

CORPORATE GRANTS PROGRAMME - START-UP GRANTS**1. ART REACH BARNET (NOW KNOWN AS 'HEART REACH LIMITED')****Grant**

£7,800 – Jun 2015

Purpose (Target grant outcomes)

To enhance the development of a weekly programme of training and support for people recovering from mental health problems to produce and sell arts and crafts and deliver other services in the community

(To support people recovering from mental health problems to regain their resilience and independence and become active members of the community)

Progress

Work on expanding and developing Heart Reach's services began in August 2015. It has secured premises in which to consolidate two days a week of assisted craft production, divided into four half-day sessions with a capacity of ten people per session. The focus is on helping people who would otherwise be dependent on mental health services to understand their strengths; grow in resilience; and gain independence. Peer support helps to develop new skills, self-confidence and self-esteem.

Training in screen and linoleum printing have been added to core activities which include greetings card and badge-making; picture framing; sign writing; and mosaics. The launch of a new on-line shop has expanded upon more traditional outlets for selling products such as at Barnet Market and community events and festivals. New products for sale include fashionable bags and tea towels. Work experience trainees, including a fine art graduate, are helping to diversify both the range of products produced and other services offered to the community.

Heart Reach is seeking to create a formalized pathway to paid work whereby clients progress from the collaborative production of items sold in the group's name to specialization in a chosen area, involving responsibility for materials, ordering and costing; training and mentoring others in that skill; and selling their work in their own name through the infrastructure of the group's website, social media and sales outlets.

Feedback from participants is very positive, especially in relation to the opportunities that are presented to contribute to service development. 25% of the group's 25-strong client base last summer has now moved on to develop their own business or pursue other pathways into employment.

2. BARNET SENIORS' ASSEMBLY**Grant**

£7,500 - Jan 2015

Purpose (Target grant outcomes)
<p>To develop and expand upon the assembly's work through the appointment of a part-time paid co-ordinator, whose roles will include the production of a newsletter for members and supporters; development of new cultural sub-groups; and recruitment and training of older people to assist as volunteers in sustaining its activities.</p> <p><i>(To enhance the role of the assembly in engaging with older people in Barnet and representing their views in health and social care planning and maintain the independence, and improve the quality of life, health and well-being of vulnerable elderly residents)</i></p>
Progress
<p>Formed by the merger of Barnet 55+ Forum and Barnet Older People's Assembly, Barnet Seniors' Assembly (BSA) is unifying the work of those two groups in pursuit of enhancing the quality of life of older people affected by reduced circumstances and/or physical/mental ill health and helping them to retain their independence. It is working collaboratively with Adults & Communities and the Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group to promote new initiatives, such as personal budgets and greater integration of health and social care services, and to facilitate a two-way dialogue between those agencies and older people in Barnet, capitalising on its membership's local knowledge, for example, to identify changing needs.</p> <p>There have been seven editions of a new newsletter ('Barnet Senior Insider') with a print run of 4,000 launched in June 2015, the focus of which is preventative in nature, for example promoting the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle and practical ways of maintaining independence. Produced in collaboration with health, care and support providers, recent features have included support for unpaid carers; advice about dementia and memory loss; and fire prevention measures. The newsletter, which has been well received, is also designed to support a wider range of initiatives, including helping build community capacity by encouraging participation in volunteering in community libraries; adult learning classes; and intergenerational projects with children and young people.</p> <p>BSA is now focussing on broader strategies to attract older people into voluntary work, including as trained leaders of new BSA activities, recognising the potential that exists for utilising their skills and abilities to enhance the local community.</p>

3. <u>CHINESE MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION</u>
Grant
£7,500 – Jun 2014
Purpose (Target grant outcomes)
<p>To launch an assisted transport service for elderly and disabled Chinese people linked to the development of outreach work in the local Chinese community</p> <p><i>(To maintain the independence, and improve the quality of life, health and well-being of vulnerable elderly and disabled people from the Chinese community)</i></p>
Outcome

The Chinese Mental Health Association (CMHA) offers specialist help to improve the quality of life of the Chinese community in Barnet, the biggest in the UK, which is prone to mental health problems arising from cultural and language barriers; isolation; lack of community support; and the long hours that many work in the catering trade.

The new assisted transport service, launched in 2015, using a seven-seat multi-purpose vehicle purchased with the aid of a grant from another source and a team of volunteer drivers and escorts, has been targeted at vulnerable elderly members of the local Chinese community, especially those with mobility issues or in poor health known to be living in isolation with little or no support. It has enabled a core group of 66 new clients to participate in the association's weekly health and well-being club and to be taken to medical appointments and other support agencies over the course of the year. The service has also facilitated the introduction of regular outdoor trips and activities for members, including shopping trips, fruit picking, lunches and visits to museums and other places of interest.

