

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners**Age UK Camden****Adv: Sandra Davidson****Amount requested: £75,000****Base: Camden****Benefit: Several north London****The Charity:**

Age UK Camden's (AUKC) mission is to work with and for older people to improve their lives. It is one of the largest Age UKs in London and is recognised as a significant creative force in older people's work, in Camden and wider; it is also the largest non-statutory provider of services for older people in Camden.

AUKC has a reputation for developing and delivering innovative services to meet new and emerging needs and for informing policy and practice in relation to the diversity of older people's issues. It provides for over 7,000 older people each year with activities which include: 2 x day centres; an information and advice service; volunteering; counselling; a Good Neighbour scheme; direct payments support; and Open Doors London for Older Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender People.

The Application:

AUKC is seeking continuation of its existing funding of Open Doors London (ODL) to build on the current success of the project and to expand and support a wider community of older LGBT people. This request towards the salary costs of two full-time Development Co-ordinators is crucial to delivering services supporting a membership of over 900 across London.

The Recommendation:

This is a pioneering project, now well established, but continuing to grow and develop. Trust for London and the Big Lottery Reaching Communities Fund are also supporters of this project. The grant recommended is as requested:

£75,000 over two years (£50,000; £25,000) towards the salary costs of two full-time Development Co-ordinators to develop and expand the Open Doors London service.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
02/12/2010	£150,000 over three years (£50,000; £50,000; £50,000) towards the salary and on costs to sustain and develop Opening Doors London project supporting OLGBT across North London and the City.
02/07/2009	£114,000 over three years (3 x £38,000) for the salary and related costs of a part-time (17.5 hrs) Group Therapist delivering a project to support older people suffering from mental health problems.
15/07/2004	£30,000 as a third and final year's contribution to the post of a Co-ordinator of an information technology project for older people in Camden.

Background and detail of proposal

ODL has grown over the last three years with the Trust's support. It has enabled AUKC to develop delivery to the original, five, central London boroughs to all boroughs in the north of the capital. ODL is widely recognised as a ground-breaking

initiative which provides vital services and a voice for older LGBT people across London. The service is the largest of its kind in the UK and thus has a significant impact. The ODL service is considered crucial due to the issues faced by older LGBT people. It is estimated that there are as many as 150,000 LGBT people aged over 50 living in London. The heightened anxiety that has resulted from decades of discrimination and social exclusion that many have lived through is widespread. When combined with the ubiquitous assumption of heterosexuality, these experiences often result in older members of these communities remaining silent and invisible when accessing essential services. ODL runs several social groups, provides monthly newsletters, has a range of support services, and organises personal development classes.

All of these services form an important lifeline which beneficiaries have come to rely upon. Most have lived their lives in less tolerant times, and experience has made them wary of mainstream provision. Many are still reluctant to self-identify which masks their real need when accessing support. They are much more likely to have no children to call upon in times of need. Older LGBT people are known to be more likely to suffer from mental health problems. More, local, groups are developing throughout London, along with more training sessions and campaigning. Survey feedback has shown conclusively the immense appreciation of the work by participants. Support from the Trust will enable the project to build on momentum to date; reach a greater number of potentially isolated vulnerable people; and strengthen referral networks with other organisations supporting older people.

Financial Information

Accounts for the year ended show a long-term liability of £984,000 arising from a historic final salary pension scheme. Trustees intended to use the proceeds from a building sale in 2011 to close the scheme. However, AUKC's offer of £1.25m was compromised in the markets and was rejected by LB Camden. As part of a 5-year (and beyond) strategy, the organisation is considering rebalancing its portfolio of equities, together with buying a property that will be used for its services.

Year-end at 31 st March	2012/12 Audited accounts	2013/14 DRAFT Accounts	2014/15 Current Year Forecast
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	2,191,483	2,118,958	1,958,780
Expenditure	2,131,943	2,313,164	2,052,632
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	72,287	49,682	(51,741)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(12,747)	(97,733)	(42,102)
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	59,540	(43,051)	(93,842)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	2.7%	(2%)	(4.8%)
Generating funds as % of income	9%	8.8%	9.6%
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	977,539	536,330	484,589
~ how many months' worth of expenditure	5.5	3	2.8
Reserves Policy target (£)	532,986	539,505	513,158
~ how many months' worth of expenditure	3	3	3
Free reserves over target / (under target)	444,5353	(3,175)	(28,569)

Total anticipated income for the current year is £1,958,790 of which 49% had been confirmed at 20th June 2014.