

GRANT APPLICATION 2018/19 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Priority Corporate Outcomes	To ensure that children and young people receive a great start in life To help disadvantaged children and young people who are at risk of not achieving their potential to close the gap with their peers; make a positive transition into adulthood; and prevent later difficulties To facilitate the development of provision by the voluntary and community sector	
Organisation	1ST LYONSDOWN SCOUT GROUP	ref 407/E/YTH
Address	Scout Hut, York Road, Barnet	

Relevant policy, aims and objectives

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 children and 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 young people aged 16 to 24 who are not in education, employment or training (‘NEET’) and those who have disabilities or complex needs. The voluntary and community sector plays a key role in developing social networks; encouraging participation and achievement; and building resilience.

Strategic objectives of the Youth & Family Support Service include commissioning, supporting and enabling the sector to develop a wide range of provision, building capacity for vulnerable young people to engage in positive extra-curricular activities and increasing access to regular sport and physical activity as part of leading a healthy lifestyle.

Activities / proposal

A registered charity formed in 1993, 1st Lyonsdown Scout Group offers a diverse range of activities and progressive learning opportunities through the scout’s badge work system on two evenings a week for children and young people aged five to fourteen in support of their personal development, embracing outdoor skills, first aid and life skills such as budgeting and map reading. Day trips and residential camps at weekends and in the school holidays complement the regular weekly programme. The group, which has a membership of 50 young people from Barnet divided between beavers, cubs and scouts, including several with disabilities, also facilitates elements of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Scheme for participants. It also has two former members who are being trained to be junior leaders.

The group’s hut, refurbished and extended with significant voluntary input in 2011, on which it has the freehold, is hired out to a nursery on weekdays in school term-time; to a ju-jitsu club on one evening a week; and for one-off events and private functions at weekends.

This application seeks help to renew the building’s electrical installations, embracing new wiring, lighting, cladding, heat and smoke detectors and signage, so that it is fully compliant with health and safety regulations, having failed a recent inspection. The works will serve to safeguard members and users of the premises and will also enable the group’s new management committee to re-promote its availability to the local community, thereby generating more income in support of the group’s sustainability.

The request is endorsed by the Youth & Family Support Service given the contribution made by scout groups to the provision of positive activities for young people, especially those, like some members of this particular group, whose opportunities to experience such are limited.

Cost and financial need

The group, like all scout groups, is run on an entirely voluntary basis. Membership subscriptions, income from lettings / hire charges and fundraising defray the bulk of annual expenditure, which in 2016/17 amounted to £16,038 and included an annual capitation fee payable to the Scout Association and £3,997 of repairs to, and maintenance of, the hut. Camps, outings and special events are run on a largely self-financing basis. A surplus of £3,092 in 2016/17 contributed to net current assets of £10,928 at 31/3/2017, of which £5,000 is designated to subsidise 29 places on a summer trip to Paris this year, leaving an uncommitted balance of £5,928 (37% of estimated expenditure in 2017/18).

The group was awarded a one-off corporate grant of £6,000 in 2011/12 towards the redevelopment of the hut at that time, work that was valued at £90,000, including help in kind. The project included the installation of a new kitchen, flooring, double glazing, suspended ceilings, accessible toilets, a climbing wall and external landscaping.

The cheapest quotation obtained for the electrical works to the hut is in the sum of £6,520 (inclusive of VAT), towards which a grant of £5,000 is sought. However, £2,200 generated to date through fundraising initiatives such as bag packing in supermarkets and a firework display leaves an actual shortfall of £4,320.

The award recommended is on the basis that there is sufficient in reserves to make up the deficit without compromising the retention of a working contingency.

Grant recommendation, type and conditions

£2,000 (from Edward Harvist Charity)

Start-up grant

One-off grant

Special conditions:

Payment of the award should be made subject to an undertaking to notify completion of the work and to facilitate an inspection by the council.

Target grant outcomes

- (a) To enhance 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
- (b) to facilitate other activities for the benefit of the local community.

Date: April 2018