

## GRANT APPLICATION 2017/18 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

<b>Priority Corporate Outcomes</b>	To support families and individuals that need help, such as to change behaviour and lead active lives To reduce unemployment and support vulnerable and hard to reach people into work To support the local economy to grow and improve living standards by boosting incomes, opportunities and well-being for people in Barnet	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>LIVING WAY MINISTRIES</b>	<div>ref</div> <div>243/C/CTY</div>
<b>Address</b>	7 The Concourse, NW9	

### Corporate policy, aims and objectives

The Corporate Plan, 2015-20, signifies the strategic corporate priorities of promoting responsible growth, development and success across the borough; helping people to help themselves and be independent; and improving the satisfaction of residents with Barnet as a place to live. A range of statutory responsibilities placed upon local authorities by the Care Act 2014 includes the promotion of individual well-being and diversity. In promoting independence, the council is seeking the best ways to help those people whose opportunities are limited by economic, social or cultural disadvantage.

The council is committed to support local economies; stimulate sustainable growth; and tap into the entrepreneurial spirit of local residents to make Barnet a successful place where people can further their quality of life. The Entrepreneurial Barnet Strategy aims to make Barnet the best place in London to be a small business and to give local groups and businesses the tools they need to develop a vision for the area and to translate that vision into practical delivery.

### Activities / proposal

Formed in 1990, Living Way Ministries (LWM) is a volunteer-led, faith-based registered charity operating from premises that double up as a community café, aimed at supporting poverty and hardship and improving people's quality of life. Part of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, it offers information, education, training, advice, advocacy and counselling to local residents mainly living in and around Colindale Ward. In 2016/17, it supported 414 local residents, drawn from across the community. Activities include:

- \* a supplementary school on three afternoons a week at The Orion Primary School for children up to the age of eleven, attended by 89 children in 2016/17;
- \* activities for children during the school summer holidays;
- \* a youth club for young people aged 13 to 25 meeting three times a week and led by a qualified youth worker, currently with a membership of 75;
- \* 'positive parenting' courses in partnership with Community Barnet as a member of the Barnet Community Parents Consortium;
- \* a foodbank in partnership with Tesco Stores and a charity, 'Fare Share Food Cloud', distributing surplus food items on a daily basis to families in need;
- \* a weekly lunch club for older people;
- \* business skills and enterprise training for unemployed people, especially those with young families seeking to work at home

LWM is seeking to expand upon its work-related training through the creation of a community tailoring business, the purpose of this application, building on a successful fifteen-week pilot training scheme attended by twelve people earlier this year.

The proposal will involve delivery of tailoring and business skills training by a qualified tailor/clothes designer on two days a week over 39 weeks to fifteen recruits, with supplementary digital marketing and advocacy modules to be delivered by a social enterprise and Advocacy in Barnet respectively. To be targeted at local residents on benefits or with a low earned income and with family caring responsibilities, the course will offer work experience opportunities with selected local retailers and businesses, drawing on a network of supporters of LWM's work. The aim is to create a social enterprise, trading garments produced on-line or at market places and undertaking alterations or repairs for high street outlets and the community at large.

The project has been drawn up in consultation with Colindale Communities Trust, the charitable agency dedicated to developing sustainable services to improve the economic and social wellbeing of local residents. A dialogue has been instituted with Barnet Homes, which supports the project in principle, both to promote it amongst its tenants and to obtain City & Guilds accreditation for the training. Job Centre Plus is amongst other stakeholders to be consulted.

The project's sustainability is predicated on training the first cohort of participants and volunteers to form the nucleus of the new social enterprise and take ownership of it in year two and thereafter, assuming the role of tutor of future recruits and taking on much of the responsibility for administration. Trainees will alternatively have the option of launching their own business from home or finding other work in the tailoring profession.

The objective is to help reduce social and economic hardship, and break generational poverty, experienced by families in the locality, in the context of which it is recommended for support. The endorsement acknowledges LWM's proven track record of delivering community-led projects and the project's potential in building self-confidence, combatting isolation and promoting social integration, besides the development of employability skills.

### **Cost and financial need**

LWM traditionally relies on grant aid to deliver its various projects, which, in the case of the supplementary school, the summer activities for children and the youth club, largely obviates the need to impose charges. The largest single grant is a three-year award by the John Lyon's Charity in support of the youth club. The National Resource Centre for Supplementary Education is underwriting the cost of the supplementary school. The pilot tailoring training scheme was funded with a one-off grant of £8,000 by the Church Urban Fund, which included provision for providing participants who completed the course with their own sewing machine. Net current assets of £23,543 at 30/9/2016 were entirely restricted funds.

Expenditure in the twelve months to 30/9/2017 is shown as £71,690, of which 60% (£43,210) was the cost of the youth worker and the teachers attached to the supplementary school, LWM's only paid staff, and premises overheads. The community café operates solely on the basis of covering costs. Donations and fundraising contributed to balancing the budget.

A start-up grant of £9,959 is sought to create the new tailoring social enterprise, of which £3,295 is to buy four sewing/embroidery/overlocking machines, supplementing the equipment left over from the pilot scheme, fabrics and haberdashery. The cost of training the first cohort of participants is shown as £5,250, four digital training and four advocacy sessions adding to the cost of engaging the main trainer in question. The balance of the budget (£1,414) includes publicity, administration and refreshments over the duration of the 39-week training course. Unlike most project budgets, no contribution is shown to organisational overheads.

The sum requested excludes anticipated revenue from the proposed imposition of a charge on

the first cohort of trainees, a matter for discussion with Barnet Homes, however, if its tenants are to participate in the scheme. The award recommended assumes a lower and more realistic level of revenue than is forecast and also eliminates the cost of providing refreshments.

#### Grant recommendation, type and conditions

**£7,800** (from Edward Harvist Charity)

Start-up grant

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One-off grant

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#### Special conditions:

Payment of the award should be made subject to (a) agreement of an implementation plan, to include targets and milestones in year one for monitoring purposes; (b) agreement of the criteria for selecting trainees; (c) consultation with Barnet Homes in relation to the participation of its tenants; (d) confirmation of accreditation of the training course; (e) clarification of the legal structure to be adopted for the social enterprise; and (f) 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

To develop the workplace and entrepreneurial skills of local residents who are unemployed or in receipt of low earned income, especially those with family caring responsibilities, and to support them into employment.

**Date:** November 2017