

## **Community Research & Action Programme**

Barnet Place-Based Partnership is committed to hearing and acting upon the voice of the local community. We are also committed to ensuring there is equitable access for all the diverse Barnet population. We recognise that certain communities face specific barriers to accessing traditional health services and will often seek support through their local community first. It's imperative that we are able to work with local communities and VCSE to listen to local communities around their life experiences, what matters to them in terms of living 'well' and their experience of accessing care and services. We are committed to ensuring these experiences must shape how we develop services, programmes and undertake strategic planning both within Barnet and within North Central London programmes.

A crucial part of working with our local communities are the relationships that have been built with the community and voluntary sector. We would, like to continue to strengthen these relationships for the year ahead.

Alongside this we recognise the skills and strengths which exist in local communities and through the grass roots organisations they work with. Often these strengths and connections provide invaluable support where statutory services, for whatever reason, have not been able to reach or support local people and communities.

We wish to build on these skills and ensure that we contribute to investing in and building knowledge of the healthcare service within our local communities and grass roots VCSE.

Barnet Place-Based Partnership would like to undertake open conversations with local communities, as well as some conversations around key priority areas. While undertaking the community research we wish to undertake an action research approach so that we work with local people to address some of the issues they raise.

We propose to work with a partnership of VCSE organisations, with a lead facilitating organisation and a group of grass roots VCSE.

We will work the partnership to develop a research programme that is relevant to the local communities and can enable us to develop or Place-Based partnership.

We will also provide training and support the development of peer training to the VCSE partnership on the local health and social care system. The training will focus on how to support the communities you work with to both access services and look after their own health and wellbeing.

## **Project overview**

Barnet Place-Based Partnership would like to undertake community research & support around priority areas to support open conversations with local communities to identify and explore key inequalities around reach, access, outcomes and experiences.

We are looking to work with a lead facilitating VCSE organisation and a group of grassroots organisations – working as a joint VCSE Partnership - that are best placed to support the research ambitions around the defined priority areas (see below).

### **Aims and objectives:**

- To build a flexible, strong, and equitable VCSE partnership, bringing together a lead facilitating VCSE organisation and grass roots organisations, with equitable sharing of funding and utilising of unique skills of each organisation to work with local Barnet communities;
- To develop a simple training programme which can include additional peer training / mentoring) to upskill the partnership's knowledge on Barnet's health and care system and services;
- To better understand people's experiences of, so that we can listen to and develop ideas on how to improve, local solutions, services and partnerships across the statutory and voluntary health, care and housing system with local people and communities. This work will directly inform Barnet Partnership development;
- Act upon the feedback and views of Barnet communities to ensure services are planned and commissioned with local people – and to meet their needs in terms of reach, access, outcomes and reach.
- To provide support to local communities and individuals to access the information and advice that's useful for them in the way they want it, and to explore with local communities how best we could support and encourage people to manage their health and well-being.
- For the partnership to conduct action and community research, which includes, to:
  - collaborate with and amplify the voice of local communities who experience high inequalities (in reach, access, outcomes or experiences) to identify unmet wellbeing needs;
  - meet communities where they are, so they can raise issues which matter to them and set outcomes which are meaningful for their lives;
  - address identified issues as they arise – co-designing solutions with local communities and people; bringing the services and support they need to

them (and working collaboratively, in conjunction with Barnet Borough Partnership, with existing programmes of work)

- raise knowledge of local health & care services across VCSE organisations and local communities;
- to enable resident led neighbourhood model development and involvement in objectives section

Please note that the successful organisations can work with the Barnet Place Based Partnership and, where appropriate, invite statutory partners' staff to listen directly to local people and communities.

### **Community research:**

**This brief is focused on exploring some space for open conversations alongside key thematic areas, and we expect the partnership to reflect these themes and come together in a way that ensures appropriate expertise and access to the impacted community groups:**

1. We are keen to explore with local people what matters to them, what does health and wellbeing mean for their lives and what are the ways they envisage for themselves, their families and communities creating lives which encompass 'start well, live well and age well.'

