

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners**Sudbury Neighbourhood Centre (Middlesex) Limited** Adv: Tim Wilson

Base: Brent

Amount requested: £60,000

Benefit: Brent

Amount recommended: £60,000

The Charity

Sudbury Neighbourhood Centre (SNC) offers a wide range of services to older people including a lunch club, occupational and music therapies, hairdressing, and IT classes. The charity also offers some social care services and volunteer opportunities for adults with learning disabilities. Until recently SNC only supported clients within a mile radius of the centre but now covers the whole borough. At a time when Brent has closed many of its statutory day care centres for older people, SNC has seen an increase in demand for its support. Given the organisation's proximity to Ealing and Harrow it is considering expressions of interest from other boroughs, not least because it offers a minibus outreach service to drop and collect users.

The Application

City Bridge Trust is asked to support SNC's costs of respite care and wellbeing activities for older people with dementia through part-funding a Senior Care Assistant and making some contribution towards client lunch costs. SNC has current capacity to offer 35 places per day, with intake subject to the charity's ability to meet client needs. Dementia care is around twice the cost per client per day compared with support for those without specialist needs. The Trust's funding will be used to help subsidise the costs of more complex provision alongside contributions from a range of statutory and non-statutory funders as well as some client fee income.

The Recommendation

SNC is a bright, welcoming space with an outreach service that helps ensure the centre is accessible to clients from other wards across the borough. The centre caters for older people with a range of support needs, and the Trust could play a key part in allowing it to work with more dementia sufferers at a time when alternative provision is becoming more limited. Whilst the total costs of SNC's services for clients with dementia exceed what the Trust could support, the charity has a strong fundraising programme in place to raise the balance. Support is advised as follows:

£60,000 over three years (3 x £20,000) towards the cost of a Senior Care Assistant (salaried at or above the level of London Living Wage) and associated activities for work with clients with dementia.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
27/09/2012	£47,900 over three years towards the salary of the Centre Manager.
16/11/2000	£50,000 towards the cost of enlarging, refurbishing and up-grading the Sudbury Neighbourhood Centre.

Background and detail of proposal

The charity's day care services have expanded in recent years in response to the closure of local alternatives. With staff supported by volunteers and Occupational

Therapy placements from Brunel University, SNC is able to offer a wide range of activities to its clients. All new clients are subject to interview and the charity's assessment of its ability to meet their needs. The emphasis on door-to-door care is costly, especially so for clients with high support needs, and grant fundraising is needed to make up the balance for service delivery at the level SNC wishes to provide.

Financial Information

SNC's expenditure in 2015-16 resulted in a deficit of £126,015 in 2015-16, 70% of which was on unrestricted funds. Whilst this spend was planned, the charity ended the year with free reserves below the trustee target, but expects to rebuild reserves by the end of 2017-18 as a result of investment in fundraising and an improved cost control plan. Through the three years shown in the table below SNC expects a 23% increase in income as a result of its plans to work with larger numbers of clients.

Forecast income in the current year is £539,720 of which £470,968 (87%) is confirmed as at 16th February 2017. SNC is confident it will raise the balance in the six weeks remaining of the current financial year thanks to the work of its new local fundraiser (whose cost is reflected in the increase in expenditure for raising funds seen between 2015-16 and 2016-17 in the table below).

The charity operates a defined benefit pension scheme which showed a deficit of £255,000 at 31 March 2016. The trustees acknowledge this as a risk to the organisation's financial health and have plans in place to clear the deficit over a 15 year period following professional advice.

Year end as at 31 March	FY 2015-16 Audited/Examined Accounts £	FY 2016-17 Forecast £	FY 2017-18 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	431,689	539,720	530,000
- % of Income confirmed	n/a	87.26%	4%
Expenditure	557,704	524,739	525,000
Total surplus/(deficit)	(126,015)	14,981	5,000
Cost of Raising Funds			
Cost of Raising Funds	37,065	55,000	53,000
- % of income	8.6%	10.2%	10.0%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	462,904	456,747	399,500
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	96,409	76,765	117,265
No of months of operating expenditure	2.5	2.0	3.5
Reserves policy target	115,726	114,187	99,875
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(19,317)	(37,422)	17,390