

## GRANT APPLICATION 2015/16 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

<b>Priority Corporate Outcomes</b>	To identify and address at an early stage any issues that may impede a successful childhood To identify and support young people who may be at risk of not achieving their potential and help them make a positive transition into adulthood To promote engaged, cohesive and safe communities	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>STONEGROVE ESTATES' YOUTH PROJECT</b>	ref 334/E/YTH
<b>Address</b>	St Peter's Community Hall, Stonegrove, Edgware	

### Relevant policy, aims and objectives

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 and acquire knowledge to achieve their full potential and lead successful adult lives, with support targeted at 16 to 24 year-olds who are not in education, employment or training ('NEET') and those who have disabilities or complex needs. Strategic objectives of the Youth & 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 and increasing access to regular sport and physical activity as part of leading a healthy lifestyle.

The draft Barnet Community Safety Strategy, 2015-20, reflects a nationwide priority set out in the Home Office's Ending Gang and Youth Violence Strategy to keep young people safe from harm caused by violent crime and serious group offending. The Youth Crime Prevention Strategy seeks to develop partnerships with local communities to identify and respond to young people at risk of involvement in youth crime and gang-related activities or affected by such. The prevention of child sexual exploitation is a key priority of Barnet Safeguarding Children Board.

### Activities / proposal

Stonegrove Estates' Youth Project (SEYP) is a registered charity independently managed under the auspices of Edgware Parochial Church Council, set up in 2008 with the support of the council's Youth Service, Barnet Homes and the Safer Neighbourhood Team to help young people living on three housing estates in the Stonegrove Regeneration Area to develop new skills and have a voice in the community, and to reduce anti-social behaviour. Over the last twelve months it has expanded to deliver youth services also on the regeneration estates in Grahame Park and West Hendon. It employs a full-time community youth worker, who is supported by a team of part-time sessional worker, trained junior leaders and volunteers.

The project is working with 180 young people on the Stonegrove Estates, where it operates on four evenings a week and during the school holidays. The Grahame Park Youth Project operates twice a week and has had 215 registered users since it was set up in January 2015. The West Hendon Youth Project has been run on a weekly basis, with 90 registered users, since November 2014. The main activities at each location are generic sessions for juniors (5-11) and seniors (11-17), with one-to-one mentoring; a two-tier girls' club; popular pastimes like cookery and fashion design; and age appropriate dance, fitness and football sessions.

SEYP targets harder to reach young people, disaffected youths, NEETS and potential offenders, using engaging 'magnet' activities such as creative arts, music production and sport as diversions from anti-social behaviour and gang involvement. They are then matched with staff, adult volunteers and junior leaders to effect positive lifestyle choices and change.

This application concerns a proposal to address the issues of gang involvement, knife crime, youth violence and sexual exploitation through delivery of a pilot tri-estate project, aimed at building bridges between children and young people living on the three estates and removing the gap between 'territories' across the HA8 and NW9 post code areas. The project will provide weekly youth exchange visits alternating between the three existing venues, with inter-estate competitions, events and workshops, designed to unify young people from each area. A focus group will undertake research to identify key issues. From this platform, SEYP will train and empower participants to take ownership of the project; to lead on planning and organising activities; to represent their peers in decision-making processes in the three regeneration areas; and ultimately to become role models, future junior leaders or adult volunteers.

SEYP has demonstrated its ability to make a difference, especially on the Stonegrove Estates, where residents, Barnet Homes and the Neighbourhood Policing Team all signify that young people are engaging more positively with the local community and that there is less evidence of intimidating or anti-social behaviour and damage on communal areas. It has created a successful junior leader and role model training programme and works collaboratively with specialist providers to create pathways into education or employment. SEYP was shortlisted for the Mayor of London's Volunteer Team of the Year award in 2014, when two of its junior leaders were recognised by Barnet Homes as 'community champions'. One of its adult volunteers received a civic award for his youth work with the project earlier this year.

The proposal is endorsed by the Youth & Family Support Service, subject to agreement on collaborative working with the service and an implementation plan, having regard to the group's record of service delivery, now in three areas with large concentrations of young people considered to be at risk, and the scope that it will provide to work with young people to influence the attitude of their peers; to create positive role models for children; to promote volunteering; and to improve community cohesion.

### **Cost and financial need**

Set up with an initial grant from the Big Lottery Fund, SEYP operates with mainly fixed-term funding from a variety of sources. 85% of expenditure of £69,604 in 2014 was met from grants from eight, mainly charitable, sources, defraying staffing costs (£47,981) and some other overheads. The John Lyon's Charity has contributed £30,000 a year towards core costs since 2011. The balance of income mainly derives from membership / admission fees, donations and fundraising. Net current assets at 17/7/2015 were £19,608, largely restricted funding over more than one year paid towards the end of 2014/15, leaving only a modest working contingency.

The expansion of SEYP's work into Grahame Park and West Hendon has been commissioned by Genesis Housing Association (up to July 2015) and a new resident-led trust, Barratt Metropolitan Limited Liability Partnership (in conjunction with West Hendon Community Group) (up to December 2015) respectively. The renewal of each commission is under discussion.

SEYP has had two corporate grants since 2011/12, the first of £5,918 to formulate innovative activities for disengaged 14 to 17 year-olds and the second of £2,700 in 2014/15 to set up a female only dance, fitness, diet and nutrition club, work that has now been sustained through the two-tier girls' clubs that exist at each location.

The cost of piloting the tri-estate youth project for five hours a week for 24 weeks is shown as £9,620, equal to the grant request. Staffing, to be led by the community youth worker, supported by a sessional worker and three junior leaders, one from each estate's youth forum, amounts to £7,500 (78%). The balance of expenditure includes publicity; the hire of premises; and equipment and materials.

The request is recommended for support on the basis of outline proposals to sustain the project, predicated on a reduction of staffing costs through a phased devolution of leadership to young people and adult volunteers; future funding opportunities within the regeneration zones; and bids to selected charitable trusts for which safeguarding children and young people and improving their chances in life are priorities.

### Grant recommendation, type and conditions

£9,620 (from Edward Harvist Charity)

Start-up grant

One-off grant

### Special conditions:

Payment of the award should be made subject to (a) agreement of an implementation plan, to include a strategy for collaboration with the Youth & Family Support Service; (b) agreement of targets and milestones for monitoring purposes; (c) submission of a formal sustainability strategy; and (d) the receipt of quarterly progress reports and an undertaking to provide an evaluation of the pilot after seven months.

### Target grant outcomes

(a) To engage children and young people at risk living on the three regeneration estates in question in positive collaborative activities; (b) to unify young people living on those estates and eliminate gang involvement, knife crime, youth violence and sexual exploitation; and (c) to encourage greater community involvement and volunteering amongst young people.

**Date:** November 2015