

## GRANT APPLICATION 2018/19 – ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

<b>Priority Corporate Outcomes</b>	<p>To promote greater use of parks and green spaces for the enjoyment of residents and to achieve wider health priorities for the borough</p> <p>To support residents to live as healthily and independently as possible through increased physical activity</p> <p>To offer personalized support to enable young people who are most at risk of not achieving their potential to close the gap with their peers; make a positive transition into adulthood; and prevent later difficulties</p>	
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>WILD ABOUT OUR WOODS CIO</b>	<b>ref</b> 390/G/ENV
<b>Address</b>	3 Hemington Avenue, N11	
<b>Relevant policy, aims and objectives</b>		
<p>The council is committed to maintaining Barnet as a place where people want to live and in which an active community can thrive. This includes protecting and enhancing the natural environment, recognising that parks and green spaces are amongst the borough's biggest assets. Strategic objectives include empowering residents to take on more personal and community responsibility for keeping Barnet a successful borough, including improving the local environment, and to look after their health and well-being through improvement in lifestyle. Making parks and green spaces more attractive places for physical activity, entertainment and play is one of the ways in which this may be achieved.</p> <p>The Corporate Plan, 2015-20, and the Children and Young People's Plan, 2016-20, reflect a commitment to ensure a great start in life for every child and to improve outcomes for Barnet's younger population, including the development of skills and the acquisition of knowledge.</p>		
<b>Activities / proposal</b>		
<p>Wild About Our Woods Charitable Incorporated Organisation (WAOWCIO) is the recently formed charitable arm of a commercial enterprise of the same name aimed at advancing the education of the public in the use and conservation of natural resources and in the role of woodlands in promoting wellbeing and cognitive development.</p> <p>The commercial enterprise has operated mainly in Haringey for the last three years, where it runs a 'forest school programme', offering activities to promote practical and social skills, and woodland camps in the school holidays for children up to the age of twelve; woodland-based play sessions for families; and outdoor curriculum-based learning sessions for schools. A limited extension of its work to Barnet last year included activities in Martin Woods (N2) with pupils at Martin Primary School and Archer Academy and for families in Coppetts Wood (N12).</p> <p>Several proposed new projects in Barnet under the aegis of WAOWCIO include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* a conservation programme, 'Urban Roots – Young People Creating Wild Connections', for young people aged 14-24 with mental health issues or learning difficulties, to develop interest in woodland and wildlife habitats and teach transferable conservation and practical skills, to be piloted in Coppetts Wood with a view to implementation elsewhere in the borough in consultation with secondary schools, the pupil referral unit and the youth offending team;</li> <li>* the development of woodland-based education activities for older people and adults with disabilities in partnership with agencies such as Age UK Barnet;</li> <li>* woodland camps for looked after children aged 5-11 and young carers.</li> </ul>		

This application seeks help to promote and develop the group's work in the borough in consultation with statutory and voluntary sector agencies, including the creation of a dedicated website and a system to manage, monitor and evaluate the outcomes of working with specific new groups of clients; accreditation; and training volunteers to become 'forest school leaders' to build capacity in rolling out the proposals.

The commercial enterprise's work (in Haringey) has garnered widespread support amongst parents, schools and professionals in terms of child development and environmental education. The creation of the CIO is aimed at broadening its remit to embrace vulnerable and disadvantaged members of the community who are unable to access the mainstream activities and to seek funding to do so and to sustain its work.

The Children's Service's youth & family support service endorses the proposals as a new way of connecting with vulnerable young people who may not be in education, employment or training; at risk; and harder to reach. They are also supported by the Environment Commissioning Group's green spaces team following a dialogue about the need to make appropriate arrangements for toilet facilities for clients whilst taking part in woodland activities.

### Cost and financial need

The commercial enterprise has an annual turnover of c£18,000, income from charges defraying the salary of its founder, its only employee who doubles up as programme manager of the CIO.

WAOWCIO has obtained two grants since its formation: £5,000 from People's Postcode Trust to pilot the conservation programme for young people in Coppetts Wood, involving paid leadership with volunteer support over 30 days, and £5,162 by John Lyon's Charity in partnership with 'Grange Big Local' to run a woodland camp for primary school-age children from East Finchley over four weeks in the school holidays. It also has funding of £900 from Archer Academy to deliver weekly 'enrichment' activities in Martin Woods for pupils in years seven and eight.

A one-off grant of £4,985 is sought to cover the programme manager's time on promotional and development work (£1,040); for website development (£1,000); and to train two volunteers as forest school leaders, to include training in paediatric outdoor first aid (£2,100). The balance includes items such as the purchase of an online management and evaluation tool and public liability insurance cover (£660). The award recommended is in support of these costs, but excludes the provision made in the budget for the programme manager's attendance at the Forest School Association's annual conference, which is not unique to the CIO's work in Barnet.

The CIO has identified a range of charitable trusts and other sources of funding with an interest in environmental and conservation work to which it will apply to sustain the programme.

### Grant recommendation, type and conditions

**£4,800** (from Edward Harvist Charity)

Start-up grant

One-off grant

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#### Special conditions:

Payment of the award should be made subject to (a) validation of the CIO's management and recruitment procedures against Barnet's multi-agency standards for safeguarding the care of children, young people and vulnerable adults; (b) receipt of an implementation plan for work in Barnet; (c) consultation with the youth & family support service; (d) approval of the green spaces team to the use of public woodland spaces; and (e) the receipt of a half yearly progress reports.

**Target grant outcomes**

(a) To enhance opportunities for the community to engage in positive and educational activities linked to the environment and conservation, supporting the acquisition of skills and transition to adulthood amongst vulnerable young people and improvement in the quality of life, health and well-being of older and disabled adults and (b) to expand upon the use of public woodland spaces.

**Date:** July 2018