

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Older Londoners****Irish Chaplaincy In Britain****Adv: Sandra Davidson****Amount requested: £105,000****Base: Camden****Benefit: London-wide****Amount recommended: £105,000****The Applicant**

The Irish Chaplaincy in Britain (IC) was established in 1957 and celebrates its diamond jubilee this year. 80% of those leaving Ireland in the post war period went to Britain and the work of IC originally involved supporting young immigrants who arrived in search of work and accommodation during the 1950's and 1960's. In 2015 Irish Chaplaincy was granted Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status and continues to provide services and support to excluded, vulnerable and isolated people in the Irish community in Britain, irrespective of their religious beliefs. In 2005 IC started its Older and Vulnerable Person Programme funded by the Bishops, to reach out to the original group, now facing the generic difficulties of old age often compounded by difficult and traumatic experiences in their younger years and a feeling of distance from the land of their birth. The programme is now known as the Irish Chaplaincy Seniors' Project (ICSP) and supports 160 isolated older people across London, but particularly in Camden, Southwark, Ealing, Islington and Lambeth. In addition to the ICSP, the IC offers a range of services to meet the needs of the Irish community including Travellers' outreach and advocacy; and a prison visiting and casework service to over 450 Irish prisoners in UK prisons.

**The Application**

IC is looking for your support to expand and develop the Irish Chaplaincy Seniors' Project (ICSP) increasing its outreach work specifically for those 75+. The range of current services have seen a growing number of users in this age group, many of whom do not engage with statutory services due to physical and mental health problems. ICSP has grown over the years and is well regarded across statutory and charitable services. The recruitment of another a full-time member of staff and a small team of volunteers will increase the support to a growing number of older service users. Support will include:

- helping older people to connect to local services and agencies, and advocating on their behalf
- organising visits and social activities to counter isolation
- acting as a bridge between families and friends back in Ireland where people have lost touch
- arranging short breaks and holidays - in some cases helping repatriate those who wish to return home
- support with care planning and later life planning.

**The Recommendation**

IC has developed an excellent range of support and services and strives to meet the continuing significant need within the elderly Irish community. Independent evaluation of IC's work evidences the effectiveness of its ICSP's outreach and the

need to develop more specialist work for those 75+. The project is well planned and closely aligned to your Older Londoners priority. A grant is recommended:

**£105,000 over three years (3 x £35,000) for the f/t salary of a Pastoral Outreach Worker and associated project costs.**

#### **Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
20/01/2011	£91,800 over three years (£30,000; £30,600; £31,200) towards the costs of support to isolated and vulnerable older Irish people in London, subject to receipt of a satisfactory budget for 2011-12.

#### **Background and detail of proposal**

The ICSP offers on-going befriending, support and advocacy for elderly people, many of whom are isolated and unable to access day services. They respond to individual needs and support the complex interplay between emotional well-being, physical health and, where relevant, spiritual needs. Currently, support is provided by an experienced full-time manager and a small team of volunteers. The 2011 Census demonstrates the over-representation of older Irish people in London (ages 50-84) compared to all other ethnic groups. Aged 85 and over there are proportionately more white Irish men and women than in any other minority group. There are also higher levels of multiple health conditions, limiting long term health problems or disability than in any other ethnic group, (23.9% along with White Gypsy or Irish Traveller at 25% compared with 14% for all other Londoners). ICSP acts as a 'bridge' to other services for this 'hard to reach' group of older Irish people. It has built trust and a flexible approach with clients. The project receives referrals from social services and mental health teams. Often ICSP are the only support in place when people transition home from hospital and they play an important role in 'end of life' care. ICSP plays a unique role in supporting older people, many with complex needs in a holistic way. The work programme has been set out with clear targets, outcomes and monitoring procedures in place. It is anticipated that 200 people annually will benefit from the service.

#### **Financial Information**

The charity has taken action to improve its financial management and overall position. Core funding is largely from the Irish Government's Department Emigrant Support Programme, support from the Irish Bishops' Conference and other religious funds. Mindful of the need to widen its funding base and ensure long-term financial stability, the organisation has put in place a robust, multi-faceted and long-term fundraising strategy. Applications are being progressed to other Trust's and Foundations. Costs of raising funds are not separately identified as they are included in the salary costs of the CEO.

<b>Year end as at 31 March</b>	<b>2016 Examined Accounts £</b>	<b>2017 Examined Accounts £</b>	<b>2018 Budget £</b>
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	353,882	256,817	380,440
- % of Income confirmed as at 10/12/2017	n/a	n/a	83%
Expenditure	(358,423)	(301,848)	(337,821)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(4,541)	(45,031)	42,619
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(16,750)	(40,717)	34,935
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	12,209	(4,314)	7,684
	(4,541)	(45,031)	42,619
Cost of Raising Funds	0	0	0
- % of Income	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Operating expenditure ( total funds)	358,423	301,848	337,821
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	74,376	59,688	67,372
No of months of operating expenditure	2.5	2.4	2.4
Reserves policy target	119,474	100,616	112,607
No of months of operating expenditure	4.0	4.0	4.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(45,098)	(40,928)	(45,235)

