

MEETING: 24/11/2016

Ref: 13530

### ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

**Jewish Deaf Association**

**Adv: Julia Mirkin**

**Amount requested: £180,000**

**Base: Barnet**

**Benefit: Barnet**

**Amount recommended: £180,000**

#### **The Charity**

The Jewish Deaf Association (JDA) is based in North Finchley and was established in 1951. It was set up to support older British Sign Language (BSL) users in the Jewish community, who often do not lip read and have limited literacy, excluding them from mainstream services and wider society. JDA's programmes have been structured to enable engagement with Jewish cultural life by celebrating Jewish holidays and serving kosher food. However, in recent years, JDA has focussed on welcoming beneficiaries from different age groups; and people from all faiths or no faith, enabling all deaf people to engage with society. Services include specialist hearing aid support and maintenance; a technology information centre; lip-reading classes; BSL training; social clubs, current affairs discussion groups and a book club. Services for parents of newly diagnosed deaf babies or children are offered, and Deaf Awareness Training is delivered in schools and day centres. On-site specialist hearing support services are also offered to people who are housebound or living in residential care. Approximately 200 beneficiaries are supported annually and services are offered from a fully-accessible and purpose-built community centre.

#### **The Application:**

JDA requests support towards the running of its Day Centre and activities, and for support services for isolated, older Deaf or Deafblind BSL users.

#### **The Recommendation**

JDA is offering a well-needed service to older BSL users, who often struggle to manage personal administration and engage with welfare services. It works closely with Sense and other local charities to ensure staff are trained and all services are joined-up. An independent Lottery-funded professional Evaluation Report found that: *"JDA is a vital resource that reduces isolation and exclusion, improves physical and mental health, and is often a lifeline for older Deaf and Deafblind people"*.

***£180,000 over three years (3 x £60,000) towards the full-time Support Services Manager and lunch and transport costs of Day Centre users.***

#### **Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
21/01/2010	£105,000 (3 x £35,000) towards the running costs of services for older Deaf and Deafblind people.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

Traditionally, hearing disabilities have been diagnosed in late childhood, by which point it is too late to integrate children into speaking society. As a consequence, the majority of older deaf people learned BSL and were raised in residential homes, in which literacy skills were insufficiently developed to read written English and live independently. Diagnosis of hearing impairments now happens shortly after birth and corneal implants are given to babies, allowing children to learn and develop in a hearing environment. Although it is recommended that deaf children and their

families learn BSL, so they can communicate without hearing aids, the result of this shift is that the BSL community is in decline. It is for this reason, as well as wanting to be a modern and inclusive organisation that JDA is committed to broadening the demographic profile of its beneficiaries to sustain its services.

JDA's day centre users still tend to be older people, who grew up using BSL and experience exclusion from mainstream society. Many are considered to have learning disabilities or dementia as a result of low levels of brain stimulation. These problems are compounded by physical immobility, which also increases physical isolation. JDA aims to give Deaf and Deafblind people a voice and the information they need to make decisions and take control of their lives; it also aims to provide a programme of physical, social, cultural and educational activities, through which beneficiaries can engage with world affairs, socialise, learn and keep fit. JDA's 'At Your Service' facility offers support with form filling, phone calls and official correspondence. Support Workers, who are fluent in BSL, offer support with welfare and domestic issues; accompany beneficiaries to appointments, act as advocates, mediate and translate into BSL; liaise with social services, care agencies and support personalisation. JDA's minibus transports beneficiaries to and from the centre and to and from appointments, reducing the stress of older Deaf and Deafblind people.

### Financial Information

Audited accounts for 2015, show that JDA had a surplus on unrestricted funds (£197K) due to a significant one-off legacy and proceeds from its bi-annual fundraising dinner. The 2015 surplus has been used to build capacity, including a new database and website, ITC upgrades and a refurbishment project. The reserves will also offset planned deficits in 2016 and 2017. The Cost of Generating Funds is projected to increase again in 2017 due to the next bi-annual fundraising dinner.

JDA's reserves policy was agreed in 2008, following a considerable loss on investments, and with a view to ensuring the organisation's stability during the recession. JDA plans to revisit its reserves policy and its designated building maintenance fund at its next Board meeting in December 2016. JDA is hoping that its outreach work in the broader community will position it more favourably to apply to mainstream funders that will offer a more secure source of multi-year funding.

<b>Year end at 31 December</b>	<b>2015 Audited</b>	<b>2016 Forecast</b>	<b>2017 Forecast</b>
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income	900,814	503,093	499,724
Expenditure	686,937	651,911	679,029
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	197,011	(103,663)	(175,805)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	16,866	(45,155)	(3,500)
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	213,877	(148,818)	(179,305)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	23.7%	(29.58%)	(35.88%)
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	138,860 (15.4%)	97,978 (19.48%)	142,596 (28.53%)
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>			
Unrestricted free reserves at Year End	749,367	645,704	469,899
Months' worth of expenditure	13.1	11.9	8.3
Reserves Policy target	686,937-1,373,874	651,911-1,303,822	679,029-1,358,058
Months' worth of expenditure	12-24	12-24	12-24
Free reserves over/(under) target	62,430-(624,507)	(6,207)-(658,118)	(209,130)-(888,159)