

**MEETING: 27/07/2017**

**Ref: 13864**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners**

**Queens Crescent Community Association (QCCA)**

**Adv: Jack Joslin**

**Base: Camden**

**Amount requested: £199,396**

**Benefit: Camden**

**Amount recommended: £153,900**

**The Charity**

Queen's Crescent Community Association (QCCA) was originally established in 1999 to take over and revitalise the management of the Allcroft Community Centre (now known as Queen's Crescent Community Centre), which had been left derelict for several years. QCCA is a thriving organisation currently managing five community facilities in Gospel Oak – two multi-purpose community centres; a sports and youth centre; and two nurseries – used each week by 700 local people. Working as a hub for local people, QCCA work in partnership with a number of other organisations to create opportunities that empower the local community.

**The Application**

QCCA has been working with older people since 2002. They have noted that an increasing number of the older people that they work with are over 75, many of whom live alone and are isolated. They currently offer a daily lunch club for older people that was in full swing and well attended when your officer visited. This application is looking to increase the activities that are on offer for older people in the area. The Project Coordinator will develop new activities that will improve the health and well-being those aged over 75. Activities will range from exercise classes, gardening, workshops, daytrips and a befriending service. Older people have been involved in the development of this project and a regular steering group will be held to ensure that older people have a role in the management of the project.

**The Recommendation**

QCCA has a good track record of delivering services for older people in Gospel Oak. This project will develop a range of new activities for older people aged 75 and over that will improve their health and ensure they lead more active lives whilst improving their mental well-being. This project is a good fit with your outcomes for the Older Londoners programme. The budget has been reduced after a discussion with your officer at assessment - a new budget is included at Appendix A to the application form. Funding is advised as follows:

**£153,900 over 3 years (£51,300; £50,600; £52,000) towards a full-time Project Coordinator, associated running costs and fitness sessions for an activity programme for older people aged 75+ living in Gospel Oak.**

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
22/01/2009	£64,350 over three years (£24,850; £23,200; £16,300) towards a part-time (17.5 hours) project co-ordinator and other costs for the provision of an activities programme for older people, aged 65+ living in the Gospel Oak area.

## Background and detail of proposal

Age UK Loneliness Evidence Review (2014) highlighted the links between loneliness in older people and deterioration in their health and well-being. The impact of loneliness on well-being is considerable with those who report feeling lonely being seven times more likely to report low life satisfaction. A programme of community research in Gospel Oak identified that 31% of older people live in deprivation with around 70% living on their own. Many of the older people find it difficult to admit they are lonely which often prevents them from reaching out for help. QCCA offers services that allow older people to find company, activity and support without having to directly request it.

There is a significant need for this project in Gospel Oak. Local services run by the local authority have been cut heavily leaving the lunch club at QCCA as one of the only services in the area for older people to attend. The majority of the project will take place at the Community Centre which is a hub of activity in the community and in close proximity to a substantial amount of sheltered housing. The Coordinator will organise a range of activities from vegetable growing in the allotment, shopping trips, excursions to the seaside, accessible gym sessions and walks on Hampstead Heath. The lunch club will continue to run and a refurbished kitchen is planned to be installed. A grant application is currently under consideration by the Big Lottery Fund for this aspect of the project. The lunch club costs were included in the original budget but have since been removed and other costs reduced after a discussion with your officer at assessment.

## Financial Information

QCCA had listed nearly all of their expenditure in their Audited Accounts as Cost of Generating Funds. This was discussed at assessment and has been raised with their accountant and re-stated in the following years. In both years 16/17 and 17/18 QCCA has used their unrestricted surplus to cover the deficits in its restricted contracts.

Year end as at 31st March	FY 15/16	FY 16/17	FY 17/18
	Audited Accounts	Draft Accounts	Forecast
	£	£	£
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	1,236,088	863,621	1,031,372
- % of Income confirmed 19/05/2017	n/a	n/a	48%
Expenditure	(1,341,513)	(840,439)	(1,054,927)
Total surplus/(deficit)	<b>(105,425)</b>	<b>23,182</b>	<b>(23,555)</b>
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(156,677)	(122,002)	(59,318)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	51,252	145,184	35,763
	<b>(105,425)</b>	<b>23,182</b>	<b>(23,555)</b>
Cost of Raising Funds	1,338,513	96,504	114,932
- % of income	108.3%	11.2%	11.1%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	642,679	533,315	698,219
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	83,227	106,409	82,854
No of months of operating expenditure	1.6	2.4	1.4
Reserves policy target	0	133,329	174,555
No of months of operating expenditure	0.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	0	(26,920)	(91,701)