

**WOKING MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCE CENTRE - CORNERHOUSE – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

**Executive Summary**

Established in 2002, CornerHouse is a registered charity based in Maybury, Woking. CornerHouse aims to support people to improve their mental health and empower them to make wellbeing choices. The Centre provides a range of support groups, activities and one to one services for adults aged 18+ affected by mental ill health across North West Surrey (Woking, Runnymede and Spelthorne).

The Group has applied for £22,961 in order to employ a Fundraising and Marketing Manager and associated costs for one year. The applicant has advised that the appointment would allow the Group to focus on obtaining further funding streams, which will in turn enable the continuation and growth of the services. The applicant has confirmed that the Centre has appointed a temporary Fundraising and Marketing Manager pending the outcome of their application.

While the Council acknowledges the benefit of the services provided by Woking Mental Health Resource Centre – CornerHouse, it is felt that that the Council should not enter into a revenue commitment relating to the employment of staff which may not be sustainable. There is also the potential for increased joint working with the Council such that their promotional material could be more easily shared at a local level across the wellbeing network, and the organisation could make contact with the Council’s Community Development and Engagement Team regarding volunteer development and potential alternative funding sources.

On this basis, it is recommended that the application for £22,961 for the financial year 2018/19 is not supported and no grant be awarded on this occasion.

**Recommendations**

Reasons for Decision	The application has not given sufficient justification for the Council to enter into a revenue commitment for the employment of a member of staff.
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The Executive is requested to:	<b>RESOLVE That</b> no grant be awarded.
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**The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendations.**

**Background Papers:**

2018/19 Application Form.

**Reporting Person:**

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<b>1.0 Summary of Application</b>	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>Established in 2002, CornerHouse is a registered charity based in Woking, Surrey. CornerHouse aims to support people to improve their mental health and empower them to make wellbeing choices. They employ 20 full and part time staff and have a team of over 40 volunteers who help support their services.</p> <p>CornerHouse provides a range of support groups, activities and one to one services for adults aged 18+ affected by mental ill health across North West Surrey (Woking, Runnymede and Spelthorne). Services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Depression support groups</li> <li>- Anxiety support group</li> <li>- Eating disorder support groups</li> <li>- Postnatal depression support group</li> <li>- Young persons group</li> <li>- Wellbeing groups</li> <li>- Walking for Health regular and starter walks</li> <li>- Mindfulness drop ins and courses</li> <li>- Carers support groups</li> <li>- Drop in social groups (in partnership with Woking Mind)</li> <li>- Asian women's wellbeing project (in partnership with Shifa)</li> <li>- Drop-in centre for anyone experiencing mental health crises (in partnership with Safe Haven)</li> </ul>
1.2 Employees	<p>20, comprising the Chief Executive (37.5 hours per week), the Operations Manager (37.5 hours per week), the Marketing and Fundraising Manager (20 hours per week), an Administrator – vacant (24 hours per week), a Bookkeeper (10 hours per week), seven Support Workers (various hours - 3.5 FTEs) and eight Bank Support Workers (various hours).</p>
1.3 Volunteers	<p>47, whose activities include support the facilitation and running of support groups, act as walk leaders and/or assist Walk for Health walks, and undertake fundraising activities and promoting CornerHouse services.</p>
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>644, comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>200 male</li> <li>444 female</li> <li>33 disabled</li> <li>28 ethnic minority</li> <li>293 resident in Woking</li> <li>7 aged 11-18</li> </ul>

