

GRANT APPLICATION 2016/17 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Priority Corporate Outcomes	To support people who need help, including people with mental health issues, to maintain their independence, lead active lives and change behaviour To reduce health inequalities and build more resilient communities To promote self-care through access to information, resources and community networks	
Organisation	SANGAM ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN WOMEN	ref 360/S/LGD
Address	210 Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware	

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 Commissioning Plan for Adults & Communities, 2015-20, focuses on the development of preventative services; the removal of inequalities; and the wider well-being agenda. The Barnet Ageing Well Programme has a key role in building resilience in individuals and links to the neighbourhood model of day activities for older people offered by the Barnet provider group of voluntary organisations led by Age UK Barnet, which focuses on improving access to information and advice; increasing inclusion; and developing mutual support and self-help between citizens and community-based support networks for older people.

The government's mental health strategy, 'No Health Without Mental Health', focuses on helping people with mental health problems to recover and maintain good physical and mental health, objectives reflected in the mental health transformation programme, 'Reimagining Mental Health', in partnership with the Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG).

Activities / proposal

Sangam Association of Asian Women (SAAW) is a registered charity and company limited by guarantee that offers information, advice and support to the community at large whilst focusing particularly on the needs of people from South-East Asia, for whom it seeks to provide a support network and activities that help them socialise and integrate. It runs:

- * a free and confidential advice service, its main core activity bearing the Legal Services Commission's quality mark for advice, covering all areas of social welfare law, immigration and debt, accessed by up to 3,000 people each year, 70% of whom are from Barnet;
- * a counselling service, specialising in domestic violence, bereavement and emotional well-being, now embracing problems specifically presented by young people;
- * educational and cultural activities for the local community, including art workshops and mother tongue teaching;
- * an older persons' club with over 250 members, offering social, educational, recreational and religious activities for men and women aged 55+.

SAAW owns and occupies an accessible community centre containing halls and training rooms, with on-site parking and refreshment facilities, which are hired out to businesses and

third and public sector agencies, and for conferences, weddings and family celebrations.

This application concerns a proposal to create an integrated hub of services and activities to improve health and wellbeing in the community. Under the banner 'Sangam Wellbeing', the hub will offer a range of physical activities specifically for older people; activities such as yoga, tai chi, exercise classes and meditation for the community at large; and training programmes for younger people, embracing the physical, mental and emotional needs of clients, complemented by SAAW's advice and counselling services. It will particularly seek to address the needs of people with mental health problems, supporting their recovery; increasing their social networks and reintegration into the community; and improving their quality of life.

The proposal has been developed in consultation with service users, staff, volunteers and stakeholders from the health and social care sectors, who will be represented on a steering group to oversee its implementation. An effective referral mechanism with health and social care providers is recognized as crucial to capturing clients with the greatest needs. The proximity of Edgware Community Hospital, a likely source of referrals alongside other community resources in Burnt Oak and adjoining wards, will add value to the strategic location of the hub, which will be created in two of the centre's training rooms.

Barnet's mental health transformation programme reflects the findings of a review which identified gaps in provision, especially early intervention services, resulting in the admission to inpatient beds of a disproportionately large number of Barnet residents with mental health problems. The programme incorporates a range of measures to improve outcomes for people with mental health needs that include new ways of maximising the delivery of mental health support through collaboration and co-production with organisations, individuals and the wider community, a strategy endorsed by the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee.

The creation of wellbeing hubs in the community is a key feature of the programme, complementing the council's assessment hubs, locality-based enablement services and a new primary care link worker service and connecting existing prevention and therapeutic services to a better information, advice and delivery model. A 'central gateway wellbeing hub', developed in collaboration with Community Barnet, the Chinese Mental Health Association and health and social care partners, opened at The Meritage Centre in Hendon last month. The second phase of the scheme is to develop a number of hub 'spokes' throughout the borough offered by other third sector partners. SAAW's proposal is for consideration in this context.

Commissioners welcome new members to the 'wellbeing hub collaborative' to roll out the spoke model and ensure that specialist links are developed to address gaps in provision. SAAW has signified its commitment to join the collaborative; to target resources; and to support new ways of working to ensure consistent referral pathways and integrated service delivery. The application to create a hub in Edgware is endorsed on this basis, serving, as it will, socially deprived wards along the western fringe of the borough. The links that it will facilitate to SAAW's existing advice and counselling services adds value to the proposal.

Cost and financial need

In 2014/15, SAAW incurred a loss of £31,910 on a turnover of £284,997, 50% of which was on employing twelve paid staff. 76% of income of £253,087 was from lettings and fundraising events. Mainly fixed-term grants support specific elements of the association's work such as development of an outreach counselling service. The only regular income from clients is for counselling and attendance at classes and special events. Immigration advice is the only element of advice work for which there is a charge. At 31/3/2015, the association had unrestricted reserves of £113,509, equivalent to 35% of estimated expenditure in 2016/17.

An annual revenue grant by the council in support of the advice service, which has traditionally made a loss, was discontinued many years before recurrent grants were replaced by commissioning processes, having regard to the association's other (income-generating) activities and the sum held in reserves. A reduction in income from lettings in recent years has resulted in the need to draw on reserves to balance the budget. The association's working contingency is now at a level considered to be appropriate for an organisation of its size.

SAAW was awarded a one-year corporate grant of £8,000 in 2011/12 to pilot a monthly training programme in personal budgeting as a preventative measure for people at risk of slipping into debt, work that has been sustained with funding from other sources.

The request is for a start-up grant of £10,000 to recruit and engage a part-time co-ordinator for twelve months to lead on development of the Sangam Wellbeing Hub. The key responsibilities will be to form a consortium of delivery partners / stakeholders; to secure funding to refurbish the training rooms in question and upgrade accessibility; and to promote and market the new programme of activities. Other funding will be sought to retain the post to take charge of future day-to-day management of the hub, including the supervision of sessional workers and tutors.

The refurbishment and improvements to accessibility are estimated to cost in excess of £140,000, funding in support of which will be sought in a number of ways including a 'crowdfunding' campaign and bids to selected charitable trusts. An outline business plan bases the hub's sustainability on a combination of nominal charges to clients similar to a scale of fees that applies to the counselling service and the proceeds of a dedicated fundraising campaign.

The mental health transformation programme is essentially about joint working with the third sector to reduce gaps in provision and create a brand new pathway programme, signposting clients to the right services at the right time. The central gateway wellbeing hub in Hendon was commissioned as a pilot by BCCG with a one-off transformation grant, augmenting existing funding through a section 75 agreement between the council and BCCG. There is no additional funding available through that mechanism to increase service provision.

Grant recommendation, type and conditions

£10,000 (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) the association's membership of the wellbeing hub collaborative and agreement to support delivery of the second phase of the wellbeing hubs scheme; (b) agreement of an implementation plan, to include a strategy for targeting and selecting clients and the creation of a referral procedure; (c) agreement of targets and milestones for monitoring purposes over the duration of the award; (d) elaboration of the sustainability strategy; and (e) the receipt of quarterly progress reports.

Target grant outcomes

To improve health and wellbeing in the community, especially amongst people with mental health problems, through the creation of a wellbeing hub spoke in Edgware.

Date: November 2016