It has complemented other work by CMHA to develop an outreach support service in Barnet and created new volunteering opportunities. Various measures trialled in support of the service's sustainability are currently being consolidated into an updated sustainability strategy.

4. INCLUSION BARNET

Grant

£10,000 – Sept 2015

Purpose (*Target grant outcomes*)

To set up 'Barnet Giving', a scheme to create and multiply opportunities for local fundraising in support of existing and new community-based support groups, services and projects, galvanising self-help; building local resilience; and increasing residents' engagement with their communities

(To grow and develop support through fundraising in the local community for the local voluntary and community sector; rationalise the strategic distribution of grant funds; and strengthen the sector's sustainability)

Progress

Modelled on similar schemes operating in other boroughs including Islington, Hackney and Kingston-upon-Thames, the 'Barnet Giving Scheme' will:

- * create a single fund, making it easier for people to give locally, the proceeds to be placed in an endowment for distribution through a grant application process based on in-depth local knowledge;
- * co-ordinate local fundraising efforts, encouraging existing fundraisers to work together rather than compete with each other;
- * run dedicated fundraising appeals focusing on particular areas of need, for which there may be little local support;
- * consolidate the work of individual local grant-giving trusts;
- * collaborate with local businesses and their employees to fundraise for local causes.

The scheme is the first project to be rolled out by Inclusion Barnet (IB), a new charity created to broaden and diversify the work of Barnet Centre for Independent Living, which has become a trading subsidiary. It is to be created with the help of London Funders, the membership network for funders of, and investors in, London's civil society. Community Barnet is partnering IB in developing the scheme. The administration of grants will be contracted out to the London Community Foundation (LCF).

The first quarterly instalment of the grant was released in December 2015 following the registration of IB with the Charity Commission and agreement of a project work plan and milestones in 2016 in accordance with the special conditions attached to the award. Work is under way to recruit a part-time development worker to lead on implementation; to finalize branding, a fundraising campaign and grant policy; and to complete a partnership agreement with LCF. The first phase of the fundraising campaign is due to be rolled out from April onwards. The first grant-making round is scheduled to take place in July.

5. LEARNING THROUGH HORSES

Grant

£8,500 – Jun 2015

Purpose (*Target grant outcomes*)

To develop the charity's work in Barnet helping vulnerable young people to learn and develop life skills through accredited personal development training linked to working with and understanding horse behaviour and horse training techniques

(To enhance and expand opportunities for vulnerable young people to engage in positive activities in support of their development; the acquisition of life skills; and the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle)

Progress

A registered charity, Learning Through Horses (LTH) runs a range of personal development programs using horses to engage vulnerable or disadvantaged young people and adults in learning life skills. Participants learn about horse behavior and non-violent horse training techniques, commonly known as 'horse whispering'. The charity's main program, 'Employability (and Horsemanship) Skills', is a ten-week course for unemployed young people and adults, which enables clients to develop vital life skills and achieve an accredited qualification. It also runs short bespoke programs linked to specific personal development goals. The focus is on 16 to 24 year-olds who are 'NEET' or considered to be at risk of such.

The first quarterly instalment of the grant was released in November 2015 following agreement of a business plan, including referral arrangements with the Youth & Family Support Service and the protocol for subsidizing selected clients, in accordance with the special conditions attached to the award. The grant is supporting a part-time paid business development manager whose responsibilities include the creation of a range of income streams to make the charity sustainable by November 2016.

LTH plans to run five Employability (and Horsemanship) skills courses and two bespoke programs each term, and to work with 60 vulnerable young people referred by the council in 2016.

6. MIDDLE EASTERN WOMEN AND SOCIETY ORGANISATION

Grant

£6,500 – Mar 2015

Purpose (*Target grant outcomes*)

To establish a weekly social and activity club specifically for older people living in Barnet with a focus on Arabic, Kurdish and Turkish-speakers

(To maintain the independence, and improve the quality of life, health and well-being, of vulnerable elderly people from Middle Eastern and other minority ethnic and support their integration into the wider community)

Progress

The project is half way through a twelve-month period of implementation following agreement of a work plan / milestones and the commencement of funding on a quarterly basis. The club, which meets weekly, has 30 mainly elderly members, all Arabic or Kurdish refugees born in Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Syria or Turkey and at risk of social isolation. The weekly itinerary includes discussion of current affairs; yoga, meditation and other seated exercise classes; singing; and lunch. Two English-speaking volunteers attend each session to help familiarise members with life in the UK. They translate and explain official documents; help members to access health and social welfare services; and advocate where necessary.

