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Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	17 March 2005
Subject	Grant Applications, 2005/06
Report of	Cabinet Member for Performance, Partnerships & Best Value
Summary	This report sets out the budget framework for grant awards in 2005/06, and attaches funding assessments of three voluntary organisations for decision by the committee in accordance with the procedure for approving voluntary sector grants of between £20,000 and £50,000 pa.

Officer Contributors	Borough Treasurer Head of Community Care Head of Education
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	N/a
Enclosures	(1) Summary of grant recommendations (appendix A) (2) Grant assessment reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact (appendix B(i)) • New Barnet Community Association (appendix B(ii)) • Old Barn Youth and Community Association (appendix B(iii))
For decision by	Cabinet Resources Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	n/a

Contact for further information: Ken Argent, Manager, Grants Unit, 020 8359 2020

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

That, subject to the Council's standard conditions of grant aid, the grants recommended be approved.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet Dec 21/5/2001-6: adoption of scheme of delegated powers, reserving to the Cabinet Resources Committee approval of grants of between £20,000 and £50,000.
- 2.2 Cabinet Dec 3/9/2001-16: review of the grants programme, 1999 to 2002, and approval of principles and criteria for grant aid over the four years, 2002-06, with the primary aims of targeting support to facilitate the council's policy framework and continuing to create resources to promote new initiatives developed either by new organisations or within those currently receiving grant support.
- 2.3 Council 1/3/2005: approval of Borough Treasurer's Service Performance Management Plan and budget for 2005/06.
- 2.4 The Cabinet on 29 March 2005 will be considering recommendations on three applications involving funding of over £50,000 in 2005/06.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Corporate Plan sets out as one of the council's key priorities 'Supporting the Vulnerable in our Community', acknowledging that every sector of every community – young, old, those with particular needs – has a right to lead full and independent lives. Barnet is committed to helping people to be part of successful and well-balanced communities, helping all people to feel involved and removing barriers which prevent them from participating fully in the life of the community.
- 3.2 The grants recommended with this report will help towards meeting different patterns of need within the community, making services easier to access and delivery more flexible, and will contribute to improving the quality of life of vulnerable local residents. They accord with the Borough Treasurer's Service Performance Management Plan and the four-year development programme, which includes offering a mix of funding types to ensure that the grants programme remains flexible and responsive to changing priorities, and focusing on meeting quality standards and attaining outcomes.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 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. 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.

- 4.2 In common with all revenue grants of £10,000 and above, the awards recommended herewith will be released in quarterly instalments, subject to monitoring to demonstrate satisfactory compliance with targets and outcomes agreed in advance.

5. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

2005/06 Budget - Summary

- 5.1 The budget for grants to voluntary and community organisations in 2005/06 consists of:

	£
local grants general provision	1,289,880
Edward Harvist Charity	60,000
former Borough Lottery fund	<u>15,000</u>
	<u>1,364,880.</u>

Small Grants Fund

- 5.2 In the interests of facilitating access to the programme by smaller voluntary and community groups, and in conjunction with use of a simplified application form, a sum of £70,000 is to be earmarked this year in a 'small grants' fund, to support awards of up to £5,000.

Contractual Service Agreements

- 5.3 In accordance with the policy of converting into contracts all strategic voluntary sector grants in excess of £50,000 pa, contractual service agreements currently exist with the following voluntary organisations in receipt of core funding through the main grants programme. Subject to Cabinet approval of the renewal or roll forward of the contracts, the sums payable to the two groups in 2005/06 will be:

Organisation	Payment, 2005/06
Barnet Citizens Advice Bureau Service	£354,223
Barnet Voluntary Service Council	<u>£86,647</u>
	<u>£440,870.</u>

Edward Harvist Charity and former Borough Lottery Funds

- 5.4 The following sums are also provided in the 2005/06 budget for one-off and short-term funding in accordance with established criteria and the council's priorities:

Edward Harvist Charity: main fund	-	£55,000
training fund	-	£ 5,000
Former Borough Lottery fund -		£15,000.

Grant Recommendations, 2005/06

- 5.5 Excluding the small grants fund, the contractual commitments and the Edward Harvist Charity and former Borough Lottery provisions, a sum of £779,010 is available for grants over £5,000 during the financial year to 31 March 2006.

