

MEETING: 23/09/2015

Ref: 12925

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving Londoners' Mental Health**

**SurvivorsUK**

**Amount requested: £212,583**

**Amount recommended: £180,000**

**Adv: Julia Mirkin**

**Base: Tower Hamlets**

**Benefit: London-wide**

**The Charity**

SurvivorsUK is the only organisation in London that specifically targets male-identifying victims of sexual abuse. Founded in 1986, it is the longest standing specialist provider and is one of only two non-statutory organisations offering support to male victims in London. A distinguishing feature of SurvivorsUK's therapeutic service is that it is long-term: clients can access therapy for up to two years, which exceeds what is offered by other providers. A recent review of SurvivorsUK services, based on the CORE outcome measurement tool for psychological distress, reported that 64% of therapy clients reported an improvement in day to day functioning as a result of treatment; 86% reported improved ability to express feelings and problems and 68% indicated that coping strategies and techniques had been enhanced.

**The Application**

To fund one-to-one and group therapy for adult male survivors of sexual abuse.

**The Recommendation**

A range of factors are contributing to an increase in reporting sexual abuse against men, treatment of which, particularly for vulnerable groups, is complex. The long-term support offered by SurvivorsUK and the outcomes its work is known to bring about, attest to its suitability to respond to this environment with significant effect. As the grant requested is higher than you would usually award, coupled with the fact that the charity is very well placed to secure funds from other sources, a lesser sum is advised but which will support the delivery of significant outputs and outcomes.

***£180,000 over three years (3 x £60,000) towards the f/t salary of the Director of Clinical Services; therapeutic programme and other costs to support adult male survivors of sexual abuse. Beneficiaries of the grant must be Londoners.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
22/01/2009	Declined. Whilst undoubtedly important work, it does not sufficiently address any of the Trust's stated priorities.

**Background and detail of proposal**

The charity wishes to target a specific segment of its client group, one which is affected by 'double or triple vulnerability' as a result of stigma and prejudice on the grounds of being LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender) and BME (of Black or Minority ethnicity). Suicide rates and incidences of self-harm are higher amongst LGBT and BME communities; drug and alcohol abuse and other mental health disorders are also higher (as detailed in the Stonewall 2014 Mental Health briefing and the UCL Institute of Health literature review 2014).

The people targeted in this application represent approximately 42% of the charity's total client group but require more intensive support and are, therefore, disproportionately affected by the reduced duration of treatment offered currently. In

the first year the organisation anticipates providing 1:1 counselling to sixty clients on a weekly basis and running group therapy for 42 weeks per year. The therapy team is fully qualified (BACP or UKCP) and has specific experience of working with this client group.

SurvivorsUK has recently launched a number of high-profile publicity campaigns encouraging victims to seek support. This is in response to a 100% increase in reports of sexual abuse by men in London in the last two years. In 2014, it also launched a National Male Survivors website offering non-therapeutic support to survivors across the country. The Ministry of Justice has supported this initiative but simultaneously ceased to fund SurvivorsUK's core therapeutic services due to a policy decision to focus all Victims' Fund monies on tackling domestic violence. A publicity campaign; the new website; and the greater profile generated through historic child-abuse cases in the press, have led to an increase in enquiries.

Public sector funding cuts have affected charities supporting male victims of sexual violence, to the point where many are now limiting the number of beneficiaries they treat or the duration of treatment offered.

### Financial Information

Forecast income for the current year is £518,339, of which £332,385 (64%) has been confirmed by August 2015. The organisation's turnover increased by over 100% between 2013/14 and 2014/15 which it advised is due to a new programme of work with funding secured until 2016/17. However, it advised that funding towards its core activity of therapeutic services came to an end in April 2015 and it struggled to secure replacement funding. Therefore it made the decision to commit £60k of its free unrestricted funds to run a skeleton service until January 2016. It has pending applications with Tudor Trust, Rayne Foundation, London Catalyst, Balcombe Trust and Comic Relief, for which decisions will be made within the next few months. The organisation advised that its cost of generating funds is low as it receives principle funding through statutory and trust grants. As shown in the table, the cost of generating funds rose in 2014/15 due to increased fundraising activities.

Year end at 31 March	13/14 Audited Accounts £	14/15 Draft Accounts £	15/16 Current Year Budget £
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>			
Income	236,038	521,376	518,339
Expenditure	234,300	460,615	489,959
Unrestricted Funds	(22,019)	47,462	6,661
Surplus / (Deficit)	23,757	13,299	21,719
Restricted Funds			
Surplus / (Deficit)	1,738	60,761	28,230
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	0.7%	11.7%	5.4%
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	3,724 (1.6%)	19,852 (3.8%)	-
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)			
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	39,843	94,134	100,795
months' worth of expenditure	2.0	2.5	2.5
Reserves Policy target	48,812 – 58,575	95,961 – 115,154	102,075 – 122,490
Months' worth of expenditure	2.5 – 3.0	2.5 – 3.0	2.5 – 3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(8,969) – (18,732)	(1,827) – (21,020)	(1,280) – (21,695)