

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive**Children's Trust**

Amount requested: £139,823

(Revised request: £152,800)

Amount recommended: £120,000

Adv: Sandra Davidson

Base: Outside London

Benefit: London-wide

The Charity

The Children's Trust is the UK's leading charity for children with brain injury. Every year it helps thousands of children and families across the country. It provides rehabilitation from its specialist centre in Tadworth, Surrey and in the community, helping children make the best recovery possible after a serious accident or illness. The centre is also home to the charity's special school and nursing services for children with complex medical needs.

The Application

This application seeks funding for two years to develop a brain injury specialist service at St. George's Hospital designed to reach out to children with mild to moderate acquired brain injury (ABI) and provide support to both the child and their family in managing their injury. The original application was for three years towards the project costs. Recently, however, funding for one year was secured from the Department of Education to develop this initiative in London, so the charity is now asking for funds to meet full costs of the service for years 2 & 3 in the revised budget appended to the application form. The intended outcomes of the service remain the same, while your grant, if awarded, would commence in early 2016.

The Recommendation

Funding as requested would enable the charity to provide a brain specialist service in partnership with St George's Hospital, Tooting, to help children and young people with brain injury maintain choice and control over their lives. The specialist service aims to help an estimated 200 children and young people with acquired brain injury in London each year. Having successfully piloted a brain specialist service in Sheffield which was subsequently expanded to include a second service in Nottingham, the charity plans the same support service in London. None of the grant will go towards medical costs. The application seeks support for two posts and a large element of related costs. However, as your usual practice is to support a maximum of one fte post in a project such as this, coupled with the fact that the charity has scope to draw on its free reserves, a lesser sum is advised:

£120,000 over two years (2 x £60,000) for the salary of a full-time Brain Injury Specialist and related running costs of a brain injury service in London.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
20/11/2003	Application withdrawn for Trust's Directors to take time to consider the possibilities of future application to Bridge House.

Background and detail of proposal

Every year, over 40,000 children in the UK are left with a brain injury as a result of an accident or illness. While severe brain injuries are immediately obvious, milder brain

injuries are often overlooked as a child appears to make a good recovery. However, a hidden brain injury may cause children and young people to struggle with physical, cognitive and behavioural difficulties, including fatigue, communication difficulties and emotional problems. Research has shown that children and young people with an unidentified brain injury are more likely to experience mental health difficulties, spend time in custody or live on the streets. The impact of these can significantly reduce a young person's ability to access the same opportunities as their peers. The need for this support is particularly acute in London with its population and high poverty rate of 28%. Brain injury has been shown to disproportionality affect children from areas of higher deprivation, both in terms of increasing their risk of acquiring a brain injury and in decreasing their chances of making a strong recovery.

The brain specialist service will work alongside NHS staff to identify children with a brain injury soon after an accident or illness. The charity will work with each family in their community to assess each individual's needs and co-ordinate a support package tailored to their needs to enable them to successfully deal with the on-going challenges that may present themselves from their brain injury such as lack of concentration, balance and coordination problems. The aim is to prevent issues arising or difficulties being exacerbated later in a young person's life.

The service is building on the charity's commitment to increase the recognition and understanding of ABI and will work with Special Education Needs co-ordinators, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, community therapists, GPs and the general public. The new website Brain Injury Hub (www.braininjuryhub.co.uk) provides a wealth of information on ABI, offering comprehensive, fully referenced information as well as a discussion forum for parent and family members.

Financial Information

The forecast income for the current year 2015/16 is £25,491,000 of which £17,804,000 (69%) had been confirmed by August 2015.

Year end at 31 March	2013/14 Independently Examined Accounts	2014/15 Forecast	2015/16 Current Year Budget
Income and Expenditure	£	£	£
Income	25,774,000	24,749,000	25,491,000
Expenditure	24,289,000	25,742,000	26,515,000
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	1,430,000	1,311,000	900,000
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	55,000	(2,304,000)	(1,924,000)
Other Recognised Gains/(Losses)	264,000	50,000	52,000
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	1,749,000	(943,000)	972,000
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	6.8%	(4.0%)	3.8%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	4,658,000 (18.1%)	-	-
Free unrestricted reserves			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	7,047,000	8,358,000	9,258,000
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.3	3.9	4.2
Reserves Policy target	8,096,000	8,581,000	8,838,000
How many months' worth of expenditure	4.0	4.0	4.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(1,049,000)	(223,000)	420,000