More recently, a health-related theme has been introduced in pursuit of encouraging members to adopt a healthier lifestyle. Workshops and seminars delivered by visiting health professionals have addressed issues such as the risk of high cholesterol; the incidence of strokes; and what to expect from the NHS. Future planned work includes the development of key life skills to support integration in the wider community.

Feedback to date from members is very positive in terms of how the club has reduced isolation and increased confidence to broaden their horizons beyond their own community.

7. PHOENIX CANOE CLUB

Grant

£10,000 – Mar 2015

Purpose (*Target grant outcomes*)

To appoint a full-time post of centre development director to co-ordinate the expansion of water sports and the introduction of land-based activities as part of a three-year development plan to create a borough-wide hub for training and adventure for all sections of the community

(To enhance and expand opportunities for children and young people to engage in positive activities in support of their development; the acquisition of skills; and the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle and to improve the health and well-being of the community at large through promotion of the club's activities amongst adults and older people)

Progress

The project has been delayed firstly because of problems in fulfilling a match funding condition to defray the full annual cost of the new post and secondly because of the need to make changes to the recruitment procedure to comply with Charity Commission guidelines linked to transparency and openness.

In August 2015, match funding was secured from the John Lyon's Charity, extending over two years. A flawed initial recruitment process was amended in October to embrace greater benchmarking and wider advertising. A new 28-day advertisement period extends into February 2016. An appointment is expected to be made early in March. The post has meanwhile been filled on a short-term temporary basis.

More progress has been made with plans to redevelop the site occupied by the club to create a borough-wide hub for training and adventure for all sections of the community. Work has started on a planning application for the purpose and a dialogue has commenced with Barnet's regeneration team to reconcile the proposals with development of Welsh Harp Open Space.

The special conditions attached to the grant include agreement of (a) a future working protocol with the Youth & Family Support Service, formalising how the club will complement the service's strategic aims and objectives in relation to supporting vulnerable young people and (b) a work plan for the new post, to include targets and milestones.

8. SAAM THEATRE COMPANY

Grant

£6,480 – Jan 2015

Purpose (*Target grant outcomes*)

To establish a weekly drama and dance club specifically for older people living in Barnet with a focus on members of the Iranian and Farsi-speaking communities

(To maintain the independence, and improve the quality of life, health and well-being, of vulnerable elderly people from the Iranian, Farsi-speaking and other minority ethnic communities and support their integration into the wider community)

Outcome

The project commenced in March 2015, since when the grant has been released in quarterly instalments. The final instalment was paid in December 2015.

The club has 30 members, all drawn from the Iranian and Farsi-speaking communities, and meets weekly. The regular program comprises drama drills and exercises; storytelling to help older people better express themselves; an advice and information session to support integration; and talks and seminars on topics of relevance, such as writing a will. It also gives an opportunity to members to share their life experiences. A public celebration of the club's upcoming anniversary included a performance of three rehearsed plays, recitals and musical entertainment, performed to a multi-cultural audience of 120. Feedback has identified that the club has been successful in reducing isolation; increasing physical fitness; and improving independence and mental health.

Members of the club propose to start up their own theatre group for people over the age of 50.

9. SARACENS SPORT FOUNDATION

Grant

£10,000 – Sept 2015

Purpose (*Target grant outcomes*)

To create a community garden at Allianz Park, providing a holistic, therapeutic and educational green space for the benefit of vulnerable members of the community, including children

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

Progress

The first quarterly instalment of the grant was released in January 2016 following agreement of an implementation plan and milestones through to December 2016.

Work has taken place on the design of the garden using the ideas of children expressed through a competition amongst primary schools and quotations obtained for ground works and site development. All landscaping and the construction of growing beds will be completed by April. A project development officer is about to be recruited. A volunteer and participation strategy is being drafted in consultation with Age UK Barnet, to include the opportunity to register for community engagement sessions and to participate in a proposed self-funding 'community growing enterprise', for which taster sessions will commence in May. Children will simultaneously be recruited to workshops in growing techniques and how to prepare produce for consumption, linked to key stages one and two of the national curriculum. Horticulture therapy, a ten-week course in practical gardening and horticulture skills as a rehabilitation pathway into independence and/or employment for people with mental health and emotional well-being issues and young people with learning disabilities, will commence in September.

Key performance indicators for year one include the participation of 25 people with mental health and emotional well-being issues; 30 young people with learning difficulties; and up to 150 children aged four to eleven.

