

MEETING: 28/01/2016

Ref: 12939

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations

Adv: Sandra Davidson

Amount requested: £79,502

Base: Harrow

Benefit: Harrow

Amount recommended: £75,800

The Charity

The Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations (HASVO) was set up to build the capacity of Somali community organisations in Harrow. HASVO is an umbrella organisation and supports 11 member groups by facilitating uptake of services; enhances community cohesion by promoting diversity and opportunities for all; and aims to reduce duplication across Somali organisations. HASVO co-ordinates and allocates responsibility to member organisations for specific service areas or client groups, i.e disabled, women and mental health. It provides an open access and surgery to all members of the Somali community in Harrow, from 2 venues: Harrow Association of Somali Women's Group and, recently acquired, office space in South Harrow.

The Application

Funding is sought to provide advice, information and advocacy, as well as opportunities to improve health and well-being through of a broad range of health and social activities for a growing number of service users aged 75 years and over. The request for three years is to support a part-time post (25hpw) and related projects costs.

The Recommendation

HASVO has a track record of working with individuals who experience inequality and barriers to health and social care. The proposal is in response to the rise in the number of Somali and Arabic refugees who are isolated and vulnerable and with a range of problems including depression, anxiety and mobility difficulties. The amount recommended is less than requested as elements of the budget were on the high side. Funding is advised as follows:

£75,800 over three years (£25,500; £24,800; £25,500) for the salary of a part-time (25hpw) Elderly Link Worker and towards related overheads and associated project costs.

Funding History

None

Background and detail of proposal

The project will deliver a targeted service to support older people, 75 years plus, who are isolated and experience mental health issues due to language difficulties, cultural barriers and age. Consultation undertaken in 2014 highlighted the holistic long-term support needs of older people to encourage a more active lifestyle and improve mental health. The project will provide advice, information and advocacy - enabling beneficiaries to increase access to appropriate services. New services will include a

weekly half- day group to encourage members to take part in physical activities to increase health and well-being. The charity will also recruit and train volunteers to visit some clients in their homes to provide practical help. As a result, of this new targeted project, it is hoped that older people will be more socially connected, active and more confident to take part in community activities.

Financial Information

Forecast income in the current year to 31 March 2016 is £115,000, of which £58,000 (50%) had been confirmed by December 2015. This forecast represents an increase of £67,294 (141%) compared to the prior year, which the charity advises is due to securing funding from the local health authority and from the Trust for London.

The organisation has a free reserves policy target to hold 6 months' worth of expenditure, amounting to £57,500 in the current year. At present, the charity does not hold any free reserves, which is a concern. Your officer has requested, and received, a written statement by the charity as to how it intends to build its free reserves. The charity advised that, through the introduction of a voluntary annual membership fee, plus an additional donation scheme for the parents of children attending the supplementary school, it estimates to raise £6,500 annually. If the organisation successfully manages to raise this new income, then the organisation would meet its reserves policy target to hold 6 months' worth of reserves in 8 years.

However, the charity hopes to meet its reserves target sooner by securing additional funding streams.

Year end at 31 March	2014/15 Independently Examined Accounts	2015/16 Current Year Budget
	£	£
Income and Expenditure		
Income	47,706	115,000
Expenditure	60,424	115,000
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	0	0
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(12,719)	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(12,719)	0
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(26.7%)	0.0%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	10,000 (21.0%)	10,000 (8.7%)
Free unrestricted reserves		
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	0	0
How many months' worth of expenditure	0.0	0.0
Reserves Policy target	30,212	57,500
How many months' worth of expenditure	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(30,212)	(57,500)