

**MEETING: 22/09/2016**

**Ref: 13302**

### **ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Reducing Poverty**

**Haringey Migrant Support Centre**

**Adv: Shegufta Rahman**

**Base: Haringey**

**Benefit: Haringey**

**Amount requested: £59,678**

**{Revised request: £62,934}**

**Amount recommended: £63,000**

#### **The Charity**

Haringey Migrant Support Centre (HMSC) was set up in 2012 after individuals concerned about the lack of immigration advice and migrant-specific services provided in the borough came together and formed a steering group that would then go on to establish HMSC. The charity operates in the east of Haringey, where the Census 2011 reported that 45% of residents were born outside of the UK. The Communities and Local Government Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2015 report identified Haringey as the 21<sup>st</sup> most deprived local authority in England, and 7<sup>th</sup> most deprived in London. The organisation provides; advice on immigration and welfare issues; health advice and help in accessing NHS services; hot meals; and a space for beneficiaries to relax and socialise, with a significant proportion of its beneficiaries having no recourse to public funds.

#### **The Application**

The original application sought a contribution towards the post of an immigration solicitor provided through the Islington Law Centre. However, the request has since been revised following a positive outcome on the organisation's funding application to Trust for London. As part of the same project with the same outcomes, HMSC now seeks a contribution towards the salaries of a part-time Destitution Coordinator (funding two days out of the role's three days) and Centre Coordinator (funding two days out of the role's four days proportionate to time spent on this project), both of which were not included in the original budget (see Appendix A to the application form), and associated project costs in the third year when the Trust for London funding ceases.

#### **The Recommendation**

HMSC has a proven track record of supporting migrants with advocacy, hot meals, distribution of food and clothes, and specialist welfare advice. 2014/15 saw a 23% increase in the number of adult visitors, many of whom had dependent children. The Destitution Coordinator would be responsible for delivering housing and welfare advice, support the HMSC advocacy volunteers, and ensure volunteers are appropriately trained. The Centre Coordinator is responsible for overall management of HMSC's activities and will ensure effective record-keeping is undertaken, that the centre's policies are implemented and remain relevant, as well as working with the Destitution Coordinator to support volunteers. The Centre Coordinator is currently a part-time role. Should you agree to fund the amount recommended, this role will be made full-time and HMSC will self-fund three days out of the five per week.

***£63,000 over three years (£19,000, £20,000, £24,000) towards the part-time Destitution Coordinator 2dpw and a contribution towards the part-time Centre Coordinator 2dpw, and associated project running costs.***

#### **Funding History**

None

## Background and detail of proposal

HMSC has a partnership with Islington Law Centre, with the latter providing an immigration solicitor two days a week. The solicitor works in tandem with the Destitution Coordinator to ensure each beneficiary maximises their opportunity to move out of poverty and find suitable housing and support. Together, they achieve positive outcomes for the most vulnerable beneficiaries by undertaking a thorough assessment, identifying their status and accompanying rights. This includes permission to work and claim benefits and housing support. Often, this brings an end to the on-going advice-seeking from different, and sometimes expensive, sources which can fail to undertake a correct assessment of the individual's case.

The Centre Coordinator has overall responsibility for the day-to-day activities of the charity, and is responsible for ensuring beneficiaries receive appropriate housing and welfare advice in collaboration with immigration advice. The post-holder manages the provision of training requirements for staff and volunteers, and provides access to appropriate and up-to-date information. This role is also responsible for collecting information, statistics and case studies for the purpose of improving service quality and assisting the relevant policy and strategic legal work.

## Financial Information

Total forecast income for the current year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 is £97,387 of which £64,362 (66%) had been confirmed by August 2016.

The forecast budget for 2016/17 has a planned deficit against unrestricted funds, with the organisation's cash held available to meet this shortfall. Recognising the charity is growing, the level of free reserves needed is being reconsidered by the charity and discussions will take place with other similar organisations as part of identifying a suitable target level.

The cost of generating funds was reported as nil in the 2014/15 accounts due to relevant staff time and overheads not being apportioned to this category of spend. The charity has advised that such costs will be classified appropriately in future and the draft 2015/16 figures have been amended to include these with an expectation of a similar level of costs being incurred in 2016/17.

Year end at 31 March	2014-15 Independently Examined	2015-16 Year Draft	2016-17 Budget
Income and Expenditure	£	£	£
Income	41,105	87,827	97,387
Expenditure	48,872	61,213	101,208
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	8,053	14,643	(5,800)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(15,820)	11,971	1,979
<b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(7,767)</b>	<b>26,614</b>	<b>(3,821)</b>
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	(18.9%)	30.5%	(3.9%)
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	0 (0%)	5,500 (6.3%)	5,500 (5.6%)
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	15,801	30,444	24,644
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.9	6.0	2.92
<b>Reserves Policy target</b>	<b>24,438</b>	<b>30,606</b>	<b>50,604</b>
How many months' worth of expenditure	6	6	6
Free reserves over/(under) target	(8,637)	(162)	(25,960)