

MEETING: 27/11/14

Ref: 12420

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London Safer

Newham Asian Women's Project (NAWP)

Adv: Tania Bronstein

Amount requested: £90,354

Base: Newham

Benefit: Newham

Amount recommended: £90,000

The Charity

Newham Asian Women's Project (NAWP) offers safe accommodation and support for black and minority ethnic (BME) women and children fleeing domestic and other forms of gender-based violence. It manages four refuges with capacity for 25 women and their children at any one time, and will soon open two more refuges to provide a total of 41 adult bed-spaces. NAWP also runs a legal advice service and a project to support BME young women in schools and community settings. At present, these services help over 1,000 BME women every year.

The Application

NAWP seeks three-year funding to offer one-to-one and group therapy at its refuges. Each year, the grant (if approved) would support 135 women and 65 children in overcoming the emotional impacts of abuse and violence they have suffered.

The Recommendation

This well-run organisation has many years' experience of providing quality women-centred and culturally sensitive services for violence survivors. NAWP is fully conversant with good practices regarding counselling provision. These would inform the delivery of this project. A grant is recommended as follows:

£90,000 over 3 years (3 x £30,000) towards the salary costs of a full-time counsellor and the costs of clinical supervision for the post-holder.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
10/07/2007	£61,500 over three year towards the full-time salary and associated running costs of a Child Support Worker

Background and detail of proposal

NAWP was set up in 1987 to support Asian women experiencing gender-based violence, and broadened its remit to women from all black and minority ethnic (BME) groups in 2010. Research has identified that BME women are more likely to suffer domestic violence for longer periods. This is often due to language and cultural barriers and to economic and other forms of dependency upon perpetrators. Prolonged exposure to abuse and violence has serious and enduring impacts on women's emotional health. Children who have witnessed and/or experienced violence are similarly affected.

NAWP receives a Supporting People grant from LB Newham, which is a subsidy for projects providing accommodation for vulnerable groups. This subsidy helps to fund the running costs of NAWP's refuges but does not cover the costs of providing

counselling, which is vital to support recovery, enable women to regain confidence to rebuild their lives free from violence, and to prevent repeat victimisation.

NAWP's refuges provide for the safety of women and children. Women and their families frequently have to spend long periods in temporary accommodation until rehoused and able to re-establish normal lives. This is a factor that significantly adds to their emotional distress and one which often creates difficulties between mothers and children. The addition of one-to-one counselling and monthly workshops for women and weekly play therapy group for children would significantly enhance the support that NAWP offers to BME women who are survivors of violence.

Financial Information

The table below shows that income has reduced by £188,869 (22.6%) over the three year period 2012/13 to the current year 2014/15. This is largely due to across the board cuts to Supporting People funding in the London Borough of Newham.

NAWP has advised that it hopes to move towards a sustainable position in the future which should see it diversify services and funding agreements. As part of this strategy two new refuge sites will be opening in November 2014, which will be managed by NAWP on behalf of the East Thames Housing Association. These new sites will meet increasing demand and should generate additional income of £28k in the current year (included in the 2014/15 forecast shown in the table) and it is hoped that they will generate a further net income of £60k per annum in future years from rental income and service charges.

Total forecast income in 2014/15 is £646,826, of which £309,452 (47.8%) had been received as at 30th September 2014.

Fundraising is carried out by the Director, and therefore the cost of generating funds represents one third of the Director's salary.

Year end at 31 March	2012/13 Audited Accounts £	2013/14 Outturn £	2014/15 Current Year Forecast £
Income and Expenditure			
Income	835,695	755,956	646,826
Expenditure	874,824	774,079	687,248
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(38,642)	(18,220)	(52,349)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(487)	97	11,927
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(39,129)	(18,123)	(40,422)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	4.7%	(2.4%)	(6.2%)
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	20,920 (2.5%)	17,992 (2.4%)	16,494 (2.5%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	266,738	248,518	196,169
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.7	3.9	3.4
Reserves Policy target	218,706	193,518	171,812
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	48,032	55,000	24,357