

MEETING: 27/07/2017

Ref: 14002

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners

Bexley Crossroads Care Limited

Adv: Kate Moralee

Base: Bexley

Amount requested: £181,363

**Benefit: Bexley, Lewisham,
Greenwich**

Amount recommended: 155,000

The Charity

Bexley Crossroads Care Limited (BCC) is an autonomous registered charity, a network partner of Carers Trust. It aims to improve support, services and recognition to unpaid carers and families across the London boroughs of Bexley, Greenwich and Lewisham by providing practical support, early intervention support, respite services, short breaks and a volunteer befriending service whilst also representing the interests of carers in various arena.

The Application

City Bridge Trust is asked to support the delivery of support to carers aged over 65 to reduce non-medical and frequent presentations at GP surgeries or A&E, to reduce isolation and to improve health and wellbeing.

The Recommendation

The organisation has a 27 year track record of providing services to carers across the three boroughs. This project sits well with their current portfolio of community services which include befriending services and three dementia cafes. The role of the link worker will be to liaise with GP practices as well as Older Persons Carers Forums, Age UK, Alzheimer's Society and other community services in the three boroughs. The proposal offers one-to-one surgeries; development of befriending volunteers; and service and delivery of a variety of workshops. Whilst the Charity is currently operating within its charitable objects it plans to diversify its services to aid its sustainability and so these will need to be amended accordingly. It has been agreed with that this should be a condition of grant. A revised budget was submitted by the applicant after discussion at the assessment visit (attached to the application) which the recommendation reflects:

£155,000 over 3 years (£51,000, £50,000, £54,000) for the salary of a f/t GP Link Officer, volunteer costs and associated project costs. Release of the third quarter's payment in year 1 is conditional on the organisation amending its charitable objects within 6 months of the grant commencing, to accommodate a broader remit of services.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
18/03/2010	£120,000 over three years (3 x £40,000) towards the costs of a part-time (16hpw) project leader, associated running costs and some care hours for a support service for people with dementia and their carers.

Background and detail of proposal

The need for early intervention has been identified at Strategic Partnerships across the three boroughs and through the Care Commissioning Group strategic report, with

an estimation that individual carers present for non-medical reasons 6-8 times per year. Although GP practices have a duty to have a register of carers, there is a lack of clarity about the responsibility of support for those identified carers. Added to this, historically it has been difficult to work with GP surgeries, with Practice Managers unwilling to share information and GP's saying they do not have time or knowledge of services to refer people onwards.

The aim of this project is to break down those barriers with GP surgeries, building relationships with Practice Managers, raising awareness of support and services available and providing a resource of support to address the issues which underpin the non-medical presentation at GP surgeries and A&E. BCC has a track record of providing this type of support through befriending services and has excellent networks with other voluntary sector organisations for referral when in need of specific expertise.

BCC is rooted in and responsive to the needs of the local communities in which they operate, 93% of its staff live within these communities and 31% are from BME communities (reflecting the local population), providing a deep knowledge of issues affecting those communities.

Financial Information

BBC is highly dependent on Local Authority Grants and Contract income (58%) and Personal Independence Payments income (28%), which provides an area of risk in the future. BCC is aware of this and is implementing its Business Development Strategy including diversifying income sources, of which this application is one. I have referred BCC to your Strive programme with Cranfield Trust for further support with their Business Development.

Year end as at 31st March	FY 15/16	FY 16/17	FY 17/18
	Audited Accounts	Draft Accounts	Forecast
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	910,759	885,296	957,565
- % of Income confirmed @ 10/6/17	n/a	n/a	69%
Expenditure	(902,592)	(837,619)	(953,831)
Total surplus/(deficit)	8,167	47,677	3,734
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	1,375	(1,025)	6,412
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	6,792	48,702	(2,678)
	8,167	47,677	3,734
Cost of Raising Funds	4,570	11,721	14,340
- % of income	0.5%	1.3%	1.5%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	898,967	836,153	927,239
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	375,583	424,285	421,607
No of months of operating expenditure	5.0	6.1	5.5
Reserves policy target	449,484	418,077	463,620
No of months of operating expenditure	6.0	6.0	6.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(73,901)	6,209	(42,013)