

GRANT APPLICATION 2015/16 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Priority Corporate Outcomes	To support families and individuals that need help, such as to maintain their independence and lead active lives To reduce unemployment and support vulnerable and hard to reach people into work		
Organisation	STROKE ACTION	ref	
			356/S/PSD
Address	Enfield Life After Stroke Centre, Pymmes Park, N9		

Corporate policy, aims and objectives

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; delivering targeted information and advice; and ensuring people have the right support at the right time.

The Older Adults Strategy, 'Living Longer, Living Better', and the Older People's Commissioning Strategy, 2008-17, 'Independence, Choice and Control', focus on developing preventative services; tackling inequalities; and the wider well-being agenda. Barnet's Health and Well-Being Strategy and Integrated Care Model seek to encourage residents to take responsibility for their own health and well-being and to ensure that, when support is needed, health and social care services work together to facilitate timely and effective solutions. The integrated 'Stroke Pathway' is a key element of the transformation of health and social care support, consolidating and improving upon the treatment and recovery of stroke survivors.

Activities / proposal

Stroke Action (SA) is an Enfield-based registered charity and company limited by guarantee formed in 2001 aimed at reducing the incidence of, and complications that arise from, strokes. It provides practical advice and support to stroke survivors, their carers and at risk individuals diagnosed with diabetes and hypertension, addressing their physical health and their physiological, emotional and socio-cultural well-being. Delivered on three days a week, services comprise advice on stroke prevention; help for survivors; support groups; an annual holiday club; time out respite for carers of stroke survivors; and advocacy and campaigning for user involvement in strategic decision-making and stroke care commissioning.

SA delivers the community integration strand of the Enfield Stroke Pathway. Clients in need of help are referred to the group on discharge from hospital or by general practitioners and other agencies. SA has over 500 clients in Enfield, including carers. Up to 50 people attend its activities each week, ten of whom are from Barnet following the creation of a support group close to the borough boundary in 2014.

The organisation's 'stroke ambassador development and work programme' helps survivors to regain confidence, physical functionality and life roles lost as a result of their disability; to re-integrate; and to make positive contributions to the community. Over the last three years, 23 stroke survivors have served as volunteer/service user representatives, eight have returned to paid employment; and others, together with carers, have been trained, in conjunction with My Support Broker CIC, to be 'peer coaches' and 'peer brokers', helping service users to exercise choice and control on how they obtain and use their personal budgets.

SA has submitted two grant applications in support of the establishment in Barnet of (i) a pilot 'Well-Being Service for Stroke Survivors' and (ii) a respite support service for carers, both exclusively for Barnet residents. As applicants are restricted to a single grant (of up to £10,000), the organisation has identified, in consultation with Adults & Communities, project (i) as its priority development.

The proposal, which embodies the stroke ambassador programme, will offer:

- * well-being advice, information and guidance, to include peer-led holistic assessment, goal and support planning and determination of personal budget eligibility and development of self-management skills and healthier lifestyles;
- * 'Be Active' support – peer befriending to share experience and build confidence; an exercise and conversation class to improve physical and mental well-being; and help to re-learn life roles such as using public transport, handling money and shopping;
- * employment skills training and access to volunteering and work.

Up to 20 Barnet residents aged between 16 and 65 who are unemployed as a result of having a stroke will be recruited to participate in the pilot, which, with the support of two existing trained peer coach ambassadors, will run once a week at Chipping Barnet Library. Implementation will be in collaboration with relevant statutory and voluntary sector agencies including Job Centre Plus, the Stroke Association, Barnet Carers Centre, Barnet Centre for Independent Living and Barnet General and Finchley Memorial Hospitals. Pre and post well-being self-assessment and functional independence measures will form part of the evaluation of the success of the project in twelve months' time.

The NHS/Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG) Action Plan shows that 5,019 Barnet residents (1.3% of the borough's population) had a stroke in 2012, slightly higher than the London average, the highest incidence being in the most socially and economically deprived wards. Adults & Communities and the BCCG jointly commission services from the Stroke Association, including information and support for survivors upon discharge from hospital; re-learning of communication skills for survivors affected by aphasia; and monitoring and review after six months. But a gap in service provision remains for those of working age, in which context the joint commissioning unit endorses SA's proposal.

SA has a solid track record of service delivery in Enfield and has demonstrated its effectiveness especially in tackling the incidence of mental health problems and social isolation amongst stroke survivors. The new service will particularly support survivors further along the recovery pathway, focussing on reducing their long-term reliance on social welfare support; maximising their independence; and helping them become active members of the community again, including as volunteers or in paid employment.

Cost and financial need

In 2013/14, SA incurred expenditure of £39,876, of which 78% (£30,964) were staffing costs and volunteer expenses. The balance was largely made up of premises costs, overheads and administration. 95% of income derived from service level agreements with, and grants from, Enfield London Borough Council supporting the various elements of its work, including the cost of a part-time services co-ordinator, supplemented by direct payments from clients. At 31/3/2014, net current assets were £27,548, of which £11,846 were restricted funds, leaving an uncommitted balance of £15,702 (37% of assumed expenditure in 2014/15). The accounts for 2014/15 are not yet available pending completion of an audit.

The cost of launching and running the new well-being service for stroke survivors in Barnet

over one year is shown as £9,999.60, equal to the grant request. The budget includes project co-ordination (£4,032); paid leadership of the exercise and conversation class (£2,400); premises hire (£2,880); and volunteer costs (£538).

A similar sum was requested in SA's other application, now withdrawn.

The grant recommended assumes that some income should be generated through the imposition of charges to clients who may not qualify for full subsidy under means testing criteria to be agreed, for which no allowance has been made in the budget presented.

The services currently commissioned from the Stroke Association involve total funding of £109,000 pa.

The new well-being service's sustainability is predicated on the introduction of a scale of charges to clients, many of whom are expected to have personal budgets with which to purchase such; income from the anticipated future expansion of work in Barnet, which may serve to cross-subsidise; and future commissioning opportunities.

Grant recommendation, type and conditions

£9,000 (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 a mechanism for the referral of clients and a strategy for collaboration with existing stroke health and social care providers in Barnet; (b) agreement of targets and milestones for monitoring purposes; (c) clarification of the sustainability strategy, especially as regards the funding through personal budgets and client contributions; and (d) the receipt of quarterly progress reports and an undertaking to provide an evaluation of the pilot at the end of twelve months.

Target grant outcomes

To support working age survivors of strokes to maximise their independence; become active members of the community; and reduce their reliance on social welfare support.

Date: August 2015