

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 develop stronger, safe and more engaged and resilient communities To increase resilience amongst older people and help them to age well To create better life chances for children and young people	
Organisation	JOY	ref 235/C/CTY
Address	11 Green Lane, Edgware	

Relevant policy, aims and objectives

The Corporate Plan, 2015-20, signifies the council's commitment to helping people to be independent and live fulfilling and active lives in line with statutory responsibilities placed upon local authorities by the Care Act 2014, focused on the promotion of individual well-being. The Community Participation Strategy seeks to build a strong civic society by increasing the level of community activity, collaboration and resilience across the borough. The development of volunteering encourages active citizenship and helps build social capital. The Commissioning Plan for Adults & Communities embraces the removal of inequalities and the well-being agenda. The Barnet Ageing Well Programme has a key role in building resilience in individuals.

The Children and Young People's Plan, 2016-20, reflects a focus on improving outcomes for Barnet's younger population, creating the conditions for children and young people to be kept safe, active and healthy and to develop skills and acquire knowledge.

Activities / proposal

JOY (Joining Old and Young) is an unincorporated association formed in 2016 to promote intergenerational engagement, bringing together older people and children through learning and recreational activities for their mutual benefit. Its work, currently delivered exclusively within the Jewish community, involves older people interacting with pre-school age children aged three and four on a one-to-one basis by way of story-telling, music, puppetry and arts / crafts. The aim is to promote communication, listening, learning, respect, understanding and empathy. The mainly weekly sessions take place on a termly basis at three shared sites where there is both a pre-school and a day care facility for elderly people and at three residential care homes which children from three other nursery schools visit.

Last term, 115 pre-school age children and 105 older people took part in the programme in Barnet, which also included a seven-week project in conjunction with Jewish Care, involving children from a nursery and members of a day centre in N11, focused specifically on family values, which is to become an annual event. Each two-hour session, which has capacity for up to fifteen children and an equivalent number of older people, is attended by two pre-school teachers, two carers and a facilitator. There is a waiting list to join the scheme. Similar programmes are delivered in two other boroughs.

Testimonials from participating pre-schools, nurseries, day centres and residential care homes and feedback from teachers, parents and children highlight a range of positive outcomes. The children benefit by gaining self-confidence and learning social skills within an informal educational framework of learning based around the national curriculum, shaping the way in which they interact with others, including family members. The elderly participants, especially those with dementia, gain added purpose to their lives and are empowered by their role as teacher and role model, reducing social isolation and the incidence of depression.

This application seeks help to buy office equipment and to increase the group's stock of play equipment and materials in support of a proposed expansion of the scheme into the wider community, to facilitate which there is to be a recruitment drive and training for new facilitators.

The Children's Service and Adults & Communities endorse the group's work as imaginative and constructive in supporting the development, socially and educationally, of pre-school age children and the prevention and well-being agenda in relation to older people respectively. They support the request, especially in the context of extending the scheme beyond the Jewish community.

Cost and financial need

Expenditure in 2017/18 is estimated to be £10,560, of which 80% is the salary payable to its founder and only paid employee, experienced in working with both dementia patients and pre-school age children, who co-ordinates all activities and, with the support of volunteers, facilitates much of the work. The group incurs no premises costs. Materials and administrative costs largely make up the balance of the annual budget. Income derives from a sessional charge to participating day centres and residential homes; ad hoc donations by a private benefactor who fulfils the role of patron; and fundraising. The balance sheet at 31/3/2017 showed that the group made a surplus of £101 in 2016/17, carried forward as a working contingency to this year.

The request is for a one-off grant of £4,951, of which £730 is to purchase a laptop, a printer and other office equipment, partly for use in devising and delivering a training package for newly recruited facilitators. The grant recommended is in support of these items and the purchase of selected books, educational puzzles, art and craft materials and play equipment costing £2,870. The remainder of the sum in question is to buy materials that require replenishing on a regular basis as part of the recurrent cost of service delivery and do not qualify for an award.

JOY's sustainability is based on the implementation of a more robust fundraising strategy, to include a proposed bid to the Big Lottery for two-year funding, supplementing the anticipated continued support of its patron.

Grant recommendation, type and conditions

£3,600 (from Edward Harvist Charity)

Start-up grant

One-off grant

*

Special conditions:

Payment of the award should be made subject to receipt of an implementation plan to extend the scheme to the wider community.

Target grant outcomes

(a) To enhance the social and educational development of pre-school age children; (b) to improve the quality of life, health and well-being of older people; and (c) to promote active citizenship and volunteering.

Date: March 2018