

MEETING: 18/03/2016

Ref: 12849

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive

Independent Living Agency (ILA)

Adv: Sandra Jones

Amount requested: £106,627

**Base: Barking & Dagenham
Benefit: Barking & Dagenham,
Havering and Redbridge**

Amount recommended: £106,600

The Charity

Operating since 1997, ILA provides support to disabled people by raising awareness of the options available to them regarding their care needs, and then working towards ensuring that they have the choice on how these are managed. This is done through five services. These are: the 'Choices' project, which provides advocacy, support, information and assistance with finding accommodation and training on daily living skills; financial management services facilitating the management of direct payments of individual budgets; a payroll service to support disabled people who employ their own staff as part of their personal budget management; accessible transport; and an equipment service providing aids for daily living for disabled people.

The Application

ILA seeks funding towards a 'Peer Support Brokers' project which will train disabled people to assist other disabled people to manage their personal budgets. The brokers will also provide disabled people with a short consultancy to research the best local service providers, help them choose the most appropriate ones and develop personalised plans on how their personal budgets can be spent.

The Recommendation

Over the years, ILA has been in the forefront of supporting disabled people to have their own personal budgets for care. The request fits closely with your areas of interest in making London more inclusive, i.e. enabling disabled people to live independently, and helping people with a newly acquired or diagnosed disability to maintain choice and control in their lives. The funding is for a part time Project Co-ordinator (21 hours per week) over three years with associated running costs. There will also be funding for the peer support workers, which tapers in year 2 and decreases to nothing in year 3 as they take on paying clients.

£106,600 over three years (£42,000; £35,300; £29,300) for a part time Project Co-ordinator (21 hours per week) to manage the project and project costs for delivering the Peer Support Brokers programme for Londoners.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
10/07/2007	Application declined

Background and detail of proposal

Under the Care Act, local authorities have a legal obligation to offer personal budgets and to conduct a care and support plan, which was previously stated only in guidance as part of the Personalization agenda. However, whilst the local authority should now provide advocacy support if necessary, there is no requirement to offer support to disabled people to manage their personal budgets. ILA undertook a pilot in 2013 whereby it offered support to individuals who had been given a personal budget (typically between £5,000 to £10,000) to plan out their year and to make most effective

use of their personal budget to assist them with their own health, welfare, development and independence. Disabled people were trained to offer this service. The evaluation showed that participants were able to access activities such as attending college, engaging in sport and art to improve their health, and cooking healthier meals. In addition, individuals were able to run their own personal care rather than leaving it to their family. All participants appreciated the service and the independence which it offered.

By using peer brokers, i.e. disabled people to broker for other disabled people, there is the addition that the brokers would be given training which would lead to employment opportunities in the future as they became qualified personal budget brokers. This is reflected in the budget.

Financial Information

Forecast income for the current year ending 31st March 2016 is £107,339 all of which had been confirmed as at 1st March 2016. Budgeted income for the following year ending 31st March 2017 is £100,257 of which £48,970 (49%) had been confirmed as at the same date. The increased expenditure in the current year is due to the £42,000 purchase of software for the payroll and finance services and the cost of the auditor who is currently working with the charity to help set up the payroll service as a separate trading arm.

Income is forecast to decrease over the 3 year period. The charity have advised that the process of embedding the new computer system along with staff changes and training has caused lower productivity, which has reduced income. The charity advises that it anticipates income increasing and the budget returning to a balanced position during 2017/18. Free unrestricted reserves were £147,485 as at 31st March 2015, which is equivalent to 14.4 months' worth of expenditure and substantially above the reserves policy target. Whilst still ahead of target, actual free unrestricted reserves are forecast to decrease to £77,220 by 31 March 2017 due to the forecast deficits in the current year and 2016/17. The cost of generating funds is based on a proportion of the CEO's salary, and in the current year a consultant. The charity's income is mostly derived from statutory sources and trading income, therefore their cost of generating funds is low.

Year end at 31 March	2014/15 Independently Examined Accounts	2015/16 Current Year Budget	2016/17 Budget
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	159,840	107,339	100,257
Expenditure	123,050	191,933	127,928
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	36,790	(42,594)	(27,671)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	-	(42,000)	(1,000)
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	36,790	(84,594)	(28,671)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	23.0%	(78.8%)	(28.6%)
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	4,500 (2.5%)	7,000 (6.5%)	4,500 (4.5%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	147,485	104,891	77,220
How many months' worth of expenditure	14.4	6.6	7.2
Reserves Policy target	32,000	50,000	50,000
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.1	3.1	4.7
Free reserves over/(under) target	115,485	54,891	27,220