

MEETING: 27/11/2014

Ref: 12229

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Iraqi Community Association

Adv: Sandra Davidson
Base: Hammersmith & Fulham
Benefit: London-wide

Amount requested: £83,629

Amount recommended: £83,000

The Charity

The Iraqi Community Association was established in 1987 to promote the well-being of the Iraqi community, to help them settle and integrate into the UK, and to promote healthy living and reduce health inequalities. It has been providing a wide range of social and welfare services for a large and varied community. Current projects cater for people of all ages and needs. These include youth clubs, advice and information services, outreach services for older people, as well as community and cultural events. It also produces a bilingual newsletter.

The Application

This application seeks to continue and build on its work with older members of its community, targeting those aged 75 and above. The numbers of service users are becoming older and increasingly frail. Many of the Iraqi people in the UK came to this country in the mid 80s as middle-aged, well qualified, professional people fleeing from persecution. The 2011 census identified 29,789 Iraqi-born people living in London. Importantly, the Iraqi Association is proud of its secular status and provides assistance for people regardless of religion or culture. It has clients who are Shia and Sunni Muslim, Assyrian Christian, Kurdish and Iraqi Jewish.

The Recommendation

The organisation has seen an increasing number of vulnerable isolated people 75 and over with a cohort of problems including depression, anxiety, and mobility problems. To ensure members are able to access a range of cultural and social activities to help improve health and well-being, the charity would like to recruit a part-time worker to continue its work with its ageing membership. The amount recommended is slightly less than requested as part of the budget appeared to be on the high side. This was discussed during assessment, and the charity agreed the shortfall, if needed, could be met from within existing resources.

£83,000 over three years (£28,000; £27,000; £28,000) for the salary of a part-time worker (21 hpw) together with management and other project related costs for work with older people aged 75 and over.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
27/09/2012	Declined as application was made within the "fallow period".
02/07/2009	£17,500 towards a third and final year of a service for older members of the Iraqi community.
10/07/2007	£24,000 over two years (£11,800; £12,200) towards the part-time salary (18.5 hours) and associated running costs of an Elderly Worker supporting older people from the Iraqi community in London.

Background and detail of proposal

The project will deliver a targeted service to support vulnerable and socially excluded members, with the support of a part time worker to assess the needs of older members and refer to mainstream services as and when necessary. The post holder will recruit suitable volunteers to help run the activities including home visits and user-led events. Over 80 members aged 75 or over are currently registered. Between 25-30 people attend weekly activities, which the organisation aims to increase over the next three years. Recent consultation undertaken highlighted that the needs of older people have changed, and more holistic long-term support to encourage a more active lifestyle and improve mental health is needed. Regular weekly group meetings will continue to be held at day centres in Hammersmith and Camden. Advice and information will be provided both face-to-face and on the telephone. Over the years the organisation has built a good reputation with the appropriate key agencies to complement its work.

Financial Information

Forecast income for the current year to 31 March 2015 is £139,320, of which £54,950 (39.4%) had been secured by 30th September 2014.

The charity's reserves policy is to hold free reserves equivalent to between 6 to 12 months' worth of expenditure. At 31st March 2104 free reserves stood at £106,893 which is equivalent to 11.7 months' worth of 2013/14 expenditure.

Fundraising is conducted by the Director; therefore the cost of generating funds is based on a proportion of the Director's salary. The figure for 2014/15 will be calculated as part of the year end process.

Year end at 31 March	2013/14 Audited Accounts £	2014/15 Current Year Budget
Income and Expenditure		
Income	104,303	139,320
Expenditure	109,486	114,300
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(21,057)	(95)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	15,874	25,115
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(5,183)	25,020
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(5%)	18%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	9,602 (9.2%)	
Free unrestricted reserves		
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	106,893	106,798
How many months' worth of expenditure	11.7	11.2
Reserves Policy target	54,743 – 109,486	57,150 – 114,300
How many months' worth of expenditure	6.0 – 12.0	6.0 – 12.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(52,150) – (2,593)	(49,648) – (7,502)