

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners**Centre 404****Adv: Sandra Davidson****Base: Islington****Amount requested: £119,777****Benefit: Islington, Camden,
Hackney & Haringey****Amount recommended: £119,800****The Charity**

Centre 404 is a charity that offers friendly, reliable and person centred support to people with learning disabilities and their families in north London. It was founded in 1951 by carers of children with learning disabilities and continues to work towards building a community and a society where people with a learning disability are valued and involved members of our community. Centre 404 has built vital services in Islington and across north London that have enabled children and adults with learning disabilities, and their families, to have a voice and access activities and support. It runs a range of services including: family support including a carers' support group; a learning & leisure service; and various social and recreational events. It also runs safe, supported housing for 82 people with learning difficulties, and outreach support for people living in the community.

The Application

As a result of a comprehensive needs assessment, Centre 404 is developing its work with older carers (65+ and 75+) of people with learning disabilities. A new service will offer guidance and advocacy to facilitate benefit entitlement claims and improve understanding of personal budgets. Personalised support, delivered by volunteers will reduce isolation, and future-proofing sessions will increase older carers' confidence in the future. A targeted outreach strategy will identify and engage with previously 'hidden' carers, particularly those from BME communities.

The Recommendation

Building on work funded by the Big Lottery, the request is for three years to cover the salary of a full time Case Worker – Older Carers and associated running costs. The project responds to a current and increasing need by helping older carers maintain their caring responsibilities.

£119,800 over three years (£38,700; £39,900; £41,200) for the salary of a full-time Case Worker – Older Carers and associated running costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
28/07/2011	£50,000 towards the costs of an accessible lift at 404 Camden Road.
02/02/2006	£81,600 over three years (£26,400; £27,200; £28,000) towards the salary and support costs of a Family Advocacy Support Worker.

Background and detail of proposal

Islington is the 14th most deprived borough in England; 34% of families live in low income households (Islington Joint Strategic Needs Assessment). Research shows that families who have an adult with a learning disability are significantly more likely to be living in hardship or to fall into hardship (Poverty Transition (Emerson, Shatahmasebi, Lancaster and Berridge: 2010). Mencap's 2013 survey of families caring for someone with profound and multiple learning disabilities showed that eight out of ten have reached or come close to "breaking point" because of lack of support and services (Mencap Get Involved 2013). As parents and carers grow older, caring responsibilities become more arduous, particularly where a parent or carer has a mobility problem, long term illness or disability themselves. Many older carers are confused about entitlements and find procedures overly complicated. As a result, only 40-60% of families claim Disability Living Allowance and vulnerable older carers often do not know about their attendance allowance. It is often the poorest families who are not accessing the benefits they need. The proposed project will help the growing number of carers aged 65+ and 75+ of people with learning disabilities. The post holder will provide a range of services including: information; sign-posting; advocacy; and emotional support. This project will address lack of engagement by aiming resources specifically at identifying 'hidden carers'. Plans include recruiting up to 8 volunteers for a home visiting service and telephone support. With a full time member of staff in place, the charity plans to reach up to 60-70 carers annually.

Financial Information

Forecast income for the current year is £4,039,000 of which £3,976,450 (98%) had been secured by April 2016. The cost of generating funds is very low which the charity explains is due to the majority of its income being derived from statutory sources. Its fundraising costs are therefore minimal, although they plan to do more fundraising over the next few years which will see this figure increase in the future.

Year end at 31 March	2014/2015 Audited Accounts	2015/2016 Forecast Outturn	2016/2017 Budget
Income and Expenditure			
Income	4,168,020	4,507,400	4,039,000
Expenditure	3,738,012	4,401,300	4,019,100
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	429,438	81,100	19,900
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	570	25,000	0
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	430,008	106,100	19,900
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	10.3%	2.4%	0.5%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	900 (0.02%)	900 (0.02%)	900 (0.02%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted reserves held at Year End	762,366	843,466	863,366
How many months' worth of expenditure	2.4	2.3	2.6
Reserves Policy target	623,002	733,550	669,850
How many months' worth of expenditure	2.0	2.0	2.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	71,010	152,110	172,010