- 5.6 It will be necessary to retain a balance of £370,370 for supporting fixed-term (project) grants where funding in 2005/06 has been approved in principle, subject to regular monitoring of performance against agreed **3** targets and outcomes, and to

adequate budgetary provision. The impact of fixed-term awards is reflected in the following budget summary:

Budget Item	2005/6 Budget £	Commitments £	Balance £
2005/06 general grants budget	1,289,880		
Small grants fund		70,000	
Contracts (subject to approval herewith)		440,870	
Budget available for general grants over £5,000			779,010
LESS provision for fixed-term (project) grants		370,370	
Balance remaining			408,640

5.7 Set out below is a full breakdown of the funds available for 2005/06:

Budget item	Approved budget £	Recommendations to Cabinet/ Commitments £	Funds available £	Recommended to this meeting £
General Fund:				
main fund	779,010	103,000		
less reserve for fixed-term grants		370,370	305,640	80,800
small grants	70,000	0	70,000	0
contracts	440,870	440,870	0	0
TOTAL	1,289,880	914,240	375,640	80,800

Edward Harvist Charity:				
community fund	55,000	0	55,000	0
training fund	5,000	0	5,000	0
TOTAL	60,000	0	60,000	0
Borough Lottery:				
TOTAL	15,000	0	15,000	0

6. LEGAL ISSUES

6.1 None.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

7.1 Paragraph 3.8 of Part 3 of the Constitution reserves to the Cabinet Resources Committee the power to approve grants to voluntary organisations to the value of between £20,000 and £50,000 per annum.

8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

8.1 Attached are funding assessments of three organisations, each indicating the contribution made to corporate policies and strategies, preceded by a summary of the recommendations (Appendix A).

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 Grant applications and related correspondence with the applicants.

9.2 Anyone wishing to inspect the background papers should telephone 020 8359 2020 or 2092.

BS: V W-R

BT: MG

UUUUUUUU **APPENDIX A**

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS, 2005/06	
<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Recommendation</u>
East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact (118/C/NEI)	£23,800
New Barnet Community Association (285/C/CTY)	£25,000
Old Barn Youth and Community Association (301/E/CTY)	£32,000
	TOTAL: £80,800

GRANT APPLICATION 2005/06 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Policy	Putting the Community First	
Organisation	EAST FINCHLEY NEIGHBOURHOOD CONTACT	ref
		118/C/NEI
Address	East Finchley Neighbourhood Centre, 42 Church Lane, N2	
Contribution to policy		
<p>Through its commitment to work in partnership with local communities and voluntary groups linked to implementation of government policy such as the National Service Framework for Older People, the council wishes to help vulnerable people help themselves and ensure that those in need of support do not become socially excluded. Community-based initiatives are encouraged for the benefit of older and disabled people with medium to lower levels of need, building on the voluntary sector's abilities to develop and deliver services in their localities, aimed at maximising the independence and quality of life of vulnerable residents and helping them to remain as active as possible in the community.</p> <p>East Finchley Neighbourhood Contact (EFNC) aims to provide neighbourly help and practical assistance to elderly, disabled and isolated people living in N2, the catchment area shortly to be expanded to include much of N3, by building and supporting a network of volunteers whose skills and abilities can be offered to meet the needs of clients. It also runs two luncheon clubs primarily for more mobile older people living alone. Operating in one of the most deprived parts of the borough, the service enhances the lifestyle of vulnerable people and reduces their dependence on the local authority, besides serving a large number of clients whose needs fall short of qualifying for support from social services.</p>		
Outline of activities / service evaluation		
<p>Administered by a paid part-time co-ordinator, who carries out all client assessments, helped by two part-time assistants, EFNC currently draws on the services of 38 volunteers who undertake the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * befriending and visiting people living alone; * helping with odd jobs in the home (eg window cleaning, sewing/mending, changing light bulbs, etc); * advocacy (ie giving advice; letter-writing and form-filling; and liaising with statutory and voluntary sector agencies on clients' behalf); * helping with shopping (including collecting pensions and prescriptions); * transporting clients to and from clinics, hospitals, shops, etc; * gardening (using both volunteer and paid helpers); * checks to ensure that clients are receiving their full statutory benefit entitlements. <p>In 2003/04, with the benefit a new co-ordinator, who has done much to re-activate EFNC's outreach policy aimed at identifying new clients in need of help, and an enlarged team of volunteers, now including secondary school students, the number of volunteer tasks performed increased by 38% to 4,171, divided fairly equally between direct volunteer support in the home and advice and assistance offered by the paid staff at the telephone. Home visits, advocacy and shopping continue to constitute the main areas of demand.</p>		

Over the last twelve months, the number of clients registered with the scheme has increased from 151 to 178, of whom 142 are in receipt of regular (weekly or fortnightly) assistance, the remainder seeking help on an ad hoc basis. 75% are over the age of 75 and most are women living alone. The majority have medium to low levels of dependency. All clients' needs are regularly monitored and re-assessed.

