

MEETING: 25/09/2014

Ref: 12173

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving Londoners' Mental Health

Respond

Adv: Julia Mirkin

Base: Camden

Benefit: London-wide

Amount requested: £122,440

{Revised request: £144,500}

Amount recommended: £144,500

The Charity

Respond was established 25 years ago to offer psychotherapy treatment to people with learning disabilities who have been abused or traumatised or who have abused others. It works in schools, prisons and community venues as well as from its Euston-based clinic, offering one-to-one therapy, group therapy, gender-specific groups and children's and family work. Referrals are from health and social services for risk assessments and treatment; the organisation is also commissioned to deliver training, consultancy and research.

The Application

The application is for the salary costs of a Forensic Psychotherapist, who will lead the development of Respond's forensic services and the costs of an external evaluation to provide an evidence base to support brokerage of new work.

The Recommendation

Respond has developed a unique psychotherapeutic approach for people with learning disabilities, who also are suffering with mental ill health. The model draws on creative, symbolic and non-verbal forms of communication, allowing psychotherapists to investigate how individuals engage with others and form relationships without dependence on dialogue. Respond has a long track-record and an established reputation, for example, it has two contracts with the DoH in relation to the high-profile Winterbourne View abuse case, to support the families and treat surviving ex-patients. Respond proposes to capitalise on changes to procurement by the National Offender Management Service, enabling it to generate earned income from its forensic services and to reduce its dependency on voluntary income. The original request has been revised to include an annual contribution to the costs of ongoing, external, evaluation.

£144,600 over three years (£49,400; £48,100; £47,000) for the costs of a part-time (4dpw) Forensic Psychotherapist and a contribution to independent evaluation of Respond's therapeutic model.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
28/11/2013	Application withdrawn
01/05/2008	£103,280 over three years (£32,760; £34,400; £36,120) for the salary of a manager (0.8 FTE) for a service for young people with learning disabilities affected by domestic violence.
11/07/2002	Declined as considered being extremely expensive.

Background and detail of proposal

Research findings estimate that learning disabilities affect between 20-30% of the prison population (*No One Knows* research project, 'Loucks', 2007). These findings

have raised the profile of the needs of learning disabled people in the criminal justice system (CJS). Respond is well positioned to capitalise on this changing landscape. This proposal is to establish and train a dedicated forensic team; refine a package of training and consultancy services; commission an external evaluation of Respond's treatment model and develop partnerships with potential commissioners. Respond aims to support the CJS to develop its mental health programmes for people with learning disabilities, offer treatment to offenders and deliver training that will up-skill CJS staff. Following the assessment meeting, delivery plans were revised and a phased approach is now proposed. (A revised costings page has been submitted, which is included as an appendix to the application form.) It is proposed that grant instalments decrease annually, reflecting greater income forecasted from increased activities in years two and three.

Financial Information

Respond has seen year-end deficits for the last few years due to difficulties raising voluntary and statutory funding, which has reduced the organisation's unrestricted free reserves. The increase in income and expenditure forecast for the current year 2014/15 reflects the costs of increasing the organisation's staffing capacity and changing its operating model. The charity hopes to generate more earned income through therapy/forensic services and training/consultancy work, as well as the room hire of office space.

At August 2014, confirmed income for 2014/15 was £435,473 (56.6%) leaving £333,627 (43.4%) from pending grant applications and earned income. The organisation states that income from statutory sources is usually agreed later in the financial year, making the level of confirmed income at this point typical. The cost of generating funds for 2013/14 and 2014/15 has not been provided but is anticipated to be similar to previous years.

Year end at 31 March	2012/13 Audited Accounts	2013/14 Draft Outturn	2014/15 Current Year Forecast
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	628,027	669,660	769,100
Expenditure	631,115	676,362	741,181
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(654)	(1,916)	27,919
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(2,394)	(4,757)	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(3,048)	(6,673)	27,919
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(0.5%)	(1.0%)	3.6%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	30,180 (4.8%)	-	-
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	69,493	67,577	95,496
How many months' worth of expenditure	1.3	1.2	1.5
Reserves Policy target	157,779	169,091	185,295
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(88,286)	(101,514)	(89,799)