

GRANT APPLICATION 2016/17 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Priority Corporate Outcomes	<p>To strengthen individuals' resilience in challenging times and help change behaviour</p> <p>To build more resilient communities where people do more to help themselves and their neighbours</p> <p>To identify and address at an early stage any issues that may impede a successful childhood and progression to adulthood</p>	
Organisation	<p>ST PETER'S BOURNE MANAGEMENT COMPANY (in partnership with Home-Start Barnet)</p>	<p>ref 339/C/CTY</p>
Address	<p>40 Oakleigh Park South, N20</p>	

Corporate policy, aims and objectives

The council is committed to helping people to be independent and live active lives, focusing on preventative services; the delivery of targeted information and advice; and ensuring people have the right support at the right time. Strategic priorities include supporting the resilience of families in the greatest need and on the cusp of becoming vulnerable, recognizing that some people, such as those handicapped by low income, unemployment or other forms of social exclusion, may need additional help in a crisis; promoting the health and well-being of disadvantaged local residents and encouraging them to adopt healthier lifestyles; and creating the conditions for children and young people to make the best possible start in life.

The Children and Young People Plan, 2016-20, sets out a vision of making Barnet the most family-friendly borough by 2020. The theme of resilience underpins the Children's Service's ambition for strong communities in which people bounce back from stress and adversity and take on new challenges and children and young people can thrive and achieve.

Activities / proposal

St Peter's Bourne Management Company (SPBMC) is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee formed in 2003 to advance the Christian religion, including through the provision of facilities for study and learning. It is a popular retreat and conference centre which hosts community events such as family fun days, educational courses and a film club, delivered with the support of a large volunteer network or in partnership with other local churches. It also helps promote and support the work of local voluntary groups like Homeless Action in Barnet and is about to launch new volunteer-led outreach activities in the community.

Home-Start Barnet (HSB), set up in 1996, is a well-established local voluntary group and registered charity affiliated to the national Home-Start organization which offers support, friendship and practical help to families with children under the age of five in Barnet and Harrow through weekly visits by volunteers; a twice-weekly family drop-in session on the Grahame Park Estate; and parenting courses.

This application concerns a proposal by SPBMC to institute a new life coaching and support service, 'Seed Barnet', in partnership with HSB and experienced independent practitioners for parents/families with teenage children who may not be able to afford traditional counselling services or other support methods. It will support parents in need of practical and emotional advice through weekly courses lasting between six and ten weeks aimed at empowering them to better understand, deal with and/or manage a specific concern in their lives. SPBMC in tandem with qualified practitioners will lead on delivering courses on relationships, stress and anxiety. HSB will lead on delivering courses on families and parenting.

The service will be publicized through local networks including Churches Together in Friern Barnet and Whetstone, schools and medical centres, with which referral mechanisms will also be developed, supplementing HSB's considerable existing reach within the community. The courses will initially be targeted at parents/families living in Friern Barnet, Oakleigh Park and Whetstone. They will take place at St Peter's Bourne and have capacity for up to sixteen people at a time, whose eligibility will be determined at a confidential preliminary assessment. People in a critical or threatened position, for whom the service is not designed, will be signposted to other more suitable agencies.

Most other counselling services work on the basis of individual or couple counselling or one-to-one psychological support. Only Relate, the national counselling service, which closed its East Barnet branch in 2015, runs group workshops (with a charge), but not on a regular basis.

HSB brings to the project experience of working with parents with teenagers, which it has piloted in the form of a programme designed to enhance parents' self-sufficiency in managing their teenage children's behaviour, especially where emotional disorders may result. The incorporation of this work into the Seed Barnet project will minimize the risk of duplication between HSB and SPBMC. A service level agreement will consolidate policy and procedures covering the delivery of courses, including issues such as safeguarding and data protection, embracing also independent practitioners engaged to deliver courses on SPBMC's behalf.

An outline implementation plan anticipates that courses will start within six months of the launch of the service and that at least 50 parents will be supported in year one, rising to 175 by year three as it is scaled up and the catchment area extended. It is planned to hold up to ten courses each year, supplemented by a series of one-day workshops addressing particular issues.

The proposal has been drawn up in consultation with the Children's Service's Youth & Family Support Team to reconcile with two new health-related community coaching services which it is commissioning from HSB, replacing a previous contract with the organization that expired in March 2016. One focuses on the needs of families affected by mental health problems, domestic violence and substance misuse. The other provides low intensity emotional well-being support for women with, or at risk of, developing perinatal mental health problems.

The Youth & Family Support Service endorses the Seed Barnet project as complementary to the strategy of early intervention to prevent problems degenerating into crises, delivered, as it will be, by non-statutory providers, with which some clients are more likely to engage.

Cost and financial need

In 2014/15, SPBMC incurred expenditure of £78,801, of which £20,834 was one-off capital expenditure. Nearly 50% of recurrent revenue expenditure is the cost of employing a warden, who co-ordinates the work of 30-40 volunteers, including a small group of tenants who live as a Christian community on site, in helping deliver activities. The premises, formerly a large private residence, are owned by St Peter's Bourne Trust, set up by a group of nuns who occupied it up to 1995. The running costs of the building, which the trust supports, other overheads and administration make up the balance of annual expenditure. Income is generated from charges for community usage of the building and the tenancies. Net current assets at 30/4/2015 were £19,926, of which £1,698 were restricted funds, leaving an uncommitted balance of £18,228 (22% of turnover in 2015/16, the accounts for which remain subject to auditing).

HSB largely operates on the basis of funding through contracts and grants, which in 2014/15 amounted to £397,778, defraying 86% of annual expenditure of £459,252. The two new

health-related community coaching services which the Children's Service is commissioning from HSB are each on the basis of two-year contracts valued at £50,000 per year with an optional one-year extension.

The cost of setting up the Seed Barnet project and delivering five courses in year one is shown as £11,985, of which £1,580 is on course design; publicity / promotion (including the creation of a website); and materials. Individual course delivery costs range from £1,110 to £2,845 depending on the length and nature of each course and include the cost of a trainer / facilitator, administration and room hire. SPBMC will subsidise overheads such as utilities. Participation will be free of charge on the basis that the service is targeted at parents with a limited income. The grant request is for £10,000.

Recurrent costs in year two are projected to increase to £17,406 on the assumption of delivery of a minimum of nine courses. The application states that the service will be sustained primarily through grants, a number of potential future funders with a focus on supporting work of this type having been identified, bids to which will be strengthened by the council's initial endorsement of the project and the ability to demonstrate outcomes from the pilot first year

The grant recommended assumes that £930 of room hire costs shown in year one will be absorbed by SPBMC as part of its overall subsidy, reducing the need for a grant to £11,055.

Grant recommendation, type and conditions

£10,000 (from Edward Harvist Charity)

Start-up grant

One-off grant

Special conditions:

Payment of the award should be made subject to (a) agreement of an implementation plan, to include a strategy for targeting and selecting clients and the creation of a referral procedure; (b) agreement of targets and milestones in year one for monitoring purposes; (c) compliance with all necessary due diligence requirements; (d) elaboration of the sustainability strategy; and (e) the receipt of quarterly progress reports and an undertaking to provide an evaluation of the project at the end of twelve months.

Target grant outcomes

(a) To improve the resilience of vulnerable parents with teenage children, including their parenting skills and their capacity to change damaging behaviour and adopt a healthier lifestyle and (b) to enhance the progression of young people into adulthood.

Date: August 2016