A co-ordinated referral procedure exists to the voluntary sector 'Handperson Scheme', administered by Age Concern Barnet, which offers professional help to vulnerable older people with home repairs and other DIY jobs that are generally beyond the scope of volunteers, thus increasing the capacity for supporting people in need in the community.

The gardening scheme is primarily operated on an agency basis on behalf of Community Care and the Housing Service, and covers a wider area encompassing N3, N10, N11 and N12. Paid helpers maintain the gardens of up to 50 elderly and disabled council tenants twice a year, supplemented by unpaid voluntary help with gardening for clients (who are in receipt of income-related benefits) living in their own properties or privately rented accommodation.

The two luncheon clubs each cater for up to 20 people a session, one serving English-style meals (for people living in N2 and N3) meeting once a week and the other serving Islamic food for elderly Muslim women (drawing in clients from across the whole borough, for whom transport is provided), meeting once a fortnight, with a full take-up of places. Both clubs are held at the Green Man Community Centre on the Strawberry Vale Estate, which offers full disabled access. The weekly club includes a core membership of older and isolated residents of the estate and has steadily grown in popularity over the last year with the advent of ancillary activities, such as talks and film shows.

A third element of the service is a shopping scheme using a hired minibus (with a volunteer driver) which operates twice a week to take less mobile elderly people to a local supermarket. At present, 45 people are registered, each being taken once every two or three weeks on a rota basis.

Many clients emanate from local publicity (such as in libraries, clinics, doctors/dentists' surgeries and the local newspaper) or through contact with social workers, health visitors, physiotherapists, etc. A quarterly newsletter is sent to clients and volunteers, and to statutory and other voluntary agencies operating in the area. Most of the members of the management committee are local residents who maintain the organisation's high profile through informal contacts. Approximately 25% of all new clients are referrals from Community Care, the local area housing team or hospital discharge services.

The introduction of more efficient office systems, including a new client database, has enabled EFNC to focus on direct client contact and more regular client assessments and reviews. Greater networking with other agencies and community groups has served to raise its profile and increase referrals of new clients. The co-ordinator is currently representing the Alliance of Barnet Good Neighbour Schemes (ABGNS) in discussions with Community Care concerning the adoption of a standard assessment process for all new clients whatever their level of need, aimed at reducing duplication of effort and streamlining referral procedures.

In common with the borough's other good neighbour schemes, the need to help clients access, and accept, statutory help where they are in transition from low/moderate to high/critical needs, but are hampered by sensory, mobility or cognitive impairments, or language problems, is a growing pressure on EFNC's resources.

Meanwhile, in response to client feedback, an occasional programme of day trips and outings has been introduced, aimed at expanding the opportunities for social contact for housebound clients and thus enhancing their quality of life.

Following discussions of the need for equivalent support for elderly and disabled residents of other parts of Finchley, and with the aid of a two-year package of funding, EFNC is about to launch a major publicity campaign, including a recruitment drive for more volunteers, to extend its services on a trial basis to Finchley Church End and West Finchley Wards, thereby encompassing much of N3. The project will initially focus on providing benefits advice to housebound people, building on EFNC's growing expertise in that area, with befriending, home support and volunteer transport services following as new networks are set up and capacity increases.

The Team Manager of Community Care's Older Adults Care Group comments that EFNC supports a large number of isolated older and disabled people who do not qualify for assistance from social services, especially since implementation of national legislation, Fair Access to Care Services, which has resulted in re-targeting of statutory services towards those who are more highly dependent with personal care requirements. EFNC's work, like all of the other good neighbour schemes, represents an effective prevention strategy for older and disabled people, prolonging their independence in the community, and complements the council's services for those client groups.

Quality and equality

The co-ordinator is responsible for training and supporting volunteers and allocating tasks, having regard to volunteers' capabilities and clients' needs. All new volunteers and those dealing with vulnerable adults on a one-to-one basis are subject to checks with the Criminal Records Bureau. Both volunteers and clients are represented on the management committee. EFNC aims to assess the needs of all new clients within seven days of referral. Eligibility criteria in use since 2000 serve to evaluate clients' mobility, health, income and specific needs with a view to prioritising services. Clients are periodically surveyed for their views and to identify areas for development. The latest survey showed a high degree of client satisfaction. There is an advertised complaints procedure.