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	481 aged 19-65 156 aged 65+																								
1.5 Members	N/A																								
1.6 Sum Requested	£22,961 (Revenue)																								
1.7 Project	<p>In order to increase awareness of and accessibility to CornerHouse services, the grant funding would provide core costs towards the Fundraising &amp; Marketing Manager position for a period of 1 year. The applicant has estimated the costs to be approximately £23,000 per annum. However, the net benefits to the organisation will be infinitely higher.</p> <p>CornerHouse's main funding stream has recently been reduced, resulting in a period of transition. The aim of being in a stronger long-term position regarding funding is reliant on the Group expanding its income streams. Hiring a Fundraising Manager would allow the Group to focus on obtaining further funding streams, which will in turn enable the continuation and growth of services, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Applying for restricted and unrestricted funds from a variety of funding streams including grants and charitable trusts to strengthen CornerHouse's financial position.</li> <li>- Publicising CornerHouse, building networks including corporate organisations.</li> <li>- Further increasing social media and online presence.</li> <li>- Developing stronger marketing and fundraising strategies that can be implemented by the whole team.</li> <li>- Setting up a Steering Group of interested people from the local community/clients, to a) talk to local organisations about mental health/CornerHouse to help raise awareness, break stigma and build partnerships, b) raise funds by organising events and/or sponsored activities and c) keep updated with local needs</li> </ul>																								
1.8 Cost breakdown:	<table> <tr><td>Recruitment -</td><td>£1,000.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Salary -</td><td>£12,762.24</td></tr> <tr><td>NI -</td><td>£893.36</td></tr> <tr><td>Pension -</td><td>£382.87</td></tr> <tr><td>Management costs -</td><td>£1,276.22</td></tr> <tr><td>Admin costs -</td><td>£638.11</td></tr> <tr><td>Annual leave -</td><td>£1,540.40</td></tr> <tr><td>On costs -</td><td>£1,467.66</td></tr> <tr><td>Equipment -</td><td>£500.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Premises &amp; office supplies -</td><td>£2,500.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Travel incl. parking -</td><td>£500.00</td></tr> <tr><td>Total -</td><td>£22,960.86</td></tr> </table>	Recruitment -	£1,000.00	Salary -	£12,762.24	NI -	£893.36	Pension -	£382.87	Management costs -	£1,276.22	Admin costs -	£638.11	Annual leave -	£1,540.40	On costs -	£1,467.66	Equipment -	£500.00	Premises & office supplies -	£2,500.00	Travel incl. parking -	£500.00	Total -	£22,960.86
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1.9 Community Benefit	<p>CornerHouse currently supports over 640 active users and receives roughly 150 new referrals per quarter. The applicant has advised that, under the benefit of this proposal, members of the community will be provided a platform from which they can express needs that they feel are not currently being met by the local services available. They will be able to engage with and work alongside other members of the community to rally for new specialist services, or improvements to</p>																								

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	<p>current services, through the implementation of steering groups, feedback forms, and events arranged for this purpose.</p> <p>CornerHouse would also be in a position to extend its reach to those members of the community who do not currently know about the services provided. There will be a drive to ensure that other organisations and service providers are aware of CornerHouse and will refer individuals in need of mental health support. The applicant has indicated that many users have expressed the wish that they had heard about the services sooner. The Centre would like to explore more avenues for marketing CornerHouse to a wider audience and make our services as accessible to future users as possible.</p> <p>This push should result in an increase in the numbers of users and referrals to the Centre. This, together with the efforts to obtain further project funding, should lead to an increase in the service offer, meeting a wider range of local needs.</p>
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<b>2.0 Financial Background</b>	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £96,605 in the bank.</p> <p>The Group has submitted a budget for 2018/19 which shows an anticipated income of £286,335 against an anticipated expenditure of £331,698, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £45,363.</p> <p>Anticipated income includes voluntary income (£23,500), activities income (£5,700) and the provision of services (£344,800). Items of expenditure include provision of services (£366,275), governance costs (£2,100) and other expenditure (£5,000).</p>
2.2 Accounts	<p>The Group has submitted accounts for 2016/17 which show an income of £374,504 (£269,565 in 2015/16) against expenditure of £373,597 (£258,534 in 2015/16), resulting in a surplus of £907 (a surplus of £11,031 in 2015/16). The sum of £112,516 was carried forward at the end of the 2016/17 year.</p>
2.3 Support over the past five years	New application.

