

MEETING: 18/03/2016

Ref: 13091

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Claremont Project (Islington)

Adv: Olivia Dix

Amount requested: £152,814

Base: Islington

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £143,850

The Charity

Claremont was founded in 1907 and became a registered charity in 1998. It provides isolated and marginalised older Londoners living in Islington and neighbouring Boroughs with a range of aspirational, creative and stimulating opportunities. It has over 800 active members and runs more than thirty-five regular classes a week, based on what members want as opposed to 'age appropriate' stereotyping. The focus is on personal development and creativity with a culture of a progressive community of equals.

The Application

The aim of the Flourishing Lives Collaborative, led by Claremont, is to support the day centre sector to provide better quality, better tailored services. This is done by developing and disseminating best practice models and creating a Charter for Outstanding Day Services. During the assessment, the costs were examined and the requested amount was reviewed and reduced.

The Recommendation

This organisation has a dynamic and forward-looking approach to working with older people, and has built robust outcome measures into its work, in order to assess the impact of its activities on the participants' psychological wellbeing. The Flourishing Lives project is based on commissioned research and has the potential to improve Day Centre provision in London dramatically. It aims to create consensus on best practice through the Charter and to model this practice in three 'transformation' projects with day services. The CEO has the networks and leadership skills needed to deliver the project. Other foundations have shown interest in funding the shortfall on the Flourishing Lives project and the organisation is reasonably confident it can raise this figure. The recommendation takes account of this and a slightly reduced request:

£143,850 over three years (£49,300, £46,900, £47,650), towards the costs of the Flourishing Lives Project

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
15/04/2010	£99,000 over three years (£32,000; £33,000; £34,000) for the salary and some operational costs of a full-time Creative Director.

Background and detail of proposal

In 2012 Claremont commissioned a report – Flourishing Lives – (www.claremont-project.org/reference) to provide a detailed evidence base of the needs and wants of older people in relation to the day care services currently on offer. It found that older people enjoy having more time, independence and freedom, and do not want to be

defined by their age or condition. They were also found to still aspire to learn new skills, to want to contribute and have a role, and to appreciate the provision of appropriate therapeutic support to tackle depression and loneliness. A coalition of the National Development Team for Inclusion, Volunteering Matters and Claremont, who is the project lead, has come together to explore how the learning and service implications can be used to improve and sustain existing day care services in London for older people. The aim is to move from a practice-based evidence approach to an evidence-based practice approach, based on a clearly articulated model of service and evidence of best practice. The project will: identify and create a database of London day centres; provide accredited training; develop a Flourishing Lives online forum for service providers; and run a conference to broaden support across the sector and to seek adoption of the Charter for Outstanding Day Services. It will also carry out and evaluate three transformation projects in three centres in London.

Financial Information

All income for 2015/2016 has been secured. Total forecast income for the year ending 31st March 2016 is £340,417 of which £318,204 (93.5%) had been secured at February 2016. The reserves policy states that the organisation aims to hold total free unrestricted reserves equivalent to 6 months' worth of planned operating costs. At 31st March 2015 total free unrestricted reserves were £130,624, equivalent to 4.3 months' worth of total operating expenditure.

Year end at 31 March	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
	Audited Accounts	Forecast	Budgeted
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	341,521	340,417	342,060
Expenditure	366,200	336,607	339,006
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(21,724)	3,810	3,055
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(2,955)	0	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(24,679)	3,810	3,055
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(7.2%)	1.1%	0.9%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	18,335 (5.4%)	23,000 (6.8%)	24,000 (7.0%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	130,624	134,434	137,489
How many months' worth of expenditure	4.3	4.8	4.9
Reserves Policy target	183,100	168,304	169,503
How many months' worth of expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(52,476)	(33,870)	(32,014)