As a member of the ABGNS, EFNC regularly liaises with the other participating schemes aimed at streamlining administrative procedures; facilitating the recruitment, training and retention of volunteers; and accessing new resources to expand the services on offer. Following completion of level one of the 'PQASSO' training scheme with Barnet Voluntary Service Council, identifying practical quality assurance measures for smaller voluntary and community groups, it has revamped its management and volunteer induction packs and much of its publicity material.

EFNC has policies on equal access to services and equal opportunities in employment. Its literature has been translated into community languages and several volunteers act as interpreters and translators. Arising from closer working relationships and alliances with a range of community groups, in particular the Afghan and Hindu communities, the proportion of clients from minority ethnic communities has increased significantly over the last two years, and currently accounts for 35% of all service users.

Cost and financial need

The 2005/06 revenue budget, adjusted to include the cost of hiring the Green Man Community Centre, which had been omitted in error, shows a projected pre-grant shortfall of £28,647, equal to the revised grant request. The comparative 2003/04 actual figure was £25,404. Net current assets at 31/3/2004 were £1,142 (1.9% of projected 2005/06 expenditure).

In 2004/05, EFNC was awarded a revenue grant of £23,800, equivalent to 65% of core costs. The only charge made is for attendance at the lunch clubs (£2.60/£3.20 per meal), which covers most of the costs, except for payment of the cooks. Fundraising and donations (from clients using the 'shopping bus' service and, occasionally, local businesses and churches) contribute towards balancing the budget. The gardening scheme is funded separately by Community Care (in the case of private tenants and owner-occupiers) and the Housing Service (with regard to council tenants).

The expansion of services into N3 accounts for £11,615 of total projected 2005/06 expenditure of £57,929 and will be met from a two-year grant of £34,000 from the Pension Service Partnership Fund, extending to March 2007. The grant for 2005/06 will pay for an extension of the co-ordinator's hours (from 24 to 30 a week) and the appointment of a part-time project assistant, and will cover publicity, marketing, volunteer recruitment/training and administrative costs. It also includes a contribution of £2,773 to the cost of continuing to make benefits checks on clients in N2 and a one-off sum of £2,050 to purchase a new computer and photocopier.

The award is a commendable outcome of a more dynamic approach being taken by EFNC to fundraising, which has also resulted in one-year sponsorship from the Finchley Charities to maintain the shopping bus service on two days a week. This expansion of other sources of funding means that the grant recommended for 2005/06, which replicates the existing level of revenue support, will reduce to 43% as a proportion of core costs.

The programme of outings and social activities is largely organised on a self-financing basis.

Grant recommendation, type and conditions**£23,800**Project grant One year revenue grant One-off/Start-up grant **Special conditions:**

None.

Duration of project and exit strategy (project grants only)

n/a

Target grant outcomes (for monitoring and evaluation)

To provide advice, support and practical assistance in the home; one weekly and one fortnightly lunch club; and a shopping service for elderly and disabled people living in N2, befriending and home support to be expanded to include vulnerable residents of N3 over the next twelve months.

Date:

