

## **CITY BRIDGE TRUST – Delegated Authority (Requests £50,001 to £100k)**

### **ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Connecting the Capital\Arts, sports, health and/or well-being projects for older people**

**Highgate Newtown Community Centre**

**Ref: 16943**

**Adv: Kate Moralee**

**Amount requested: £74,058**

**Base: Camden**

**Benefit: Camden**

**Amount recommended: £74,000**

**Purpose of grant request:** To increase wellbeing and reduce the isolation of older vulnerable Londoners through access to healthy, affordable food, arts, sports and wellbeing activities.

#### **The Applicant**

Highgate Newtown Community Centre (HNCC) is the largest community hub in the area providing activities for local residents, with a focus on activities for under 5's, young people and older people (over 75). It is over 40 years old and since the original grant was awarded in 2017 it has dispersed its activities across the borough due to the rebuilding of the Community Centre.

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

In 2017 you awarded HNCC £68,434 over 3 years towards the p/t salary of a 75+ coordinator and tutors to deliver a programme of varied activities for older members of the community. HNCC has provided excellent and timely monitoring reports, been proactive in communication with your officer and responded effectively to changes during the last three years.

This programme has been incredibly successful with demand and activities increasing throughout the period. The programme of activities has been dispersed throughout several community settings due to the rebuild of the original community centre, which is due to re-open in 2022. This has resulted in a more in depth understanding of the local community and the needs of local residents, increased partnership with local community organisations, increased demand for services and increased trust in services.

HNCC responded positively and immediately to the changing demand and nature of service provision due to the restraints and challenges of Covid-19. Whilst experiencing serious challenges this period has resulted in an array of unintended benefits including: securing a volunteer co-ordinator and operations manager which has contributed to the smooth, full and effective response to the needs of the local community; an expansion of services; an increase in number of local volunteers; increased income, including donations from local community members; increased partnership working and improved coordination of service delivery.

Although it is unusual for a continuation request to include new and different service costs this request does that. HNCC have developed a Meals on Wheels service since the original project for older people. During Covid 19 in particular this service has proved a lifeline for local people, particularly vulnerable older people. An electric van has been secured from Morrisons Foundation, with HNCC exploring opportunities for a second van such is demand. HNCC is working in partnership with

LB Camden and DEFRA to ensure the service is integrated with NHS and Social Care in addition to meeting current need identified through the provision of the older people's project. HNCC is requesting 50% of the salary of the Meals on Wheels Co-ordinator to ensure oversight of practical aspects of the service and development of strategic relationships across the borough.

Whilst the continuation request has been written with the assumption that Covid 19 restrictions will be lifted soon and that some face to face activities might be resumed, the majority of the service will continue to be delivered through food and essential drop offs, meal deliveries, digital sessions, phone calls, activity packs and socially distanced contact until such time as the service users are confident to return to face to face contact. It may be that the service is provided in a hybrid format moving forward.

### **Financial Information**

HNCC has a stable and growing income, from £268,377 y/e 31/3/2019 to £352,167 predicted for y/e31/3/2021. Managing growth, both financial and service delivery, is challenging however HNCC has excellent relationships with LB Camden, local businesses and the local community which provide it with support. It has secured funding for posts which ensure structured growth and management of increased staff, volunteers and services. It has also secured an increase in volunteers during covid, with differing skills sets, providing expertise in monitoring and evaluation and transferring to digital service provision. Although unrestricted reserves appear high at £234,757, approximately 12 months operating costs, HNCC has the ambition to allocate £150k to a designated fund to furnish the new centre when complete.

### **Recommendation**

***£74,000 over a further and final two years (£36,700, £37,300) towards the p/t salary of a Project Coordinator and p/t/ salary of a Meals on Wheels Coordinator and a contribution to association freelance sessional staff costs to deliver a wellbeing programme to older vulnerable community members.***

**Approved.....**

Chief Grants Officer

**Date.....**