

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners**Action on Hearing Loss****Adv: Sandra Davidson****Amount requested: £85,273****Base: Islington****Benefit: London-wide****Amount recommended: £85,300****The Charity**

Action on Hearing Loss (formally The Royal National Institute for Deaf people) is the national charity helping people confronting deafness, tinnitus, and hearing loss, to live the life they choose. It enables people to take control of their lives and remove the barriers in their way by giving people support and care, developing technology and treatments, and campaigning for equality. Eleven million people are living with hearing loss in the UK. The vast majority are aged over 50, with the condition more likely to occur as people age. By 2035, it is estimated there will be more than 15.6million people with hearing loss in the UK – a fifth of the population. Those who leave the condition unmanaged face barriers to communication, making it more likely that they withdraw from social situations and become isolated.

The Application

Action on Hearing Loss is seeking three years' funding to develop and expand its Hear to Inform and Connect service supporting older Londoners with hearing loss. This project will enable the organisation to provide face-to-face information in the heart of the community, building on the successful service across the UK, including London, for the past 18 years. The project will target over 75s with a focus on hardest to reach groups particularly from older black, Asian and minority (BAME) communities and those living in care homes. Where appropriate, families and carers will be provided with information and increased understanding of how to support older people with hearing loss.

The Recommendation

The charity has attracted funding from the Big Lottery Fund to expand the service across the UK over three years. The shortfall is being requested from the Trust to complete the funds required to provide invaluable face-to-face support to empower and increase the number of older people who take action to manage their hearing loss.

£85,300 over three years (£25,800; £29,100; £30,400) towards staffing and operational costs of the Hear to Inform and Connect project for older people in London.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
04/07/2013	Application withdrawn
27/09/2012	Whilst undoubtedly valuable, to support this application would set a precedent for the Trust in, effectively, easing pressure on NHS services and waiting lists.
20/10/2011	Application withdrawn

Background and detail of proposal

Research shows that hearing loss doubles the risk of developing depression and increases the risk of anxiety and other mental health issues. There is now strong evidence that mild hearing loss doubles the risk of developing dementia - with moderate hearing loss leading to three times the risk, and severe hearing loss five times the risk. There is also evidence that hearing loss is linked to learning disabilities, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, stroke and obesity. Recent research undertaken by the charity highlighted that many people with hearing loss do not know what support and services are available and/or inadequately signposted

The face-to-face information service, led by volunteers, will overcome or reduce communication barriers for older people with both addressed and unaddressed hearing loss and improve systems for those harder to reach communities. Through a mixture of information stands and talks offering advice on all aspects of hearing loss from getting hearing aids to learning how to lip read, the project will help people be better informed and keep connected to family, friends and the world around them. The charity will help organisations in London covered by the project, such as community hubs and voluntary groups to become more accessible and ensure that they increase their ability to support those living with deafness, tinnitus and hearing loss more effectively. Over three years approximately 10,000 older people are expected to benefit from the service.

Financial Information

Unrestricted deficits shown for 2016 and 2017 were planned investments in the fundraising programme as part of the income growth and diversification strategy, the results of which are reflected in the increased income expected to be generated below in 2017 and 2018.

Year end 31st March	2016 Audited Accounts £	2017 Forecast £	2018 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	38,380,000	44,200,000	47,300,000
- % of Income confirmed	n/a	n/a	55%
Expenditure	(38,969,000)	(45,600,000)	(47,100,000)
Total surplus/(deficit)*	(589,000)	(1,400,000)	200,000
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	89,000	300,000	100,000
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(678,000)	(1,700,000)	100,000
	(589,000)	(1,400,000)	200,000
Cost of Raising Funds	4,183,000	4,100,000	4,400,000
- % of income	10.9%	9.3%	9.3%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	37,101,000	43,600,000	44,700,000
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	7,700,000	6,000,000	6,100,000
No of months of operating expenditure	2.5	1.7	1.6
Reserves policy target	6,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000
No of months of operating expenditure	1.9	1.7	1.6
Free reserves over/(under) target	1,700,000	0	100,000

* excludes actuarial gain on pensions of £5.1m in 2016