

## GRANT APPLICATION 2019/20 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

|                                    |   |                                     |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Priority Corporate Outcomes</b> | To improve the social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing of children and young people<br>To encourage residents to lead active and healthy lifestyles<br>To provide services that encourage and build resilience<br>To support the voluntary, community and faith sector to build capacity for meeting the needs of residents |                                     |
| <b>Organisation</b>                | <b>YOUNG BARNET FOUNDATION</b>  | <div>ref</div> <div>403/C/FAM</div> |
| <b>Address</b>                     | 102a Watling Avenue, Edgware  |                                     |

### Corporate policy, aims and objectives

The Corporate Plan, 2019-24, and the Children and Young People's Plan, 2016-20, reflect a focus on improving outcomes for Barnet's younger population, creating the conditions for children and young people to be kept safe, active and healthy and to develop skills and acquire knowledge to achieve their full potential and lead successful adult lives. The theme of resilience underpins the Children's Service's ambition for strong communities in which people bounce back from stress and adversity and children and young people can thrive and achieve. Strategic priorities recognize that families in the greatest need and on the cusp of becoming vulnerable, such as those handicapped by low income, unemployment or other forms of social exclusion, may need additional help. The voluntary and community sector plays a key role in developing social networks; encouraging participation and achievement; and building resilience in the community, including amongst young people.

Barnet Public Health Service's Healthy Weight Strategy, aimed at enabling residents to make healthier food choices and to remain active, includes a Food Security Action Plan which seeks to ensure that residents have constant access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs for an active and healthy life without having to resort to emergency supplies or other coping strategies, acknowledging, as it does, the link that exists between hunger and poor nutrition amongst children and a myriad of social, educational and health problems.

### Activities / proposal

Young Barnet Foundation (YBF) is a registered charity and community incorporated organisation formed in 2015 to support, build capacity and develop collaboration within the children and young people's voluntary and community sector in Barnet, aimed at enhancing opportunities, activities and services for disadvantaged children, young people and their families. It has a membership of 170 voluntary and community groups working with children and young people, significantly increased in number over the last eighteen months, for which it acts as sector lead and delivers information and advice on best practice; partnership and networking opportunities; training; and help with fundraising. It also works with the council and strategic partners to encourage the sharing of intelligence, ideas and resources.

The main thrust of YBF's work with membership organisations is to improve standards of service delivery and sustainability through quality mark schemes; to support monitoring and evaluation to demonstrate impact of delivery; and to build relationships to address gaps in provision and avoid duplication. It runs multi-agency children and young people networking and development groups; champions cross-sector pilots and partnerships; and initiates co-designed, multi-agency funding applications. It also administers the 'Space 2 Grow' Children and Young People's Fund in partnership with the council and Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group, which offers small grants to membership groups to develop and expand activities.

Space 2 Grow grants to the value of £106,398 were awarded to 29 groups in 2018, helping plug gaps in services and to promote innovation.

Working collaboratively with Inclusion Barnet, which delivers infrastructure support for Barnet voluntary and community organisations in general, YBF represents the children and young people's sector on council-led strategic partnership boards, embracing issues such as safeguarding and early intervention, and through other strategic working relationships, such as with Barnet Public Health, Barnet Homes, schools and statutory youth services.

This application concerns a proposal, the 'Barnet Food Security School Holiday Project', to co-ordinate a joined-up approach to providing children, initially in the age range of ten to sixteen, who qualify for free school meals with a free healthy meal and a safe place to go out of term-time, a scheme modelled on a programme set up by the Mayor of London, 'Kitchen Social', that seeks to address the incidence of disadvantaged children who return to school malnourished after the school holidays. Originally piloted in seven London boroughs in 2016, Kitchen Social helps local community groups to provide healthy meals and social development activities to tackle 'holiday hunger'.

