

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners**Bikur Cholim Ltd****Adv: Sandra Davidson****Base: Hackney****Amount requested: £87,291****Benefit: Hackney & Haringey****Amount recommended: £87,300****The Applicant**

Bikur Cholim Ltd was established in 1979, later becoming a charitable company in 2001 so that it could engage in a wider range of activity. Its mission is to relieve the effects of sickness, poor physical and mental health and old age for people of the Charedi (Orthodox Jewish) community in North London by offering support facilities and services. The organisation is based on the borders of Hackney and Haringey. The 2011 census recorded Hackney as having the largest group of Charedi Jewish people in Europe, who live predominately in the North East of the borough and represent an estimated 7.4% of the borough's overall population. Bikur Cholim's community activities include: basic and specialist support for older people; mental health services; respite care; volunteer befriending; hospital transport provision and broad family support including a carers' support group.

The Application

As a result of a comprehensive needs assessment, Bikur Cholim is seeking support to develop their programme for carers aged 65 and over, as an increasing number elderly service users find themselves in a position of having to care for a loved one. Over the past three years Bikur Cholim has noted an increasing number of older carers struggling with their own needs and needing support. The applicant is seeking a three year grant to develop its activities for older carers 65+ to improve health and well-being. The recruitment of an Older Peoples' Carers Support Worker will provide advice, support, and respite activities as well as outreach to promote the services. Older people have been consulted and involved in the design and development of the service. The carers' support group will be utilised to ensure service users play a role in the management of the project.

The Recommendation

Bikur Cholim is highly regarded within the community it serves for delivering high quality service and mobilising its impressive team of 300 volunteers. It demonstrates a true community approach to meeting needs. The project is well planned and a good fit with your outcomes for the Older Londoners programme. The charity runs its activities from a bright and welcoming centre refurbished four years ago. The building is fully accessible to its service users. Full funding is recommended:

£87,300 over three years (£29,100; £28,800; £29,400) for the salary of an Older People's Carers Support Worker (24hpw) and towards associated project costs.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
30/06/2011	£125,000 over three years for the costs of a programme of culturally sensitive intervention and support for young people with mental health problems and their families/carers.

Background and detail of proposal

Bikur Cholim supports older people, providing practical and emotional support and empowering service users to achieve independence. Within this community it is expected that families will look after their elders many of whom are holocaust survivors or descendants of holocaust survivors. Over the last few years the charity has identified a growing number of carers 65+ struggling to cope, resulting in poor physical and mental health. In a recent national survey carers reported feeling more stressed than ever and experienced depression as a result of their caring role. Carers UK report that many carers experience isolation and loneliness ('Valuing Carers 2015'). The same report found 38% increase in the number of older people caring for a relative whilst they themselves were struggling to cope with their own health needs. Bikur Cholim's project, using outreach, will promote their service and reach hidden carers in the community, currently unaware of their benefit entitlements or too proud to seek help. The worker will develop individual support plans for each carer and work closely with volunteers to coordinate activities. The charity has a track record of providing support to older people through its befriending service and has excellent networks with key voluntary sector organisations and the local authority.

Financial Information

The majority of the organisation's income derives from contracts, grants and donations. The trustees acknowledge the decline in reserves and have agreed to implement a fundraising plan to build free reserves. The organisation has recently secured a four year contract with L.B. Hackney to the value of £1.9m.

Year end as at 31st March	FY 16/17	FY 17/18	FY 18/19
	Audited Accounts	forecast	Budget
	£	£	£
Income & expenditure:			
Income	2,444,836	2,277,673	2,390,236
- % of Income confirmed	n/a	n/a	22%
Expenditure	(2,510,124)	(2,258,780)	(2,359,000)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(65,288)	18,893	31,236
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(34,103)	0	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(31,186)	18,893	31,236
	(65,289)	18,893	31,236
Cost of Raising Funds	12,538	24,500	27,000
- % of income	0.5%	1.1%	1.1%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	1,655,592	1,614,605	1,743,764
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	693,295	712,188	743,424
No of months of operating expenditure	5.0	5.3	5.1
Reserves policy target	551,864	538,202	581,255
No of months of operating expenditure	4.0	4.0	4.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	141,431	173,986	162,169