10. STONEGROVE ESTATES' YOUTH PROJECT – PROJECT A

Grant

£2,700 – Jun 2014

Purpose (*Target grant outcomes*)

To develop a weekly, inter-generational dance, fitness, diet and nutrition club for women only aged 13 and above living on the Stonegrove, Spur Road and Penniwell Estates in Edgware

<i>(To engage young women aged 13+ who are at risk in positive activities; to effect the adoption of a healthy lifestyle; and to improve inter-generational relationships)</i>	
Outcome	
<p>The project succeeded in recruiting 23 previously inactive local residents aged between 13 and 60 into positive healthy activities each week, which evolved into two distinct clubs, one linking dance and fitness and the other offering a more general keep-fit workout, both of which remain popular.</p> <p>It has helped improve inter-generational relationships through a common interest in staying healthy and getting fit and has been one of the catalysts in achieving greater community cohesion on the estates in question, played out through a range of other community initiatives.</p>	

11. <u>STONEGROVE ESTATES' YOUTH PROJECT – PROJECT B</u>
Grant
£9,620 – Nov 2015
Purpose (Target grant outcomes)
<p>To deliver a pilot weekly programme of activities collectively for children and young people living on the Stonegrove, Grahame Park and West Hendon Estates, including exchange visits alternating between the three venues and inter-estate competitions, events and workshops</p> <p><i>(To engage children and young people at risk living on the three regeneration estates in question in positive collaborative activities; to unify young people living on those estates and eliminate gang involvement, knife crime, youth violence and sexual exploitation; and to encourage greater community involvement and volunteering amongst young people)</i></p>
Progress
<p>The grant requires agreement of an implementation plan, to include a strategy for collaboration with the Youth & Family Support Service, in pursuit of which a series of meetings have taken place with that service. One of the aims is to refresh the working relationship between the group and the council, enhancing its successful track record of working with disengaged young people and addressing gaps in provision through joint working initiatives such as this. The project seeks to build bridges between children and young people living on the three estates in question and remove the gap between 'territories' across the HA8 and NW9 post code areas.</p> <p>A consensus has been reached to reconcile youth service delivery on the estates, protocol that will form part of the implementation plan that is awaited before payment of the award begins.</p>

12. <u>STROKE ACTION</u>
Grant
£9,000 – Sept 2015

Purpose (Target grant outcomes)
<p>To implement a pilot well-being service for stroke survivors in Barnet, offering advice, information and guidance; peer befriending; an exercise and conversation class; help to re-learn life roles; and employment skills training</p> <p><i>(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)</i></p>
Progress
<p>The first quarterly instalment of the grant was released in November 2015 following agreement of an implementation plan and milestones for monitoring purposes.</p> <p>The project is to develop in Barnet the organisation's established 'stroke ambassador development and work programme' delivered in Enfield, which helps stroke survivors to regain confidence, physical functionality and life roles lost as a result of their disability and re-integrate into the community, drawing on the support of trained volunteers, many of whom are previous service users, with particular regard to the needs of survivors of working age, for which there is currently a gap in provision. The service will help survivors further along the recovery pathway, focussing on reducing their long-term reliance on social welfare support and maximising their independence.</p> <p>The implementation plan, extending through to November 2016, sets out a strategy for joint working with other agencies and a two-way referral mechanism for clients. The service is about to go live following the appointment of a part-time co-ordinator; consultation with stakeholders; and publicity and will initially have capacity to work with ten unemployed stroke survivors aged 16 to 65.</p>

13. VALUE YOU

Grant
£4,368 – Oct 2015
Purpose (Target grant outcomes)
<p>To launch a volunteer recognition scheme in Barnet (involving the provision of a discount card and a gift voucher donated by local businesses to people who have completed 100 hours of volunteering)</p> <p><i>(To reward, encourage and develop volunteering in conjunction with the local business community, and build support within the community at large for local independent businesses)</i></p>
Progress
<p>The 'Value You' scheme, started in 2014 and currently operating in six London boroughs, seeks to harness the support of communities and businesses to encourage and reward volunteering. The development of the scheme in Barnet is being supported by Groundwork (London), the council's new contracted voluntary and community sector partner to empower local communities and promote volunteering, and Community Barnet, and takes advantage of economies of scale through sharing overheads in rolling out the scheme simultaneously in another two boroughs.</p>

50% of the grant was released in December 2015 following agreement of an implementation plan.

Work is under way to promote the scheme amongst, and obtain the support of, (initially) 30 businesses across Barnet and amongst organizations and agencies that use volunteers, involving the production of publicity material and procedures to identify and sign up qualifying volunteers. A formal launch date is to be announced shortly. The objective is to have at least 50 participating businesses and 160 volunteer beneficiaries by June 2016.