

**MEETING: 24/11/2016**

**Ref: 13652**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive**

**Age UK Croydon**

**Adv: Sandra Jones**

**Amount requested: £60,750**

**Base: Croydon**

**Benefit: Croydon**

**Amount recommended: £60,800**

**The Charity**

Age UK Croydon (previously Age Concern Croydon) has been offering a range of services for older people since 1980. In 2011 Age UK Croydon and Croydon Darby and Joan (CDJ) merged. As part of the merger CDJ gifted property to Age UK Croydon.

At the premises a range of services are on offer: advice; information and advocacy; home services; the Smart Health project; personal safety; and volunteering. There is also a community space where a regular programme of activities takes place including balance and movement classes, diet and healthy living hubs, and digital learning.

**The Application**

Scratchley Hall, which is a building attached to the main Age UK Croydon (AUKC) building is where the majority of activities take place, but is currently inaccessible as the side elevation that leads to the hall is in need of renovation. Your committee awarded a grant in May for an independent access audit, and a grant is sought towards the implementation of the recommendations identified in the audit.

**The Recommendation**

AUKC is the only organisation within Croydon offering holistic wellbeing support to, often frail, older people and, by undertaking the improvements, the wide range of services that take place in Scratchley Hall will be opened up to many more people who cannot currently access the programme of activities. The building is owned by the charity and activities are determined by the older people themselves.

***£60,800 for access and improvement works to Scratchley Hall.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
24/05/2016	£2,150 to commission an independent access audit for 81 Brigstock Road, Croydon
23/09/2015	Application withdrawn
05/06/2008	£132,000 over three years (£42,000; £44,000;£46,000) for the salary costs of a Positive Ageing Co-ordinator (21hrs); a Supporting Independence Advisor (14hrs); and a Handyperson/Personal Safety Advisor (7hrs) plus associated running costs.

**Background and detail of proposal**

The charity undertook extensive consultation on activities that users might want, and any barriers to using the Centre. This identified the need for improved access to the community part of the building, enabling people with mobility issues to be able to

attend the activities, and the programme to be extended. To access the hall where activities take place there is a side entrance and lean-to extension. Based on the access audit undertaken, this entrance needs major work, starting with changing the door from a heavy manual door to a new electronic door with transparent glass to allow light into the space. The roof needs replacing as the space is flooded whenever it rains, often leading to the area being shut, interrupting the activity and in some cases cancelling services. In addition to the roof, the flooring is unsuitable for those with reduced mobility or wheelchair users as many of the tiles are missing, the floor is uneven and the surface doesn't allow wheelchairs to move easily across it. New flooring will create an even surface that is suitable for wheelchairs and will not become slippery when wet.

Once this area has been refurbished, the plans for the space will not only enable the hall to be fully accessible, but can be used to provide a refreshment area, providing volunteering opportunities to disabled people of all ages within the community. Feedback from the charity's befriending service identified that there were many older people with limited mobility who would be able to start attending the centre, thus reducing isolation and improving their physical and mental health.

### Financial Information

The charity holds a reasonable level of free reserves (even though anticipated to be below their target policy in 2016/17). To date free reserves have largely been backed by liquid resources. Whilst the charity is growing relatively rapidly, the impact of this growth on free reserves is only expected to be a decrease of £14,610 in 2016/17.

Year-end at 31 March	2014/15 Audited	2015/16 Draft Accounts	2016/17 Current Year Forecast
Income and Expenditure	£	£	£
Income	977,580	1,090,212	1,511,291
Expenditure	844,683	1,053,444	1,561,157
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	134,541	16,918	(14,610)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(1,644)	19,850	(35,256)
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	132,897	36,768	(49,866)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	13.6%	3.4%	(3.3%)
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	128,789 (13.2%)	170,462 (15.6%)	150,000 (9.9%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	296,270	313,188	298,578
How many months' worth of expenditure	4.3	3.6	2.3
Reserves Policy target	211,170	263,361	390,288
How many months' worth of expenditure	3	3	3
Free reserves over target / (under target)	85,100	49,827	(91,710)