

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London Safer

Stay Safe East

Adv: Shegufta Rahman

Base: Waltham Forest

Amount requested: £103,690

Benefit: Waltham Forest & Newham

Amount recommended: £103,700

The Charity

Stay Safe East (SSE) is a user-led organisation of disabled people. Registered as an independent charity in 2013, its services date back to 2010 when it operated as part of a larger disabled people's organisation. The charity works for change at a London and national level to address inequalities in response from mainstream support agencies to disabled victims of violence.

The Application

SSE has identified the need to increase and improve its support for Deaf and disabled people. In its three years of operating as a charity (and six years as a service), it has recorded an increase in the number of complex cases involving child protection, domestic violence, or women with high support needs (including mental health, cognitive issues due to stroke or brain injury, learning disabilities, aphasia etc). In the past year SSE has had to turn down 14 domestic violence referrals and was unable to take referrals from the local Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) for 12 weeks due to limited capacity.

The Recommendation

SSE has evidenced its effectiveness in supporting Deaf and disabled people, and this request for a new Casework Lead and a new database will enable it to manage effectively an increase in caseload, staff and volunteers.

£103,700 over three years (£35,500, £33,800, £34,400) for a p/t Casework Lead (26h/w), a Case Management System and associated project costs.

Funding History

None

Background and detail of proposal

Due to SSE's input, Waltham Forest MARAC has the highest percentage of disabled people referred to it of any MARAC in England and Wales (24% v. national average of 5%). With 15% of London's population registered as Deaf or disabled, 32% of all disabled people live in poverty, and this rises for BAME disabled people (44%), against 17% of the UK population as a whole (Scope, 2012). Domestic violence is higher amongst people living in poverty, and lack of access to services has a substantial impact on victims of abuse. Despite pockets of wealth, Waltham Forest and Newham are some of the most deprived areas in England, with higher levels of poverty, unemployment, and long-term limiting illness (London's Poverty Profile).

Disabled people are more likely to experience violence or abuse at some point in their lives than other population groups; disabled children are 3.7 times more likely to be victims of violence against their non-disabled peers, and adults 1.5 times more likely (World Health Organisation, 2012). These statistics are reflected in UK crime

figures, where although violent crime has fallen by 48% for the non-disabled population over the past 10 years, the number of those with a limiting disability or illness who were victims of violence increased by 3.7% (Victim Support, 2016). A higher proportion of disabled women and girls also experience sexual abuse.

The funding will enable SSE to increase numbers in both boroughs, but specifically in Newham with additional capacity and marketing, working intensively with more disabled victims with complex support needs and who need very long-term support without this impacting negatively on other clients. SSE's current monitoring system relies on a mix of manual and electronic systems which are not wholly integrated or accessible to all relevant team members. A new database system with update alerts, tracking, recording and outcome data will improve efficiency and provide an excellent source of client research to support future work. Further, a Casework Lead will enable SSE to take on more volunteers to increase service capacity, whilst also serving an additional need in supporting volunteers (all of whom are Deaf and disabled people) with life skills, confidence building and potential employment skills.

Financial Information

Cost of Raising Funds was nil in 2015/16 due to the relevant time of the Director and Trustees not being apportioned to this spend. This is now being reported against.

A high proportion of income for SSE comes from statutory sources (61-70%) mainly from MOPAC for a Domestic Violence contract, as well as funding for hate crime work, which was renewed this June for a further three years. The charity has multiple bids pending with other funders for a variety of projects. SSE has also been developing an income stream from training and consultancy work delivered to clients such as the IDVA team in Cambridgeshire and Police Scotland. SSE is the Domestic Violence training expert for Inclusion London. The funding requested will allow the Director to focus on building this unrestricted income stream, which will also help grow SSE's reserves closer to its target.

Year end as at 31st March	FY 15/16 Examined Accounts £	FY 16/17 Draft Accounts £	FY 17/18 Forecast £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	82,029	114,949	139,412
- % of Income confirmed as at 12/06/2017	n/a	n/a	83%
Expenditure	(81,504)	(107,150)	(125,412)
Total surplus/(deficit)	525	7,799	14,000
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	0	(35)	1,885
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	525	7,834	12,115
	525	7,799	14,000
Cost of Raising Funds	0	350	650
- % of income	0.0%	0.3%	0.5%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	10,304	9,700	24,885
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	3,522	11,356	23,471
No of months of operating expenditure	4.1	14.0	11.3
Reserves policy target	20,376	26,788	31,353
No of months of operating expenditure	23.7	33.1	15.1
Free reserves over/(under) target	(16,854)	(15,432)	(7,882)