March 2005

GRANT APPLICATION 2005/06 - ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Policy	Putting the Community First	
Organisation	NEW BARNET COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	ref 285/C/CTY
Address	New Barnet Community Centre, 48-50 Victoria Road, New Barnet	
Contribution to policy		
<p>The council attaches a high priority to working in partnership with local communities and especially with groups that add value to council services and make a positive difference in their area, assisting vulnerable people to help themselves and lead a full life. Community-based initiatives fulfil an important role in helping older people with medium to lower levels of need to maintain their independence and remain as active as possible in the community, and averting the risk of their becoming socially excluded.</p> <p>The council is also supportive of out-of-school activities for children, including breakfast clubs, after school clubs and holiday playschemes, focused on the three objectives of providing good quality childcare to help working parents; educational achievement; and opportunities for children to play. Provision within the voluntary sector makes a significant contribution to helping the authority achieve its strategic targets, set by the DfES, of sustainable out-of-school childcare places.</p> <p>New Barnet Community Association (NBCA) offers these and other activities to residents young and old living in New Barnet and beyond, providing a focus for community involvement; contributing to the quality of life in its area, particularly for isolated older people; and enabling parents (who are unable to pay commercial childcare rates) to continue working, or studying, full-time, or to have respite from the care of disabled children.</p>		
Outline Of activities / service evaluation		
<p>The association provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * a lunch club, with transport, social activities, talks and advice, for older people on three days a week during school term-time; * a 40-place after school club for children aged five to eleven from four local primary schools, held each afternoon from 3.30 pm to 5.45 pm, Monday to Friday, also during term-time, with activities such as sports, games, arts and crafts, and including provision for children with disabilities through the Integrated Play Opportunities Project (IPOP); * a breakfast club (and 'take to school' service) (begun in 2001), offering 24 places a day, accommodating children from the same four schools; * a school holiday playscheme for eight weeks of the year, with capacity for 40 children a day and IPOP assistance for the disabled; * a fully inclusive youth club for two hours on Wednesday evenings, catering for 48 able-bodied and disabled young people aged eleven and upwards; * accommodation within the community centre for other local groups, including an under fives playgroup; a weekly social club for pensioners; the local St John's Ambulance Brigade; and various local clubs and recreational classes. 		

Activities are co-ordinated by a paid centre manager (35 hours a week), with twelve part-time staff or sessional workers to run or assist with the various parts of the programme, including a luncheon club organiser; play and youth club teams; and a special needs co-ordinator for the children's clubs (in addition to the one-to-one support provided through IPOP). The paid staff are supported by a team of volunteers, including students on work experience placements and offenders undertaking community service (who help with tasks such as building maintenance and gardening).

The lunch club has 37 registered members and serves up to 100 meals each week. Transport, using the centre's own minibus, is provided for up to ten disabled people at each session. Members are supported in a number of ways, including benefits checks and liaison with other agencies. Co-operative arrangements exist with Friend-in-Need Community Centre (in East Barnet) (which supplies volunteer drivers) to provide social outings for members of both groups, besides facilitating greater sharing of information and resources.

170 children, including 24 with disabilities and/or a statement of special educational needs, plus another ten from families in crisis referred by the Children and Families or Early Years, Family and Play Services, are on the combined register for the after school club and holiday playscheme, both of which operate for most of the year at maximum capacity with a waiting list for places. The take-up of places at the breakfast club has stabilised this term at between twelve and fifteen a day.

The youth club, started in 2000 and one of the few genuinely integrated youth clubs in the borough (with one-to-one helpers), now has 53 young people registered, all but five of whom have a disability or special needs of some sort. Attendance averages 27 per session. One of the part-time workers running the club is now seconded from the new Inclusive Youth Clubs Project, thus reducing the call on NBCA's own resources. The in-house programme of activities is complemented by weekend outings once a month.

Altogether, NBCA has a membership of over 400 households and successfully harnesses the energy and enthusiasm of members and volunteers to assist those users who need extra help. The services available are widely publicised, not least through word of mouth recommendations, complemented by posters and circulars about the children's clubs distributed to the schools in the locality. As well as council sources, referrals are received from health visitors, carers and neighbours.

Since completion of phase one of a two-stage building development programme in 2002, the community centre has offered improved facilities for disabled users, particularly amongst children and young people, and is successfully promoting more integrated activities. It is anticipated that the proposed refurbishment of the outdoor play area and garden, including restoration of a ball kicking area and new surfacing, which will add to the range of play opportunities, will be completed this spring, following disruption of the supply of volunteers through the Community Service Order Scheme to carry out the work.

Overall, NBCA delivers a well-structured programme that complements and supports council objectives and services.

The luncheon club contributes to delivery of Community Care's prevention strategy for older and disabled people. Out-of-school and holiday play provision is a focus area for the Early Years, Family and Play Service and NBCA's clubs and playscheme help implement strategic targets set for Barnet in terms of the creation and maintenance of childcare places. Support for voluntary and community sector youth clubs, particularly those serving young people with disabilities and special needs, accords with the Youth Service's strategy of building capacity, particularly in areas such as New Barnet, where, at present, there is no council provision.

Quality and equality

Quality in the children's services is underpinned by standards set, and an annual OFSTED inspection carried out, under the Children Act 1989; regular training opportunities for staff, revamped to comply with more stringent national childcare standards; and participation in the Kids Club Network (now renamed '4 Children') quality assurance programme. NBCA is now working through a new national quality accreditation ('Quality in Play') brokered by the Barnet Play Association and expects to achieve level 2 standard following assessment of its latest portfolio. Its play team, which is relatively new, is progressing through the scale of NVQ playwork qualifications.

