#### **REVIEW BY TASK AND FINISH PANEL**

### QUESTIONNAIRE ON SERVICE PROVISION BY SLA FUNDED GROUPS

1. Name of Group

British Red Cross - Mobility Aid

### 2. What does your group do?

We provide mobility aid equipment such as wheelchair, commodes and walking frames to people who are having mobility issues. We loan our equipment on a short term basis and whilst we don't charge for the use of the equipment we do ask for a donation. We also sell reasonable priced equipment to help with long term needs. Our home delivery service is also an option for those who are unable to visit the Loughton depot.

# 3. Please tell us about the positive impact you feel you make in the Epping Forest district.

The people in EFD are able to access our equipment if they don't qualify under the NHS criteria, they are on a waiting list for their delivery of a wheelchair or just not able to afford an expensive piece of equipment for the short period of time. By having our equipment we can help to reduce the financial burden associated with their mobility issue, allow residents to become more independent, help with social integration and reduce the number of readmission to hospitals.

In 2014 we saw 282 residents in EFD and in 2015 up until the end of June we had over 183 people using our equipment.

Please see attached a thank you letter from one of our service users.

## 4. Tell us how the grant aid funding has contributed to your activities/services?

We were able to use the funding to purchase 30 self-propelling wheelchairs (see attached invoice). This particular equipment is expensive and the Red Cross on its own would not have been able to make this purchase. By having this chair we have been able to help people with strong upper body strength to be independent, giving their carer some well-deserved respite time.

# 5. What would your group like to do to extend its provision and what unmet needs are you aware of?

We get asked for specialist wheelchairs such as bariatric wheelchairs and chairs for children. Most of the times we are unable to meet the demand for those wheelchairs, as a result some residents are asked to call back or sign posted to other mobility shops that charges for use of equipment.

We are also looking for a permanent residence that is suitable to deliver the service in the district. On a very short notice we recently took up residence at Forrest Road to continue to deliver the service, this property does not serve all our needs for service delivery. Any help to find a more suitable location in the local community would be well appreciated.

6. Please provide a copy of your latest income/expenditure statement. Attached.

Many thanks

Chris Overend Community, Policy and Grants Manager

total overs = 183

British Red Cross Income and Expenditure Period January to June 2015 Fund - G Cost Centre - 40206
Project - P1315 Loughton
Corp. Priority -Areas - A32

Contract -Emergency -Service - Mobility Aids

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British Red Cross
Income and Expenditure
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14 August 2015

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15 Hogarth Reach Loughton Essex IG10 3HP

25 April 2015

Mr Michael Lascelles Senior Service Manager British Red Cross Unit10/11 Marshgate Centre Parkway Harlow Business Park Harlow CM19 5QP

### Dear Mr Lascelles,

I am writing on behalf of my wife and myself to record our appreciation of the help we have received recently from your Loughton Branch.

My wife had a Total Hip Replacement and was discharged from Hospital with minimal equipment to aid her recovery and also a sad lack of advice.

I contacted your Loughton Branch and all members of staff with whom we dealt were courteous, considerate and ever ready to help. They suggested, and loaned us, items of equipment which made her day to day life easier to cope with and also gave sensible and practical advice about other issues.

Their assistance was invaluable and has made a considerable contribution to her ongoing recovery. We are grateful to them for helping us through a difficult time and also to the British Red Cross for having such a facility.

I trust you will make them aware of our remarks and close with our thanks to you all.

Yours sincerely,

<u> Colin Wood</u>

