

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust

Adv: Sandra Davidson

Amount requested: £95,101

Base: Camden

Benefit: Westminster

Amount recommended: £87,000

The Charity

The Covent Garden Dragon Hall Trust (CGDHT) was established in 2005 to provide a community facility in the heart of Covent Garden and Holborn. CGDHT aims to serve the needs of local residents, local communities and the wider public, with a specific focus on children, young people and older residents, by offering a wide range of social, educational, and recreational activities and events. All activities are delivered and developed in partnership with users and key stakeholders to accommodate the needs and interests of local people. Current activities include: under 5's drop-in; play work; youth work; support for young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs); and a range of activities to improve the health and well-being of older people.

The Application

The applicant is seeking funding to develop its work to meet the increased demand from older people 75+ and carers 65+. The request is for three years to cover the salary of a full-time Community Development Worker and associated running costs. The postholder will develop and deliver a range of activities, linking them with statutory and other appropriate services to ensure a coordinated approach.

The Recommendation

Building on existing services, CGDHT seeks to expand its work with older people to achieve a range of outcomes relating to improved health and psychological wellbeing, increased confidence and social engagement. Plans to develop an intergenerational project, introducing 3D printing, virtual reality, and technology classes form part of the proposed project. It is recommended that you fund the Community Development post, together with associated running costs.

£87,000 over three years (£29,600; £28,700; £28,700) for the salary of a full-time Community Development Worker and associated project costs working with older people aged 75+ and support to carers 65+.

Funding History

None

Background and detail of proposal

The work of CGDHT covers a large geographical area, from Russell Square in the north to the Thames in the south, and from Greys Inn Road in the east to Soho in the west. Dragon Hall is located in the Holborn & Covent Garden Ward of the London Borough of Camden – with many users from Westminster and beyond. Since its inception the charity has focussed on providing high quality, efficient and innovative services driven by the needs of local people. Current activities for older people include an art class, chair yoga, bridge club, Pilates, the Covent Garden Choir and a monthly tea dance. CGDHT has an inclusive policy and older clients are encouraged to join all of the adult activities – including Kung-Fu and burlesque

dancing. Camden's older population (65+) is expected to rise to 29,280 by 2023, an increase of 15.7% from 2013. Camden's 80+ population is projected to rise by almost 9,000 persons by 2023. The ward in which Dragon Hall is based (Holborn & Covent Garden) will see the largest increase in the older population to 32.2%. Using community outreach techniques, the project will engage isolated elderly people using volunteers to provide support to older people and their carers. With a full-time member of staff in place, CGDHT plans to reach 100+ older people 75+, annually.

Financial Information

Forecast income for the current year ending 31st March 2016 is £382,000 of which £362,750 (94.9%) had been confirmed by February 2016. Budgeted income for 2016/17 is £412,000 of which £221,000 (53.6%) had been secured by February 2016. The charity advised that it is currently constructing a new mezzanine floor in its community centre which will continue into 2016/17 and is the reason for the increased income and expenditure shown in the table below.

The reserves policy states that the charity aims to hold free unrestricted funds of between 4 and 6 months' worth of expenditure. At 31st March 2017 free unrestricted funds are forecast to be £91,239 which equates to 3.1 months' worth of expenditure. The charity advised that it plans to increase its reserves and hopes to become self-sufficient over the next three years by generating increased income through the use of its commercial space.

The charity has not previously disclosed its cost of generating funds in its audited year-end accounts but has agreed to review this on advice from your grants officer that it is a disclosure requirement in charity accounting recommended practice. In the meantime, the charity has provided an estimate based on a proportion of the Director's salary who undertakes all fundraising activities.

Year end at 31 March	2014/15 Audited Accounts £	2015/16 Current Year Forecast £	2016/17 Following Year Budget
Income and Expenditure			
Income	284,005	382,000	412,000
Expenditure	275,961	310,000	354,000
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	11,691	28,000	53,000
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(3,647)	44,000	5,000
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	8,044	72,000	58,000
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	2.8%	18.8%	14.1%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	-	8,000 (2.1%)	8,000 (1.9%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted reserves held at Year End	25,229	38,239	91,239
How many months' worth of expenditure	1.1	1.0	3.1
Reserves Policy target	91,987 – 137,981	159,668 – 239,502	118,000 – 177,000
How many months' worth of expenditure	4.0 – 6.0	4.0 – 6.0	4.0 – 6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(66,758) – (112,752)	(121,429) – (201,263)	(26,761) – (85,761)