YBF is seeking to empower and galvanise member groups in Barnet to deliver such a scheme within three '0-19 locality hubs', 'east/central', 'west' and 'south', based on areas highlighted in a food security needs assessment by Public Health and to maximise cross-borough access to provision. Indicators of deprivation, access to public transport and the availability of existing providers and space will determine specific locations in each locality. To take place during part of each school holiday and half-term break, depending on funding, each session will consist of a positive activity, the provision of a nutritious meal and the opportunity to learn new skills, like cooking and budgeting, delivered in a safe and stigma-free environment.

Help is sought to pay for a part-time project co-ordinator to grow capacity amongst existing voluntary and community sector groups so that they can upscale or introduce new holiday programmes in either different locations or with different activities and to work with key stakeholders to identify potential new providers. The incumbent will identify training and support needs; develop capacity building in partnership with Barnet & Southgate College, Inclusion Barnet and other stakeholders; promote good practice and sustainable models for delivery; support participating groups in fundraising for the project; and ensure that all provision is delivered to an established quality standard.

The corporate grants programme helped kick-start a holiday lunch club set up by Barnet Community Projects for children living on the Dollis Valley Estate, Barnet, in 2014, provision that has been sustained and is one of several existing projects that may form part of this borough-wide initiative.

The project is supported by the Children's Service and Barnet Public Health, targeted, as it is, at vulnerable families and aligning with the council's model for consolidating support for children and young people with a family perspective. Its strategic objectives of strengthening food security for the poorest families; helping the fight against obesity through healthier eating; reducing pressure on family budgets by making up for the loss of term-time free school meals, mitigating childcare costs and helping parents stay in work over the school holidays; and safeguarding social mobility by alleviating dips in educational performance and preventing children from falling behind their richer peers all resonate with corporate priorities.

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

Young People's Foundations, like YBF, have been set up with funding by John Lyon's Charity

to tackle the ongoing challenges facing children and young people. YBF continues to be supported by the charity, which, together with City Bridge Trust and the Mercers Charitable Foundation, provides a combination of annual core and fixed-term project grants, representing the bulk of YBF's income and defraying most of its annual expenditure, predominantly the cost of employing two full-time and two part-time staff, which in 2017 amounted to £266,573. YBF was commissioned by Barnet Public Health in 2018 to help develop its food security action plan. Net current assets at 31/12/2017 were £66,071, of which £9,941 were restricted funds, leaving an uncommitted balance of £56,130 (19% of estimated expenditure in 2019). The 2018 accounts are not yet available.

John Lyon's Charity and City Bridge Trust also support the Space 2 Grow Fund, one of YBF's core objectives, building and maintaining which is the focus of its fundraising activities. £244,000 has been dispensed in grants of up to £10,000 to children and young people's voluntary and community groups in Barnet since YBF was founded.

The request is for a grant of £9,996 to match funding by Barnet Public Health towards the recruitment of, and first year's costs of employing, the part-time co-ordinator for the Barnet Food Security School Holiday Project. Barnet Public Health's grant will support the post on one day a week. An equivalent sum sought is to pay for a second day, with a pro rata contribution to supervisory and on-costs. YBF anticipates that project coordination beyond the first twelve months will be absorbed within its core functions with the backing of its two main funders.

Participating groups will be responsible for funding their own provision with the help of the incumbent, especially in seeking a grant from the Mayor of London's Kitchen Social programme, which covers the cost of providing lunch by approved new local 'hubs' following a vetting and training process. The programme's criteria for supporting local hubs anticipates that delivery will generally be free of charge.

The award recommended, which excludes recruitment costs of £250 that are covered by the Barnet Public Health grant, acknowledges that that service's support draws on funding from the Department of Health and Public Health England, custom and practice dictating that voluntary and community sector projects are not funded from two different council budgets.

#### Grant recommendation, type and conditions

**£9,746** (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 targets and outcomes for monitoring purposes, aligned to the terms and conditions attached to the grant by Barnet Public Health, and (b) the receipt of quarterly progress reports and an undertaking to provide an evaluation of the project in twelve months' time.

#### Target grant outcomes

To grow capacity in the voluntary and community sector for improving the health and welfare of disadvantaged children and young people, and the resilience of their families, during the school holidays.

**Date:** July 2019