

**MEETING: 06/07/2018**

**Ref: 14576**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Strengthening London's Voluntary Sector**

**CVS Brent**

**Adv: Shegufta Rahman**

**Base: Brent**

**Amount requested: £150,446**

**Benefit: Brent**

**Amount recommended: £134,800**

**The Applicant**

Registered as a charity in 2012, CVS Brent is an independent capacity-building organisation, supporting groups providing community services on a not-for-profit basis, on behalf of the local community in Brent.

**The Application**

The charity is seeking funding for a new Monitoring, Evaluation and Demonstrating Impact Project, including the salary costs of a Monitoring and Evaluation Officer. The project will build and develop the capacity and sustainability of Brent's voluntary and community sector (VCS) in order that they can continue to deliver effective and efficient services to their communities, as well as enabling them to advocate and influence at a strategic level to improve the quality of life for Brent's residents.

**The Recommendation**

Whilst CVS Brent has had an active portfolio of services for its local VCS, it recognises that there is a growing need for organisations to develop monitoring, evaluation and impact measurement tools by identifying appropriate systems and implementing these to support the vital work of the sector to ultimately improve the life of Brent's diverse communities. The amount recommended is at a reduced rate as elements of the request fall outside of the scope of your funding:

***£134,800 over three years (£44,900, £43,800, £46,100) for the p/t (4dpw) salary of the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and project running costs.***

**Funding History**

None.

**Background and detail of proposal**

CVS Brent has a sound track record of delivering capacity building support to its local voluntary and community sector (VCS). The charity recognises the ever-increasing challenges facing the wider sector with: cuts in funding from Central Government to local authorities; a move from grants to tenders in the commissioning of services both from local councils and clinical commissioning; changes in welfare reform with an adverse impact on local communities; a growing trend of joint/partnership/consortia applications for funding; and the implications of potential loss of European funding following Brexit. In facing these challenges, the VCS needs to adapt and evolve in the way it operates in order to survive and continue to provide the much-needed services for their communities.

The monitoring and evaluation environment has changed over the last decade or so, with a growing need to have effective systems to measure both quantitative and qualitative information for outcomes and social impact of services provided by the VCS. The funding environment is more focussed on commissioning and contracting

based on 'evidence based' needs, resulting in the VCS needing to compete equally in the local market if they are to continue to provide services for their communities.

Through the capacity building work undertaken by the charity to date, identifying appropriate monitoring, evaluation and impact systems and implementing these to support the vital work of the local VCS has been highlighted. In addition, the need to develop organisational quality assurance systems has also been identified. Brent CVS's annual user surveys for both 2016 and 2017 have evidenced all of these requirements. The current membership of the charity stands at 147 local civil society organisations. In addition, the charity in its liaison work with grant and commissioning officers in Brent Council and some trusts and foundations, has evidenced that often monitoring, evaluation and impact systems need development and/or refining to better reflect the outcomes stated for the local organisations.

The project will be delivered through the provision of advice, information, tailored training and support to the local VCS. The range of topics covered will include organisational health checks, identification of appropriate quality assurance systems for service delivery and organisations as a whole, exploring the feasibility of setting up consortiums, and intensive one-to-one bespoke support.

### Financial Information

The charity has provided conservative estimates for income in 2019; all of which outlined below has been confirmed. The move to a higher proportion of restricted income is due to sources of unrestricted income coming to an end in March of this year. Cost of raising funds was not allocated for 2017 but has been apportioned for 2018 onwards.

Year end as at 31 March	2017 Audited Accounts £	2018 Draft £	2019 Budget £
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	481,189	314,320	258,145
- % of income confirmed as at 24/05/2018	n/a	100%	100%
Expenditure	(441,964)	(314,320)	(268,145)
Total surplus/(deficit)	39,225	0	(10,000)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	4,531	46,217	27,007
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	34,694	(46,217)	(37,007)
	39,225	0	(10,000)
Cost of Raising Funds	0	38,448	47,600
- % of income	0.0%	12.2%	18.4%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	161,664	72,617	64,280
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	114,332	68,115	31,108
No of months of operating expenditure	8.5	11.3	5.8
Reserves policy target	40,416	18,154	16,070
No of months of operating expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	73,916	49,961	15,038