

MEETING 19/06/14

Ref: 12199

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving Londoners' Mental Health

Attention Deficit Disorders Uniting Parenting in Havering, Barking & Dagenham and the Surrounding Area (Add+up)

Adv: Julia Mirkin

Amount requested: £93,682

**Base: Havering
Benefit: Havering**

Amount recommended: £94,000

Purpose of grant request: To fund the Development Manager on a full-time basis to meet the increased demand for our services to families.

Background

The organisation called 'Attention Deficit Disorders Uniting Parenting in Havering, Barking and Dagenham' (Add+Up) is a parent-led support and action group for families in east London living with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). ADHD is a neurodevelopmental condition that arises, as with other mental health illnesses, when the brain's chemistry becomes unbalanced. The symptoms (that in some cases improve with age) fall into two behavioural categories: firstly, inattentiveness; and secondly, hyperactivity and impulsiveness. Sufferers will often have short attention spans, be unable to follow instructions, fidget constantly, interrupt without being able to wait their turn and may have no sense of danger. As ADHD sufferers are now recognised as having 'Special Educational Needs' (SEN), the condition is acknowledged as an educational issue. ADHD is thought to affect between 3-9% of school-aged children and 2% of adults. It is strongly associated with school failure and exclusion and was recognised as the second highest risk factor in offending in 'The Police Crime Action Plan 2008'.

Funding History

None

Current Application

Add+Up requests support towards the salary costs of its full-time Development Manager, who is responsible for organisational management, service delivery and development, and outreach and advocacy. Add+Up aims to help young ADHD sufferers to manage their symptoms, allowing them to participate with their education and sustain relationships more successfully. Regular activities include: intensive holiday schemes; weekly after-school clubs, including a homework session; and a Saturday drama club.

Add+Up's activities aim to develop children's understanding of their condition and develop the skills to control their behaviour. Add+Up's activities for children are delivered by a post-holder who has NVQ Level 3 certificates in Childcare and Education, and Speech and Language in the Classroom, and who was previously a Special Needs Teaching Assistant. Amongst Add+Up's alumni is a university graduate, an apprentice with Ford Motor Company, and a Special Police Constable – careers which otherwise would have been beyond their reach. In addition, three parent volunteers have qualified as teachers, one specialising in Special Needs education.

Add+Up's programme includes activities for the parents of children with ADHD, which is delivered by the Development Manager and focuses on parenting skills and supporting parents to navigate statutory services. 75% of the families with which Add+Up works are low-income, single-parent, or involved with the care system. This is partly attributed by Add+up staff, to the genetic nature of ADHD: historically, ADHD has been undiagnosed but is recognised to aggravate family life. Add+Up is also working in a deprived area, exacerbating the experience of living with ADHD.

With the salary costs of the Development Manager fully funded, Add+Up would be able to develop its programme. This would include extending and enriching its volunteer programme; and expanding its after-school provision to include some of the specialised activities that currently are only offered during the school holidays. Add+Up also proposes to develop the awareness-raising work that it delivers in schools and from which it is starting to generate income. As the SEN code of practice has recently been reviewed to include ADHD, Add+Up anticipates that the number of referrals it receives and the demand for its awareness-raising and training programmes will increase.

Financial Observations

Audited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013 show total income of £109,157 and a deficit of £10,891 (10% of turnover), comprising a deficit of £6,900 on unrestricted funds and £3,991 on restricted funds.

The reserves policy is to hold six months' worth of running costs in free unrestricted reserves which based on current year's budgeted expenditure is £71,225. At 31 March 2013 free unrestricted reserves stood at £18,029, which equates to 1.5 months' worth of current year budgeted expenditure.

The projected outturn for the year ended 31st March 2014 shows a surplus of £8,034 (6.4% of turnover), comprising a surplus on restricted funds of £8,785 and a deficit on unrestricted funds of £751.

The budget for the current year to 31st March 2015 includes expenditure of £142,451 and a surplus of £29,899 (17.3% of turnover), comprising £16,649 on restricted funds and £13,250 on unrestricted funds. Total predicted income is £172,350, of which £65,000 (37.7%) has been confirmed at 19th February 2014.

At 31st March 2015 free unrestricted funds are expected to be £30,528, which is equivalent to 2.6 months' worth of current year budgeted expenditure.

Officer's Appraisal

The strength of Add+Up's activities is that they are informed and shaped by a combination of direct experience and specialist knowledge and its alumni are a testament to its success. Add+Up is an active member of the UK ADHD Partnership which successfully lobbied for recognition of ADHD as a Special Educational Need. The charity received the 'Community Recognition Award' from Havering Business Partnership in 2009; the 'Kids Count Charity Award' in 2010; and a Life Changers Award for outstanding achievement in 2013.

Recommendation

£94,000 over 3 years (£30,750; £31,250; £32,000) towards the salary costs of a full-time Development Manager.