

MEETING: 24/05/2016

Ref: 13138

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Attend

**Adv: Jenny Field
Base: Westminster
Benefit: Croydon**

Amount requested: £120,000

Amount recommended: £120,000

The Charity

Attend is a national charity which supports and expands the roles volunteers play in connection with health and social care. It began in 1949 as the National League of Friends, creating a volunteer scheme for volunteers in hospitals. It still functions as the umbrella body for 700 Hospital Friends groups nationwide, but it has expanded into other direct projects around healthy options for hospital food retailers, supporting stroke victims, and accredited training in volunteer management.

The Application

The proposal is to build on a pilot project Attend has been running in 15 care homes during the past two years. It has created Friends' Groups for these homes to strengthen links between the care home residents and the local community.

Volunteers are recruited locally and then trained and supported by Attend for 12 months until the Friends' Group is established, with its own legal identity, to take the work forward. Care homes welcome this, with Friends' Groups acting as a hub with which the wider community can engage. This model has proven very beneficial to frail elderly residents but the level of engagement with residents who have dementia is much lower. In response, it is proposed to establish 4 self-sustaining Friends of Dementia Units in London, each with 30 active volunteers, for each year of the project (making 12 Friends of Dementia Units in total). The volunteers will be provided with specialist training to give them the necessary confidence to work with residents with dementia, as well as a range of skills and ideas to draw on.

The Recommendation

Attend has a good track record of involving volunteers in delivering positive health and social care outcomes. It also has a track record in delivering accredited training programmes, including in volunteer management. The Alzheimer's Society has indicated willingness to help design the training programmes and it is proposed to establish a reference group to oversee the development of the project.

£120,000 over three years (£39,000; £40,000; £41,000) towards the part-time salary (0.6 FTE) and associated running costs of a Friends of Dementia Project Lead, to strengthen the links between care home residents with dementia and their local community, on condition that satisfactory quarterly management accounts during year one are provided.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
17/03/2011	£120,000 over three years (£39,000; £40,000; £41,000) to help people with acquired brain injury move into employment, education and volunteering.

Background and detail of proposal

It is proposed that there will be three models of volunteer intervention, involving a programme for mornings, afternoons and evening for residents with advanced dementia; residents with moderate dementia; and residents with mild dementia (and associated mental health needs). In the latter case, the programme will be largely determined by the residents.

As well as developing a framework for self-evaluation, the project budget includes costings for an external evaluation which will take place throughout the life of the project in order to help shape its development. Attend is committed to sharing learning from the project with others working in this field.

Financial Information

Forecast income in the current year to 31 March 2017 is £1,236,111, of which £708,711 (57%) was confirmed by April 2016. The forecasts for 2015/16 and 2016/17 show an improvement in the charity's financial position, largely due to two grants secured by the Big Lottery Fund, over three years and four years respectively.

The charity's cost of generating funds is relatively low, which the charity advises is due to funding applications usually being prepared by the Chair and CEO in their own time, i.e. at weekends.

The charity recognises that it needs to review its reserves policy in the light of its improved financial position. The current target of £50,000 is almost certainly too low given its current turnover. Free reserves were negative at the end of 2014/15 and 2015/16 as shown in the table but, given the new grant funding secured, the charity expects free reserves to be positive by the end of the current year and equal to 1.8 months' worth of expenditure. However, it is considered prudent to make it conditional that satisfactory quarterly management accounts are provided during the first year's funding.

Year end at 31 March	2014/15 Audited Accounts	2015/16 Draft Outturn	2016/17 Current Year Forecast
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	940,801	1,042,901	1,236,111
Expenditure	1,056,832	884,170	1,068,062
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(116,031)	158,731	168,049
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	0	0	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	(116,031)	158,731	168,049
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(12.3%)	15.2%	13.6%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	22,803 (2.4%)	61,680 (5.9%)	66,657 (5.4%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	(162,828)	(4,097)	163,952
How many months' worth of expenditure	(1.8)	(0.1)	1.8
Reserves Policy target	50,000	50,000	50,000
How many months' worth of expenditure	0.6	0.7	0.6
Free reserves over/(under) target	(212,828)	(54,097)	113,952