<b>3.0 Assessment of Application</b>		
3.1 Key Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Constitution</li> <li>○ Registered Charity</li> <li>○ VAT Registered</li> <li>○ Equal Opportunities Policy</li> <li>○ Safeguarding Policy</li> <li>○ Reserves Policy</li> <li>○ Quality Mark</li> <li>○ Other funding sources pursued</li> <li>○ Other support by the Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Yes</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>No</li> <li>Yes</li> <li>Yes *</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fundraising</li> <li>○ Two quotes</li> <li>○ Regular monitoring provided previously</li> <li>* mandatory rate relief and discretionary rate relief</li> </ul>	<p>Yes</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Officer Comment</u></p> <p>CornerHouse do provide a valuable service to residents in Woking (approximately 50% of clients) and the surrounding areas by providing much needed support around such issues as: depression, anxiety, support specifically for young people, eating disorders and general wellbeing related activity, and the Council works in partnership with them on a number of joint streams of work to deliver the ambitions of the Borough’s Health and Wellbeing Plan.</p> <p>I have read their application carefully, but feel that at this time, due to the constraints on the Council’s funds that we should not enter into a revenue commitment relating to the employment of staff which has not been demonstrated as being sustainable. I also do feel that there is the potential for increased joint working with the Council such that their promotional material could be more easily shared at a local level across the wellbeing network.</p> <p>In view of such, there is no reason why they shouldn’t contact the Council’s Community Development and Engagement Team if they so wish, to seek advice from one of the Development Officers regarding volunteer development as well as potential alternative funding sources which may assist them in their ambition.</p>	
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>Established in the heart of Woking community, based in Maybury and running groups in Sheerwater and Stanwell, CornerHouse engages with marginalised communities, seeking to provide direct and accessible support to people in these areas who are in need. The Centre supports and listens to local people, adjusting services accordingly, such as the establishment of specialist support groups for postnatal depression and young people. Clients suffering from feelings of isolation have expressed their gratitude for the services during key times of need, when they would otherwise have been left to cope alone.</p> <p>CornerHouse also works in strong partnership with Mind, Richmond Fellowship employment support, Shifa - a wellbeing project supporting women for Asian communities - and SafeHaven, which supports people experiencing mental health crises. The joint goal is to provide information, promote emotional wellbeing and nurture sustainable independence in a wide range of people from the most vulnerable sections of society.</p> <p>Being awarded funding for the Fundraising and Marketing Role will mean specific time can be allocated to working with and engaging members of the community, giving them a voice and bringing people together to raise awareness of mental health and reduce stigma.</p> <p>The applicant has advised, however, that with the marginalised population, mental health stigma and recent reduction in funding, CornerHouse is facing challenges that requires a post designated to securing the steady funding streams needed to meet the demand for</p>	

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mental health services and to implement a marketing strategy that would enable more vulnerable people to access them.

Currently CornerHouse has two main streams of funding; Community Connections and Woking Safe Haven. CornerHouse had been the lead Community Connections provider for Woking since 2012, a contract provided by Surrey County Council and the local Clinical Commissioning Group. In April 2017 there were changes to the contracting resulting in boundary adjustments and a different charity, Catalyst, have become the lead provider. Whilst Catalyst will continue to subcontract CornerHouse, the changes have resulted in a 12% reduction in income.

In the past, the Fundraising & Marketing Manager has been a small role, funded from reserves and donation income, however, the Centre is keen to employ someone with the view of increasing the role due to increased need. The applicant has advised that the Centre is not able to use existing funding towards the costs of the post and has accordingly applied to the Borough Council to meet the costs. The post is currently occupied on a temporary basis, pending the outcomes of the application.

While the Council acknowledges the benefit of the services provided by Woking Mental Health Resource Centre – CornerHouse, it is felt that that the Council should not enter into a revenue commitment relating to the employment of staff which may not be sustainable. There is also the potential for increased joint working with the Council such that their promotional material could be more easily shared at a local level across the wellbeing network, and the organisation could make contact with the Council's Community Development and Engagement Team regarding volunteer development and potential alternative funding sources.

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REPORT ENDS