Feedback from clients is obtained by way of newsletters and questionnaires used in each of the three main areas of activity. All parents of children attending the clubs receive a guidebook setting out quality standards. There is an advertised complaints procedure. All regular user groups are represented on the management committee, which also includes two council representatives.

NBCA operates an equal opportunities policy and works collaboratively with local schools and other statutory and voluntary agencies to ensure that its services are widely known and inclusive. The premises are fully accessible and offer fully adapted toilet and washing facilities. 23% of the current membership of the children's clubs is from minority ethnic communities.

Cost and financial need

The 2005/06 revenue budget shows a projected pre-grant shortfall of £37,060. This assumes that the Early Years, Family and Play Service will be continuing to support the four-week summer holiday playscheme, which is currently under review, but makes no allowance for renewal of charitable funding for two part-time posts, which expires this summer. Replication of the existing level of support for the posts will reduce the projected deficit to £26,650. The comparative 2003/04 actual figure was £25,883. Net current assets at 31/3/2004 were £440, of which £26 were restricted funds, leaving an uncommitted balance of £414 (less than 1% of projected 2005/06 expenditure).

The grant request is for £30,072, specifically to fund the core posts of centre manager and (part-time) secretary; an honorarium paid to the luncheon club organiser; and sessional payments to the minibus drivers. In 2004/05, the association was awarded a revenue grant of £25,000, representing 29% of core costs, comprising £20,000 for community activities and £5,000 for the out-of-school programme.

Fees to the after school club (£4.50 a session) and the holiday playscheme (£5 to £11 per half day/day) meet up to 70% of the costs of those services. The breakfast club, originally set up with a one-year grant from the National Lottery New Opportunities Fund, is run on a largely self-financing basis through the imposition of a daily charge of £3. Admission to the youth club is 50p per evening, with additional charges for special activities. Income to the lunch club covers the cost of meals and contributes towards transport expenses. With regard to all of the other community activities at the centre, membership fees, lettings income, donations and fundraising generally meet between 30% and 40% of annual revenue expenditure.

NBCA continues to be successful in attracting charitable grants, especially towards the development of the children's programme, which recently included an award from the Children's Fund for new play equipment and children's outings. A fixed-term grant, referred to above, from BBC Children in Need has been supporting the part-time posts of special needs co-ordinator for the children's activities and the leader of the youth club, but expires in June. The association is proposing to apply for a further grant from the charity, or to identify alternative sources of funding for the two posts.

Attainment of the 'Quality in Play' level 2 accreditation will result in a one-off award of £1,000.

Grant recommendation, type and conditions

£25,000 (comprising £20,000 for community activities + £5,000 for the out-of-school programme)

Project grant
 One year revenue grant
 One-off grant

Special conditions:

None.

Duration of project and exit strategy (project grants only)

n/a

Target grant outcomes (for monitoring and evaluation)

To provide (i) a lunch club for vulnerable older people on three days a week; (ii) out-of-school childcare and play opportunities, Monday to Friday, for children aged five to eleven whose parents need affordable provision to enable them to work or study, comprising an after school club and a breakfast club during term-time and an all-day holiday playscheme for eight weeks of the school holidays; (iii) an integrated youth club; and (iii) lettings to community groups.

Date:

