

MEETING: 16/07/2014

Ref: 12101

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Carers Network Westminster

Adv: Julia Mirkin

Base: Westminster

Amount requested: £130,751

Benefit: Westminster &

Hammersmith and Fulham

The Charity: Carers Network Westminster (CNW) was founded in 1991 to provide services for unpaid carers. CNW conducts carer assessments on behalf of Westminster council and offers support with personal budgets. In 2013, CNW successfully tendered to deliver services in Hammersmith and Fulham (H&F) and has subsequently revised its charitable objects and trading name. CNW now operates from two sites and currently works with 2,000 unpaid carers. CNW's new Director was formerly Head of Housing at Crisis and is a Trustee of the Nationwide Foundation and brings experience of voluntary sector funding to the organisation.

The Application: CNW's End of Life (EoL) project focuses on older carers, specifically those who are providing unpaid care for someone who has been diagnosed with a terminal illness. The EOL project has been shaped through consultation with 89 EOL carers who completed a survey in 2011.

The Recommendation: CNW seeks to fill a gap in its current provision by going beyond what is available through statutory support. It has a wealth of experience of working with Carers and is well networked within both local authorities. The recommendation is lower than the request as your policy for projects such as this is to consider funding to a maximum of 1 fte salary only:

£122,800 over three years (£37,800; £42,000; £43,000) towards the costs of the EoL Support Worker, respite breaks and events for EoL Carers, subject to receipt of signed accounts for 2013.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
14/07/2005	£75,000 over three years (£24,500; £25,000; £25,500) to support carers of older people living with mental illness, depression and dementia.

Background and detail of proposal

CNW requests support for a new EOL Support Worker and for EOL programme costs, including casework support, information and social events, and respite breaks. The EOL project aims to develop a support service for older Carers of the terminally ill, who typically provide round-the-clock care, including the preparation of meals, administering medication and helping with basic care needs. Carers provide a valuable and cost-effective service that can complement statutory provision for the terminally ill. However, it is a demanding and relentless job that can be isolating and consuming. CNW recognises that older Carers, especially those who support the terminally ill, need tailored support to fulfil this important role but also need help transitioning from the caring role after their loved ones have passed away.

65 EOL Carers will be supported each year by the EOL Support Worker and a team of 18 EOL volunteers (six recruited annually), who will be recruited and trained specifically for this project. CNW currently works with five regular volunteers, so the EOL project will initiate a considerable expansion in volunteer engagement.

Casework support offered through the EOL project will provide Carers with regular face-to-face and telephone support; it will also act as an intermediary between Carers and statutory service providers. Social activities specifically for EOL Carers will be programmed, encouraging older Carers to socialise and form networks. Respite breaks and day trips form an important aspect of the programme. A one-week break is offered annually and travel and half-board accommodation is provided free of charge for up to twenty Carers. Beneficiaries will be signposted to bereavement counselling and will be supported as they transition from being a Carer to living independent lives. When appropriate, people will be informed about educational, voluntary and employment opportunities, and will be encouraged to contribute to the project's Steering Group; beneficiaries are also signposted to CNW's peer support groups that can act as an intermediate step to greater social integration. Two EOL events will be delivered each year that target professionals and carers. The events aim to raise awareness, disseminate best practice and provide a marketplace for specialist providers to meet and speak directly with Carers about their products and services. CNW will also produce specific EOL resources as part of the project that will be accessible from its website.

Financial Information

The increase in CNW's income reflects the expansion of its work to include the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. Despite this growth in activity, CNW has managed to generate overall surpluses each year.

Secured income for 14/15, at the time of writing, is £648,366 (91.5%), the majority of which is restricted. Currently, the organisation has pending applications for unrestricted funds amounting to £36,000 and for restricted funds of £52,450.

Year-end at 31 st March	2012/13 Audited/Examined £	2013/14 DRAFT £	2014/15 Forecast £
Income and Expenditure			
Income	430,404	535,576	706,366
Expenditure	417,287	529,812	691,754
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	83,665	2,704	(3,200)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(70,548)	3,060	17,812
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	13,117	5,746	14,612
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	3.0%	1.1%	2.1%
Generating funds as % of total income	1.9%	-	-
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	143,184	145,888	142,688
~ how many months' worth of expenditure	4.1	3.3	2.5
Reserves Policy target (£)	60,000	132,453	172,938
~ how many months' worth of expenditure	1.7	3	3
Free reserves over target / (under target)	83,184	13,435	(30,250)