

MEETING: 25/09/2014

Ref: 12197

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Harrow Carers

Adv: Joan Millbank

Amount requested: £62,215

Base: Harrow

(Revised request: £77,555)

Benefit: Harrow

Amount recommended: £78,000

The Charity

Harrow Carers is a charitable company limited by guarantee, affiliated to the Princess Royal Trust for Carers. Set up in 1996, the organisation seeks to provide a range of support to unpaid carers to help them balance their caring role with maintaining their own quality of life. It currently provides a hospital discharge service and is currently in year one of a three year Big Lottery grant which supports the provision of advice and advocacy to benefit older carers.

The Application

The applicant is seeking a grant to provide respite for elderly and vulnerable carers. The initiative is being developed in partnership with Harrow Crossroads, which will provide the home care support for the cared-for person in order to allow the carer to take a break for a minimum of three hours each week. The initiative will target 120 carers aged 65+, of whom approximately half will be carers aged 75 years and over.

The Recommendation

This project responds to a current and increasing need by helping older carers maintain their caring responsibilities of loved ones while minimising risk to their own health and well-being. The request was adjusted following the assessment meeting and a revised bid made for three year, tapered, funding (Appendix A to application form), which will support the service to become self-funded by year four.

£78,000 over three years (£37,100; £26,400; £14,500) towards the cost of a full-time Respite Homecare Project Co-ordinator, service subsidy, running and management costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
18/04/2013	Declined as proposal was insufficiently focused on priority to tackle depression amongst older people aged over 65.
14/02/2008	£30,000 over two years (2 x £15,000) for an additional 10 hours per week salary costs of an Older Carers' Worker plus some running costs.

Background and detail of proposal

In 2010 a national study found that older carers are 62% more likely to experience high physical and emotional stress. As a consequence older carers face a higher risk of physical illness, mental decline and likelihood of hospitalisation. Locally, Harrow Carers Action Group has identified the loss of independence and increased isolation as other pronounced characteristics of older carers.

The charity will provide a minimum of 3 hours per week respite care for older carers at its centre and within the wider community. As well as providing time away from their caring responsibilities, older carers will be able to access other support

including social activities, trips out, IT classes and a range of health and financial advice and information. Older carers will also be supported to set up and run their own peer activity groups, which will also help them to build friendships and informal networks. Project outcomes include: increased wellbeing; improved mental and physical health; reduction in social isolation; and improved sustainability in their caring responsibilities.

A full-time Project Co-ordinator will be employed to carry out individual assessments and devise activity plans, manage all aspects of the project and liaise with Crossroads over its provision of the home care support. Carers can self-refer or be referred by other agencies.

Financial Information

At 31st March 2013 creditors, falling due after more than one year, stood at £487,438, which relates to loans secured against the freehold property.

Total forecast income for the current year 2014/15 is £576,351, of which £474,239 (82.3%) had been confirmed by July 2014. The charity has revised its reserves policy in the current year to hold the equivalent to between three and six months operational expenditure, which the charity hopes to achieve by 2019. It plans to increase unrestricted income through the introduction of carers' service fees and an expansion of existing services, as well as cost reductions through service delivery collaborations.

Although the level of free reserves is currently below the charity's target, it is not considered by your grant officer to be of concern at this time. The cost of generating funds for 2013/14 and 2014/15 has not been provided.

Year end at 31 March	2012/13 Audited Accounts	2013/14 Draft Outturn	2014/15 Current Year Budget
Income and Expenditure	£	£	£
Income	471,840	540,790	576,351
Expenditure	371,100	447,372	576,351
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	55,016	18,137	0
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	45,724	75,282	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	100,740	93,418	0
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	21.4%	17.3%	0
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	11,133 (2.4%)	-	-
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	94,171	112,308	112,308
~ how many months' worth of expenditure	3.0	3.0	2.3
Reserves Policy target	92,775	111,933	288,176
~ how many months' worth of expenditure	3	3	3 - 6
Free reserves over target / (under target)	1,396	375	(175,868)