March 2005

GRANT APPLICATION 2005/06 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Policy	Putting the Community First	
Organisation	OLD BARN YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION	ref 301/E/CTY
Address	Old Barn Youth and Community Centre, 20 Fallows Close, N2	
Contribution to policy		
<p>The council is supportive of out-of-school activities for children, including breakfast clubs, after school clubs and holiday playschemes, focused on the three objectives of providing good quality childcare to help working parents; educational achievement; and opportunities for children to play. Provision within the voluntary sector makes a significant contribution to helping the authority achieve its strategic targets, set by the DfES, of sustainable out-of-school childcare places.</p> <p>A high priority is attached to working in partnership with local communities and with groups that add value to council services and make a positive difference in their area, helping vulnerable people to help themselves; reducing the risk of social exclusion; and encouraging community cohesion.</p> <p>The Old Barn Youth and Community Association (OBYCA) is the largest voluntary sector provider of out-of-school activities in Barnet, offering the full range of children’s activities in an area of social deprivation. Occupying the borough’s only full-time play centre, it caters for a large number of children referred by the Children’s and Early Years, Family and Play Services, including those with disabilities, and enables parents (who are unable to pay commercial childcare rates) to continue working, or studying, full-time. It has also developed a broad range of other community activities, helping to promote community involvement and improve the quality of life in an area of social housing and known need.</p>		
Outline of activities / service evaluation		
<p>OBYCA’s year-round programme of activities focuses on out-of-school clubs for children aged five to thirteen and comprises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * a 60-place after school club (operating up to 6 pm, Monday to Friday, during school terms); * a 12-place breakfast club (every weekday morning in term-time from 7.30 am); and * a 60-place holiday playscheme (for ten weeks of the school holidays, and on INSET days). <p>Activities include sports, games, arts and crafts, theme projects and day trips, with special provision made for children with disabilities through the Integrated Play Opportunities Project (IPOP). Those attending the after school club are also provided with a snack. Supervised by a part-time playleader and staffed by six part-time play workers (with another two paid workers helping on the holiday playscheme), children are collected from (and, in the case of the breakfast club, taken to) six local primary schools using the centre’s own minibus.</p> <p>The capacity of the after school club was increased (by ten places a day) in 2000 in response to parental demand, but take-up subsequently fell following the opening of a privately run club and holiday playscheme at Martin Junior School, which also took pupils attending Tudor JMI School, being two of the schools supplying children using the Old Barn’s facilities. Local publicity and other promotional activities have since served to re-build membership and over the last two years the take-up of places has stabilised at 65% of available capacity. Eight places a day are at present filled by children deemed to be ‘in need’, sponsored by the Children’s Service, whilst an average of four disabled children attend each session with one-to-one support from IPOP.</p>		

OBYCA remains committed to restoring membership of the club to its former level (85% of capacity), possibly through extending membership to children attending other primary schools further afield if transport can be provided.

The breakfast club generally fills up to eight of the twelve available places each morning.

The holiday playscheme, which last summer had 22 social services-sponsored places, continues to be well supported, take-up over the last twelve months reaching 98% of capacity.

During 2003/04, 311 children up to the age of thirteen attended the children's clubs, of whom 35 (11%) had one-to-one support in view of their special needs. At present, there are 210 children from 157 families registered at the centre.

The Early Years, Family and Play Service comments that out-of-school provision is identified as a priority in the Early Years Development and Childcare Plan, and that groups such as OBYCA help in meeting the strategic targets set for Barnet regarding sustainable out-of-school childcare places and play provision.

OBYCA also offers a fully inclusive youth club, run on a semi-independent basis as part of the Inclusive Youth Clubs Project (IYCP) set up in 2003, in which OBYCA is the lead partner.

With the support of Barnet Youth Service and IPOP, the aim of the IYCP is to develop integrated youth clubs and activities across the borough for young people of all abilities aged eleven to eighteen. The project employs a full-time development worker and nine sessional youth workers, who deliver activities at three other integrated youth clubs, including the club at New Barnet Community Centre and one at Norwood's Kennedy Leigh Centre in NW4. The OBYCA's youth club at present has 72 members, of whom 39 are disabled, with attendance averaging 35 per session. The Acting Youth Service Manager endorses the value of the clubs in integrating disabled and able-bodied young people and building a more inclusive society.

The association's programme is co-ordinated by a full-time manager, who is also responsible for supervising the overall use and operation of the community centre, which is leased by the council to OBYCA and includes an accessible adventure playground designed for children with disabilities. Last summer, it was decided to appoint a part-time assistant, who works during the school terms, to relieve the manager of some of the day to day responsibilities and enable him to focus on development issues and fundraising.

The premises provide an administrative base for two other voluntary groups, Home-Start Barnet (which offers support and help to vulnerable families with young children) and the Barnet Play Association (BPA) (the umbrella body for voluntary sector play provision for primary school-age children in Barnet), which occupy offices on the first floor.

Other community activities run independently at the centre include:

- * a 24-place pre-school age playgroup each weekday morning in term-time;
- * a parents and toddlers group;
- * a weekly 'open door drop-in' run by Barnet Mencap for parents and children under five with a learning disability;
- * Barnet College outreach classes in English as a second language;
- * speech therapy classes for children with Downs Syndrome;

- * a Saturday morning Gujarati school;
- * a karate club;
- * a range of other community lettings during the daytime, evenings and weekends.

