

## GRANT APPLICATION 2017/18 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

<b>Priority Corporate Outcomes</b>	To support families and individuals that need help, such as to change behaviour and lead active lives To help people with mental health issues to stay well, get a job and remain active To reduce unemployment and support vulnerable and hard to reach people into work	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>THE LAST CUPPA CIC</b> (in partnership with Trinity Church)	<b>ref</b> 370/C/CTY
<b>Address</b>	Trinity Church, 15 Nether Street, N12	

### 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 government's mental health strategy, 'No Health Without Mental Health', focuses on good mental health; helping people with mental health problems to recover, to have good physical health and to have a positive experience of care and support; and reducing the number of people suffering avoidable harm or experiencing stigma and discrimination. The council is working with the Barnet Clinical Commissioning Group to re-image mental health services to enable people to achieve key outcomes to prevent crises; maintain their well-being; and ensure they feel empowered to be active members of their community.

One of the key priorities of Barnet's Substance Misuse Strategy, 2015-20, is to promote sustained recovery from dependence by offering comprehensive services which rebuild lives.

### Activities / proposal

The Last Cuppa (TLC) is a recently formed community interest company aimed at helping people experiencing long-term unemployment because of complex health and social issues to reintegrate into the community. It proposes to provide transitional support for adult residents of Barnet who have been in receipt of services addressing issues such as drug and alcohol misuse, mental health problems, domestic violence and criminal justice through vocational training linked to recognized qualifications and skills; functional literacy; life skills; and work experience. The objective is to add to support for people transitioning from long periods of dysfunction, leading to varying degrees of social isolation; broken family relationships; low self-esteem; incarceration; homelessness; financial problems; and unemployment.

In partnership with Trinity Church, TLC is proposing to establish a community café, the subject of this application, at the church's site in N12, to be run predominantly by volunteers, including people from drug/alcohol services and other recovery mechanisms. To be located in an area attached to a concourse capable of seating 70 customers, the café will have a potential footfall of 1,500 per week, being the number of people who participate in non-denominational classes or attend clubs, support groups and meetings at the church. It will double up as a safe and sensitive space in which local community groups can meet; facilitate social, cultural and educational events; and act as an information hub, signposting to other services.

Volunteers will be offered the opportunity to participate in a series of short courses covering technical skills like the use of a coffee machine linked to gaining a level 2 food and hygiene qualification, as well as handling money and customer service. Further training, to be delivered in a way that will not invalidate entitlement to benefits following discussions with Job Centre Plus, will cover all aspects of running a café, including barista work; culinary arts; and small business and events management. All trainees will sit functional literacy, numeracy and IT skills tests, with relevant support, and be matched to a volunteer personal mentor who will help them to seek other training or volunteering opportunities, a job or work placement, or to investigate starting their own business, with the benefit of work experience in the café.

A group of 10 to 15 volunteers each week will form the café's core team. The plan is to recruit a new cohort of volunteers at three monthly intervals. The expectation is that up to 36 service users will be regularly engaged in training. A referral mechanism is under discussion with agencies such as Westminster Drug Project (WDP), which delivers Barnet's substance misuse service, and 'Shelter from the Storm', London's free homeless shelter. Job Centre Plus is supportive of the project and has agreed to help build a network of employers that will offer work to trained volunteers once the café is operational.

Adults & Communities and Barnet & Harrow Public Health acknowledge the positive impact on people's mental health if they are supported to be active; part of the community; and not isolated. Closer collaboration between mental health services and the Department for Work & Pensions recognizes the connection between drug misuse and mental health issues. Holistic support between the agencies in question embrace initiatives like the community cafe that focus on supporting people to use their own strengths and skills to remain well.

The project has been informed by market research, stakeholder consultation and focus groups over the last twelve months and is supported by a coherent business plan. It is endorsed as a creative and constructive way in which service users may capitalize on their recovery through learning new skills; developing a sense of belonging in the wider community; and developing resilient strategies for moving forward to a better quality of life, help that is beyond the scope of agencies like Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. To operate within an ethical framework of waste minimization, recycling and fair trade, the café will also promote healthy eating and social inclusion through the running of events.

### **Cost and financial need**

All of the research and consultation in support of the project has been carried out over the last eighteen months by members of TLC's management committee, which includes members of Trinity Church, on a voluntary basis with the help of a grant of £500 by WDP.

A one-off grant of £10,000 is sought to equip and refurbish the café; buy materials; defray other start-up costs; and train the first cohort of eight volunteers to enable trading to commence. Of an itemised list of requirements totalling £9,542, £5,232 is for 'front-of-house' equipment, including a refrigerator, a coffee machine, a till/card reader, utensils and paper goods, and new flooring and a sink. IT equipment and a photocopier amount to £934. The balance comprises professional training, food and hygiene certificates, a travel allowance and the provision of refreshments for volunteers, plus some administrative expenses.

The budget for running the café and delivering the training programme over the first six months (up to March 2018) is shown as £17,813, of which £9,076 is to recruit and employ a part-time café manager. Trinity Church is providing the premises free of charge and will absorb all utility costs. The Big Lottery has invited TLC to apply for a start-up grant of up to £10,000. A local charitable trust has agreed to pay for food stocks over the first three months.

The business plan projects annual trading income of £79,200 in year one, which will defray estimated full year's costs of £58,942, reflecting, amongst other elements of the budget, proposals to create several paid posts of counter hands from amongst the team of volunteers. The Big Lottery has stated that it will consider any need for funding over a longer period if TLC is able to navigate the first year successfully.

Barnet & Harrow Public Health commissions WDP to provide a range of education, training and employment support services as part of a recovery pathway for alcohol and drug misusers.

The award recommended, which is equal to the cost of purchases and other start-up expenditure detailed, is on the basis that the café will offer additional choices, not only for WDP clients but other people recovering from long-term mental health issues.

### Grant recommendation, type and conditions

**£9,542** (from Edward Harvist Charity)

Start-up grant

One-off grant

### Special conditions:

Payment of the award should be made subject to (a) agreement of targets and milestones for monitoring purposes; (b) validation of TLC's management and recruitment procedures against Barnet's multi-agency standards for safeguarding the care of vulnerable adults; and (c) the receipt of an undertaking to provide an evaluation of the project in twelve months' time.

### Target grant outcomes

To facilitate reintegration into the community of people recovering from mental health problems, including as a result of drug and alcohol misuse, and develop their personal and workplace skills and capacity to participate in volunteering, education or employment.

**Date:** August 2017