

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners**Irish in Britain****Adv: Jenny Field****Base: Islington****Amount requested: £68,823****Benefit: Several SE London****Amount recommended: £68,900****The Charity**

Irish in Britain was established in 1973. It is a national membership organisation representing and supporting the Irish in Britain, mainly by its support of local Irish community groups and clubs. It also represents that community at the policy level by developing constructive relationships with policy makers, commissioners, statutory bodies and the voluntary sector. It has 33 member organisations across London.

The Application

This application proposes to build on a pilot project tackling dementia amongst older Irish people in London. Through its *Cuimhne* project (pronounced qu'eevna, it is the Irish word for memory), older people will be recruited as volunteers and, following training and support, will provide a range of social and cultural activities for older Irish people living with dementia.

The Recommendation

Through this programme, Irish in Britain is aiming to establish a 'whole community' dementia strategy which aims to engage Irish families, businesses, welfare services, as well as the mainstream dementia organisations in the UK such as Alzheimer's Society and Age UK. To this end, its strategy has been endorsed by David Cameron and by the Alzheimer's Society's Chief Executive. In July, it organised a conference on dementia at which a number of experts spoke, including a representative from the Prime Minister's Dementia Friendly Communities Challenge Group.

Over the years, the organisation has built a good relationship of trust with a network of Irish lunch clubs and welfare services in London. Many of the groups with which it works are volunteer-led, working very much at the grass roots. This network enables Irish in Britain to reach older people with dementia and their carers who might otherwise be isolated and unsupported.

£68,900 over three years (£23,100; £22,700; £23,100) towards the part-time (18.5hpw) salary of a Volunteer Co-ordinator plus associated running costs of a project helping to reduce isolation amongst elders from the Irish community who are living with dementia and their carers.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
28/11/2013	Withdrawn
17/03/2011	Declined. The application was for a capacity building project for BME groups and the Committee was unconvinced of the need.

Background and detail of proposal

According to the 2011 Census date, there are nearly 176,000 Irish people living in London, more than 60,000 of whom are aged over 60 years. A mapping exercise of

Irish voluntary and community services carried out by Irish in Britain in 2010 identified considerable concern amongst its members that increasing numbers of their constituents were presenting with early or undiagnosed dementia. There was also concern that people with memory loss and their carers tended to "disappear" from social activities, with people with memory loss expressing embarrassment about their condition and carers feeling uncomfortable about some dementia-related behaviour of their relative, resulting in a drop out from lunch clubs and other social activities.

During the pilot of this programme, Irish in Britain worked with 65 volunteers across the UK, running training sessions in London, Yorkshire, the Midlands, and the North West. The pilot drew on the expertise within Irish in Britain but was also delivered in partnership with local Alzheimer's Society staff, in order to build sustainable, local relationships between mainstream dementia providers and the local Irish groups being trained. The proposal before you will build on the learning from the pilot phase and will enable the work to be rolled out across London.

Financial Information

For many years, Irish in Britain has received the majority of its funding from the Irish Government, currently through the Emigrant Support Programme. Whilst the Government has been consistent in its support of the charity, funding decisions are made on an annual basis, usually in July of each year. In the light of this, although the charity's free reserves holding is £46k (19%) above its target to hold 6 months' worth of expenditure at £245k, this is not deemed to be excessive by your assessing grants officer. Of the forecast income for 2014/15, £276,799 (95%) had been confirmed as at 27th August 2014.

The cost of generating funds has not been disclosed by the charity in its audited 2013/14 accounts. As Members of the City Bridge Trust Committee have requested this information and because it is a Charity Commission requirement to disclose it, this has been discussed with the charity which advises that it will review the disclosure of this information within its 2014/15 accounts.

Year end at 31 March	2013/14 Audited Accounts	2014/15 Current Year Forecast
Income and Expenditure	£	£
Income	529,437	502,920
Expenditure	491,252	490,293
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	21,023	6,207
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	17,162	6,420
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	38,185	12,627
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	7.2%	2.5%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	--	--
Free unrestricted reserves		
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	285,160	291,367
How many months' worth of expenditure	6.5	7.1
Reserves Policy target	245,626	245,147
How many months' worth of expenditure	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	39,534	46,220