

## GRANT APPLICATION 2015/16 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

<b>Priority Corporate Outcomes</b>	To support families and individuals that need help, such as to change behaviour, live more healthily and lead active lives To ensure a great start in life for every child and that young people are well prepared for adulthood To encourage greater community collaboration and resilience and build stronger partnerships with community groups	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>SARACENS SPORT FOUNDATION</b>	ref 325/C/CTY
<b>Address</b>	Allianz Park, Greenlands Lane, NW4	
<b>Relevant policy, aims and objectives</b>		
<p>The council is committed to helping people to be independent and live active lives, recognizing that some people need more support than others to achieve this. The transformation of adult health and social care set out in the Care Act 2014 and Department of Health publications 'Our Health, Our Care, Our Say' and 'A Vision for Social Care, Capable Communities and Active Citizens' places growing emphasis on preventative services and delivering targeted information and advice. The promotion of well-being in the community and encouraging residents to take responsibility for their own health and to age well are key elements of Barnet's Health and Well-Being Strategy and Integrated Care Model.</p> <p>The Corporate Plan and the Children and Young People Plan, 2013/16, reflect a focus on improving outcomes for Barnet's younger population, creating the conditions for children and young people to develop skills; acquire knowledge; and lead successful adult lives. Strategic objectives of the Youth &amp; Family Support Service include commissioning, supporting and enabling the voluntary sector to develop a wide range of provision, building capacity for vulnerable young people to engage in positive extra-curricular activities as part of leading a healthy lifestyle.</p>		
<b>Activities / proposal</b>		
<p>Saracens Sport Foundation (SSF) is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee formed in 1999 "to transform lives through the power of sport". The development of Saracens Rugby Club Stadium at Allianz Park and the club's move into their home stadium in Barnet in 2013 has resulted in expansion of the foundation's work in the borough, making use of the first class sports facilities on offer, whilst continuing to deliver activities across north London and Hertfordshire. The stadium is open to the community when it is not being used for match day activity. The foundation's current programme of activities includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* a grassroots project working with disengaged young people in Barnet, Hackney, Harrow and Islington, using rugby and sport to encourage participation in weekly sport sessions whilst creating pathways into further education and employment;</li> <li>* a weekly sports club for children and young people aged 11 to 25 living with autism, including rugby and athletics training, and an outreach programme in schools and colleges;</li> <li>* work with year five and year six pupils in schools in Barnet and Brent, targeting high levels of childhood obesity;</li> <li>* personal development work with young offenders at Feltham Young Offenders Institute using sport to effect lifestyle changes and supporting resettlement back into the community;</li> <li>* localized accessible and affordable opportunities across Barnet for people aged 55+ to engage in sport and physical activity, including bowls, Pilates, Nordic walking, dancing and guided walks.</li> </ul>		

SSF has received wide recognition for its work in the community. It has won the 'Parliamentary Citizen Club of the Year' award five times and a Premiership Rugby Community Impact Award for its work in the community, to which it added a Premiership Rugby Breakthrough Award for its work with children and young people with autism in 2014.

This application concerns a proposal to create a community garden at Allianz Park for the benefit of vulnerable members of the community, specifically people with long-term poor mental health; those living with a disability, including those on the moderate to severe end of the autism spectrum; older people, and children of primary school age, especially those whose schools do not have the space or provision for growing or gardening. The garden, to measure 80m x 20m, will include designated areas for growing fruit / vegetables and plants / fauna; a sensory plant and flower area; and a multi-purpose learning space. The aim is to provide a holistic, therapeutic and educational green space which will offer:

- \* horticultural therapy – a weekly course for people with mental health and emotional well-being issues, including young people with learning disabilities or behavioural problems, enabling participants to develop practical gardening and horticultural skills and a rehabilitation pathway into an independent lifestyle and/or employment;
- \* a self-funding growing enterprise - the production and sale of organically grown food and garden products based on a model to be designed and managed by participants;
- \* workshops for children - linked to key stages one and two of the national curriculum, teaching growing techniques and how to prepare produce for consumption.

The garden will be designed by horticultural students at Capel Manor College, based on the ideas of local primary school children, in consultation with relevant agencies and interest groups. Garden furniture will be made from recycled material by a Barnet-based group supporting people with complex learning needs. Implementation is expected to take three to four months. The garden will be fully accessible and open three days a week. Ten local older people ('go green ambassadors') will be recruited as volunteers to support the project, which will have capacity for up to 25 people with mental health needs; 30 young people with learning difficulties; and 150 children at six primary schools over the first year of operation.

There is strong anecdotal evidence of the benefits of gardening and horticulture as a form of physical exercise for older people; as therapy, such as for people who are recovering from a stroke; and as mental stimulation for people with dementia and other mental health problems. All participants will benefit by connecting with others and learning new skills, reducing isolation and social exclusion, and improving independence. In the context of these outcomes and how the garden will further enhance a developing community facility, the proposal is recommended for support.

### **Cost and financial need**

In 2013/14, SSF incurred expenditure of £673,719, of which £360,684 (54%) was on staffing and £234,226 (35%) on project delivery. The balance mainly included overheads, publicity, administration and fees. Up to 20% of turnover is met from selective charges. The bulk of income is in the form of contractual funding, grants and sponsorship. The foundation is an effective and successful fundraiser: numerous funding streams support a year's programme, some contracts for the delivery of services, such as with Herts Sports Partnership and Herts County Council for work in the county, but more commonly fixed-term grants (mainly from charitable trusts) linked to specific projects and activities. An expanding programme of corporate and business sponsorship includes funding from Aviva, Allianz and O2. At 30/6/2014, SSF had net current assets of £287,365, of which £49,561 were restricted funds, leaving an uncommitted balance of £237,804 (32% of estimated 2015/16 expenditure).

A grant of £10,000 is sought to build and set up the community garden (£3,250 for tools, equipment, materials, seeds, plants, bulbs and shrubs) (phase one) and to recruit and employ a part-time horticultural officer (three days a week) to manage and co-ordinate the project for one year (£6,750) on the basis that other bids are to be made to fund the project's specific interventions (phase two). An award by the council, signifying the validity of the project, will strengthen phase two grant applications, such as to Thrive and Garden Organic, two charitable trusts supporting horticulture and organic gardening, with which SSF is in discussion. There will be no charges to participants in year one.

The foundation states that it will sustain the project in year two and beyond on a full cost recovery basis, if necessary by introducing charges for selective activities, although entry to the garden will remain free. Investment in the volunteering programme will minimise future staffing costs. A range of potential future funding opportunities include the 'Reaching Communities' strand of the Big Lottery Fund and by way of possible joint bids with Garden Organic to secure the horticultural therapy course.

#### 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) confirmation that all necessary consents for the project have been obtained; (b) agreement of an implementation plan, to include details of a strategy for identifying and targeting participants in the specific interventions; (c) consultation with Age UK Barnet to identify and recruit volunteers; (d) agreement of targets and milestones for monitoring purposes; (e) submission of a coherent sustainability strategy; 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

(a) To improve the independence and quality of life of vulnerable elderly people and people with disabilities and mental health problems and (b) to enhance and expand opportunities for children to engage in positive activities in support of their development and the acquisition of skills.

**Date:** August 2015