

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Reducing Poverty**Islington Bangladesh Association****Adv: Sandra Davidson****Amount requested: £50,964****Base: Islington****Benefit: Islington****Amount recommended: £51,000****The Charity**

Islington Bangladesh Association (IBA) was set up in 1984 to tackle poverty, deprivation and isolation experienced by the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members of the Bangladeshi community.

IBA offers generalist advice as well as a casework service; education, employment and training support; health promotion for older people; and specialist work with Bangladeshi women 30+ living with mental health challenges. It also runs after-school and weekend classes for children and young people to raise educational aspirations.

The Application

Across the borough, debt and poor financial capability affect a large proportion of the Bangladeshi community. IBA has many years' experience of providing advice on debt and welfare rights. To date this project has been funded by the Henry Smith Charity with funding ceasing in May 2017. This grant will provide the continuation of this service.

The Recommendation

Funding is sought over three years to continue IBA's welfare rights and advice service offering support to clients faced with growing debt levels, arising from cuts in benefits and unemployment. The service aims to address needs through a combination of advice, advocacy and support on a range of money related issues and welfare benefits.

£51,000 over three years (£16,800; £17,000; £17,200) for the part-time salary (21hpw) of the Welfare Rights and Debt Adviser and associated project costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
03/10/2013	Full assessment has confirmed your officer's view that this proposal would not fully deliver the outcomes of your Older People's programme. Free reserves are very low.

Background and detail of proposal

Changing Government welfare policies have far reaching impact on benefit claimants, particularly for the most vulnerable. In 2016/17 the charity assisted over 600 clients through its welfare and debt advice service. This bi-lingual service targets individuals who are less likely to access mainstream, mono-language, services. The demand for financial and benefit advice is increasing with the organisation struggling to maintain its current level of activity. New funding will ensure clients are able to

continue to access advice on debt and broader money related issues, welfare benefits and money management. The charity is very well networked locally and will continue to work with key agencies to ensure the project is effective. The local authority has worked closely with IBA over a number of years and states that it has witnessed the positive impact the organisation's work has had on the lives of the Bangladeshi community.

Financial Information

The cost of fundraising is not disclosed in the accounts. The Charity advised that it will disclose this figure in future accounts. The Trustees recognise the need to generate increased income to build up free unrestricted reserves, as these remain low. Future plans include hiring out facilities and charging a small fee for various activities, demonstrating the focus on growing income & reserves.

Year end as at 31st March	FY 15/16 Audited/Examined Accounts £	FY 16/17 Forecast Accounts £	FY 17/18 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	124,331	139,345	187,250
- % of Income confirmed	n/a	n/a	83%
Expenditure	(118,837)	(131,909)	(180,910)
Total surplus/(deficit)	5,494	7,436	6,340
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	3,529	45	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	1,965	7,391	6,340
	5,494	7,436	6,340
Cost of Raising Funds	0	0	0
- % of income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	118,837	131,909	180,910
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	2,364	9,755	16,095
No of months of operating expenditure	0.2	0.9	1.1
Reserves policy target	59,418	65,954	90,455
No of months of operating expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(57,054)	(56,199)	(74,360)