmed by February 2015. CBUK advised that it launched new bereavement services in Cheshire and Cumbria and has plans for the expansion of its services in Milton Keynes and Newham. In addition, it forecasts an increase in its voluntary income due to its investment in the growth of its fundraising team to enable the further expansion of its services across the UK.

The Charity's reserve policy states that the organisation aims to designate £500k put aside for the long term sustainability of the Charity. These funds are held in a long term investment fund which stood at £594,324 at 31st August 2014. The Charity does not have a reserves policy for 'free' unrestricted reserves, of which it held £515,702 at 31st August 2014 equivalent to 3.3 months' worth of expenditure.

Year end at 31 August	2013/14 Audited Accounts	2014/15 Current Year Forecast	2015/16 Following Year Budget
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	1,697,084	3,023,824	2,769,619
Expenditure	1,849,412	2,092,697	2,898,683
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(121,424)	161,230	313,167
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(30,904)	769,897	(442,231)
Gain/(Loss) on investments	13,376	-	-
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(138,952)	931,127	(129,064)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(8.2%)	30.8%	(4.7%)
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	356,733 (21.0%)	-	-
Free unrestricted reserves			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	515,702	676,932	990,099
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.3	3.9	4.1
Reserves Policy target	-	-	-
How many months' worth of expenditure	-	-	-
Free reserves over/(under) target	-	-	-