

## GRANT APPLICATION 2014/15 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

<b>Priority Corporate Outcomes</b>	To promote a healthy, active, independent and informed over-55 population To increase resilience amongst older people and help them to age well	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>BARNET ASSOCIATION OF TAMIL ELDERS</b>	<b>ref</b> 76/C/EPW
<b>Address</b>	Watling Community Centre, 145 Orange Hill Road, Edgware	
<b>Corporate policy, aims and objectives</b>		
<p>The council is committed to helping people to be independent and live active lives, recognizing that some people need more support than others to achieve this. The transformation of adult health and social care set out in the Care Act 2014 and Department of Health publications 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' and 'A Vision for Social Care, Capable Communities and Active Citizens' places growing emphasis on preventative services; delivering targeted information and advice; ensuring people have the right support at the right time; and enabling people to plan for later life.</p> <p>The Older Adults Strategy, 'Living Longer, Living Better', and the Older People's Commissioning Strategy, 2008-17, 'Independence, Choice and Control', focus on developing preventative services; tackling inequalities; and the wider well-being agenda. Barnet's Health and Well-Being Strategy and Integrated Care Model seek to promote the health and well-being of older and disabled people, helping them to achieve key outcomes, including the best possible quality of life, and to remain part of the community. The provision of culturally specific services to support older people from minority ethnic communities is a key element of each strategy to overcome the problems of social exclusion.</p>		
<b>Activities / proposal</b>		
<p>Barnet Association of Tamil Elders (BATE) is an unincorporated not-for-profit organisation formed in July 2013, which seeks to improve the health awareness and wellbeing of Tamil elders living in Barnet and surrounding boroughs through the provision of social and recreational activities and to preserve members' cultural identity.</p> <p>Activities take place twice a week and include keep fit and yoga classes; a weekly lunch club; lectures by visiting speakers and discussions about medical issues and other topics of interest; board and card games; and other recreational pursuits. There are also occasional day trips. Some one-to-one help is offered to access statutory benefits; with translation and interpretation; and with measures to improve home safety and security. Membership has grown over the last year from eighteen to sixty, of whom over 50% are aged 70+. 42 members live in Barnet. Nearly all are from the Tamil community, notwithstanding the group's open membership policy, most having low or medium levels of dependency.</p> <p>User feedback points to the value attached to the companionship that BATE provides, especially for more isolated older people, and how the focus on healthy living has improved levels of fitness and recovery from illness.</p> <p>This application seeks help to consolidate and expand upon the group's work in support of enhancing the independence of members, such as by the introduction of English language and computer classes.</p> <p>Another voluntary organisation, the Cultural &amp; Recreational Organisation for Tamil Elders</p>		

(CROFTE) also meets twice a week at Watling Community Centre. Formed in 1999, CROFTE has a similar programme of activities to BATE, including yoga and keep fit classes; talks and seminars; musical entertainment; a lunch club; and cultural events, aimed at promoting the social welfare, health and independence of elderly Tamils. It has a membership of about 60, mainly living in Barnet and Harrow.

BATE was established following a disagreement between some of the members of CROFTE and the organisation's management committee over how the group was run, a dispute that could not be resolved in spite of the intervention of Adults & Communities and Community Barnet.

CROFTE is a member of the Barnet Neighbourhood Group led by Age UK Barnet, the voluntary and community sector consortium commissioned by Adults & Communities to provide activities and services to older people. CROFTE delivers activities in accordance with the terms of its contract and fulfills all other legal requirements, including the publication of annual accounts, presented to an annual general meeting.

The constraints on public funding and grants place ever greater emphasis on ensuring that services are not duplicated. BATE and CROFTE serve the same community of older people in much the same way and at the same location. In the circumstances, a grant for BATE cannot be justified. But the existence of the two groups threatens to undermine the sustainability of each. It is therefore proposed to explore ways in which their work may be re-unified, involving Community Barnet as the council's voluntary and community sector partner.

#### **Cost and financial need**

BATE has operated to date solely on the basis of income collected from membership fees (£25) and weekly charges (£1 or £3) for the classes. The members of the management committee helped to create a working contingency through small one-off donations. The accounts for the first twelve months show expenditure of £3,383, mainly to pay for a qualified yoga teacher and hire charges, and income of £4,135, resulting in a balance at 30/6/2014 of £752. Lunch and other activities are provided on an entirely voluntary basis involving no, or little, cost to BATE.

The request is for a grant of £7,000 towards estimated running costs of £7,625 based on an expanded programme of activities, computer equipment and other one-off costs. The overall shortfall on the budget presented is £5,475.

A range of possible options, including sponsorship, fundraising and the use of cheaper premises, are shown as the way in which BATE will sustain its expansion, but these do not represent a coherent sustainability strategy.

CROFTE receives £2,500 pa through the Barnet Neighbourhood Group contract.

#### **Grant recommendation, type and conditions**

**NIL**

**Date:** October 2014