In addition to OBYCA's own clubs, there are up to 400 other users of the centre each week.

Subject to securing the balance of funding required from the Big Lottery Fund, OBYCA is aiming to commence work later this year on an extension to the ground floor of the premises to create a dedicated playwork assessment centre and training room, primarily for use by BPA, but also to be made available for hire by community groups, thus generating additional income from lettings to support the operation of the centre as a whole.

Quality and equality

Quality in the children's services reflects standards set, and an annual inspection carried out by OFSTED, which, following its last inspection (in 2003), awarded OBYCA its top rating in ten out of fourteen national standards. The association follows quality assurance procedures recommended by '4 Children' (formerly the Kids Club Network) and is participating in the new quality assurance scheme, 'Quality in Play', being brokered by the BPA. Guaranteed standards are published in a handbook for parents, who receive a bi-monthly newsletter. There is an ongoing programme of staff training; a published complaints procedure; and regular feedback from parents and children. The management committee mainly comprises parents and representatives of user groups, and includes two council representatives.

The centre is fully accessible to people with disabilities. In partnership with user groups, OBYCA targets disadvantaged communities and seeks to extend access to play and recreational opportunities to all children and young people with special needs in accordance with its policy of equal opportunities. Staff speak six minority community languages. Over 50% of children attending the clubs and holiday playscheme are from Asian, black or other minority ethnic communities.

Cost and financial need

The 2005/06 revenue budget, which, pending its establishment as a separately constituted body, incorporates the full staffing complement of the IYCP shared with the three other integrated youth clubs, shows a projected pre-grant shortfall of £39,500, equal to the grant request. The comparative 2003/04 actual figure was £31,217. At 31/3/2004, OBYCA had net current liabilities of £4,846.

In 2004/05, the association was awarded a revenue grant of £32,000, apportioned as £19,760 for the out-of-school programme and £12,240 for community activities. A one-off grant of £15,000 approved in November 2003 in response to a joint bid with BPA towards the capital cost of the proposed new playwork assessment and training room (estimated to be £70,000) has yet to be released pending confirmation of the necessary consents for the work and that the balance of funding required has been secured.

47% of OBYCA's annual expenditure is currently met from membership fees and admission charges to the children's clubs and holiday playscheme. Daily rates are £3 and £5.50 for the breakfast and after school clubs respectively, and £16 for the holiday playscheme. Concessions apply in the case of siblings; children who are in receipt of free school meals; and families who qualify for Working Tax Credit.

The other main sources of income are lettings/hire charges; grants from charitable trusts and businesses towards specific elements of the programme; and fundraising.

The Early Years, Family and Play Service supports the four-week summer holiday playscheme through a service agreement with OBYCA, although no decisions have yet been taken on funding of this summer's scheme and any reduction from last year's award will serve to increase the projected 2005/06 deficit.

Originally set up with a pump-priming grant from the former (National Lottery) Community Fund, the cost of the youth club is substantially met from a funding package for the IYCP as a whole totalling £72,000, which includes fixed-term grants from North London Connexions, the London Youth Trust and the Milly Apthorp Charitable Trust. The proposed formation of a consortium of local groups committed to inclusive youth provision is aimed at increasing other funding opportunities to support the development and expansion of the project.

The re-focusing of the manager's time towards marketing and fundraising is projected to result in a further increase in self-generated income in 2005/06, with lettings and hire charges expected to yield £30,000, an increase of £4,000 on this year, one of the objectives being to restore a working balance for the first time in a number of years. Combined with a more vigorous approach to external fundraising, OBYCA is demonstrating greater diversity in its budgeting such that the core grant recommended for 2005/06 will reduce, from 20% to 15%, as a proportion of annual turnover.

Grant recommendation, type and conditions

£32,000 (comprising £19,760 for the out-of-school programme and £12,240 for community activities)	Project grant	<input type="checkbox"/>
	One year revenue grant	<input type="checkbox"/> *
	One-off/Start-up grant	<input type="checkbox"/>

Special conditions:
None.

Duration of project and exit strategy (project grants only)

n/a

Target grant outcomes (for monitoring and evaluation)

To provide (i) out-of-school childcare and supervised play opportunities, Monday to Friday, for children aged five to thirteen whose parents need affordable childcare provision to enable them to work or study, comprising a breakfast club and an after school club during term-time and an all-day holiday playscheme for ten weeks of the school holidays and (ii) a range of other activities for the benefit of the local community.

Date: March 2005