

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Making London More Inclusive

Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea

Adv: Sandra Jones

Amount requested: £214,693

Base: Kensington & Chelsea

Benefit: Kensington & Chelsea

Amount recommended: £166,800

The Applicant

Run and managed by disabled people, Action Disability Kensington & Chelsea (ADKC) was established in 1981 to provide services and opportunities for disabled people in Kensington and Chelsea.

ADKC's current services and activities include an advice and information service; a lifelong learning programme; a young people's group; an advocacy service; and brokerage support for Individual Budgets and working with individuals on personal budgets to enable them to live independently. In addition, it provides consultative and training services and plays a key role in the development of services at the borough level. It is represented on the relevant local authority and health authority partnerships and networks and it campaigns for the rights of disabled people.

The Application

ADKC seeks a three year grant to run 'Independent Lives Kensington and Chelsea' which has evolved from 'Taking Control' - a Lottery funded project that has recently come to an end. The charity consulted with its members and concluded that the most successful parts of 'Taking Control' should be built on, with the scope being expanded from just those with a personal budget to ensure that all disabled people who self-identify as needing additional support to live an independent life can benefit. The budget covers a full time Co-ordinator (previously funded by the Big Lottery Fund), a one day per week Personal Development Officer, a one day per week Information and Advice Officer, associated running costs and contribution to core costs.

The Recommendation

ADKC is a key disabled people's organisation and works both with individual disabled people as well as representing disabled people on a strategic level within the borough. The funding sought is a development of a previous project which had a positive impact on disabled people on personal budgets to live independently. The budget for the project includes a FTE Co-ordinator plus 2x1 day posts. It is suggested that the Co-ordinator post should be funded alongside the Personal Development Officer as some of the activities in the Information and Advice post are included in the Coordinator post. Elements of the budget are on the high side, including core costs of approximately 35%. It is recommended core costs are reduced to 20% and other elements of the budget be reduced:

£166,800 over three years (3 x £55,600) towards a FTE Co-ordinator, 1 day per week Personal Development Officer and associated running costs towards accessibility costs, training, information production, room hire and core running costs.

Funding History

| Meeting Date | Decision |
|--------------|--|
| 10/09/2009 | £144,500 over three years (£48,000; £47,500; £49,000) towards the salary and project costs of a support group for disabled people managing individual budgets. |

Background and detail of proposal

ADKC has been supporting those on personal budgets to live independently and the current request to your committee is to continue and expand on this. The proposed activities will provide those participants with the skills and support to enable them to live independently. This will include creating personal development plans and then offering support in implementing the plan. This could be a training workshop on basic computer skills to enable participants to access a range of support, peer support meetings or ongoing case work. During the project peer supporters will be identified and trained to assist people with independent living goals and/or personal development plans. Materials will be produced based on the participants own experiences and skills to build up an Independent Living Information Hub.

Financial Information

The cost of raising funds is calculated based on a percentage of the CEO's time. This figure is low as the main source of funding is through contracts from the local authority. Although the level of free reserves has decreased over the last three years, it is still above their reserves target, and the charity has deliberately been utilising the free reserves to get in line with their policy.

| Year end as at 31 March | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|---|----------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | Examined Accounts | Draft Accounts | Budget |
| | £ | £ | £ |
| Income & expenditure: | | | |
| Income | 241,716 | 252,286 | 260,248 |
| - % of Income confirmed as at 02/10/2017 | n/a | % | 81% |
| Expenditure | (256,456) | (266,940) | (262,094) |
| Total surplus/(deficit) | (14,740) | (14,654) | (1,846) |
| Split between: | | | |
| - Restricted surplus/(deficit) | (15,211) | (11,240) | 1,371 |
| - Unrestricted surplus/(deficit) | 471 | (3,414) | (3,217) |
| | (14,740) | (14,654) | (1,846) |
| Cost of Raising Funds | 1,824 | 1,656 | 1,472 |
| - % of income | 0.8% | 0.7% | 0.6% |
| Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds) | 159,359 | 163,352 | 148,934 |
| Free unrestricted reserves: | | | |
| Free unrestricted reserves held at year end | 283,012 | 279,598 | 276,381 |
| No of months of operating expenditure | 21.3 | 20.5 | 22.3 |
| Reserves policy target | 39,840 | 40,838 | 54,658 |
| No of months of operating expenditure | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 |
| Free reserves over/(under) target | 243,172 | 238,760 | 152,029 |