

MEETING: 12/03/2015

Ref: 12591

## ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive

**Sutton Mencap**

**Adv: Joy Beishon**

**Base: Sutton**

**Benefit: Sutton**

**Amount requested: £99,042**

**{Revised request: £102,042}**

**Amount recommended: £102,000**

### **The Charity**

Founded by a group of parents in the late 1940s, Sutton Mencap (SM) provides a range of services for children, young people and adults with learning disabilities. Its current services include extensive children's provision after school and in school holidays; access to sporting opportunities; a range of adult projects; respite services for families; and work on the transition to adulthood with young people. Highly regarded, SM recently received the highest rating for any special needs provision in the borough. It is an active member of the borough partnership board and is a member of a local consortium for joint bidding and shared service delivery. The Trust has been a strong supporter of SM with a number of grants over the past 19 years.

### **The Application**

SM is requesting a 3 year grant to tailor a range of local, inclusive community-based activities for young adults with learning disabilities to enable them to do something that most of us take for granted – to access training and employment provision and the opportunity to make and meet with friends and have fun together. The project will support young people to utilise local training and employment services and offer young people the chance to extend their circle of friendships beyond those with a learning disability (to strengthen inclusion and integration). Discussions have taken place with Age UK which offers a friendship project to alleviate loneliness and isolation amongst the elderly. This project is targeted at young adults with mild learning disability who, as children, would have had a statement of special educational needs but are now below the threshold for support from adult social services. These young people are particularly vulnerable to social isolation once formal opportunities for social contact through school or college have ended. This is further exacerbated where opportunities for employment are limited.

### **The Recommendation**

SM has an impressive track record of providing support to improve the lives of children, young people and adults with a learning disability. It is well regarded as an organisation that knows its client group well and which provides services to meet their needs. This application funds a project to enable young people with learning disabilities to do the same things as their non-disabled peers – access local training and employment services and to make friends, socialise and spend time engaged in shared interests with like-minded others. The increase in the amount requested by £3,000 is to fund external evaluation and the production of an evaluation report.

***£102,000 over three years (£33,000, £33,000, £36,000) for the salary of a p/t (3 dpw) Community Activities Project Manager and related project costs.***

## Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
20/01/2011	£21,500 for a third year, towards the costs of the post of Adult and Youth Services Manager
19/02/2009	£41,420 over two years towards the costs of the post of Adult and Youth Services Manager.

### Background and detail of proposal

Most people with a learning disability are treated as 'different'. They do not have the same control over their own lives as the rest of our society and face challenges and prejudice every day. Less than 1 in 5 people with a learning disability work (compared with 1 in 2 disabled people generally), but we know that at least 65% of people with a learning disability want to work. Lack of employment opportunity exacerbates social isolation and loneliness. This project aims to address employment issues by linking with local training and employment services. Social isolation will be addressed by developing local, integrated, community activities – offering opportunities for young people with learning disabilities to take part in community life, become more involved in arts and sports, and to live more independently.

### Financial Information

Forecast income in the current year 2014/15 is £577,169, of which £570,669 (99%) had been confirmed as at 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015. SM acknowledges that its available reserves are low and below its policy target to hold 6 months' worth of expenditure. The charity plans to reach its reserves target by 2019/20 through generating additional income on its children's services, principally by encouraging more referrals and designing more tailored/additional services. The cost of generating funds is comparatively low due to the majority of the charity's funding coming from an established contract with LB Sutton.

Year end at 31 March	2013/14 Audited Accounts	2014/15 Current Year Budget	2015/16 Following Year Budget
	£	£	£
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>			
Income	545,367	577,169	620,545
Expenditure	538,488	596,284	620,545
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(7,496)	(19,115)	0
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	14,375	0	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	6,879	(19,115)	0
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	1.3%	(3.3%)	0%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	15,831 (3.0%)	-	-
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	96,392	77,277	77,277
How many months' worth of expenditure	2.1	1.6	1.5
Reserves Policy target	269,244	298,140	310,272
How many months' worth of expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(172,852)	(220,863)	(232,995)