

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners****St Joseph's Hospice****Adv: Tania Bronstein  
Base: Hackney  
Benefit: Hackney****Amount requested: £135,000****{Revised request: £150,600}****Amount recommended: 150,600****The Charity:**

St Joseph's Hospice (SJH) is one of the oldest established hospices in Europe. It offers inpatient, day, respite and outpatient care, advice and information, "hospice at home" care, and several volunteer-led projects to support people who are terminally ill or have incurable life-limiting conditions, and also their carers, families and friends. Besides direct services benefiting 4,000+ East London residents every year, SJH runs an education and research department to share and disseminate knowledge and best practice amongst end-of-life and palliative care professionals.

**The request:**

SJH seeks three-year funding towards the Dementia Namaste Care (DNC) Project. DCN is a person-centred programme developed in USA to improve quality of life for people with advanced dementia nearing the end of life. The programme supports carers in creating connections with the person with dementia through gentle, soothing sensory experiences that appeal to the person's uniqueness and likes (e.g. music, scents, smells or hand massage) and give him/her comfort and pleasure. The project run by SJH trains and supports volunteers to offer these interventions to people in their home, while mentoring and teaching soothing techniques to their carers to ensure this support continues after volunteers move on. This project started in 2014 in Newham and is expanding to Tower Hamlets and Hackney. As some funds have been secured for work in the above new boroughs, SJH, which originally sought funds for work in Hackney, is requesting the Trust to instead consider funding the DNC in Newham, where the work is established, but funding not secured.

**The recommendation**

SJH has a reputation for pioneering high quality innovative care. Successive evaluations indicate that DNC reduces the severity of behavioural symptoms of distress, reconnects people with loved ones, and significantly adds quality to the end of life. The revised request entails delivery of the same activities set out in the application form, except for the borough location and the fact that that the 0.5 FTE Newham care manager post has a managerial/co-ordination element across the three boroughs. This is reflected in the higher level of grant subsequently sought and recommended:

**£150,600 over three years (£47,000; £50,000; £53,600) towards salary costs of a care manager and administrator (both 0.5FTE) and activity costs of supporting people with dementia nearing the end of life and their carers in Newham.**

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
11/07/2006	£108,000 over 3 years (3 x £36,000) towards complementary therapies for terminally ill people in East London

## Background and detail of proposal

The name of the programme "Namaste" (the Indian greeting meaning 'to honour the spirit within') speaks to the nature of this intervention, which is not medical or generic, but rather seeks to "rescue" and connect with the person's unique humanity. DNC is gaining much interest in the UK, where projects are being established in care settings. The programme run by SJH is very distinctive in that it is run in people's homes by trained volunteers who are carefully matched with the person with dementia and carer so that background, mother tongue and something of life experience is shared, which contributes to meaningful connections between the person, carer and volunteer. The project has very good systems to vet, supervise and support volunteers, an excellent volunteers' training programme, robust risk assessment procedures, and benefits from SJH's sound management systems.

SJH applied for 3-years funding towards the DNC project in Hackney. It has since raised £24,060 for work in Hackney and £16,000 for work in Tower Hamlets (both for only one year), while funds towards work in Newham are yet to be secured. In the circumstances, rather than considering funds towards part-funding elements of work in different boroughs without assurances of additional funds in subsequent years, it is sensible to instead consider funding work in Newham, where it is now well-known and receiving a steady flow of referrals, having supported 127 matches to date.

## Financial Information

SJH raises about 50% of its income from donations, legacies and fundraising events, and the other half is funded by NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), mainly City and Hackney, Tower Hamlets and Newham. Static CCG funding and reducing legacy income have resulted in annual deficits that have been financed with free reserves in the recent past. This holding is expected to fall below the policy level by 31.03.17. Trustees are working to bring budgets back to balance through efficiency savings and initiatives to diversify income such as a weekly lottery in partnership with other hospices, which is expected to bring significant income in the years ahead.

Year end as at 31 March	2015/2016 Audited Accounts £'000	2016/2017 Forecast £'000	2017/18 Forecast £'000
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	13,794	14,670	14,088
- % of Income confirmed at 15.01.2017	n/a	74%	56%
Expenditure	(15,919)	(15,850)	(15,038)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(2,125)	(1,180)	(950)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	182	397	170
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(2,307)	(1,577)	(1,120)
	(2,125)	(1,180)	(950)
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	14,858	15,744	14,024
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	15,082	13,505	12,385
No of months of operating expenditure Reserves policy target	12.2	10.3	10.6
No of months of operating expenditure	14,858	15,744	14,024
Free reserves over/(under) target	12.0	12.0	12.0
	224	(2,239)	(1,639)