

MEETING: 21/03/2019

Ref: 15212

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions

deafPLUS

**Adv: Sandra Jones
Base: Tower Hamlets
Benefit: Newham**

Amount requested: £95,739

Amount recommended: £95,700

The Applicant

DeafPLUS, a charity, has been providing information, advice, guidance and advocacy to deaf people across the UK for over 40 years. Activities include providing support to deaf and hard of hearing clients in making decisions to realise their legal and civil rights and responsibilities; health promotion and awareness raising amongst GPs and health professionals; rehabilitation and re-enablement services; information and advice; an equipment and telecare service; and training courses to individuals who have recently become deaf or hard of hearing.

The Application

This application is for two years' continuation funding for the 'Living With a Hearing Loss' (LWHL) courses for older people experiencing from hearing loss due to the ageing process, designed to support older people to manage the difficulties experienced by becoming hearing impaired. At the end of each course the participants set up peer support groups. This project operates across London from four sites in north, south, east and west London (Islington, Bromley Croydon and Enfield). DeafPlus is seeking funds for a part time LWHL trainer, a part time project officer, and associated running costs.

The Recommendation

Your previous funding has delivered excellent outcomes for this project and monitoring has shown the positive impact the courses have had on the lives of older people who are experiencing hearing loss. Funding will cover the costs of a Project Trainer for 25 hours per week, a Project Officer to undertake business support for 10 hours per week and associated running costs.

£95,700 over two years (£47,400, £48,300) for a part time LWHL Project Trainer (25 hpw), and part time LWHL Project Officer (10 hpw) and associated running costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
26/11/2015	£135,000 over three years (£44,000, £45,000, £46,000) for a part time LWHL Project Trainer (25 hpw), and part time LWHL project officer (10 hpw) and associated running costs.

Background and detail of proposal

When a person's hearing begins to deteriorate, tasks that used to be carried out with ease become difficult. Communication becomes hard work, leading to anxiety and apprehension which may cause problems with family and friends or a loss of independence and social life.

The LWHL project will provide eight seven-week training courses per annum in four areas across London (two in each area) and will cover: developing coping strategies; improving lip-reading skills; finding out what services and resources are available; information, advice and social networking, coping strategies. 1-1 support is also provided, which offers 2 hours of lip-reading practice and advice about equipment. Drop- in support at the charity's outreach centres will be offered where participants can get on-going support. Peer support groups will be facilitated for the participants of the courses, something that has proven to be particularly effective for those individuals where losing hearing has caused social isolation.

Financial Information

Although a vast majority of the organisation's funding is from statutory sources, they have multi-year contracts from across the UK. Their income dropped slightly in 2018, but in the current year has increased to previous levels due to new contracts.

Year end as at 31 March	2018 Audited Accounts £	2019 Budget £	2020 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	964,590	1,019,822	1,162,854
- % of Income confirmed as at 14/02/2019	n/a	n/a	62%
Expenditure	(1,067,907)	(1,044,078)	(1,193,973)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(103,317)	(24,256)	(31,119)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(152,969)	(141,634)	(94,367)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	49,652	117,378	63,248
	(103,317)	(24,256)	(31,119)
Cost of Raising Funds	76,140	54,679	34,116
- % of income	7.9%	5.4%	2.9%
Total expenditure	1,067,907	1,044,078	1,193,973
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	296,221	413,599	476,847
No of months of total expenditure	3.3	4.8	4.8
Reserves policy target	266,977	261,020	298,493
No of months of total expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	29,244	152,580	178,354