

MEETING: 25/09/2014

Ref: 12213

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Adfam

Adv: Jenny Field

Amount requested: £183,228

Base: Islington

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £153,000

The Charity

Established in 1984 by the mother of a heroin user, Adfam is a national charity supporting families affected by substance misuse.

The Application

Building on the learning from a pilot programme, Adfam proposes to train older people (65 years plus who are caring for a family member who has alcohol and/or drug problems) to become Family Recovery Champions who will, in turn, support other older people caring for someone with a substance misuse problem.

The Recommendation

Adfam has successfully piloted the Family Recovery Champion model in other parts of the UK as well as in the Royal Borough of Greenwich. It has decided to focus on older carers in this proposal, in part because the number of older carers is rising (the 2011 census showed a 35% increase in the number of older carers since the previous 2001 census) but also because someone caring for an ageing partner with drug and/or alcohol problems, may face a new cohort of problems including mobility problems and dementia, both of which can be exacerbated by substance misuse. The amount requested is high relative to your usual patterns of grant-making and includes funding to develop and moderate an online forum which, during the assessment, Adfam agreed could be sought from alternative sources. The amount recommended, therefore, reflects a more modest contribution to its web-based resources.

£153,000 over three years (£53,000; £48,000; £52,000) towards the part-time salary (0.5 FTE) of a Family Support Development Co-ordinator, together with management and other related running costs of a project to train older carers (65 years plus) as Family Recovery Champions across London.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
10/01/2013	Reject: The application did not meet the Trust's criteria.
14/02/2008	£100,000 over three years (£40,000; £40,000; £20,000) towards a project supporting grandparents raising their grandchildren.
30/11/2006	Reject: The application was for in-depth social-work, an area in which the organisation did not have a clear track record at that time.

Background and detail of proposal

Although established to work with families of all ages, a high proportion of those with whom Adfam works are older. As well as those caring for a partner with drug and/or alcohol problem, older carers may find themselves caring for grandchildren if the parents (their own children) are misusing substances. The stigma attached to addiction is frequently directed, by association, to those caring for the user, making them vulnerable to isolation and compounding the lack of support experienced by many family carers of people with addictions. During the pilot in Greenwich, Adfam worked with a number of

families from the Asian community who had never before talked about issues for families affected by substance misuse. Since then, they have been able to establish a support group and drop-in sessions and the group will run an information stall at an upcoming community health event.

Adfam proposes to train 20 older Family Recovery Champions (FRCs) each year. Once trained, each FRC will support 15 older carers annually, both one-to-one and through peer support groups. The Family Support Co-ordinator will provide the FRCs with ongoing support and supervision. The project will be supported by an advisory group that will include older carers of a family member with a drug and/or alcohol problem in order to enable them to shape the service's development. The peer support groups that the FRCs will run will help more older carers understand the impact that drugs and alcohol misuse has on families; better understand their rights as carers; and how they can support their loved one's recovery. The learning from the project will be fed back to practitioners and commissioners to help increase their understanding of the support needs of older carers.

Financial Information

For the current year 2014/15 income is forecast to total £605,781 of which £550,281 (90.8%) had been confirmed by the end of July 2014. Overall, the charity anticipates a deficit of £21,642 for the current year (3.6% of turnover).

The charity's reserves policy states that it aims to hold three months' worth of fixed costs (salaries and rates) in free reserves which it calculates to be £118,000. This is a modest reserves target equating to 2.3 months' worth of total expenditure. The current level of reserves falls short of this target at £36,307, equating to 0.7 months' worth of total expenditure. The charity's trustees have advised that they intend to try and generate unrestricted reserves whilst at the same time making savings on fixed costs where possible. For example, the charity plans to sub-let part of its office space to Alcohol Concern which would assist in reducing overheads.

Year end at 31 March	2012/13 Audited Accounts £	2013/14 Draft Outturn £	2014/15 Current Year Forecast £
Income and Expenditure			
Income	522,708	632,979	605,781
Expenditure	646,215	647,823	627,423
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(23,743)	(18,117)	(2,567)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(99,764)	3,273	(19,075)
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(123,507)	(14,844)	(21,642)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	23.6%	2.3%	3.6%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	14,739 (2.8%)	18,352 (2.9%)	26,750 (4.3%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at year-end	55,858	38,874	36,307
How many months' worth of expenditure	1.0	0.7	0.7
Reserves Policy target	118,000	118,000	118,000
How many months' worth of expenditure	2.2	2.2	2.3
Free reserves over/(under) target	(62,142)	(79,126)	(81,693)