

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners**

**Marylebone Bangladesh Society Ltd**

**Adv: Sandra Davidson**

**Base: Westminster**

**Amount requested: £70,000**

**Benefit: Westminster**

**Amount recommended: £66,000**

**The Charity**

Marylebone Bangladesh Society (MBS) was established in 1979 to promote the welfare of the Bangladeshi community in the Church Street Neighbourhood, North Westminster. It plays an active role in the area providing much needed social welfare support with a particular focus on educational and health needs. In addition to the Bangladeshi community MBS delivers services and support to a significant number of other minorities from N. Africa, Morocco, Somali, Eritrea; and growing numbers from Eastern Europe. Specifically, MBS provides the following: an advice and information service (approved by the Legal Services Commission); women's health and well-being activities; a supplementary school project which supports the core curriculum; mother-tongue classes and activities promoting partnership between parents and schools; a large youth club; and several outings and cultural events for all ages.

**The Application**

MBS has been working with older people since 2004. Over the last few years they have noted an increasing number of older people 75+ accessing their services, many of whom live alone and are isolated. Statistics published in the 2011 Census show:

- 11,307 people aged 75 and above living in Westminster
- 11,305 people aged 65 and above are living alone of which approximately 4,500 are aged 75 and above.

The project will also support carers aged 65 and over. The organisation is seeking funding for two years to build and expand its work with older members by recruiting an Older People's Project Development Worker to develop new activities that will improve health and well-being and support older people to become more active in their local community.

**The Recommendation**

MBS has a good track record of delivering services for older people and is recognised as being responsive to the needs of the local communities in which they operate. It works collaboratively with key partners and has a good relationship with its current funders. The project is well planned and a good fit for your outcomes on the Older Londoners programme. The original budget, which included costs for hiring their own premises, has been reduced accordingly after a discussion with your officer at assessment and a revised sum agreed. As the organisation's free reserves are low it is advised that their cashflow be reviewed ahead of the release of the second year's funding. A grant is advised as follows:

**£66,000 over two years (2 x £33,000) for the salary costs of an Older People's Project Development Worker (28hwpw) and associated project costs for an Older People's Health and Well-being Project. Release of the grant in year 2 is subject to review of cashflow.**

### **Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
08/07/2010	£56,000 over two years (2 x £28,000) for an Older People's Health Project.

### **Background and detail of proposal**

You have supported MBS before, most recently in July 2010 with a grant of £56,000 for an Older People's Health Project. The monitoring report of this was signed off as good. MBS is seeking to provide a range of activities to enhance the lives of older people backed by a comprehensive plan to increase physical activity, improve eating habits, increase participation, and reduce isolation. A large number of older people from BAME communities suffer from heart disease; diabetes, mental health and related illness resulting from isolation, depression and anxiety. The programme will offer practical and social support to older people at risk of social isolation, gradual loss of independence or reactive mental illnesses. A befriending service will be offered with the recruitment of 20 people trained to undertake over 200 befriending visits. Monthly healthy eating workshops will be held in addition to drop in support services. MBS runs its activities from two sites equipped for various functions and both sites can meet the needs of this project.

### **Financial Information**

MBS has diversified its funding stream as a result of funding cuts by the local authority. The charity is looking at more room/hall hire opportunities to increase its unrestricted reserves position. The costs of generating funds are not disclosed in the accounts. Future plans include setting up a fund-raising sub-committee to look at ways of generating more unrestricted income and increasing its free reserves.

Year end as at 31st March	FY 15/16	FY 16/17	FY 17/18
	Examined	Draft Accounts	Forecast
	Accounts		
	£	£	£
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	180,230	157,916	145,102
- % of Income confirmed @ 15/8/17	n/a	n/a	100%
Expenditure	(169,751)	(157,530)	(142,435)
Total surplus/(deficit)	<b>10,479</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>2,667</b>
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	10,656	583	9
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(177)	(197)	2,658
	<b>10,479</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>2,667</b>
Cost of Raising Funds	0	0	0
- % of income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	67,507	53,919	85,842
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	4,189	3,992	6,650
No of months of operating expenditure	0.7	0.9	0.9
Reserves policy target	33,754	26,960	42,921
No of months of operating expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(29,565)	(22,968)	(36,271)