

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners**Age Concern Brent****Adv: Jack Joslin****Amount requested: £102,278****Base: Brent****Benefit: Brent****Amount recommended: £102,400****The Charity**

Age UK Brent (AUB) – whose legal name is Age Concern Brent - is a registered charity that supports older people in Brent. It supports around 6,000 older people each year helping to improve their lives through empowering them with skills and knowledge and by providing practical support that improves their health, welfare and well-being. It provides information, advice and advocacy services; volunteering befriending; health and well-being programmes; and a range of events.

The Application

Funding is sought to expand the Home Advocacy service the organisation delivers in order to provide greater support to isolated and house-bound people in Brent aged 75 years and above. The programme will visit clients in their home and provide a range of professional advocacy and advice particularly on issues related to finance, housing and benefit entitlements. The project will train and use volunteers to complement the service. This request, for three years, is to support a full-time post and related project and volunteer costs.

The Recommendation

AUB has a good track record of working with vulnerable older people in Brent who experience poverty, inequality and barriers to health and well-being services. The proposal is in response to the success of the home advocacy work it has been doing on a part-time basis over the last year. This work has informed them of the need for this work and built a referral network for the most vulnerable housebound older people in Brent. Your funding, if awarded, will allow AUB to develop and expand this service and to make a real difference to a very vulnerable group of clients.

£102,400 over three years (£33,900; £34,000; £34,500) for salary costs of a full-time Home Advocacy Worker and related running and volunteer costs for a project working with isolated people aged 75 plus.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
27/11/2014	Application declined as required information was not provided.
15/05/2014	Application withdrawn.
01/03/2007	£120,000 over three years (£45,000; £40,000; £35,000) towards the salary and associated running costs of two part-time Advice and Information workers.

Background and detail of proposal

Age Concern Brent was set up in 1982. The organisation's aim is to improve the lives of local older people by providing a range of services that include: information and advice; advocacy; volunteer befriending; health and wellbeing programmes; networking events and by representing their service users in local decision making.

It is a well networked organisation in Brent and works closely with other voluntary and statutory agencies to improve and inform local decision making and services. An accredited advice provider, it has a lot of experience in delivering advice work. Its current drop in service carries out 6,000 sessions each year.

The need for this project became apparent a year ago when the charity began to receive an increase in referrals for the provision of advocacy services in the homes of housebound older people. It has spent the last 12 months providing a part-time service working with 30 older people with a range of needs. With a grant as advised it will provide a full-time service to housebound older people specifically focusing on benefits, finance and housing issues, with the work complemented by rigorously trained volunteers.

Financial Information

Forecast income for the current year to 31st March 2017 is £400,500 of which £284,000 (71%) had been secured by May 2016. Income at this level is lower than the prior year due to a reduction in funding from Brent council. The charity advises that it aims to diversify its sources of income and is seeking to develop a number of consortium bids in the borough.

The charity currently spends less than 5% on generating funds but anticipates this to increase as they look to diversify their income in light of the reduction in local authority funding.

The free reserves policy target is to hold 3-6 months' worth of operating expenditure (£110,680 to £221,359). Actual free unrestricted reserves held at 31st March 2015 were £75,267, representing 2.0 months' worth of total expenditure. The charity states that they are making all attempts to reduce costs and generate more unrestricted income to increase free unrestricted reserves to at least the 3 months target level.

Year end at 31 March	2014/15 Independently Examined Accounts	2015/16 Current Year Forecast	2016/17 Following Year Budget
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	451,548	458,300	400,500
Expenditure	442,718	420,500	388,500
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	10,705	40,000	45,00
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(1,875)	(2,200)	(33,000)
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	8,830	37,800	12,000
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(2.0%)	8.2%	3.0%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	11,218 (2.5%)	12,000 (2.6%)	15,000 (3.7%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	75,267	113,067	125,067
How many months' worth of expenditure	2.0	3.2	3.9
Reserves Policy target	110,680 – 221,359	105,125 – 210,250	97,125 – 194,250
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.0 – 6.0	3.0 – 6.0	3.0 – 6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(35,413) – (146,092)	7,942 – (97,183)	27,942 – (69,183)