As part of this we would like to drill down to in a little more detail to understand:

- How we develop neighbourhoods?
  - Listening to and engaging with residents to ascertain what's important to them and to help to identify actions and priorities we may wish to change
  - Engage with our communities and residents to understand and enable us to adopt an asset-based approach, to recognise what people and places they have and what a good, healthy life means for them

We're keen to align this programme with the other programmes already successfully running across Barnet. This work may wish to utilise and build upon these to support their impact and reach such as Barnet Volunteers, Health Champions and the Barnet Innovation Fund.

Please note that the successful organisations can work with the Barnet Place Based Partnership and where appropriate invite statutory partners' staff to listen directly to local people and communities.

**Target Communities:**

To develop together

**Reporting:**

This project would align and work to the NCL VSCE engagement strategy and work with and report into the Engagement and co-production workstream and neighbourhood workstream within BBP.

The **lead facilitating organisation** needs to support the collation of, and provide records and reporting on:

- Number of people spoken to
- Demographics of people spoken to & population segments, if possible
- Patient/client experience surveys, where appropriate
- Qualitative thematic analysis
- Actionable recommendations
  
- Scope and extent of training delivered to VCSE organisations (in conjunction with Barnet Place-Based Partnership)
  
- The ways in which communities have been supported, including but not limited to:
  - Providing communities with information on how to access health service (signposting)
  - Supporting communities to access to health (or other statutory services), where needed
  - Assisting clients with more complex needs to find the right information or to access the right service
  - Assisting communities to any type of wellbeing support
  - Any other ways of how you identified and supported specific communities around inequalities in reach, access, outcomes and experiences
  - The impact of these community interventions

Additional measures can include:

- Case studies
- Number of appointments they attend with clients
- Patient/client experience surveys, where appropriate

Reporting structure

- Monthly update meetings where we share the progress of the programme & current activity
- A summary of programme development
- With any emerging or consolidating themes including community interventions as well as research themes
- A final report at the end of the year that sets out the above measurements and thematic analysis.
- We will hold a **discussion session/s** with the VCSE partnership and Barnet Place-Based Partnership leaders to discuss the findings of the project and ways the learning can be taken forward.

We aim to reflect on and implement findings across the year – rather than waiting for the final report – in this way we can respond to research in-time and develop a two-way conversation between the partnership and local communities and statutory partners.

We will work with you (the VCSE Partnership) to address the recommendations in the final report and work together to communicate with local communities how the findings have influenced and directly developed the Barnet Place-Based Partnership and programmes.

### **Developing the partnership**

We are keen the partnership can develop as a fluid model so that there can be the potential to bring in new partners for future funding opportunities.

Across the year there will usually be specific topics or service areas we will need to work with local people to develop. Our long-term aim is that the partnership may be a key vehicle to do this, with the appropriate additional funding. But we can only do this if the partnership model is flexible enough that it can evolve to bring in new VCSE.

When developing the partnership and proposal please factor this into the model you develop.

### **Timescale and budget**

#### **Timeframe:**

Start date: 1 August 2022

End date: 1 May 2023.

**Budget:** £40 000

The lead provider will need to work with the partnership to determine an equitable funding model – that ensures grass roots organisations are fairly resourced for their time and commitment to the programme – and that the leadprovider ensures the partnership brings much needed resource to grass roots organisations.

We can support the lead provider to develop an equitable funding model.

All costs of the project must be budgeted within the set amount. This includes:

- Venue cost
- Staff time
- Catering costs
- Volunteering and other expenses
- Community researchers cost
- Evaluation cost

## **Developing a proposal**

Some key areas it would be useful to explore and demonstrate through the proposal are:

- Any relevant info on previous experience
- Describing the different partners within the collaborative, how each partner has an equal voice within the partnership and how the funds will be equitably shared across the partnership  
Please suggest a possible financial breakdown
- A proposed model for gathering community insight and undertaking action research / active support & navigation, thinking about utilising all of the partnership's channels and innovatively engaging and working with their communities. Please include practicalities.
- A timeline for delivery of the project, encompassing
- Research and review of data already available
- Working with the partnership to develop research questions and engagement materials
- Insight gathering
- Support and navigation
- Insight collation
- Evaluation and reporting on the programme
- How you can analyse and present the research findings with key recommendations.