

GRANT APPLICATION 2017/18 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Priority Corporate Outcomes	To empower local residents and the community at large to play a more active role in improving their lives, local communities and public services To increase resilience amongst people with disabilities and complex needs and help them to lead active lives and achieve their potential To create better life chances for young people, including to develop skills, acquire knowledge and seek employment	
Organisation	INCLUSION BARNET	ref 224/S/PSD
Address	Independent Living Centre, Barnet & Southgate College, 7 Bristol Avenue, NW9	

Corporate policy, aims and objectives

The council is seeking to develop new and effective partnerships to deliver high quality public services having regard particularly to the significant reduction in government funding. The Community Participation Strategy seeks to build a strong civic society by increasing the level of community activity across the borough and develop a stronger partnership between the community and the council. The development of volunteering supports a range of strategic objectives, encouraging active citizenship; helping build social capital; and promoting pride in the borough. It helps people to lead a fulfilling and healthy life; supports skills development; and provides routes into employment and career progression.

The Corporate Plan, 2015-20, and the Children and Young People’s Plan, 2016-20, reflect a focus on improving outcomes for Barnet’s younger population, creating the conditions for young people to be kept safe, active and healthy and to develop skills and acquire knowledge to achieve their full potential and lead successful adult lives. Support is especially targeted at 16 to 24 year-olds who are not in education, employment or training and those who have disabilities or complex needs.

Activities / proposal

Inclusion Barnet (IB) is a registered charitable incorporated organization formed in 2014 by Barnet Centre for Independent Living (BCIL), formerly a strategic partner in the borough’s Right to Control pilot, aimed at broadening its work beyond the delivery of peer-led support services to help disabled people achieve independence. New strategic objectives include enabling disabled people to become leaders of social change and to take an active role in overcoming exclusion. BCIL, now re-named Inclusion Unlimited, has become a trading subsidiary of IB, focusing on support for businesses to comply with equalities and diversity legislation.

Current services and activities include:

- * peer-led support planning and brokerage, to help people entitled to social care services to set up a personal budget and plan for their care and how it is delivered;
- * health and well-being activities to prevent medical interventions and hospitalization as a development and delivery partner of the Barnet Well-Being Hub;
- * a partnership with People’s Choice to help people with learning difficulties self-advocate;
- * service delivery as a partner on Health Watch Barnet, holding local health and care services to account and giving local people a say in the planning of those services;;
- * ‘Into Sport’, part of a Sport England-funded London-wide initiative to support disabled people to get physically active;

- * research projects on good practice in the delivery of peer-led support in conjunction with Inclusion London and other disabled people's organizations;
- * the provision of library services at two sites as part of the Barnet partnership library scheme;
- * 'Barnet Giving', a fundraising initiative launched in 2016, co-delivered with Community Barnet and match funded by London Community Foundation, supporting local charitable groups and projects.

This application relates to a proposal to launch a targeted volunteering programme to engage young people with a disability or chronic condition, including a learning disability, in the Barnet Giving scheme and encourage their longer-term volunteering and community engagement in Barnet. To be delivered with the support of Leonard Cheshire Disability's volunteering arm, 'Can Do', Volunteering Matters, Your Choice Barnet, Barnet College and specialist schools, the project will train and support groups of up to fifteen disabled young people aged 16 to 30 over a twelve-month period, initially to plan and deliver a fundraising project, embracing best practice in fundraising and skills such as social media marketing and public speaking. Participants will then be supported by a dedicated broker to continue volunteering with other organizations, including work placements for those wishing to develop workplace skills and career paths.

The project will have capacity to work with up to 45 disabled young people in three groups in year one. Key first year targets are that each group will raise at least £500 for Barnet Giving; at least 50% of cohorts will continue to volunteer; and at least five members of each group will become a volunteer 'champion', promoting the value of volunteering amongst their peers.

The Barnet Giving scheme seeks to channel local giving into the local community, acknowledging the fundraising advantages enjoyed by national charities over small, locally run community groups and the number of respondents to research who said that they would give more to their local communities if it were easier to donate and see the impact of their contribution. The scheme made its first set of awards this spring.

Research by Disability Rights UK suggests that enabling disabled people to play an active role in community life, bringing them together with non-disabled people, is one of the most effective ways of overcoming social exclusion and inequalities and contributes significantly to creating resilient and strong communities.

The new volunteering scheme is recommended for support as a potentially effective way of encouraging younger people to volunteer; engage in community life; and find routes into employment, building social capital and promoting inclusion and community cohesion.

Cost and financial need

IB operates largely on the basis of contractual funding and grants to deliver its range of services. Expenditure in 2016/17 was £379,507, of which 80% (£304,817) were staffing costs. A two-year council contract with Adults & Communities (£295,000) for support brokerage expires this autumn. The work as a satellite of the Barnet Well-Being Hub is funded through a contract with Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group, valued at £100,000 pa. Funding by Adults & Communities for the People's Choice partnership has been replaced by a three-year grant by Trust for London. A sub-contract with Community Barnet defrays the work on Health Watch Barnet. The Sport England grant for the Into Sport project is in the sum of £20,000. A grant of £39,961 by Disability Rights UK is funding the research projects. IB receives £70,000 pa from the Children's Service towards the operation of the two partnership libraries.

A £10,000 corporate grant in 2015 helped launch the Barnet Giving scheme, which is currently being supported by other grants pending plans to contribute to running costs from funds raised.

Net current assets at 31/3/2016 were £88,355, all unrestricted funds. IB states that the balance had increased by 12% at the end of the last financial year, the accounts for which have yet to be published pending an audit, equivalent to three months' estimated expenditure in 2017/18, the minimum recommended working contingency for an organisation of this size.

A grant of £10,000 is requested to set up and run the new volunteering programme for disabled young people over one year, the budget for which is shown as £9,250. Of this sum, £6,517 (70%) is for a project co-ordinator to lead on engagement, communications and collaboration with partners and a dedicated volunteer broker (for three months) to support volunteers into long-term volunteering opportunities and/or to take up the role of volunteer champion, in both cases on one day a week. 'Can Do' will provide a facilitator for each group's fundraising project. The balance of expenditure includes marketing; materials (such as volunteer support packs); operational costs; and management oversight of the project. IB and its partners will largely absorb overheads.

IB states that the programme will be mainstreamed within Barnet Giving if the year one pilot is successful, bids to be made to selected charitable trusts with an interest in volunteering to underpin the project's ongoing development and sustainability.

The grant recommended is equal to the budget presented.

Grant recommendation, type and conditions

£9,250 (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 targets and milestones in year one for monitoring purposes; (b) elaboration of the sustainability strategy; and (c) 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 engage disabled young people in volunteering, initially as fundraisers for projects under the Barnet Giving scheme, progression to include longer-term volunteering options and the development of workplace skills and career paths, and (b) to build social capital and promote inclusion and community cohesion.

Date: August 2017