

MEETING: 15/06/2017

Ref: 13993

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Improving Londoners' Mental Health

Respond

Adv: Julia Mirkin

Amount requested: £95,100

Base: Camden

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £95,000

The Charity

Respond works with children and adults with learning disabilities and/or autism who have experienced abuse or trauma, as well as those who have abused others, through psychotherapy, advocacy, campaigning and other support. Respond also aims to prevent abuse by providing training, consultancy and research. Individual, group and family psychotherapy is offered from Respond's base near Euston; psychotherapy, sex education and staff training is offered in schools; training and clinical supervision is offered for professionals and forensic risk assessments are carried out for clients who have committed sexual offences or whose violent behaviour may bring them into contact with the criminal justice system. It is for Respond's highly specialised forensic and support services for clients with learning disabilities, which is the focus of this application for continuation funding.

The Application

You are currently supporting Respond with a 3 year grant awarded in 2014, hence two years continuation funding is requested for Respond's forensic service for people with learning disabilities involved in the criminal justice system.

The Recommendation

Respond is the only voluntary organisation in London offering forensic services for beneficiaries with learning disabilities or autism, which makes it eligible to apply for an additional two years' funding under your guidelines. Although there are statutory services offered across London, clients on the more severe end of the spectrum or who require longer-term treatment are often referred to Respond. Performance against outcome targets during the first three years of funding has been good and work has received very high satisfaction ratings from beneficiaries.

£95,000 over two further and final years (2 x £47,500) towards the p/t (0.8FTE) Forensic Service Manager, clinical supervision and oncosts for the forensic service.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
25/09/2014	£144,500 over three years (£49,400; £48,100; £47,000) for a part-time (4dpw) Forensic Psychotherapist and a contribution to independent evaluation of Respond's therapeutic model.
01/05/2008	£103,280 over three years (£32,760; £34,400; £36,120) for a service manager (0.8 FTE) for young people with learning disabilities affected by domestic violence.

Background and detail of proposal

20-30% of all offenders have a learning disability (IQ below 70) and a further 36% have a borderline learning disability (IQ 70 – 80) (Loukes (2007)). Despite this, the criminal justice system fails to meet the needs of its population with learning disabilities, which Respond argues falls short of the Equalities Act: prisoners with

learning disabilities are discriminated against personally and systematically as they struggle to cope with the demands and complexities of the criminal justice system and are not supported as they progress through it. Furthermore, research by the Prison Reform Trust (2008) found that a significant proportion of prisoners with learning disabilities are excluded from offending behaviour programmes, interventions that are needed to secure release.

Outcomes for the proposed project extension are consistent with the last grant: intensive assessments and treatments will be undertaken with 25 offenders each year (or those at risk of offending) and with treatment being available for each beneficiary for up to one year; support work will be delivered with the members of up to 20 families each year and training will be delivered for 100 professionals working in the criminal justice system annually. The funded post-holder for the first three years of funding was the Forensic Psychotherapist, who was responsible for management, fundraising and delivery of the forensic service; the proposed structure going forward is slightly different as the Forensic Psychotherapist is planning to reduce his contact hours, focussing solely on therapeutic delivery. Therefore, Respond proposes to recruit a Forensic Service Manager if further funding is awarded, who will oversee clinical, operational and financial management. Finally, the budget for the last grant included a sum for an external evaluation of the service. Although this has provided useful information that has supported development of the forensic service, it is not deemed necessary to continue the evaluation, should continuation funding be awarded. The associated costs of clinical supervision and on-costs have been included instead that amount to the same total annual cost.

Financial Information

Respond secured a three-year core grant (£100K per year) in August 2016 from The Three Guineas Trust, which was backdated, with agreement from the funder, to the beginning of the financial year. Respond entered into a strategic alliance with Choice Support in March 2017 to provide a 'joined up package of support for people with learning disabilities who have a forensic history'. Under this arrangement, Choice Support will provide back office functions for Respond in relation to human resources and ITC to support cost saving

Year end as at March	2015-16 Examined £	2016-17 Forecast £	2017-18 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	656,009	817,911	856,740
- % of Income confirmed	n/a	n/a	61%
Expenditure	(757,901)	(762,771)	(796,400)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(101,892)	55,140	60,340
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(16,944)	(3,279)	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(84,948)	58,419	60,340
	(101,892)	55,140	60,340
Cost of Raising Funds	42,485	46,970	52,820
- % of income	6.5%	5.7%	6.2%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	433,214	206,102	227,160
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	(29,849)	28,711	89,051
No of months of operating expenditure	-0.8	1.7	4.7
Reserves policy target	60,000	60,000	60,000
No of months of operating expenditure	1.7	3.5	3.2
Free reserves over/(under) target	(89,849)	(31,289)	29,051