

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving Londoners' Mental Health**Havering and Brentwood Bereavement Service****Adv: Sandra Davidson****Amount requested: £17,362****Base: Havering****(Revised request : £38,885)****Benefit: Havering****Amount recommended: £38,900****The Charity**

The Havering and Brentwood Bereavement Service (HBBS), founded 25 years ago, supports local people of all ages struggling to come to terms with bereavement or loss. It provides one-to-one support for adults and children enabling them to explore and understand their feelings and emotions and to work towards adjustment in their new lives. It is a small local charity run by part-time and voluntary staff dedicated to making a difference to those in need in the community. HBBS also runs a Dementia Carers' Counselling Service and generic counselling service for Brentwood Secondary School, funded by the schools' consortium. Over 70 clients are supported weekly at the charity's base in Hornchurch.

The Application

This request seeks support towards the Children's Bereavement Service (set up five years ago) for children and young adults between the ages of 4 and 18. The service has seen an increase year on year by 20-25%. The number of children in need of help from the most deprived parts of Havering has more than doubled over the last two years.

The Recommendation

The success of the Children's Service has shown a vital need for early intervention for children suffering from grief issues, to enable them to move forward into adult lives more successfully. The charity has seen a rise in the number of referrals becoming increasingly complex, with families more disjoined and living under additional burdens of finance, employment and social pressures. All of which exacerbates the impact of a bereavement, especially on the children, the most vulnerable. Referrals to the service are usually from potential clients themselves or their carers. Increasingly, however, schools are contacting the charity requesting support for individual children or advice in dealing with a bereavement which is affecting either the school as a whole, or a class within it.

£38,900 (£19,250; £19,650) over two years to provide bereavement counselling services for 30 children and families.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
13/07/2000	£500 towards volunteer and other costs of a bereavement service for older people living in LB Havering

Background and detail of proposal

During the next twelve months the charity anticipates it will support 100 children, receiving referrals for approximately 8-9 children per month. Clients are usually seen within 2 weeks of being referred, or self-referring, and their individual

counselling programmes are usually started immediately, although occasionally some delays may occur. This request seeks funds to support 30 children, within their families and schools. Initially the charity assesses a child, with their families or carers, in a comfortable environment for the child. All children will have an individual 8 week counselling programme with an additional session at the beginning as an assessment of their needs (in conjunction with their carers) and an additional final session for closure. One-to-one bereavement counselling is offered, helping guide the child through their grief process with the support of a qualified counsellor. For the young children this is done using play or creative activities; for young adults a mixture of creative talking therapies is used.

For continuing support HBBS then offer a two year social interaction project with workshops and events. This group was established as children were finding it difficult to cope with the idea of their counselling coming to an end. It has enabled children to meet, socialise, and engage in activities with others experiencing similar emotions and difficulties to their own. Following the assessment meeting, it materialised that HBBS wanted to be considered for two years support from the Trust to ensure the continuity of this service which has grown as a result of its success. (A revised budget has been submitted, which is included as an appendix to the application form). The organisation has funding in place until early 2015, after which your grant - if awarded - would commence.

Financial Information

Forecast income for the current year 2014/15 is £169,157 of which £140,157 (83%) had been secured by October 2014.

The cost of generating funds has increased in the current year due to one staff member now being responsible for fund raising and marketing activities, whereas in the past several individuals carried out some fundraising activity in addition to their main roles.

Year end at 31 March	2013/14 Audited Accounts £	2014/15 Current Year Budget £
Income and Expenditure		
Income	173,040	169,157
Expenditure	175,200	170,100
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(5,785)	(845)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	3,625	(98)
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(2,160)	(943)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(1.2%)	(0.6%)
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	11,720 (6.8%)	21,138 (12.5%)
Free unrestricted reserves		
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	44,662	43,817
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.1	3.1
Reserves Policy target	43,800 – 87,600	41,907 – 83,814
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.0 – 6.0	3.0 – 6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	862 – (42,938)	(1,910) – 39,997