

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive**Children's Trust**

Adv: Sandra Davidson
Base: Outside London
Benefit: London-wide

Amount requested: £67,240
(Revised request £65,331)
Amount recommended: £60,000

The Applicant

The Children's Trust is the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury. It provides rehabilitation from its specialist centre in Tadworth, Surrey and in the community, helping children make the best recovery possible after a serious illness. The centre is home to the charity's special school and nursing services for children with complex medical needs. The charity recently received the highest rating as 'Outstanding' from the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

The Application

You awarded a grant for two years support to develop a brain injury specialist service at St. George's which is now ending. This application is for a third year's support for the same project, specifically the funding of a full-time Brain Injury Specialist to continue the service. Your grant return for the first year was assessed as 'good' and a monitoring visit in 2017 concluded that "the project is a much-valued resource providing high quality, personalised care to children and young people".

The Recommendation

The service has been running at St. George's since August 2015. In the last year it has supported 331 children who would otherwise have been left with unmet needs due to a brain injury. The Brain Injury Specialist identifies needs and rehabilitation goals. This service has helped children maintain their independence, improved access a wide variety of therapeutic, leisure and educational opportunities and facilitated positive transition for children and their families.

£60,000 for a third and final year's funding of a f/t Brain Injury Specialist and related running costs of a brain injury service in London.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
23/09/2015	£120,000 over two years (2 x £60,000) for the salary of a full-time Brain Injury Specialist and related running costs of a brain injury service in London.
20/11/2003	Application withdrawn.

Background and detail of proposal

The Brain Injury Specialist located in major trauma centres provides early identification and rehabilitation service for children and young people affected by brain injury and their families. Support provided includes clinical screening of need, advice, education and onward referral. The service enables children and young people with acquired brain injury to access a broad range of health, education,

employment and social opportunities. The Brain Injury Specialist at St. George's works very closely with the paediatric neurosciences teams, working alongside NHS staff to identify children and young people with brain injury soon after an accident or illness. Families are contacted by the service within six weeks of discharge from hospital.

The service provides community-based interdisciplinary, goal-orientated neurorehabilitation delivered in the child's environment, in school or at home. Using a non-intensive, consultative approach, the focus is on the social, emotional, cognitive, communication and behavioural needs resulting from an acquired brain injury. Alongside the child specific neurological support, the Brain Injury Specialist provides wider education, training and support to health care professionals and public services who may engage with children with an acquired brain injury e.g. GPs, nurseries, schools, and therapy teams.

During the last year, the charity undertook an in-depth review and evaluation of the Brain Injury Community Service, UK wide. The results of this (evidence provided) reinforce the need for this specialist support to individual children and families. The evaluation demonstrates the service is highly valued and suggests areas for further development. As a result, the charity has continued to evolve the service model, implementing a more consistent approach to the initial screening and advice offered, clarifying the boundaries of the service at the outset and defining the pathway from referral to discharge.

The charity's experience in providing the Brain Injury Service at St George's hospital combined with their experiences in Leeds, Nottingham and Sheffield places them in a pre-eminent position to continue to provide this service. Projections suggest that approximately 350 children and young people will benefit each year.

Financial Information

Historically, the charity has experienced peaks and troughs in income and has been fortunate to benefit from 'one-off' donations such as a large legacy or 12-month corporate partnership. Whilst these are great opportunities for the charity to maximise its income, they do not represent a reliable, consistent source of income. As part of the organisation's strategic review plans include diversifying its income streams and investing in growing its database to increase committed gift each month to provide reliable and unrestricted income streams.

Year end as at 31 March	2017	2018	2019
	Audited Accounts	Forecast	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	23,219,000	23,912,000	23,457,000
- % of Income confirmed as at 30/01/18	n/a	n/a	95%
Expenditure	(23,952,000)	25,042,000	(23,886,000)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(733,000)	(1,130,000)	(429,000)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(157,000)	310,000	1,148,000
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(640,000)	(1,440,000)	(1,577,000)
- Endowment Funds	64,000		
	(733,000)	(1,130,000)	(429,000)
Cost of Raising Funds	4,436,000	4,812,000	4,617,000
- % of income	19.1%	20.1%	19.7%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	24,214,000	24,572,000	23,886,000
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	12,210,000	10,770,000	9,193,000
No of months of operating expenditure	6.1	5.3	4.8
Reserves policy target	8,071,333	8,190,667	7,962,000
No of months of operating expenditure	4.0	4.0	4.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	4,138,667	2,579,333	1,231,000

