

	<p align="center">Community Leadership Committee</p> <p align="center">24 June 2015</p>
<p align="center">Title</p>	<p>Corporate Grants Programme, 2015/16 – grant applications</p>
<p align="center">Report of</p>	<p>Assistant Director of Finance</p>
<p align="center">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p align="center">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p align="center">Enclosures</p>	<p>Grant assessments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix A - Art Reach Barnet • Appendix B - Learning Through Horses
<p align="center">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Ken Argent, Grants Manager, Finance, Commissioning Group (ken.argent@barnet.gov.uk) (020 8359 2020)</p> <p>Paula Arnell, Joint Commissioning Manager, Mental Health, London Borough of Barnet and Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group (paula.arnell@barnet.gov.uk) (020 3688 1828)</p> <p>Mark Vargeson, Positive Activities Co-ordinator, Youth & Family Support Services, Children's Service (mark.vargeson@barnet.gov.uk) (020 8359 5281)</p>

Summary

This report attaches assessments of grant applications by two not-for-profit organisations.

Recommendations

That, subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant and the special conditions shown in the respective grant assessments enclosed:

- (i) a one-year start-up grant of £7,800 be awarded to Art Reach Barnet;
- (ii) a one-year start-up grant of £8,500 be awarded to Learning Through Horses.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Voluntary and community organisations may apply for a one-year start-up grant of up to £10,000 or a one-off grant of up to £5,000 from the corporate grants programme.
- 1.2 The power to award grants of more than £5,000 to voluntary and community groups is vested in this committee in accordance with the terms of reference of theme committees in the council's constitution - annexe A of Responsibilities for Functions.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 These are as set out in the assessments of the two grant applications in question herewith.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 None.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The applicants will be formally notified of the decisions. The awards, if approved, will be payable in instalments following compliance with the special conditions recommended in each case.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 The Corporate Plan, 2015-2020, identifies a set of strategic objectives which frame the council's approach to achieving its vision of making local services more integrated, intuitive and efficient by 2020, aimed at ensuring that Barnet is a place:

- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
- where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
- where responsibility is shared, fairly
- where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer

- 5.1.2 The outcomes around which these objectives are prioritised include:

- To support families and individuals that need help, such as to change behaviour and lead active lives
- To help people with mental health issues to stay well, get a job and remain active
- To create better life chances for young people

- To offer personalised support to enable young people who are most at risk of not achieving their potential to close the gap with their peers; make a positive transition into adulthood; and prevent later difficulties

5.1.3 The council is seeking to develop new and effective partnerships to deliver high quality public services having regard to the significant reduction in government funding. The voluntary and community sector has a significant role to play in this strategy, especially by increasing choice, accessibility and value for money, leading on innovative solutions and improving customers' perception of public services.

5.1.4 A Third Sector Commissioning Framework, approved by the Cabinet Resources Committee in 2008, sets out guidelines to:

- bring consistency to the council's financial arrangements with the voluntary and community sector; and
- bring procurement from, and grants to, the sector into a single framework consistent with the council's procurement rules

5.1.5 The grants programme offers help to voluntary and community organisations (a) to develop new services and activities and (b) to run a community event or meet certain non-recurring items of expenditure.

5.1.6 All applications are assessed on their individual merits against the council's policy objectives; the benefits to the local community; the effectiveness of the organisation in its service delivery; its overall value for money; its financial needs; and the budget for making awards each year. In the case of start-up grants, the apparent or likely viability of a proposal in the years following the council's twelve-month funding is a critical factor.

5.1.7 Both applications in question fulfil these criteria and are recommended for an award.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 The provision for making start-up and one-off grants in 2015/16 is currently comprised of funds deriving to the authority from the Edward Harvist Charity and a small annual allocation from the former Borough Lottery Scheme.

5.2.2 The opening position on the funding available in 2015/16, which reflects the sum that has been allocated to the corporate grants programme from the council's share of income from the Edward Harvist Charity, to be supplemented, as further income from the charity is received, is as follows:

Budget item	Funding available, 2015/16	Approvals to date	Balance remaining	Recommended herewith
Edward Harvist Charity	£72,344	0	£72,344	£16,300
Former Borough Lottery Fund	£15,000	0	£15,000	0
TOTAL	£87,344	0	£87,344	£16,300

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

5.3.1 The council has power to make grants awards under section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.

5.3.2 Under the council's constitution, Responsibility for Functions (annex A), the terms of reference of the Community Leadership Committee includes specific responsibility for

- Grants to the voluntary sector
- To maintain good relations with Barnet's diverse communities ensuring that all communities have the opportunity to participate in the borough's affairs

5.4 Risk Management

5.4.1 All grants are made subject to the council's Standard Conditions of Grant Aid, with which applicants are required to signify their compliance by signing a written undertaking. Amongst other things, the conditions cover how awards are spent, allowing council officers a right of access to proof thereof, and requiring notification of any change in an organisation's circumstances which significantly affect its finances, operations or grant entitlement. The council reserves the right to withhold payment of any approved grant, or to demand full or partial repayment, if it appears that an organisation has failed to comply with any of the conditions attached to the award.

5.4.2 The shift towards greater community involvement in the delivery of services has involved some relaxation in the attitude traditionally taken to compliance with eligibility criteria before an award is recommended. Whilst all applicants are expected to satisfy basic governance requirements, such as having an independent management committee, it is accepted that community-led and self-help groups often require the support of a parent organisation or other agency. In cases such as these, account is taken of other relevant factors, such as knowledge of a supporting agency and mechanisms to manage an applicant's financial affairs. All applicants are expected to work towards full independence within a reasonable period.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the council and all other organisations exercising public functions must have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by or under the Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race, religion or belief; and sex and sexual orientation. The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality into daily business and keep them under review in decision making; the design of policies; and the delivery of services.

5.5.2 All voluntary and community organisations grant-aided by the council are required to demonstrate that they have an equal opportunities policy covering users, staff and volunteers, which promotes equal treatment for all irrespective of their age, disability, gender, sexuality, ethnic background, faith, health, language or social and economic background. Scrutiny of compliance with these considerations, and how they contribute to promoting good relations between people and communities, forms part of the standard procedure for assessing all applications.

5.5.3 Awards from the corporate grants programme fund projects and activities in support of people from all communities and focus particularly on those who may be regarded as vulnerable, as in the case of the two grants recommended.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 The applications in question have been assessed in conjunction with the Joint Commissioning Unit for Mental Health, London Borough of Barnet and Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group, and the Children's Service's Youth & Family Support Service.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 Cabinet Resources Committee, 22 July 2008 (decision item 11): approval of a Third Sector Commissioning Framework.

6.2 Council, 3 March 2015: approval of corporate grants budget for 2015/16.

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=162&MId=7819&Ver=4>