

CITY BRIDGE TRUST – Delegated Authority (Requests up to £250k)

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions\Older people (choice and control)

Islington Chinese Association

Ref: 15694

Amount requested: £248,896

Adv: Jack Joslin

Base: Islington

Benefit: Camden

Amount recommended: £248,900

Purpose of grant request: To support and empower older Chinese people to have a voice, make sensible choices through accessible community support services and remain resilient and thrive.

The Applicant

Islington Chinese Association (ICA) was initially established in 1986 in China Town, primarily working with Cantonese speakers from Hong Kong who had come to this country to work in the restaurant trade but who spoke no English. The Islington Association followed to work with housebound and socially isolated Hong Kong Chinese. Some 10 years ago, the Cantonese restaurants started being taken over by mainland Chinese who speak Mandarin. They now devote considerable effort to bringing the two communities together. The ICA provides a wide programme of activities from a catholic church hall in Islington. This includes a wide range of health and wellbeing activities including martial arts, table tennis, karaoke, an opera group and a twice weekly lunch club. All activities are open to all but are primarily used by people of Chinese heritage.

Background and detail of proposal

This application is to fund a new post to deliver outreach to Chinese communities across London. The post holder will work with individuals to help them articulate their own needs and aspirations and create a harmonious Chinese community in London. The project will aim to recruit new volunteers particularly to provide welfare advice and mental health support. The Wellbeing Officer, once recruited, will establish a project steering group and implement an action plan for the project. The post will design and carry out extensive outreach across the Chinese community in London, developing and training a network of community-based volunteers. ICA is well connected to this community in London and will look to extend these connections to ensure that the hardest to reach older people can access services they need.

Since the lockdown began the need for a service like this has become more acute. The Chinese Community have suffered from negative stereotypes during the coronavirus pandemic which has further alienated some of the most isolated older people. ICA would like still to recruit a new post as they see this work as essential to supporting the Chinese Community during the re-build stages post pandemic. As a charity, having a multi-year funding award will help to underpin services as they develop different fundraising models going forward. The work will be adapted to the current changes in society. The Charity will use technology as a tool for engagement but also find other ways of ensuring the needs of individuals are met.

The use of community volunteers will become more essential to assess the needs and risks to older individuals.

Financial Information

The Charity has stable turnover and receives income from a variety of sources. ICA currently holds reserves higher than the 6 months listed in its accounts. This provides the Charity with some comfort during these uncertain times and will help to mitigate the potential impact on unrestricted income caused by the Coronavirus Pandemic. The ICA holds quite significant restricted reserves, these are funds that are being raised to purchase a property for the Charity. The funds are held in reserve to achieve this purpose.

Year end as at 31st March	2019	2020	2021
	Signed Accounts	Forecast	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	239,526	244,531	241,327
- % of Income confirmed as at 04/06/2020	N/A	100%	22%
Expenditure	(246,809)	(221,288)	(240,233)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(7,283)	23,243	1,094
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	0	0	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(7,283)	23,243	1,094
	(7,283)	23,243	1,094
Cost of Raising Funds	0	5,212	5,400
% Income	0%	2%	2%
Operating Expenditure (unrestricted)	153,802	122,188	139,961
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	67,658	90,901	91,995
No of months of operating expenditure	5.3	8.9	7.9
Reserves policy target	76,901	61,094	69,981
No of months of operating expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(9,243)	29,807	22,015

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
17/02/2011	£76,900 over three years (£25,500; £25,250; £26,150) for employment and running costs of a befriending and advocacy scheme for elderly people, subject to clarification of the financial position for 2011-12.

Recommendation

The ICA has been operating for over 30 years and is grounded in the Chinese Community in London. Funding is being sought to employ a Well-Being Officer and associated project costs to deliver a community outreach scheme working with older Chinese people. This work has taken on a new importance since the Coronavirus swept across the world. Negative stereotyping of the Chinese Communities has had an impact on settled communities in London both socially and financially. This work will go some way to improving resilience amongst older members of the community,

ensuring that they are less isolated and have improved well-being. Funding is recommended as follows:

£248,900 over 5 years (£48,600; £48,200; £49,300; £50,600; £52,200) towards the cost of a Full-Time Well-Being Officer (35hpw) and associated project costs and overheads to work with older Chinese People across London.

Approved.....
Chief Grants Officer /
Deputy CGO

Approved.....
Chair

Approved.....
Deputy Chair

Date.....

Date.....

Date.....