

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Enfield Carers Centre

Adv: Shegufta Rahman

Base: Enfield

Benefit: Enfield

Amount requested: £92,748

{Revised request: £100,143}

Amount recommended: £100,100

The Charity

Enfield Carers Centre (ECC) was initially set up via a stakeholder steering group formed by Enfield Council and included the Council's Commissioner for Carers services, family carers, ex-carers, voluntary sector representatives and seconded council staff. The Centre was incorporated and registered with the Charity Commission in 2010, as well becoming affiliated to Carers Trust, the national body for carers' centres. This provides ECC with support in the form of access to national research, membership of the London Carer Centre Network and support of a Carers Trust Regional Officer, benchmarking information, toolkits and briefings, access to grant funding open to carer centres, as well as a growing nationwide network of Carers Trust partners.

The Application

The organisation is seeking funding for its existing Older Carers Advice project. Set up in 2014, this project was previously funded through ECC's unrestricted reserves and funding from Warburtons which will end in June 2017. Two years of delivering this service has evidenced the need for benefits advice and specific support for older carers. As well as assisting with completing benefit applications, older carers have additional needs such as reducing social isolation as family and peer networks diminish and prioritising their own health issues.

The Recommendation

ECC has a proven track record of local delivery. Due to the current environment of cuts to statutory funding, the organisation has kept salary levels static for a number of years. The original application included the salary of the Older Carers Advice and Support Officer at a pay level at the lower end of sector trends. As such, your officer advised that you would consider the s(A revised budget is appended to the application form.)

£100,100 over three years (£27,000, £36,100, £37,000) towards the full-time Older Carers Advice and Support Officer and associated project costs.

Funding History

None

Background and detail of proposal

Carers UK reported that nationally, unpaid carers save the UK £132bn annually ('Valuing Carers 2015'). The same report found a 38% increase in the number of older people caring for a relative whilst they themselves begin to develop their own health needs. The 2011 Census recorded 1.8m UK carers aged 60+ with over 50% aged 80-84 providing over 50 hours of care every week. Carers UK and Age UK reported in 2015 the number of carers aged 85+ grew by 128% in the last decade.

This trend is reflected in at a local level with Enfield's Census reporting approximately 29,000 carers with 18% aged 65+.

Many older carers provide long hours of vital care and support while their own health and wellbeing deteriorates, which can result in poor physical and mental health, financial strain and eventual breakdown in their ability to carry on caring. Carers approaching retirement often experience changes in income which are of particular concern and benefit entitlements may alter due to age or changing health needs of the carer and/or cared-for person. As well as benefits advice, ECC offers advocacy services to help carers voice their concerns or needs and understand their rights under disability and carer legislation. The charity runs a group advocacy skills programme which aims to equip carers with the skills to self-advocate, as well as understanding how statutory services work and develop their ability to liaise with statutory health and social care staff.

Since the Care Act 2014 was introduced, carers are placed on an equal footing with social service users. Carers are entitled to an assessment of how their caring responsibilities affect them. Enfield Council has appointed ECC as the Trusted Assessor for carers' assessments, which is the first time this has been delegated outside of the local authority. Your officer received an email from the Council's Commissioning Manager offering her full support for their application and providing a positive review of ECC's work.

Financial Information

Forecast income in the current year is fully confirmed (100%), and forecast income for 2017/18 was confirmed at 50% as at December 2016. The cost of generating funds was reported as nil in the 2016 accounts due to relevant staff time and overheads not being apportioned to this category of spend. The charity has advised that it will be engaging a bid writing consultancy firm when the Council moves to tender commissioning. Whilst ECC is forecast to exceed its reserves policy, this is in anticipation of the Council's move to tender commissioning, which will likely impact the level of statutory funding it secures. The reserves policy will be reviewed by trustees in line with this.

Year end at 31 March	2016 Independent Examination	2017 Forecast	2018 Forecast
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	507,799	492,488	417,553
Expenditure	498,343	483,096	412,783
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	42,322	26,292	11,270
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(32,866)	(16,900)	(6,500)
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	9,456	9,392*	4,770*
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	1.9%	1.9%	1.1%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	0	0	10,500 (2.5%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	287,168	313,360	324,630
How many months' worth of expenditure	6.9	7.8	9.4
Reserves Policy target	249,171	241,548	206,391
How many months' worth of expenditure	6	6	6
Free reserves over/(under) target	37,997	71,812	118,239

*whilst split provided on forecast by ECC- it notes that the final transfers between restricted and unrestricted funds in these years may change.